



December, 2009

Principal's Message

Dear Verb Families,

It seems like Christmas season comes earlier and earlier with each passing year. This past Friday, with Thanksgiving dinner still digesting, shoppers had the chance to start their Christmas preparations at the crack of dawn with stores opening for sales at 6am, 5am, and even 4am! The local supermarket was already selling Christmas trees before Thanksgiving was even over, television stations have been airing Christmas movies for a few weeks now, and radio stations have been playing Christmas carols all month long.

Our society seems so eager to get going with the Christmas season, yet we really seem to be missing the point. Preparing for Christmas is an age-old tradition for Christians, but it's not about shopping, buying Christmas trees, and putting up decorations. Advent is the time leading up to Christmas when we are supposed to be preparing ourselves for God's greatest gift, the arrival of his only son, our Lord Jesus Christ. It is during this time that we "clean our house" and bring out the best of ourselves so that we can joyously welcome Jesus into our lives on December 25.

Just as we are preparing for Christmas, this is also the time for all of our students to bring out their best and make ready the way for final exams. We only have a few weeks left in the first semester, and the best way to succeed on finals is to start preparing and studying NOW. Please join us on Saturday, December 5 at 9am for a Parent-Student Workshop on Preparing for Final Exams. We must push our students and support them so that they finish strong and can enjoy their two week vacation with the knowledge that they did their best...and their success will be the greatest Christmas gift of all.

May your family be blessed with joy and peace during this Christmas season, and may the New Year be filled with happiness and prosperity!

Yuletide blessings,
Dan O'Connell
Principal



Scripture of the Month

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord... And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." (Luke 2:10-14)

Important Dates to Remember

December 1	Mass of Advent
December 5	PFO Workshop: Preparing for Final Exams, 9am-11am, MPR
December 8	PFO Meeting, 6:30pm
December 11	End of 2nd Quarter
Dec 14-17	Final Exams
December 15	CEF or Intent Forms Due
Dec 21-Jan 3	Christmas Break
January 4th	Return to Class



Committed To Staying Healthy

Verbum Dei is committed to the safety and welfare of our students, especially concerning the spread of the H1N1 (Swine Flu) Virus. To decrease the impact of this virus, we must all play a part. The following guidelines will help diminish the spread of H1N1 in our community:

Stay home from school if you are sick. Remain home until at least 24 hours after your fever goes away. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or a shirt sleeve or elbow if no tissue is available).



A Great Use of Your Parent Service Hour Money

If you are spending money to fill your service hour requirements, I have a few great suggestions. Bring in cash or check to the front office and ask that your money be designated for one of the following projects. It will save a trip to the store and you will be able to see the tangible results of your money! We will announce when an item has been purchased. You will check a form when you bring your money in stating if we can apply your money to another request. If an item has already been covered that you have donated towards. This money will only be used for the projects stated.

Letter Folding Machine

For the front office. This will save many, many hours of labor that could be put to better use.

About \$300-\$400.

AP Examination Review Book for Spanish - 10 copies

These would be for Ms. DeCastro's room

About \$300

Diccionario: Enriquezca su vocabulario – 5 copies

These would be for Ms. DeCastro's room

\$40 each – 5 copies - \$200

First Aid Kits for each classroom

About \$500

Printer paper and colored paper

This is an on-going need and can be donated to at any time!

Congratulations Verb Cross Country

Our very own Verbum Dei cross country for making it to the CIF Prelims. Congratulations Verb Football. They are co-champs of the Camina Real League

Printer Cartridges

If you have extra printer cartridges, turn them in and Verb will recycle. This is a great way to donate to Verbum Dei.

CWSP Assignment Due Dates December 2009

Seniors – Thursday – December 10

Chapter 6 – Preparing Income Tax Records & Beginning a Job Search

Student Activities A – J

Juniors – Friday – December 11

CWSP Resume

Sophomores – Monday – December 7

Career Plan

CWSP Resume

Freshmen – Monday – December 14

Company History Essay

CWSP Resume



Do We Have Your Email Address??

If we do not have your email address please send a blank email to Ms. Odom at bodom@verbumdei.us. She will add you to the distribution list to receive information throughout the school year.

VERBUM DEI

PFO Parent-Student Workshop

How to Prepare for Final Exams

When: Saturday, December 5, 9am-11am in the MPR
Join us for another exciting PFO parent student workshop. Listen to students, administrators, teachers, and parents provide tips on how to better prepare for final exams.

Reminder to Parents about the Verb Parking Lot

For security purposes, parents are strongly encouraged to utilize the parking lot to drop off and pick up students during the school year. For students who walk home or catch the bus, the front gate will be open from 7:00am-7:30am and 3:05pm-3:25pm. On special schedule days the gate will remain open for 20 minutes after the end of school.

Please use the drop off area in the rear of the parking to avoid blocking traffic during the morning rush. Exit at the opposite end of parking lot near Lanzit Street. **DO NOT** park in the spaces reserved for the CWSP vans. We appreciate your cooperation.

Christian Service Food Drive

Thank you to all who donated items for the Thanksgiving Food Drive. The drive was a huge success with a total of 1,285 items donated or collected and 16 families receiving the food baskets. We are now collecting toys for the Midnight Mission Christmas toy drive which serves homeless families on Skid Row. Please consider buying and donating toys to the barrel located in the front office for homeless children in downtown LA. Lastly, please remind your sons to complete their semester Christian service hours—Freshmen: 7 hours, Sophomores: 8 hours, Juniors/Seniors: 9 hours—by December 12th. Uncompleted hours will result in a drop in their religion grade and ineligibility until the hours are completed.

Students of the Month: Spiritual and Loving

9th

David Delgado
Raul Erazo
Anthony Arce

12th

Rodrigo Reyes
Alex Henriquez
Christian Hill

10th

Treyshon Thorton
Roland DeVoe
Aaron Camacho

CWSP:

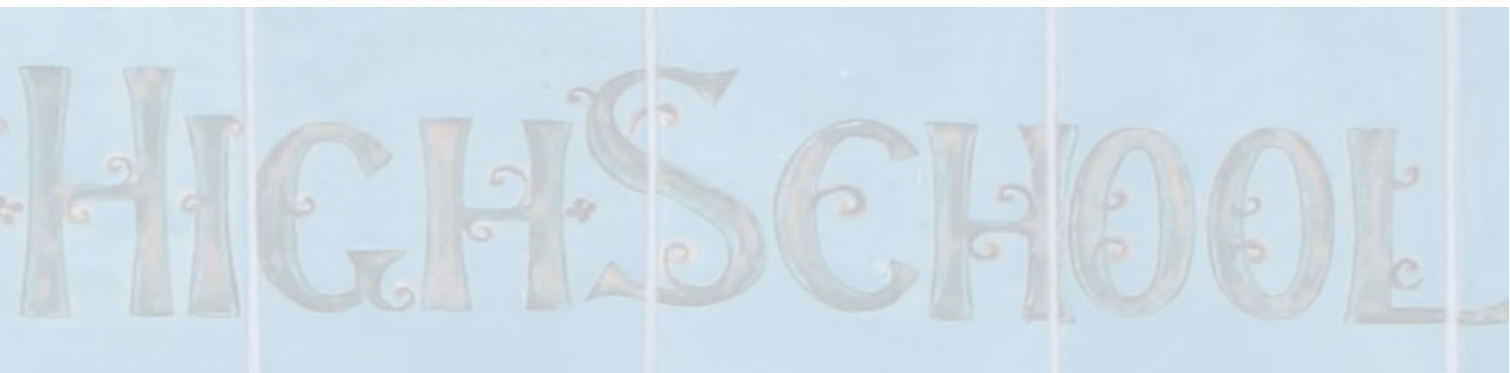
Christopher Charles
Jose Herrera
Joseph Aguilar
Bramdom Gonzalez
Imaury Jovel
Henry Campos
Nicholas Cardenas
Gregory Jackson
Sean McCormick

11th

Traveon Cason
Ty Rouzan
Jesse Viera

Kairos Retreat

Thank you to the following faculty, staff and students leaders whose time, talent and energy made Kairos X.I a renewing and enriching experience for all: De’Ron Billups, Ty’Vion Jackson, Rodrigo Morales, Taylor Payne, Ramon Quevedo, Victor Taylor, Ms. Amrich, Ms. Angeletti, Ms. Belgarde, Ms. Chambers, Mr. Hernandez, Fr. Hoang, SJ, Ms. Jimenez and Mr. Willis. The Kairos Team looks forward to our spring retreat on March 1-3, 2010.





Happy Holidays Verb Families!

As we reflect upon the love that our Heavenly Father has bestowed upon us this year, let's remember the true meaning of Christmas; the birth of Jesus Christ. We give Him thanks and honor for his grace, protection and loving mercy. Our Verb Families share the greatest gift of all; our young men are in a safe haven to obtain an education, and are growing in the richness of the Verbum Dei tradition. With our prayers they are learning to become "intellectually motivated, spiritually rooted and self confident."

We have made numerous accomplishments, but we still have a lot of work ahead of us. We have to help our young men to become the best students that they can be, because we are the batteries that keep our gifts working. Please join the PFO Board at the upcoming Workshop hosted by Dr. O'Connell and David Price, ASB President on Saturday, December 5, 2009. The subject of the Workshop is "Studying and Preparing for Finals."

Before you know it we will be celebrating the NEW YEAR 2010!

Happy Holidays!
PFO Board

Service Hours at Verb

We always accept donations for our faculty lounge such as: soda, bottled water, potato chips, Cup of Noodles, donuts, muffins, danishes, cookies, plastic utensils, paper plates, large cups and napkins. We also accept gift cards from: Costco, Smart & Final, Food 4Less, etc.

Each family is required to do 30 hours per school year. Hours are given for items and/or time volunteered to the school.

Service Hours Values:

PFO meetings, volunteer time at sporting events or other school events = one hour credit for each hour serviced.

Food donations for special events = three hours per dish (includes ingredients and prep time).

Gift cards, office/classroom supplies and other items requested by teachers/coaches are based on monetary values = 1 hours credit for every \$10.00 spent.

Additionally, check with your son's teacher to see what items they may need for a class project. All donations can be dropped off in the main office for credit. Always keep your receipt. If you have any questions about your service hours please contact Stephanie Andrade (323) 564-6651 at ext. 20.

The Midnight Mission Toy Drive

Put a smile on a child's face. This Holiday season help us make a difference for those in need. Donate new, unwrapped toys for children ages infant to 17.

The Midnight Mission is one of the oldest continuously operating human services organizations in the Los Angeles region. Centered in the Skid Row area of downtown LA, the Mission runs one of the most efficient direct service operations in the country.

