



SAINT MARTIN
DE PORRES High School

A Cristo Rey Network School

Transforming urban Cleveland one student at a time

6111 Lausche Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44103
www.saintmartincleveland.org 216-881-1689

February 2010
Volume 5, Issue VI

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

By Ms. Mary Ann Vogel

Dear Parents & Families of Saint Martin:

Well, the Lord blessed us with a gorgeous November, one of the most lovely in memory, and a very beautiful December. It was such a lovely month that some of us were disappointed in the fact that we did not have our usual snow-covered Christmas. That all quickly changed as the calendar page turned, and January met us with an extreme weather month, sustained cold, snow almost daily, and even an unexpected snow day.

Snow days are crazy times in the life of a high school principal. After staying up most of the night and watching different weather websites, the ODOT website, speaking with Mr. Bennett, and looking out my window, a decision has to be made. I have learned that no matter what the decision is concerning snow days, it will be the wrong one for any number of reasons:

- We close when we should have stayed open because the snow storm does not happen.
- We stay open when we should have closed because the snow that was supposed to fall on the far-east, west, or south sides falls right on top of the city.
- School closes too late and staff/students/parents are on the way to school.
- The school closing is missed on TV (trust me; I know that FOX 8 is the “official” school closing station). Though I can remember as a kid watching every channel until one would finally list my elementary school as being closed (or not).

Snow days are something that everyone prays for, except the people who have to call them. We had our first snow day of the year on January 8, and as usual it was just one of those days. The snow did not fall like predicted in the city, we were not able to get the closing on Fox 8 right away, and families did not find out until too late that school was closed. “UGH, what a way to start a morning,” I thought.

Just as in everyday life, even when things are going wrong, good things happen as well. On our hectic snow day, I saw some happiness: students who made it to school were given a warm breakfast with laughter; staff that had to report spent some time with one another; faculty and students who were ill were able to spend a day at home recuperating; people were able to catch up on whatever needed to be done-office work, house-cleaning, homework, sleep, bill paying, or spending time with the family. All in all it was a good day.

Snow days are a good example of life. You fret, worry, plan, and finally have to make a decision. Once the decision is made, second-guessing tends to occur because the “maybes” and “what-ifs” come to rest. If we really thought and prayed about our decision and “let go, let God,” We would eventually find that even if the answer comes across a little rough at the beginning the decision we made is the right one. We need to give the decision a little time and what we will find is that the right decision has been made-maybe not for the reasons we thought, but for the reasons God understood.

Thank you for working with us not only in the “hecticness” of the last snow, but with Saint Martin in all we do.

Go with God. God goes with you.

Information from the Main Office

Please report any change of address or phone number to the main office as soon as possible. This is the only way to ensure effective communication between the school and parent(s)/guardian(s).

Parents, we are still in need of your help. It would be very helpful to Saint Martin if each student could bring a box of Kleenex. If each student donated 1 box of Kleenex we would have 384 boxes of Kleenex in the school.

Information to assist our families and the Community

With a heart to help others and a generous spirit, Joe and Linda Wingo founded Angel Food Ministries in 1994 to provide food for friends and neighbors who were struggling financially. Today the Angel Food program now is helping provide food relief to more than 500,000 families each month.

<http://www.angelfoodministries.com/>

These are the closest sites:

Broadview Baptist Church – 440-829-8707
Church of Pentecost – 216-399-5482
Emmanuel Baptist Church – 216-432-2212
William E. Sanders Family Life Center, Ministry of Lee Road Baptist Church – 216-751-2688, 216-751-7513

JPMorgan Chase opens Cleveland office for mortgage modification meetings

By Arielle Kass

JPMorgan Chase is opening a Cleveland office to meet with people who need to modify their mortgage agreements.

The office, in the M.K. Ferguson Building at Tower City Center, is the bank's first face-to-face home ownership center in Greater Cleveland and one of 34 nationwide. It will deal with mortgages serviced

by Chase, Washington Mutual and EMC Mortgage Corp.

The center may accommodate walk-ins, though appointments are preferred. Borrowers who are late or delinquent on mortgages from Chase, Washington Mutual or EMC can make appointments by calling 216-802-4128.

The center will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

David Schneider, head of mortgage servicing at Chase, said in a statement that the bank's goal is to keep people in their homes.

“We created these local homeownership centers so our borrowers can sit down and discuss their situation face-to-face with trained loan advisors in these challenging times,” Mr. Schneider said. “They are part of a wide-ranging initiative to help families stay in their homes whenever possible.”

The center, on the third floor of the M.K. Ferguson Building at 1500 W. Third St., officially opens Thursday. Customers who want more information, or who are current with their mortgage payments but face financial hardship, may call 866-550-5705. For more information, see <https://www.chase.com/myhome>.

Nationwide, Chase plans to open more than 20 other centers by the end of March. The bank offered more than 568,000 mortgage modifications to struggling homeowners in 2009, it said in a statement.

AVAILABLE NOW HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE & WEATHERIZATION PROGRAMS ACT AND APPLY

Agency: Cuyahoga County Dept. of Development Program:
Home Weatherization Assistance Program - (216) 443-2137

Agency: The Empowerment Center of Greater Cleveland (ECOCC)

Program: First Energy Fuel Fund Utility Assistance Program (216) 432-4770

Agency: Center for Economic Opportunities of Greater Cleveland

Program: Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) & Winter Crisis Program (WCP), (216) 518-4014

Agency: Cleveland Housing Network
Program: Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Winter Crisis Program (WCP) & Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP), (216) 518-4014

Program: Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC)
Office: All seven Neighborhood Family Service Centers. Call the general information line (216) 987-7000 to request an application via mail.
Services Offered: Financial assistance for all utilities

Office of Assistant Principal of Student Life

Mrs. Joanne B. Lewis – ext. 321

There will be a Parent Meeting on February 8, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. I encourage all parents to come and find out how to use Ed-Line, a program designed for parents to track their student's academic progress.

Our Parent Advisory Board Members are:

Ms. Drake – 216-738-0559
Ms. Brown – 216-355-4193
Mr. & Mrs. Williams – 216-431-6504
Mr. & Mrs. Santiago – 216-956-6145
Mrs. Marks – 216-280-9353
Ms. Jones – 216- 701-1493
Ms. Byrd – 216-338-8690
Mrs. White – 216-240-1876

Please encourage your students to be respectful at school and live within the guidelines and rules of Saint Martin de Porres High School, where our motto is: Work, Study, Serve, Lead and Pray. Discipline encompasses every area of our lives; when we are disciplined in life we can count on continued SUCCESS!!

May the Peace of God be with you.



Notes from the Nurse

Mrs. Nancy McCrickard – ext. 316

Protect yourself from *frostbite* in the winter weather:

- ❖ Wear several layers of clothing
- ❖ Wear hats and gloves
- ❖ Shield your face with protective clothing (scarves, etc.)
- ❖ Do not stay outside for long periods of time during extremely cold weather
- ❖ Limit the use of alcohol (causes the blood to cool quickly) and tobacco (reduces blood circulation to extremities—hands, fingers, feet, toes)
- ❖ Wear waterproof skin moisturizer on exposed skin

The stages of frostbite are:

1. Frostnip: skin turns pale, pins and needles sensation. No blistering occurs. Soak in warm water or breathe on affected area. Causes no permanent damage.
2. Superficial frostbite: skin feels numb, waxy, and frozen. Blistering may occur. Ice crystals form in skin cells.
3. Deep frostbite: No feeling in affected area, usually no blistering. Can lead to permanent damage, blood clots, and gangrene in severe cases. Blood vessels, muscles, tendons, nerves, and bone may be frozen.

Re-warming techniques to use:

- Apply warm (NOT HOT) towels or immerse in lukewarm water.
- Do not hold are near fire if there is reduced feeling in the area

- Offer warm drink (coffee, tea, hot cocoa) if alert and able to drink. Do NOT give alcohol.
- If blisters form (usually within 24 hours) leave them intact.

Seek emergency medical attention for:

- Skin swelling
- Loss of limb function and absence of pain
- Drastic skin color changes
- Blisters
- Slurred speech
- Memory loss

Medication reminder: Students who need to take medication in school for ANY reason MUST have a medication request form completed by an authorized healthcare provider and parent/guardian. The forms are available on my website, in my office, and in the main office. Please call if you have any questions. My phone number is 881-1689 x 316.

CWSP News

Some reminders to start the second semester!

Attendance: Students who needed to make up time from first semester should have made up their time over

Christmas Break. Students will be fined for any time that was not made up unless time was rescheduled. If a student misses more than four days during the school year they can be fired from their job. If there are special circumstances make sure you speak to someone from the Corporate Work Study Department.

Performance Reviews: First semester performance reviews were sent out to companies the first week in January. By the end of January you should be receiving the results from this review. Please take the time to review these results with your student. Any students receiving an outstanding on this review will be invited to an award luncheon in February.



Tardy: If a student is running late to work they must contact Corporate Work Study. The number for the transportation hotline is 216-346-7896. Students may not go straight to work. They must first check in with the school. If students miss the van they must either provide their own transportation or be charged a \$25 fine for a taxi.

Dress Code: Students must come to work in dress code. They must follow school dress code for check-in even if they change into a uniform or have a dress down day at work. Failure to report in dress code will result in JUGS.

Counseling Department News

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it may be one of the busiest for the counseling department.

Some juniors will be taking the ACT on February 6, 2010. Please ask your junior where they will be taking the ACT to help with carpooling and transportation that day. Please go to www.act.org to check out strategies for this test, as well.

Also, remember we have purchased an ACT/SAT prep package that can be accessed through our Naviance account! **All** students can access this account by going to <http://connection.naviance.com/smdphs> and then clicking on the Test Method Preparation. It is FREE and will help raise those ACT scores!

All sophomores have been registered to take the OGT starting the week of March 15, 2010. Please ask your student what they have done to prepare for this very important test. All sophomores can access an OGT prep website by going to www.studyisland.com.

Seniors and their parents are finishing up their FAFSA forms in order to qualify for financial aid as they head off to college this fall! If you have not done so, or have questions, please contact Susan Hren, college counselor at extension 351.

Post Secondary Option Program (PSEOP)

Current Saint Martin students who are interested in learning about taking classes at Cuyahoga Community College for college credit should plan to meet with Mrs. Hren on Thursday, February 11 at 3:15pm (location to be announced!) PSEOP allows students to take classes at no cost at CCC outside of regular school hours. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from classes.

To participate, students must have the following cumulative grade point average:

Current freshman and sophomores: 3.5

Current juniors: 3.0

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Hren, Mrs. Stacey, or Mrs. Howard with any comments, concerns, or suggestions.

Peace and blessings.

February Virtue of the Month Citizenship

Citizenship, at its core, is social responsibility in action. What does it mean to be a good citizen? This includes doing your part for the common good, serving your community, and helping make our democracy work. There is proof that one person can make a big difference. There have been many modest efforts at community service that have snowballed into legislative action.

"It is not always the same thing to be a good man and a good citizen." - Aristotle

SHOUTOUTS

Congratulations to Ms. Angela Cheadle who was awarded a 2010 Target Field Trip Award. Ms. Cheadle will be taking 126 freshmen to the Great Lakes Science Center.

As we approach the midway point of the Bowling season we would like to shout out Mrs. Gwen Howard and her bowling team for all the work they

have done this season. We would love to see you at one of our games. Please call Mrs. Howard at 216-881-1689 ext. 369 or Mr. Johnson ext. 318 for upcoming games.

Also, a big shout out to the 33% of our student body who have taken time from their everyday lives to participate in our school Service Ministry Program.

Human Trafficking: Be aware!

On January 11, 2010, Saint Martin de Porres students joined in solidarity with individuals throughout the nation to recognize National Human Trafficking Awareness Day by wearing orange (the color of human trafficking awareness). According to the Collaborative Initiative to End Human Trafficking, individuals are being *trafficked* when they are required to perform forced labor or sexually explicit activities because of force or coercion. Unfortunately, the victims of human trafficking are often children and teens.

In continued effort to support the campaign, students held events to raise money for *Not for Sale!*, a national outreach program, viewed the video *Look Beneath the Surface*, which highlights important facts about the issue, and watched the movie, *Taken*, which helped connect students even more deeply to the cause.

The *Stop Trafficking! Newsletter* offers information for both parents and students to help become educated and alert to the dangers of human trafficking. The following is taken directly from their January 11, 2010 newsletter:

How traffickers work:

Sophisticated criminals earn the children's trust and then force them to participate in escort services, massage parlors, nude dancing, stripping, pornography, and prostitution. They meet the basic needs of the children if they (the youth) obey the controller's demands.

Traffickers may take children across state lines to avoid detection and to follow major supporting, cultural and recreational events. Cars, vans, SUV's, limos and buses transport these young victims to cities that attract large numbers of transient males

including conventioners and military personnel.
Escape is often impossible!

Teen Alert!

Know that malls are trolling places for traffickers looking for lone and vulnerable youth.

Be alert to promises from strangers or “older friends”

- With flashy cars and large amounts of cash
- Who give you lots of attention
- Who invite you to go away to a distant place far from your family
- Who offer you a modeling career
- Who promise good employment
- Who take you on shopping sprees
- Who offer a free place to stay

Fun Fact

Saint Martin de Porres is one of 50 schools in the United States named "Schools that Can."

Click the link to find out more!

<http://www.schoolsthatcan.org/>