



# La Salle Institute

## *News for Parents*

*From the Principal*

*October 19, 2017*

Dear Family and Friends,

As we complete our sixth week of classes, I am happy to report that things are going really well, especially those things that we can control and manage. Our teachers are excited and I believe that their excitement is making a huge difference in the overall positive attitude of our students. If you believe that your son is still having difficulty adjusting, you need to let me know. We are here to help.

In my last letter and in a number of my talks, I informed you about a number of initiatives that we would be implementing. Thanks to our leadership team we are off to a great start.

**The “I AM A CADET” Pride Program:** Some of our students with the help of our faculty and administration designed the “I AM A CADET” poster/print. There is a copy attached to this document. It is important to know that the shared values were developed by students with only some minor changes by the faculty. In addition to the poster/print, we are also in the process of designing an “I AM A CADET” t-shirt. This is an important program challenging your sons to live up to the values of being a La Salle Cadet.

**Grade Integrated Groups (GIGS):** Building relationships among students is critical in the area of respect for one another and working together towards a common goal. In an effort to strengthen our identity as a relational school, we have established groups made up of students from all seven grade levels. Each group has a teacher moderator and a senior student leader.

Our first meeting took place on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. From all accounts, it was very successful and students had an opportunity to meet students from all grade levels. On Wednesday, with the support of students from RPI, we had our teambuilding session. Again, all after action reviews indicated that it was very positive and engaging. We look forward to continuing this program at least once a month.

**Academic Intervention Team:** The academic intervention team is formed and ready to help your son if necessary. As of today, the team has helped or is in the process of helping a few students having some difficulty with academics. If you believe that your son needs help, feel free to contact one of our associate principals and they will set it up. The goal of the intervention team is to identify best practices that provide individualized attention specific to student needs.

**Emergency Management Program:** One of our top priorities is to keep your sons safe. As a result, we are very proactive with our fire drills, lockdown procedures, and other safety and security measures. To date we have executed five fire drills, one hold in place drill, and two lockdown drills. We will continue to run these drills throughout the year to make sure that your son and our staff and faculty are always prepared and can react to any emergency situation. Please know that the rest of these drills will not be announced and you may receive a phone call from your son telling you that we are in lockdown or some other posture. If it was real,

we would let you know through our Emergency Contact Information System.

**Open House:** Our Open House takes place on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. This is an extremely important event and we need to get as many future parents to visit as possible. We have a very good publicity plan, however, it has been our experience that the best publicity is word of mouth by our current parents, students and staff and faculty. So please help us get the word out about our great school. In addition, many students have volunteered to be tour guides so please make sure that your son attends if he volunteered. We depend on him to escort future students and parents, and answer questions they may have about La Salle.

**Parent's Club:** As most of you know, our Parent's Club is responsible for planning and executing numerous fundraising events throughout the year. The details are attached in this newsletter. Remember that every La Salle parent is a member of the Parent's Club. As far as I am concerned, all your suggestions and opinions matter. So please don't hesitate to make fundraising suggestions to the Parent's Club President, moderator, and officers. I would also be happy to hear your ideas. We are all in this together with a common goal to help your sons be successful and for La Salle Institute to prosper.

I thank all the Parent's Club officers, committee chairs, and our moderator for getting involved and taking on the responsibilities of leading in these areas to ensure future success.

### **Reflections:**

I continue to be as excited about our school as I was at my first parent's meeting back on July 6<sup>th</sup>. I am happy with all the new initiatives that we have been able to implement in such a short period of time. I thank our leadership team, staff and faculty, you, and your sons, ours students for making it all happen. We have a number of other initiatives which are in the planning stages and I hope to present them to you in December.

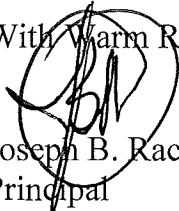
I have always believed, and will continue to believe that La Salle is special to each graduate in a unique way. We recently had our Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The speeches that were presented by the inductees were genuine, totally from the heart, completely Lasallian with unconditional compassion, praise and support for La Salle Institute.

I also had the pleasure of speaking at the Class of 1962 Reunion Dinner. I can't remember the last time that I attended such a special event. These graduates paid tribute to classmates that have passed, they paid tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, they paid tribute to those who served our country in time of war, and at the very end, they paid tribute, with some interesting reflections, to the Brothers and lay teachers that were responsible for their education while they attended La Salle. To top it all off, they made an Annual Fund pledge to contribute nearly \$70,000 towards the future of our school. These 20-25 guys believe in La Salle Institute even 55 years after graduation. We all need to have their convictions as we go forward.

I hope that you and your family are enjoying a wonderful and rewarding start to a new academic year. Thanksgiving is just around the corner, Christmas Recess two months away, and before you know it, the first semester will be over.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any concerns, questions, and/or suggestions, at [jrackowski@lasalleinstitute.org](mailto:jraczkowski@lasalleinstitute.org).

With Warm Regards and Best Wishes,



Joseph B. Raczkowski '72  
Principal

***"Truth, Honor, Duty"***

**I AM A CADET**

I am a Cadet who models truth, honor, and duty

I am a Cadet who takes responsibility for his actions, words, and deeds

I am a Cadet who cares for and respects his family, peers, and teachers

I am a Cadet who gains strength through success and learns from failure

I am a Cadet who does the right thing even when nobody is looking

I am a Cadet who sharpens his mind, sculpts his body, and lives through faith

I am a Cadet who stands up for the inherent dignity of others

I am a Cadet who is dedicated and motivated to get the job done

I am a Cadet who seeks to excel in the classroom, on the field, and in the community

I am a Cadet who understands that I exist for the betterment of others

I am a Cadet now and will be for life

## ***THE MISSION OF LA SALLE INSTITUTE***

La Salle Institute is an independent, Catholic college preparatory school from grades six through twelve. Its mission is to educate young men in the Lasallian tradition by providing a loving, caring, supportive environment, encouraging them to realize their whole potential and become moral, responsible and productive members of their communities with a sense of purpose and dedication to truth, honor and duty.

La Salle Institute accomplishes this through excellence in teaching by a devoted staff in a small, student centered environment which imparts Christian values in the tradition of our Founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle. This commitment is shared by all members of the Lasallian community.

# ACADEMIC & SCHOOL EVENT DATES TO NOTE

## Open House at LSI:

- **Thursday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

We thank the many students, faculty & staff in advance, who will be giving tours, participating in various classroom presentations and performing.

## Amer. Red Cross/Student Senate Blood Drive

- **Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.** in the McCormick Hall.

All families/friends welcomed and encouraged to donate.

## End of the first marking period:

- **Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**  
End of the first marking period

## National Honor Society Induction Dinner

- **Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> @**  
The Franklin Terrace - **6:30 p.m.**
- New members, *juniors and seniors*, will be inducted into the National Honor Society, as well as several *seventh & eighth graders* who will be inducted into the Junior National Honor Society. Congratulations to all those nominated!

## Veteran's Day – Holiday

- **Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**  
No School – School Offices Closed

## Parents/Teacher Conferences

- **Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.**

Please print and bring your son's report card with you. Also please try to limit your conference time to 5 minutes, in order to accommodate every student's family. You may make an appointment to meet with the teacher at another time if needed.

## Staff Development Day

- **Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

NO classes for students –  
Staff development day.

## Thanksgiving Holidays

- **Nov. 22 - 24 (Wed. – Fri.)**

No School – School Offices are also closed.

## Entrance/Scholarship Exam Dates:

- **Saturday, November 11 @ 8:15 a.m.**
- **Saturday, January 20 @ 8:15 a.m.**
- **Saturday, March 17 @ 8:15 a.m.**

We would appreciate your help in informing relatives and friends with prospective students, of the **Open House** and **Entrance Exam** dates. If you have any questions concerning the entrance exams or admissions, call **Mr. Shane Hendry at ext. 263.**

## \*\*\* IMPORTANT REMINDERS \*\*\*

- Parents, if you have not already done so, please forward your **e-mail address** to Mrs. Testo in the Principal's Office. Having an e-mail address for at least one parent helps us in forwarding information to you in a timely manner. You can send your e-mail address to [stesto@lasalleinstitute.org](mailto:stesto@lasalleinstitute.org).
- It is also very important for families to keep us updated regarding changes to your address, phone number and school districts. All changes should be reported to Ms. Tara Gilligan at [tgilligan@lasalleinstitute.org](mailto:tgilligan@lasalleinstitute.org).
- Students being dropped off in the morning need to report to the **Library, Cafeteria or the Commons only**. After school, students who are waiting for a ride, may wait in the **Library or the Cafeteria until 5:00 p.m.**, but **must be picked up by 5:00 p.m.** No student should be in the halls or roaming the building **unsupervised**. **At 5:00 p.m. we will have to ask the unsupervised students to leave the building, as our resources are limited for supervision after that time. Please help us with this safety issue and be prompt in picking up students by 5:00 p.m.**



**HEALTH OFFICE REMINDERS** - It is most important that the correct parent contact phone number is on file in the Health Office. Mrs. Bentley **HAS TO HAVE A VALID PHONE NUMBER TO CONTACT AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY** if your child is seriously ill and needs your attention.

- ⚙ Annual School Physicals are required for **EACH & EVERY** student attending La Salle Institute.
- ⚙ School Physicals **were due October 1<sup>st</sup> !!!!** Please contact Mrs. Bentley if you have not submitted your son's physical form – 283-2500, ext. 235.
- ⚙ **Medications** – we encourage parents to give medications at home if at all possible. If they are needed in school, please follow the proper procedure:
  - a) *Submit written instructions from the doctor and the parent.*
  - b) *Medicine must be in its original container.*

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## **LA SALLE STUDENT SENATE NEWS**



This year, as in past years, the Student Senate of La Salle Institute will be administering, along with the American Red Cross, a **Blood Drive** to help those in need of blood in the Capital Region and possibly beyond. It will be held on **Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** from **8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.** at the school in McCormick Hall. As many of you are aware, there is a chronic need for blood donations, especially due to the recent hurricanes that impacted Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. This drive is open to students at La Salle who are 16 or older, with the proper permission, as well as the larger La Salle community (i.e. parents, family, friends of La Salle students, alumni, etc.) who would like to donate blood to help save the lives of others. It's estimated that one pint of blood can save up to three lives. If you would be willing to donate blood on that day, please schedule an appointment with the school nurse, Mrs. Monica Bentley @ 283-2500, ext. 235. **Please help us help others!!!**



Also, as is the tradition at La Salle Institute and the enduring legacy of St. John-Baptist De La Salle, La Salle Institute, led by its Student Senate, will be responsible at Thanksgiving for feeding less fortunate local families an entire Thanksgiving dinner. **Our goal is to provide at least 100 local families** with a full, Thanksgiving dinner through a local church in the Capital Region. Each student in our school, leading up to Thanksgiving, will be required to assist in the food drive during the month of November. More information will be distributed. **Again, please help us help others!!!**

\*\*\*\*\* **Make a note that beginning December 4<sup>th</sup> the annual *Christmas Toy Drive* begins. Every student, leading up to Christmas, will be asked to donate at least one new, unwrapped toy. The donated toys, and there was an outpouring of Christmas spirit last year, will be given by the Student Senate and La Salle Institute to the Catholic Charities, *Sunny Side Center*, based in Troy, New York!!!**

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### **RAISING FUNDS FOR LSI**

- ***HANNAFORD HELPS SCHOOLS*** – This year's program started August 27<sup>th</sup> and runs through December 2, 2017. Receive "School Dollar" certificates at the register or store office for purchases of various products: *General Mills, Betty Crocker, Green Giant, Pillsbury, Progresso, Old El Paso, and Yoplait.*
- ***PRICE CHOPPER TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS*** – Register your *AdvantEdge Card* at the Customer Service Center at your store or online at [www.pricechopper.com](http://www.pricechopper.com) with La Salle's ID number **15857**. THAT'S IT !!! From August 13 to Dec. 30, 2017, our school will earn credits towards free educational equipment such as computers, printers, sporting goods, band equipment, software, books and more! Register today!
- ***BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION*** – Since 1996 our nation's schools have earned over \$800 million through Box Tops, and that number just keeps growing. General Mills *Box Tops for Education* points from boxes and packages, and Campbell's *Labels for Education* are collected all year at the School Bookstore.

## PARENTS CLUB NEWS – OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2017

- ❖ **Parents' Dessert Social:** Our first event of the year was a great success, with over 150 parents attending. The winner of the pair of tickets to The La Salle Auction was Christine Rotondi. Thanks to Julie Slichko for her help in organizing the evening, as well as the number of people that stayed to help clean up afterwards!
- ❖ **La Salle Craft Fair:** The La Salle Craft Fair is back! It will be held on **Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please spread the word to your friends and family, and share the post from the La Salle Facebook page on your own pages. We have over 50 vendors signed up, with more applications coming in daily. To volunteer at the event, go to <http://signup.com/go/zxDVcjE>
- ❖ **Dining Fundraisers:** The next dining night will be at **Blaze Pizza in Stuyvesant Plaza** on November 8<sup>th</sup>. We don't have the results from Five Guys on October 11 yet, we will pass along that info when we receive it.
- ❖ **2017 Ford Mustang Raffle:** The schedule for Crossgates Mall will be posted at Signup.com as at the end of October, a link to the site will be sent to you when the schedule has been posted. Every family will receive **20 raffle tickets** for the car raffle by mail the first week of November. You may purchase them yourself or sell to family, friends or co-workers. Additional tickets are available by contacting Kim Bissonette at 283-2500, ext. 252, or [parentsclub@lasalleinstitute.org](mailto:parentsclub@lasalleinstitute.org).
- ❖ **Holiday Sale:** The Holiday Sale will include Christmas Greens, Wreaths, Poinsettias, Fruit, Cheesecakes and Hoffman Car Wash tickets. Order forms will be mailed to parents the week of October 10<sup>th</sup>, all orders with payment will be due back to school on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Orders can be picked up on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Any questions please contact Jeff VanDenburgh at 326-0397. This is the last year the VanDenburghs will be chairing the Holiday Sale, we need someone to volunteer to take over this event. If you are interested please contact Jeff or Kim Bissonette at 518-283-2500 ext. 252.
- ❖ **La Salle Institute Annual Auction:** This year's Auction will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy on March 24<sup>th</sup>, the theme is *"Luau with La Salle"*! Auction Chair is Marta Milos, any questions can be sent to [auction@lasalleinstitute.org](mailto:auction@lasalleinstitute.org). The next committee meeting has been changed to November 28<sup>th</sup>, decoration sub-committee will be having their first meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome! If you would like to help out with the Auction, please sign up at <http://signup.com/go/ycSQSHL>

### 2017-2018 Parents' Club Officers

Julie Slichko – President  
Jeff VanDenburgh – Past President  
Rose Ann DeGennaro – President Elect  
Sharon Martin – Treasurer  
Alexia Rohl – Secretary

*Every La Salle parent is a member of the Parents' Club. Our success is only achieved by our collective efforts – whether it's selling tickets to the Car Raffle, donating items to the Auction, or attending events/meetings to show your support, every effort counts toward our goals. New ideas are encouraged and welcomed, but we also need willing hands and hearts to make things happen. Please consider doing whatever you are able, whether it be time, donations, or garnering support from those outside the La Salle family, to help further the efforts of the Parents' Club. The students are the ones who ultimately benefit from our success!*

**As always, we appreciate all that you do!!**

## (School year info; holidays; end of year information)

Mon., September 4, 2017	Labor Day – No School (School Offices Closed)
Tues., September 5, 2017	Faculty/Staff Day – No Classes
Wed., September 6, 2017	Middle School <b>ONLY</b> (8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)
Thurs., September 7, 2017	High School <b>ONLY</b> (8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)
Fri., September 8, 2017	High School & Middle School (8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)
Mon., October 9, 2017	Columbus Day – No School (School Offices Closed)
Fri., November 10, 2017	Veteran’s Day Holiday – No School (School Offices Closed)
Nov. 22- Nov. 24, 2017	Thanksgiving Holidays (School Offices Closed)
Wed., December 20, 2017	Dismissal at 1:00 p.m.
Dec. 21, 2017 – <u>Jan. 1, 2018</u>	Christmas Recess – No School (School Offices Closed on Dec. 25 & Jan. 1)
Mon., January 15, 2018	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School (School Offices Closed)
Fri., February 2, 2018	Staff Development Day – No Classes
February 19 – 23, 2018	Winter Recess – No School (School Offices Closed on <u>Monday, February 19, 2018</u> )
Thurs., March 29, 2018	Holy Thursday, No School (School Offices Closed)
Fri., March 30, 2017	Good Friday, No School (School Offices Closed)
April 2 – 6, 2018	Spring Recess – No School (School Offices are <b>Open</b> )
May 25 & May 28, 2018	Memorial Day Holidays – No School (School Offices Closed)
Fri., June 8, 2018	Last Day of Classes for 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Tues., June 12, 2018	Last Day of Classes
June 13 - 20, 2018	Final Exams
Thurs., June 21, 2018	Fac./Staff Lunch Mtg. – No Students
Fri., June 22, 2018	Faculty Rating Day

