

Currents



The Curriculum Newsletter of St. Mary's High School • Vol. 14, Issue 7 • March 2006

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Have no fear; March is here!

"The more that you read,
The more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
The more places you'll go."

I Can Read with My Eyes Shut
by Dr. Seuss

March is upon us and
spring is drawing near.
Four months is all that is left
in this fast-paced school year.

Don't stop working hard now -
there is yet more work to be
done.

So much still to learn
in fact, it's really a ton!

Keep up with your studies
and the extra curricular too.
There is still time to get involved
in something that is new!

Speaking of what is extra,
Wait until you see!



Our musical department
Is being all that it can be.

What an exciting time this is
as our students and staff pre-
pare,
for another wonderful produc-
tion
there is little time to spare.

We all know of Dr. Seuss,
he has made all of us smile.

His books helped us learn to
read,
we read them by the pile.

Looking forward to *Seussical
the Musical*
Beginning on March the 23rd.
It's going to be fantastic!
(At least that's what I heard!)

So come to see Horton and
friends
It's sure to be lots of fun.
And certainly most unforget-
table
By the time that it is done!

I guess that's it;
I guess that's all.
Signed,

Rebecca Baker

Assistant Principal

Congratulations, Honor Roll Students

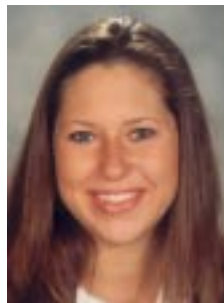
Top students in each grade

St. Mary's High School recently an-
nounced the students who have achieved
first and second honors roll for the second
quarter of the 2005-2006 school year:

Senior First Honors

Melissa Bochenski
Leigh Bohlen
Lisa Boneberg
Nathan Casillo
Sarah Chudyk
Joseph Cianciosa
Erin Cichocki
Philip Corigliano
Alice Cunningham
Brittany Downey
Cristina Fudoli
Kelly Geary
Elizabeth Greene
Andrew Hinton
Lynn Holtz
Katherine Kawa
Jennifer Kuczanski

Eric Kufel
Caitlin Mahaney
John McGowan
Timothy Miller
Judith Moore
Joseph Odrobina
Sarah Odrobina
Laura Pasek
Laura Pawlikowski
Kylie Punturiero
Michelle Rosenberg
Clare Schaub
Gregory Sieminski
Alison Slagor
Lindsay Smith
John Stich
Stephanie Szwajda
(Continued on page 3)



Senior
Elizabeth Greene



Junior
Valentin Bettrich



Sophomore
Joshua Robinson



Freshman
Jessica Runk

Monday, Feb. 27, is an A-Day

Students should be aware that when
they return to school on Monday, Feb.
27, it will be an **A-Day**, not a B-Day as
it was listed in the February *Currents*.

The reason for the change was the
"Snow Day" on Friday, Feb. 17.
We hope that this does not cause
any confusion.

Character trait of the Month: *Citizenship*

We all know that being a good citizen involves obeying laws. But what else does it involve? We enjoy many rights as citizens of the United States, including freedom of religion and freedom of speech. But how often do we think about our responsibilities as American citizens? What do we need to do to earn those rights and maintain our freedom? "Citizenship includes civic virtues and duties that prescribe how we ought to behave as part of the community." (from "Making Ethical Decisions." *Character Counts! Website*

www.charactercounts.org – a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.)

This month, the Administration will be sponsoring a contest to see what our students feel is important about citizenship. We would like students to submit their entries for the "TOP 10 RESPONSIBILITIES OF EVERY AMERICAN CITIZEN." Each student may enter once. Be sure to include your name and homeroom number. Entries must be turned into the Main Office by March 17. Winners will be published in next month's *Currents*.

Producer / director Gerard Straub to speak at St. Mary's

By Mr. Greg Coogan
Campus Minister

Producer and Film Director Gerard Straub, SFO, will help focus on the school's Lenten theme of *When the Faces Have Names* on Tuesday, March 7, at an afternoon assembly.

Mr. Straub was a Hollywood director and producer whose conversion experience is documented in his book, *The Sun and Moon over Assisi*. Not long after that, Mr. Straub founded the San Damiano Foundation to produce films for and about charitable organizations that serve the poor.

For example, his film about lepers and the poor in Brazil helped to raise money for Amazon Relief. His film, *We Have a Table of Four Ready*, is a transforming film about the work of the Franciscans working with the

poorest of the poor at the St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia. All too often the poor seem so far away from us.

We all know that poverty exists, that countless people live in unimaginably horrible conditions. Mr. Straub will share his work and life taking Franciscan and Catholic Social teaching and making it come alive for



Gerard Straub (www.pbs.com)

young people. His films – part documentary and part spiritual reflection – are designed to be challenging, to make people think, and to reflect on their own lives.

"I want you to see Jesus in the distressing disguise of the poor,"

Straub says.

You can be sure the focus of his presentation will remind us that God is at home among the poor and that his ability to tell a story, to make the poor real people, will shine through.

Keep those lockers locked!

Just a reminder that school policy states that all students must keep their lockers locked at all times. Only a lock purchased from the school is allowed.

Please talk to your son/daughter about the importance of keeping their locker LOCKED at all times.

If they need to purchase a new lock, they may do so by stopping in and seeing Ms. Baker or Mrs. Fiume.

From the Health Office Sports / Working Papers Physicals

Anyone playing sports must have a current physical on file in the Health Office. All freshmen, sophomores, and juniors who have played a sport will be scheduled for a physical with the school physician on either April 27 or April 28.

Any student who did not play a sport this year but is interested in playing a sport next school year must sign up for a physical with Mrs. Murphy in order to have a physical. Anyone interested in getting a physical for working papers must also see the nurse.

If you have any questions, please call the school nurse, Mrs. Murphy, at 683-4824, ext. 20.

Freshman to attend Language Field Trip

The entire freshman class will attend a live performance of the Ballet Folklórico de México at Kleinhans Music Hall on March 23. The trip is being sponsored by the Foreign Language Department.

This is a wonderful cultural opportunity for the students. The program consists of music and dance and is interactive. The audience is encouraged to join in the music and some will be invited to go on stage.

Students and chaperones will leave St. Mary's at 9 a.m. The scheduled return is 12:15 p.m., at which time the students will receive their lunch.

Recruitment News

Admissions Exam

Due to increased demand, St. Mary's is offering another opportunity to take the Admissions Exam. It will be held at SMH on Friday, March 10, at 11:30 a.m.

If you know any 8th graders that would like to take the test, please contact Brendan McDaniels in the Recruiting office at 683-4824 ext 37 or bmcDaniels@smhlancers.org.

Practice Exam

Attention parents of 7th graders:

Once again, St. Mary's is proud to offer a Practice Admissions Exam on Saturday, March 18, at 9 a.m. This exam is for seventh graders who plan to take the Admissions Exam in November.

Please contact Brendan McDaniels in the Recruiting office at 683-4824 ext 37 or bmcDaniels@smhlancers.org to sign up.

Currents

Published 12 times a year by
St. Mary's High School
142 Laverack Ave.
Lancaster, New York 14086
(716) 683-4824
www.smhlancers.org
Editor – Keith Kidder

Vol. 14, Issue 7

St. Mary's High School Tuition Policy

Adopted by the Board of Trustees

- Registration fee – Due upon registration.
- Academic fees – Due in June one time payment or may be spread over the twelve-month tuition billing cycle.
- Tuition is billed over a twelve-month period beginning in June and ending in May. Payments are mailed the first week of the month and are due by the 25th. As an option to the twelve monthly payments, one payment can be made with a 3% discount when paid by June 25th, 2006. VISA/MasterCard payments are accepted.
- If a tuition account becomes two or more months in arrears, the student will be asked to withdraw from school until the amount in arrears has been brought to current status or a written payment agreement is worked out between the parent and the tuition office. Payment agreements will be approved only in those instances where genuine need is evident and where income will definitely be available at a known time later in the school year to meet the tuition obligation. Failure to adhere to the terms of the written agreement will result in the immediate dismissal of the student.
- Report cards will not be distributed to parents or students where two or more months of tuition are due.
- No student will be able to enter school in September if there is a balance due from the prior year unless a payment agreement is signed which outlines a payment plan to bring the account to current status.
- No transcripts will be released, with or without a payment agreement, until tuition and fees are brought to current status. This includes transcripts to colleges, other high schools, the military, or any other requestors. For seniors, our inability to release transcripts will jeopardize their ability to secure a scholarship and/or admission to the college of his/her choice.
- Seniors who have not paid tuition and fees in full by May 15th will not receive a diploma and will not be able to participate in any school activities including graduation and the prom.
- A 2% late charge will be added monthly to any unpaid balance due. If it should become necessary to turn a tuition account over to a collection agency, any and all costs associated with doing so will be added to the amount owed.
- When a student leaves, tuition and assistance will be prorated for each month of enrollment and a refund made of any overpayment. Registration and academic fees are non-refundable.

Questions about this policy? Please call Gerri Kremer at 683-4824, ext. 23

Honor Roll *(Continued from page 1)*

Top grades in the Senior Class

Top grades in the Junior Class



**Katherine
Kawa**



**John
Stich**



**Mathew
Walter**



**Laura
Pasek**



**Chelsey
Kelso**



**Cameron
Powell**



**Tabitha
Slachciak**



**Paul
Bilz**

Annelise Talbot
Amanda Touro
Colleen Walsh
Mathew Walter
Todd Weisenburg
Matthew Wojcik

**Senior Second
Honors**

Aaron Barczak
Stephanie Begley
Garret Butlak
Aaron Chudyk
Alyssa Cometto
Mallory Derkovitz
James Jason
Amanda Jeary
Amanda Johnson
Kathryn Kacalski
Joshua Kajdas
Brandon Koch
Stephanie Kremer
Daniel Lojaco
Carly McNeil
Shaun Morgan
Jonathan Pantera
Kevin Robinson
Dominic Stephens
Daniel Warner

Junior First Honors

Elizabeth Adolf
Adam Beilman
Valentin Bettrich
Paul Bilz

Alicia Bishop
Christina Bumbalo
James Burton
Melissa Chudyk
Maria Held
Chelsey Kelso
Elizabeth Knittel
Amanda Leli
Katrina Lubecki
Jamison Malucci
Elizabeth Migliore
Cameron Powell
Joelle Saveliev
Ryan Schwartz
Tabitha Slachciak
Jarrett Steffen
Erica Sullivan
Brittany Talani
Tara Ward
Allison Warejko

**Junior Second
Honors**

Sandra Foltyniak
James Gangloff
Bradley Gibson
Samantha Hacker
Katilyn Hood
Alecia Johnson
Keith Kropski
Serene Lazaro
Matthew Maggio
Jordan Malecki
David Pfeiffer
Eric Rademacher

Alexander Rosche
Gary Schmelzer
Michael Sevilla
Kristine Starkey
Rebecca Suchy
Kimberly Taberski
Jeremy Wild

**Sophomore First
Honors**

Rebecca Biniewski
Shaun Boland
Hillary Braun
Michael Brown
Alexander Cappola
Brittany Carleton
Erika Carlson
Victoria Cuva
Megan Delo
Joseph Eckl
Taylor Hall
Robert Hamilton
Ellyn Hayes
Charles Hypnarowski
Katherine Kapanek
Christina Knapp
Brendon McMahan
Robert Mohring
Anthony Moreno
Jessica Nowak
Alyssa Owczarczak
Giuseppe Passucci
Timothy Pyszczynski

Alec Roberts
Douglas Robinson
Joshua Robinson
Bridget Rosati
Mary Scotland
Michelle Scotland
Angelia Stepien
Emily Trzepacz
Samantha Zack
Sarah Zureck

**Sophomore Junior
Honors**

John Anstett
Kathryn Aquino
Adam Bardol
Eric Birner
Cassandra Carleton
Noel Coleman
Allison Cwynar
Kaitlyn Dobmeier
David Eron
Brian Hinton
Taryn Kennedy
Kevin Labenski
Brittany Lampart
Jeffrey McCormick
Philip Montante
Jeffrey Pawlak
Kyle Platt
Lauren Polanski
Cassandra Rybak
Carlos Serrano
Stephanie Sikorski

**Freshman First
Honors**

Andrew Adolf
George Arnott
Jeremy Banas
Matthew Bilz
Gregory Bittner
Matthew Bittner
Alyssa Cavallari
Joanna Cianciosa
Zachary Costello
Michael Cronmiller
Thomas Eggert
Jacob Evans
Caitlyn Ferber
Matthew Fitzpatrick
Jeremy Gangloff
Mollie Greene
Kathryn Hamilton
Christopher Horvatits
Sandra Jezuit
Sean Kavanagh
Jesse Kelso
James Knapp
Conner Leigh
Alexander Lennert
Amanda Lewalski
Nicole Marciniak
Daniel McFarland
Kelsey Polanski
Connor Powell
Victoria Reitz
Rayna Rickard
Jessica Runk

Alex Severyn
Allyson Severyn
William Severyn
Samantha Spisiak
Elyse Texido
Andrew Wierzbicki
Margaret Wirth
Steven Wrobel
Alexander Zach

**Freshman Second
Honors**

Michael Bojar
Angela Broughton
Rebecca Carriero
Austin Chudyk
Amanda DiPiazza
Johnathon DiTondo
Sarah Dutro
Thomas Interdonato
Robert Isbrandt
Timothy Kish
Timothy Meyers
Ryan Mik
Alana Mohring
Zachary Morath
Sarah Panzica
Leonard Pfohl Jr
Brittany Porzio
Jessica Raab
Ethan Rugani
Taylor Schmitt
Natalie Sebastiano
Gabriel Stachowski
Michael Taylor
Michael Whiting

Top grades in the Sophomore Class

Top grades in the Freshman Class



**Alyssa
Owczarczak**



**Victoria
Cuva**



**Jessica
Nowak**



**Michelle
Scotland**



**George
Arnott**



**Alyssa
Cavallari**



**Sandra
Jezuit**



**Kelsey
Polanski**

**Magazine Sale Still
On-Going through**



1 Go to qsp.com 2 Click "Just Shopping?"
3 Enter code 425009377 4 Shop
Remember: 40% of your purchase supports St. Mary's



Spreading knowledge in Poland

By Mr. Marty LaMartina
Religion Teacher

The Kosciuszko Foundation selects teachers and assistants each year to travel to various UNESCO English language immersion camps located throughout Poland. The Polish Ministry of Education and Sport provide logistical support and Polish staff at each camp.

The camp that I was assigned to this past year was located in Cracow, and the students were upper level high school age. Approximately 10 teachers and 10 teaching assistants spent a total of three weeks teaching various subjects with the goal being to engage the students in conversation, reading and writing in the English language. The students are selected by their local schools and are all somewhat proficient in English.

I learned of the program through an article in *The Buffalo News*, and although I was somewhat hesitant when I found out it was on a volunteer basis, I decided to pursue this as an opportunity to visit Poland and meet and live with the people for a brief period.

My maternal grandparents (Dubiel) were born and married with children before they immigrated to the east side of Buffalo in the early 1900s. I had recently started attending Corpus Christi Parish, where my mother was schooled and my parents were married, shortly after the Pauline Fathers from Czectohowa had saved it from closure. Attending Mass at this Polish parish had awakened a renewed sense of curiosity in my Polish roots which of course go hand in hand with my family's strong Catholic heritage. This seemed like a great opportunity to get in touch with my roots and to visit some of the religious and historical sites I had heard about.

The St. Mary's Fund for Faculty Excellence helped defray the travel expenses, because the religious and cultural aspect of this experience could enhance my knowledge of the Catholic religion. I have been teaching religion at St. Mary's for the past five years after studying theology through the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio.

I was not disappointed in my decision. The students I had

the opportunity to teach were outstanding and very welcoming and appreciative. I have continued to stay in contact with many of them through e-mail.

While we were at the camp our day consisted of three classes each morning followed by activities in the afternoon and evening. I was able to discuss American culture and history as well as Polish immigration to Buffalo. We also examined the strong connection that Buffalo had to the late great John Paul II. The

aunt of one of the St. Mary's graduates I had the opportunity to teach (Heather Stouter) was Anne Odre, one of the bystanders that was shot on May 13, 1981, in Vatican Square. The Pope also visited with Buffalo area surgeons and politician Richard Solecki because of their charitable work with Polish children in need of reconstructive surgery.

While the school itself was not owned by the Church in Poland, I was pleased to find a Crucifix in my classroom. The students attended Mass as a group each Sunday, also very encouraging in this secular age. The students were very interested in American sports and eagerly partici-

parted in softball games that I organized several days during the week. There was also plenty of time to sightsee in Old Town Cracow, the most beautiful city I have ever been to.

Although this experience was somewhat of a sacrifice of time, as I mentioned above it was not all work. The Polish Ministry of Education sponsored many day trips and weekend excursions as well as a full week of travel when the camp was completed. Some of the places I visited were Wawel Castle (which contains the tomb of St. Stanislaus), Wadowice (the birthplace of John Paul II), St. Mary's Cathedral in Cracow Square, Auschwitz, the convent of St. Faustina (where she had a vision of Jesus' Divine Mercy), Zakopane in the Tatra mountains, Warsaw, the salt mines near Cracow, Jagiellonian University (where Copernicus and John Paul II studied), the miraculous image of Our Lady of Czestochowa, and many other historical and religious sites.

I would strongly recommend this experience to any other teacher or student in the future. It has helped me to learn more about my cultural and religious roots which many Polish-Americans in Western New York and at St. Mary's share.



Mr. LaMartina works with two of his Polish students.

SOuL's spiritual adoption – the Second Trimester

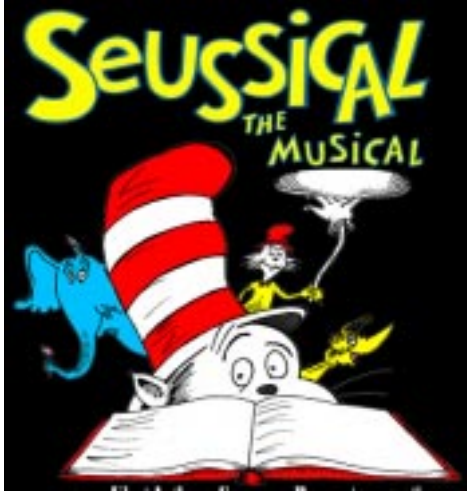
- Week 14** – The chin, nose, forehead more defined, reflexes beginning to operate.
- Week 15** – The baby can probably hear now, eyebrows and eyelashes have now appeared and hair on head is getting thicker.
- Week 16** – Fingernails and toenails are forming now, the genitals are formed enough

- that it may be possible to tell the sex.
- Week 17** – Will make purposeful movements, can distinguish sweet and bitter.
- Week 18** – The baby's bones are growing harder, stronger.
- Week 19** – The baby spends about six hours a day awake and 18 or so asleep.

- Week 20** – Sense of smell is present now.
- Week 21** – Baby should move vigorously.
- Week 22** – Liver is now starting to function.
- Week 23** – Twins seem to have no trouble finding each other, even holding hands.
- Week 24** – Unborn babies respond to music.

Tickets for *Seussical* go on sale March 1

The St. Mary's Performing Arts Department will be presenting *Seussical, the Musical*, on Thursday, March 23, through Saturday, March 25, with the curtain rising at 7:30 p.m. for all three performances.



The play, based on the works of award-winning children's author Dr. Seuss, tells the story of Horton the Elephant and his mission to save the tiny planet of Who. Many of the Seuss favorite characters are there, including Horton, the Grinch, and of course, the Cat in the Hat.

Tickets will go on sale on Wednesday, March 1, at noon (no presale) in the Media Center. The reserved-seating tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6 for students, and \$5 for senior citizens and children 12 and under.

More information on the play or tickets is available by calling Mr. Herr or Mr. Kidder at 683-4824, ext. 15.

St. Mary's hosts 5-hour course

St. Mary's will be the site for the New York State Five-Hour Safe Driving Course. All applicants for a driver's license must take this course to be eligible to make a road test appointment.

Upon completion of the class, participants will be issued certificate #DMV-278.

This course will be offered at St. Mary's from 3 to 8 p.m. on:

- Monday, March 6
- Wednesday, April 5
- Tuesday, May 9
- Tuesday, June 13

The cost of the course is \$30 per student paid in cash (no checks, please). Pre-registration is not necessary.

Jazz Ensemble makes public debut

The newly formed St. Mary's Jazz Ensemble performed for the first time in public, taking part in the Mount St. Mary Academy Jazz Festival on February 18. Under the direction of Mr. Gary Beuth, band leader and instrumental teacher, they were part of a program that included jazz groups from various schools in Western New York.

The performance was well attended and



the audience was enthusiastic.

For future performances, watch for announcements in Currents.

St. Mary's holds SAT Prep classes

St. Mary's will hold an SAT Prep Classes to prepare for the June 3 test date.

The cost of the class is \$225, which includes the book. Registration forms are available on our website. The dates and times are as follows:

Sunday, April 30 - 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon

Wednesday, May 3 - 6 - 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 7 - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wednesday, May 10 - 6 - 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 14 - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wednesday, May 17 - 6 - 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, May 20 - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24 - 6 - 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 28 - 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon

Wednesday, May 31 - 6 - 8 p.m.

More information is available by contacting the Counseling Centre at 683-2349

Don't forget SAT, ACT prep programs through pro football players

As reported in last month's *Currents*, eKnowledge LLC, based in Los Angeles, Calif., recently announced that a group of NFL, NFL Europe, AFL, and CFL players, all represented through the Victory Sports Group Agency, has donated several millions of dollars worth of SAT and ACT test prep programs to Catholic high school students.

The donation allocates hundreds of thousands of the interactive video CD programs to students, which will be distributed on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The SAT and ACT test prep training programs are two separate CD-ROM sets that include more than 10 hours of training videos and 25-40 hours of student participation.

These can be used as a stand-alone complete course or as a supplement to other SAT and ACT prep materials. The students select the training they most need, and they can study at their own pace by picking which of 120 video lessons they want to view. The program also provides progress tracking and much more.

To obtain a copy of the program, parents should go to the website sat.eknowledge.com, click on "order," enter the member code 2008e440cd, and enter the name of the school. The donation only covers the \$199.99 cost of the program; parents will need to pay \$9.95 for shipping and handling.

SENIOR CLASS FISH FRYS

FRIDAY, MARCH 3 - 4-7 P.M.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10 - 4-7 P.M.

\$7.50

INCLUDES FISH, POTATO SALAD, COLE SLAW, BREAD, DRINK, & DESSERT (GRILLED CHEESE AVAILABLE)

TAKE-OUTS • RAFFLES • SPLIT CLUB

PLEASE SUPPORT THE SENIOR CLASS





Student Views

St. Mary's Students presents their articles

Editor's Note: This section of Currents offers articles written by students at St. Mary's High School.

Many of these articles are written by students in Mr. Peter Herr's Media Communications class. Others are composed by

students who wish to demonstrate their writing abilities. We hope that you will enjoy these articles and appreciate their efforts.

Lancer Auction enjoyable for all



Welcome to the Auction – John Stich, Dan Warner, Jesse Kelso, Amanda Tourot, Rebecca Suchy, and Lynn Holtz, greet guests as they begin their Evening of Enchancement.

By Jamison Malucci
Class of 2007

The 14th annual Lancer Auction took place on February 10.

The Auction was started in 1992 as a fundraiser for St. Mary's High School by former Development Director Mrs. Maureen Bowen and has been a huge success every since.

This year's auction did very well, raising between \$40,000 and \$45,000 and selling out all of the 300 available tickets. The theme of this year's auction was *An Evening of Enchancement* with decorations of medieval times which included a large castle and much more.

The annual event features the auctioning off hundreds of items in live and silent auction formats, the more popular being the live auction.

Some of the items included in this year's

auction were a Buffalo Sabres Package; a football autographed by Jim Kelly, Andre Reed, and Thurman Thomas; seats from the Memorial Auditorium; tuition waivers to Niagara University; and two Siesta Keys Florida packages. The most popular among the items were the two Siesta Keys Florida packages which made around \$2,000 each.

The Lancer Auction is a great way to showcase St. Mary's School, students, and staff to all of the alumni, friends, family, and parents who attended.

"It was a great event and a huge success," said Ryan Stilwell, Lancer Auction volunteer.

"You will never go to a dinner auction where you will have better food and a more cost-reasonable time," said Mr. Mark Kelso, director of Development.

The Lancer Auction is truly a huge success and will continue to be for many years to come.

Dancers carry on Mrs. Mercurio's love

By Amanda Tourot
Class of 2006

The St. Mary's High School Visual and Performing Arts Department has established a well-known dance program as part of its curriculum, as well as extracurricular opportunities. Its legacy, stimulated by the dedi-

cation and hard work of now-retired dance teacher, Mrs. Carm Mercurio, continues to affect St. Mary's students.

Mrs. Mercurio brought the necessary enthusiasm and basic love for dance and theater to the annual musicals and supplementary shows put together by the performing

(Continued on page 10)

Students enjoy Spirit Week

By Alesia Johnson
Class of 2007

What would a school be without having a Spirit Week?

Almost all kids look forward to their Spirit Week at school. Some kids though look forward to it for all the wrong reasons. Here at St. Mary's High School we have five fun filled days.

Monday was Pajama Day and with a school wide lunch and "Singled Out" in the afternoon. Tuesday was red or pink day for Valentines Day and received our computer match ups in homeroom. Wednesday was sports team day where we were allowed to wear a sport team outfit. Thursday was wear all black or white day and a scavenger hunt in lunch. Finally on Friday we were supposed to have Pride Day and paint your face day.

Student Senate picked out each Spirit Week day. "We just wanted a change from pervious years," said Chelsey Kelchlin.

Although Spirit Week is supposed to be fun, Student Senate Moderator Mrs. Marsha Rosenthal said the real reason for Spirit Week was "to keep kids excited about St. Mary's and for them to show how much they care."

Spirit Week brings an atmosphere of community to the students here at St. Mary's, and that is a wonderful feeling to have. When teachers participate in Spirit Week it encourages more students to take part in it. When Mrs. Rosenthal was asked if she believes that teachers should participate in the week's event she said, "Teachers should absolutely take part in Spirit Week."

"I thought that it was great," said freshman Matthew Pfeiffer, who participated in his first Spirit Week.

All in all, this year's Spirit Week was a wonderful time for us students and faculty here at St. Mary's and was a great opportunity for all of us to show our pride and spirit for our school.

Junior to study oceans in summer

By **Kristine Starkey**
Class of 2007

Elizabeth Migliore, a junior at St. Mary's High School, was recently accepted by the Sea Education Association to take part in one of their summer seminars at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts.

Woods Hole is one of the most famous oceanographic research sites in the country. It is the home of a vast number of laboratories and research vessels, including the U. S. Marine Biological Laboratory and the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration. Woods Hole is the home of the submersible *Alvin*, which discovered the wrecks of the *Titanic* and *Bismarck*.

The Sea Education association is "an educational system dedicated to the study of the ocean environment and its relationship to Earth and human affairs." According to its mission statement, the goal of the program is to "challenge students intellectually and physically within a rigorous, interactive, interdisciplinary curriculum."

Costing around \$3,000, the program provides a comprehensive course that includes performing on and off shore research. While at sea students learn the working of a modern research ship. Such tasks highlighted in the brochure include taking part in 24-hour "watch" rotations, learning how to navigate the ship, and using oceanographic instruments to collect data.

A member of the Environmental Club for three years Elizabeth feels strongly about the importance of understanding the environment. "Everything that harms the environment will, eventually, harm us, whether it is by creating dangerous chemicals that can cause cancer, or by cutting down rainforests."

During the two-week long experience she hopes to learn to "better appreciate the beauty and power of the ocean and the urgent need to protect ocean life."

Mr. Gary Schulenberg, moderator of the environmental club, thinks that the program will provide her with a "big academic challenge". Mr. Schulenberg hopes that she will "bring back a lot from her experience and pass it on."

Elizabeth is to attend the first session of the program beginning on July 17, and ending August 3. She plans on majoring in environmental studies in college.

Students benefit from SAT Prep course

By **Alyssa Cometto**
Class of 2006

Beginning February 26, St. Mary's High School is offering a series of SAT Prep classes to students who will be taking the college tests in the near future. These classes will be given to anyone who wishes to find an easy way to prepare for the upcoming SATs which evaluate students on their English and mathematical abilities.

Mrs. Mary Jakubowski, St. Mary's junior/senior guidance counselor and head of the prep classes, was able to help uncover some additional information about this event. These classes are offered to anyone in the Western New York area.

There are a total of 10 classes which, individually, range between two to three and a half hours. They will be taught two times a week, on Sundays and Wednesdays. The first series of classes will be a preparation for the test given on April 1. The second series of classes will prepare students for the June 3 testing date, and will begin on April 30, ending on May 31.

Mrs. Jakubowski explained that the first class of each series will run exactly like an ordinary SAT. Students will have to attend class at the exact same time and a practice SAT will be administered. Following this date, all classes will consist simply of going over the math and English material. By the second last class, students will once again take a practice test, and the last class will consist of going over their results and making final

preparations for the testing.

Some people have stated that studying for the SATs is not important because it is an aptitude test and will just show what you know. Although, Mrs. Jakubowski explains that "some preparation is essential, otherwise the first time [taking the test] is practice." She also verified that the class time makes the students familiar with the tests because it will offer tips and, in the long run, will not be so intimidating.

As of now, the nation's average SAT scores are roughly 1500 out of 2400. Although colleges consider the best score by combining, for example, "the best critical reading with the best math." says Mrs. Jakubowski. She also explained that if there was not any type of preparation involved, it would be best to consider the test practice and take it once again in the future.

It would probably be best not to let the SATs scare you and cause you to worry whether or not you will make it into a decent college. "Colleges don't base your admission on the scores alone," Mrs. Jakubowski said. "They also take in to consideration your grades at school, the types of classes you have taken, and your rank in class. It is one consistent way to compare students in a uniform basis."

The cost of these classes is \$225. If you would like to register for the second session (April 30 - May 31), go online at smhlancers.org, or call the school at 683-2349, where you may request a form to be sent to your home.

Bowlers conclude great season

By **Ben Duck**
Class of 2006

The St. Mary's High School boys and girls varsity bowling teams had a remarkable year.

The girls' team consisted of Jessica Runk, 141 average, Kathryn Kacalski, 140 average, Jessica Nowaki, 131 average, Brittany Talani, 166 average, and Megan Delo, 128 average.

The boys' team was consisted of Kyle Kiebzak, Keith Kropski, Brett Radka, James Gangloff, Adam Bielman, and Ben Duck.

The girls placed third overall in the league and in the Msgr. Martin playoffs. Also Brittany Talani, a junior at St. Mary's, received the First Team All Catholics award.

The boys team ranked fourth overall and

fifth in the Msgr. Martin playoffs. Keith Kropski was awarded Bowler of the week and had the second highest game in the league (278) and the highest game in school history. Keith also received the Second Team All Catholics along with Ben Duck.

Mrs. MaryKay Posluszny, girls bowling coach for 26 years, says that the girls did "very well" and "very consistent over the years of her coaching at St. Mary's." Since there is only one senior not returning to the team, Mrs. Posluszny expects the girls team to have repeat success next year.

Boys bowling coach for three years, Mr. John Mastandrea says, "This was one of the better years for St. Mary's." He also says, "If we would have started the year like we finished I think we could have done a lot better."

Congratulations, Wrestlers, Small School Champions

By **Ben Schmitt**
Class of 2006

St. Mary's High School Lancer Wrestling team wrestled hard this season to come out on top of the Msgr. Martin League, small

schools division. The final match of the year won them the title of champions was against Nichols, with a dominating score of 47-15.

What highlighted this event was the fact that this is the first time in the history of St. Mary's High School that the wrestling team

has been champions of its division.

In previous years, the Msgr. Martin league had been comprised of several schools as a whole. While some teams had filled every weight class, others had not, giving them a disadvantage in dual-meets. The supposed cause of a smaller team was that the school has a smaller enrollment. It was for this reason that the league was split in two, a small schools division and a large schools division. With a lower enrollment at coed St. Mary's, the Lancers were placed in the small schools division.

Team captain Dominic Stephens said, "It was a group effort; we couldn't have done it without the team concentrating on the same goal." which held true all through the season. This was evident in the level of competition the Lancers brought with them to tournaments and meets.

Zach Weiss, who is also team captain said, "We all tried to achieve our individual goals, while still focusing on our team goals, and looked good doing it." which came to fruition, as the wrestlers became victors in this story of a team that just worked.

On Sunday Feb. 12, the Lancers attended the All-Catholic tournament held at St. Francis, which is an end of the year event. This tournament determines which wrestlers from the entire Msgr. Martin league go to Long Island, to wrestle in the Catholic State Championships.

This year the Lancers did particularly well with all of their wrestlers placing in this tournament.

- 112-weight class Bobby Hamilton placed first
- 135-weight class Joe Lopez placed fourth, Dominic Stephens placed first
- 140-weight class Ethan Rugani placed sixth, Ben Schmitt placed fourth
- 145-weight class Zach Weiss placed first
- 152-weight class Brian Hinton placed third
- 160-weight class Erich Roehner placed second
- 171-weight class Aaron Chudyk placed fourth
- 189-weight class Doug Robinson placed fourth

In addition, Zach Weiss had also been awarded with MOW (Most Outstanding Wrestler) for the All-Catholic tournament.

The Lancers now go on to Catholic States as a team to wrestle February 19 and 20. Good luck Lancers.

Students work hard to prepare for *Seussical*

By **Andy Dudzinski**
Class of 2006

It's that time of year again for the musical at St. Mary's High School. It has become one of the most looked forward to things in the St. Mary's community.

It helps uplift the students, teachers, and surrounding communities. This year the Performing Arts Department is putting on Dr. Seuss *Seussical*, for the first time ever.

With out a doubt the students who are in the play put in a lot of effort into their performances.

In a recent interview with Mr. Peter Herr about how long the cast members practice before a show and his answer was, "Now we practice three to four

days a week but closer to the show we practice six to seven days a week."

Even two months before their first show the cast is practicing to get everything right. The people who put together this play know how important it is to put on a near-perfect show.

Joe Cianciosa said, "We have to prac-

tice as hard as we do to put on a good show."

The cast for the 2006 Musical:


- Gertrude McFuzz - Alice Cunningham
- Horton the Elephant - Eric Conrad
- JoJo - Jasmine Juliana
- The Cat in the Hat - David Pfeiffer
- Mayzie LaBird - Jordan Hokaj
- Sour Kangaroo - Patricia Salamore
- Mr. Mayor - John McGowan
- Mrs. Mayor - Maria Held
- Judge Yertle the Turtle - Cristina Fudoli
- The Grinch - Joe Cianciosa

- Wickershams - Andy Adolf, John Anstett, Shaun Morgan, Cameron Powell
- Bird Girls - Megan Hinton, Katie Kowa, Alison Slagor, Amanda Tourot

With all the dedication from the students and staff their show will be one of the best. They all know that many people will enjoy the show because of all of their work. So why not come out and support the cast!

Tickets go on sale March 1; they are available in the Media Center from Mr. Keith Kidder.





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Dancers (continued from page 6)

arts classes, throughout her 22 years as teacher and mentor in the school community. With her famous "jazz-squares," and compassion and dedication, students were inspired to take part in the fine arts.

After many years of dedicated service, Mrs. Mecurio retired from her position last year.

Ms. Amy Baer, English teacher and musical director, explained the importance of dance at St. Mary's, stating, "Dance is a huge part of the musicals. We always try to add numbers to the original, which Mrs. Mecurio stressed since she choreographed all the musicals while she was here."

Luckily, the tradition lives on as recent St. Mary's 2002 graduate, Ms. Heather Ruhland, has filled the position.

Ms. Ruhland displays her unique style in her choreography, incorporating modern dance in tap, hip hop, and jazz combinations.

In addition to the Tap Club, established by Mrs. Mecurio, a new Ballet Club was formed this year, which also includes pointe.

Students are attracted to the St. Mary's dance program, an idea exemplified by St. Mary's sophomore Brittany Carleton, "I dance in and outside of school, taking part in the musicals and other shows. I really like the fact that I was able to take dance class instead of gym this year."

This option, to partake in a dance class rather than physical education, is an opportunity not found at most schools in the area. Dance classes have also had a noticeable change.

Senior Lynn Holtz, dance student, reflected on this change in the program, commenting, "This year's introduction to hip-hop builds upon the classic ballet and jazz that Mrs. Mecurio gave us the basis and confidence to express."

Ms. Ruhland has quite impressive experience, having been a longtime dance student.

She was the St. Mary's assistant choreographer for four years before taking over the position of head choreographer.

Ms. Ruhland is also a dance teacher at the Cynthia School of Dance, a position that she has maintained for three years. Ms. Ruhland was lucky enough to have more dance classes scheduled this year, being available four days of the week.

The dance teacher and mentor enthusiastically stated, "I hope to increase students' awareness and activity in dance as an art. I would like to aid in the increase of self confidence of the girls, allowing them to have a better appreciation and awareness for dance and their bodies, by stressing flexibility, technique, and a positive body image."

Members of the community are able to view St. Mary's countless talented dancers in *Seussical*, *The Musical*, which the school is performing on March 23, 24, and 25.



Mrs. Mecurio

March 2006 Lunch Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27 Rib-a-cues on roll, mashed potatoes, California vegetables, fruit, milk	28 Cook's Choice	1 Macaroni & cheese, green beans, dinner roll, assorted fruit, milk	2 Mini subs (turkey & ham) with cheese/lettuce, chicken soup, cold pasta salad, assorted fruit, milk	3 Grilled cheese, tomato soup, hash brown patty, peach cobbler, milk
6 Chicken patty on roll, tater rounds, brownies, milk	7 Goulash, chef salad, Italian bread, Jell-O, milk	8 Tacos, seasoned meat, lettuce/cheese, salsa, soft or hard shells, rice cake, milk	9 Pizza with cheese & pepperoni, mozzarella sticks, apple sauce, milk	10 Baked ziti, broccoli, bread sticks, fruit, milk
13 Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, fruit, milk	14 Spaghetti with meat sauce, chef salad, Italian bread, milk	15 Hot dogs on roll, tater rounds, peaches, milk	16 Turkey wraps, lettuce/cheese, pasta salad, cake, milk	17 Fish fry, macaroni salad, cole slaw, assorted fruit, milk
20 Boneless BBQ ribs on roll, cold pasta salad, fruit, milk	21 Cook's Choice	22 Chicken tender subs, hash brown patty, Jell-O, milk	23 Tacos with seasoned meat, cheese/lettuce, salsa, soft or hard shells, nachos, milk	24 No School
27 Cook's Choice	28 Cook's Choice	29 Turkey dinner, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, apple sauce, milk	30 Spaghetti, meat balls, chef salad, hot biscuits, fruit, milk	31 Cook's Choice

Breakfast Served Every Day
7:15-7:45 a.m.

Cost: \$1.00

Toasted bagel, cream cheese, donut/cereal, muffin, juice/milk

Note: A la carte items can be purchased at \$.60 each donut, bagel, muffin; \$.40 milk; \$.40 juice

Special Note

Students may prepay for lunch by the week or month — \$2 per day.

Everyday the Cafeteria serves:

- A. Balanced lunch as shown on the menu
- B. Soup of the day with tuna, or egg sandwich
- C. Salad bar

D. Deli sandwiches w/ ham, turkey, lettuce, & cheese; bread, kaiser roll

Please Note: Lunches are subject to change according to availability of products. Extra grains are served each day to meet dietary guidelines.

Nominate your favorite teacher for NY Lottery Educator of the Week

WGRZ Channel 2 and the New York Lottery are sponsoring the New York Lottery Educator of the Week Program.

The Educator of the Week is brought to you by the New York Lottery, "Helping educate New York's leaders of tomorrow."



All honorees' acknowledgments will appear during the Channel 2 five o'clock evening news each Monday and will be featured throughout other segments of the broadcast, including primetime television.

Individuals interested in recommending

their favorite teachers may access nomination forms at WGRZ.com under the section titled "Educator of the Week."

Forms may be completed online and e-mailed directly to the station. All nominations are carefully reviewed by the Educator of the Week Committee.

March 2006 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 SAT Prep Class 8:30am-12 noon	27-A Student Senate 2:20pm	28-B Poetry Club 2:30pm	1-C Ext HR-PM Lit Schedule (Class meetings, Junior Class Breakfast, Ash Wednesday Liturgy) SAT Prep Class 6-8pm	2-D Sophomore Retreat 8am-2pm Prom Committee 2:30pm	3-E Model UN 7:30am Senior Hoodie Friday Eucharistic Adoration Fish Fry 4-7pm	4 Grammar School Playoffs 9:30am-1:30pm
5 SAT Prep 11am-2pm	6-F Student Senate 2:20pm 5-Hour Driver Ed 3-8pm	7-A Special PM Assembly (Guest Speaker Gerry Straub) Curriculum Committee 2:30pm Poetry Club 2:30pm Grammar School Playoffs 5-8pm	8-B Env. Club 7:30am Principal's Ad Board 2:30pm Literary Magazine 2:30pm SAT Prep Class 6-8pm	9-C Prom Committee 2:30pm Grammar School Playoffs 5-8pm	10-D Model UN 7:30am Senior Hoodie Friday Fish Fry 4-7pm	11 Grammar School Playoffs 10am-1pm
12 SAT Prep 11am-2pm	13-E Student Senate 2:20pm	14-F NHS 2:20pm Campus Ministry 2:30pm Parent Guild Board 6:30pm Parent Guild 7pm Model UN at UB 8am-3:30pm	15-A Ext. HR Schedule (Lenten Prayer Service) Faculty Meeting 2:30pm SAT Prep Class 6-8pm	16-B Jeans Day for Kids Escaping Drugs Prom Committee 2:30pm	17-C Model UN 7:30am Senior Hoodie Friday	18
19 SAT Prep 11am-2pm	20-D Tell-It Program (Mental Health / Suicide Prevention) for Freshmen in English Classes Student Senate 2:20pm	21-E Tell-It Program (Mental Health / Suicide Prevention) for Freshmen in English Classes Poetry Club 2:30pm	22-F Environmental Club 7:30am Ext. HR Schedule (Lenten Prayer Service) Tell-It Program (Mental Health / Suicide Prevention) for Freshmen in English Classes SAT Prep Class 6-8pm	23-A Freshman Fieldtrip to Spanish Ballet 9:30am-1pm School Musical 7:30pm	24-Off No School (Spring Holiday) School Musical 7:30pm	25 School Musical 7:30pm
26 SAT Prep 8:30am-12noon	27-B Student Senate 2:20pm	28-C Java Jive Auditions 2:30pm Lancaster Spelling Bee 7pm	29-D Special PM Assembly (Reconciliation and Guest Speakers) Java Jive Auditions 2:30pm Scholars to UB (Computer Music) 7pm SAT Prep Class 6-8pm	3-E Junior Field Trip to Jesus Christ Superstar 9am-1:30pm Book Club 2:30pm	31-F Pride Day End of Third Quarter	4



St. Mary's High School
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