

# Currents



The Curriculum Newsletter of St. Mary's High School • Vol. 14, Issue 9 • May 2007

## Senior Exam Schedule

### Fri., May 18

Period 1-3  
(8:04-10:07)

Intro to Psychology

Period 7-9  
(12:16-2:19)

English 12  
English 12 Hon

### Mon., May 21

Period 1-3  
(8:04-10:07)

Math IVB  
PreCalculus

Period 7-9  
(12:16-2:19)

Social Justice

### Tue., May 22

Period 1-3  
(8:04-10:07)

Economics

Period 7-9  
(12:16-2:19)

Physics  
Environmental Chem

“Wherever there is faith there is the example of Mary, because she lived by faith as the Scriptures remind us...”

— Cardinal John Wright \*

Dear Friends,

This quote from Cardinal Wright seemed so appropriate for this month's newsletter, as we enter into “Mary's month” of May. St. Mary's High School is blessed to have the protection of the Blessed Mother and her example of faith and grace inspires us all.

Our next forty days will be inspiring as well, as we have numerous awards ceremonies, end-of-year activities, the prom and graduation coming up. The difficult part of this time of year is staying focused on class work. Now that the spring weather has finally arrived, the temptations and distractions abound and can easily keep students from taking the time needed to study and prepare for the end of the year. Setting aside specific times and places for studying can be very helpful to keeping your sons and daughters focused on their school work, while still allowing them to participate in all of the fun activities that will also be taking place.

At this time of year, we hold the senior class in a special place in our minds and hearts, and we pray that Mary will watch over them as they complete their time at St. Mary's and prepare for the next step in their lives. May they have the wisdom to make good choices and the faith to follow Christ.

Best of luck to *all* of our students as they finish the school year and prepare for final exams. If there are any questions about end-of-year activities, please don't hesitate to contact the school. As a reminder if you haven't turned in your registration forms for next year, please get them in immediately, as the deadline has already passed! And thank you to all those who have already sent them in!



Sincerely,

Rebecca L. Kranz  
Principal

\* Source: “Month of Mary,” [http://www.catholicculture.org/lit/overviews/months/05\\_1.cfm](http://www.catholicculture.org/lit/overviews/months/05_1.cfm)

## Two recognized in Merit Scholarship program

Two St. Mary's juniors have been notified that when they took the 2006 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Program, they met the requirements to enter the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program.

The two students are Katherine Hall and Giuseppe Passucci.

The students scored 200 or above on the Selection Index, making them one of the 50,000 highest



Katherine Hall



Giuseppe Passucci

scoring students of the 1.4 million students who took the exam.

Of these 50,000 students, 16,000 will be named National Merit Program Semifinalists, representing the top scorers in each state, and approximately 34,000 high scorers will be commended for their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT.

Semifinalists and commended students in the 2008 program will learn of their standing in September.

## St. Mary's selects new student information system

Since the beginning of the school year, members of the St. Mary's administration, faculty, and staff have been exploring the possibility of purchasing a new student information system.

The student information system is the software that handles many of the basic operations of running a school, including student attendance, grading, scheduling, and billing.

For the past several years, St. Mary's has been utilizing a program called HeadMaster. When this program was purchased about 20 years ago, it was a state-of-the-art system that addressed many of the needs of the school. However, the school has outgrown the capabilities of the program, and a change needed to be made.

And to assist with the purchase of a new system, St. Mary's received a grant from M&T Bank to help pay for the new program.

After attending seminars, sitting through online demonstrations, and listening to sales

itches, St. Mary's has selected a system through Hunter Systems.

One of the main reasons that the search committee selected the Hunter Systems software is because this system is designed for private schools. Not only does it do everything an administrative software should do (grades, attendance, scheduling, discipline), it also includes "modules" needed for schools like St. Mary's, including tuition, recruitment, and alumni.

What does this all mean to you as parents?

For the most part, the changes – and improvements – will not be very obvious to those outside of the school. The entire administrative process of running St. Mary's High School should be much easier and more efficient, as the new program should streamline many of our operations.

For those outside of school, the most obvious changes will be the printed reports (bills, report cards) that will be coming from

the school. Other improvements will become more obvious as the school begins using more and more components of the Hunter System.

As of this writing, members of St. Mary's administration are going through training sessions. The goal is to have the Hunter System up and running when the new school year begins in September.

Be sure to read future *Currents* to learn more about this system.

## Language, Science Departments schedule important dates

Though it's about a month away, parents and students are asked to mark their calendars now for the following important dates in regards to the Foreign Language Department Final Exams:

• **Friday, June 1; Monday, June 4; Tuesday, June 5** — French I, French II, Spanish I, and Spanish II: Speaking portion of Final Exam during regularly scheduled class time.

• **Wednesday, June 6** — Listening portion of Final Exam during regularly scheduled class time.

*There are no make-up dates for these sections of the exam. In order to receive credit for these sections students must be in class, on time on the designated day.*

\* \* \*

Students in Earth Science will be taking their Lab Practicals on **Thursday, May 31, and Friday, June 1.**

Because the practicals are a part of their finals Regents grade, it is very important that students not miss school on these very important days.

## Mark Aquino to be commencement speaker

St. Mary's High School is excited to announce that Mark Aquino, attorney at law and prominent Lancaster businessman, will be this year's commencement speaker.

Mr. Aquino is a 1981 graduate of St. Mary's. Upon graduating, Mark went on to obtain a degree in accounting, an MBA, and his law degree, all from the University at Buffalo Law School. Mark has practiced law for 15 years. He is a local real estate developer and property manager. In addition, he is currently the Deputy Village Attorney/Prosecu-

tor for the town of Lancaster.

He and his wife Julianne are life-long residents of the Lancaster/Depew area. They have four children: Taylor 15, Alexis 13, Kaitlyn 11, and Alyssa 9.

"The foundation of Christian service that was instilled during my time at St. Mary's propelled me into my career as an attorney," said Mr. Aquino. "The friends I developed while at school continue to be my closest friends today. I will always have a special connection to St. Mary's."

## From the Tuition Office

### Registration Forms / Financial Aid Application

Some families still have not returned their Registration Forms and/or Financial Aid Applications for the 2007-08 school year. They were due on April 20.

Financial Aid Applications received after the deadline are subject to availability of tuition assistance funds.

Those who have questions or need additional forms should contact Mrs. Mulhern at 683-4824, ext. 23.

### Final Tuition Payments

May ends the 12-month payment plan for the 2006-2007 school year. Final payments on all accounts are due by May 25 with the exception of the senior class, whose final payment is due May 15.

### Need More Work Hours?

Parents still needing work hours to complete their requirement for this year should contact Gloria Interdonato at 668-5154 as soon as possible.

## Currents

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## March Students of Month



Sarah Parise



Christina Knapp



Caitlyn Ferber



Chris Ploski

## April Students of Month



Ryan Schwartz



Alyssa Owczarczak



Greg Bittner



Brittany Pivarsi

## Musician impacts SMH students

By Mr. James Holden  
Music Teacher

On Friday, March 30, St. Mary's received a visit from Dr. Christopher Azzara, professor at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. Dr. Azzara is a leading educator and researcher on music improvisation. While at St. Mary's he spent time with the Keyboard, Guitar, Music Theory, and Vocal Ensemble classes. In each class he took a different song and helped students to improve their improvisation abilities through melody, harmony, and rhythm.

Dr. Azzara believes that everyone is creative and musical and that everyone improvises whether they know it or not. Conversation is a form of improvisation and critical to our development of language skills. While improvisation is sometimes overlooked in music, Dr. Azzara sees it as essential to musical development.

Dr. Azzara was able to make music fun for everyone. He took familiar songs such as *Go Tell Aunt Rhody* and

*Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho* and brought them to life through improvisation. He has great faith in music, especially the program at St. Mary's saying, "Mr. Holden is doing some great things with his music classes."

The visit from Dr. Azzara, which was sponsored by Student Senate, was a wonderful experience, and left everyone inspired.



Dr. Azzara works with students Nick Nicosia, Robert Isbrandt, and Maria Held.

## Mr. Mihelbergel named to Who's Who

Mr. Robert Mihelbergel, an English teacher at St. Mary's High School, has been named to *Who's Who Among American Teachers*.

He was nominated for the award by se-

nior Candace Leli.

A St. Mary's teacher for four years, Mr. Mihelbergel previously taught at Cheek-towaga Central School, from which he retired in 2000 after 29 years.

## RPM reaches to other teens

RPM – Retreat Peer Ministry. What is it that they do?

Well, it should be obvious that the members of RPM organize and execute religion-based retreats for their peers. "Peers?" Most would say, "Oh, that means other St. Mary's students."

But this year's RPM is going above and beyond the halls of St. Mary's. The class has been called to minister to the peer teenagers in a Confirmation Retreat at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Williamsville.

The students in Mrs. Cindy Powers' class have designed their program for these confirmation candidates to include such topics as chastity, abortion, and relationship with God. The retreats took place April 22 and 29 for separate groups of candidates.

As with many things lately at St. Mary's, the RPM class is growing and expanding. Each year, the group's service to the community encompasses bigger and better things and reaches out to more and more students. This can be reflected by the eagerness of this year's juniors to become a part of this esteemed class next year.

For those who are fortunate enough to become members of next year's RPM, great things can be expected.

St. Mary's High School



Golf Open

Monday, June 25

at

Glen Oak Golf Club

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For more information, call

The Development Office

at 683-4824, ext. 28

# Students learn valuable lessons at Poverty Awareness Day

By Mr. Gary Schulenberg  
Chair, Social Studies Department

Every year Campus Ministry sponsors an assembly that revolves around the topics of social justice and various issues impacting people both locally and globally. This year it was decided to tie in a number of objectives in a day called Poverty Awareness Day. The day included a poor person's meal, crafts, PowerPoint presentations, an African drum demonstration, guest speakers, and an introduction about the nomination of one of St. Mary's own, Sister Joanne Gangloff, OSF, for the Presidential Citizens Medal (see page 8).

The team of Sister Chris Winterhalter and Mr. Gary Schulenberg planned and facilitated the day's activities. The assembly was instructional, entertaining, and maybe even inspirational. The day was a true interdisciplinary affair.

Prior to the day, Social Studies classes learned about the meal and the purpose of the day. The Student Senate helped with the collection of money. Mr. Peter Herr's tech crew had to deal with a number of multi-media endeavors and, as usual, did a great job. Sister Chris contacted some key resource people who helped with information and presentations. Mr. Keith Kidder helped out with a couple of PowerPoint presentations. And the entire faculty helped with the serving of food and with supervision.

Mrs. Evelyn Skalski offered her expertise and services to provide those who participated a poor person's meal: mashed potatoes with peas, rice and beans, pita bread, and water or iced tea. This reflected a typical

meal for most of the world. Mrs. Skalski later reported that it cost about 37 cents a person for that meal.

During the lunches, Ms. Dawn DeGraff, Art Dept. sub, had a number of tables set up so the fast eaters could make a variety of crafts. Her hard work proved extremely popular. Our guests, Sister Mary Balthasar and Carole Riniolo had a display of African art and artifacts. A PowerPoint presentation on the mission in Timau, Kenya and the video *African Skies* were also rolling.

After lunch some students participated in an African drum demonstration. With singing from Jordan Hokaj and percussions provided by Mr. James Holden, Mr. Schu, Cam Powell, Keith Kropski, Joe Musial, and Dave Pfeiffer, the St. Mary's community was entertained with a West African welcoming song. About 25 students assisted in keeping the beat with a menagerie of percussion instruments.

Next was the talk by our guests, Sister Mary Balthasar and Mrs. Riniolo. They told the students what daily life is like in the rural village of Timau, Kenya. Ms. Riniolo visited the area twice, and Sister Mary actually lived in the village for a decade. Sister Mary told stories about how things can get lost in translation and that misunderstandings can be quite humorous. Even though the village is very poor, our guest also said there is great joy and happiness.

Mr. Schu did a PowerPoint presentation on Sister Joanne. A short biographical sketch was given along with pictures and commentary on the incredible work of this St. Mary's alum. The Presidential Citizen Medal was explained and the process of receiving this honor was highlighted. Finally, Mr. Schu sang a song called *Asleep in the Light*, while pictures of God's less fortunate filled the screen. The money raised by the jeans day, about \$700, will be given to the great cause of Sister Joanne.

Thanks goes out to the



Cam Powell, Joe Musial, and Mr. James Holden lead the students in a percussion demonstration.

many people who helped in so many ways. The support of the St. Mary's community will undoubtedly be much appreciated. We also look forward to future opportunities to serve our God.

## Internet Safety

### #4

By Mr. Paul Meyerhofer  
Technology coordinator

After reading Chris Solecki's well-written article ("All is not bad at MySpace.com", *Currents*, April 2007), I feel compelled to comment. Chris is absolutely correct: all is not bad with social networking sites.

As with almost any tool, there are good and bad points. For example, knives have many useful purposes. However, parents keep them out of the reach of young children because they can get hurt.

As much as teenagers feel they understand the dangers in the world, many teenagers lack the wisdom needed to adequately protect themselves. Parents are responsible for setting the rules; children respond by trying to achieve more independence. I recommend that social networking sites be treated similarly to the other parent-child struggles: parents need to warn of the dangers and the children need to show that they can maturely handle this powerful tool.



Three students try on traditional African wear with the assistance of Sister Mary Balthasar, who spent several years in Africa.

# Congratulations, Honor Roll Students

## Top 5 members of the Class of 2007



**Chelsey Kelso**     **Allison Warejko**     **Cameron Powell**     **Elizabeth Migliore**     **Maria Held**

## Top 5 members of the Class of 2008



**Alyssa Owczarczak**     **Joshua Robinson**     **Michelle Scotland**     **Mary Scotland**     **Giuseppe Passucci**

St. Mary's High School recently announced the students who have achieved first and second honors roll for the third quarter of the 2006-2007 school year:

**Senior 1st Honors**  
 Elizabeth Adolf  
 Adam Beilman  
 Paul Bilz  
 Alicia Bishop  
 Alison Bowen  
 Christina Bumbalo  
 James Burton  
 Caitlin Chmura  
 Melissa Chudyk  
 Sandra Foltyniak  
 Ryann Fusani  
 James Gangloff  
 Bradley Gibson  
 Samantha Hacker  
 Maria Held  
 Alesia Johnson  
 Chelsey Kelchlin  
 Chelsey Kelso  
 Elizabeth Knittel  
 Keith Kropski  
 Amanda Kulyk  
 Serene Lazaro  
 Amanda Leli  
 Kristin Leszkowicz  
 Katrina Lubecki  
 Jordan Malecki  
 Elizabeth Migliore  
 John Mioduszewski  
 Andrew Myslinski  
 Nicholas Nicosia  
 Sarah Parise  
 David Pfeiffer  
 Cameron Powell  
 Alexander Rosche  
 Joelle Saveliev  
 Gary Schmelzer  
 Ryan Schwartz  
 Michael Sevilla  
 Tabitha Slachciak

Rebecca Suchy  
 Erica Sullivan  
 Brittany Talani  
 Kathryn Tammaro  
 Tara Ward  
 Allison Warejko  
 Jeremy Wild  
  
**Senior 2nd Honors**  
 Kristy Carberry  
 Linda Conlin  
 Eric Conrad  
 Stephanie Hacker  
 Katilyn Hood  
 Ryan Kufel  
 Candace Leli  
 Joe Lopez  
 Matthew Maggio  
 Kenneth Moultrie  
 Mirika Pilato  
 Brian Popelka  
 Eric Rademacher  
 Matthew Rademacher  
 Brett Radka  
 Justin Randolph  
 Erich Roehner  
 Patricia Salamone  
 Mitchell Schaefer  
 Frank Simmeth  
 Zachery Smith  
 Christopher Solecki  
 Kristine Starkey  
 Jarrett Steffen  
 Ryan Stilwell  
 Kimberly Taberski  
 Savannah Thomas  
 Zachary Weiss

**Junior 1st Honors**  
 John Anstett  
 Shaun Boland  
 Michael Brown  
 Alexander Cappola  
 Erika Carlson  
 Noel Coleman  
 Victoria Cuva  
 Allison Cwynar  
 Megan Delo  
 Kaitlyn Dobmeier  
 Thomas Gebhard  
 Katherine Hall  
 Elynn Hayes  
 Kenneth Held  
 Brian Hinton  
 Katherine Kapanek  
 Christina Knapp  
 Josiah Leroy  
 Allison Marszalkowski  
 Brendon McMahan  
 Anthony Moreno  
 Jessica Nowak  
 Alyssa Owczarczak  
 Giuseppe Passucci  
 Lauren Polanski  
 Timothy Pyszczyński  
 Alec Roberts  
 Joshua Robinson  
 Bridget Rosati  
 John Scanlon  
 Mary Scotland  
 Michelle Scotland  
 Angelia Stepien  
 Emily Trzepacz  
 Samantha Zack  
 Sarah Zureck  
  
**Junior 2nd Honors**  
 Kathryn Aquino  
 Adam Bardol  
 Rachelle Besser  
 Eric Birner

Hillary Braun  
 Brittany Carleton  
 Cassandra Carleton  
 Joseph Eckl  
 David Eron  
 Taylor Hall  
 Robert Hamilton  
 Charles Hypnarowski  
 Kevin Labenski  
 Brittany Lampart  
 Jeffrey McCormick  
 Robert Mohring  
 Philip Montante  
 Jeffrey Pawlak  
 Kyle Platt  
 Douglas Robinson  
 Joshua Scanlon  
 Joseph Schaub  
 Carlos Serrano  
 Stephanie Sikorski  
 Rachel Sporysz  
 Julia Spunt  
 Timothy Voisin  
  
**Sophomore 1st Honors**  
 Andrew Adolf  
 George Arnott  
 Jeremy Banas  
 Gregory Bittner  
 Matthew Bittner  
 Rebecca Carrieri  
 Alyssa Cavallari  
 Austin Chudyk  
 Joanna Cianciosa  
 Zachary Costello  
 Michael Cronmiller  
 Thomas Eggert  
 Jacob Evans  
 Caitlyn Ferber  
 Matthew Fitzpatrick  
 Jeremy Gangloff  
 Mollie Greene  
 Kathryn Hamilton

Christopher Horvatits  
 Thomas Interdonato  
 Robert Isbrandt  
 Sandra Jezuit  
 Sean Kavanagh  
 Jesse Kelso  
 James Knapp  
 Alexander Lennert  
 Amanda Lewalski  
 Ryan Mik  
 Alana Mohring  
 Kelsey Polanski  
 Connor Powell  
 Victoria Reitz  
 Jessica Runk  
 Juelie Scanlon  
 Allyson Severyn  
 William Severyn  
 Samantha Spisiak  
 Elyse Texido  
 Jamie Vallone  
 Andrew Wierzbicki  
 Steven Wrobel  
 Alexander Zach  
  
**Sophomore 2nd Honors**  
 Mathew Bilz  
 Michael Bojar  
 Amanda DiPiazza  
 Johnathon Ditondo  
 Sarah Dutro  
 Timothy Kish  
 Conner Leigh  
 Nicole Marciniak  
 Brittany Porzio  
 Rayna Rickard  
 Ryan Rosso  
 Natalie Sebastiano  
 Alex Severyn  
 Margaret Wirth

**Freshman 1st Honors**  
 Joseph Barnhardt  
 Alex Beilman  
 Alexander Burns  
 Kevin Burton  
 Mallory Cichocki  
 Emma Concannon  
 Shawn Cronmiller  
 Kara Dudek  
 Casey Dudziak  
 Alex Elwell  
 Anthony Heigl  
 Connor Hoffman  
 Jeffery Kapanek  
 Chelsea Kiezbak  
 Megan Marrano  
 Sarah Murphy  
 Victoria Niedzielski  
 Justine Pazderski  
 Cara Pijanowski  
 Mary Pokorski  
 Jeremy Pyszczyński  
 Nicole Richter  
 Tyler Rzemek  
 Stephanie Simmeth  
 Patricia Slawiak  
 Carol Sullivan  
 Christina Van Dewater  
 Timothy Wojcicki  
  
**Freshman 2nd Honors**  
 Jeremy Bauer  
 Robert Bromund  
 Joseph Malicki  
 Michael Malicki  
 Monica McNeill  
 Christopher Ploski  
 Katiemarie Puntoriero  
 Kelsey Rademacher  
 Matthew Sevilla  
 Christie Valentino  
 Jessica Warner

## Top 5 members of the Class of 2009



**George Arnott**     **Jessica Runk**     **Alyssa Cavallari**     **Kelsey Polanski**     **Samantha Spisiak**

## Top 5 members of the Class of 2010



**Jeffery Kapanek**     **Mary Pokorski**     **Christina VanDewater**     **Megan Marrano**     **Carol Sullivan**

# Fine Arts Night to recognize contributions of past, present

By Mr. Peter Herr

Chair, Performing Arts Department

St. Mary's Visual and Performing Arts Department will offer the final production of the 2006-07 school year on Thursday, May 10, in the school auditorium. The "Evening of Fine Arts" will begin at 7 p.m. and will feature the works of all of the performing and visual arts classes, as well as have the presentation of all Performing Arts Awards and the annual induction to the Performing Arts Hall of Fame.

"It's a bittersweet evening," said Miss Amy Baer, director of the spring musical. "It is always great to watch these gifted young people share their talents, but it is sad to think it is our seniors' last performance."

The evening will feature works by the Vocal Ensemble, the Jazz Band, the Dance classes, and the Dance Club. Additionally, some students will perform solos and small group pieces that they prepare themselves. The Visual Arts classes will also display two and three-dimensional pieces of artwork.

Three years ago the format of the evening was changed to follow an "award show" theme. Performing Arts awards are mixed in with the performances to give the audience a night that is filled with both talent and recognition.

The show will culminate with the induction of the 2007 class of the St. Mary's Performing Arts Hall of Fame.

Established in 2006, the Performing Arts Hall of Fame recognizes those individuals who made contributions to the Performing Arts program at St. Mary's.

Although the actual location of the Hall will be determined after the auditorium is renovated, the Performing Arts faculty wanted to

## *Profiles of the Inductees into the Performing Arts Hall of Fame*

### **Sister Mary Louise Frainier**

Vocal music educator at St. Mary's from 1969 to 1978. She was a member of a team, with Bill Smith, that proposed and received approval for a musical theater class. They received accreditation from the State of NY for the course, one of the first of its kind.

Along with Mr. Smith, she was in charge of preparing cast members for their performances through vocal coaching. They also developed the choral groups for the yearly Christmas program.

Their work helped St. Mary's produce outstanding quality performances for nearly a decade including *Oklahoma*, *The Sound of Music*, *South Pacific*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Today, Sister Mary Louise lives in Williamsville at St. Mary's of the Angels, regional living center.

### **Douglas Kern** – Class of 1982

Doug's love for theater was born his senior year at St. Mary's with his participation in the orchestra for the spring musical. His friendship with other musicians involved in St. Mary's theater kept him involved with St. Mary's theater for years after. He participated in St. Mary's musicals for the rest of the decade, helping with set design and construction as well as being a member of the orchestra.

In 2006 he began a new venture, "Rocking Horse Productions" as a producer of local theatrical performances.

### **Ruth Hadsall Reilly** – Class of 1977

Ruth made her singing debut playing Golde in the 1976 performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*. She was one of the lead performers for most of the plays during her tenure at St. Mary's which included Nelly in *South Pacific*, the Mom in *Father's Been to Mars*, and is considered by many as one of the finest female performers to ever grace the St. Mary's stage. She participated in *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Carousel* as an alumni performer.

She is a resident of Elma and married her high school sweetheart, Paul. They have been married for 25 years and have two children, Meaghan, 22, graduating with a degree in musical theater from Niagara University in May, and Lauren, 12, an equestrian participant and a sports enthusiast.

get started with recognizing people who have contributed to the St. Mary's stage over the years.

The Performing Arts Hall of Fame Class

of 2007 includes long time music teacher Sister Mary Louise Franier, Ruth Hadsall Riley from the Class of 1977 and Douglas Kern of the Class of 1982.

## *A letter to parents about smoking*

*Be Smart, Don't Start Using Tobacco Educational Activities Book* is used in Health classes to help students understand the dangers of using tobacco. It illustrates several activities they can choose instead and outlines the healthy benefits of remaining tobacco-free.

Here are some ways parents can help their child understand the book's message:

1. Discuss the facts about tobacco and the harm it can cause. Talk with your child about addiction to tobacco and how difficult it would be to overcome this need.

2. Help your child realize that smoking is

not a way to earn popularity or become "one of the in-crowd." Encourage your child to be responsible and say, "No" to using tobacco products if tempted by peers.

3. Play-act refusal skills so your child is able to resist tobacco products when offered. Remember to praise your child for refusing to use tobacco products in real life.

4. Keep communications open. Create an atmosphere at home where your child feels free to discuss any pressure from others to use tobacco products.

5. If you smoke yourself, now is a good time to quit. Consider attending a stop-smok-

ing seminar or clinic, asking your physician for help, joining a support group on the Internet, or using an over-the-counter aid designed to help you overcome this addiction. Safeguard your family and friends from the dangers of secondhand smoke by not smoking in their presence.

6. Encourage your child to enjoy a variety of healthy activities. Help build your child's self-esteem by offering praise when the activities are done well and when your child is obviously trying to do his or her best. Good self-esteem will help your child refuse drugs when pressured by peers.

# Summer Reading Assignment 2007

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List:

English 9 students are to choose any **two** of the following; English 9 Honors students are to choose **three** of the following.

*Alas, Babylon* (Pat Frank)  
*The Hiding Place* (Corrie ten Boom)  
*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (Mildred Taylor)  
*Summer of My German Soldier* (Bette Greene)  
*Ten Little Indians* – also titled *And Then There Were None* (Agatha Christie)  
*That Was Then, This Is Now* (S.E. Hinton)

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List:

English 10 students are to choose any **two** of the following; English 10 Honors students are to choose **three** of the following.

*Bless the Beasts and Children* (Glendon Swarthout)  
*Hiroshima* (John Hersey)  
*In the Middle of the Night* (Robert Cormier)  
*Joshua* (Joseph Grizzone)  
*A Night to Remember* (Walter Lord)  
*Rebecca* (Daphne du Maurier)  
*Where Are the Children?* (Mary Higgins Clark)

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List:

English 11 students are to choose any **two** of the following; English 11 Honors students are to choose **three** of the following selections; AP History students must read at least **one** of the **starred** selections.

*The Andromeda Strain* (Michael Crichton)  
*Black Boy\** (Richard Wright)  
*Days of Grace* (Arthur Ashe)  
*Dead Man Walking* (Sr. Helen Prejean)  
*The Firm* (John Grisham)  
*The Jungle\** (Upton Sinclair)  
*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass\** (Frederick Douglass)  
*On the Beach* (Nevil Shute)  
*Peace Breaks Out* (John Knowles)  
*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (Betty Smith)

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List:

English 12 students are to choose any **two** of the following; English 12 Honors students are to choose **three** of the following.

*Bleachers* (John Grisham)  
*The Chosen* (Chaim Potok)  
*Farewell to Arms* (Ernest Hemingway)  
*The Great Gatsby* (F. Scott Fitzgerald)  
*The House on Mango Street* (Sandra Cisneros)  
*The Joy Luck Club* (Amy Tan)  
*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (Jules Verne)

## AP English Summer Reading List:

Students taking Advanced Placement English should read three of the following selections.

*All Quiet on the Western Front* (Erich Maria Remarque)  
*The Color of Water* (James McBride)  
*Pygmalion* (George Bernard Shaw)  
*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Tom Stoppard)  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Zora Neale Hurston)  
*Wuthering Heights* (Emily Bronte)

## Summer Reading Assignment for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

You are to choose Project A for one novel you have read and Project B for the second novel you have read.

For each project, you must:

- include the title and author of the book
- draw or cut out pictures from magazines, newspapers, etc.
- include a **minimum** of eight pictures (you are encouraged to include as many as are necessary to fully explain your points)

Project A:

1. Using pictures, create a poster on a main character from the book you have read.
2. Choose a picture that you think might physically look like this character and place it in a prominent place on the poster. Label it with the character's name.
3. Choose pictures that illustrate character traits, situations, or experiences the character has gone through, or other items that might be important to the character, to create the rest of the poster.
4. In 1-4 sentences, tell either how the character is similar to you or how the character may be different from you. Attach this to the back of the poster.
5. Be prepared to discuss how these similarities or differences are revealed by the pictures you have chosen for your poster.

Project B:

1. Using pictures, create a poster of the plot line (a time line of the major events of the story).
2. On the plot line, include and label the climax (high point of action) of the story.
3. Also on the poster, state the theme (or message or lesson learned from the story) in one sentence.
4. Be prepared to discuss the theme and show how one or more major events

from the story contributed to your understanding of this message.

## English 9 Honors Students Only:

For your third book, on a full sheet of paper to be handed in, list:

- title and author of the book
- names of major characters (with a one sentence description)
- major events (including climax or high point)
- theme

In class, be prepared to discuss the characterization, plot, and theme of the story in more detail.

**Your projects must be handed to your English teacher on Monday, Sept. 10.**

The project will be graded, and the grade will count toward your first quarter English average. Posters and projects will not be returned to students; they will be kept on file with the English Department. If students do not complete the summer reading assignment, they will be given a grade of incomplete for the first quarter, which will be removed only if the assignment is satisfactorily completed and submitted to the teacher.

## Summer Reading Assignment for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> Grades (Regents and Honors):

In addition to completing the reading, you will be expected to keep a journal about the books you have chosen. For **each** book, you will need to complete **all seven journal entries**. The journal entries should be handwritten in a notebook – typed pages will not be accepted. Each entry (except for the vocabulary) should be 100-150 words long. The journal should contain your own original work. When discussing the book, you should use specific references to the work to indicate you have completed the reading.

The first page of your journal must contain a list of the titles and authors of the books you read.

For **each** book, you must answer all seven journal topics:

1. Select 10 unfamiliar words from the book. Look up each word in the dictionary, copy down the definition, and write your own sentence using the word.
2. Relate an incident in the book to something you have experienced.
3. Choose what you consider to be the most significant quotation from the book. Copy the quotation and discuss its meaning. (Note: the quotation itself does not count as part of the 100-150 words.)

(Continued on page 8)

# Let's help one of our own win Presidential Citizens Medal

By Mr. Gary Schulenberg  
Chair, Social Studies Department

In the fall of 2006, Sister Rose gave me a correspondence from Mr. Ian Allan. I learned that he had spent time in a mission in the small village of Timau, Kenya. The focus of his letter referred to the work of Sister Joanne Gangloff, OSF, there. Because of her great work, Mr. Allan was nominating Sister Joanne for the *Presidential Citizens Medal*. This award, established in 1969, is granted to US citizens "who [has] performed exemplary deeds or service for his or her country or fellow citizens." It is second only to the *Presidential Medal of Freedom*.

As I read Mr. Allan's material and did some of my own research, I learned a great deal about Sister Joanne. She is Depew-born, is a St. Mary's graduate, went to Medaille College and later Niagara University. She taught in Buffalo, at St. Mary's, in Puerto



Sister Joanne (right) with former St. Mary's teacher Carol Riniolo

Rico, and a small village on the slopes of Mt. Kenya, called Timau. It is in the last location that she has really made a huge impact.

Timau is a market area and home for the Kikuya, Masai, and Meru people. The average daily wage is \$1.50 per day. *That's per day*. Sister is a strong proponent of education as a means to raise people's standard of living. As a consequence, those beliefs have resulted in action. Sister procured funds to

build the St. Elizabeth Pre-School, St. Claire Technical School, and Parish High School. Other construction included new dormitories, science and home economics buildings, a library, a sanitation block, and homes for staff and volunteers.

Sister Joanne also founded the Christian Foundation for Children & Aging. Funds for this organization have assisted approximately 100 elderly people and over 1,000 children with food, clothing, and medical care. These groups include squatters, immigrants, orphans, the poor, handicapped, and AIDS sufferers. The dedication of Sister Joanne is a true reflection on what Christ calls us to do.

A letter writing campaign will be conducted in the Social Studies classes. Faculty and staff will also be invited to help in this campaign to award Sister Joanne Gangloff the *Presidential Citizens Medal*. Look for future publications to see how you can also join the bandwagon.

## Summer Reading Assignment 2007 (continued)

4. Which character did you like the most? Why? Which character did you like the least? Why?
5. Explain why you think this is an important book to read.
6. Climax is the turning point of a story; it is the pivotal point where a revelation influences the outcome of the story. Which event is the story's climax? How is this a turning point for the characters?
7. Overall, did you like the book? Why or why not?

**Your journal should be handed to your English teacher on Monday, Sept. 10.**

The journal will be graded, and the grade will count toward your first quarter English average. Journals will not be returned to students; they will be kept on file with the English Department. If students do not complete the summer reading assignment, they will be given a grade of incomplete for the first quarter, which will be removed only if the assignment is satisfactorily completed and submitted to the teacher.

### AP English – Summer Reading Assignment

In AP English, our focus will be the interpretation and analysis of literature. It is assumed that you can retell the plot of a story, so the summer reading assignment will involve interpreting and analyzing the three literary works you have chosen.

For **each** book you read, you will write a book analysis. In your book analysis, you will discuss the following topics:

Section One: an introduction. This paragraph should include the author, title, and genre. It should also indicate the setting and theme of the work.

Section Two: a discussion of the author's writing style. This involves syntax (sentence structure) and diction (word choice). When thinking about the author's style, you should consider the following questions: Is the language in the book is simple or complex? Why would the author write the story with this particular style? Be sure to give examples to illustrate the writing style.

Section Three: a discussion of the author's techniques. In this section, discuss three literary techniques used in the work. There are many points to consider, and the following list cannot apply to all. (In addition, while reading, you may spot other devices that are not on this list.) Here are some examples: What is the author's point of view, and what effect does this have? Are there any intruding narrative devices such as letters, diaries, or flashbacks? How does the reader learn about the characters? How does the setting create the atmosphere? Is there any symbolism in this story? Is there any irony present?

Section Four: a conclusion. In the conclusion, give an overall evaluation or recommendation about the work. Is it worthwhile to read? Is it a waste of

time? Why?

In the paper, the keys are INTERPRETATION and ANALYSIS. Do not give a plot summary. You should discuss plot only to give specific examples as they pertain to your discussion of the book's elements. When writing this paper, keep in mind that it is a formal paper written for the college level. Impress the reader with your writing ability. The writing and interpretation in your paper should be your own original work. Even though there are four specific sections to each paper, do not number your sections; make smooth transitions between sections and write the papers in an essay format.

Each paper should be **three pages typed and double-spaced**, although it may be longer if you feel the need to elaborate. **Your three papers must be turned in to your English teacher on Monday, September 10.** These papers will be used to begin our literary discussions. These papers will not be returned to the student; they will be kept on file with the English Department. The grade, which counts toward your first quarter English average, is based on your completion of the assignment, the analysis of the literary work, and the writing skill displayed in the papers. If you do not complete the summer reading assignment, you will be given a grade of incomplete for the first quarter, which will be removed only if the assignment is satisfactorily completed and submitted to the teacher.

# QUIVIVE *a production of the French III students*

## Les Hollywoodiens

Par Billy Lewis et Jordan Hokaj

- Angelina Jolie a adopté un autre garçon de Viêt Nam s'appelle Pax Thien. Elle a trois enfants adoptés et elle a déjà un enfant biologique.



- Vivica Fox a été arrêté pour la conduite ivre
- Nicole Richie a été diagnostiqué avec hypoglycemia quand elle est tombé malade sur l'émission, "The Simple Life"
- Regis Philbin va mieux après le chirurgie de deviation.



## Dans Le Four

Par Sarah Dutro et Vikki Reitz

Le weekend hier, nous avons visité "T.G. I. Friday's." Ce restaurant a l'atmosphère amusante avec beaucoup de chose sur les murs. La musique moderne est aussi agréable à écouter en vous mangez.

Sarah a eu les doigts de poulet. Ils étaient délicieux. Vikki a eu les bandes du poulet. Ils étaient très bien avec la sauce douce.

Le serveur était très amical et attentif. Les bas prix font manger à T. G. I. Friday's moins cher que Smokey Bones ou Famous Dave's.

Aussi, il y a beaucoup de nouveaux choses sur la carte. Nous le recommandons à vous.



## Les Fleurs Figés

Par Sandra Jezuit

- Une cuillère figé avec une pignée longue
- La peinture à l'acrylique
- Un pinceau
- Une fiole
- Les feuilles de l'écume
- Les perles figés
- La colle pour le bois



1. Peindre les entes des cuillères figés vertes et les mettez dans la fiole.
2. Collez les feuilles de l'écume au bol de chaque cuillère.
3. Quand les colles sont sèches, peindre les deux côtés des fleurs et les mettez dans la fiole à secher.
4. Collez les perles figés dans le centre de chaque fleur.

## La Passionée

Par: Noël A. Coleman

### The Metamorphosis

Par: Franz Kafka

Ce mois, j'ai lu *The Metamorphosis* par Franz Kafka. Je n'ai rien lu un plus intéressant et impair roman. Ce roman est au sujet de la transformation durant la nuit de l'homme. L'homme se reveille comme "monstrous vermin" et a beaucoup de nouveaux problèmes dans sa vie.

Gregor Samsa est un homme qui travaille tout les heures. Sa vie est complètement de souci et hantise avec son travail. Gregor est un vendeur mais il ne peut pas vendre ses produits. Quand il devient un "monstrous vermin" son monde changement beaucoup.

Je donne ce roman quatre (4) étoiles parce que c'était très original et unique. Ce livre est insolite mais un bon lu. C'est court et divertissement. Si vous lisez ce livre, vous ne pouvez pas peur des bogues.

Un cauchemar en réalité



## Le Monde des Sports

Par: Jesse Kelso et Chris Horvatits



Le tournoi de NCAA a commencé sur le 15 mars, avec les premiers jeux circulaires. Le grand vexé du premier rond était la République de Virginie ont battu Duke, 79-77. Dans le Final Quatre jeux, Floride ont battu UCLA dans le premier jeu, 76-66, et Etat d'Ohio ont battu Georgetown 67-60 dans le deuxième jeu. Dans le jeu de championnat, Floride ont battu l'Etat d'Ohio, 84-75. Le marqueur principal pour les Alligators de Floride était Al Horford avec 18 points. Il avait aussi 12 rebonds pour un double-double. Le marqueur principal l'Etat d'Ohio était Greg Oden avec 25 points. Il avait aussi 12 rebonds pour un double-double. C'était le deuxième championnat de l'Alligator en rang.

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Your shopping at hundreds of online stores helps St. Mary's High School with each purchase!

It's all free & private. Join today and change online shopping for good. Go to [igive.com](http://igive.com) for more information.



# QUIVIVE *a production of the French III students*

## The Hollywood

by *Billy Lewis and Jordan Hokaj*

- Angelina Jolie adopted another boy from Vietnam, named Pax Thien. She has three adopted children and has one biological child



- Vivica Fox was arrested for drunk driving.
- Nicole Ritchie was diagnosed with hypoglycemia when she fell ill on the set of *The Simple Life*.
- Regis Philbin is doing better after his bypass surgery.

## In The Oven

By: *Sarah Dutro and Vicki Reitz*

Last weekend, we visited T.G.I. Friday's. This restaurant has a fun atmosphere with many things mounted on the walls. The modern music is also enjoyable to listen to while you eat.

Sarah had chicken fingers. They were delicious. Vicki had sesame jack chicken strips that were very good with the sweet sauce.

The server was very friendly and attentive. The low prices make eating at T.G.I. Friday's cheaper than Smokey Bones or Famous Dave's.

Also, there are many new items on the menu. We recommend it to you!



## The World of Sports

By: *Jesse Kelso and Chris Horvatits*



The NCAA tournament started on March 15, with the first round games. The big upset of the first round was Virginia Commonwealth defeating Duke, 79-77. In the Final Four games, Florida defeated UCLA in the first game, 76-66, and Ohio State defeated Georgetown, 67-60, in the second game. In the championship game, Florida defeated Ohio State, 84-75. The leading scorer for the Florida Gators was Al Horford

with 18 points. He also had 12 rebounds for a double-double. The leading scorer for the Ohio State Buckeyes was Greg Oden with 25 points. He also had 12 rebounds for a double-double. This was the Gator's second championship in a row.

## The Bookworm

By: *Noël A. Coleman*

### The Metamorphosis

By *Franz Kafka*

This month I read *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka. I have never read a more interesting and odd book. This book is about the overnight transformation of a man. The man wakes up as a "monstrous vermin" and faces many new problems in his life.

Gregor Samsa is a man who works all the time. His life is full of worry and obsession with his work. Gregor is a salesman, but he is unable to sell any of his products. When he becomes a "monstrous vermin" his world changes a lot.

I give this book four (4) stars because it was very original and unique. This book is unusual but a good read. It is short and entertaining. To read this book, you can't be afraid of bugs.



## Wooden Flowers

By *Sandra Jezuit*

- Long-handled wooden spoons
- Acrylic paint
- Paint brush
- Mug
- Foam flower petals
- Wooden beads (any color)
- Wood glue



1. Paint the wooden spoon handles green and put them in the mug to dry.
2. Glue foam petals to the bowl of each spoon.
3. When the glue dries, paint the front and back of the flowers and put them in the mug to dry.
4. Glue beads in the center of each flower.

## Chris Griswold Memorial 5K Race & 1 Mile Fun Run

**Saturday, May 19, 2007**

**in Como Park in Lancaster**

**10 a.m. – Walk/Fun Run • 10:30 a.m. – 5K Race**

**Sponsored by St. Mary's Alumni Association**

**US Track & Field Sanctioned • Split Club and Door Prizes**

**Additional Information and Applications:**

Contact the St. Mary's Alumni Office (683-4824, ext. 28)

# Counseling Corner

Mary Jakubowski ([mjak@smhlancers.org](mailto:mjak@smhlancers.org))

683-2349

Kelly Smith ([ksmith@smhlancers.org](mailto:ksmith@smhlancers.org))

## Not homesick, but ...

Many kids go off to college and barely look over their shoulders to wave as their parents drive away in the family car. Other kids pack their childhood toys and enough pictures from home to cover the walls of the entire dorm. You may be on either end of this spectrum, but most likely you will be somewhere in the middle: ready to be on your own, but aware that you will miss certain things about home. In any case, the future holds many surprises.

A recent informal survey of college freshmen revealed several things that surprised them during their first few months away from home. Here's what the survey found:

They missed their favorite foods. Whether it was Mom's spaghetti or Dad's BBQ, they craved some of that good home cooking after a few months away. One girl dreamt about her neighborhood coffee place and got misty-eyed over her favorite burritos – both of which were a long way from the East Coast where she attended school.

While not exactly homesick, many kids were surprised at how often they thought about their

families and friends. Keeping in touch is easy, though, so they were able to hear those familiar voices or communicate via text message or email whenever they felt the need.

Quite often, kids said they missed the privacy that they may have taken for granted at home. Crowded halls, shared shower facilities, and the constant flow of people drove some kids to seek out a quiet haven for themselves. This allowed them to be as social as they wanted but granted them some "down time" if necessary.

A big surprise for many kids was the amount of reading they were required to do. Depending on class requirements, there could be a lot more reading than you typically do in high school. Kids had to step up and figure out how to get it done, picking up some valuable pointers from upper classmen or older siblings.

The necessity of time management also surprised many of these students. With all the opportunities to socialize and join clubs, play a sport or go out with friends, getting their work done would sometimes take a low priority. With no one reminding them to meet their deadlines, they soon realized that the responsibility rested on their shoulders — and once again, they learned to step up. Of course, some lessons are learned the hard way! Hopefully, it only takes one mistake or missed assignment to get a student back on track.

If you go to college across the country or even in the state next door, you will no doubt experience a whole new mix of attitudes and perceptions — about everything from

(Continued on page 4)

## The advantages of attending a "less selective" college

In this era of "big name" schools influencing college choice, are there any good reasons for choosing to attend a less selective institution?

If you're one of those people who prefer a place at the top of the class, less competitive universities may offer a number of advantages.

*Merit scholarships* — most of the top-rated schools such as the Ivies offer only need-based financial aid. Many other excellent, but less selective schools, are able to offer merit aid to highly desirable candidates. Generally, applicants who rank in the top quarter of admitted students may be offered merit scholarships as an inducement to attend.

*Special honors programs with extra services* — even large public institutions offer their best applicants special services such as priority registration, unique residential options, and small seminar classes taught by top faculty members. Honors students often have opportunities for research usually reserved for graduate students and may be invited to attend special summer sessions or to experience international travel.

Top students are encouraged to develop close relationships with professors who will, in turn, act as mentors and recommenders for graduate school and employment.

You'd also get to experience the heady feeling of being among the top students in your class.

## Timeline

### May 2007

- 1<sup>st</sup> – common reply date for college decisions
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Deadline for June 9<sup>th</sup> ACT
- 5<sup>th</sup> – SAT and Subject Tests
- 7<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> – AP exams

### June 2007

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – SAT and Subjects Tests
- 9<sup>th</sup> – ACT and ACT plus Writing
- Seniors – thank teachers who helped you

## The A to Z of college finances

- A** is for the checking *account* you'll want to open. Choose a bank with offices both near home and at college so parents can easily add money.
- B** is for *budget*. Create a realistic one that allows for unexpected expenses.
- C** stands for *credit-rating*. Be wary of building up balances that are hard to repay. Ideally, balances should be paid off completely each month so you can avoid high interest charges. Make payments on time and you can use this account to establish a good credit rating.
- D** is for *debt*. The debt load of graduating seniors in 2003 averaged over \$19,200.
- E** is the first letter of *Expected Family Contribution*. This is the amount that students and their families are expected to contribute to a year's educational expenses.
- F** stands for *flexible-spending accounts*. Many colleges allow a portion of meal-plan money to be used for a variety of expenses such as pizza, haircuts, and groceries. Merchants near the college often accept flex-cash in lieu of cash. Parents can also add more money to these flex accounts as needed.
- G** is for *grants*. Generally based on established need, grants reduce tuition costs and do not need to be repaid.
- H** reminds us of the need for *health insurance*. If the student is no longer covered by the family's health insurance, you can find an economical alternative through the college's health plan.
- I** is for the *Internet*—a great source of information about scholarships and loans. Check out [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) for scholarship databases, and [salliemae.com](http://salliemae.com) for loan information.
- J** stands for *jobs*. Even students who don't qualify for work-study can find a variety of on or near-campus employment. Working 8 to 12 hours a week can add needed structure to the student's days as well as providing extra cash.
- K** is for *kitchen*. Housing with kitchen facilities allows students to reduce their meal costs to what they actually consume.
- L** is the first letter of *loan*. Subsidized and unsubsidized, loans for students and for parents, check out options at [salliemae.com](http://salliemae.com) or [nelliemae.com](http://nelliemae.com).
- M** begins *meal plan*. Sign up for only the number of meals you're likely to use each week. Putting some of your meal money into a flexible-spending account will add variety to your meal options.
- N** is for *need*—the difference between cost of attendance and expected family contribution.
- O** is for *overseas* programs. Most colleges offer study abroad options, generally for the same cost as studying at your home campus. Travel costs are usually additional, but the experience can be priceless!
- P** is for *PLUS Loans*—Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students. Families can borrow money through this program to meet uncovered college expenses.
- Q** stands for *question*. Contact your financial aid office to request more help with college expenses.
- R** is for *reduce*. Look for ways to reduce costs such by using AP credits or taking some classes at a local community college.
- S** is for *scholarships*. Scholarships are gift money that reduce the cost of college. Some cover room and board in addition to tuition. Scholarships are generally merit awards given for academics, essay contests, or special skills such as athletic or in performing arts.
- T** stands for *telephone*. Phone expenses can consume a good part of your college budget. Search out plans most economical for your expected usage.
- U** is for *unpaid* positions. While these won't fund your college expenses, they can add immeasurably to your resume.
- V** is for *volunteer*. Check out volunteer opportunities at your college's career or volunteer center.
- W** is for *work-study*. You can qualify for work-study jobs through your FAFSA application. Work-study funds can be used to pay the student's part of the expected family contribution. Best of all, this money won't be counted in assessing the next year's need.
- X** stands for *extras*. This includes all of the unexpected expenses that add up over time to increase your cost of attendance.
- Y** is for *you*. While college is expensive, remember that college graduates currently earn over a million dollars more over a life-time of work than those with only a high school diploma.
- Z** is for *zoom*. Completing college in four (or fewer) years significantly reduces the cost of attendance. Surprisingly, only 58 percent of U.S. college students graduate within six years.

## Help teen schedule time to prepare for upcoming exams

As the year winds down, final exams seem to sneak up on students. Your teen could probably tell you exactly how many hours are left in the school year, but she might be unable to tell you what her math final will cover. Help her take responsibility for her studying by giving her these tips:

- Get organized. It's much easier for your teen to figure out what to study if she has her old tests, homework,

and class notes from the entire year. Starting at least ten days before the test will also keep her stress level down.

- Identify problem areas. What concepts were most challenging for your teen? She should spend the most time working on those.
  - Work on other areas. She should review notes and practice important
- (Continued on page 4)



## Spotlight on Careers — Fine Arts

*Majors need to choose between art institute and art school*

Do you have a passion for painting, drawing, or designing but feel unsure about how you can turn your love of art into a career? Bachelor's programs in either the fine arts or in the arts can help you achieve your goal of a fulfilling career.

Students interested in the visual arts may choose to pursue their passion either at a specialized art institute or as an art major at a more comprehensive college. Art schools generally award a Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree, while liberal arts college grads earn a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.). The art institute is most appropriate for those individuals who truly wish to immerse themselves in art.

Most art schools are located in big cities where their students can have easy access to the artistic community. B.F.A. programs train their constituents for art-based careers; students may prepare for a future in fashion, auto or interior design, videogame development, animation, or the graphic arts. It's important to consider, however, that studio art classes require hours of hard work and students at art institutes have little time or opportunity to get the breadth of education that is possible at a liberal arts college.

At the art institute, you'll start with foundation courses such as basic design and history of art and will have an opportunity to focus on your area of concentration during the later part of your studies. The emphasis of each art institute differs, even within the same media such as painting or sculpture. You'll want to carefully check each program's philosophy before committing to attend.

Art institutes do not offer the variety of extracurricular clubs, sports, and activities that most college students seek and expect. Dorms also tend to be pretty basic, so try to come for an extended visit before making a final decision.

If you're interested in focusing on art but still want to have opportunities to explore other interests, consider



[www.uaf.edu](http://www.uaf.edu)

pursuing an art major at a liberal arts college. Often, it is your other interests that serve as inspiration for your art work. The exposure to a variety of issues and ideas will help you to grow and mature.

Career preparation is not the primary focus of B.A. programs. Over half of your education is in areas other than art, with substantial study in the humanities, social sciences, and physical sciences. Typical programs for studio art majors include foundation courses in the arts including work in sculpture, painting, drawing, and

photography, as well as classes in the history of art and modern art. Since upper level students concentrate in a specific medium, you'll want to check the college catalogue to see the breadth of classes offered in your preferred field.

Although students in Bachelor of Arts programs do not get the intensity of experience that B.F.A. graduates have, they do benefit from the more rounded college-life experience available at a comprehensive institution.

### Careers for Fine Arts Majors

All fine arts majors should seek out internships in galleries or museums, apprenticeships with working artists, or employment in architectural or design firms in order to gain real-world experience.

Both the B.F.A. and B.A. programs prepare students for graduate programs in the arts. A master's degree is generally required for those hoping for employment in museums and galleries, or for teaching at the high school level. Museum curators and directors and college professors may have Ph.D.s. Fine arts majors may go on to work in a variety of art-related fields. The major provides the initial preparation required for careers in commercial art or other areas such as art therapy, art editor, critic, museum curator, art educator, art restorer, architect, and designer.

You can learn more about careers in the visual arts by using the Occupational Outlook Handbook at [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov) or by clicking on [www.collegeart.org](http://www.collegeart.org).



## Use summer months to investigate, plan a career

Some teens need to see the link between what they're doing in school and what they'll do later in their lives. They often ask, "Why do we need to learn this?"

If that sounds like your teen, set aside some time this summer for her to do serious career planning. That will help her head back to school next fall ready to tackle the subjects she'll need for her future.

Here are some ways you can help your teen use the summer to get a jump start on planning her career:

- Talk with your teen about careers that interest her. If your teen does

something well, ask if she might be interested in a career using those talents. "You have done such a great job fixing up your room. Are you interested in interior design?"

- Look for summer classes or enrichment programs your teen might attend. Check classes at local community colleges as well.

Any summer job can teach your teen some job skills—coming to work on time, being responsible, and working as part of a team. But your teen can move beyond the basics through internships or job shadowing.

Once your teen has begun to think

about a few careers, do some research. What education or training is required? Some highly paid jobs require only a two-year degree or technical training.

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## Not homesick

(continued from page 1)

politics and religion to clothes and cleanliness. Your standards of "good enough" as far as keeping your dorm room neat may differ from your roommate's. Also, your definition of "loud" and your assumptions about the difference between "mine" and "not mine" may need to be negotiated in close living quarters.

Overall, students seemed to be pleased with how they were handling all the freedom and responsibility they gained in college. While they may occasionally long for homemade goodies, most enjoy their independence, get along well with others, and learn as much as they can – both in class and in the campus community.

Who knows? In a few short years they may be homesick for the late nights, noisy halls, and cold pizza breakfasts. Ask your parents or older friends and they'll tell you that their college years were the good old days!

## Prepare for exams (continued from page 2)

skills. Solving sample problems, such as for a math or science test,

also helps.

- Take practice tests. Have her make copies of old exams and retake them. Grade them by comparing them to the original tests.
- Review one more time. The night before the test, your teen should go through her study materials and spend extra time on anything that still gives her trouble.
- Get a good night's sleep. Don't let her spend the night before the test cramming. Preparing ahead of time should make her feel confident about the test.

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## More Information

### Scholarships

**AFC \$50K Giveaway Scholarship Sweepstakes.** Apply online at [www.afclending.com](http://www.afclending.com).

**Scholarship Fund of the Western and Central New York Chapter of Safari Club International** for students who will major in the fields of Environment and Wildlife. Deadline: May 30.

**Apple Scholars Program** for students who use technology to creatively solve problems. [www.apple.com/education/students/scholars](http://www.apple.com/education/students/scholars). Deadline: May 15.

## Regents Review Live! on ThinkBright

As an aid to their review work, students who are taking a Regents Exam in June are encouraged to tune in to Regents Review Live! on the local ThinkBright station.

Regents Review Live is a 90-minute show hosted by a respected subject teacher in New York State. The teacher will go over many of the important topics on that subject. Viewers will also be invited to call in questions that they may have for the teacher to answer.

All shows will appear from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on ThinkBright, a public broadcasting corporation station partnered with WNET. ThinkBright is found on Channel 21 on the



Time Warner System.

The schedule for Regents Review Live! shows is:

- Monday, May 7 – English
- Tuesday, May 8 – Math A
- Wednesday, May 9 – Math B
- Thursday, May 10 – Earth Science
- Friday, May 11 – Living Environment
- Monday, May 14 – Chemistry
- Tuesday, May 15 – Physics
- Wednesday, May 16 – Global History
- Thursday, May 17 – US History
- Friday, May 18 – Spanish
- Monday, May 21 – French

In addition to the Regents Review Live! television shows, excellent review links and

resources are available at [www.regentsreviewlive.net](http://www.regentsreviewlive.net).

## Mrs. Tytka schedules review

Math students who have Mrs. Tytka for a teacher are encouraged to attend her review sessions, scheduled as follows:

- PreCal Honors – May 21, 22, 23
- PreCal – May 10, May 14, May 15
- Math IIIA & IIIB – May 29, 30, 31, June 1, 4, 5, 6

Other review sessions will be listed in the June issue of Currents.



# 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.*

## Forever Stamp is good investment

By Andrew Myslinski  
Class of 2007



Anyone want a hot investment tip? Hint: Buy stamps – and lots of them.

In today's unpredictable world, there aren't too many sure things. There is

one item, however, that is: the new Forever Stamp. It features a Liberty Bell and it was unveiled recently by the Postal Service.

The price of a first-class stamp will go up on May 14, this time by two cents to 41 cents. To soften the blow of this hike, the Postal Service says this could be the last one you'll ever need to pay. The new Forever Stamp will cost the same as a first-class stamp. It goes on sale on April 12 at 41 cents, and it can be used forever. These stamps gain value every time rates increase. To offset rising costs, prices went up 13 times since 1974, when a first class stamp went from 8 cents to a dime. We should all take advantage of this opportunity to save some money.

"Forever" stamps have already been used in more than two-dozen countries with great success. This includes Great Britain, which has had these stamps for years. This should make us wonder why it took so long to reach us.

The benefits are clear: Customers get ahead on price increases. They also won't have to run to the post office every time rates increase.

The Postal Service will avoid unwanted lines, usually created by those wishing to buy 2- or 3-cent stamps. Why wouldn't they want this to happen?

The only problem: If people keep buying forever stamps, the stamps might last forever, but will the Postal Service?

## Can you live without technology?

By Chelsey Kelchlin  
Class of 2007

I think that everyone can agree that we all depend on technology to get us through our daily lives. People rely on technology for both work and pleasure.

Many businesses nowadays cannot function without technology. In a article *Office gadgets I can't live without* (consultantjournal.com) Andrea Coutr

stated, "I have been using computers since I was seven years old, so I am a bit of gadget geek."

Many office supplies that businesses use are the cordless phone with caller ID, laptops, high speed internet connection, DVD and CD burner, and Microsoft Office, especially Word and Excel.

Computers, cell phones, video games, blogs, and text messages have taken over  
(Continued on page 17)

## Everyone loves the Sabres

By Zack Weiss  
Class of 2007

Walk down Broadway on a warm day in April and it's all too apparent... It's playoff time for the Sabres. Flags, pennants, and signs adorn cars left and right. Jerseys, both the old red and blacks as well as the newer blue and gold, are worn at will. The town stands ready to cheer while the game is on, preparing for the next day's discussions of the game. But what makes this team so special? Why has the town embraced them so readily?

The Buffalo Sabres are a team that has a storyline that is set for Hollywood, a "Rags to Riches" plot that can capture the fancy of any sports fan. Two years removed from financial turmoil, the team has become the feel good story of the NHL. After the hardships of the years before the lockout, the Sabres returned to the "new" NHL with a team fit for domination.

In their first season post lockout, the Sabres made it all the way to the conference championship, falling just short to the Carolina Hurricanes, in spite of their injury riddled lineup. In 2007, the Sabres captured the President's Cup, an award for the best record in the league throughout the regular season, for the first time in franchise history. Building upon the regular season achievements, the team is currently playing their way to the Stanley Cup, gaining momentum and capti-

vating fans nationwide.

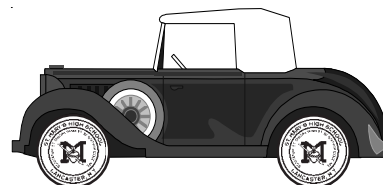
So why the Sabres? Saratoga Springs native and St. Mary's substitut teacher Evan Williamson is a Buffalo Sabres fan. In his hometown, the NHL team to cheer for is the New York Rangers, but upon his arrival to Buffalo, Mr. Williamson began to root for the home team.

Through living in the region of Western New York, Williamson has seen many of the local sports teams play, but the Sabres are his favorite. This point of view is shared by most of the Buffalo natives Williamson would come into contact with.

(Continued on page 18)

## CLASSIC CAR SHOW

AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2007



**Time:**

12 noon to 4:00 p.m.

**Cost:**

Car Entry – \$13

**For more information  
call the Development Office  
at 683-4824, ext. 28**

# Technology *(continued from page 16)*

kid's lives, often starting as early as four.

There were surveys done by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Pew Internet & American Life Project on kids in the ages of eight to 18. Of the kids that participated, more than 85 percent had computers at home. About two-thirds of the kids had TVs in their rooms, and about half had video game players in there.

Another study done was about Internet access and almost three-quarters had Internet access at home. About half of teen Internet users went on the Internet daily and said that it helped their life.

Many parents should be getting wor-

ried, because the time spent playing with the new technology is lost from exercise and could result in more obese children. Many children can also have trouble developing learning and social skills.

Other concerns should be meeting strangers online or being exposed to pornography or other offensive material. Life is taking place without the kids that are watching TV, using the computer, or playing video games more than 2 hours a day.

Many kids that are so attached to their technology aren't developing very good social skills either.

A therapist in Oakland has treated kids

for computer addiction. Many teens get moody or aggressive or agitated. If many children can't identify and manage their own feelings, they can find other harmful ways to change them by doing drugs, drinking, having sex, or playing computer games.

The technology can be good and bad; it depends on how you use it. Many offices rely on the new technology to get things done, but families need to put a limit on the use of the new technology that their kids are using at home. Many adults are also very addicted to technology, and they need to know when enough is enough so they can help teach through their own example.

## 2007 Spring Sports Schedules

### Softball

*Varsity home games at St. Mary's (unless indicated). JV home games at Walden Pond.*

Wed., May 2, 4:30 p.m. vs. Niagara Cath  
 Wed., May 9, 4:15 p.m. @ Holy Angels  
 Wed., May 16, 4:15 p.m. vs. Immaculata  
 Mon., May 21, 4:15 p.m. @ O'Hara  
 Thur., May 31, Quarterfinals

### Varsity Baseball

Wed., May 2, 4 p.m. vs. Niagara Catholic  
 Fri., May 4, 4 p.m. @ St. Joe's  
 Wed., May 9, 4 p.m. @ St. Francis

Fri., May 11, 4 p.m. vs. Timon  
 Mon., May 14, 4 p.m. vs. St. Francis  
 Wed., May 16, 4 p.m. @ Canisius  
 Fri., May 18, 4 p.m. @ O'Hara  
 Mon., May 21, 4 p.m. vs. Niagara Cath  
 Tue., May 22, 4 p.m. vs. O'Hara  
 Wed., May 30, Quarterfinals  
 Mon., June 4, Semifinals

### JV Baseball

Tue., May 1, 4:30 p.m. @ St. Joe's I  
 Fri., May 4, 4 p.m. vs. St. Joe's I  
 Sat., May 5, 12 noon @ St. Francis I  
 Tue., May 8, 4 p.m. @ Canisius I

Wed., May 9, 4 p.m. vs. St. Francis I  
 Sat., May 12, 12 noon vs. Canisius II  
 Sun., May 13, 12 noon vs. St. Joe's II  
 Mon., May 14, 4 p.m. @ St. Francis II  
 Fri., May 18, 4 p.m. vs. O'Hara  
 Mon., May 21, 4:30 p.m. @ North Tonawanda

### Women's Tennis

Wed., May 2, 4 p.m. vs. Park  
 Fri., May 4, 4 p.m. @ Holy Angels  
 Mon., May 7, 4 p.m. @ Mount St. Mary's  
 Wed., May 9, 4 p.m. vs. Nardin  
 Fri., May 11, 4 p.m. @ Park  
 Mon., May 14, 4 p.m. @ Mount Mercy  
 Mon., May 21, 4 p.m. vs. O'Hara  
 Wed., May 30, All Catholics  
 Thur., May 31, All Catholics  
 Sun., June 3, All Catholics

### Women's Track

Tue., May 1, 3:30 p.m. @ St. Mary's for Deaf  
 Sat., May 5, @ Wildcat Relays Depew  
 Wed., May 16, 3:30 p.m. @ All Catholics  
 Sat., May 19, @ Catholic State Meet New York City  
 June 8 & 9 @ State Championships in Kingston

### Men's Track

Wed., May 2, 3:30 p.m. @ St. Mary's for Deaf  
 Sat., May 5, @ Wildcat Relays Depew  
 Mon., May 7, 4 p.m. @ Timon  
 Sat., May 12, 10 a.m. Freshmen/Sophomores All-Catholics  
 Wed., May 16, 3:30 p.m. @ All-Catholics  
 Sat., May 19 @ Catholic State Meet New York City  
 June 8&9 TBA State Championships Kingston

## Suchy signs letter of intent



Senior Rebecca Suchy recently signed a letter of intent to play volleyball next year at Niagara University. As she signs her letter she is surrounded by (left to right) her parents Tom and Marge Suchy, principal and former coach Rebecca Kranz, and current volleyball coach Don Piczynski.

## Sabres *(continued from page 17)*

Due to recent struggles of the Buffalo Bills, and the lack of media attention given to the Bisons (AAA Baseball) and Bandits (Indoor Lacrosse team), the Sabres have gained the love of most of the town due to their exciting play and winning ways.

Overall, the Sabres are seen as the team to beat in the NHL, as well as the team that epitomizes Buffalo sports.

After the disappointments of the mid 1990's, the Sabres have given hope, hope squandered by the former Bills era, that the

town of Buffalo will one day have a championship.

A team that provides enthusiasm for the fans, as well as an escape from the every day rigors of life, the Sabres have captured the hearts of their fans.

### May 2007 Lunch Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<b>1</b> Chicken patty on roll, hash brown patty, assorted fruit, assorted milk	<b>2</b> Brunch for Lunch – eggs, sausage, French toast, apple sauce, assorted milk	<b>3</b> Chicken fajitas, rice, assorted fruit, assorted milk	<b>4</b> Meatball subs, baked rotini, fresh fruit, assorted milk
<b>7</b> Cheeseburger on roll, potato wedges, assorted fruit, assorted milk	<b>8</b> Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, assorted fruit, assorted milk	<b>9</b> Mini subs – turkey or ham, cheese, lettuce, tater tots, assorted fruit, assorted milk	<b>10</b> Tacos, soft or hard shells, meat, cheese, lettuce, salsa, rice, assorted fruit, assorted milk	<b>11</b> Lasagna or grilled cheese, chef salad, bread sticks, Jell-O, assorted milk
<b>14</b> Chicken quesadillas with chicken strips, nachos and cheese, assorted fruit, assorted milk	<b>15</b> Stuffed-crust pizza, chef salad, brownies, assorted fruit, assorted milk	<b>16</b> Chicken tender subs, mashed potatoes, corn, apple sauce, assorted milk	<b>17</b> Cook's choice - will be announced	<b>18</b> Grilled cheese or cheese lasagna, chef salad, assorted fruit, assorted milk
<b>21</b> Hot dogs on roll, baked beans, tater tots, assorted fruit, assorted milk	<b>22</b> Cook's choice – will be announced	<b>23</b> Turkey dinner, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, corn, Jell-O, assorted milk	<b>24</b> Cook's choice – to be announced	<b>25</b> No School
<b>28</b> No School	<b>29</b> Spaghetti with meat balls, bread sticks, chef salad, assorted fruit, assorted milk	<b>30</b> Pizza bagels, hash brown patty, fresh fruit salad, assorted milk	<b>31</b> Tacos, soft or hard shells, seasoned meat, cheese, lettuce, salsa, rice, assorted fruit, assorted milk	

**Breakfast Served Every Day – 7:15-7:45 p.m.**

*Cost — \$1*

Juice / Milk with Bagel & cream cheese **OR**  
Pancake **OR** French Toast **OR** Cinnamon bun  
Note - a la carte items may be purchased 60c each  
milk or juice for 40c each

**Students may prepay for lunch by the week or month at \$2 per day**

**Menu Choices**

Balanced lunch as shown on menu **OR**  
Salad Bar & Deli Bar  
Side dishes included with Salad/Deli Bar






**Please note - Lunches are subject to change according to availability of products. Extra grains are served each day to meet dietary guidelines.**

**EARN FREE SUPPLIES  
at OFFICE DEPOT**

Every time you give our School ID number when buying qualifying school supplies, St. Mary's receives credits equal to 5% of the qualifying purchases to use for Free Supplies!

**The School ID for St. Mary's High School is 70073221**

# May 2007 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1-D</b> Ext HR Schedule (Senate Speeches) SAT Prep 6-8pm  JVBB @ St. Joe's I WTr @ St. Mary Deaf	<b>2-E</b> Environmental Club 7:30am Spring Open House 6-8pm  SB vs. Niag Cath VBB vs. Niag Cath Ten vs. Park MTr @ St. Mary Deaf	<b>3-F</b> Senate Officer Elections during Homeroom	<b>4-A</b> VBB @ St. Joe's JVBB vs. St. Joe's I Ten @ Holy Angels	<b>5</b> SAT Test Date JVBB @ St. Fran I WTR & MTr @ Wildcat Relay
<b>6</b>	<b>7-B</b> AP US Gov't & Politics AM; AP US Comp PM; Student Senate 2:20pm  Ten @ Mt St Mary's MTr @ Timon	<b>8-C</b> Jeans Day for Catholic Charities Ext. HR Schedule (Class Officer Speeches); AP Comp Sci AM; NHS Meeting 2:20pm; Campus Ministry 2:30pm; Parent Guild Board 6:30pm; Parent Guild Meeting 7pm  JVBB @ Canisius  	<b>9-D</b> Environmental Club 7:30am; AP Calculus AM  SB @ Holy Angels VBB @ St. Francis JVBB vs. St. Francis I Ten vs. Nardin	<b>10-E</b> Class Officer Elections during Homeroom; AP English AM; Evening of Fine Arts 7pm	<b>11-F</b> AP US History AM; AP European History PM  VBB vs. Timon Ten @ Park	<b>12</b> JVBB vs. Canisius II MTr Fr/Soph All Catholics
<b>13</b> JVBB vs. St. Joe's II	<b>14-A</b> AP Biology AM; Student Senate 2:20pm  VBB vs. St. Francis JVBB @ St. Francis II Ten @ Mt. Mercy	<b>15-B</b> Special Schedule (Ext HR for Class Meetings/ Sophomore Ring Presentation / May Crowning, PM Pre-Prom Assembly); Homeroom Rep Elections	<b>16-C</b> Pride Day; Environmental Club 7:30am; Faculty Meeting 2:30pm  SB vs. Immaculata VBB @ Canisius WTr & MTr @ All Catholics  	<b>17-D</b> Last Day for Seniors; Double Assembly Schedule (AM Closing & Moving Up Ceremony, PM Ascension Thursday Liturgy); Senior Retreat  	<b>18-E</b> Senior Exams Begin (See schedule on page 1)  VBB @ O'Hara JVBB vs. O'Hara	<b>19</b> WTr & MTr @ States
<b>20</b>	<b>21-F</b> Senior Exams (See schedule on page 1) Student Senate 2:20pm  SB @ O'Hara VBB vs. Niag Cath JVBB @ N Ton Ten vs. O'Hara	<b>22-A</b> Senior Exams; (See schedule on page 1) Sophomore Class Ring Purchases during Lunch and 6:30-8:30pm  VBB vs. O'Hara	<b>23-B</b> Environmental Club 7:30am; Principal's Ad Board (Calendar Meeting) 2:30pm	<b>24-C</b> Juniors Early Dismissal after 3rd Period; SMH Prom 2007	<b>25-Off</b> No School; Memorial Day Holiday  	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28-D</b> No School; Memorial Day  	<b>29-E</b>	<b>30-F</b> Environmental Club 7:30pm  VBB Quarterfinals Tenn All Catholics	<b>31-A</b> SB Quarterfinals Tenn All Catholics	<b>1-B</b>	<b>2</b> SAT Test Date

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