

## MONTHLY NEWS FROM ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

“Be Who You Are and Be That Well” | St. Francis de Sales | The “de Sales Difference”

### Upcoming Dates

**February 7<sup>th</sup>** — ACT Test  
Off Campus

**February 16<sup>th</sup>** —  
President’s Day, NO SCHOOL

**February 18<sup>th</sup>** —  
ASH Wednesday

**February 24<sup>th</sup>** — Professional  
Development

Early Dismissal at 1:20

**March 10<sup>th</sup>** — Professional  
Development

Early Dismissal at 1:20

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** —

Third Quarter Report Card Pickup

**March 21<sup>st</sup>** — 75th Gala  
Celebration, Chateau Bu-Sché,

**March 30<sup>th</sup>- April 6<sup>th</sup>** —  
Easter Break

Look who who we spotted with  
Senior Tyler Streeter last month?



SEE MORE JANUARY PHOTOS ON  
THE LAST TWO PAGES OF  
NEWSLETTER!



Dear St. Francis Community,

January is drawing to a close and with February comes Mardi Gras, Lent, and the promises of Spring and new life! We can certainly hang in for a few more weeks of winter! And what better way to take our mind off the cold, damp weather than to work hard and share our gifts with others?

January 20-23 we celebrated **de Sales week** with our students traveling to “Feed My Starving Children” for a service experience that provides meals for malnourished children around the world. You can view photos and learn more about the program in this newsletter or by visiting our Facebook page at PioneerCountry.

Mary Kay Ramirez, whom many of you know from her 31 years of service here at St. Francis, has facilitated a number of community events as the Director of Community Relations, including the annual entrance exam for prospective students, and the Pack the House Fundraiser for St. Florian (Photos included).

Learn more fun facts about Mary Kay Ramirez in our monthly staff profile, and remember to mark your calendars for March 21<sup>st</sup> when our community will hold a Gala to celebrate the 75 years of Catholic Education provided by St. Francis de Sales. The event will include dinner, drinks and dancing, and will recognize faculty and staff, like Mary Kay, that served at St. Francis for more that 25 years.

In Peace,

Janet Cobb  
Executive Director

## Students Give Back through a Retreat with Feed My Starving Children

Freshmen, Sophomore and Junior classes celebrated DeSales Week, in honor of the feast of our patron saint, through an educational service learning experience. Each class traveled to Aurora, IL to Feed My Starving Children. There, they worked in teams to hand pack food to be sent over to malnourished children in poor countries. Students, faculty, staff and parent volunteers worked from beginning to end: scooping rice and soy vegetables into plastic bags, sealing, packing and palletizing every box. The Pioneer Community showed outstanding teamwork while over three days collectively packing 49,248 meals, feeding 136 children for a year!

"Feed My Starving Children" is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, and we ship these meals to nearly 70 countries around the world." ([www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org)).

Thank you to Lisa Downs, Marc Vega and Elizabeth Jimenez for sharing their photographs and for their help in making this retreat a success.

## Mary Kay Ramirez Director of Community Relations

When Mary Kay Ramirez started at St. Francis de Sales, students didn't have cell phones, let alone computers or the chromebooks today's students have. Many things have changed in the 31 years Mary Kay has been at St. Francis, but the community has stayed strong, loyal and committed to the values of St. Francis de Sales.



Today, in addition to being the Director of Community Relations, Mary Kay teaches Art, as she did when she first began. Mary Kay was

raised in Merrillville Indiana where art was part of her life early on. In high school she was in the Art Club and YARC, a student art group helping students with disabilities. Mary Kay has a BA and MS from Purdue University -- you know who she cheers for when IU plays Purdue! From school, she started working at St. Francis de Sales in August of 1983.

Her students reflect the family that is St. Francis. She loves teaching and connecting with St. Francis students. Although the students change over the years, their values are similar. Mary Kay believes you need to understand your students, not just their academic needs but also their social and emotional needs. Over the years, her students have become part of her St. Francis family, "One of my former students asked me to be a bridesmaid in her wedding!" said Mary Kay.

Mary Kay has held many roles including Dean of Students,



**Mary Kay Ramirez, Continued from page 2:**

Academic Dean, Assistant Principal and Principal. "St. Francis de Sales has allowed me to grow and develop personally, professionally, intellectually and spiritually," said Mary Kay. It has also allowed her to do many fun things. She has worked with students in many roles including

*Pom Pom Club Moderator  
Art Club Moderator  
Boys Golf Coach  
Mothers Club Moderator  
North Central Committee Chairperson  
Parents Club Moderator  
Faculty Association Chairperson*

All these roles and years connected her with many great people. "I have developed relationships with teachers and staff that have lasted over 30 years. Friendships of a lifetime were formed through St. Francis de Sales."

The experience Mary Kay brings is perfect for her current role – she understands the academic, extracurricular, spiritual and community aspects of the school from having lived it every day for 31 years. "When I talk to students, I want them to be part of our family. It may sound cliché but it is true: St. Francis is a family and the family atmosphere, that community exists today and it has existed since my first day in 1983."

**February Sports Calendar**

**February 2:** Girls GCAC Tournament begins

**February 6<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 Sophomore Boys Basketball at St. Rita  
7:00 pm Varsity Boys Basketball at St. Rita

**February 7<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Freshman Boys v. St. Rita at Home

**February 9:** Girls Regionals begin

**February 10<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 Sophomore Boys v. Hales at Home  
7:00 Varsity Boys Basketball v. Hales at Home

**February 11<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 pm Freshman Boys at Hales

**Feb 13:** Boys CCL Tournament Begins

**Feb 23:** Boys Regionals Begin

**Spring Tryouts begin March 2**

**Join the St. Francis 35 & Over Alumni Basketball League**

Calling all local 35 & older PIONEERS! Adrian Calleros '90 is heading up a 35 & over Alumni Basketball League in the Pioneer Dome. All captains are SFDS Alumni: Steve Ruzich '87, Miguel Colon '00, Danny Vargas '91, John DiFilippo '91, Todd Lucas '94, Abe Quintero '72, Armando Martinez '96, Adrian Calleros '90. \$50 entry fee includes Jersey. Games will be played Tuesday and Thursday evenings 8:15 pm. If you are interested, contact Janet Cobb at [jcobb@sfdshs.org](mailto:jcobb@sfdshs.org)



# Photographs from January





# SAVE THE DATE!

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You are invited to the  
St. Francis de Sales  
High School

## 75<sup>th</sup> Gala

Celebrating 75 years of Catholic Education

March 21, 2015

6:00 - 11:30 pm

The Chateau Bu-Sché

11535 Cicero Avenue

Alsip, IL 60803



**For more information or to  
get involved, call Mary Kay  
Ramirez at 773-731-7272 or  
email her at  
[mramirez@sfdshs.org](mailto:mramirez@sfdshs.org)**