

October 2006

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Here at St. Thomas we recognize that we must continually enhance our academic curriculum to meet the needs of our students. College and state requirements change, new situations arise, and technology is always advancing at a very fast pace. Each teacher is required to attend a certain number of hours of professional development seminars, workshops, and classes each year. As new textbooks reflect many of these modifications, our department deans and teachers also modify the curriculum of each class to provide your sons with the best possible and most up-to-date education.

Beyond what is done in the classroom, indeed everything we do must take into account the fluctuating needs of our students as they mature in a world that is in a constant state of advancement. Our internet safety and education is one such point. Many of us reluctantly admit that our children know much more about computers and the internet than we do. We often call upon their expertise to help us. Although they know many of the technical details of computers and the internet, sometimes we forget to realize that our sons do not have the wisdom that comes from age and experience. We assume that they have the skills to deal with what the internet has to throw at them. This is a dangerous assumption. An unsupervised computer in the home is equivalent to inviting strangers into your house. Thank you to all who have taken seriously our FBI presentations on internet safety. Please continue to dialogue with your children on this issue: constant care and communication is the best reaction we can have.

An adolescent often “pushes the envelope” without contemplating the seriousness of his actions or the consequences. As parents and as educators, it is our duty to check them on this in a loving and concerned way. It’s important that we consistently dialogue with our sons and students about the ramifications of such things as internet use, cheating, foul language, alcohol and drugs, and disrespect of others (especially ladies). We are called to be examples, yet often we ourselves fall and need to acknowledge our errors. We are all human beings in need of God’s grace and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in order to face the challenges that life throws at us. Our faith reminds us that good will win over evil, because it is stronger. Let us all pray for the wisdom and ability to be able to educate our young men, and indeed all of our children so that they develop and maintain the skills necessary to do well, succeed, and to be good Christians in a world of continuous movement.

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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STH DATES

See www.sths.org for full academic/sports calendars.
Click on “Calendars” on the front page.

- Oct. 4 - National Honor Society Induction 7:00 p.m.
(Moran Fine Arts Bldg. – Cemo Auditorium)
- Oct. 7 - Saturday, Mothers’ Club Meeting 10:00 a.m.
- Oct. 7 - Homecoming Dance **New Date** 9-11:30 p.m.
- Oct. 13 - Homecoming Football Game v. Wimberley 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 17 - Parent Teacher Conferences (A-L) 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Oct. 18 - PSAT & Explore Exams – Freshman & Sophomores
- Oct. 19 - Parent Teacher Conferences (M-Z) 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Oct. 20 - Student Holiday – NO CLASSES
- Oct. 20-22 STH Drama Production – *Fools* by Neil Simon
- Nov. 1 - Father/Son Mass - All Saints Day 8:00 a.m.

OVERNIGHT PARKING ON CAMPUS

We had an incident over Labor Day where the parent of a student who had parked in our lot overnight had her car vandalized beyond repair. All students are advised not to park in the St. Thomas parking lot overnight, as we cannot guarantee the safety of the car. If a student is at an event where he will be returning late, it is better to park his car as close to the priests’ residence as possible (without taking one of the Basilian spots) so as to minimize the risk to the vehicle.

SENIORS

Five Points to Remember:

1. You should have already given teachers a request for recommendation form.
2. Attend college visitations. Forms are in the guidance office and should be submitted three days prior to college visit.
3. It is advisable to have a résumé; submit copies to your counselor.
4. After sending your application on line, print out the last screen. Give this to your counselor along with a request for transcript form.
5. You are responsible for providing your counselor with any supplemental forms (i.e., secondary school report, mid-year report, teacher recommendation form). As a rule, these are specific to private universities.

JUNIORS

Five Points to Remember:

1. Work on academics. To qualify for advanced or AP classes as a senior you must meet course prerequisites *this semester*.
2. Work on academics. The GPA and class rank at the end of your junior year is what colleges look at first.
3. Work on academics. Colleges can be 'forgiving' of a slow start in high school, but they also look for maturation and growth as a student.
4. Work on academics as it will assist in preparing you for the PSAT. This year potential scholarship monies are tied to the NMSQT selection index (derived from the PSAT performance).
5. Attend college visits at STH. Attend the Houston Galveston Diocesan College Fair.

SOPHOMORES

Five Points to Remember:

1. You should be allocating three hours a night to academics without exception. This is a minimum effort.
2. To qualify for advanced or AP courses, you must meet course prerequisites this semester.
3. Envision yourself when you're twenty five; write down these goals; have a plan.
4. When not working on academics, surf the web for colleges and universities of interest.
5. Stay involved in extracurricular activities; keep a record. Colleges are looking for commitment and dedication.

FRESHMEN

Five Points to Remember:

1. Turn in all assigned work in a timely fashion; as with coaches, teachers like to see 'hustle.'
2. If you're having trouble in a class or feel 'lost' see your teacher either before or after school for assistance.
3. Work ahead of your LAPs. Read the next chapter, use flashcards, do research.
4. Get involved. Try out for extracurricular sports; there are more than 25 non-athletic clubs to join at STHS; participate in intramural tourneys.
5. Eagle Fight Never Dies! Don't give up; you will get better!

**Houston-Galveston
Diocesan College Fair**
Monday, October 9, 7:00
Strake Jesuit

FATHER/SON MASS

Wednesday, November 1, 8:00 a.m. in Reckling Gym.
Reception following in Cemo Auditorium

Starting this year, we will be displaying Father/Son photos in a PowerPoint presentation. Even if you have sent a photo in the last couple of years, please send it again! Send a non-returnable photo of your son and his dad, grandfather, step-dad, to the school office, marked "Father/Son Mass", by **October 10**. This date is to ensure all photos are on disc. The photo does not have to be current. Please write your son's name and graduation year on the back. This presentation will be shown at the reception after Mass in Cemo Auditorium.

Chamber Music Concert

*Monday, November 6, at 7 pm
Moran Building*

Chamber Music

"the intimate voice of classical music"

*Performed by the St. Thomas Orchestra
Refreshments will be served.*

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Friday, October 27 is an important due date for Service Hours for all **freshmen, juniors, and seniors**. Juniors and seniors must turn in a Service Contract (the gold sheet), or their completed service hours log by this due date. A "**Service Contract**" is the service project that your son *intends* to receive the majority of his service hours with. Freshmen need to turn in either their completed hours (if they have completed their hours) or they must turn in a "Statement of Intent" contract. This is simply a typed paper explaining the plan the student has in place to complete his service hours (more details on this paper will be forthcoming through your son's theology class). In addition, all students will have a service reflection paper assigned through their theology classes. This paper will also be due October 27. For further questions or concerns, contact Mr. Matulia in the Campus Ministry Office.

MUSIC GUILD NOTES

Due to problems with the new field, please note the changes to the calendar below. Also, Homecoming mum orders will now be taken October 5 and 6 during lunch. Orders will also be taken at sister schools for armbands. The boys can pickup their mums after school on October 10, 11, and 12.

OCTOBER 2006

- 4 Nat. Honor Society Induction – Orchestra 6:00 p.m.
- 5-12 Mum Sale Orders/Pick-up
- TBA All-State Taped Auditions Choir – St. Thomas
- 6 STH Football Bellville (Away)** 5:00 p.m.
- 13 STH Football Wimberley (Homecoming) 6:30 p.m.
- 27 STH Football Pius (Away)* 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Music Guild Meeting (Band Hall) – Parents 9:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER 2006

- 3 STH Football Beaumont (Home) 6:30 p.m.
- 7 String Chamber Concert (Moran Bldg.) 7:00 p.m.
- 10 STH Football Austin (Home) 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Hot Photo/Cool Jazz Desert Night (Courtyard) 7-9 p.m.

* Band Members must provide own transportation

**Transportation provided by chartered bus

If you have any questions, please call Kathy Terry at 713-802-9111 or Mr. Thoede.

NHS INDUCTION RECEPTION

The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2006 in the Cemo Auditorium. A reception will be held in the foyer of the Moran building immediately following the ceremony. Anyone who can volunteer to help set-up and serve or contribute a fruit tray, cheese tray or sandwich tray, please contact Eileen Debo at 713-501-5307 or john.e@sbcglobal.net.

ST. THOMAS SWEATSHIRTS

STH merchandise is available for purchase at most Freshman and JV football home games and all Varsity football games played here at St. Thomas. A variety of new merchandise is available this year. See the Booster Club Room next to the concession stand. Proceeds benefit the STH Booster Club.

HOMECOMING MUMS

The Music Guild is busy creating beautiful Homecoming Mums for very competitive prices ranging from \$20.00 for an armband to \$45.00 for a double mum. Please order early, as supplies are limited. Boys can select and order mums during lunch Oct. 5 and 6. Orders are picked up Oct. 10 through 12 after school in the band hall. Special thanks to all the parents who worked so tirelessly on this fundraiser. Your order will help support the St. Thomas Music Program. Thank you! Any Music Guild Members interested in taking orders or distributing mums, please contact Kathy Terry at (713) 802-9111 or email ktterrysthsmusic@sbcglobal.net.

**Hot Art/Cool Jazz
Dessert Night
Tuesday, November 14,
7:00-9:00 p.m.**

Admission is free
and delicious desserts are provided.
Relax in the courtyard listening
to our jazz bands.
Leisurely stroll through the photos
and art masterpieces.
Enjoy the talents of our students.
See you at 7:00 pm.

HOMECOMING DANCE

Please join other STHS parents as chaperones for the Homecoming Dance. The dance is October 7 from 9:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. (midnight) in Cemo Auditorium. Call Beverly Cones at 713-937-1893, Dianne Hammelman at 713-973-7037, Mary Valencia at 713-688-7853 or email diham39@aol.com to volunteer for this fun event.

FALL DRAMA PRODUCTION

Fools
A Neil Simon play

**October 20, 21 at 7:30 p.m.
October 22, Sunday at 6:00 p.m.
Cemo Auditorium**

St Thomas proudly presents this delightful comedy about a Russian village cursed with stupidity unless saved by the wit and wisdom of a new schoolteacher.

Tickets go on sale October 9 (student \$7, adult \$10).

There are still opportunities to help with this production. Contact Norma Camp at 281-855-0183, ncfloral@yahoo.com, or Gina Sheil at 281-363-0575, rsheil@flex.net . See you there!

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Fall Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in Reckling Gym

Tuesday, Oct. 17 for last names ending A-L and Thursday, Oct. 19 for last names ending M-Z

The STHS Mothers' Club will be serving refreshments both nights. If you are available to help set-up, serve, and/or take down, please contact Wendy Leleux at 281-554-5232 (H) or 281-451-5508 (C). We will also need donations of punch supplies, cookies, and chips. Thank you all in advance for your assistance and donations.

"All That Glitters"
***A St. Thomas High School
Red Carpet Gala***

**November 4, 2006
6:30 p.m.
Moran Fine Arts Center**

ADVANCEMENT OFFICE NEWS

We extend our sincerest appreciation to everyone who attended our first ever Basilian Tradition Breakfast at The Houstonian on September 19. It was heartwarming to hear the testimonials from Peter Pham '07, Tim McConn '94, and Bill Hoppe, father of Trey Hoppe '03, sharing their personal reflections on the impact that St. Thomas High School has had on their lives. Additionally, what a treat it was to hear our young men sing the St. Thomas school song with musical accompaniment from their fellow classmates. Is there anything more moving!? We have received numerous compliments on the event and we are already making plans for next year's breakfast. For those who were not able to attend, please join us next year. We guarantee that you will be glad you came.

As a reminder, please be as generous as possible when you receive your Annual Fund commitment letter at the end of this month. Our Annual Fund is the "lifeblood" of our giving program at St. Thomas. In the words of our President, Rev. Ronald Schwenzer, C.S.B., "A St. Thomas education is not only for life, it's a way of life." We are truly blessed to have the greatest parents and alumni in Texas!

COLLEGE NIGHT 2006 FOR HOUSTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

College Night will be hosted at Strake Jesuit this year on Monday, October 9, 2006 from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Over 200 representatives from colleges and universities across the country will be in attendance to provide students and parents with vital information regarding their respective schools. Don't miss this opportunity to "visit" so many colleges in one place at one time!

AUCTION RAFFLE - LAPTOP

Raffle tickets for a laptop and printer will be sold at various parent-friendly events. Volunteers are needed to help sell the tickets at these functions including varsity football games. Please call Mary Francisco to volunteer at 281-955-8110.

HOSTING PROSPECTIVE EIGHTH GRADERS

From the second week of September through the middle of November, St. Thomas High School is host to visiting eighth graders from many junior high and middle schools. This is the first step toward enrolling those students who will be the Class of 2011. Your sons do a great job as our Eagle Ambassadors during these on-campus tours, as they show these future Eagles our beautiful campus. We also know that our current parents and our alumni are our best off-campus ambassadors. We encourage you to talk about your positive experiences at St. Thomas to the parents of prospective students who currently are in middle school and junior high. Please have these interested students and their families contact us for more information or an application packet.

The Admissions Office of St. Thomas High School:

Jon Moody	Director of Admissions
Isaac Allison	Assistant Director of Recruitment
Madelyn Garza	Admissions Assistant

STH DIRECTORY UPDATES

Student Name: **Omar Navarro (11)**
518 Summer Trace Ln.
Richmond, TX 77469
281-342-3698 (hm)

Student Name: **Patrick Moore (12)**
Contact for Parent 2:
Pat Moore
11006 Sherwood Ridge Dr.
Houston, TX 77043

MOTHERS' CLUB PRESIDENT'S LETTER

There is something about the Fall Season that feels like Home. The feel of the cooler weather, the sight of the leaves changing colors, the smell of the air and the shorter length of the day all signal that Halloween, then Thanksgiving, and finally Christmas are all just around the corner.

As the days fly by with so much activity, it can become difficult to recognize and enjoy the simple pleasures of today; that phone call from an old friend, the roses blooming in your backyard, the excited family pet greeting you at the door, that little smile of gratitude from your son when you make his favorite meal, or that comforting feeling we mothers' have when our house is quiet at night, knowing that everyone is home safe.

It is in these little moments that God reveals to us the important things in our lives; the people He sends to teach, love, and understand us; the events that force us to learn and grow; the good times so we can laugh; the trying times so we can hold on to our faith; and our dreams to encourage us to never give up.

When we have the opportunity to share with one another, we are truly alive. We have so many opportunities to share in the Mothers' Club. It's wonderful to watch our event chairs working together to plan upcoming events and witness the excitement and anticipation as decisions are made and plans revealed. Many of our chairs don't know each other when they begin to plan events, but through sharing the process, lasting friendships are created. I am in awe of the talent, dedication, and love in the Moms of St. Thomas and the constant unselfish acts of giving and sharing. With each new event, come more requests for food, precious time, and countless contributions, and each new request is met with the same enthusiasm and generosity as the last.

The Mothers' Club never passes up the opportunity to let the St. Thomas Faculty and Staff know how much we appreciate their care and concern for our sons. Karen Maraldo and Linda Janssen took the lead in planning a wonderful Fall Faculty Luncheon on September 14. A special thanks to Chris Weatherly, class of 1969 for donating the delicious barbecue. Once again our moms stepped up to the plate (or

should I say with the plate) bringing delicious side dishes and gifts for the raffle baskets. Thanks to all who participated and also to Susan Gutkowski, our Eagle Treats Chair, along with the team of generous moms who continue to provide treats in the teachers lounge twice a week all year long for our faculty and staff.

Many of us are busy preparing for October's upcoming events such as the National Honor Society Induction, Homecoming Dance, College Night at Strake and Parent/Teacher Conferences. And let's not forget the upcoming Auction "*All That Glitters*" *The 2006 St. Thomas High School Red Carpet Gala*. As November 4 approaches, so does the anticipation and excitement as we prepare to spend an evening celebrating the awesome generosity of the St. Thomas Community.

Special thanks to our Hospitality Chairs, Shawn Bear, Blake Quinn, and Meredith Wyzik for making our first Mothers' Club Meeting on September 6 bright and festive with "Back To School" decorations and for procuring the delicious lunch prepared by our moms. We look forward to the "Breakfast Festival" they have planned for our next Mothers' Club Meeting on Saturday, October 7 with Mass in the Chapel at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting following at 10:00 a.m. in Mary Moody. We extend a special invitation to our working moms to come enjoy the fellowship and find out what is happening at STH. Hope to see you there!

As always, I welcome your thoughts, ideas, and energy. I love hearing from you - please contact me anytime.

Cathy Poye, President
713-460-4115
cpoye@j3resources.com

MOTHERS' CLUB SOCIAL

Socialize with old friends and meet new friends over dinner at La Strada Restaurant at 322 Westheimer on Wednesday, October 11, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person (includes 3 course meal and gratuity but not alcoholic beverages). Make your reservation by Friday, October 6 by contacting Kathleen Barndt, 713 823-9117 or kbbardt@houston.rr.com.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT THANKS

Thanks to everyone who provided the delicious cookies, fruit and cheese trays, snacks, and punch supplies for Back to School Night. We would also like to thank the Tom's Moms and volunteers who helped to make the evening special by assisting with preparation, serving, and clean-up. Special thanks to Joe Callahan and his staff for all their help. The evening was a wonderful start to the beginning of another great school year.

ORIENTATION DANCE APPRECIATION

A huge "Thank You" to all the parents who helped chaperone the Orientation Dance. We could not have provided that fun activity for our boys without your help. You are all very much appreciated!

SPRING STYLE SHOW

Don't miss the October Mothers' Club meeting, Saturday, October 7. Come hear about what's new for our annual style show next spring. We are so excited about our new location for the style show and the date has been set. Also, we're implementing a new program that includes all our senior moms and sons! We look forward to seeing you there.

AUCTION RAFFLE TUITION PRICE BREAK

Take a semester off from tuition – buy a raffle ticket for one semester free from tuition for one student. To increase the value of this opportunity, only 100 tickets will be sold. To buy your raffle ticket today or to help sell these raffle tickets, contact Jane Bosworth at 832-467-9295. Hurry before they sell out!

EAGLES' TREATERS

For August and the first part of September we have Cheryl Bedell, Judy Thrasher, Janet Lodge, Donna Sample, Denise Roy, and Bernie King providing snacks for the Teachers' Lounge. These parents have provided a variety of grab-and-go snacks as well as homemade coffeecakes, much to the delight of the faculty. Thank you for your fabulous treats. The faculty and staff appreciate every bite! If you'd like to participate in providing Eagles' Treats, contact Susan Gutkowski at 713-965-0317.

FATHER/SON MASS RAFFLE TICKET SALES

Raffle tickets for tuition, laptop, and diamond cross pendant will be available at both the Parent- Teacher Conference and the Father/Son Mass. Bring your checkbook. All contributions are tax deductible. Thank you for your support. You make the Auction a success!

MOTHER/SON MASS

Please mark your calendars for the traditional Mother/Son Mass on Friday, December 8, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. If you have not done so in the past, please send a non-returnable photo of mother and son for display on that day. Photos labeled with your son's name and class may be sent to school in an envelope marked Mother/Son Mass. Please send the photo in by **Friday, November 10**. As this Mass honors the Blessed Mother, we are accepting donations for altar flowers in honor of, or in memory of mothers, grandmothers, or other special women in our sons' lives. Altar flower donations may be directed in the same manner, including the name of the person being remembered or honored. These names will be displayed at the Mass. Finally, to volunteer to help with set-up or to bring food for the reception following, please contact Dana Jo Kurtin at 713-467-7117, fishbaffin@houston.rr.com.

MAILING THE NEWSLETTER

The Big Red News is mailed out near the end of each month through a gathering of moms who stuff, fold, and label nearly a thousand newsletters. To check for the mail out date see the editor's box on the last page of every newsletter. We meet in Mary Moody Hall at 9:30 and finish at about 11:30, adjourning to have lunch for those available.

RAFFLE "ALL THAT GLITTERS"

Purchase your chance to participate in an enticing raffle for a glittery diamond cross pendant. Only 200 tickets to sell – one for \$30 or two for \$50. Go to the "All that Glitters" link on the web for a photo of the pendant or see it in person at varsity football games and various parent activities now through Nov. 4. Drawing will be at the Auction, Nov. 4 – need not be present to win. It could be your early Christmas shopping for that someone special!

16th Annual
St. Thomas High School
Golf Invitational

Thursday, November 9, 2006
Blackhorse Golf Club

Alumni, Parents, and Friends
Get Your Foursome Together

For More Information Contact:
Cathy Hotze 713-864-6348 x. 154

November Big Red News

Deadline: Friday, October 6
Mail out: Monday October 23
Editor: Cathy Broussard
713-907-1727
sthnewsletter@yahoo.com