



La Salle Institute

News for Parents

From the Principal

January 30, 2018

Dear Family and Friends,

I am not sure where the year has gone but this past Friday, we completed our first semester. I am happy to say that our students, your sons, seem to be happy and for the most part behaving and working hard. Our faculty and staff continue to challenge your sons to work to their fullest potential in the classroom and in extracurricular activities. As Principal, I am pleased with where we are and excited about our future.

Our students, your sons, continue to inspire me each and every day. Not just by their performance in the classroom or in extracurricular activities but also in the way they take it upon themselves to excel in activities and to serve their community by giving their time and treasure. I want to dedicate the rest of this newsletter to our students.

Christmas Band Concert: If you were at the Christmas Band Concert you had to be as amazed as I was. The atmosphere was wonderful, the music was inspirational, and the young men in the band were unbelievable. There were over 500 people in attendance and they enjoyed every minute of it. My thanks go out to Mr. Chamberlin and members of the band who spent countless hours in rehearsal and preparation to make the concert memorable for all of us.

Hurricane Relief Fund: Back in October, our young men raised \$1,500 for hurricane relief. That amount was matched by our Board of Trustees and a check for \$3,000 was presented to one of our former teachers. He is currently a principal in Florida and he presented it to his secretary who lost most of her belongings in the storm.

Thanksgiving Food Drive: The Student Senate coordinated this drive and collected enough money to purchase turkeys and all the trimmings for 100 Thanksgiving meals that were distributed to families in need.

Christmas Toy Drive: In December, the Student Senate coordinated a Christmas Toy Drive. There were approximately 400 toys donated to this effort and additional toys were purchased with the money that students and families donated. In addition, the "La Salle Bike Shop" repaired 15 bicycles and donated them to Sunnyside Center.

Breast Cancer Research: This event was primarily coordinated by the soccer team and player's parents. However all students participated by donating. This event raised over \$10,000 and all the proceeds were donated to The American Cancer Society.

Student Spirit Week: The intent was to help one of our families with medical expenses. The students also decided that some of the money should go to families who lost their homes in the recent Cohoes fires. They raised nearly \$5,000 and an additional \$1,400 by teaming up with Twill Beanies. \$1,000 was donated to the Cohoes families and the rest to the student's family to help with medical expenses.

Cadets for Vets: The Athletic Booster Club along with Hockey parents and players coordinated a "Cadets for Vets" hockey game against Shaker High School. It was a great game and La Salle emerged victorious. More importantly, as the Cadets skated for vets there was an atmosphere of patriotism that I have not seen at a high school sporting event. Standing room only, people cheering, American flags waving and veterans

proudly wearing their military insignias, hats, and jackets. This event raised over \$6,000 for Veterans Housing in Albany. Great night.

Lasallian Youth: The young men who participate are very special and take to heart their relationship with the elderly and the less fortunate. Every Tuesday and Thursday, 8-10 students go to the Van Rensselaer Manor Nursing Home to work with the elderly, play games, tell stories, and read books. There are approximately 70 students that rotate. Every Wednesday, 3-4 students travel to La Salle School in Albany to tutor those who need academic help. There are approximately 15 students in this group.

Honor Guard Events: Our Honor Guard has been to six events. They represent La Salle at funerals of alumni, family members, and friends. They also represent La Salle at special ceremonies such as the Saratoga Springs Veteran's Ball.

Color Guard Events: Our Color Guard has participated in 27 events to include the Living Veteran Ceremony in Albany, swearing in of new Judges for Rensselaer County on New Year's Day, and the Saratoga Springs Veteran's Ball. These events are on the weekends and evenings.

Athletics: Our winter sports teams are celebrating success and in two weeks it will be playoff time. We continue to receive resumes for a head football coach and we hope to start the interview process the second full week of February. Thanks to a restricted gift and contribution from the Booster Club, we are also in the process of revitalizing our weight and training room with new equipment and weights.

Enrollment: Thanks to our retention program and the hard work of our Enrollment Committee, our enrollment is holding steady for the first time in many years. I am very optimistic about next year. Although it is still early, all indications are that we will have more new students than we had last year, and the year before that. However, we continue to need your support. Our first parent ambassador meeting will take place tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. in the Library. If you would like to be involved, this is a great opportunity for you to help us reach out to more future families.

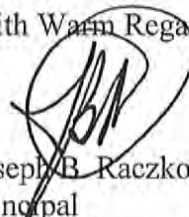
Spring Open House: Our Spring Open House is only six weeks away. We ask that you let people in your community know about the open house, and how important La Salle is to your son and to your family. Our best form of advertisement is our current and past parents, so I ask for your help.

Advancement and Fundraising: As you most likely know, Karen VanRoy is our new Director of Advancement and Finance. Karen is responsible for contacting our alumni and friends and seeking support for our Annual Fund and numerous other fundraising initiatives that we are working on. We hope that you enjoyed the Cadet Calling. This was our first major publication for this year and it has been quite successful with a lot of positive feedback in the form of comments and donations.

Reflection: As I think about all the things that our students, yours sons, have accomplished so far this academic year, I can't help but to be amazed. I am not just talking about academics, I am also talking about their participation in athletics, activities, and their dedication to serving the community. If we add up all the funds raised by our students and supported by the parents, it is over \$25,000. It is important to know that these are, for the most part, initiated, coordinated, and executed by the students with very little supervision. That is what leadership is all about. Students are taking the initiative, they are identifying the causes, and they get each other involved. It is a wonderful learning experience for the students, and for the faculty. I know that for many of these causes, you, our parents are supportive and I thank you for that.

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"

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Race for Education Kick-off Assembly	-	February 5 th during Homeroom
Ash Wednesday Liturgy @ LSI	-	Wednesday, February 14, 2018
Red Cross Blood Drive - LSI – All Day	-	Thursday, March 1, 2018
Spring Open House @ LSI	-	Thursday, March 15, 2018 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Br. James Romond Gala/Auction Dinner	-	Saturday, March 24, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.
Military Ball –at the Desmond	-	Saturday, April 14, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.
The Spring Drama Production	-	April 19 & April 20, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.

SCHOOL RECESS PERIODS

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

Winter Recess:	February 19 – 23 (Offices closed Mon. 19 th) (Offices open 9:00 am-2:00 pm Tues. – Fri.)
Holy Thursday/Good Friday:	March 29 & March 30 (Offices also closed)
Easter Sunday:	April 1, 2018
Spring Recess:	April 2 – April 6 (Offices open 9:00 am-2:00 pm)

SPRING DRAMA PRODUCTION –

A benchmark of Broadway comedy, A Thousand Clowns, by Herb Gardner, will be presented by the Drama Club on **Thursday & Friday, April 19 & 20 at 7:00 p.m.** in McCormick Hall. In one of theater's most beloved roles, unconventional Murray, uncle to precocious nephew, Nick, is presented. Tired of writing cheap comedy gags for "Chuckles the Chipmunk," a television star, Murray finds himself unemployed with plenty of free time with which to pursue his...pursuits. Lectured by his conventional brother, Arnold, and hounded by "the system", Murray is paid a visit by bickering, uptight social workers, Sandra and Albert, and finds himself solving their problems as well as most of his own.

The cast of this extraordinarily funny play includes: *Billy Lamoutte*, *Matt VanDenburgh*, *Patrick Kayayan*, *Robert Wurtz* and introducing *Krishan Badrie*.

The misguided Sandra is played by *Autumn Brown*.

The crew includes: *James Klingaman* (Stage manager), *Rory Hayes* and *Ben Mager*.

Join us on April 19 & 20 for a play "filled with laughter and warmth and sweetness and inspired daffiness." – *New York Daily News*

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 – Springfield, MA, Oct. 28, 2017

McCormick Drill Team – Facsimile Exhibition – 2nd; Facsimile Inspection – 4th; Facsimile Regulation – 4th; Unarmed Regulation – 5th; and Unarmed Inspection – 5th.

O'Donovan Drill Team – Armed Regulation – 5th; Armed Color Guard – 3rd; Armed Inspection – 2nd; and Armed Exhibition – 2nd.

Meet #2 – Hope HS, Providence, RI, Nov. 18, 2017

McCormick's – Facsimile Exhibition – 1st; Facsimile Inspection – 1st; Facsimile Regulation – 4th; Unarmed Regulation – 6th; and Unarmed Inspection – 5th.

O'Donovan's – Armed Regulation – 4th; Armed Color Guard – 4th; Armed Inspection – 4th and Armed Exhibition – 2nd.

Meet #3 – Rogers HS, Newport, RI, Dec. 9, 2017

McCormick's – Unarmed Regulation – 2nd; Unarmed Inspection – 1st; Facsimile Regulation – 1st; Facsimile Inspection – 1st; and Facsimile Exhibition

O'Donovan's – Armed Regulation – 3rd; Armed Color Guard – 3rd; Armed Inspection – 1st; and Armed Exhibition – 1st.

The O'Donovan's are now preparing to compete in the National Competitions in Daytona, FL on May 4, 2018.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- **Text Book Forms** – New York State Law requires individual written requests be submitted by the parent and/or guardian to the students home school district for the loan of textbooks to pupils attending nonpublic schools. The information needed for this request will be mailed to our families in May. Any questions or concerns should be directed to **Ms. Burns at 518-283-1528** or cburns@lasalleinstitute.org.
- **Bus Transportation Request Forms** – **April 1, 2018** 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, 2018.** *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. . 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 for this school year has ended. LSI has earned over 103,000 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 remembered to use their AdvantEdge Card toward points for LSI!!!*
- **SENIORS & PARENTS – Coming up....**

Friday, April 27 – Race For Education

Friday, May 4 – Sports Banquet

Friday, May 18 – Senior Class Baccalaureate Mass

Saturday, May 19 – High School Graduation!!!!!!

SPORTS AND ATHLETICS EVENTS – Winter Sports Update

Indoor Track: The Indoor Track freshman team took home 3rd place at the Tri County League Championships. The Varsity team had a good meet at the Yale Invitational, and are Colonial Council Champions. Coach Leonard is looking forward to the upcoming sectionals.

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: Coming off six straight wins the Cadets are currently in second place in the CDHSHL with a league record of 8-1-1 and an overall record of 10-3-1 (as of Jan. 25th). Section 2 Sectionals will start on February 21st.

Basketball: With an overall record of 10-4, and a league record of 7-1, the Cadets are currently in first place in the Colonial Council. Coach Sgambelluri has his team focused and ready for the upcoming sectional run.

Swimming: The Cadets currently have two summers participating this year. Both swimmers are having a successful year and are looking forward to qualifying for sectionals.

Bowling: This year's bowling team is having a great year competing in the Colonial Council. Coach Hoffman has his bowlers ready to compete in the upcoming league tournament.

STUDENT SENATE NEWS – Thank you to all involved, especially La Salle’s student body, and La Salle’s Middle School “Bike Shop” Club led by Mr. Dan Maloney, 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, **John Gordon and Vice-President, Ethan Tremblay.**

Upcoming- La Salle’s Student Senate, in conjunction with La Salle Institute and the American Red Cross will be holding its 2nd **“Blood Drive”** of the school year on **Thursday, March 1st (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 50 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, especially due to the natural disasters that have devastated the country recently. Thank you!

CADET BOOSTER CLUB

The **Cadet Booster Club** has been busy supporting all our teams and the athletic program. We are the volunteer and fundraising arm of the athletic department under *Athletic Director, Drew Santandera*. To date the Booster Club has raised more than \$20,000 through our Fall fundraising efforts. We recently voted to assist in providing funds toward the renovation of the training/weight room. Currently, we will be printing and issuing the Winter Media Guide which will highlight our winter athletic teams and honor our seniors. Businesses have purchased advertisements in the media guides. Please support those businesses who support La Salle sports.

Additionally, please look for the **“Luck of the Irish”** fundraiser which will be sent home in February. Cost of a ticket is \$10.00. Every day in the month of March there will be one lucky \$100 winner. On St. Patrick’s Day, March 17th, and the night of the La Salle auction, March 24th, we will have a \$500.00 winner! Please purchase tickets and support our sports teams.

On January 20, 2018 our hockey team hosted a **Cadets for Vets** fundraiser. All donations and proceeds from door, raffle, 50/50, concessions and shirt sales amounted to approximately \$6,000 and will be donated to the Albany Housing Coalition, an organization which provides services to local veterans. Before a standing room only crowd, the hockey team played phenomenally, beating Shaker-Colonie 5-1. Many thanks to all who organized, helped and donated to this tremendous community event.

The next Booster Club meeting is Thursday, February 8th at 6:30 in the school library. All are invited and welcome to attend. Best of luck to our winter teams: Basketball, Bowling, Hockey, Indoor Track and Field, Swimming and Wrestling.

GO CADETS!!

President – Cathy Leahy Scott

Vice President – Valerie Carberg

Secretary – Jessica Hartman

Communications – Bob Carberg

Treasurer – Noreen Coughlin

Fundraising Coordinators – Christine Edwards and Nancy Baker

❖ **Holiday Sale:**

Sales from the Holiday sale were \$18,866 with a profit of \$6,274.25, a slight increase over last year. Thanks to *Jeff and Christine VanDenburgh* and all of the Friday night and Saturday volunteers!

❖ **2017 Annual Car Raffle:**

This year's winner of the Ford Mustang is **Charles Jubrey** from Cohoes. Ticket sales were \$47,665 with a profit of just over \$12,407. **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. Uniforms are available for purchase by appointment, contact the Parents' Club office at 518-283-2500 ext. 252 to make arrangements. Thanks to *Lisa Gabriel*, Uniform Resale Chair.

❖ **Dining Fundraisers:**

New this year, our dining fundraisers are gaining momentum! The amount generated to date:

Five Guys/TCBY	\$165.83
Blaze	\$ 65.00
Outback	\$250.93

The next dining fundraiser will beat Panera, 16 N. Greenbush Rd. (on Rt. 4, directly across from La Salle) on Wednesday, February 7th from 4-8 PM. The flyer is included on the next page.

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

"*Luau with La Salle*", is the theme of this year's Annual Auction. Show your school spirit by spending an evening with your friends, family, fellow parents, and faculty. The Auction, our largest fundraising event of the year, will be held on **Saturday, March 24th at 6:00 p.m.** at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy. New this year – expanded menu, open bar, and the attire will be Hawaiian resort wear/business casual.



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!



HELP SUPPORT

LA SALLE INSTITUTE PARENTS' CLUB

WHERE 16 N Greenbush Rd, Troy, NY 12180

WHEN Wed, Feb, 7th

FROM 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Bring this flyer or show an electronic version to the cashier when you place your order and we'll donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchase.*

Ordering Online for Rapid Pick-Up or Delivery?*

Enter **FUND** as your Promo Code to have a portion of your proceeds donated to your organization.

Learn more at PaneraBread.com/fundraiser

*Gift card purchases and catering orders are excluded and will not count toward the event.
Rapid Pick-Up and Delivery only where available.

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