



Friday, February 1, 2008

Dear High School Parents,

Greetings from the high school staff and happy 2008! We're back from a relaxing and rejuvenating winter holiday ready to continue with our love and our passion, educating our high school students.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

I begin by thanking parents for attending our annual Parent-Teacher Conferences on Monday, January 28. We appreciate the time and effort you put in to helping your children be successful learners. This year we had 76% of our students represented by their parents, a 6 % increase from last year. Similarly, we noticed an increased number of students who attended these conferences alongside their parents. This is a promising trend of student involvement we hope to continue next year.

WWW Update

Student interest in our WWW program this year is very encouraging. We now have 100% of our students signed up for a trip or workshop and teachers are working hard putting the final touches on the curriculum and activities for the week. Remember last year at this time we had to cancel WWW due to lack of student interest. We are pleased that students this year have responded so enthusiastically to this strong academic program. A reminder to parents of traveling students, the mandatory parent meeting for all trips is Thursday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m. More information about WWW including the trip leaders emails can be found at <http://www.asfg.mx/highschool/www/www-2007-2008.php>. If your child is participating in a workshop, ensure their payment is complete.

WWW is a valued enhancement to our curriculum for all disciplines. Every student will receive a grade for their work during WWW which will count as 10% of their 3rd quarter grade in all of the student's classes. Workshop teachers and trip leaders use pre-assignments, writing, reading, reflections, activities, and participation throughout the trip or workshop as a means to determine this grade.

Admissions

The admissions season for the 2008-2009 school year has begun. If you know families that are interested in joining our ASFG community, please tell them to contact our school's Admissions Director, Peach Madrigal. The second and last

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evening informational conference for entrance to Early Childhood is February 6th, from 7:00- 9:00 p.m. Participating families will see our installations, the classrooms, meet our teachers and hear a short presentation about our Early Childhood program. Be sure to share our website with all interested newcomers.

Sin Fronteras

Please join me in congratulating the Literary Magazine class for publishing an excellent edition of Sin Fronteras . Our student editors Juliana Barbosa Haddad and Cristina Fernandez Hall along with their faculty advisor Mr. Doug Parker continue the 19 year tradition of this award winning student publication. The 18th volume is hot off the press waiting to be devoured by readers in our ASFG community. Each student in high school has their own copy but if you'd like to pick up one for yourself, please stop by the high school office. You can also read this edition and past editions of Sin Fronteras on our website at <http://www.asfg.mx/~sinfronteras/>.

Student Feedback

Returning from winter break, our students filled out two anonymous, online surveys giving us valuable insight into their thoughts, habits and perceptions. The first survey was designed to elicit feedback from students about their teachers, counselors and administrators. The second was a randomly assigned survey about bullying at school or students' reading habits. This survey will help us direct our efforts more pointedly to meet our goals of maintaining a caring school climate and improving reading skills and interest. We are currently analyzing the data and plan to share key findings in our next newsletter.

Academic Goal

We continue to focus our efforts this year on improving reading comprehension and interest in reading. Our faculty has now received training from two field experts, one in the area of English and Spanish as second languages, the other in instructional strategies that improve reading skills. We are implementing those and other strategies in our classes and look forward to assessing their results. Similarly, we continue to assess our students' reading comprehension through standardized testing in 9th and 10th grades. In October, these students took 3 computer-based exams in the areas of reading, language usage and mathematics. We found that although there is definitely room for improvement, our students are scoring above US norms. We will continue to make reading a priority for all students but will pay special attention to those whose reading skills are low. We believe all ASFG graduates should be ready for the highly competitive work force and being an avid and skilled reader is essential to success. Our plans include both continuing to implement effective reading instruction in the classrooms while systematically assessing our efforts school-wide. To this end, our 9th and 10th graders will take their second of three reading comprehension assessments in early February.

Once again, it is our honor and privilege to educate your children. We look forward to your continued involvement and feedback.

Sincerely,



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