



**METRO-EAST
LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL**

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“The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with Joy”

Psalm 126:3

Newsletter March 2010

Dear Parents, Students, and Friends:

Even though we know that February is shorter than any other month in the year, it seems that it goes by faster than the two or three days less it actually is. Can you believe that the third quarter only has one week left?

On February 17, we began the solemn season of Lent. As per our tradition here at Lutheran High, at our Ash Wednesday Chapel Pastor Schultz did the service, and we had the imposition of ashes for all staff and students who wished to participate. This certainly enhances our identity as children of God and a Christ centered high school. During Lent, our coaches are reminded to end practices by 5:00 p.m. so that our athletes are able to go to Wednesday evening services.

Our annual Snow Ball Coronation, Dance and Spirit Week were held Feb 16-19, and as usual there was a lot of spirit and enthusiasm throughout the student body. Our Snow Ball Queen for this year is Jasmine Giannuzzi and the King is Bob Schnietz. Congratulations to both Jasmine and Bob. Many thanks go to the Student Council and their sponsor, Miss Endorf, for another exciting and successful spirit week, dance, and coronation.

At this point the only winter sport still playing is our boy's basketball team who defeated East Alton/Wood River for the Regional Championship on Friday, February 26, 2010. The team plays the first sectional game on Tuesday, March 2, at Nashville, IL. We wish the guys and the coaches the very best.

As winter comes to a close, most of us are ready for the changes that spring will bring. With the close of the winter sports and activities, we enter the spring season with its many activities. Along with the various sports, students are preparing for the spring musical, annual band and choir road trip, Prom, Spring Fling, and of course Commencement and Baccalaureate. This is an exciting but hectic time of the school year. The seniors are already counting down the days until graduation. Their traditional countdown ledger is hanging in the main hallway.

New Tuition rates for 2010-2011: The Board of Directors set the tuition rate for the coming school year at their regular meeting on January 28. The association member rate will be \$5,950.00 and the non-association rate is \$6,950.00.

A Reminder- The registration fee will be raised on March 15, from \$250.00 to \$300.00.

Our **Fine Arts Booster Club** hosted their annual Trivia Night on Friday, February 12. Those attending had a very enjoyable evening. It was a very successful fundraising event with the profit over \$2,000 which will assist with the cost of the spring band and choir tour. This year we had twenty-seven tables of participants. A big thank you to all who made this a successful night.

Achievement tests will be given next Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning (March 3 & 4) to all freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Students will have regular classes on Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoon. Results should be available to mail home to parents by the end of this school year. We feel it is important to do this testing annually to monitor the progress of our students against national standards and to help our administration assess our academics.

Thursday, March 4 will be **Career Shadowing Day** for our senior class. Our senior students annually spend one full day shadowing someone working in a career of interest to them.

The **third quarter** of the school year will end on March 8.

Our annual **Spring Craft Fair** is March 13 & 14. Mrs. Susan Jump will again be in charge of the craft fair this spring. If you know of anyone interested in having a booth, Susan can be contacted at 618-466-7078. Mrs. Heidi Duffin will be in charge of concessions and would appreciate your help manning the concession booth. If you can work a shift either on Saturday or Sunday, please call the school and sign up. Again thank you for your help. The craft fairs are important fundraisers for our school. **AND, don't forget the bake sale.** **At all of our craft fairs, the parents host a booth of baked goods. PLEASE, donate one or more items to this event. Donations can be brought to the school on Friday or Saturday.**

Our second annual spring Blood Drive will be held in our gym during the school day on Wednesday, March 3. The drive will run from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please call the school office to make an appointment to give the gift of life! If you would be willing to donate a few hours of your time to work the registration desk or serve snacks and drinks to donors, please call the school or e-mail vicki.gillespie@melhs.org. We would also welcome any donations of special snacks to serve our donors. **All donors will receive a T-shirt.**

This year's National Honor Society Induction will be held on Thursday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and acknowledge these students who have shown exceptional scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

The annual **SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Recognition Program** will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 11. Our SADD organization does a great job of educating our school community regarding the dangers of smoking, alcohol and drug abuse. Everyone is invited to attend.

Our Easter break will begin Monday, March 29 with school resuming on Tuesday, April 6.

Scheduling Information: Spring is here and it is time for our students to make their course requests for next school year. This necessary process will help the Board of Directors make prompt and accurate decisions regarding our teaching staff and will help ensure that the administration can make any other necessary recommendations or modifications in an effective and timely fashion. Students will begin meeting with an advisor about their schedules after Easter break.

This is the last month for ordering **yearbooks**. Cost is \$35. Order online at www.jostensyearbooks.com or pick up an order form in the office.

Lutheran Schools Week is March 7 to 13. Lutheran schools throughout our area and nationally celebrate this week with a variety of different activities. In the past Lutheran High has celebrated Lutheran Schools Week in many ways, but generally not quite to the same level as our elementary schools. We invite all parents and friends to join us for chapel this week. Services are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:00 am in the gym.

This year we are again planning an activity we hope will glorify our Savior, give thanks for Lutheran schools, and draw our school family closer to our Lord and our purpose for being. We will be observing a **twenty-four hour prayer vigil**. The vigil will be held adjacent to the school's main office. Students and staff will sign up for fifteen minute prayer blocks during the vigil. We are encouraging those participating to pray for one another, our families, our school, our nation and any other concerns that they may have. This prayer vigil will be held over the course of three days with hours as follows: Tuesday, March 9 - 7 am-3 pm, 5 pm-9 pm; Wednesday, March 10 - 7 am-3 pm; Thursday, March 11 - 11 am-3 pm. Parents and other members of Lutheran High's extended family are also welcome and encouraged to participate in this unique opportunity to be in prayer for our student body and school. Students may sign up for time slots in their religion classes. You may email or call Mr. Giordano (jon.giordano@melhs.org or 656-3039, ext. 103) to sign up for a 15-minute time block (or longer).

The purpose of Metro-East Lutheran High School is to provide a quality Christ-centered education in an environment that enables students to find identity, meaning, purpose, and power to live out their varying roles as the people of God in a complex changing society. – The Metro-East Lutheran High School Mission Statement

In service to our Lord,
Dan Kostencki