



ALLEMANEWSLETTER

December 2011

From the Principal's Desk
Faith ... Family ... Respect ... Excellence



A CHRISTMAS MEMORY

My Mom, Dora, had a special recipe for homemade caramels. Those caramels were one of the special treats at our house at Christmas time. Once the jelly roll pans were filled with the simmering caramel mixture, Mom would put them aside so the candy could cool and harden. At that point, her job was done. It had to be. Mom had a severe case of arthritis and would experience a great amount of pain if she were to cut several pans of caramel into little squares. My brothers and I did that for her... cutting and wrapping the pieces in small squares of Cut-Rite waxed paper. Mike and I, as the two oldest, were also the dishwashers. In spite of mom's arthritis and a house full of holiday-crazed children, making, cutting and wrapping the caramels was a happy tradition for all of us. Our tradition does not claim to rival the events of Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory," but it was always an experience infused with warmth, and love and holiday excitement. I cherish the memory. And... boy did those caramels taste great! Savor the special traditions at your home this Christmas and cherish them always! Have a happy and holy Christmas. May God Bless your family!

OH NO! ... LATE FOR AN EXAM!!

Since December is the month for first semester finals, here's our annual reminder: If there is an unexpected delay in getting to school for the first exam of the day (car trouble, etc.), it is imperative that students still get to school as soon as possible to take their exams. If something unfortunate and unforeseen does happen, it is better to arrive a little late than to earn a zero on an exam as a "no-show." A parent note should accompany the student the next day.

MIDTERM GRADES

Just a reminder that Midterm grades have been posted to RenWeb. If you need help creating a login and password, please contact the office and we will be happy to assist you. If you would like a printed copy sent home with your student, please call the office.

JOHN LANCASTER SPALDING FUND SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

Families of students currently receiving grants should remember that all grants are for one year only. Anyone seeking to renew a grant for 2012-2013 must apply again and qualify. The FACTS financial aid form may be completed on paper or online (\$25 fee). Filing online is the best and most direct method of submitting the form. Information about submitting financial aid information to FACTS online is available at

www.factstuitionaid.com. Complete details about the application process are available at the Diocese of Peoria website www.cdop.org. Click on EDUCATION then on OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS. Finally, click on SPALDING SCHOLARSHIPS. At this site you will also find a copy of the Diocesan application form which is a required form. All forms must be submitted by February 15, 2012. Expect to see information regarding Spalding Scholarships in *The Catholic Post* and in your parish bulletin.



SNOW DAYS DURING EXAM PERIODS

First of all, let's say a special prayer that we do not have to cancel school because of weather conditions during the scheduled finals exam days (December 16, 19, 20, 21). If the weather turns bad, tune in early to your favorite TV or radio station for bulletins on school

closings. If the power is on at my house I will send an email too via RenWeb. A snow day (or other emergency closing) during finals would cause the schedule to be bumped back one day for each day that the school is closed. For example, if there is a snow day on a Thursday then the finals originally scheduled for Thursday will be given on Friday. Friday's finals will be written on Monday, etc.

News from the Drama Department



WINTER PLAY

The Alleman Drama Department will present a murder/drama, "**The Pen is Deadlier,**" by **Fred Carmichael** under special license from the Samuel French company at Alleman's Tracey Spaeth Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday, December 8, and Saturday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. with a matinee on Sunday, December 11 at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and \$4 for students Kindergarten through high school. Tickets will be on sale at the door.

Clair Clarendon (Mackenzie Kelly) is a Hollywood gossip columnist who has seemingly written at least one too many cruel, insinuating pieces. Now someone wants her dead. But rather than calling in the police, Clair invites five of her most obvious enemies to dine with her in the hope that she might discover the person who has been threatening her. Then one by one, her guests meet their deaths.

Also featured in the cast are Tyler Allen, Anna Parkinson, McKenna VanMeighem, Jen Vyncke, Chase Stone, Emily Becker, Mercedes VanOpdorp, Daniel Ortega, and Carter Dailey. The play is directed by John Donald O'Shea.

Booster Club News

A huge thank you to all of the concession workers for another great year in football. Without your dedication and support we could not raise the money we do.

Basketball is just around the corner, we will have three games at Augie for which we will need volunteers. We will be contacting those who signed up to help with basketball concessions. If you are interested in working, please call Jim & Cindy Schoeck at 756-0345.

No meeting in December. We will see you at the next meeting on January 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

News from around the School



THE DOVE PROJECT

The Dove Project that we embrace during the Holidays gives our students the opportunity to share their blessings with the less fortunate. We will be collecting monetary contributions for the next couple weeks, then using the money to purchase gifts for people whose names have been submitted to us from our local parishes. The students work hard at collecting money, but really enjoy picking out that special gift and wrapping it up to deliver back to the parish. Perhaps your family would like to join our efforts - any donations would be greatly appreciated. In an effort to raise funds for Dove, we are still selling Restaurant Discount Cards. We have limited quantities available, so please don't wait to purchase them if you are interested. They are available in the Main Office for \$10.00 each.



STUDENT HUNGER DRIVE

Perhaps you have already heard the news...but if you haven't...we have a lot to be proud of!! Our students, their families, and our community rallied around the Student Hunger Drive. With their support, Alleman students were able to collect 145,482 pounds of food. This represents approximately 326 pounds of food per student which was enough to earn us 1st place in Division B for the fifteenth consecutive year. Thank you to all of the students for their hard work on this event. Our success as a school is a reflection of your generosity and that of the community. We have a few of the Student Hunger Drive Discount Cards left. You may pick one up in the Main Office for a small donation of \$10.00. The card provides discounts at twenty-one different restaurants/businesses and are good for unlimited use until September 2012. They make great Christmas gifts. Proceeds from the remaining cards will be used for the Dove Project.

From The Development Office

If it is possible, would you consider Alleman in your year-end giving plans? You can make a tax-deductible donation by December 31, and your gift will help take care of much needed improvements such as cafeteria renovation, girls bathroom renovation, a new weather lobby at the new wing entrance, and new lights on the main floor. Kindly remember the following fundraising efforts as well:

- *Dream House 2012* - Only 3500 shares sold, with a 1 in 140 chance of winning a prize! This year's grand prize is a Quarter of a Million dollars! Two early bird drawings in December on the 5th and the 19th.
- *Cookie Orders* – Remember your son or daughter with a 13” decorated cookie. Place your orders through the Development Office. Cost is only \$10. Proceeds go towards Heritage Ball Gift Gathering.
- *2012 Heritage Ball* – Mark your calendars and plan to attend March 31, 2012 at the I-Wireless Center. If you are able, please consider an in-kind gift for the Heritage Ball; i.e., if you own a condo in Colorado, Florida, California, etc, that you would be willing to donate for a week's usage, or an item such as a piece of furniture, art, or home accessory. Also, the Heritage Ball Committee will accept cash donations to purchase silent auction items.
- *Would You Remember Alleman in Your Will* – or give a planned gift of life insurance, or name Alleman as a beneficiary in your IRA.

A HEARTFELT THANKS to all who supported Alleman through participating in one or more of our fundraisers so far this year – Birdies for Charity, Pioneer Calendar Sales, Holiday Luncheon, and All Souls Memorials.

Also, please extend your thanks to the hard work of all of our wonderful students who won the Student Hunger Drive again this year, making it 15 years in a row for an Alleman 1st Place! Alleman not only brought in the most food of schools in our division (schools with enrollments of 350 to 1200), but also brought in the most food of any participating school.

It is my heartfelt wish that all of you and your loved ones have a blessed and happy new year. You will all be remembered in my masses on Christmas Day.

God Bless,
Fr. Mirabelli

Information from Yearbook Staff

SENIOR PICTURES

All senior pictures for yearbook must be taken at Westin Photo Studio. Please call 762-3326 for an appointment. **Deadline is December 16, 2011.** A reminder to senior students that the proper dress code for these pictures is as follows:

Gentlemen: Formal wear

You must wear a tie—No sweater

No earrings

Appropriate hair cut

Ladies: Formal wear

No sweaters—Shoulders covered

No low cut front on dress

Earrings—max. 2 in each ear

SENIOR PARENTS

If you would like to include a baby picture with a short message to your graduating senior to be published in this year's Year Book, here is the offer. Please submit an inexpensive photo (no larger than 4x6) with a personal message and \$50.00. You may pay with check or cash. Checks should be made payable to Alleman Yearbook. Please submit all photos to Sister M. Ruth through the Main Office. **Deadline for this offer is December 16, 2011.**

Sister M. Ruth

Knights of Columbus

Please join us for the
Knights of Columbus
Sir Knight Larry Quane 32nd Annual
Pro-Life Breakfast
7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 22, 2012
Farrell Hall, St. Pius X Catholic Church
2901 24th Street
Rock Island, IL

Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3.00 for children (12 and under), \$18 for a family.

Tickets will be sold at the door

**Proceeds support pro-life activities within the
Quad Cities Area**

Chairman: Jeff Scarpinato (Alleman Parent)
Co-Chairmen: Glenn Wells (AHS Class of 1950)
Mark Holland (AHS Class of 1972),
Tom Lawrence (AHS Class of 1975),
Kevin Rafferty (AHS Class of 1982 & Alleman
Parent)

News from the Music Department

The Alleman Christmas Concert featuring students from Alleman, Our Lady of Grace, Seton, and Jordan will be on Tuesday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Dr. Tracey Spaeth Performing Arts Center at Alleman High School. Take time off from your busy shopping, wrapping and baking schedule to sit back, relax and listen to all the hard work and fun that has been accomplished by our band and choir students this season. It will put a smile on your face and a song in your heart!



Counseling Department News

In order to save space on the monthly newsletter, the Counseling Department will post all their current news online at the Alleman High School Counseling Department Website.

Go to: www.allemanhighschool.org

Click on: "Academics"

Click on: "Counseling"

Click on: "Counseling Website"

Click on information on the side bar to access information.

You will find interesting information updated daily about the Counseling Department, such as Driver's Ed, Job Opportunities, Standardized Test information, College/University Requirements, College Campus Visits and a visit guide. Also College Information will be posted as the Counseling Office receives it – such as information about ACT, Financial Aid Facts, College Scholarships, representatives visiting Alleman and various information on Occupational and Career Opportunities and the new and exciting "Brown Bag Lunches & Job Shadowing."

Important information to look for on the website for December and January are:

EXPLORE test dates for current Freshman class of 2015 (January 27) and EXPLORE test dates for incoming class of 2016 (January 28). This is located under "Standardized Tests" – "EXPLORE"

SENIORS – if you want your 7th semester grades sent to any college, please make sure you request that in the Counseling Office. Nothing is sent without a request from the student.

Visit the Counseling Department Website often as information is updated on a daily basis.

NOTE: If you are unable access the website and want a print-out copy of anything that is listed on the website, please have your student stop in to see Mrs. Miller in the Counseling Office. We will be happy to provide you a copy of the information.