

# ARCHBISHOP WILLIAMS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE *MARY LOU SADOWSKI*



How appropriate that the final month of the year ends with a joyous event in the liturgical calendar. The celebration of Christmas and holiday sharing offer opportunities to be with those we love but may not see often in an atmosphere of giving and receiving. No matter our personal situations, our celebration of the birth of the Christ child brings the recognition of how fortunate we are to be God's children.

Who of us is not thankful and a little more giving at this season? Who of us has not reached out in some way to share those special feelings in our hearts with others? Simple gestures like dropping a bill in the Salvation Army's kettle, inviting friends to a holiday party, choosing and wrapping gifts for needy families, and singing the time honored carols our parents and grandparents sang, all help us find and keep the Christ in Christmas. It is my dearest hope that each of you in our Archbishop Williams family enjoys the many blessings of this special and meaning-filled season.

By design the advent of a new year affords us time to look back, assess, and resolve to make changes to better our lives. Our goal-oriented society values continual self-improvement. I will always remember a witness talk at one of our student retreats where a senior talked about embracing prayer in her life. It touched me deeply that, as a young person, she has found the true grace that prayer can bring and recognizes that we, as individuals, cannot control everything in our life. By giving over to God, praying for His help and asking for guidance, we will gain strength and confidence.

This simple yet beautiful belief inspires my wish for you in the New Year. May each of you who will resolve to better your life even in some small way in the coming year, remember that God is with us always on the journey. He is as near to us as a prayer.

Merry Christmas to you and those you love and a very Happy 2010!! ♦

## Up To Date

- **Dec. 2** 1:30 PM Dismissal  
Department Meetings  
Parent Support Board 7:15 PM
- **Dec. 4** Calendar Drive Ends
- **Dec. 5**  
SAT AWHS is not a test center.  
Junior/Senior Semi-Formal
- **Dec. 7** Mid-Quarterly Reports  
brought home by the student
- **Dec. 8**  
Feast of the Immaculate  
Conception Liturgy
- **Dec. 10** Winter Sports Meet the  
Coaches Night-7 PM Auditorium
- **Dec. 11** 11:30 AM Dismissal  
Faculty Meeting
- **Dec. 12**  
High School Placement  
Exam 8:30 AM
- **Dec. 15** Registration Deadline  
for January SAT
- **Dec. 16** 1:30 PM Dismissal  
Faculty Meeting
- **Dec. 17** Christmas Concert  
7 PM Auditorium
- **Dec. 18** Red and Green Day
- **Dec. 19-Jan. 3**  
Christmas Recess
- **Jan. 4** Classes Resume
- **Jan. 13** 1:30 PM Dismissal  
Faculty Meetings
- **Jan. 15** Term 2 Ends
- **Jan. 19—22**  
Semester Exam Week
- **Jan. 25—Jan. 29**  
**Catholic Schools Week**
- **Jan. 25** Term 3 Begins
- **Jan. 29** Catholic Schools Week  
Liturgy 10 AM



# campus Ministry

JOSEPH ONDUS

Students have been very good about returning service hours to the Campus Ministry Office. Parents are encouraged to remind their sons/daughters that service must be completed by Memorial Day. Senior parents are reminded that service hours must be completed by the last day of the third term. Seniors can not graduate from the school until they have completed this service requirement. We hope that seniors complete this as soon as possible since the closer to the date of graduation, the busier we all become.

We had a Thanksgiving liturgy at our school celebrated by Fr. Wally. During this liturgy we honored the Varsity football team and cheerleaders. We also concluded our annual food drive. Many thanks to the students who contributed to this worthy cause, and a big thank you goes out to the student council moderators and members who made this all possible. ♦

## Reminders...

- √ The second half of tuition is due by **Dec. 4, 2009**.
- √ All tuition must be current for students to take exams. See page 5/6 of Student Handbook.
- √ Please call the main office — 781.843.3636 by Dec. 15, 2009, for **Financial Aid Forms**.

GUIDANCE NEWS  
RON HOMER

What a great time of the year! Thanksgiving is behind us, and the great celebration of Christmas is just around the corner. Things are heating up at a rapid pace. If you have a senior in your house, you are in the midst of applications and the nervousness that goes along with them. By now, seniors should have informed the office as to where to send materials. Our goal is to have everything out by Christmas and we will reach that goal if we have all requests in on time. Nearly half of the junior class has been meeting regularly with their counselors and learning the ins and outs of the college search and application process. We hope that your sons and daughters are sharing information with you. Ask them about Naviance, our web-based program for tracking colleges and careers. We will begin meeting with the rest of the junior class when the second semester starts in late January. Both the juniors and the sophomores will be receiving the results of their PSAT tests soon. The Math and English departments will be working with your sons and daughters in a review of their test results to enhance student skills in this area. The numerical results are now available on Naviance. Your student can help you to navigate this system. Go to the school website, click on Guidance, then on Related Links. See Family Connection.

As you know, January is testing month for Semester One exams. The most productive study is done consistently over time, so encourage your student to begin preparing early. Cramming seldom yields significant results, but a little done on a daily basis will set the stage for success. It is important to remember that one's grade point average (GPA) is based on final averages earned in all academic subjects and is computed at the end of each year. In brief, everything counts!

As always, we are available to answer questions, so do not hesitate to call. ♦



## Parent Support Board

"For Christmas tree shopping (and more) make sure you stop at our store"

**AWHS STORE WILL BE OPEN** (in cafeteria)

- WED DECEMBER 9TH 6:00 P.M – 8:30 P.M
- SAT. DECEMBER 12th 9:00 A.M – 11:30 A.M

### CHRISTMAS LIST:

AWHS mugs, Lanyards, Sweatshirts, Blankets, Jackets, P.J. pants, Sweat-pants, Gift certificates, and more!

### Any questions call:

Lisa Guarracino at (781)-821-5756

### CHRISTMAS TREES WILL BE SOLD:(Starting 11/28)

Mon – Fri: 5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Sat & Sun: 9:00A.M. – 8:00 P.M.



**ACADEMIC DEAN JANE FUNDERBURK**

The year is moving quickly as we approach the second quarter halfway point (Mid Quarterly Reports will be given to the students on December 7). I was happy to see so many of you able to attend the Parent Conference Night and remind you that, if at any point in time you are concerned about the progress of your student, contact information for teacher is found on our website.

Looking ahead, Second Quarter will end shortly after students return from Christmas break, followed by Semester Exam Week. All students will be required to sit for 90-minute exams in each of the major subjects over a 4-day period from January 19-22. I am asking parents to help students prepare for these important exams in the following ways:

- Reserve the long Martin Luther King Day weekend for rest and study.
- Keep Jan.19-22 for exams and study activities only.
- Encourage quiet study time in a designated area.
- Try to spot check or quiz material from study guides with your child.
- Emphasize the importance of good grades on exams.

By working together, we can create an atmosphere that will insure student success for the first half of the year. Please review p. 9 of our Student Handbook the "Semester Exam" information. Missed exams will require a doctor's note and/or the most valid written excuse subject to acceptance by the Dean's Office. The fee for exam makeup is \$25. In addition, in keeping with nationwide exam protocol, cell phones are not allowed in an exam room under any circumstances, and there are serious consequences for violations of this rule.

"Homework Club" will be starting on Wednesday, December 3. Homework Club is a quiet, directed study once a week from 2:30-3:30 primarily for freshmen and sophomores who are having difficulty completing their homework at home and/or need some direction in how to become "organized" in the process of doing homework in the most productive way. Please call or e-mail me if you wish to enroll your student.

Congratulations to the Math Team for a great start to the season. The AWHs team placed second in the South-eastern Massachusetts Math League meet that took place on Nov.5. Our division consists of the following schools: AWHs, Braintree H.S., Randolph H.S., Stoughton H.S., and Thayer Academy. Dennis Marquis, Lindsey Crowley, Brian Kimball, Daniel Cotton and Peter Igo had a perfect round, scoring 6 points each. Dennis Marquis was recognized as a high scoring junior and Lindsey Crowley was recognized as a high scoring sophomore.

I thank all of you for your ongoing support in helping your son/daughter achieve his/her highest academic potential here at Archbishop Williams. I hope you will include a book or two while shopping for them this holiday season (check out our Library section of our website under "Academics" for some recommendations).

I wish all of you a Christmas filled with joy and love and a happy 2010. ♦

**FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE  
DEBORAH BRANCATO, RN**

Freshmen will have their hearing screened during the month of December and their vision screened during January. ♦

**Yearbook Notice**

**SENIOR PARENTS:** Last deadline extension only until the end of the month! Show how proud you are of your graduating son or daughter! Send a personal message to your senior with baby pictures or other significant photos in the yearbook. Visit [www.jostensadservices.com](http://www.jostensadservices.com) for step-by-step guidelines. Design your parent ad early! Email Ms. Dillon with questions. ([tdillon@awhs.org](mailto:tdillon@awhs.org)) DUE DATE: 12/25

**ASBESTOS NOTICE**

This notice is required by AHERA 40 CFR part 763 of Title I of the Toxic Substance Control Act:

An Asbestos Management plan has been developed for AWHs which does contain some asbestos-containing materials. This plan is available to the public in the school office and the Archdiocese of Boston Engineering Department.

ATHLETIC NEWS *JOSEPH FRANCIS*

On Tuesday, November 20th four student-athletes from Archbishop Williams went to the 16th Annual Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Sportsmanship Summit. The event was held at Gillette Stadium to honor and educate student-athletes from around the state who make sportsmanship a priority in their school. Members of the junior class in attendance were Nick Commesso, Alex Furtado, Erica Gagnon, and Kelsey McCarthy.

Congratulations to the following members of our Fall sports teams who were selected to the Catholic Central League all-star teams in their respective sports:

Volleyball: Taylor Cairns (Gr.11) and Erica Knowles (Gr.12)

Boys Golf: Brendan Greene (Gr.12)

Girls Soccer: Kelsey McCarthy (Gr.11) and Kristen Spain (Gr.11)

Boys Soccer: Matt Forbes (Gr.12) and Ray Gaffney (Gr.12)

Girls Cross Country: Erica Gagnon (Gr.11)

Boys Cross Country: Brian Sullivan (Gr.10)

\*\*\*At the time of this printing the Football all-star selections had not been made. They will be included in the next newsletter.

A reminder that the Winter Sports Meet the Coaches Night will be held on Thursday, December 10th at 7:00pm in the school auditorium. Student-athletes who participate on a sports team during this season are required to attend and are strongly encouraged to bring at least one parent with them.

A very special thanks to all of our parents who volunteered their gifts of time, talent, and treasure for the athletic program this past Fall season. From game-day assistance to cooking team dinners I thank you on behalf of our coaching staff for all your hard work!!! ♦

**AWHS Chorus Presents:**

A Christmas Extravaganza dress rehearsal  
Thursday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM.  
Friends and family are invited.  
Performance Friday,  
Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> for our school family.