



St. Francis de Sales High School

# Sales Talk

December 2018

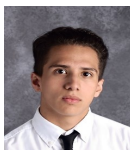
## What do you Want for Christmas?



"A new computer!" -  
Tasia Campbell



"The little pink  
alien from T-  
Mobile to come  
back."-  
Ms. Rodriguez



"A Horse  
Mask—or World  
Peace."  
Jesus Valdez ('20)



"Bryce Harper to  
sign with the  
White Sox."  
Mr. Sanchez

### IMPORTANT DATES

Final Exams	12/19-12/21
Christmas Break	12/24-01/04
Parents Club Meeting	01/17
MLK Day-No School	01/21
Feast of St. Francis	01/24

### Home B-Ball Schedule

Boys vs De La Salle	01/04
Boys vs Beacon	01/10
Boys vs DePaul Prep	01/11
Boys HOMECOM- ING vs Douglas	01/25
Girls vs St. Laurence	01/15
Girls vs Providence	01/17

## The Band's Back Together

By Daniel Reyes and  
Rosa Mendoza

The St. Francis De Sales band and choir are back in the game, most recently performing a variety of season classics at their second annual Christmas concert, followed by a special performance at Millennium Station the very next day.

The Christmas concert featured Choir members Kassandra Acavedo, Illeana Gallegos, Mia and Myana Jackson, Rosa Mendoza, Yadira Muro, Roman Perez, Paola Pichardo, Julieta Ramirez, Christopher Quilembaqui and Lyonna Robinson, performing such classics as 'The Christmas Song', 'O Come All Ye Faithful', 'Do You Hear What I Hear?', and 'The First Noel', a sentimental play on 'The First Noel.

Also, the Spanish speaking members of the choir performed a number of songs as

well, including La Guadalupe.

In addition, Ms. Bluhm performed 'Hardrock Coco and Joe', and Mr. Pniewski gave an acapella rendition of 'God rest ye merry gentlemen'.

"I thought it was very good. It showed the wide variety of talents of our students and faculty. I'm really excited about the Spanish choir as well," Ms. Bluhm said.

The next day the Choir and Band joined forces and took a trip to perform at Millennium Station, downtown. The trip, sponsored by The Big Shoulders Fund, featured a number of the student performers from the night before, and also included Freshman, Jaylen Kent.

Many commuters stopped by to listen as the choir performed a number of songs, including "Los Peces en el

Río," and "Las Posadas."



Ms. Bluhm stated, "The performance went well and a person from the archdiocese invited the choir to be on the archdiocese radio station and perform at the technical facilities".

After the performance, the students were treated to hot chocolate from Starbucks that was provided by the representatives from The Big Shoulders Fund. After everyone had finished their warm drinks, the performers took a walk down to Millennium Park to take a picture with the illuminated Christmas tree.

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# Taste of the East Side: Taquerias

**By Roman Perez, Daniel Reyes and Paola Serrano**

Anybody familiar with the East Side of Chicago, knows it offers a number of options for great Mexican food, and in particular, Tacos! In an attempt to make choosing the best option easier for our readers, we chose three of the most popular: La Cienega, Tres Amigos, and Tacos Castillo, to try and compare, with an ultimate goal of answering the all important question: "What is the best taco on the East Side?"

## **Daniel's Take**



**Tacos Castillo-** A newcomer to the East Side, Tacos Castillo has been on the corner of 102nd and Ewing for no more than a year now and has already established itself as a nice outdoor stand capable of surviving the harsh Chicago weather. With this establishment not being up too long, I had not had the chance to try their food till the day of the tasting. As for the overall presentation of the tacos, they came with a good helping of onion, cilantro and tomatoes on top, the onion and tomatoes diced small and the cilantro small enough to not overwhelm the rest of the flavors in the meat. The size of the taco was your typical size as to not overfill the tortilla and cause everything to spill out. As flavor stands, the meat was a bit lacking in flavor and certain pieces proved chewier while other seemed tougher. Moving onto the salsa, they gave a cup of salsa rojo and salsa verde. Both sauces having a nice kick with a decent amount of flavor giving the taco a good flavor enhancement. The overall flavor of the taco was mediocre, but I'd most definitely find myself going back when in a pinch.

**Tres Amigos-** An old name to people from the South East Side, the original Tres Amigos claims it home in South Chicago on 104th



Above: Steak Tacos from Tres Amigos

and Mackinaw, just over the bridge. However, they've expanded their roots onto the East side placing themselves on 106th between

Mackinaw and Green Bay. I'll start with the size of these tacos as they were stuffed to the brim. However, the meat was dry, the presentation messy, and lastly, they had messed up the order. What had saved them was the taste of their salsa verde and salsa rojo. The perfect combination of spice to flavor ratio, leaving the flavor and spice resting on your tongue nicely after each bite. The overall flavor was not the greatest leaving these tacos last on my list.

**La Cienega-** One of the most known restaurants and grocery

stores on the East Side, La Cienega sets up stand on 107th and Ewing and has a place in the heart of people from Whiting and the South-East Side. The tacos were packed nicely with onions and cilantro on top and a good enough size so not everything was falling out all over the place. The taste was evenly balanced with the meat being perfectly seasoned and the cilantro not too overwhelming. The meat was the perfect texture, not too tough, not too chewy, with a slight char on pieces to give that smokey flavor. The only complaint was with the salsa, although having a nice flavor, it was watered down quite a bit. Despite the salsa, it was without a doubt that La Cienega was at the top of my list for the best tacos on the East Side.

## **WINNER: La Cienega**

## **Paola's Take**

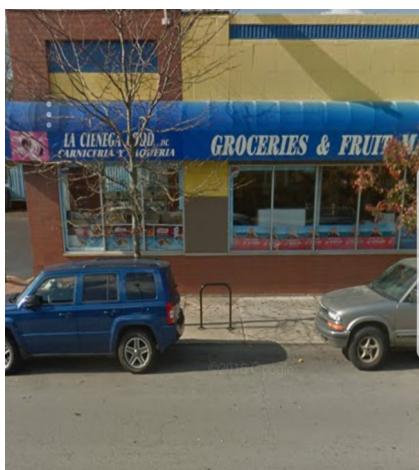


**La Cienega-** The first taco I tasted was a taco from La Cienega. The first thing I look at from a taco place is the salsa. Unfortunately, both salsas here was quite watery but the taste was okay, nothing special. However, the tacos themselves were my favorite. That tortilla was strong enough to hold the contents of the taco without ripping and leaving a mess. The taco wasn't the biggest taco but it was a decent size and it was well put together. The thing that stood out to me about this taco was the meat. The meat was soft but also had a nice charred crisp that filled the taco with great flavor.

**Los Tres Amigos-** The next place to try was from Los Tre Amigos. The

first thing you notice when you open up your order is the size of the tacos. They are quite bigger than your average taco, but lack of taste can't be made up for in size. The taco was very dry, no unique taste, and the tortilla ripped almost instantly even without there being any salsa on it. Both the salsa roja (red) and salsa verde (green) was slightly above average and held a thicker consistency. The only problem I had with the salsa was the size. This restaurant serves relatively large tacos but only gave tiny containers of salsa.

**Tacos Castillo-** The last taco I tasted a taco from the little taco stand



Above: La Cienega

down the street from the school. Let's start with the salsa. The salsa roja was terrible. The consistency

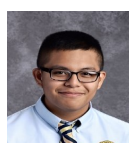
held up, not too thick and not too watery, but the taste was not good. On the contrary, the salsa verde was just perfect. There was a delicious taste

that had a strong kick

to it but not too spicy to overpower the whole taco. The meat was well

made, soft, juicy, and a great taste. The size was a moderate size that will do a good job of filling you up and a well put together presentation that didn't skimp on toppings.

## WINNER: La Cienega



### Roman's Take

**La Cienega** -La Cienega tacos has a great presentation, not too stuffed or too empty. The size is quite alright, but of course that depends on the person. However, who doesn't like a big taco? The taste was amazing, the taco meat was not too chewy or hard, and the taco wasn't dry. The red sauce was alright, but it was too watery. Overall, La Cienega was #1 because



Above: Tacos Castillo

their taco was bomb.

**Tacos Castillo** -Their Horchata is not good. Their taco, however, is. The taco also had a good presentation of itself, and the size was mod

erate. The taste was also there, but that taco meat was rather chewy and not as taco meat should be. The red sauce was alright, a good combo of sauce. Overall, Tacos Castillo was #2.

**Los Tres Amigos-** Los Tres Amigos tacos were promoted by other students before I got to taste them, and I



Above: La Cienega Tacos

was highly disappointed. The taco was dry! The taco meat was rubber! It was bad. Eatable, yes, but not preferable. The size, however, was big, but it was not worth it. The sauce was decent.

Overall, Los Tres Amigos was #3, but if possible I'd give it #4 out of 3.

## WINNER: La Cienega



# Senior Spotlight

By Rashed  
Marshall



In the coming issues I will be spotlighting and interviewing select members of the Class of 2019. For this issue, I spoke with Ileana Gallegos and Allan Amaya.

## Ileana Gallegos



### Grammar School?

George Rogers Clark and Sacred Heart

**What's your favorite hobbies?** Singing, going to church, sports, and watching YouTube.

**What's are your favorite sports?**

Soccer and volleyball.

**Do you have any fears?**

Heights and crashing.

**What's your favorite food?**

Pozole!

**Where do you plan on attending college?**

The University of Chicago

**What are your goals in life?**

Go to college, travel, and become a renowned psychiatrist.

**Advice for Underclassmen?**

Don't wait until it's too late to do your best.

**What is your favorite memory at SFDS?**

Winning volleyball regionals as a captain.

**Favorite Quote**

"I got this!"

## Allan Amaya



**What are your favorite hobbies and sports?**

Fishing and Boxing.

**Do you have any fears?**

Drowning

**What are your goals in life?**

To be a U.S Marine.

**Advice for the underclassmen?**

"The harder you work for what you want, the more you will be able to appreciate it.

And remember, High school has it ups and downs. When it's good, enjoy it. When it's bad, just remember the reason you're there and the goals you want to accomplish. This is just another obstacle to get to your goals, so don't let it hold you down."

**What is your favorite memory at SFDS?**

Going to prom as a junior at Navy Pier.

**What is your favorite quote?**

"Everything must be earned, nothing is given."

# Get to Know Our Freshmen

By Roman  
Perez

## Freshmen Interviews:



Each edition of Sales Talk will feature interviews with two freshmen students. For this edition I spoke with Regina Serrano and Jalen Kent.

They are two very interesting people who bring unique qualities to St. Francis. Read on to learn more about them!

### Regina Serrano



Regina is very familiar with the East Side, born and raised. One of her favorite things about the East Side is she has her family living with her. Regina graduated from Annunciata elementary, and she has played volleyball and soccer for many years. Regina has many favorites in the city, as well as in the neighborhood. She also loves animals, having 2 dogs for pets. She's also a hard worker, helping her dad sell tacos for business.

In Chicago, she loves the stores and the Bean, downtown in general. In the neighborhood, Regina enjoys Route 66 Pizza,

Tacos Castillos, and La Michioacana. She also likes the people at St. Francis, who have welcomed her in all aspects including sports. Lastly, for future reference, her

### Interesting facts about Regina:

**Favorite Food?:** Pozole, Pizza, Tamales, Enchiladas Verdes

**Favorite holiday?:** Christmas

**Favorite subject in school?:** Spanish, English, Algebra

**Favorite color?:** Rainbow

**iPhone or Android?:** iPhone

**Favorite musical artist?:** Banda MS

### Jalen Kent

Jalen is relatively new to the East Side, only being here for around 2 years. Jalen graduated from Calvary Academy in South Holland, which is also where he previously lived. Jalen draws and



listens to music in his free time. Jalen likes that St. Francis is close to his home, then he doesn't have to make a long commute each morning or afternoon. He feels like the city of Chicago needs improvement, but he's fine with it thus far. His birthday is August 19, so also save the date for next year.

### Interesting facts about Jalen:

**Favorite Food?:** Mac and Cheese

**Favorite holiday?:** Thanksgiving

**Favorite subject in school?:** Biology

**Favorite color?:** Black and Red

**iPhone or Android?:** iPhone

**Favorite Sport?:** Basketball

## K3 On The Horizon

By Paola Serrano



Afternoon announcements tend to be swallowed up by the chattering of students anxious to hear that last bell. However, there's one that is heard almost everyday, "Don't forget to grab your Kairos forms from Mr. Warner in room 103 and remember that Kairos is a graduation requirement".

Kairos is slathered in a light of mystery and this leaves many students reluctant or unwilling to give the retreat a chance. In order to show that Kairos is nothing to be skittish about, Mr Warner has answered some of the most common questions students have about the retreat. "I'm the sole full time theology teacher, whose responsibilities also include all things campus ministry. There are a lot of different minds contributing to the vision, and a lot of different hands contributing to the work, but when something new needs to be done, that falls to me" Mr Warner modestly says as he explains how his qualifications landed him to be the head leader of the retreat. It was when Mr Kimec brought up the idea of Kairos that Mr Warner got to work on putting the retreat together. Kairos is not a retreat that St. Francis merely threw together just to add another graduation requirement. Kairos

has actually been around in many high schools for many years and according to Mr Warner, has never been ineffective in achieving its goal.



*"The goal is to be more honest with ourselves as well as others"*

What exactly is the goal of Kairos? "The goal is to be more honest with ourselves as well as others" he said. He also hopes that after their experience, students will incorporate what they've learn into their everyday lives.

The retreat is a fairly new concept to St Francis being that the first St Francis Kairos was held only two years ago. The location of where the retreat is held is one of Kairos' many secrets. " It's at a retreat house, one that's super-nice, but I don't want to say more. The

element of surprise is important on Kairos. When people ask about it, we say 'Participate, don't anticipate'. The one thing students will know is that the retreat takes place over the course of four school days. Another thing that Mr Warner wants students to know is he's never known anyone, even people who went with initial hesitations, to regret having gone on



the retreat in the end. He also asks for students to leave technology at home. When you're listening to someone speak, we'd invite you just to listen, without distractions. The only things you will need are your thoughts, your pen, and your journal. The simple living helps us to focus on the things being presented.



# Photography Club

## Black and White Submissions



**Paola Serrano**



**Daniel Reyes**



**Katelyn Jiminez**



**Alisha Mitchum**



**Evie Trudeau**

# A Familiar Face Takes Over as AD

By Illeana Gallegos

As the start of the new school year has already taken off, our athletic department has been quite busy under new direction. Mrs. Arlene Ramos has taken charge as the Athletic Dean for the 2018-2019 school year.



Mrs. Ramos has worked as a secretary and head of the girls varsity volleyball program for the past few years and was awarded the director position this year.

I was able to interview Mrs. Ramos and get to know a little more about her and

her position in the school. The first question that I asked her was why she accepted the position as an AD in our school. Her response was, "I felt like it was fitting for me. I was a previous SFDS athlete that won the small school 2A championship and won volleyball regionals three consecutive times as head coach of the

*"I felt like it was fitting for me."*

varsity team. For I felt the need to move on from coaching and stay involved with students and athletes." Many of you may already know who Mrs. Ramos is but what you don't know is what her job consists of. "As the Athletic Director I manage the schedule for every sport, transportation, student athletes, meetings and much more."

I also asked her what her favorite memory was thus far in the year and she responded with, "Giving the regional girls volleyball plaque to the varsity coach". This was a special moment for the athletic department at SFDS.



As the director Mrs. Ramos plans to recruit more players and enhance every sport that we have to offer.

## Goodbye to a Legend

Mr. Anderson was named Mr. Basketball in the state of Illinois in 1988 and was also named to the McDonald's All-American Team. He led de Sales to a 2nd place finish downstate that season, the best finish for a boy's basketball team in school history.

He went on to play for Bobby Knight and the Hoosiers before being selected in the NBA draft and playing for the New York Knicks. While at Indiana University, he was named the Big 10 Freshman of the Year in 1989, was a 1991 All Big Ten selection, and was the 1992 West Regional Most Valuable Player. He finished his college career with 1,715 points and 825 rebounds. His athletic ability was surpassed only by his character. Those here at school who knew him still speak of him, the

person he was, and the lasting impression his accomplishments left on our community. Our condolences go out to his family, classmates, teammates, friends, and all those who knew and loved him.

Eternal Rest, Grant Unto Him, O Lord, And Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him; May He Rest In Peace.

May His Soul, And The Souls Of All The Faithful Departed, Through The Mercy Of God, Rest In Peace. Amen.

