

THE BRUIN BEAT DECEMBER 2011

A Letter from the Principal David G. Stec

This time of year is always a special experience here at Padua Franciscan. It is a time when thankfulness merges with preparations for the joys of Christmas; a time to be thankful for all we have and at the same time begin the process of preparing the way for Our Lord. Certain things just deserve thanks...being named as one of the top 6% of High Schools in the state of Ohio for the 5th year in a row (#64 out of 1015 high schools), having 3 students named as National Merit semifinalists, 1 commended student, and 23 AP scholars; fantastic soccer, cross-country, and volleyball seasons; students running at states; and the beginning of our Christmas For Others campaign. As we continue to go through this Advent time I am aware of all the good things that continue to happen each and every day here at the school, while at the same time knowing that we are all challenged to look beyond ourselves to those who need our help most of all. To truly be the people that we are called to be. This is what CFO is all about:

Led by Padua's Key Club chapter, Christmas For Others (CFO) is Padua's annual outreach campaign, bringing together students and staff in generosity, healthy competition, activities, prayer, and service. CFO is the largest student-led fundraising campaign in Northeast Ohio. Last year we collected over \$25,000 to assist the needs of our community. Each year, the energy, enthusiasm, and generosity our students and staff pour into this effort is wonderful. No doubt this year's CFO is already testifying to the spirit of generosity and service typical of the Padua community.

Not only is it my joy to celebrate with you great accomplishments and endeavors, it is our desire as well to include families, as much as possible, in important all-school events that take place throughout the school year. Liturgies, rallies, and the like provide great opportunities for families to share in the good things that happen at school. Fr. Ted recently announced that again this year, the final day before Christmas break (December 23rd) will be a special day for students, faculty and staff. The day will consist of our traditional Christmas For Others liturgy, a break period for refreshments, and a special 60-minute Christmas concert performed by our vocal and instrumental musicians. School begins at the normal time with students reporting to homeroom at 8:00 a.m. Students will be dismissed at 11:40 a.m. following the performance. This time allows us to transport all the canned goods, clothes, and other items to the needy of the area prior to Christmas break. Bus transportation will not be available after school and no lunch will be provided. Because this day represents a normal day in the school calendar, all students are expected to be in attendance. Should your student be unable to come to school that day, I ask that you follow the normal attendance procedure of calling the school at 440-845-8882 and providing a note when we return. ***Padua families are invited to participate in the CFO liturgy, refreshments, and Christmas concert as seating permits.*** In order to plan accordingly, please call my assistant, Mrs. Flecher 440-845-2444 x.120, if you plan on attending. ***I hope you can join us!***

Enclosed is your child's mid-quarter progress report for the second quarter. We will be distributing an Individual Student Report for any class in which a C- or below appears on the mid-quarter progress report. These will be given out on Tuesday, December 13th. Please note as well that the semester exam schedule is included with this edition of the Bruin Beat. It may be helpful to encourage your child to begin reviewing material early especially as we enter into the holiday break sessions. It is amazing what can be forgotten in a two week respite.

This year's **Open House** was hugely successful, attracting over 300 families. I attribute this success to the good things our current families say about their experiences at Padua Franciscan, the exciting changes that are occurring here at Padua, and the increased interest in high schools among younger students. My sincere thanks to the faculty and staff, and to the many students (nearly 300!) who served as tour guides, greeters, presenters, or club representatives. Please continue your efforts in letting others know of the great school we are all year long.

As we begin to experience weather changes, let me remind you about our **snow day school closing procedure**. If it appears that school may be cancelled due to weather conditions, you should look/listen for 'Padua Franciscan High School' on the T.V./radio. In many cases, Padua will close when Parma does. However, this is not an automatic decision. Therefore, families should look for 'Padua Franciscan High School' listed separately. If families are in doubt about school day status, feel free to call the school.

As you can imagine I see "Padua people" everywhere: at church, at the mall, even on vacation. The impact of Padua stretches well beyond Northeast Ohio. I continue to be impressed by the strong Catholic and Franciscan foundation that is encouraged by our school mission. Strong roots are being nurtured here at Padua that continue to produce great results. As I speak about the renovations plans, MedTrack, our superior fine arts programs, our extensive retreat programs, and the success of our fall sports season, people are really excited about the school. Please help me keep that energy strong by your good words and support. I continue to be animated by the future of Padua Franciscan High School and the hopes and dreams yet to be seen.

I hope you are enjoying family Christmas preparations and all that this wonderful season brings. I trust, too, that you are able to find time to pray and reflect on the miracle of Jesus in your life and continue to give your all to those things that bring you closer to being the person God created you to be. That is what this time is all about, that is what CFO is about, that is what Padua Franciscan is all about. At the beginning of this year I asked the question RU in? The only true answer is "All in!" I know that together, we can make a difference. When we are "All in", we can change lives and can do incredible things. As part of the Padua family, please do what you can to make this the best CFO ever: toys, blankets, hats and scarves, money, coins, and time. In big and small ways we do make a difference. I hope to see many of you at our upcoming Christmas concert on Sunday, December 18th or at the many other events. Keep buying and selling those raffle tickets! On behalf of the members of the Padua Franciscan High School faculty and staff, I extend wishes to you for a blessed Christmas and a peace-filled New Year.

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 from a music student, or by calling Cheryl Gryniewicz at 440.884.2820. 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 combined Instrumental and Vocal Christmas concert is Sunday, December 18, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. in the Padua Gym. The concert is a wonderful way to get into the spirit of Christmas and also show support to our fantastic musical groups. This concert will be recorded this year, and the recording is available for purchase. Please contact Cheryl Gryniewicz for information on purchasing the recording at 440.884.2820

The annual Color Guard Clinic is set for January 16, 2012, and the Dance Team Clinic is scheduled for February 20, 2012. Our next Padua Music Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Band Room. We hope to see you there!

The Padua Music Association would like to wish the entire Padua Family a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2012!

OUR KIDS ARE GREAT!

Teen Institute held its Leadership Retreat the first weekend of November. There were 24 students who participated and 8 students who staffed this powerful 2-day event. These students are now capable of visiting 8th graders in our area to spread the word about living healthy lifestyles alcohol and drug-free. These weekends have been going strong for 25 years!

Fr. Mario DiCicco, O.F.M. from St. Peter's Church in downtown Chicago will be leading two pilgrimages to the Holy Land May 26-June 6, 2012 and September 18-29, 2012. Fr. Mario, who has a PhD in New Testament, is an experienced Holy Land guide with 35 years of leading groups to the Holy Land. Please write or call for a free brochure at: St. Peter's Church, 110 W. Madison St., Chicago, IL 60602; (312) 853-2411; email: mmdicco@gmail.com.

FROM THE PARENTS' CLUB . . .

We give thanks to . . . The parents who decorated and help serve refreshments at the Junior Ring Reception, making it a beautiful event for our Junior class and their guests; all the parents who baked, set-up, served, and cleaned up at Open house—you are awesome!; our Principal, Mr. David Stec, who braved the “monsoon” on the evening of November 14 to take us on an enjoyable, informative, and memorable wine tasting tour of the fine wines of Italy, France, Germany, and California. A great time was had by all who attended this CFO fundraising event; all of our parents, teachers, and staff for all of their help and support.

Please join us at our next meeting on Monday, January 23, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., in the Cafeteria. Share in our winter picnic potluck by bringing your favorite side dish and ideas for the upcoming spring events. Please check the website for updates.

May God bless all of our families during this Holy Christmas season.

TRANSPORTATION—DEC. 21, 22, 23

North Royalton—No busing available
Strongsville—Buses from High School only
Independence—Regular transportation
Brunswick—Buses from mid-point only
Berea—Regular transportation

ALL DISTRICTS: THERE WILL BE NO P.M. BUSES ON FRI., DEC. 23



Christmas Gift Idea!
 50th Anniversary Apparel & Goodies! Hoodie Sweatshirt \$20; T-Shirt \$10; Wine Glasses \$5 ea. Available in the west wing (cash and check only) 7:30 am – 3:30 pm daily.

FIRST SEMESTER EXAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 18, 2012 (Brown Day)

1ST	2ND	5/6 or 6/7
8:00 – 9:15	9:20 – 10:35	10:40 – 11:55

Thursday, January 19, 2012 (Brown Day)

3rd	4th	7/8 or 8/9
8:00 – 9:15	9:20 – 10:35	10:40 – 11:55

Friday, January 20, 2012 (Brown Day)

10th	11th	White/Makeup Exam
8:00 – 9:15	9:20 – 10:35	10:40 – 11:55

On each of these days, school is in session for only half of a day. **Students report only for scheduled exams**, however, once students have arrived at school, they must remain until they have finished their last exam for the day. Students are not permitted to leave the building and return for a later exam. **Busses** will run in the morning as usual. However, students must provide their own transportation after exams each day. There will be no bus service in the afternoon. **No lunch** will be served in the cafeteria on these days.



Padua Franciscan Alumni Association Presents...

red, white, and brew'n

An experience of wine, beer, and food.

Friday, March 2, 2012

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

12 wines from around the globe - Craft beers from The Brew Kettle – Heavy appetizer stations – Side boards – Special wine *'Pool'*

Tickets go on sale **January 9 in the school office**

\$20/person includes all samplings, a commemorative wine glass and a chance at various door prizes. Only 350 tickets will be sold. Last year's event sold out in just two weeks, so get your tickets early.

21 & over

Questions??? Call 440-845-2444 x106 or e-mail rholtz@paduafranciscan.com

PRAYER BLANKETS

In the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare, Campus Ministry makes available prayer blankets to those who are in need of them. They are free of charge and the program relies on the generous donations of those who feel they would like to share God's love with others. Many families have been blessed by this Ministry. The prayer that goes with the blanket asks that as this blanket surrounds the person we are praying for, may they know that God's love surrounds them and holds them. The blankets are blessed and a copy of the prayer is given to the person. If you would like to help support this ministry, please contact Deacon Bob Grgic in Campus Ministry, at 440.845.2444, ext. 132.

FROM THE ATHLETIC BOOSTERS . . .

Good luck to all our Winter Athletes—be sure to come out and see some of the games/meets. Look for our table at weekend basketball games and purchase winter sports apparel.

Still need holiday gifts? Stop by the Athletic Office and purchase a gift that keeps giving all year long—Entertainment Books are just \$30 and the Boosters cookbook "*What's 'Bruin' in your Kitchen*" is \$10.

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 4 water park passes. A portion of the cost of the room will benefit the Padua Boosters. Reserve your room at 877-KALAHARI (525-2427) and ask for the Padua Franciscan School Group rate. Contact Michelle Ackerman at 440-842-2152 or gmack3@att.net with any questions.

Be sure and join us in the teachers' dining room on December 21 at 7:00 p.m. for our next meeting.