

**THE BRUIN BEAT**  
**NOVEMBER 2011**

**A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL . . .**

It is hard to believe that the rainy season, aka autumn, is already upon us and the first quarter is behind us. As I look back on this quarter, there are so many impactful events that continue to drive my energies and passions. I was so filled with *Padua Pride* at our Homecoming game this year. What an absolutely wonderful evening filled with excitement and true community! It was great to see classmates, alumni, students, families, and friends. I want to thank all those who played a part in such a great experience: from the marching band, the fans, the football team, the color guard, the dance team to all those who support Padua Franciscan. A special congratulations to our Homecoming Queen and King, Kelly Gaydosh and Michael Jindra and to our Homecoming court, Nicole Ambrose, Raechel Boyko, Tamira Ford, Ryan Freeman, Kevin Howell, Biagio Niro, Jacob Opincar, and Abigail Stryffeler. Thank you one and all.

Included in this mailing you will find several important items including 10 raffle tickets, a letter from Father Ted describing our car raffle, and your son's or daughter's first quarter report card. I encourage you to email teachers with any questions, concerns, or comments you may have about your student's progress to this point. In addition, I ask all parents to attend **Parent-Teacher Conferences**, which will be held on Wednesday, November 9, and Thursday, November 10. On both days school will run from 11:30 a.m. – 2:29 p.m. Busses will not run in the mornings of these days. Conferences will be held from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. To avoid overcrowding, I ask that parents of students whose last names begins with A-L please attend Wednesday's conferences, while families with last names M-Z attend Thursday. Should you experience a schedule conflict, you are welcome to attend either night. The most important thing is to facilitate conferences with as many families as possible! I have found that conferences held among teachers, parents, and students are very helpful and meaningful. As such, I encourage you to bring your son or daughter with you. For your convenience, the Bruin Shop will be open during and after conferences. Please note, there will be **no classes on Friday, November 11**, as we prepare for Open House on Sunday, November 13 from 1-4:00 p.m.

Additionally, please notice that we will have an **Early Dismissal day** on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Busses will not be available in the afternoon, so please arrange for your child's transportation home that day.

Speaking of **Open House**, if you know someone who has a child in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, please encourage them to attend Open House and experience Padua Franciscan High School first-hand. Over 250 of our students will join teachers and coaches in showcasing the school to prospective students. Our students will provide personalized tours and all of us will answer questions about our curricular and co-curricular programs. We also feature a special Mass (10:30 a.m.), light breakfast, and VIP tours for Padua alumni who are planning to attend Open House with their children. Please help us spread the word!

I'm grateful for the hard work in event organizing and fund-raising done by Padua's **Music Association, Athletic Boosters, and Parents Club**. The efforts of these important groups

provide important services that we would be otherwise unable to provide. Those of you who have enjoyed our concerts, athletic events, the Booster Bowling event, and family directories know what I mean. Please consider assisting Padua and your sons and daughters through the work of these important groups.

So much has already happened to make for a great first quarter. We have had a great fall sports season with many individual and team honors. Congratulations to all our fall coaches, athletes and especially our **2011 North Coast League champions** in boys soccer, and volleyball. I hope you enjoyed our fall instrumental and vocal concert, as well as this year's fall drama production, *12 Angry Jurors*.

Academically speaking, I take this opportunity to acknowledge that Padua celebrates the honor of having 14 AP scholars (3 or higher on 3 tests), 5 AP scholars with honors (at least 3.25 on all tests taken and 3 or higher on 4 or more tests), and 4 AP scholars with distinction (at least 3.5 on all tests taken and 3 or higher on 5 or more tests). We have some truly gifted and brilliant students. I appreciate their hard work and commitment.

As principal, it is important to me to make Padua Franciscan just a little better everyday. However, I do not do this alone; I need your help. As I wrote in my last letter, we all must do our part to promote the school whenever and wherever we can. This is essential, especially during the fall recruiting period. At the very least, wear your Padua gear everywhere and proudly display a Bruin paw on your vehicles. More importantly, talk up Padua Franciscan at your parishes and in your social circles. Let people know what a great school we have. Invite them to check out our website and compare curricula with other schools. Talk to them about all the good things that are happening day-in and day-out at Padua: our athletic successes, our MedTrack program, our excellent 4-year fine arts program, our extensive and meaningful retreat and service opportunities, our great teachers, our wonderful students, and our friendly and inviting environment. I could go on and on . . . If you ever need more good things to talk about, give me a call. I want everyone to know what a great school we are and how lucky we are to have each other. I know that Padua Franciscan is one of the best Catholic high schools in Northeast Ohio. RU in? If so, spread the word!

Autumn is my favorite time of year. Gorgeous colors, bonfires, clambakes, and cool evenings fill me with the joys of yesteryears and anticipation of good times yet to come. Know of my prayers for you and your families this Thanksgiving. We certainly have many wonderful blessings to be thankful for. I thank God for you and your students everyday . . . Peace.

### **FROM THE ATHLETIC BOOSTERS . . .**

Congratulations to all the Fall athletes on their great seasons. The Boosters cookbook "What's Cooking in Your Kitchen" is available at the Athletic office for \$10; Entertainment books can also be ordered here. These make great holiday gifts! The Boosters are sponsoring a night at Kalahari on Thursday, January 5, 2012—come out and relax after the holidays. Rooms are only \$109 and include water park passes. A portion of the room fee will benefit the Padua Boosters. Reserve your room at 877-KALAHARI (525.2427) and ask for the Padua Franciscan School Group. Contact Michelle Ackerman at 440.842.2154 or [gmack3@att.net](mailto:gmack3@att.net) with any questions.

For any family that is considering college athletics for their son or daughter, here is a free webinar available to our students and parents: <http://www.freerecruitingwebinar.org/recorded/>

Also, the web service that hosts this webinar ([CoreCourseGPA.com](http://CoreCourseGPA.com)) provides information about college recruiting and calculates the core GPA which student-athletes need for D1 or D2 collegiate athletics. There is **NO CHARGE** for this service to our families. The Booster club purchased the license for this service last year and the school has picked up the fee this school year.

Be sure and join us for our next meeting in the cafeteria on November 16 at 7:00 p.m.

### **OUR KIDS ARE GREAT . . .**

The **Super Senior Spirit Squad** made their annual appearance and wowed the crowd at this year's Holy Name Rally. Featuring 14 drummers happily beating garbage cans and 5-gallon buckets and an additional 25 cheerers and chanters, the squad drummed out four snappy cheers at the rally. Their play list included a dance version of the 'Everywhere We Go' cheer, as well as two original cheers. One of the original cheers was created in honor of Principal Dave Stec and featured his tag line for the year: **RU In? All In!** Thanks, Seniors, for another fantastic performance!

Congratulations to Padua's new **Mock Trial Team**—**Alexandra Shackleton '15, James Meade '15, Peter Krafcik '14, Lia Jerse '14, Michael Schloemer '14, Luc Devis '14, Jaclyn Moran '14, Koraima Denerville '14, Nate Hanna '14, Tyler Szuch '14, Andrea Cotugno '13, Jenn Romanin '13, Isabelle Hanna '13, Alicia Harrison '12, and Carlin Stalder '12.**

### **FROM THE PARENTS CLUB . . .**

Come spend a relaxing evening as our principal, Mr. Stec, takes us on a Wine Tasting Tour. This CFO fundraising event will be held on Monday, November 14, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., in the school library. Tickets are \$10 each and only available in advance. All proceeds to benefit Padua's Christmas For Others (CFO). For more information, contact Berta at 440.886.1324 or JoAnne at 440.884.5255. Deadline for ticket purchase is Monday, November 7. Hope to see you there.

### **FROM THE MUSIC ASSOCIATION . . .**

#### **THE 2011/2012 MUSIC ASSOCIATION TUITION RAFFLE IS HERE!**

Take a chance on winning up to \$5,000 off your Padua tuition for the next school year. All 1,000 tickets must be sold or the raffle becomes a 50/50 drawing. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased beginning Wednesday, November 9, 2011, from a music student or by calling Cheryl Gryniewicz at 440.884.2820. Tickets will also be available at Parent Teacher Conferences at the Music Association table in the hallway outside the cafeteria. Your student does not have to be a part of the music programs for you to purchase a ticket—our first year's winner was a non-music family! Don't miss out on your chance to **WIN** money off your tuition and support the Padua

Music Association at the same time.

The annual **Padua Music Association Craft Fair** is right around the corner. It will be held on Sunday, November 27, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is one of the largest craft fairs in the area and is open to all. Please come and support our music students as well as the many great crafters at our fair. It is a perfect opportunity to do some Christmas shopping; and while you're there, stop in the cafeteria for a delicious lunch. For more information, please call Cheryl Gryniewicz at 440.884.2820.

The end-of-the-year concert for our Marching Band is set for Tuesday, November 1, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., in the gym. Our next scheduled Music Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 22, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., in the Band Room. We hope to see you at these events. Thanks for your support!

### **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES INFORMATION**

NOVEMBER 9, 2011 Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
For parents of students whose last names begin with A – L.

**Class Schedule:**

1<sup>st</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> periods - **Brown Day**  
41 min. classes

1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH
11:30 – 12:14	12:18 – 12:59	1:03 – 1:44	1:48 – 2:29

NOVEMBER 10, 2011 Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
For parents of students whose last names begin with M – Z.

**Class Schedule:**

5/6-6/7 -11<sup>th</sup> periods - **Brown Day**  
41 min classes

5/6-6/7	7/8-8/9	10TH	11TH
11:30 –12:14	12:18 - 12:59	1:03- 1:44	1:48 - 2:29

**Life Too Frantic?** Stop and spend some time to reflect with us on Saturday, November 26, from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. The “Welcome Home Retreat,” in honor of Padua’s 50th, is open to any adult in the Padua community—whether alumni, parent, or friend. The cost is \$30 (includes breakfast, lunch, snacks, and materials), and reservations must be made by November 11.

Visit [PaduaFranciscan.com/50](http://PaduaFranciscan.com/50) to make your reservation online, or print the downloadable form.

## **SEEKING VOLUNTEERS**

**Would you like to get more involved in Padua by using your business, legal, financial, marketing, or fundraising experience? The Padua Endowment Board is responsible for managing all aspects of the Endowment trust, from investment to planned giving strategies. The Board is always seeking new members for staggered terms of three years each. If you are interested in adding your name to the list of candidates, please send an inquiry summarizing your experience and qualifications, along with contact information, to Laurie Grabowski at [lgrabowski@PaduaFranciscan.com](mailto:lgrabowski@PaduaFranciscan.com).**