

The Bruin Beat August 2011

A Letter from the Principal . . .
David G. Stec

This letter marks that the new school year starts in just a short while. I hope that students have begun their summer reading and math packets to prepare for the upcoming year. It is not too late to get a jump start on the new year. Reviewing past notebooks and refreshing past coursework will really provide a strong start to the new school year. Personally, this summer has provided me the much needed opportunity to reflect on the occurrences of this past year. It has been a time of prayer, learning, and peace. In a very real way, God provides us an opportunity every summer to renew ourselves and begin again once more. I embrace the opportunity of this new school year to make things even better, not only in my personal life, but also with the wonderful students, parents, faculty, and staff at Padua Franciscan.

Although you may not know this, during the summer, the passage of time here at school is often measured by what one smells and hears. The smell of new construction, wax, carpet, and paint has begun to fade and the echoing sounds of our Marching Band and athletic practices tell me that the 2011-2012 school year is right around the bend. Soon all of the busyness and excitement of the upcoming school year will be in full swing as students and teachers return to campus for practices, meetings, and to be reacquainted. For us, our mission to strive for excellence *In Holiness and Learning* is at the forefront of all we do. I look forward to great and exciting things this year, especially as we celebrate our 50th anniversary.

Summer is a time for **technology, academic, and physical plant improvements**, and this summer is filled with exciting news. Through many generous donations, our new multi-media distance learning center is in its final stages. In addition, all the carpeting in the library was replaced, and we are completing a much needed face-lift of the Band Room. We have resurfaced the parking lot and have replaced the track around the field. We have also been working hard to complete for the new school year an entirely new Padua website—very user friendly and useful. Also, we were able, through government money, to purchase technology equipment, including the addition of 14 new Mac computers for our graphic design lab, installing 4 new smart boards, adding a new network firewall which will allow us to give each student their own account for logging onto the school network, purchasing 2 more *exhibio* flat screens to be placed in the second floor hallways, and moving several offices to better meet administrative needs. Mainly, the **Attendance Office is now located within the General Office area**. Please see the new information regarding the Attendance Office found later in this issue. As you can see, it's been another busy summer and I look forward to the benefits of these improvements when doors open on August 24th.

It is no secret that many families must weigh the costs of private education carefully. Even in this economic climate, I continue to spread the news that Padua Franciscan is a smart and valuable investment. The education that we provide, both in and out of the classroom, is truly life changing and provides an incredibly strong foundation for our students' futures. This summer I spoke to a student who graduated this past year, who, because of his AP test results, was granted an entire semester of coursework at Case Western Reserve. Essentially, these credits will save the student the equivalent cost of a four-year Padua education. Talk about value and savings!

As we move forward, I am proud to say that, as of this writing, **Padua Franciscan welcomes approximately 220 members of the Class of 2015**. And of these students, more than 50% have qualified for our Honors Scholarship awarded to students who have maintained an "A" average in all subjects

throughout seventh and the first semester of eighth grade. In addition, Padua has accepted 14 foreign exchange students and an additional 9 transfer-in students, many from other private Catholic schools. Starting the year with a population of this size and quality ensures that Padua Franciscan will continue to be one of the best Catholic high schools in the area. Thank you for the sacrifices you are making to provide your sons and daughters with a Padua Franciscan education. I am confident that you will see the value of this decision.

Some important dates to mark as the new year approaches include **Locker Selection Day on August 16th, Freshman Orientation on August 17th**, and the **first day of classes on August 24th at 8:00 a.m.** Freshmen will report to the cafeteria for a brief orientation as sophomores, juniors, and seniors report to homeroom. All students are expected to be in compliance with **Padua's dress and grooming code** on the first day of class. Enclosed is a copy of your child's schedule, which should be brought on the first day of classes. School will end at the regular time of 2:29 p.m. I invite all parents to attend our **"Meet the Faculty" Night** on September 7th, the **Senior Parent College Forum** on September 28th, and our rededication **Family Liturgy** will be held on September 4th at 4:00 p.m. An important event for our new parents to Padua is the **New Parent Orientation meeting**, which will be held on September 1st. More information on these events is either found elsewhere in this issue or will be mailed home.

Fall sports season is the busiest as nine of Padua's twenty varsity teams open up competition. Padua football games "under the lights" are always exciting events. Families are welcome to come early and tailgate on Padua property. Just a few reminders: please refrain from "setting up camp" on the properties adjacent to our neighbors on the North side of the building and anywhere on Saint Anthony's property. Also, **alcoholic beverages are not permitted**. Bruin fans won't want to miss the Varsity Football season home opener as the Bruins take on Toledo St. Francis at our own Padua Stadium. Game time is at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, September 2nd. I look forward to another exciting season of Bruin football as Coach Tony Shuman and his staff continue to strive for excellence with our program. Good luck to all of our coaches and our fall student-athletes. **Go Bruins!**

It is truly a joy and privilege for me to serve as principal of Padua Franciscan High School. Our faculty and staff are extremely dedicated and highly professional. Our students are intelligent, kind, and hard-working, and we are blessed to have so many wonderful parents and families who are such an important part of our community. Thank you for all you do to make Padua Franciscan High School a premier school in Ohio. Enjoy the rest of the summer. I know that this will be an incredible year, especially as we celebrate Padua's 50th Anniversary. So many exciting events are planned and I hope to see many of you there. Together, we will make this a great and memorable year.

Guidance Counselors will be available for schedule changes **only** between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Friday, August 12, Monday, August 15, and Tuesday, August 16. First come, first served—no appointments.

FROM THE MUSIC ASSOCIATION . . .

Please join the Padua Music Association for a **WINE & CHEESE MEET & GREET** at our first meeting of the 2011-2012 school year. It will be held Tuesday, September 20, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. This is a great way to find out from our directors what is in store for the upcoming year. There are many ways to get involved in the program, and help is always needed at our many events. If you have any questions, please call Cheryl Gryniewicz at 440.884.2820.

The Padua Music Association would like to congratulate the following students on their appointment to Leadership Positions in the 2011-2012 Marching Bruins: **Stephanie Halle, Kevin Howell, Emily Yates, Carolyn Capka, Tony Iacobelli, Colin Hendrickson, Becky Barsa, Karen Ortega, Jay Wollmann, William Kan, Amanda Sivik, Allyson Krueger, Alicia Harrison, and Kayla Konczos.** Good Luck Bruins and we look forward to seeing you perform at the football games and band shows!!!

OUR KIDS ARE GREAT . . .

Finals were barely finished when 13 Padua Franciscan students, accompanied by Frau Kuvin and Miss Cook, boarded a plane for Munich, Germany. The group travelled to Salzburg, Fuessen, Heidelberg, Bremen, Bremerhaven, and Osnabruck. In Osnabruck the Ursulaschule students (our sister school) brought us into their homes and shared their German culture. The students were not just tourists but also family members learning the language by total immersion! Interested in hosting an Ursulaschule student for 10 days in April 2012? Interested in travelling to Germany in June 2013? Contact Frau Kuvin.

Mrs. Schepis and Miss Oles spent 10 days in Europe with six of our juniors (**Olivia Grosso, Laura Hodakievic, Alyssa Hoying, Lindsey Simko, Jennifer Tomino, and Laura Tomino**). The tour was entitled "The Literary Scholars of England and Ireland," and the trip featured two days in London and eight days in Ireland (Dublin, Sligo, Galway, and Limerick). The trip was an amazing experience, both from the perspective of literary studies as well as immersion in the Celtic culture. The girls not only kept journals of their visit, but also tried their hand at poetry and creative writing based on their experiences.

In June, Mr. Seth Jennrich attended the Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition in Chicago with **Rachel Yurchisin '14**, who was a state winner from Ohio. This is a national science fair for water science and research that is only open to state winners, most of whom are off to college this year. While Rachel's project did not win the award, it was very well received by all in attendance. Mr. Jennrich and Rachel hope to represent Ohio in next year's competition in Boston.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO
PADUA'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND**

Friday, September 2
Tailgating (5:30 pm; free) &
Football (7:00 pm;
\$6/Adult at the Gate)

Saturday, September 3
Double Decker Dance
7:00 –11:00 pm
(\$10/Adult; cash only)
featuring the band Twist!
Please RSVP for planning.



*Don't miss out—
most of us won't
be around for
the 100th!*

Visit paduafranciscan.com/50 for ticketing information
and weekend schedule of events.

Sunday, September 4
Rededication Mass 4:00 pm
(Also serves as this year's Family Mass.
Please join us under the tent—
bring a chair!)
&
Anniversary Dinner 5:30 PM
(\$50/Adult; \$5/Child with special
kid-friendly meal and games)

***Advance reservations
required for most events
by August 22.***

**LOCKER SELECTION TIMES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2011**

Incoming Seniors 9:00 a.m.
Incoming Juniors 9:30 a.m.
Incoming Sophomores 10:00 a.m.

PADUA LOCKS ONLY

SPECIAL NOTE TO NEW STUDENTS

You are invited to participate in a special orientation program on **Wednesday, August 17th**. Our student leaders will be here to help orient new students to our building. They will show you where your classes are (BRING YOUR SCHEDULE), help you pick out a locker (THE BRUIN SHOP WILL BE OPEN FOR LOCK PURCHASES from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. or bring the lock you already purchased from the Bruin Shop), and answer any pertinent questions about all things at Padua Franciscan. It won't take more than a half-hour. To facilitate a smooth program, we would ask that **students whose last names begin with A-L come ANYTIME between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and students who last names begin with M-Z come ANYTIME between 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.** This program is optional but highly recommended.

PARENTS OF NEW STUDENTS

We haven't forgotten about you. On the evening of **Thursday, September 1, at 7:00 p.m.**, we have scheduled a **New Parent Orientation Night in the Cafeteria**. Administrators and representatives from Padua's parent organizations will be on hand to share some important and useful information with you and to answer any questions that you may have (or that your child

was too embarrassed to ask in school!). It will be a great opportunity to meet other Padua parents and be officially welcomed into the Padua Franciscan community. We hope to see you all there!

BUS INFORMATION

Berea/Brookpark/Middleburg Hts.: Bus information mailed to each home. 216.898.8301

Brunswick: Information posted on web site after Aug 15: www.bcsoh.org 330.273.0227

Cuyahoga Hts./Valley View/Brooklyn Hts.: Requests for reimbursement must be submitted to Cuyahoga Hts. School District. Call 216-429-5858 for more information

Independence: Information posted on web site week of Aug. 16: www.independence.k12.oh.us 216.642.5853

North Royalton: Info posted on web site week of Aug. 17: www.northroyaltonsd.org 440.582.9051

Parma: No High School busing available

Strongsville: Bus information mailed to each home during mid-August 440.572-7060

- For other districts, contact your local school Transportation Department for information.

BRUIN SHOP INFORMATION

Students are required to purchase official school locks for **both their regular hall and their gym locker** from the Bruin Shop (\$5). This should be done as soon as possible. If your student is scheduled for gym, he/she is required to be in official Padua gym shorts (brown or orange) and any Padua t-shirt for Physical Education classes. Gym shorts are \$14. Please note that during cooler weather, students may wear sweatshirts and sweatpants to gym class, but they MUST be Padua sweats. These items and other Padua items will be available for purchase from the Bruin Shop between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Aug. 16 – 24 (M-F). When classes begin, the Bruin Shop is open daily (M-F) from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Bruin Shop does accept mail orders. Summer hours are available on the web site.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The doors of the school open at 6:45 a.m. Students arriving before 7:15 a.m. must report to the cafeteria. Students arriving after 7:15 must report to the cafeteria **or** library. The cafeteria will be open for breakfast and hot lunches on the first day of school. Lunches are \$3.75 or you can purchase a 5-day pass for \$17. After the first day of school, students who may need to change their schedules must make an appointment with a guidance staff member. Appointments are made with the Guidance Secretary in the West Wing before or after school or during study hall.

Library hours are 7:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 7:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Friday.

It is important that when a student is **absent** from school, the parent/guardian **must call or email** the **Attendance Office**, between 7:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at **440-845-8882 or attendance@paduafranciscan.com each day that the student is absent.** ***Please note that this telephone number is different from the school office number.*** For your convenience, please post this number and email near your phone.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE GENERAL OFFICE (ext. 121) OF ANY ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, OR PARISH CHANGES. Students must pick up new information forms from the G.O.