

The Alemany Monthly

Bulletin for November, 2018

Principal's Message



Dear Alemany Community,

November is one of my favorite months. We are well into the school year, students are focused, and we have moved through enough of the year to

take the first measure of our school's goals. Also, I find Thanksgiving to be the holiday I most look forward to. My fondest memories are those with the entire family together at the table eating and talking turkey. It's also the time when we look at our lives and give thanks to God for the blessings that have come our way. With my own children I try to impart the importance of gratitude. My wife and I teach them that by reflecting upon our blessings and gifts we move away from ourselves and think of those for whom we are grateful. Scripture calls us to this as well:

*Enter His gates with **thanksgiving** and His courts with praise. **Give thanks** to Him, bless His name. For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations (Psalm 100:4-5).*

We also have to be cognizant of those whose families have changed through the loss of a loved one, and the sense of loss that comes with an empty chair. That has happened to many in our own Alemany community families this past year. The beauty of this loving and prayerful community is that we can be a blessing for those facing painful loss. It is interesting that Abraham Lincoln, in the midst of national pain and tremendous loss, changed the traditional harvest festival into the official federal holiday of Thanksgiving, proclaiming a national day of *"Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.*

I am very grateful for the gift of Bishop Alemany High School. A week doesn't go by that I'm not reminded by parents and students of some thoughtful and loving comment or act that one of our teachers or staff have said or done. When I see our students providing service to those in our community who are vulnerable and in need, I am reminded that these young people of ours are truly doing God's work here. I know it will continue throughout their lives and I am very grateful

for that. Just this last week we had our Exceptional Halloween Dance. For 30 years this Alemany program has brought joy to young people with intellectual disability. This first full week of November, many of our students will be Cabin Leaders, giving a week of their time guiding 6th graders from our local parishes participating in *Outdoor School*, a camping and hiking week. On November 18th, we have our annual Open House for 7th and 8th graders. The classrooms and halls will be filled with our Alemany students giving us their day to show off the wonderful things we have to offer incoming 9th graders. These things just scratch the surface of the good works our Alemany students are providing the community.

I want you to know that I am grateful to be Principal of such a singular and important high school. I am grateful for every student, family, teacher, staff member, and alum, who have brought their own gifts to share with us all. God's blessings to everyone in our Alemany family.

Dr. Chambers

Dates to Remember

Monday, 5 th	Parent Association Presentation: <i>Drug Prevention Through Education</i> 6:30 pm in Alumni Hall
Thursday, 8 th	Band & Orchestra Concert <i>"A Night at the Movies"</i> Reception @ 6pm / Concert @ 7pm in Alumni Hall
Monday, 12 th	No School – Veterans Day observed
Sunday, 18 th	OPEN HOUSE: 12 – 3pm
Monday, 19 th	Progress Reports mailed
Wednesday, 21 st	No School
Thursday, 22 nd	No School – Thanksgiving
Friday, 23 rd	No School
Thursday, 29 th	Christmas Play opens

Home Games

Home Games for the month are listed below.

Friday, 9 th	Football v. Rancho Verde Playoffs 2 nd Round
Thursday, 15 th	Varsity Boys' Basketball Alemany Tournament begins
Friday, 16 th	Varsity Boys' Basketball Alemany Tournament continues
Saturday, 17 th	Varsity Boys' Basketball Alemany Tournament ends

Chaplain's Corner



November brings a dramatic change in our environment with somewhat cooler weather and changing of colors in our foliage. Even more significant than our natural environment are the family celebrations that this month contains.

This month is a time for remembering those who have been part of our life and those who continue to journey with us.

As the month of November began we took the time to remember those loved ones who have entered their eternal reward. All Souls Day (November 2), also known as Dia de los Muertos in the Hispanic community, invited us to pause for a moment and give thanks for the lives and love of our departed family and friends. I imagine that on a regular basis you might look at a picture or recall an experience with someone you loved and give thanks that he or she was in your life.

Towards the end of November, we will gather with family and friends to celebrate with food and conversation the blessing God has bestowed upon us. This national day of thanks is an opportunity to pause our hectic lives to spend quality time with those we love.

As a Church we purposefully engage in these two celebrations on a regular basis. As we gather for Eucharist (Holy Mass), which means thanksgiving, we give thanks to our loving God for the blessing He shares with us. In this celebration of Word and Sacrament (Christ's Body and Blood) we enter into communion with Him and each other.

So it is true, the month of November brings a dramatic change in our environment, it is filled with remembering and celebrating.

Fr. Mike

Academic News

As we are squarely in the middle of college application season, the counselors have continued to meet with all the senior students to make sure that their applications, personal statements, and Naviance brag sheets are progressing. In addition to meeting with students one-on-one to, we have implemented lunch sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays in which students can ask questions and get further support with their applications. These lunch sessions will be held in room H3 throughout the month of November.

UPCOMING COLLEGE DEADLINES

Early November

Most Early Action & Early Decision applications

November 19

Late registration deadline for Dec. 8 ACT

November 20

Late registration deadline for Dec. 1 SAT

Note – Most colleges accept December scores, but a handful do not

November 30th

Cal State & UC applications

Most private colleges have application deadlines through December & January.

Remember to file the FAFSA at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> to qualify for most college financial assistance as well as the CSS Profile at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/> for financial aid at many private colleges.

Beyond college applications, counselors have been meeting with students who have been struggling with their grades. We have been discussing good study habits and tutoring options (teacher and peer tutoring are available) and have tried to offer as much encouragement and support as we can. Progress report grades will be submitted by teachers on November 16th and grades will be mailed home shortly after.

A continued thank you for all that you do in supporting your students!



Ms. Arnold
Assistant Principal
of Academics



Ms. White
Director of
Counseling

Community Service



Each year the Alemany community provides Thanksgiving Dinner and pantry of food to local families living in poverty.

This year our Thanksgiving Food Drive is from October 30 to November 9 for perishable foods. Frozen turkeys will be collected on Thursday, November 15 before school. Students will be making contributions through their English class. Donations can also be made at the collection bin in front of the chapel.

The most needed food items are:

- Canned vegetables (preferably low sodium)
- Canned fruit (preferably reduced sugar)
- Canned meat (such as tuna, chicken)
- Rice (preferably brown rice)
- Canned beans
- Canned soup
- Dried beans
- Whole grain pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Whole grain cereal
- Powdered milk
- Peanut butter
- Jam
- Stuffing mix
- Cranberry sauce
- Chicken broth
- Flour
- Cooking oil
- Salt
- Sugar
- Pancake mix
- Syrup
- Shelf stable juice
- Jello

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Bob Warren
Director of Community Service
rwarren@alemany.org

From the Main Office

Greetings from the Main Office!

Just a reminder, all students in California schools are required to present an immunization record. If we are still in need of this for your student and have reached out to you, please email or drop-off an official copy as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, email attendance@alemany.org or call 818-837-5202.

To ensure the safety of your student, we only dismiss students to those individuals authorized in the emergency contacts. If you are unsure if your contacts are up to date, please call us at 818-365-3925 to confirm. If you unexpectedly need your student to be picked up by someone who is not in the contacts, please call us in advance so that we can work through the process with you.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Mrs. Merkel Mrs. Kaneshiro Mrs. Myers



Campus Ministry Corner

November is the month for thanksgiving; Campus Ministry has much to be grateful for. October was busy with retreats, the St. Francis Peace Festival, Red Ribbon Week, breast cancer awareness, and more.

In November:

- We will begin with mass celebrating the Feast of All Saints.
- The next day, Honor Guard will lead a rosary to mark All Soul's day, praying for our deceased loved ones.
- On November 7th Fr. Mike will lead a group participating in the Archdiocesan event known as *Christian Service 4 Life*.
- Kairos 154 begins on November 13th and the November Discipleship retreat for Juniors begins on November 27th.
- On November 20th we will have our annual interfaith Thanksgiving Service. If you would like to have your minister/rabbi/imam, etc. invited, please contact Campus Ministry.

Please include the work of Campus Ministry in your prayers and have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Mr. Don Levan
Director of Campus Ministry



Teacher's Corner



A benefit for students attending any Catholic School is that religion is present. During my life as a student at Holy Rosary in Sun Valley I was always involved in Church activities and was even head altar server my eighth grade. I did a lot of those things, more

out of habit than a true understanding of what faith really was. It wasn't until halfway through my eighth grade that I began to understand what faith is.

It was during my eighth grade that I attended a retreat here at the Alemany campus, only back then Queen of Angels Seminary was here. The idea of being a priest hadn't really crossed my mind until that retreat weekend when something "clicked" inside of me. I applied, was accepted and was lucky enough to attend the Seminary for two years. Things didn't work out for me at the school, but I took two things with me that have been a part of me ever since.

The first thing I took was a deeper understanding of my faith and what it means to be Catholic. I know that there's a lot more to having faith than just going to Mass on Sundays. I learned that service is a big part of having faith and honoring the example Jesus left for us. I know that it takes hard work to keep your faith and that it's something that you should be analyzing constantly otherwise you can enter a state of complacency just like with anything else in life. I also was also lucky enough to find the teacher that would become my mentor for years to come.

I was always a year younger than everyone in my class, so immaturity reigned supreme. Because of that, I had to leave the Seminary after my sophomore year. I transferred to my

alma mater Bellarmine Jefferson but kept in touch with Fr. Dave who never gave up on me. My experience with a teacher that cared about his students and saw the best in them is what I see happening at Alemany on a daily basis. We have teachers that genuinely care about seeing their students succeed and go beyond their own expectations. This is something that can't be priced in tuition; it's not something that we get paid extra for but instead something that comes natural to some teachers. It's something that sets us apart from many other schools. I hear it often when I catch up with students that I've been blessed to serve as a mentor.

If you combine the numerous mentors on campus with the outstanding efforts of our Campus Ministry, you can't help but develop well-rounded individuals that go on to be community leaders, doctors, attorneys, police officers and other forms of public servants. They are faith-based individuals that can move among many circles. They are young adults that will be shaping the world that we live in long into our retirement years.

I have asked and expect the teachers in my department to help further the idea of helping develop these young people. I ask that they make the classes fun but challenging. We are living in a global world that requires us to be bilingual more than ever and our classes are the starting point for many students. Being able to communicate in an effective, coherent manner in more than one language is an advantage for life. Getting a first-tier education at Alemany is an even bigger advantage.

Mr. Miguel Pimentel
Dept. Chair World Languages
Varsity Baseball Asst. Coach



Join the Alemany Theatre Kids as they resurrect a family yuletide classic about a man who gets a second chance to discover the Christmas spirit. Return to the land of Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit, and Ebenezer Scrooge in this timely tale of love, loss, and the true meaning of Christmas.

Thursday	Nov. 29	7:30 pm	Adults	\$10
Friday	Nov. 30	7:30 pm	Seniors	\$5
Saturday	Dec. 1	7:30 pm	Children	\$5
Sunday	Dec. 2	2:00 pm	AHS Students	Free w/ ID