

March 2009 *Bridge*

A Message from the Principal, Mrs. Paula Massanari

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This month, all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in the reading and math portions of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). The assessments will be given to 11<sup>th</sup> graders on March 17, 18 and 19; the entire student body will be on a revised school schedule during these three dates. All 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will be dismissed to the buses at 10:30 AM. A second bus run will bring 11<sup>th</sup> grade students to the high school in time for their PSSAs, which will begin at 11:20 AM and end at 2:00 PM. Parents will receive additional, detailed information from the high school regarding this important upcoming testing event. Please feel free to contact us at 610-347-1600 if you have any questions regarding this state assessment.

The PTO recently raised two questions with me regarding SAM, and I'd like to share the following information with you:

- "Why are there zeros on the report cards?" SAM stores several fields of information regarding grades to print on report cards. Since the percentage is a numeric field, the stock report card prints a zero if there is no percentage grade and a blank for the alpha representation of the grade. Since this has caused some concerns, the district is working to implement a change in this practice.
- "Why do some of us have to login in **twice** on SAM in order to access student grades?" Some internet browsers do not allow parents to login in once in order to access SAM (this is not the case for all browsers). So, if you cannot simply enter your login and password one time to gain access to SAM information, please follow these directions to change your browser settings: 1) Go to "Tools" 2) Select "Internet Options" 3) Select "Security" 4) Click on "Trusted Sites" 5) Select "Sites" 5) either highlight or enter <http://sam.ucfsd.org>

Lastly, in an effort to hear student joys/concerns/questions, Mr. Reif, Mr. Barker, Mr. Conti-D'Antonio and I will be hosting a lunch for students on the third Wednesday of every month. We held our first "Pizza with the Principals" lunch get together with students in the end of February. Students were able to sign up ahead of time to reserve their space at the lunch; we enjoyed great conversation, delicious pizza and homemade brownies for dessert.

As winter slowly ends and we embrace the coming of spring, we will begin to have conversations here about student dress. More to come about that topic in the next *Bridge*!

