Dear Bishop Community,

After reading George W. Bush’s eulogy for his father, George H. W. Bush, I was left with the undeniable sense that our 41st president intentionally lived life with purpose, grace, and dignity. I have included a link to the complete eulogy here as it is worth a read; however, a few words resonate with me given they are Christ-like qualities we strive to emulate and instill in our work with the young people we serve here at Bishop Diego. Some of these qualities include empathy, unconditional love, integrity, courage, principled, supportive, generous, and of course, a sense of humor!

During this season of Advent as we await the coming of Christ at Christmas, it is particularly appropriate to reflect upon what it is that people will say about us when we are gone. How do we want to be remembered? This particular excerpt stood out to me and caused me to pause and reflect on my own life as a leader, a wife, a mother, a daughter, a sister, a friend.

In his inaugural address, the 41st president of the United States said this: “We cannot hope to only leave our children a bigger car, a bigger bank account. We must hope to give them a sense of what it means to be a loyal friend, a loving parent. A citizen who leaves his home, his neighborhood, and town better than he found it. What do we want the men and women who work with us to say when we are no longer there? That we were more driven to succeed than anyone around us, or that we stopped to ask if a sick child had gotten better, and stayed a moment there to trade a word of friendship?

A link to the complete eulogy is included here:
I encourage you to share this with your sons and daughters and perhaps have a conversation over the Christmas break as to how they wish to be remembered. While the concept may be abstract at a young age, perhaps even the question, how do you want to be remembered after your four years at Bishop Diego is a good starting point?

In Christ,

Mrs. Karen Regan
Head of School

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**Admissions and Advancement – Dr. Cristy McNay**

**Tuition Assistance & Scholarship Applications – Due Date Change**

Applications for Tuition Assistance and Scholarships are now open. EVERY Bishop family who would like to receive a Personalized Tuition Plan **MUST** reapply for Tuition Assistance through FACTS for the 2019/20 school year. **Tuition Assistance Applications are due by January 17, 2019.** In addition, many scholarships do not automatically renew and must be reapplied for each year. **Scholarship applications are also due by January 17, 2019.** Please visit Bishop’s website and the Admissions/Personalized Tuition pages for more information.

**Re-enrollment**

Parents of students in grades 9, 10 & 11 – be on the lookout for your online re-enrollment links coming before mid-February. We have moved to a completely online platform that will require a little extra input the first time, but will ultimately make everything much easier going forward! More information coming soon!

**A 300% Increase!**

To date, Bishop Diego has received 3 times as many applications as the same time last year. The Admissions Office encourages families of prospective students to submit their online applications **EARLY!** The deadline is January 31, 2019, but earlier is better!
Entrance Placement Testing – January 12 or 26, 2019

Entrance Placement Tests for all incoming freshman will be administered on Saturday, January 12 and Saturday, January 26, 2019. A completed online application and application fee must be submitted in order to sit for the exam. Parents can choose the preferred date within the parent portal of the new online application system:
https://bishopdiego.schooladminonline.com/users/sign_in

A Great Christmas Gift Idea!

Bishop Diego is hosting its 2nd annual Poker Tournament on Sunday, January 20, 2019 in the Brick House. Check-in starts at 12:00 pm. Tournament play begins at 1:00 pm. Buy-in/reservation is $75/person. Participants must be 21+ with valid photo ID. Additional buy-ins available at the event. All AFC and NFC football games will be televised! Cardinal Chili, snacks, mixed drinks, draft beer and more will be served! Prizes include:

- 52 inch Samsung TV
- Fess Parker gift certificate
- Bose headphones
- Third Window gift certificate
- Apple TV
- Via Maestra 42 gift certificate

For information, visit www.bishopdiego.org/support/major-events/poker-tournament to secure a spot. contact Ms. Erika Van Wingerden at 805.967.1266, ext. 114 or evanwingerden@bishopdiego.org.

Warmly,

Cristy McNay, Ed.D
Director of Admissions and Advancement
(805) 967-1266, ext. 118
cmcnay@bishopdiego.org
Report Cards will be available on PCR the week of the 31st. We will be emailing all families to let them know which day they will be uploaded.

Semester exams are here. The schedule is as follows:

Monday, December 17th

- Period 1 - 8:30 - 10:00
- Period 2 - 10:30 - 12:00
- Lunch 12:00 - 12:40
- Period 3 - 12:45 - 2:15

Tuesday, December 18th

- Period 4 - 8:30 -10:00
- Period 5 - 10:30 - 12:00

Wednesday, December 19th

- Period 6 - 8:30-10:00
- Period 7 - 10:30 - 12:00

Please remember that students need to be in dress code and on time in order to take their exams. If students do not have an exam during the last testing period of the day, they may be dismissed with written parental permission.

Good luck to all on their finals, and enjoy a wonderful holiday season!

Tim Flanagan
Director of Curriculum & Instruction
(805) 967-1266, ext. 115
tflanagan@bishopdiego.org
Excerpt continued…*College Admission from Application to Acceptance, Step by Step* by Robin Mamlet and Christine Vandevelde

“9 Things Admission Officers Look for in an Application

5. Intellectual vitality. Defining this characteristic is tricky, but admissions officers cite it constantly. If a spark of the bright mind comes out in your essays, if your activities seem to suggest that you are looking for academic adventures, or your recommendations speak of your eager and creative contributions to the classroom, these all hint at intellectual lift. Do you seem like someone who would add life to a study group or be a great lab partner? Do you appear to enjoy conversations of substance? Much of college is spent in those environments, so admissions folks are on the hunt for students who demonstrate this hard-to-define, but I-know-it-when-I-see-it character trait.

6. Emotional maturity. Making good choices, taking personal responsibility, having a goal in your life and having some idea how to achieve it—all of these are signs of your emotional maturity: that you’re thinking and acting more like a college student than a high school student. The admissions officer is trying to imagine how you’ll fit into their first-year class (and beyond). Help them out by showing your (soon-to-be-in) college side.”

Parents of 10th, 11th and 12th graders:

The window to apply for NHS and CSF is January 7 – January 18, 2019. The application forms will be available in the College and Career Center beginning January 7. The forms are also available online at: [http://bdhsmultimedia.org/application-forms.html](http://bdhsmultimedia.org/application-forms.html).

In order to complete the CSF and NHS applications students will need a copy of their Semester One grades, which won’t be available in PCR until Christmas vacation. Please mark your calendar for the CSF and NHS application window in January. If you have questions, contact Mrs. Carpenter.

Each semester, NHS students are required to fulfill 2 hours of Bishop Peer-Tutoring. Hours can be counted toward students’ Christian Service Hours and are to be signed-off by Ms. Anderson.
Parents of 10th and 11th graders:

Please join us for the Scores Back Event on Monday, January 7 at 5:00pm. At this event, we will review PSAT scores and Mock ACT scores in context of college admission standards and whether or not test prep is warranted for your individual student. Meeting location: Library.

Parents of 11th graders:

Please join us for the College Information Session planned on Monday, January 7 at 6:00pm in the Library. Agenda includes a discussion on the application process/standards for the UC system, the CSU system, and broad discussion of how to apply to liberal arts colleges.

Junior College Planning Curriculum and Activities:

We have been hosting college planning sessions with juniors on Thursdays during Family Homeroom all year. Here is what we’ve been up to:

• In August, every junior was given a binder with a cover titled COLLEGE SEMINAR. The binders stay in the classroom until April 18. After this date, students will be instructed to bring home the binder to share with parents.

What’s in the binder?
• Tips on building a college list
• Tips on campus visits
• The elements of the college application with specific focus on UCs, CSUs and Private colleges
• Tips on writing the college essays
• Information about SAT & ACT exams
• Information about the Financial Aid Process
• Helpful websites

What have we covered so far as a group?
• Myths about College Admission
• How to find a college that is a personal match
• Logging into SCOIR for College Research
• How to use YouScience for aptitude assessment and career exploration
• Research University vs. Liberal Arts College
• Students have been asked to get going on their personal/academic resumes. A template is in their binder. I encourage students to start gathering information about their awards, achievements, work experience, and extra-curricular experience to enter into the resume. The resume will be used for college applications.

What is coming second semester?
• How students build a list of five “match” or “target” schools. I call this the “First Five” list.
• Basic college entrance requirements and what colleges are seeking in candidates
• The importance of a rigorous, academic year in 12th grade
• The elements of college applications
• How and when to request transcripts
• How and when to request letters of recommendation
• Private College application essays and UC Personal Insight Questions training

Juniors are encouraged to begin touring colleges if possible. It is recommended that students sign up for an official tour through each College Admissions webpage. Try to tour when the college is in session, but when Bishop is not. For example, during Easter Vacation, is there a college you can visit that will be in session that week?

Rya Carpenter
Director of Counseling and Student Services
College Counselor
(805) 967-1266, ext. 104
rcarpenter@bishopdiego.org

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**Spiritual Life – Mrs. Jennifer Winnewisser**

A huge THANK YOU to the Cardinal community for your tremendous acts of kindness and generosity for the Project Santa program. We were able to bring Christmas cheer to 13 local families on Saturday as we traveled through town with Santa Claus in tow on the Santa Barbara Trolley. Thank you to the parent "sleigh" drivers and to Scott Streett who brought his jolly Santa Claus spirit along for the ride. I trust you agree that it is a great privilege to serve God in this beautiful way.

Students who delivered Project Santa, be sure to fill out a Christian Service form for your time. See Mrs. Winnewisser for her signature. Also, parent drivers, you will be honored with parent service hours. Thank you again!

Wishing you and yours a Blessed Christmas!

Jennifer Winnewisser
Director of Campus Ministry & Spiritual Life
(805) 967-1266, ext. 123
jwinnewisser@bishopdiego.org
Winter Schedules available online -- come out and support our student athletes!

Please have your student empty their sport’s locker of all their belongings. This is a great time to get all clothing cleaned and equipment accounted for. Thank you

Go Cards

Dan Peeters
Director of Athletics
(805) 967-1266, ext. 113
dpeeters@bishopdiego.org

Upcoming Athletic Events

December 17
Boys Varsity Basketball @ Carpinteria Tourney TBA

Upcoming Bishop Events Calendar

12/16
Sunday Obligation

12/17
8:30 am - Final Exams Per. 1, 2, 3

12/18
8:30 am - Final Exams Per. 4, 5

12/19
8:30 am - Final Exams Per. 6, 7

12/20
Christmas Break
1/3
School Resumes
**NO BISHOP PLUS**

1/7
7:45 am STEAM Society Group Meeting
5:00 pm PSAT and Mock ACT Scores
6:00 pm Junior Parent College Information Night

1/12
Entrance Placement Exam

1/15
5:00 pm Admissions Information Night

1/16
3:00 pm Last day to make schedule changes

1/17
Tuition Assistance and Scholarship Applications due

1/18
CSF/NHS Application Deadline By 3:30 pm

1/21
No School

1/26
Entrance Placement Exam

1/28
Catholic Schools Week

1/29
K-12 Mass

1/30
All School Day of Service (Office Closed)