



# La Salle Institute News

for Parents

## The 2017 **State-of-the-School** Address

Feb./March 2017

Lots of positive changes, additions, and repairs continue at La Salle Institute. This year's challenges have been heightened by five deaths in our La Salle Institute family. Through it all, the boys and faculty/staff have leaned on each other and, in many ways, are carrying each other through the grief. Some highlights:

- ❖ Seniors rallied the school when raising more than \$7,300 for Fred, our janitor, who suffered open-heart surgery.
- ❖ We have added three new Science courses: Geology, Astronomy, and Introduction to Nanotechnology. Ms. Randall continues to invite area nanotech companies and colleges to participate in the course.
- ❖ The Business program continues to receive requests from companies, internationally, who would like La Salle students to design marketing materials. Our students and Mr. Levy have been featured in the Albany Business Review and television special reports.
- ❖ Miss Reid, our technology teacher, has been named a Channel 13 WNYT Top Teacher!
- ❖ Juniors have earned the highest ACT composite scores in years.
- ❖ Attrition (students not returning) is the lowest in eight years!
- ❖ A representative sample of surveyed alums from the last six years report having finished college, maintained strong GPAs, and approximately half took on leadership roles in college and beyond.
- ❖ Winter sports teams are having remarkable seasons: hockey is ranked #12 in NY State, wrestling has out-scored opponents 54-15, basketball has 11 wins and five losses, and track scholar-athletes are setting personal records.
- ❖ Spiritually, 80 students have volunteered time after school to enrich the lives of students at La Salle School and residents at Van Rensselaer Manor.
- ❖ The faculty has reviewed the entire curriculum and revised the course catalog while completing professional development that focused on vertical and horizontal curriculum planning.
- ❖ As of today, seniors have earned \$3.2 Million in scholarships and have 117 offers for admission.

*Paul D. Fallon, Ph.D. - Principal*



## ***IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES***

Race for Education Kick-off Assembly	-	February 6 <sup>th</sup> during Homeroom
Ash Wednesday Liturgy @ LSI	-	Wednesday, March 1, 2017
Red Cross Blood Drive - LSI – All Day	-	Thursday, March 2, 2017
Spring Open House @ LSI	-	Sunday, March 12, 2017 from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Br. James Romond Gala/Auction Dinner	-	Saturday, March 25, 2017 @ 5:00 p.m.
The Spring Drama Production	-	April 6 & April 7, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.
Military Ball –at the Desmond	-	Saturday, April 8, 2017 @ 6:30 p.m.

## ***SCHOOL RECESS PERIODS***

La Salle Institute will be **closed for classes** on or during the following dates:

Winter Recess:	February 20 – 24 (Offices closed Mon. 20 <sup>th</sup> )
Holy Thursday/Good Friday:	April 13 & 14 (Offices also closed)
Easter Sunday:	April 16, 2017
Spring Recess:	April 17 – April 21 (Offices open 10:00 am-1:00 pm)

## ***LEADERSHIP 100 AND 200 IN SEARCH OF INVESTORS***

By now, I hope you have heard of our college-level leadership seminars that are exclusive to La Salle Institute. The local media recently reported



on 35 of our seminar participants meeting with Congressman Tonko in Washington, D.C. While the media did not cover 13 of our Leadership 200 Cadets who each piloted a Cessna 172 aircraft, the boys were thrilled when sensing how flight dynamics relate to leading (e.g., lift, yaw, and drag associating with influence, building capacities, and breaking down barriers). We are grateful for our benefactors, **Mr. G. Richard Lewis** and **The China Family Association** for underwriting last semester's program costs.



As we embark on the Spring semester of Leadership 100 and 200, we are seeking additional benefactors. Each semester requires approximately \$25,000 (15 flight hours in the Cessna, airfare to Washington, hotel, bus transportation, books and materials, mid-term low ropes course fees, etc.). If you believe, as we do, that our LSI leadership seminars provide Cadets with advantages as the whole boy is developed toward potential, we can use your support. ***Please let Dr. Fallon know if you would like to financially support our next semester.*** Thank you!

***SPRING DRAMA PRODUCTION*** – Perhaps the most famous and popular of the Sherlock Holmes mysteries, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, will be presented by the Drama Club on **Thursday & Friday, April 6 & 7** at 7:00 p.m. in McCormick Hall. This gripping tale deals with the curse of the Baskerville family – and the fiendish killer-hound that stalks its members.

The cast of this terrifying tale includes: **Billy Lamoutte, Patrick Kayayan, Matt VanDenburgh, Ryan Ma, Ethan Washock** and La Salle alumnus **Chris Ribet**. The crew includes: **James Klingaman** (Stage Manager), **Rory Hayes** and **Ben Mager** with **Sam Lucarelli** on sound. Follow the intrigue as Holmes and Watson journey to danger, mystery and a series of events that build steadily in menace and suspense.



**JROTC DRILL TEAM NEWS** – The O’Donovan and McCormick Drill teams have almost completed their 2016-2017 **Southern New England Drill meet season** with stops at the following locations:

**Meet #1 – Cranston, Rhode Island, Nov. 12, 2016**

**McCormick Drill Team** – Facsimile Exhibition – 2<sup>nd</sup>; Facsimile Inspection – 4<sup>th</sup>; Facsimile Regulation – 4<sup>th</sup>; Unarmed Regulation – 4<sup>th</sup>; Unarmed Inspection – 2<sup>nd</sup>; and Unarmed Color Guard 4<sup>th</sup>.

**O’Donovan Drill Team** – Armed Regulation – 3<sup>rd</sup>; Armed Color Guard – 3<sup>rd</sup>; Armed Inspection – 3<sup>rd</sup>; and Armed Exhibition – 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Meet # 2 – La Salle Institute, Troy, NY, Dec. 17, 2016**

**McCormick’s** – Facsimile Exhibition – 1<sup>st</sup>; Facsimile Inspection – 3<sup>rd</sup>; Facsimile Regulation – 1<sup>st</sup>; Unarmed Regulation – 3<sup>rd</sup>; Unarmed Inspection – 5<sup>th</sup> and Unarmed Color Guard – 4<sup>th</sup>..

**O’Donovan’s** – Armed Regulation – 2<sup>nd</sup>; Armed Color Guard – 2<sup>nd</sup>; Armed Inspection – 2<sup>nd</sup> and Armed Exhibition – 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Meet # 3 – Coventry, RI, Jan. 21, 2017**

**McCormick’s** – Unarmed Regulation – 2<sup>nd</sup>; Unarmed Inspection – 3<sup>rd</sup>; and Unarmed Color Guard – 4<sup>th</sup>.

**O’Donovan’s** – Armed Regulation – 1<sup>st</sup>; Armed Color Guard – 3<sup>rd</sup>; Armed Inspection – 3<sup>rd</sup>; and Armed Exhibition – 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Meet # 4 –**

The final meet will be held in Springfield, MA this **Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017**

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***FRIENDLY REMINDERS***

- **Text Book Forms** - Text Book Forms for next school year **will be mailed home to all students sometime in May**. Please pay attention to the deadlines to insure the proper books are ordered from your school district for your student. If you have any questions, please contact **Ms. Burns at 283-1528** or [cburns@lasalleinstitute.org](mailto:cburns@lasalleinstitute.org).
- **Bus Transportation Request Forms** – **April 1, 2017** is the last date for submitting a **TRANSPORTATION REQUEST** to your son’s school district. A transportation renewal request form should come directly from your district. Complete the form and mail it **BACK TO YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT**. If you have a new transportation request please contact your school district directly. At this time it is very important that you review all of the information provided to ensure that it is correct. If there has been a change either in address or school district please contact your school district immediately to inform them of the change. ***If you have questions or have not received a transportation request form from your district, contact them or visit their web-site.***
- **Financial Aid** – Financial Aid grants are need-based, available to help families who cannot afford the entire cost of tuition. *If you received financial aid this school year, you will not automatically receive it for the next school year.* It is required that you RE-APPLY each school year. Also, it is in your best interest to apply early, as funds are limited. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING FINANCIAL AID FORMS TO LSI IS MARCH 15, 2017.** *Please note: Aid applications from current parents will not be processed if their tuition balance is overdue.* Application information is available NOW in the finance office or online at [www.sss.nais.org](http://www.sss.nais.org). . If you have any questions, contact **Mrs. Jennifer Rentz at 283-2500, ext. 231.**
- **Price Chopper “Tools for School” Report** – The Tools for School program will end this year on March 25, 2017. To date LSI has earned over 79,000 points toward educational merchandise. We will soon begin reviewing the catalog of equipment, searching for merchandise that will benefit both the students and teachers. ***Thanks to all who remember to use their AdvantEdge Card toward points for LSI. There is still time to help us earn even more!***  
The La Salle code to use is **15857.**
- **SENIORS & PARENTS** – All seniors are asked to please keep their appointments for their senior portraits with Lloyd’s Studio in Troy and be prompt in returning the proofs. This helps us meet our deadline for the yearbook publisher. ***Coming up....***

**Friday, April 28** – Race For Education

**Monday, May 15** – Senior Internships Begin

**Friday, June 2** – Senior Class Baccalaureate Mass

**Friday, May 5** – Sports Banquet

**Tuesday, May 30** – Senior Internship Presentations

**Saturday, June 3** – High School Graduation!!!!!!

## ***SPORTS AND ATHLETICS EVENTS – Winter Sports Update***

**Indoor Track:** This year's team had a number of personal bests, and once again medaled at Yale. Coach Leonard and his team are looking forward to the upcoming Sectionals and States.

**Wrestling:** The team continues to improve under the direction of Coach Mondore. Coach Mondore has his team ready to compete in the upcoming Class Tournaments and Sectionals.

**Ice Hockey:** The Cadets are currently ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in New York State with an overall record of 11-1-2 (as of Jan. 26th). Coach Flanigan and the CDHSHL first place Cadets are looking to make a run in the upcoming sectionals.

**Basketball:** With an overall record of 11-5 (as of Jan. 26th), this year's team plays together and is working extremely hard. Coach Sgambelluri has his team focused for the upcoming sectionals.

**Swimming:** Coach MacLeod has three swimmers participating this year. All three have had a successful year and are looking forward to qualifying for Sectionals.

**Bowling:** This year's bowling team had a great year competing in the Colonial Council. Coach Hoffman has his players focused on the upcoming league tournament.

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***STUDENT SENATE NEWS*** – Thank you to all involved, especially La Salle's student body, in donating to the Christmas Toy Drive. Numerous toys were donated to **Sunnyside Center** based in Troy that were distributed to local families/children in need. Sunnyside Center, as part of Catholic Charities, was extremely grateful for the large donation of toys. A big thank you goes to La Salle's Student Senate, who orchestrated the Toy Drive and the senior members of the Student Senate that helped deliver the toys, led by its President, **Tyler Rapp**.

**Upcoming-** La Salle's Student Senate, in conjunction with La Salle Institute and the American Red Cross will be holding its 2<sup>nd</sup> "**Blood Drive**" of the school year on **Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> (8:00am-2:00pm)** in McCormick Hall for those in the La Salle "family" who are interested in giving blood. Blood donations aren't limited to just students (16 years or older), faculty, and staff at La Salle. It is open to parents, relatives, and friends of the school as well. If you would like to donate blood, you can call the school nurse, **Mrs. Monica Bentley**, at 283-2500 (ext. 235), to arrange an appointment. Last fall, the Red Cross collected some 55 pints of blood through the school's "blood drive". It's estimated that each pint of blood can save up to three (3) lives. So please think about donating. The Red Cross is always in need of blood donations. Thank you!

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## ***The Mission Statement***

*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.*



**❖ Holiday Sale:**

Profits from the Holiday Sale were over \$6,400, a slight increase over last year. Thanks to *Jeff and Christine VanDenburgh* and all of the Friday night and Saturday volunteers!

**❖ 2016 Annual Car Raffle:**

This year's winner of the Ford Mustang is *Alan Higgins* from Hunter, NY. Ticket sales were \$53,168 with a profit of just over \$20,000. Exciting changes are coming to 2017 Car Raffle – if you would like to be a part of the committee, please contact Kim Bissonette at 283-2500 ext. 252 or [parentsclub@lasalleinstitute.org](mailto:parentsclub@lasalleinstitute.org). **THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS!**

**❖ Uniform Resale:**

We are currently accepting donations of uniform pants, shirts and sweaters. Uniforms that are freshly laundered/dry cleaned on hangers, with no stains or tears can be dropped off in the Main Office during school hours. Resale dates will be posted the last week of February. Thanks to *Lisa Gabriel*, Uniform Resale Chair.

**❖ The La Salle Institute Annual Auction:**

*"Let's Hear it for La Salle – GO CADETS!"*

School spirit is the theme of this year's Annual Auction. Show your school spirit by spending an evening with your friends, family, fellow parents, faculty and local businesses. The Auction, our largest fundraising event of the year, will be held on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.



Come celebrate with us and enjoy an evening of music, cocktails, raffles, silent & live auctions, dinner, dessert, and more. Gather a group and reserve a table of up to 10 people, or if you prefer, leave your seating arrangements to us!

We look forward to having you join us as we celebrate and show support for La Salle Institute!

**The next Parents' Club meetings will be on February 1<sup>st</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Dr. Fallon will give an update on school happenings as well as take time for parent questions. ALL ARE WELCOME!!**