



Sierra Lutheran High School

# Maroon & Blue

Monthly Parent Newsletter - That Informs Parents of Upcoming Events & Interesting Happenings at the School

Volume 8, Issue 3

✦ Preparing students for today, tomorrow, and ETERNITY

Nov 2009

### November Dates

- 11/06 Volleyball 6:20
- 11/07 XC 10:00 /12:30
- 11/10 Fall Sports Awards
- 11/11 NO SCHOOL
- 11/12 Fine Arts 6:00 pm
- 11/13 Early Dismissal
- 11/19 BOOSTERS 6pm
- 11/23 State AO hosted by us!
- 11/24-11/27- NO SCHOOL

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## "SLHS - PAT KANGAS MEMORIAL WALK-A-THON" / XC

Our 4th annual walk-a-thon raised funds to purchase 18 new computers and monitors for our computer lab. Students, faculty and members of the community met at the new school property on October 10<sup>th</sup> and spent the morning walking to earn money for new computers, which were greatly needed. Most of the previous computers have been used since the school began over seven years ago. Ms. Larson has done a wonderful job at building new computers when funds allowed and she has also kept the previous computers working until we were able to

reach this point and purchase new computers. On behalf of the school and the students who will be using these computers, I wish to thank the SLHS Booster Club for designating the computer lab as the recipient for this year's walk-a-thon funds. These new computers should keep us going for a few years. Thank you Boosters!

### CROSS COUNTRY HAS A GREAT SEASON

Our boys' and girls' cross country teams ran for the glory of God and for the honor of their school. The

boys finished first at the Northern Regional's in Carlin and the girls finished 7<sup>th</sup>. This was the first year we had enough girls interested in the program to have an actual girls' team. Becky Grabow finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at regional's and Phoebe Mark finished 15<sup>th</sup> which allows both girls to run in the state meet in Reno on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Our boys' team has an excellent opportunity at winning the state championship. Check out our website for more information on state playoffs. Great job Falcons and Lady Falcons.

## Testing / Volleyball

### NEVADA PROFICIENCY TESTING FOR JUNIORS AND SENIORS

Junior students will take the writing portion of the HSPE on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure your student is at school on time because once the bell rings we are not allowed to let students enter the testing environment. Juniors or seniors who need to make up a math, science or reading portion have been notified and they will take that part of the test on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Sophomore students will take the reading, math and science por-

tion of the proficiency exam in the spring.

### GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL QUALIFY FOR REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Lady Falcons ended their season with a 9-7 record qualifying them for the regional tournament at Wooster High School at 6:20 PM on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. The young team (with no seniors) played a tough conference match and ended their season 4<sup>th</sup> in conference. One highlight of the season was losing the first contest against Virginia City in 5 close sets and then coming back to beat the

Lady Muckers at VC in 4 sets. The Lady Falcons are led by sophomores Tiffany Patrick and Hannah Ediss. Patrick, setter/hitter has the best serving percentage for the team and was a key player in helping the Lady Falcons make it to the playoffs. Juniors Megan Einspahr, Mariah West, Mandy May and Stephenie Nieri, along with freshmen McKinze Tynes and Hannah Rutherford finish out the varsity team. More information on playoffs may be found on our website.

## OUR OWN SCHOOL BUS – ANOTHER INDICATOR OF GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT!!

Another need that has been imagined, discussed and pursued for a number of years is a school bus for Falcon activities and events. For years, parents have generously provided use of their private vehicles to transport students to retreats, athletic activities, community service endeavors, and other events. Several years ago, the Boosters and Falconers wisely determined that it was time for SLHS to purchase its own school bus.

That was easy to say...but how could it be done? Well, a special fund was created and, whenever possible, donations were added to it. Progress was slow, however,

and the cost of even a used bus seemed to be a daunting challenge. Last year, the Boosters determined that the entire amount of money raised by the annual Walk-a-thon would go toward purchase of a bus. Students, staff, parents, and friends of SLHS rallied together. A Thrivent Financial for Lutherans “Care in Regions” grant was obtained, and the savings account of the bus fund swelled to \$32,000.

Floyd Young, a grandfather of a recent SLHS graduate, generously offered his expertise. As one with many years of experience as the head of the Carson City School District buses, Floyd provided extremely valuable advice. Several vehicles

were considered, but, for various reasons, were deemed unworthy. Recently, however, Floyd kindly flew to southern California where he found a bus that seemed just right for our needs. Negotiations followed, and once the dealer was willing to reduce the \$39,000 price tag to the \$32,000 we had to spend, a purchase was enacted. Hip Hip Hooray!!

The bus is currently undergoing final inspections in California, and may arrive on campus before the end of October. The next steps will be to license and insure it...then to find people willing to undergo driver’s training and obtain their CDL licenses so that we have drivers. Interested??? Call Norm Brauer (782-0060) if you are.

## SOON THERE WILL BE WALLS – REALLY!

While the process to build a permanent campus for Sierra Lutheran High School has certainly been challenging, and, at times, discouraging, God’s guidance continues to move the project forward toward completion. Since the last parent monthly newsletter, construction crews have made significant progress.

The installation of gas, electricity, and water lines to their respective sites has been completed. Sites for building walls have been easy to identify once foundation trenches were dug and forms installed. Cement trucks are now delivering their loads and footings, with their protrusions of rebar, clearly mark where walls will soon be erected.

The construction schedule calls for the gymnasium foundation

to be poured on November 3, with the flooring for the rest of the spaces (classrooms, labs, hallways, commons area, administrative offices, etc.) to follow the very next day. By the middle of the month, masonry wall bases will be quite visible, and, perhaps, by the end of November, the steel shell of the buildings will be erected.

We pray for favorable weather to continue so that the buildings might be enclosed in the not-too-distant future and allow interior work to proceed

smoothly during the winter months. Whenever your travels take you north and south on Highway 395, you are invited to drive into the campus site to observe the progress for yourselves. There are many spots to park the car and observe from a distance, but please don’t venture out on the construction site. And, if you can’t see things that way, regularly check the school’s website ([www.slhs.com](http://www.slhs.com)) where Penny Larson will continue to post new construction pictures for your enjoyment.



## THE ACADEMIC OLYMPIC SEASON IS ABOUT TO BEGIN

The three time state champion (2006, '07 and '08), and five time regional champion (2004-2008), Sierra Lutheran High School Falcons have been practicing for two months and are eager to begin the quest for further success against the top academicians from Class 1A high schools. Led by seniors Andrew Deterding, Aaron Sever, Jesse Walser-Castro, and Nick Winstead, supported by juniors Sydney Campau and Haley Stokes, this is a veteran team that competed together last year. Sophomores Conner Love & Mikey Overton, along with freshmen Jacob Medlock, Colin Philips and Matt

Tollefson add support to the more experienced team members, and look forward to becoming the AO varsity of the future.

Regional tournaments will take place at Pyramid Lake on Nov. 2, Virginia City on Nov. 9, and Gerlach on Nov. 16. SLHS will be hosting the state championships this year. Those will take place on Monday, Nov. 23 (no school that week) at Hilltop Community Church. The event will begin at 9:00 AM and continue until a state titlist is crowned sometime in mid-afternoon. ALL SLHS FANS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO

ATTEND AND SUPPORT THE FALCONS AS THEY GO FOR A FOURTH STRAIGHT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP! There is no charge for admission!!



## Student of the Month

This month we celebrate a wonderful young lady from the sophomore class, Miss Caitlin George. She came to us last year as a freshman, uncertain of herself and her abilities. What a change we have seen in her!

Caitlin began last year as do most freshmen, feeling her way through the fog of confusion that marks the onset of any significant change. In a new place filled with new people, new demands, and new responsibilities, Caitlin admittedly struggled with the adjustment to Lutheran high school. During that first quarter of high school, Caitlin quickly realized she was selling herself short. Still uncertain as to how to overcome her weaknesses and put into play her strengths, she was proactive and sought the advice of some of her teachers. Caitlin then took the bold step to verbalize to her teachers her commitment to work hard and stick close to Christ. What a difference that commitment has made!

Caitlin's improvement was swift and sure. For a full year now she has maintained excellent grades and a positive attitude. She is helpful, has a ready smile, and beams with confidence. Caitlin is no longer unsure of herself; she knows who she is, and she shows who she is. She is a child of God, blessed because she surrenders to Him.



Caitlin and her Grandmother

## COME – LEARN – ASK QUESTIONS – CELEBRATE!

The little Christian high school that would never make it (according to the pessimists in 2001 and 2002), and then would never really grow beyond a few dozen students (according to other naysayers), and certainly couldn't afford to build a \$6.5 million dollar campus (predicted others), continues to grow and expand its ministry to teenagers. Yes, by God's grace, "A Miracle is Happening" here in the Carson City/Carson

Valley area.

Please join other members of the Lord's family in gathering together on November 17 to celebrate. On that Tuesday evening, between 7-8:30 PM, we invite you to stop by the fire station (right next to our new school site). There will be construction pictures, timelines, and other visual materials for your perusal. In addition, Cary Richardson, from Miles Construction, will be available

to answer all of your questions pertaining to the building itself, Kathy Hone will explain how financing was arranged, and John Hamer will present the latest news associated with the capital campaign. Why not gather the family and drive to the site sometime between 7-8:30 that evening and see for yourselves the wonderful things that God is doing?! Light refreshments will be served.

## WHO WILL BE THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR?

We don't know yet, but want to inform you that the Search Committee is actively pursuing the answer to that question. To keep you informed, here's what's happening.

Your Board of Directors has appointed the following individuals to spearhead the search for Mr. Brauer's successor. They are Mrs. Julia Bonafede (board president), Miss Debbie Conner (SLHS principal), Mr. Kary Grabow (board vice-president), Mrs. Darcy Houghton (attorney and board member), and Dr. Tami Seddon (representing the SLHS staff).

With help from others, the group identified over 30 potential candidates around the country. Initial

telephone interviews reduced that number to 9 "semi-finalists". More extensive telephone interviews are now being conducted with those educators, with a goal of identifying 3-4 "finalists" who will be invited to visit SLHS to engage in yet further conversations with representatives of the school's stakeholders. In fact, due to calendar issues, one of those being considered visited October 21-23. If you happen to know any of the educational leaders listed below, and have an opinion to express, please contact one of the members of the Search Committee.

Semi-finalist candidates to become the next Executive Director of SLHS include:

*Mark Bahr – principal, Lake Country*

*LHS, Oconomowoc, WI*

*Phil Duerr – principal, St. Paul Lutheran School, Orange, CA*

*Lance Ebel – principal, LaVerne LHS, LaVerne, CA*

*Charles Gebhardt – executive director / principal, Salt Lake City LHS, UT*

*Dwayne Jobst – assistant principal, Milwaukee LHS, WI*

*Dr. Jay Krause – executive director, Valley LHS, Phoenix, AZ*

*Larry Marty – principal, St. Charles LHS, St. Louis, MO*

*Mike Rathje – principal, Houston LHS South, TX*

## CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS PREPARE FOR STATE

Sierra Lutheran's first Lady Falcon cross country team is ready to run at the regional meet on Thursday, October 29, in Carlin. If the girls should finish in the top four teams among Class 1A and 2A (enrollments up to 350) schools, they will qualify for the state championships to be held in Reno the following weekend. If the team is unable to qualify, but one or two of the harriers finish in the top nine runners who are not members of qualifying teams, they will advance to state to run as individuals in that special event.

The boys' varsity team stands ready to try to defend the State Championship they won at last year's finals in Henderson, NV. Led by seniors Andrew Deterding, Levi Grabow, Preston Lyons and Wade Meddles, the Falcons have been training diligently to meet that goal and have traveled to competitions in California several times to challenge themselves

against the best teams from that state. Barring illness and/or injury, the guys from SLHS are the favorites to repeat as regional champions and advance to state. You are encouraged to tentatively mark your calendars for Saturday, November 7 and plan to drive to San Rafael Park in Reno to cheer on all the Falcons who qualify for state. The girls' race is scheduled for 10 AM, while the boys will run at ??????.

Let's not forget about the boys' JV team. A terrific group of freshmen

and sophomores have been working hard to become the next leaders of the Falcon cross country boys' team. All of them have experienced personal records (the length of time it takes to run a 3.1 mile race) in recent weeks, and look forward to competing for spots on the varsity in 2010. We're proud of all our runners!!



**College Corner I**

**Dr. Seddon**

**ACT Test Dates**

Test Date	Registration Date	Late Registration (extra fee)
December 12	November 6	November 20
February 6	January 5	January 15
April 10	March 5	March 19
June 12	May 7	May 21

**SAT Test Dates**

Test Date	Registration Date	Late Registration (extra fee)
December 5	October 30	November 12
January 23	December 15	December 30
March 13	February 4	February 18
May 1	March 25	April 8
June 5	April 29	May 13

**College Corner**

All sophomores and juniors took the PSAT test on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for all your help in getting our students prepared for that test. The results will be sent home with the semester grades in January. The students will receive their actual test booklet and a comprehensive break-down of their answers and the correct answers. This is a very useful guide for helping to study for the SAT exam.

**Juniors and Seniors:**

Remember to sign up for the SAT and/or ACT exams.

I have information on a local, private SAT study preparation course. Please see me for the handouts if you are interested. Two private tutors are offering a biweekly study course in the evenings for 6 weeks.

Seniors – remember to start the application process. Know the deadlines for the schools you are interested in applying to – you will be surprised how quickly they come and go. If you need to ask for a letter of recommendation from a teacher, please, be courteous and give the teacher several weeks to accommodate your request (i.e. don't say "I need a letter of recommendation by tomorrow").



**Student Government**

**Mr. Garwood**

**Spirit Week**

Students had ample opportunities to express their class and school spirit as we celebrated with nearly 100% participation. The sophomores were voted as the class with the most Spirit. Not only did they win the Twinkie eating, the relay race and the cheering competitions, they also had great costumes and placed several times during the best dressed competitions held during lunch throughout the week. They will enjoy a week of free dress in November. The class of 2010 came in a close second, as they won the Tug-o-war competition and placed second in the relay race and the class cheer. Student Government did a great job at pulling off a fun-packed spirit week.

**Fall Bash**

It's been called the best Fall Bash ever by some seniors, and I was told "Good job, Mr. Garwood!" by some students, but I didn't set it up! The Student Government included the annual Pie-the-Teachers Senior class fundraiser (thank you Mr. Nelson and Mr. Craig) to start the evening off with some good messy fun. Immediately following 4-5 students shivered in the dunk tank, and then the pizza arrived. There was a basketball tourney for girls and guys, a ping-pong table, a DJ (last year's SB President Jonah Young), lots of "dancing", football, candy, conversations and clean-up. We were able to open and close the evening with prayer. Thank you to all who helped to make the evening a real success, especially parents. Don't forget to fill out a P.I.P. hour form!

**Tuesday Assembly**

Nov. 3 Discipleship Groups      Nov. 10 Class Meetings      Nov. 17 Discipleship Groups      Nov. 24 NO SCHOOL

**Basketball Season!**

**Mr. Nelson**

I know at the publication of this newsletter, volleyball and cross country seasons are still going on, but since this is the last newsletter before basketball season starts, I wanted to promote basketball. For parents of girls basketball players there will be a

parent meeting before the first practice on Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will begin at 11:30 at St. Gall with practice following until 3pm. Practice schedules will be handed out no later than that date. If you cannot attend, please email me so I can discuss my expectations for your daughter with you. I

want us all on the same page before we begin the long and grueling season. It is looking like it will be a great season and a lot of fun. See you on the 14<sup>th</sup>!

**DON'T FORGET... HERE ARE A FEW REMINDERS FOR YOU...**

1. To qualify for **early enrollment** for the 2010-2011 school year, you need to complete the re-enrollment application and submit \$350 before January 31, 2011. On February 1, the annual registration fee increases to \$550, and on April 1, it goes up to \$750. It's not too early to be putting away some money every week to ensure hundreds of dollars of savings before January 31. The same fees, and deadlines, are in effect for new stu-

dents. Encourage prospective families you know to call in and reserve Nov. 14 for their teen's entrance testing.

2. **Work/study families** should note that work schedules for all teen participants will be changing around the middle of November. When the winter sports season begins, work crews will be scheduled on a day-by-day basis depending upon when and where basketball practices take place each day.

3. Speaking of the basketball season

that is rapidly approaching, **remember** that there will be a **\$50 NIAA athletic participation fee** if your son/daughter is intending to be on one of the teams.

The freshmen Introduction to Fine Arts class will be presenting **an evening of dramatic enjoyment** for you November 12th at 6PM.