

FEBRUARY 2012

OUR LADY OF MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

# MERCY PARENT NEWSLETTER

## LETTER FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Mercy Community,

So far, this is the winter that wasn't. I have had fewer sleepless nights worried about whether or not we needed to close school. According to the groundhog we still have 5 more weeks of winter.

We began this semester welcoming 7 new students to Mercy. We have 5 new students from China, 1 student from South Korea and a new 8<sup>th</sup> grade student joining us from a local district. We are excited to continue to expand our foreign exchange program. We now have 34 students who were foreign born. Many new families have taken the opportunity to host these new students.

In March we will start the Spring sport season on newly renovated athletic fields. The turf field will allow lacrosse practice to begin on time without worrying about the field being too wet. The softball field has had a wonderful makeover. There is a new permanent fence surrounding the field as well as completed dugouts, batting cage area, and a new scoreboard. The track surface will go in as soon as the weather permits.

The winter sports teams are closing in on sectional competition. The four performances of the musical *The Secret Garden* were wonderful. The girls in the DECA club are preparing for the New York State competition, lacrosse sticks are finding their way to school on a regular basis, and Winter Formal is the first Saturday in March. All lead us to a very fast finish to the school year.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can contact me via my email [tquinn@mercyhs.com](mailto:tquinn@mercyhs.com) or phone at 585-288-7120 x303.

May God bless you,

Terry Quinn



## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE...

Our daylight hours are increasing and spring will be here before we know it. Second semester is in full swing. Let me take this opportunity to give a few reminders about Our Lady of Mercy's uniform policy.

Early in the year, we replaced the published uniform code in our handbook with a more updated version due to changes that were made after the handbook went to press. At that time, we included a timeline for boots, added Lands' End as an additional venue from which to purchase uniform slacks, and changed the layout of the written policy. That version is located on our website in the Parents' section under "Bookstore."

Remember that skin tight clothing and midriff tops are never permitted, including dress down days. Yoga pants are the biggest offenders in this category. Some of the newer styled jeans are also a challenge. Note that we have permitted your daughters to wear their slacks tucked into their boots if they choose although our policy states otherwise. We will officially change this for next year.

Thank you to the many families that have complied with the new uniform changes this year. However, there are still a number of girls who are wearing old, faded, and frayed slacks from previous years. I remind teachers regularly to issue these students a referral which will generate a detention from me. It's slow, but we're working on it. I thank you for your understanding.

A closing word about safety ...if you are going to be out of town during the school year and place your daughter in someone else's care in your absence, we need that information in writing. We will not dismiss your daughter with anyone without your permission.

As always, thank you for entrusting your daughters to our care.

JoAnn Wawrzaszek

### INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF JUNIORS

#### JUNIOR RING CEREMONY

Friday, May 18th, 9am in the Mercy Auditorium

Parents are welcome!

A reception will be held in the Gallery following the ceremony.

#### JUNIOR PROM

Friday, May 18th, 6pm-11pm\*

Rochester Club Ballroom, 120 East Avenue

Price of tickets still to be determined.

## WATER DAY

If you had the occasion to be in the middle school building on January 26<sup>th</sup>, you may have noticed our seventh graders walking around the grounds carrying water jugs, participating in a water prayer, listening to one of our eleventh graders talk about her experience as a child in the Sudan, testing water from a variety of sources, conducting a water taste test, or participating in a book discussion on *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park.

On Thursday January 26, Mercy's seventh graders enjoyed Mercy's very first Water Day. The idea and plan for this day were created by Mercy's Critical Concerns Committee or MCCC for short, formed as a result of one of our strategic plan's recommendations. The charge of the MCCC is to educate and inform the Mercy school community about the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy. These critical concerns are the environment, women and children in poverty, non-violence, racism, and immigration. We decided to assign one critical concern per grade level for grades 7 – 11 so that when students reach their senior year, they would be informed about the critical concerns and thereby better prepared to design and execute their senior exit project – or MOTTO.

In order to execute our charge well and in a timely fashion, we determined it would be best to begin small. We decided to design a plan for two grade levels this year; assigning the environment to grade 7 and non-violence to grade 9. We will work on the remaining grade levels next year. Knowing that we had to narrow down our plan even further, we chose the issue of water (in the environment) for the seventh grade project and planned an entire day around it.

The day began and ended with prayer with water themes. The remainder of the day focused on several issues about our water. Students had the opportunity to listen to our own Sandra Uwiringiyimana, an eleventh grader from Africa speak about her own experience of walking to get water and carrying it home on her head. Seventh graders participated in a taste test of four different water samples; the results revealed that they prefer Brita filtered tap water to purchased bottled water. They later tested water from different sources and discovered that Rochester tap water is perfectly safe and healthy to drink. They played games to educate them about our water use and that of a family in a country without such easy access to clean drinking water. A board member from the Water for South Sudan shared information about the water crisis in South Sudan and their work to improve access to clean drinking water and education through the building of wells. The students even lugged around jugs of water to simulate the disproportionate availability of water in various parts of our world.

Water Day proved a positive experience for everyone involved: students, teachers, committee members, and guests. The girls were engaged, focused, and happy to have the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas with others. Speaking personally, it was a beautiful way to end the week. I had forgotten what it was like to actually be in a seventh grade classroom. I was responsible for the closing activity, a guided meditation, and the students were totally engaged, even after a long day filled with one activity after another. They were model students. A great close to their first semester at Mercy!

JoAnn Wawrzaszek, Assistant Principal

## WHERE'S WINTER IN WUNDERLAND?

The Middle School enjoyed “Enrichment Days” to celebrate the end of the first semester. The favorite activities were ice skating at Genesee Valley Sports Arena and snow tubing at Glacier Ridge. Many thanks to all of the teachers and administrators who gave of their time and demonstrated their talents to offer sessions in: Architecture, Improvisation/Theater, Throwing, Photo-shop, Jewelry Making, Yoga and Science Fun to name a few. I would like to give a special thank you to the Mercy Critical Concerns Committee for planning and overseeing the Seventh Grade “Water Day” on Thursday. The information shared and experienced were life lessons that the students will hopefully incorporate into their daily routine.

“SOUP-er Bowl” - The Giants’ box ended up being the most full as students placed their soup cans in the box labeled with their favorite team. The real winners, however, were the families that were the recipients of the over 60 cans of soup that were donated to a local food cupboard. Students had an opportunity to dress in either a football jersey or cheerleading uniform to celebrate.

Before February Break the students bought raffle tickets to try to win a spot teaching their favorite class during the “Teacher/Student Swap Day.” The student winning that privilege will meet with the teacher to work up a lesson plan to use on February 17<sup>th</sup> while the teacher enjoys being a student for the day.

Middle School students will gather next month in the Media Center for their second “PJ Movie Night”. The girls come dressed in their pajamas, bring blankets, pillows and stuffed animals. They will enjoy popcorn and pizza while watching “Mall Cop.”

February’s Character Trait is “Responsibility.” The examples of this trait are: completing homework daily, coming to class prepared, using time management skills and demonstrates leadership. The winners are: **Kaitlin Lisena** (8<sup>th</sup> grade) and **Megan Green** (7<sup>th</sup> grade). Each will be recognized in a MS assembly at the end of the month, where they will be given a certificate and their picture will then be placed on the “Character Trait Tree.”

The MS Dance originally scheduled for Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, has been re-scheduled for Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> in the MS Gym from 7:30-9:30 p.m.. The cost is \$5.00.

Please check the MS Wikispace for updated information and MS events.

Nancy Wunder  
Mercy Middle School Director



# THE FACES OF MERCY MIDDLE SCHOOL



## SERVICE IMMERSION PROJECT

Students from Mercy and McQuaid spent the weekend living in a community with the Sisters of St. Joseph, working, praying and having fun. The group helped out at Mary's Place and Bethany House, and spent time together discussing Catholic social teaching and reflecting on their experiences. Mercy students included **Julia D'Agostino, Emma Gordon, Carolyn Huff, Autumn Hunter, Therese Marchand and Kelly Smith.**

## FEBRUARY NEWS IN SPORTS

### WINTER SECTIONALS AROUND THE CORNER

Here is a brief recap of our winter sports program highlights, in no particular order.

**Basketball:** The Varsity team has remained solid amidst its January homestand. They have earned a respectable record of 10 wins and 6 losses with two very formidable opponents ahead in Sutherland and Bishop Kearney before Sectional seedings are established. JV Basketball has the same two games remaining on their schedule and hold an 11-5 record. Freshman Basketball completed its season on February 9 and finished at 9-3.

**Indoor Track:** Runners and field participants alike have enjoyed a successful indoor meet season. **Sarah Bronk** and **Kiera Carter** have finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place consistently at Pole Vault and Shot Put respectively. **Maggie Pryslak** has rebounded from injury to boost the team. **Emem Ikpot** won the 45-meter dash and **Sarah Lozy-Lester** won the 1500-meter run at the January 28 meet at NY Chiropractic College. The relay teams (4x 200, 400, and 800) have performed magnificently throughout the season. The Monarchs are well-prepared to defend the Class B Indoor title on Sat. 2/18 @ RIT at 9am.

**Bowling:** The Mercy bowlers finished second in the regular season this year, behind Kearney and ahead of Aquinas, an overall great showing based upon their relatively young team. High games were scored by **Therese Marchand** (174), **Claire Delaney** (176), and **Marisa Meisenzahl** (178). High series were notched by **Julie Kremer** (304) and **Marisa** (312). The Monarchs will participate in the City/Catholic tournament on Tuesday 2/14 at Clover Lanes. Sectionals are scheduled for Friday 2/17 at Gates Bowl.

**Alpine Skiing:** The skiers have done a terrific job at every race this season, both in Slalom and Giant Slalom. The team finished in first place overall for the League. **Ingrid Donnan** finished atop the league's individual varsity standings, while **Ashley Rogers** finished atop the individual JV standings. The Girls Section V Championship takes place Sunday, February 12 @ Swain. Our Section V team consists of **Ingrid Donnan**, **Ellie Moran**, **Megan Curley**, **Maggie Ciaccio**, **Rachel Becker**, and **Jesse Bennett**.

**Cheerleading:** JV Cheer participated in three events this Winter season. They earned first or second place finishes competing in Dansville, at Bishop Kearney and in the Empire Cheer Championship. They have supported our basketball teams throughout the course of the season as well.

**Signings:** Congratulations to **Kori Thorne** who has accepted a full scholarship to play Division I Soccer and pursue Biology/Pre-Med at Niagara University; and to **Sara Quinn** who has chosen to pursue Division I Golf at Fairfield University and to study marketing.

**GO MONARCHS!**

## FEBRUARY NEWS IN SPORTS (cont'd.)

**SPRING SPORTS UPDATE:** Varsity and JV tryouts begin March 5 for softball and lacrosse; March 12 for Track; Modified lacrosse and softball begin on March 19. All athletes, **NO EXCEPTIONS**, must turn in a new permission/recertification slip to the Nurse by February 28, and have an up-to-date physical and immunization record on file. Athletes will not be permitted to tryout and/or practice without clearance from the health office.

A complete listing of winter and spring sports schedules is available on the Athletics page of the school website... [www.mercyhs.com/athletics](http://www.mercyhs.com/athletics)

Remember Mercy Athletics has a "Wiki." For daily and weekly game/match schedules at a glance go to <http://mercyathletics@wikispaces.com> or click on the link of Wikispaces on the Mercy home page for "Mercy Athletics."

Dr. Nick Schlierf, Athletic Director

## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

### Water for South Sudan

During Enrichment Week, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders listened to Carol Snook from Water for South Sudan as part of their "Water Day." Water for South Sudan is loaning a display of photographs of the areas of South Sudan affected by the lack of clean water. The photos will be on display in the Library Media Center until February 17<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the speaker, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders read *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park and did activities that tied into the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concern for the Environment.

### Student Teacher

Pamela Bigsby, a library student from University at Buffalo, is doing her student teaching placement in the Library Media Center. Mrs. Bigsby has been working with Mrs. Rouleau, Ms. McCormack, Mrs. Zumchak and Mrs. Holowka on a 7<sup>th</sup> grade cross-curricular unit about the American Revolution. She has also done book talks to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and will be working with 10<sup>th</sup> grade Honors students on their research projects.

### Book Club

Book Club for high school meets during 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> lunches on Thursday. Students are welcome to bring their lunches up to the library media center and join us!

Kim Rouleau, Library/Media Specialist



## DATES TO REMEMBER

February 16	Guided Meditation NHS Dress Down
February 17	MS Teacher/Student Swap Day MS Character Counts HR Assembly
February 20-24	Presidents' Week—No School
February 27	Spring Sports Health Forms Due
February 29	Communion Service Mission Month Kick Off Assembly
March 1	Guided Meditation Spanish & French Clubs Dress Down 6:30pm Spring Financial Aid Night 7pm Parents' Association Meeting
March 2	Praise & Worship
March 3-4	Mercy Crew Garage Sale
March 3	Winter Formal
March 5	Spring Sports Begin 7pm Performing Arts Boosters Meeting
March 7-9	NYS DECA Competition
March 7	Communion Service
March 8	Guided Meditation
March 9-11	Youth & Government State Conference
March 9	Praise & Worship
March 11	1-4pm National College Fair

## FINANCIAL AID UPDATE

TADS has opened up the 2012-13 school year for tuition aid applications. The deadline for these applications is March 15th, but if you want to get it in early, please log on to [tuitionaid.com](http://tuitionaid.com), using Code 32069.