



# Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

## PARENT NEWSLETTER

November 22, 2011  
Issue 4

*Faith. Family. Future.*

### Enclosures

- Campus Ministry Flyer
- Test Bag Flyer
- Tuition Statements
- Midterm Reports
- Independent Study Day Flyer
- Japanese Visitor Fact Sheet
- Tim Robertson Tribute

### Important Dates

- Nov. 23, 24, 25 - Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 28 - Classes Resume
- Nov. 28 - Fall Sports Banquet 5 p.m.
- Dec. 1 - MEG Self Defense Class 3-6 p.m.
- Dec. 3 - Tim Robertson Night Following JV Boys Basketball Game 5:45 p.m.
- Dec. 6 - Red Cross Blood Drive 8-2 p.m.
- Dec. 8 - Immaculate Conception Liturgy 9:45 a.m.
- Dec. 9 - Christmas on Campus 8 a.m.
- Dec. 10 - Breakfast with Santa 8 a.m.
- Dec. 12 - Advent Reconciliation Service 11 a.m.
- Dec. 13 - Advent Reconciliation Service 8 a.m.
- Dec. 14 - Senior Yearbook Photo Make-up Day
- Dec. 14 - Parent Organization Pizza Sale 3 p.m.
- Dec. 15 - Winter Sports Rally 1:40 p.m.
- Dec. 16 - Prayer Service 9:45 a.m.
- Dec. 19 - Exams (periods 1,2,3) Dismissal at 1:45 p.m. (lunch will be served)
- Dec. 20 - Exams (periods 4 & 5) Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.
- Dec. 21 - Exams (periods 6 & 7) Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.
- Dec. 22 - Jan. 4 - Christmas Break
- Jan. 5 - Classes Resume
- Jan. 13 - End of 2nd Quarter and 1st Semester
- Jan. 16 - MLK Day No Classes
- Jan. 17 - Faculty In-Service No Classes
- Jan. 20 - Senior Cap & Gown Orders 8:00 a.m.
- Jan. 22 - March For Life Washington DC Departs

Visit [vasj.com](http://vasj.com) for event times, locations and to view more important dates.



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

As Thanksgiving approaches, we pause to give thanks to the Lord for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us. As always, I am thankful for my health, my family, my friends and the opportunity to be part of the wonderful Viking Village. Be sure to take a moment each day to say "thank you" to anyone and everyone you are thankful for.

In typical Cleveland fashion, cold weather has been thrust upon us earlier than anyone wanted, and as such, dress code questions are beginning to arise. Please consult the student handbook for guidelines regarding sweaters and sweatshirts. Jackets, fleeces, hoodies, cardigans and scarves are not permitted in the hallways or classrooms after 8 a.m. The only exception to this is that

student athletes may wear their team jackets on Fridays during their respective season. Since snow is just around the corner, it bears mentioning that boots may be worn to school but students must change in to their school appropriate shoes before 8 a.m. We appreciate your help and support in enforcing these rules with your child.

Upcoming dates and reminders:

- Tuesday, November 22, Parent/Teacher Conferences from 2-8 p.m. Teachers will have a dinner break from 5-6 p.m.
- November 23-27, Thanksgiving Break
- December 19-21, First Semester Exams
- December 22-January 4, Christmas Break

As always, thank you for your continued support of Villa Angela-St. Joseph School, and if I can ever be of assistance, please call me at school.

Christ's Peace,

Dave Csank

## OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, March 28, at 6 p.m.

## TEST BAGS

\$5 each. Order by December 13.

More information on page 2.

### IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

in his/her studies and/or contact your child's teacher for a more in-depth update.

responsible for contacting a classmate or your teacher to obtain the assignment.

When we need to close the building due to inclement weather (or other "Acts of God"), we will notify WKYC Channel 3, 19 Action News and News Channel 5. All will display "Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School." We will also post to the school's website. When we close the building, the school day will be an INDEPENDENT STUDY DAY. All teachers will post an assignment on Schoology that is to be completed while the building is closed. If you do not have access to your computer or the internet on Independent Study Days, you are

We encourage you and your child to attend special events held at VASJ. Check out this newsletter and/or the VASJ website for upcoming events, including athletic contests, a dedication to Tim Robertson and the Music Department's Christmas Concert.

I hope you and your family have a very Happy Thanksgiving and a joyous Advent and Christmas!

*Megan Scheider*

Mrs. Megan Scheider

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe Thanksgiving is upon us. In just a few short weeks, your child/children will be taking semester exams, celebrating Christmas and completing the first semester. Consider taking time this weekend to review your child's progress to date, discuss changes your child may need to make

## FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE

Thank you to all the families that are current with their tuition payments. We realize that you are making a sacrifice for your children to attend Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School.

If you are paying tuition through TMS or the OCCU, please make sure your payments are up to date. These accounts are taken into consideration during exclusion time. You must be current.

Some families were allotted the opportunity to make payments directly to the school. Please make sure you are up to date with these plans as well. VASJ will be billing a \$40 per month late fee for delinquent accounts.

Any plans made at school, agreements made with TMS or contracts signed with the OCCU are for TUITION ONLY. These amounts do not include any class fees, service fees, sports fees, transportation fees or any other fees incurred by the student. Payments for these fees must be made directly to the school within the quarter they are billed.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lori Conley in the Business Office at 216-481-8414 ext. 240. Lori will try to return calls within 48 business hours; however, it may be longer around statement mailing dates and exclusion time.

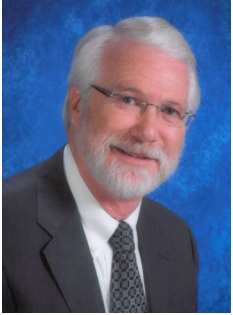
## PARENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Reminder to all parents to check the VASJ website regularly for parent volunteer opportunities. New opportunities will be listed as they become available.

If you are interested in helping out with any of the events listed, please contact Jackie Kerver at [jkerver@vasj.com](mailto:jkerver@vasj.com) or at 216-481-8414 ext. 245. Be sure to complete the volunteer application that was sent home or you can complete it online at [www.vasj.com](http://www.vasj.com) under the parents section of the website.

## PARENT ORGANIZATION TEST BAG SALE

It's that time of year again. FINALS! Surprise your student with a pre-ordered Test Bag (Treat Bag) for \$5. All Test Bags are delivered the morning of their first day of exams in homeroom to wish them encouragement on a semester well done. The cafeteria will be closed December 20-21, 2011, so don't miss the opportunity to purchase your Test Bag(s) today. See the enclosed Test Bag order form for details. Additional order forms are available under the parent organization section of our website, [www.vasj.com](http://www.vasj.com).



Dear Parents:

What's the good word? According to thousands of professional writers and editors, the word is: Ursulines.

It's a point that NBC News correspondent Kelly O'Donnell (VA '83) made in her acceptance speech when she was inducted into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame last month. Several of the media professionals featured that evening, in fact, cited their Catholic education as the driving force behind their distinguished careers.

Emily Robinson, VASJ's excellent marketing and communications coordinator, and I were on hand to help celebrate Kelly's honor. We found ourselves en-

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

gaged in conversation with other guests who also spoke of the emphasis that Catholic educators – and Ursulines, in particular – traditionally have placed on verbal and writing skills.

We spoke with Kelly's dad, Neil O'Donnell, who pointed out that his sister, the late Sister Mary Petraan, OSU, was instrumental in influencing Kelly to pursue broadcast journalism. As he put it, the Ursulines have a "reverence for the language" that has influenced many media careers.

In my own case, it was Sister Mary Irma, OSU, my fifth-grade teacher at St. Jerome School, who set me on a course of a 40-year career in publishing. I may not have been an Honor Roll standout, but she thought I had a way with words so she encouraged me in a novel way.

Back then, the afternoon daily Cleveland Press awarded Cleveland Indians baseball tickets to any kid who managed to get a straight-A report card. Sister knew

I had three strikes against me: arithmetic, geography and science. But she offered me a deal. If I wrote 10 essays during the last month of school, she would give me straight-As.

Sister upped the ante several times, and I ended up writing a couple dozen essays. And she made good on her promise. I got to sit in the stands with my dad for a Twi-Night Doubleheader, along with all those arithmetic, geography and science geniuses.

Now, please don't tell your students that our teachers will make them a similar deal today. This is high school, after all, and the rules count. But one thing remains the same: Our teachers reverence the language. And all of us care deeply about the students you have placed in our care.

Richard Osborne

## VASJ CALENDAR RAFFLE

The Office of Advancement will hold a calendar raffle for the month of December 2011. The calendar is filled with prizes such as gift baskets, restaurant gift certificates and cash. A prize will be awarded each day through a random drawing of those who have purchased a calendar.

The calendars are \$10 each and went on sale November 1st. Each student was given five (5) calendars to sell. The calendar raffle entry forms and money must be turned in to the Advancement Office no later than Wednesday, November 30. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Ruby Harris at 481-8414 ext. 209 or by email at [rharris@vasj.com](mailto:rharris@vasj.com).

## WEEKLY MASSES

Fr. Jim Bartlett celebrates a weekly Mass in VASJ's Chapel on Wednesday mornings at 7:15 a.m. for the VASJ community. Parents and alums are also welcome to attend Mass.

## IALERT SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Want to be the first notified of school closings and delays? Go to [WKYC.com](http://WKYC.com) and sign up for Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School iAlerts to receive emails and text messages about VASJ school closings and delays. You can also sign up through a link on VASJ's website under Parents/Weather Closing Information.

## SCHOOL POLICIES FOR CONDUCT AT BASKETBALL GAMES

As we approach the basketball season, please review the following school policies with your student.

### CONDUCT AT SCHOOL FUNCTIONS:

VASJ students must sit in their own stands. Good sportsmanship should be exhibited at all times. Participating in any negative cheering during our games will result in dismissal from the contest. The Administration reserves the right to determine additional consequences for repeated violations. Please refer to page 56 of your Student Handbook for the full school policy.

### ALCOHOL, CHEMICAL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY:

VASJ is concerned for the health, welfare, and safety of all members of the student body. VASJ believes very strongly in the prevention, intervention and rehabilitation components necessary for comprehensive policies and procedures. A student suspected of drinking upon arrival at a school function or drinking at a school function will be removed from the function and detained. At that time, a breathalyzer test will be administered by a trained member of the VASJ staff. Refusing to take the breathalyzer test will be treated as an admission of guilt, and school procedures will be followed. If the test turns out positive or the student refuses the test, parents will be immediately contacted and must pick up the student from the function. Please refer to page 46 of your Student Handbook for the full school policy.

## LIGHTS AND ORNAMENT COLLECTION

Student Council will be “Decking the Halls” on December 1 and is in need of lights and ornaments to turn the Viking Village into a Viking Winter Wonderland. Please send items to Mr. Minadeo in Room 301 in a bag or box.

## PARENT ORGANIZATION SELLING GOLF UMBRELLAS

Just in time for the holidays, the Parent Organization is selling large red and white Viking golf umbrellas for \$15. There is a limited supply, so get your umbrellas today. Umbrellas are available in the bookstore.

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Tis the season to give! The second Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, December 6, from 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. in the Ministry Center. Come share in the “gift of giving.” Your gift will save a life!

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

Please check the enclosed document for important information from Campus Ministry. The information includes updates on service requirement due dates, winter service opportunities and upcoming class retreats.

**UNDERCLASS SERVICE REQUIREMENT  
BENCHMARK/DUE DATES**

	<u>Sophomores</u>	<u>Juniors</u>	<u>Freshmen</u>
Mon. Oct. 17	5 Hours	6 hours	
Mon. Jan. 9	5 Hours	6 Hours	
Tues. March 20	5 Hours	6 Hours	
Mon. May 14	5 Hours	6 Hours	4 Hours
	20 Total	24 Total	4 Total

**HOLIDAY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR VASJ STUDENTS**

The Campus Ministry Department has ongoing Service Projects that students may join in on to complete their service hour requirements.

**Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup>**

**St. Aloysius Food Distribution**

**8:00 am-11:00 am**

If transportation is needed, the students must return a signed permission slip to Ms. Latkovich by Friday Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. The van will leave the VASJ parking lot at 7:45 am and will return by 11:30 am.

**Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**City of Euclid Holiday Celebration**

**6:00 pm-9:00 pm**

**Shore Cultural Center**

Various jobs available.

Set up help needed on Thursday Dec. 1 which begins at 3:30 pm.

Other includes face painters, student ambassadors and ushers, craft table workers.

**Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Northeast Shores Breakfast with Santa @ VASJ Cafeteria**

**9:00 am-12:30 pm (Event is from 10:00am-12:00 pm)**

Help needed for set up, serving, bussing tables, crafts, face painting, clean up etc.

**Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup>**

**St. Aloysius Food Distribution**

**8:00 am-11:00 am**

If transportation is needed, the student must return a signed permission slip to Ms. Latkovich by Friday Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. The van will leave the VASJ parking lot at 7:45 am and will return by 11:30 am.

Plan ahead to participate in one of the pre-approved service projects listed above.

Please sign up with Ms. Latkovich to participate.

**UPCOMING CLASS RETREATS IN 2012**

Sophomore Class Retreat- Tuesday January 31	8:00 am- 3:08 pm
Freshmen Class Retreat #1- Monday February 6	8:00 am- 3:08 pm
Freshmen Class Retreat #2- Tuesday February 7	8:00 am- 3:08 pm
Freshmen Class Retreat #3- Friday February 10	8:00 am- 3:08 pm
Junior Class Retreat- Tuesday February 28	8:00 am- 3:08 pm
Senior Men's Retreat #2- Tuesday March 27	8:00 am- 8:00 pm



# Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

*Faith. Family. Future.*

Dear Parents,

Winter has officially arrived in Cleveland! This letter is being sent as a reminder of VASJ's policy of "Independent Study Days"

WHENEVER it becomes necessary for ANY REASON for VASJ to close:

- 1). Students are expected to check each one of their classes on Schoology for assignments and/or other directions from their teachers.
- 2). Students are expected to complete any and all assignments from their teacher by the assigned due date, just as if they were given the assignment in class.
- 3). If there is a legitimate reason why a student could not complete an assignment (internet access down, no access to computer at home/library closed, etc.), a handwritten note, signed by a parent/guardian must be presented to the teacher. The decision on when the assignment will be due will be up to the discretion of the teacher. If a student does not present a note to the teacher, classroom policies on missing assignments will apply.
- 4). We expect students to make reasonable efforts to access Schoology and complete their assignments. We do not expect them to go to extraordinary lengths or put themselves in dangerous situations. However, please remember that a signed note from a parent must be turned in the day we return to school. If a student does not have the letter, he/she will receive no credit for missed assignments, regardless of why they were not completed.

Although we realize these Independent Study Days are not the most popular item among our students, we have several reasons for instituting them. First, they save us from using more than our allotted 5 calamity days and having to make up days at the end of the year or over spring break. Second, it keeps the students focused on school and the learning process. Third, it keeps us moving in a positive direction concerning our promise to continue to give our students 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. Every day, computers and the internet are becoming a more integral part of the education process. This process allows us to begin preparing students for living and working in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Csank".

David Csank  
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Scheider".

Megan Scheider  
Assistant Principal

# Order your TEST BAG now!



A **TEST BAG** is filled with goodies to inspire, nourish and relax test takers on exam days. Some of these items could be something to drink; a healthy snack, possibly a granola bar; some mints and candy to stimulate the brain; words of encouragement, in the form of a note, which is enclosed in each bag from you; and, of course, a pencil. Other items might also be added for fun.

*This is a nice way to let the students know that they are being thought of on their exam days.*

**SEMESTER EXAMS: Mon. Dec. 19 • Tue. Dec. 20 • Wed. Dec. 21**

**COST:** Test Bags can be purchased for **\$5.00 each** and must be pre-ordered. (Test Bags can also be purchased for other students.)


>>> All Test Bags will be delivered to the students on the **FIRST** day of exams only.

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: Tuesday, December 13, 2011**

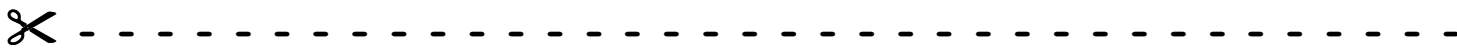
Be sure to return your orders by the deadline date above to ensure that enough items can be purchased.

**TO ORDER:** Complete the bottom section & send to school with your money - route to the Main Office/Mrs. Ealy. (*Checks should be made payable to VASJ Parent Organization.*)

*Please mark envelope: Parent Organization - Test Bags.*

 Don't forget to send words of encouragement in a small note, with your order. These notes will be added to the Test Bags before delivery.

Any questions, please contact the Parent Organization: (216) 481-8414 ext. 7133. Thank you.



## TEST BAG ORDER FORM - Semester Exams

Test Bags are \$5.00 each and must be pre-ordered.

**Deadline for orders: Tuesday, December 13, 2011**

Student Name:	# of Test Bags:	Amount:	Note Enclosed:
_____	1   2   3	_____	Yes / No
_____	1   2   3	_____	Yes / No
_____	1   2   3	_____	Yes / No

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

## Japanese Visitors Fact Sheet

VASJ is looking to once again host 17 students from St. Ursula High School in Japan. There will be 17 students (2 boys and 15 girls) and 1 chaperone visiting. We have been asked to provide host families for these students and chaperone. Students will arrive in the late afternoon on Friday, March 9, 2012 and leave for home on Wednesday, March 25, 2012. Host families and students will meet at VASJ for a welcome party the first evening. During the school day, students will take English Conversational lessons and some classes and will be provided lunch. VASJ will organize a sightseeing tour for them and possibly a visit to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame or the Great Lakes Science Center, plus a college visit. The host family provides sleeping arrangements and meals for the student (or chaperone). Since the students are coming to experience American student life, the host family is asked to include the visiting students in family activities as well as some recreational or sight-seeing opportunities. On one of their last 3 days, the Japanese students will host a farewell party for the host families. Students will have their own medical insurance in case of health issues. The chaperone will be available in case there are any emergencies.

If you are interested in hosting a student (or the chaperone), please complete the following and return to the principal by **November 16, 2011**. More information will be provided as the itinerary is completed.

Please print:

Parent name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_ HR \_\_\_\_

Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I am interested in hosting a student from Japan.

\_\_\_ I am interested in hosting the chaperone from Japan.

\_\_\_ I would be able to host 2 students if needed.

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Parent Signature

Please return to the principal by **November 16, 2011**

# **VASJ Tribute to Tim Robertson Saturday, December 3, 5:45 p.m.**

Join Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School as we honor Viking Legend,

*Timothy Robertson '62*

for his 44 years of service to St. Joe's and VASJ.



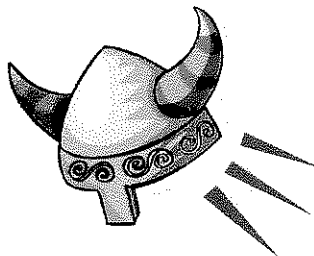
This special program will take place in the VASJ gym at 5:45 p.m., before the start of the JV and varsity basketball games against Euclid. All who knew and loved Tim Robertson are invited to join us for what promises to be a memorable tribute to a memorable man.

Saturday, December 3, 2011, 5:45 p.m.  
Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School  
Gymnasium 18491 Lakeshore Boulevard  
Cleveland, OH 44119

For more information about this event, call Ruby Harris in the  
Office of Advancement at 216-581-8414 ext. 209.



## The Oarsman Club needs volunteers



For the upcoming basketball season, we are looking for adults to help out in the concession stand.

If you can work please e-mail Sylvia Strnad, [sylvi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sylvi@sbcglobal.net) or call 216-229-7732.

Satisfy your athletic service obligation or receive tuition credit (see website for details.) Check the "school athletic calendar" for all game information. Thank you for your support!

