

PALMA SCHOOL

Palma School Newsletter

A monthly newsletter for the parents of Palma

DECEMBER 2023



What's Inside:

- Christmas Concert
- Letter from the President
- Letter from the Principal
- Finals Schedule
- Campus Ministry
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- 2024-25 Dress Code

Be a Leader. Be a Chieftain.



Questions, comments or suggestions: please email marketing@palmaschool.org

schedule highlights

Wednesday, Nov. 29 - Friday, Dec. 1

Mickey Linehan Memorial Basketball Tourn.

Monday, December 4

8:45a - Sixth Grade Field Trip

Wednesday, December 6

4:00-6:00p - Junior High School Open House

Friday, December 8

pr 1-3 - Mass, Immaculate Conception of Mary

Saturday, December 9

9:00a - High School Admissions Exam

Monday, December 11

5:30p - Athletic Council Meeting in CSC

Tuesday, December 12

6:30p - Christmas Concert in BDH

Thursday, Dec. 14 - Saturday, Dec. 16

Lucille & Luis Scattini Basketball Tourn.

Monday, Dec. 18 - Wednesday, Dec. 20

FINALS - Special Schedule

Thursday, December 21

NO CLASSES - Exam Correction Day

Friday, Dec. 22 - Friday, Jan. 5

NO CLASSES - Christmas Break

Monday, December 25

SCHOOL CLOSED - Merry Christmas!

Monday, January 1

SCHOOL CLOSED - Happy New Year!



Palma School Music Program Presents

'Tis the Season

A Christmas Concert for All Ages

Tuesday, December 12

6:30pm

Br. Dunne Hall

*Celebrate the season with
beautiful music from Palma's
Jazz Ensemble*

*Conducted by
Mr. Michael Blackburn*

*Free Admission
Bring the whole family!*



From the President

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My best to you
and your family
during this
holiday season.

As I write this letter, it is difficult to believe that we are on the verge of December. I hope you and your family enjoyed your Thanksgiving break with family and friends with an overall feeling of thankfulness for what we have in our lives. Spending time with my loved ones and loving the “busyness” of Palma makes this the best time of the year.

As I sit here writing, I see our basketball teams busy starting another season, wrestling in full practice mode next door to my office, soccer already having matches, while football continues its season into the Northern California playoffs after capturing another CCS title this past Friday. All good things for Palma and I am so proud of the work our boys put in.

While the upcoming weeks may bring a surge of academic responsibilities, I urge you to encourage your sons to step back, take a breath, and recognize the abundance surrounding them. Amidst the pressure of upcoming final projects and exams, let us not forget to cultivate a spirit of gratitude within our families. Our digital world, with its emphasis on self-gratification and instant gratification, can easily sway our young men away from the simple joys of life. It is our collective responsibility to instill in them the value of empathy, compassion, and a deep appreciation for the blessings they have been granted. Don't be afraid to ask them at your dinner table, “what do you appreciate and are most thankful for?” You'll be amazed at how insightful they are. Don't forget to model what is essential to you within your house, I promise the young people who live there are watching.

On November 28, we celebrated Giving Tuesday. It is a day after all of the cyber deals and leftovers have passed to ask our community, on this day of philanthropy, to help support our tuition assistance fund within our school. We have had a lot of success with the Palma community supporting this endeavor over the past three years. I endeavor to instill in our students the thankfulness and gratitude for our community for their continued support of our school. Palma annually funds over \$750,000 in tuition assistance for our students — wholly funded by the gifts of our community. I thank all of you who have contributed this past year to our school and to those who may find room for a gift to our school in the coming days.

My best to you and your family during this holiday season.

Chris Dalman '88
President



From the Principal

.....

May the
incarnation of
the Son of God
bring you peace
and rejuvenation
over the coming
vacation. Have
a blessed and
Spirit-filled
season!

Dear People of Palma,

Perhaps one of the most loved liturgical hymns appropriate to this time of year is the German folk tune "Silent Night," which often brings tears to many eyes and radiant smiles to others. As Fr. Nick Ayo, my dear friend and professor of Great Books Literature at the University of Notre Dame, posits, "Silence and night, and who would have thought that the fullness of time and the fullness of eternity were hidden in the deep silence in the middle of the night?"

God becoming flesh — the Word Incarnate — could have been a major event with fanfare and parades and a very public, fame-filled proclamation in a gilt palace of all palaces. Instead, God chooses a young teenage girl from Galilee, among the most marginalized regions of all ancient Jewish culture, and a devoted carpenter to give birth to the savior of all humanity in the most insignificant and impoverished of all places — a stable. 'Tis the season for joy and giving...but let us not forget the wonder of God's ways in all of this. It is in the silence of the night, in the humblest of all places where God is born into a world that validates the human experience as a path to the divine. And because of this we celebrate Christmas as a truly merry greeting for the season!

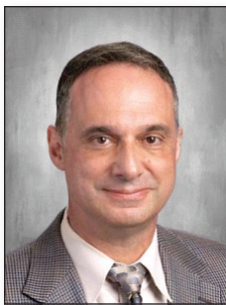
The holidays afford us opportunities to be deliberate in our celebration of Jesus as the reason for the season. Our innately human hopes for what is good, true, and beautiful are fully realized in our annual rejoicing of the incarnation of He who is *the way, the truth, and the life*: Jesus Christ. We are reminded that Christmas, Christ's Mass, *begins* after sundown on December 24, and continues long past the sales, and the parties, and mad rush to give gifts before the season really begins. Some local radio stations seem to go "all in" with round-the-clock Christmas songs the moment that Thanksgiving is over — and it's great. But why must it all stop the moment Christmas day has passed? The Church reminds us that Christmas day *BEGINS* the season of Christmas for the next several weeks into January, even.

One need not be Catholic, nor even Christian, in order to recommit oneself to this terrific pathway to joy and happiness. We welcome and cherish our students of all backgrounds, blessed abundantly with varied customs and beliefs. And we challenge all of our students to give of themselves through their knowledge, service, and leadership. The Lord Jesus wouldn't have it any other way.

I wish you a wonder-filled Christmas and a very prosperous New Year! May the incarnation of the Son of God bring you peace and rejuvenation over the coming vacation. Have a blessed and Spirit-filled season! Merry Christmas, Palma! Go *Chieftains*!

Yours in Blessed Edmund Rice,

David J. Sullivan
Principal



Office of Vice Principal

Mr. Rob Viarengo '86
x220
viarengo@palmaschool.org

Finals are here again

Semester exams are just over a month away, with finals for grades 7 through 12 beginning on Monday, December 18 (please see the note regarding grade 6 at the end of this letter). Exams are arranged by class period over three minimum days. Students are required to remain in the exam room for at least one hour but have nearly two hours to complete the exam. The final-exam grade is separate from the two quarter grades and may count for up to 20% of the semester grade depending on the level of the class. Throughout the weeks leading up to the exams, teachers will be preparing students so that they understand the weight and format of the final for their specific classes.

The schedule is as follows:

Monday, December 18	Tuesday, December 19	Wednesday, December 20
Period 1 - 8:30 to 10:20	Period 3 - 8:30 to 10:20	Period 6 - 8:30 to 10:20
Period 2 - 10:30 to 12:20	Period 4/5 - 10:30 to 12:20	Period 7 - 10:30 to 12:20

Students do not take finals during exam week in PE, Health, and art and music classes. The two AP classes meeting during zero period will take their exams during class the week before. **If a student does not have an exam during a given period on the three exam days, he is not required to be on campus at that time.** For instance, a high school student in Studio Art or Film Studies period 1 would not be expected to be here during the period 1 block on Monday; likewise a junior high student or freshman who has PE during period 7 would not need to be at Palma during the period 7 exam block on Wednesday. **Parents should review their son's schedule on FACTS to know when he will be taking his exams.** Teachers will also relay the schedule to students in class and post times on homework pages. A number of common areas will be open and supervised for those who wish to remain on campus to study when they do not have an exam.

It is extremely important that families plan for their sons to be here throughout finals week, as teachers will not be administering exams before that week to accommodate travel plans. If an unplanned absence occurs, such as due to illness, students will need to make independent arrangements with their teacher for a make-up, perhaps during the afternoon on the exam days if possible. Students unable to take finals during exam week will make them up during the first two days of the second semester when classes resume (Monday, January 8, and Tuesday, January 9).

The Cislini Study Center will be open December 18 through December 20 from 7:30 to 1:00, and a *la carte* food items will be available for purchase all three days.

Those with questions about the exam schedule are invited to contact me at viarengo@palmaschool.org.

Note to Parents/Guardians of Students in Grade 6: Sixth graders will also have minimum days ending at 12:20pm on Monday, December 18; Tuesday, December 19; and Wednesday, December 20. Please watch for emails from Ms. Langmann and Mr. Silva with details about the assessments and activities happening during those three days.



Campus Ministry

Mr. Willie Beesley '86

x300

beesley@palmaschool.org

All are welcome!

All are welcome to attend Mass on December 8th for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in the Blessed Edmund Rice Chapel. Mass will be offered 1st, 2nd and 3rd periods, 8:30-11am. *Note: there will be no 7:30am Mass on December 8th.*

Advent

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. I hope you and your family experience the joy of Christmas.

[VISIT THE CAMPUS MINISTRY WEBPAGE](#)

Merry Christmas!

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation will be offered in the Blessed Edmund Rice Chapel during the entire school day on Friday, December 15th.

Community Service Hours on X2VOL

Every high school student is required to have 60 hours of community service to graduate from Palma. Often students exceed these hours earning over 100 hours by their senior year. Hours will be entered by the student on X2VOL which can be found on Palma's website at "student outreach" under the Student Life tab.

[VISIT STUDENT OUTREACH WEBPAGE](#)

Appeal for Beans and Rice

"When I was hungry you fed me." Palma has participated in Casa de la Cultura in Pajaro in northern Monterey County, donating and serving those who are not as fortunate. This year, Sister Rosa has asked if Palma can contribute 400 bags of beans and 400 bags of rice. Ideally in 20-pound bags. We will be collecting beans and rice before school from December 11th to December 15th.

Click on the image below for more information





Chieftain Athletics

Mr. Rob Bishop

x229

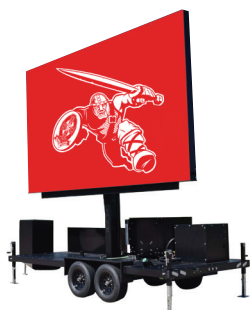
bishop@palmaschool.org

We had successful fall campaigns that included post-season action. Palma's football team earned a spot in the CIF NorCal tournament and advances to the Division 4-A Regional Championship game at Hughson. This is the 40th year in a row the Chieftains have made a football playoff appearance. Wells Lilly '25 ended his cross country season with a 19th place finish in CCS at Crystal Springs in Belmont. Wells Lilly '25 and Matthew Miranda '26 were recognized for their outstanding performances in cross country and awarded the prestigious Phidippides award. This honor is bestowed upon the MVP (Lilly) and most inspirational runner (Miranda) who exhibit exceptional talent and dedication in the sport.

We kick off the winter sports season with two well-known tournaments. The Mickey Linehan Memorial Basketball Tournament is held November 29-December 1. Honoring a Chieftain who lost his battle with leukemia when he was an eighth grader here, the Mickey Linehan is the only junior high level basketball tournament in our league. The 54th annual Lucille and Luis Scattini Basketball Tournament will be held on December 14-16. This high school varsity tournament honors Luis and Lucille, who were local farmers who dedicated their lives to many organizations, Palma School being included on their list.

Put your name up in lights

Put your company name or family message on our scoreboards. Your message will appear on the Holaday Seed Scoreboard in the gym and on the 17-foot video scoreboard during contests on our track, field and baseball stadium. Contact Mr. Bishop at bishop@palmaschool.org for more details.



Go Chieftains!



Palma School Crab Feed

Saturday, February 10th is the annual Palma School Crab Feed benefiting Palma Athletics. The event will be in the Steve Clayton Memorial Gym. More details will be coming soon.

Thank you!

Thank you to all the football, water polo, cross country and junior high athletes who participated in our fall peer-to-peer campaign to help fund Palma School athletics. We are looking forward to a successful winter campaign

Palma School Athletics App

Our athletics app contains schedules, rosters and updated scores. It is part of the "gochieftains" website. Look for the app at Apple and android app stores.

Volunteers are wanted

To host successful winter sporting events, **we need your help!** Please visit the athletics council page on our website at <https://palmaschool.org/athletics> for more information on volunteering at these events. There is something for everyone to support your Chieftain athletics programs.

For all of your daily athletic updates please follow me on twitter at [@Coach_Rbishop](https://twitter.com/Coach_Rbishop). I tweet upcoming game times for all sports each week as well as results and other fun information regarding Palma Athletics.





Guidance Department

Mrs. Irina Short

x242

short@palmaschool.org

College deadlines are coming fast!

Palma's College Fair

Palma had another successful College Fair on October 25th. More than 50 Colleges/Universities were represented in our gym. Thank you to the Parents' Club for decorating the foyer, and assembling the goodie bags for the admission counselors. Thank you to Mr. Rybkowski for all your help with the flyers and placards. Thanks to the maintenance staff for helping to set up and clean up the gym, and Mr. Giammanco for helping to decorate and clean up the gym, and a big thank you to everyone else that helped supervise the students.

PSAT results

High school students who took the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test) last October are able to access their scores online in their collegeboard account. While there have been a lot of changes at College Board, the best news is their partnership with Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org). Students are able to link their PSAT scores directly to free testing materials from Khan. Many of the recent changes to the SAT make it more similar to the ACT, and so even if a student plans on taking the ACT, the test prep materials from Khan should still prove to be very helpful.

Southern California college trip

There is a **mandatory informational Zoom meeting** for all parents and students attending the college trip on Tuesday December 5th at 6pm via Zoom. I emailed the link on November 29th and will email it again on December 4th. We will be discussing the details of the trip, including: itineraries, expectations, selecting roommates, and guidelines for the students. In addition to the above items, there will be an opportunity to ask any other questions you might have regarding the trip. Questions can be directed to Mrs. Short at short@palmaschool.org or by phone at 831-422-6391, ext. 242.

Financial aid presentation has been postponed until January 10th

The federal government has now announced that the FAFSA will not be released until December 31st. Therefore, the presentation has been postponed until after Christmas break. Palma and Notre Dame parents are invited to attend the Financial Aid Presentation on Wednesday, January 10th at 5:00pm in Brother Dunne Hall. A financial aid officer, Marisela Rubio, from Empowered Admissions will be here to explain the financial aid application process and answer questions for college-bound seniors and their families. The presentation will provide an overview of the Financial Aid programs available.



Wondering what the FAFSA is? The Free Application for Student Aid is the financial aid form required by all colleges. Come to the meeting to learn how to fill out this form. The presentation will provide an overview of the Financial Aid programs available. It will last approximately one hour. **Please create your FSA ID prior to the presentation.**

1. Create your FSA ID– Both the student and their parent need to complete this process to electronically sign the FAFSA. The California Dream Act application includes the prompts for setting up a State Student Aid PIN for electronic signatures.
2. You can go to the FAFSA link now and create your ID's: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>

continued on the next page

Guidance Department continued from the previous page

Tips for student athletes

When it comes to athletic scholarships and college sports recruiting, it is important for you to become familiar with the rules and regulations surrounding the various college associations, conferences, and divisions. Violation of the rules, even while still in high school, can result in ineligibility in your future athletic career. Your first task should be to determine which associations (NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA) your prospective colleges and universities belong to, and then carefully review those group's websites. College-bound student-athletes preparing to enroll in a Division I or Division II school need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center to ensure they have met amateurism standards and are academically prepared for college coursework. Before you can make official visits or sign a letter of intent you must be registered.

ATTENTION: Seniors

Many colleges and universities have a January 1st deadline. ***Please make sure you have requested letters of recommendations for your common app. schools and that you have met with your counselor before you go on Christmas vacation.*** Once again, your deadline is our deadline. Do not assume your

teachers and counselors will be available to write letters of recommendations during their vacation, many will be out of town. So please plan ahead.

Schedule of SAT/ACT test dates for 2024

	Test Date	Register by	Late Reg. Deadline*
ACT	Feb 10	Jan 5	Jan 19
SAT	Mar 9	Feb 23	Feb 27
ACT	Apr 13	Mar 8	Mar 22
SAT	May 4	Apr 19	Apr 23
SAT	Jun 1	May 17	May 21
ACT	Jun 8	May 3	May 17
ACT	Jul 13	Jun 7	Jun 21

* A late fee will be added after the "Register by" date.

Future dates

- Southern California College Trip Mandatory Parent/ Student Meeting — Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 6pm webinar
- Financial Aid Presentation for Senior Parents — Wednesday, January 10th at 5pm in the Br. Dunne Hall
- Southern California College Trip — Tuesday, February 13th - Saturday, February 17th

Parents' Club

PARENTS' CLUB WEB PAGE: [HTTPS://PALMASCHOOL.ORG/PARENTS-CLUB/](https://palmaschool.org/parents-club/)
EMAIL: PARENTSCLUB@PALMASCHOOL.ORG



Paint Night on November 9th

Paint Night

Palma parents enjoyed an evening of painting, wine, and refreshments at our Fall Paint Night on November 9th. Everyone's landscape turned out great!

A **St. Patrick's Luncheon** committee meeting will be held on Monday, December 4th at 8:30am in the Cislini Conference Room. We need new members to help plan our biggest fundraiser of the year. Email parentsclub@palmaschool.org to get involved!

Our next Parents' Club meeting will be held on January 22nd, at 6:00pm in the CSC. There is no meeting in December.



CHOOSE FROM: CHEESE & JALAPEÑO, CHICKEN OR PORK

TAMALES

TO HELP FUND PALMA SCHOOL'S
MISSION MEXICO AND MISSION PERU TRIPS

To order, scan the QR code or see Mr. George Garibay

Orders must
be placed by
Monday,
December 18

\$2.50
EACH

[CLICK
TO ORDER](#)

TAMALES WILL BE READY FOR PICK UP ON
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 11:00AM IN THE CAFETERIA

Palma School Lunch Menu

December 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				\$8 1 Clam chowder with bread
\$8 4 Cheese chile relleno with rice	\$8 5 BBQ tri tip sandwich with cheese, BBQ sauce, and grilled onions	\$8 6 Pork chile verde with rice, beans, salsa and cheese	\$8 7 Buffalo wings with French fries or Chef Salad	\$8 8 Chicken fry rice
\$8 11 Chicken Alfredo with bread	\$8 12 Fish and chips with tartar sauce	\$8 13 Teriyaki chicken wings with French fries or Chicken Caesar salad	\$8 14 BBQ tri tip sandwich with cheese, BBQ sauce, and grilled onions	\$8 15 Beef burrito with rice, beans, cheese and salsa
18 FINALS A la carte menu	19 FINALS A la carte menu	20 FINALS A la carte menu	21 CHRISTMAS BREAK NO CLASSES	22
25	26	27 CHRISTMAS BREAK NO CLASSES	28	29

Daily Breakfast	Daily Lunch	Beverages, Sides & Treats
Breakfast Burrito \$8 <i>egg, cheese & sausage or chorizo</i>	Hamburger \$7	Bottled Water \$1
Breakfast Sandwich \$7 <i>egg, cheese, ham, tomato on sourdough</i>	Cheeseburger \$8	La Croix \$1
French Toast \$8	French Fries \$4	Gatorade, Vitamin Water, etc. \$2
Pancakes (2) \$5	Turkey & Cheese Sandwich \$7	Chips \$2
Muffin or Pastry \$3	Ham & Cheese Sandwich \$7	Cookie \$1
Grilled Bagel \$3 <i>with cream cheese</i>	<i>All sandwiches served with lettuce, tomato and onion</i>	Muffin, Bread, Pastry \$3

We accept cash, debit/credit cards, Apple Pay and Google Pay

2024-25 Dress Code

In light of the changes coming to Palma next year, the dress code will be modified to create a more cohesive look on campus. University logo sweatshirts will be phased out and students will be wearing Palma logo apparel in white, black, red and gray. A sampling of next year's dress code options appears here. So, if you are shopping for your favorite Chieftain, Palma logo-wear will still be all the rage on campus.



Daily Campus Wear

Upper Body:

- ANY Palma logoed Polo/Outerwear available for purchase
- ANY currently owned Upper Body Palma Polo, Sweatshirt, or Jacket will be accepted
- ANY Plain Solid White Polo or Plain Solid White Oxford Shirt (purchased at any outside provider).

Lower Body:

- Traditional cut, solid color (non-faded), Black, Gray, or Khaki pants/shorts with a belt. All items can be purchased from any outside provider.
- Pants may not be worn below the natural waistline (sagging). Pants may not be ripped or torn.

Footwear:

- ANY Closed-toed, closed-back Sneaker/Casual/Dress shoe. If shoes have laces, they must be tied at all times. Visible socks are required.
- NO open toed/open back shoes, slippers, flip-flops, sandals, or Crocks