

**BOSCO SYSTEM CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER**

Dear Bosco System stakeholders:

The *Our Faith, Our Children, Our Future School Tuition Organization* (STO) is the impetus that will ensure our schools are always available to all parents who wish a Catholic education for their children. The STO goal this year is to raise \$3.8 million and attaining it will mean tremendous help for families around the Archdiocese. Ultimately the STO program should reduce the stress on parish budgets that are supplementing our schools as well. I hesitate to tell people what they should do but if all of us from Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph support the STO it will be a huge benefit for our schools and parishes. The STO will allow Catholic schools to flourish, but only if we support it.

We need as many IC/St. Joseph parish members (not just parents but all parishioners) to make this donation and select Bosco System as the recipient. When they do this at least 50% of what is donated must come back to families at Bosco System. The rest of the donation is spread across the Archdiocese including Bosco System based on family need. Donors get a 65% tax credit for their Iowa income taxes and can take the entire amount as a deduction off of their federal income taxes.

Your **almost cost-free donation** is the salvation of our Catholic schools. You donate and get all or most of it back as an income tax credit and at least 90% of your donation goes to families to help pay their tuition at Bosco System. I know this sounds **too good to be true**, but it absolutely is! Our future looks good but with the support of our stakeholders – the sky is the limit. The donation does not need to be a large one as they all add up to success.

This is a huge opportunity for us. This year 109 grants have been awarded to Bosco System out of our 411 students at an average of about \$941.00 per student. It could be so much more – if we will donate and market this great plan to parishioners and friends. Remember you are ensuring the curtailing of Catholic School costs and therefore, helping our schools grow.

If you only listen to one of my requests – this would be the one. If we can get people from Bosco System to donate to this fund, we will get at least half of the donation to come back to us. You contribute to the STO and then get most of your money back at income tax time!\* God is good!

May God bless you and your family.

Eric Eckerman  
Principal

**PLEASE GO TO [WWW.BOSCOSYSTEM.NET](http://WWW.BOSCOSYSTEM.NET)  
CLICK ON CURRENT EVENTS TO SEE THE DONOR FORM**

**THANK YOU:** Thank you to all that showed up to work your scheduled time slot for the football concessions, gate, and clean-up. Special thank you to those that worked extra for those that did not show up for their slot. Everyone is asked to work a game during their child's sport, whether it be for football, volleyball, wrestling, basketball, or baseball/softball. If you are unable to work, **you** are to find a replacement. This puts a burden on everyone else when you don't show up. Please be considerate of other people.

Hard to believe the first quarter has come and gone. If you have a student in High School, please log on to Powerschool to see their first quarter grades. Talk to your son or daughter about their schoolwork if you are not already.

We just finished taking the ITED's. Incentive to do better than last year was built into their encouragement prior to taking the test. Students improving one grade level or ranking proficient will be given one day out of school. That date will be determined after we receive scores back from the testing center.

Lastly, I want to encourage you to get out and support the Don Bosco Volleyball Team as they make their way through the post-season tournament in hopes of getting to the State Tournament. Stay on the winning track and play on the following dates:

Friday Oct. 30, 7:00 at Cedar Rapids Kennedy  
Tuesday Nov. 3, 7:00 at Vinton  
Thursday Nov. 12 – 14 Cedar Rapids -- STATE

Winter practice starting:

Girls Basketball Monday Nov. 9  
Boys Basketball Monday Nov. 16  
Wrestling Monday Nov. 16

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Eric Eckerman, Principal

**Building Campaign:** The students at Don Bosco raised \$487.00 for the Building Campaign for the month of October. On October 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> the student council sponsored out of uniform days with the proceeds going to the building campaign. Thank you to all the students and staff that participated. They will be having out of uniform days on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and in December also.

**BACCALAURETE AND GRADUATION:** MAY 30, 2010 1:00 PM with Graduation to Follow

**Parents and Guardians:** The first of a five part series of parent information publications from the Office for the Protection of Children from the Archdiocese of Dubuque is available in the school office. The purpose of these publications is to help all of us be more informed of the issues and topics related to the abuse of children. It is our sincere hope that by partnering together we can continually provide the safest possible environment for all our young people to grow into healthy, Christ-filled adults. Please keep this first brochure in a handy place for your future reference. Future newsletter items will be available during the months of December, January, and February. Additional resources can be found at the Virtus website at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

The Office for the Protection of Children

**Congratulations to the 2009-2010 Thespian officers:**

Shannon VanEe – President  
Breatta Schmitz – Secretary

Chris Weber – Vice President  
Nicole Stone – Treasurer

**SENIORS AND PARENTS:** The representative from Herff Jones will be here on November 16<sup>th</sup> to measure for cap and gown for graduation. He will also send home order forms that will include the formal graduation announcements and various products. Please ask your student for these order forms. This is your only opportunity to order. There will be a few announcements available for purchase in the office if you only need a few. Mr. McManus will be here on November 24<sup>th</sup> to pick up any orders that you may have.

**FRUIT SALE:** Don Bosco will begin selling fruit October 28 and continue through November 9. Please contact the school office at 319-296-1692 or 319-827-6056 to place an order or contact any Don Bosco student.

**POST PROM:** Younkers Community Day Sale is Saturday, November 14. If you have not purchased your coupon booklet yet, please contact the school office or any junior or senior student. Buy a coupon booklet for \$5.00 and receive a \$10.00 coupon plus several 20% off coupons. Proceeds from this sale will go towards the Post Prom activities for Juniors and Seniors.

**WE WANT YOU!** SIAC Committee (School Improvement Advisory Committee) will be meeting on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:45pm at Bosco School Library. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to be a part of this committee. This committee discusses ideas on school improvements and takes suggestions from students, parents, and teachers. If you have been on this committee in the past, hopefully we will see you there. We will be looking at future improvements/ideas for Bosco School System. Call Sheri Purdy at 287-6673 if you have questions.

### ***DRESS CODE: Clarification on Dress Code***

***All fleece jackets must have DB logo and can be worn during the school day.***

***Absolutely NO HOODS on any jackets/sweatshirts are to be worn during the school day.***

**Convent Clean Out** - Thank you to everyone who helped prepare for the sale at the convent during Harvestfest and to everyone who purchased items and made a donation! We donated over \$1400 to the building fund and things are still being "purchased". Our goal is to get items into the hands of someone who can use them. So if you're still interested you can come and go through things and if you'd like to make a donation - great! We do need to get things cleaned out by Dec 1st so if you purchased any items or would like to stop in please contact the school office. Everything needs to be done by Dec 1st. If you have items stored there you will also need to make arrangements to move those items (you should have been contacted about this by now). We need to dismantle all the desks so they can be recycled and placed in the scrap metal bin. If you'd like to help with that please call Kim Rottinghaus (319) 239-1672. Thank you

**EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** During November, residents throughout the Archdiocese of Dubuque will receive in the mail the annual appeal brochure for Archdiocesan Education Development Fund. Please take the time to read the enclosure and return the card with your tax-deductible donation.

The Educational Development Fund was developed for the purpose of supporting the educational programs in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. This is the twenty-third year that grants have been awarded. Over \$5.75 million has been distributed since the Educational Development Fund was established. Grants are made possible through the generous donations of contributors and parishioners throughout the Archdiocese. During the 2008/2009 program year the Educational Development Board distributed \$350,000 in tuition assistance and minority grants and an additional \$60,000 for catechists formation resources and leadership development. Please support the Educational Development program of the Archdiocese with your treasure and prayers. Please consider donating to this fund that directly impacts the educational programs in the schools and parishes of the Archdiocese. For additional information concerning the Educational Development Fund or making a contribution toward Catholic Education, contact the Office of Educational Development, 1229 Mt. Loretta Avenue, P.O. Box 479, Dubuque, IA 52004-479, phone 563.556.2580, or email:

[dbqcDevDir@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us](mailto:dbqcDevDir@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us)

**BAND INFORMATION:** CONGRATULATIONS to the following band students for being selected to the Augustana College Honor Band Festival in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Seniors: Michael Owens; Chris Weber, Ryan Thurman and Breatta Schmitz and Sophomore: Shane McFadden. Students are selected on their music credentials of past participation in honor bands, participation in other music activities not only at their respective school but at other activities away from their school, plus their chair and part that they play in their own school band. There are three bands that will be rehearsing at Augustana; 2 Massed Bands of well over 100 members and a Select Honor Band of 73 members. Breatta Schmitz and Ryan Thurman were selected to this 'Elite' band while the other three will be in one of the Massed Bands. The students rehearse on Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14th and then perform their concerts on Saturday evening in the beautiful grand ballroom of the Washington Pavillion in Sioux Falls. This is where the Sioux Falls Symphony Orchestra performs all of its concerts. Masterclasses by Augustana College faculty will also take place during the two days of honor band rehearsals. The first meeting of the Band Support Group will take place on Tuesday, November 24th @ 6:00p.m. to discuss the upcoming Christmas Concert and future activities happening 2nd Semester. This is a change from the originally scheduled date of November 19th that was in the overall schedule sent out by me this summer. I would also like to apologize to those parents that might have come to school for a meeting on October 15th as was in the schedule. Shane McFadden has been selected as a 1st alternate for the Iowa All-State Band. Out of 28 Alto Sax students that tried out on Saturday, October 24th, Shane was picked as the 3rd best. Unfortunately only the first two get to attend the All-State Convention. The deadline for alternates to be used is November 10th. Congratulations again Shane and to all the others that auditioned on Saturday.

**Bosco System Booster Club and PTO Changes:** This year the Booster Club and PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) revised their operations to support the entire school system (K-12). The Booster Club will support all extra-curricular activities for K-12 (sports and extra-curricular activities such as band, speech, and drama). The PTO will support all academics, teacher's needs, and technology needs for the entire school system (K-12). With these changes come a few other changes in how things are done in regards to activities and fundraising efforts, etc. For example, there will no longer be activity fees for grade school sports. The Booster Club will contribute to the activity funds for both IC and DB. Booster Club fundraisers (merchandise sales, concessions, scrap metal drive, softball tournament, golf outing, volleyball tournament, cookie dough sales, etc.) will generate funds to support activities for all K-12 sports and extra-curricular activities so the BC will be asking all parents (K-12) to help support these projects. Likewise, the PTO will be providing funds to support academic needs for the entire school system through various fundraisers (Fall Open House, Chili Supper, Legion Las Vegas, Alumni Dance in Nov, etc.) that will support academics for K-12 and will also ask for the support of all parents (K-12) to help out with these fundraising efforts. For more information on each organization (BC and PTO) visit the school's website at [www.boscosystem.net](http://www.boscosystem.net) - each organization has a page on the website with details on activities and how to contact officers. You may also contact Jammi Welter (Booster Club President) or Brenda Schares (PTO President) with any questions.

**ALL SCHOOL BAKE SALE:** The PTO will host a bake sale at the Open House on Sunday, Nov 1st. We ask that every family donate baked goods or \$10 towards the fundraiser. Baked goods can be dropped off at the Don Bosco gym on Saturday, Oct 31 7:30 - 9:00pm, or Sunday, Nov 1 starting at 7:00am. Thank you for your support.

**SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA:** The Bosco System PTO is sponsoring a Shopping Extravaganza Open House on Sunday, November 1 in the Don Bosco gym from 8:30 - 1:30. Admission is FREE and open to the public. There will be over 40 different local vendors, so don't miss out on this great opportunity to get a jump start on your Christmas shopping! Eat while you shop with food from the concession stand. Please take time to promote this fundraiser to family and friends. It's a great opportunity for our school to make some money without having to go door-to-door selling items.

### "Building a New Legacy" Campaign Update

Make your pledge count for even more with the 10% match provided by a generous supporter. Please take advantage of this outstanding offer!

Can you believe it...we are very close to our Celebration Goal of \$2.5 million! The total as of now is \$2.31 million and with your help we will jump over the Celebration Goal within the next couple of weeks. Thank you...thank you!!

Please help us by answering the call to support this effort. The focus is on providing an appropriate environment of our students...something that parents and teachers will be proud of as well. To assist our planning efforts we would really like to have your pledge decision as soon as possible. If we haven't heard from you we will need to send more mail in hopes of knowing your wishes. Thank you for your help!

Once we hit the \$2.5 million Celebration Goal we will then focus on hitting the \$3.3 million Challenge Goal! Hitting the Challenge Goal will ensure that the improvements to Don Bosco will become a reality! Those improvements at this time include: restroom renovations, flooring, windows, insulation, locker room renovations, new fitness room, and new wrestling room. Please help this become a reality.

Another reminder...the IRA Charitable Rollover provision is about to expire at the end of this year. The provision allows you to make a very generous contribution to the Bosco System Catholic Schools from your IRA, with NO tax bill. Keep that in mind as you consider your support of this very worthwhile campaign.

- You must be 70 ½ years of age or older
- You can give up to \$100,000 with this provision

Join the hundreds of other supporters who have pledged now and determined they will pay later over the next three years.

If you have questions about the campaign, please call (319) 296-1606 or email us at [buildinganewlegacy@boscosystem.pvt.k12.ia.us](mailto:buildinganewlegacy@boscosystem.pvt.k12.ia.us). And stay tuned to your bulletin and the Bosco System web site ([www.boscosystem.net](http://www.boscosystem.net)) for updates.

**SCRIP NEWS** – Thank you to those who are using SCRIP on a regular basis. If you don't know what SCRIP is or how it works please contact me (info below). You can also purchase SCRIP online through [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) - you'll need to set up an account and use your checking or savings account to make the purchase (not able to accept credit cards). For more information on this program call me or go to the SCRIP page on the school's website for details. Some new retailers include: Aeropostale, Culligan Water, Road Ranger, and the KC's (Knights of Columbus). Please support these businesses who support our school system. Order forms are available online at [www.boscosystem.net](http://www.boscosystem.net) or ask for one in the office and we will send one home with you. Look over the list of retailers and buy SCRIP for those you do business with – it helps the school (SCRIP contributes over \$30,000 each year to the budget); it helps you (you earn 1% of every dollar you spend as a tuition credit); and it helps the businesses that participate. So please consider purchasing SCRIP at least once a month. Thanks for using SCRIP! Kim Rottinghaus (319) 239-1672 or [krottinghaus@boscosystem.pvt.k12.ia.us](mailto:krottinghaus@boscosystem.pvt.k12.ia.us)

**BOOSTER CLUB** – The Bosco System Booster Club (now a K-12 organization) recently pledged \$75,000 (over three years) to the “Building a new Legacy” capital campaign. This contribution will help the locker room renovations at Don Bosco. The Booster Club will also contribute to both the Don Bosco Activity Budget and the IC Activity Budget. The building contribution and activity budgets will be the major expenditures for the club for the '09-'10 school year. The Booster Club also recently purchased a 15 passenger bus for school activities.

The annual raffle tickets were sent out with the alumni newsletter so if you did not receive these and/or need more tickets please call the DB office at 296-1692 or 827-6056. Raffle tickets are due back to the DB office by noon on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> – winners will be announced on Wed, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> at the intersquad wrestling meet (7pm). There will be 72 - \$50 winners and one - \$500 winner! Thank you for your support of this project!

Merchandise and Concessions are two large projects that generate revenue for the BC each year. Stephanie Gardner and Shannon Hames coordinate the merchandise sales. The concession stand is coordinated by various volunteers for each season. If you'd like to help out with either of these committees please come to a meeting or contact Jammi Welter (BC president).

Reminder - the BC meets the first Wed of each month (unless otherwise noted) in the DB library at 7pm. There are several committees to help out with – please consider getting involved.

**ACTIVITY PASSES** – you can still purchase activity passes for students for the school year. This pass is good for all Bosco System home sporting events (K-12). K-8 students buy an activity pass for \$20 and 9-12 students purchase the pass for \$35. This pass is good for admission to all Bosco System (Don Bosco and IC/SJ) sporting events for the rest of the school year (some exceptions apply). Purchase your pass by sending your students name and payment to the office or purchase one at the next home event.

**SENIOR PARENTS !!!:** Senior Picture deadline is fast approaching! **All seniors need to turn in 3 pictures to Mrs. Rottink by November 6.** One is for the Jesup paper, one is for the composite, which goes on the walls of Don Bosco, and one is for the yearbook. They should be vertical poses. Anyone not making this deadline is NOT guaranteed a spot in the yearbook or the composite. These two items have strict deadlines we need to meet.

Please also remember that the yearbook needs a **baby picture** of your senior (5 years old or younger) by November 6 also. Thanks for your help with this.

Public Display of Affection ads are due by November 13 to Mrs. Rottink if you wish to purchase one to recognize your senior. Call Mrs. Rottink if you have any questions.

**DON BOSCO YEARBOOK:** The 2009-2010 Don Bosco Yearbook is off to a great start! We want to thank all the individuals and businesses that have chosen to buy advertising with us. We truly appreciate your support. Our book could not exist without you.

Parents- you should have all received an offer to purchase a yearbook in the mail from Jostens. Please contact the school if you did not receive one and would like to.

## **Prom Breakfast/raffle/bake sale Sunday, December 6 @ St. Mary Hall**

**Please come enjoy breakfast and support the Juniors as they work to raise money for  
Prom 2010**