

Currents



The Curriculum Newsletter of St. Mary's High School • Vol. 16, Issue 10 • June 2008

June Final / Regents Exam Schedule

Monday, June 9	Tuesday, June 10	Wednesday, June 11	Thursday, June 12	Friday, June 13
<p>Last Day of Classes</p> <p><i>See page 2 for more Exam Information</i></p>	<p>Underclassmen Awards Ceremony School Picnic 1 p.m. Dismissal</p>	<p>7 to 10 a.m. Gen. Chemistry Review</p> <p>8 to 10 a.m. Global I Reg & Honors</p> <p>11 a.m. to 12 noon Computer Foundations</p> <p>11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Christian Family Living</p> <p>12 noon to 1 p.m. Earth Science Review</p>	<p>8 to 10 a.m. Religion 10</p> <p>11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Earth Science General Chemistry</p>	<p>8 to 10 a.m. Integrated Algebra A Integrated Algebra B Math II A Math II B Math II Honors</p> <p>11 a.m. to 12 noon Spanish I Spanish II French I French II</p>
	Buses 1 p.m	Buses 1:15 p.m	Buses 1:15 p.m	Buses 12:15 p.m
Monday, June 16	Tuesday, June 17	Wednesday, June 18	Thursday, June 19	Friday, June 20
<p>7 to 10 a.m. Reg. Chemistry Review (Mr. Jak's & Mr. Schmitt's classes)</p> <p>8 to 10 a.m. Health Business Law</p> <p>8 to 11 a.m. MANDATORY Int. Algebra Review</p> <p>11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Math III A Math III B Math III Honors</p>	<p>8 to 10 a.m. English 10 Reg & Honors</p> <p>8 to 11 a.m. Integrated Algebra Regents</p> <p>11 a.m. to 12 noon MANDATORY Living Environment Review</p> <p>12 noon to 3 p.m. Chemistry Regents</p>	<p>8 to 10 a.m. English 9 Reg & Honors</p> <p>8 to 11 a.m. English Regents Session 1</p> <p>8 to 11 a.m. MANDATORY Global Studies Review</p> <p>12 noon to 3 p.m. Global History & Geography Regents</p>	<p>8 to 10 a.m. Religion 9</p> <p>8 to 11 a.m. English Regents Session 2</p> <p>8 to 11 a.m. MANDATORY Math A Review MANDATORY Math B Review</p> <p>10 to 11:30 a.m. Earth Science Review</p> <p>12 noon to 3 p.m. Mathematics A Regents Mathematics B Regents</p>	<p>8 to 11 a.m. US History & Government Regents</p> <p>12 noon to 3 p.m. Earth Science Regents</p>
Buses 1:15 p.m	Buses 3:15 p.m	Buses 3:15 p.m	Buses 3:15 p.m	Buses 3:15 p.m
Monday, June 23	Tuesday, June 24	Wednesday, June 25	Thursday, June 26	Friday, June 27
<p>9 to 10:30 a.m. MANDATORY Living Environment Review Periods 3 & 5</p> <p>10:30 a.m. to 12 noon MANDATORY Living Environment Review Period 9</p>	<p>8 to 11 a.m. Living Environment Regents</p> <p>12 noon to 3 p.m. French III Regents Spanish III Regents</p>	<p>8 to 11 a.m. Physics Regents</p>	<p>Rating Day</p>	<p>Freshmen/Sophomore Field Trip to Darien Lake</p>
Buses 12:15 p.m	Buses 3:15 p.m	Buses 11:15 p.m		

Information for June Exams

- Students only have to be in school for their scheduled exams/review sessions.
 - If students are in school when they are not taking an exam, they should be in the Media Center for quiet study or the cafeteria.
 - Students are to be in Regular Dress Code for exams, though sneakers / sandals are allowed.
 - Students do not need to be in dress code for review classes.
 - During Exam Weeks, Alden and Williamsville districts will only send dismissal buses at the regular dismissal time of 2:19 p.m. Students not ready to leave at that time will need to provide their own transportation.
 - Students needing the bus in the afternoon from their district need to notify the Main Office before taking their exams that day.
- Questions regarding the Exam Guidelines/ schedule should be directed to Mrs. Kranz.

School Policies Regarding Course Failures, Exam Failures & Summer School

St. Mary's parents and students should be aware of the following information regarding end of the year failures and summer school.

- All students returning to St. Mary's in September must be current in fulfilling graduation requirements for their grade level. Required course and/or Regents exam failures **MUST** be made up before September.
- St. Mary's policy for passing a course – the overall average must be 65 or above and the final exam grade must be 55 or above.
- In order to receive Regents credit, the Regents exam grade must be 65 or above.
- The Counseling Center will mail failure notices on June 26th to all students who fail required courses and/or exams. This information cannot be given out by telephone. Summer school information will also be included with this notification.
- Registration for most summer school programs begins June 30th, and classes for most programs begin July 7th.
- Some public school districts offer summer school programs. **Parents are advised to contact their local public school system for specific information about the summer school program for their specific district.** Public school summer programs are available without extra fee to all private school students who live in the district.
- For students whose public school system does not offer summer school, or for students who would prefer another program, there are summer school programs that accept students from any school district. These programs charge a fee for each course.
- Please note the following information regarding the ECC Summer Program (North Campus):
 - ECC offers summer remedial classes for high school students but is not able to grant high school credit. St. Mary's will grant high school course credit to students who successfully fulfill the course requirements at ECC.
 - Registration by phone can be done on June 27th and 30th, walk-in registration, July 1st, 2nd, 3rd.
 - Classes at ECC begin Monday, July 7th.
 - **Students taking Regents course material at ECC must register at their district public school (or another site, such as Mt. Mercy) to take the Regents exam in August.** ECC is not authorized to administer Regents exams.
- Occasionally a student seeks a private tutor instead of a summer school program in order to make up a course failure. Please note the following:
 - The tutor must be a teacher certified in that subject area. A copy of the certification must be submitted to St. Mary's Counseling Center.
 - The student must meet with the tutor for a minimum of 24 hours for a full credit course and 12 hours for a half credit course. The tutor needs to submit a log of the hours to the St. Mary's Counseling Center.
 - The student must take and pass a final exam (that is provided or approved by St. Mary's) or the appropriate Regents exam. **Those students who need to take a Regents exam must register at their district public school (or another site) to take this exam in August.**
 - The tutor should call St. Mary's Counseling Center to arrange contact between the tutor and the St. Mary's Department Chairperson to discuss curriculum and the exam.
 - Please be aware that this is usually much more costly than any summer school program.
- By July 2nd the Counseling Center needs to be notified where course/exam failures will be made up. This can be done by telephone (683-2349) or email (ksmith@smhlancers.org OR mjak@smhlancers.org).
- Counselors will be available by phone June 30th through July 3rd, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., to provide assistance.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING MATH COURSE FAILURES:

Please consult with your counselor before enrolling in a summer school math class. Math course names and numbers differ from school to school. It is important that you enroll in the course that best matches the curriculum that you need to make up. For this reason you may want to consider private tutoring.

Reminder:

Requests for changes to students' schedules may be made until August 1.

No requests for changes will be honored after August 1.

Currents

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Mark calendar for Language test dates

Students and parents should note on their calendars the following dates for the Foreign Language Exam, Part 1, Listening and part 2, Speaking.

All students must be in class, on time, to receive credit.

- Listening for French I and II; Spanish I and II – **MONDAY, JUNE 2**
- Speaking for French I and II; Spanish I and II – **TUESDAY - FRIDAY, JUNE 3 - JUNE 6**

Follow your heart *One teacher's perspective*

By Mr. Paul Meyerhofer

Chair, Business/Computer Science Dept.



After earning so much money as a Programmer/Analyst, some people may wonder why I chose a teaching career. I rejected a job offer that would have paid me 50 percent more than I am earning now. Why?

After 17 years in my previous career, I decided that being happy and making more of a difference in people's lives was more important and more fulfilling. The job I rejected required that I travel one week a month. This would have been time away from my family. I also felt that God was pointing me in the direction of teaching.

It wasn't until recently that another benefit of refusing that job offer surfaced – I would have been writing the ill-advised computer programs that have led to the current mortgage crisis. God guided me away from a job that would have made me feel terrible and to a place that I enjoy calling home.

Office Hours

June 30-Aug. 14 – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Aug. 18 through Opening Day –
 7:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Note that the school will be closed:

- Friday, July 4
- Friday, Aug. 15

Those who need a meeting at another time, please call to make an appointment.

Five nominated for Marian Award



Chris Martino



Anthony Moreno



Doug Robinson



Mary Scotland



Michelle Scotland

The highest award given to a St. Mary's graduate is the Marian Award. This award recognizes a member of the Senior Class who has contributed to the overall success of the class through leadership, hard work, and enthusiasm. It is the only award presented at the Commencement Exercises.

The members of the class voted for the students whom they would like to nominate for the award.

The nominees were then asked to write

an essay about what they have gotten out of their time at St. Mary's.

Based on these essays and their own personal experiences, members of the faculty and staff selected one student, whose name was to be confirmed by the Administrative Board.

This year's nominees for the Marian Award are Chris Martino, Anthony Moreno, Doug Robinson, Mary Scotland, and Michelle Scotland.

From the Health Office

Do you plan to play a Sport in the Fall?

Anyone playing sports must have a current physical on file in the Health Office. Students interested in playing a fall sport must complete and turn in the orange interval health history form that will be mailed home in the August issue of *Currents*.

This form must be completed **after** August 1. This form must be turned in **before** August 11 for football and cheerleading; and August 18 for all other fall sports.

Policy regarding Medication in School

Medication Forms are available in the Main Office and the Health Office

1. All medication, including *non-prescription drugs such as Tylenol, Motrin, etc.* given in school *must be prescribed by a licensed medical doctor.*
2. A written request from the physician must be on file. This request must indicate

In addition, every student who plans on playing a fall sport must have a current physical on file in the Health Office by August 1. Failure to comply will result in not being able to start practice with the rest of the team. Extra forms will be available in the Main Office.

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

the dosage and frequency of the prescribed drug.

3. A written request from the parent to administer medication must be on file.
4. The parent must assume responsibility to have the medication delivered to the Health Office in a *properly labeled original container.*

St. Mary's announces Vacation Schedule 2008-09

To assist families planning for the 2008-09 school year, here is a list of dates to be aware of.

Please note that this is tentative and subject to change:

- September 3 – Half-day for Freshmen
- September 4 – Full Day for all students
- September 8 – Picture Day
- November 10 & 11 – Veterans Day Week-

end

- December 22 to January 2 – Christmas Break
- January 27-30 – January Regents Exams
- February 16-20 – Winter Break
- March 20 – Principal's Holiday
- April 9-17 – Easter Break
- May 22-25 – Memorial Day Weekend

A complete and official schedule will be published during the summer.

Experience is key to detective work, grad explains

By Mr. Gary Schulenberg

Introduction to Criminal Justice teacher

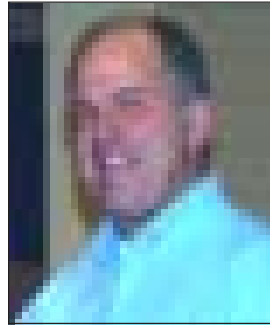
Mr. Danny Rinow, a former detective for the Lancaster Police, was the fourth St. Mary's alum to give a presentation to Mr. Schu's *Introduction to Criminal Justice* course.

The class had concluded a section that involved the CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) aspects of police work. We covered the usual, such as fingerprint and DNA identification. We learned about the special chemicals utilized in sprays, liquids, and vapors to uncover various types of evidence. The use of special lights and filters, and even the study of bugs (entomology), were explored.

The reason for inviting Mr. Rinow was for him to explain how all of these things come

together in a criminal investigation. Although he did touch upon some of the high tech stuff, Mr. Rinow related some of the limitations of such equipment and methods. Often Mr. Rinow was the only member of the CSI team, hardly the large crews as seen on TV. Due to budget restraints, many police departments do not have some of the equipment depicted on these shows. Much of these high tech machines cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mr. Rinow emphasized that people skills are key components of any investigation. As a lifetime resident of Lancaster, Mr. Rinow knew his turf very well. He told the class that many



Retired Lancaster Detective Dan Rinow

cases called for canvassing the neighborhood rather than dusting for prints that may not be in the system anyways. He also related that the accumulation of physical evidence and the resulting paper work was very time consuming.

Mr. Rinow explained a confession was just as good or better than physical evidence. As a detective, Mr. Rinow had a very high rate of gaining confessions. He would sometimes spend hours putting the suspect at ease, seemingly empathizing with them. By making

them comfortable and reading their body language, he would literally inch closer to the person. Working on the premise that most criminals really don't like their "job", they often "gave it up". The key was reading body language, eye movement, posture, and the way things were said. That knowledge only comes with experience.

Mr. Rinow got an early start in his education. He said he was always flabbergasted when his mother knew when he was less than truthful. ... must run in the family.

St. Mary's again thanks its fantastic alums for their great support of the school. The many ways that they give of themselves is greatly appreciated.

Bringing feudalism to life

By Mr. Keith Junik

Chair, Social Studies Department

In our never-ending quest to make history come alive, the ninth-grade Global Studies classes have been working on their latest projects... "Make your own Feudal Kingdoms."

The freshmen are currently learning

about the feudal systems of Europe during the early Middle Ages. Each of Mr. Junik's Honors classes were given the opportunity to create their own unique histories.

Their goal was to create a lifestyle for their peoples in tune with that of Medieval Europe. They had to make decisions ruling every aspect of their society: the name and history of their kingdom, how they would protect themselves, what the basis of their economy would be, and even their royal families' bloodlines. Over a two-week period, the students created their masterpieces, using only materials they already possessed ... they could not spend a dime.

The students have since moved on to learn how these feudal kingdoms would unite under the Catholic Church, fight in the Crusades, and eventually reunite into larger kingdoms that would turn into modern nations.



One of the "new" feudal kingdoms

Students/Teacher of the month for May



Megan Delo



Matthew Bittner



Jeremy Bauer



Anthony Runk



Mr. Meyerhofer



Monday, June 23

at

Glen Oak Golf Club

For more information, call

The Development Office

at 683-4824, ext. 28

Theater Department holds Fine Arts Night

On May 1, the St. Mary's Performing Arts Department held its Evening of Fine Arts and Hall of Fame Induction.

Into the Hall of Fame, St. Mary's inducted two individuals who have been an integral part of the St. Mary's Theater Department and productions over the years:

- Lori Lukasik Miller '82
- Nicole Owczarczak '99

For the present students of St. Mary's, the evening gave them one last chance to show their best this year through musical, singing, dancing, and acting performances.

Students in art classes also had several pieces on display.

The evening also included the presentation of end-of-year awards to students, to show the department's appreciation for all that the students have done this year.

The award winners were:

Best Line (Fall Play) — John Anstett ("I've been having just a splendid time.")

Best Line (Spring Musical) — Eric Robinson ("Santa Maria! You will stay here, no?")

Best Ensemble Performers — Josiah LeRoy & Sandra Jezuit

Dedication to Music — Steve Wrobel

Dedication to Dance — Justine Pazderski & Brittany Pivarsi

Dedication to Tech Crew — Shaun Boland & Andy Suraf

Best Supporting Actor (Female) — Cassie Carleton



The 2008 inductees into the Fine Arts Hall of Fame were Nicole Owczarczak '99 (left) and Lori Lukasik Miller '82.

Best Supporting Actor (Male) — Josh Robinson

Most Improved — Sara Gromek

Who'd of Think It? (Fall Play) — Grace

Daigler

Who'd of Think It? (Musical) — Giuseppe Passucci

Best Acting Performance — Brittany Carleton

Best Comedy Performance — Andy Adolf

Best Dance Performance — Stephanie Sikorski, Christina Knapp, & Brittany Carleton

Best Vocal Performance — Jordan Hokaj

Best Single Performance of the Year — Ali Marszalkowski

Newcomer of the Year — Kenny Held

Overall Performer of the Year (Female) — Ali Marszalkowski

Overall Performer of the Year (Male) — John Anstett

Dedication — Tony Moreno

Senate, class officers elected for 08-09



Andrew Adolf
Co-President



Steve Wrobel
Co-President



Sandra Jezuit
Vice President



Justine Pazderski
Secretary



Joanna Cianciosa
Treasurer

The students of St. Mary's recently elected those who will lead them next year as officers of the Student Senate.

Congratulations to the new officers:

- Co-Presidents — Andrew Adolf, Steve Wrobel
- Vice President — Sandra Jezuit
- Secretary — Justine Pazderski
- Treasurer — Joanna Cianciosa

In addition, the individual classes held elections for their officers and home room representatives for the 2008-09 school year.

Elected for next year are:

Senior Class

- President — Victoria Reitz
- Vice President — Elyse Texido
- Treasurer — Amanda DiPiazza
- Secretary — Rayna Rickard
- Representatives — George Arnott, Alyssa

Cavallari, Matt Fitzpatrick, Mollie Greene, Kelsey Polanski (alt.), Samantha Spisiak (alt.)

Junior Class

- President — Brittany Pivarsi
- Vice President — Alex Beilman
- Treasurer — Monica McNeill
- Secretary — Emma Concannon
- Representatives — Ricky Mazella, Mary Pokorski, Cara Pijanowski, Jessica Warner, Nicole Vasquez (alt.)

Sophomore Class

- President — Kristen Warner
- Vice President — Rachael Salamone
- Treasurer — Michelle Jezuit
- Secretary — Jessica Swannie
- Representatives — Nicole Gangloff, Amy Kawa, Tony Runk, Lauren Wesolowski, Adam Herr (alt.), Emily Kowalski (alt.)



The Parent Guild

2008-2009 Guild Officers

Congratulations to the 08-09 officers of the St. Mary's Parent Guild
 Evelyn Hamilton – President
 Terry Renkas – Vice President
 Nancy Jezuit – Treasurer
 Irene Hypnarowski – Secretary
 Lori LeRoy & Nancy Gangloff – Members at Large



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2008 Summer Reading Assignment

9th Grade

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) – A story about civilization and life after nuclear war

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry (Mildred Taylor) – This novel depicts the many dimensions of racism in the South during the 1930s. The Logans, an African-American family, struggles to keep their 400 acres during the Great Depression.

Summer of My German Soldier (Bette Greene) – During World War II, a young American girl falls in love with a German prisoner of war as she helps him escape.

Ten Little Indians – also titled **And Then There Were None** (Agatha Christie) – Mystery story of the murder of 10 strangers trapped on an island.

Ender's Game (Orson Scott Card) – Science fiction tale of youth being trained for interstellar war against aliens.

The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon (Stephen King) – On a six-mile hike on the Maine-New Hampshire branch of the Appalachian Trail, nine-year Trisha McFarland becomes lost in a wilderness maze full of peril and terror.

The Secret Life of Bees (Sue Monk Kidd) – Set in South Carolina in 1964, this novel tells the story of Lily Owens, a 14-year-old girl seeking the truth to her dead mother's past.

The Book Thief (Markus Zusak) – It is 1939, Nazi Germany. Liesel Meminger's life is changed forever when she begins to steal, hide, and save books from Nazi book-burnings.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (R.K. Rowling) – Book 6 in the Harry Potter series.

Assignment for 9th 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. 8.

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.

10th Grade

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

In the Middle of the Night (Robert Cormier) – Years before Denny was born, his father was involved in a tragic accident. The family doesn't talk about it, but the tragedy continues to haunt the family. When Denny decides to learn more about the accident, he becomes entangled in its web.

A Night to Remember (Walter Lord) – The author recounts the last hours of the *Titanic* from the perspective of many of the ship's passengers.

Rebecca (Daphne du Maurier) – The classic story of the second Mrs. DeWinter, who followed the man she loved from Monte Carlo to his lavish country estate, Manderly. There, she is drawn into the brooding passions of a romance dead but not forgotten – for always, everywhere, is the evil, eternal presence of Rebecca.

Where Are the Children? (Mary Higgins Clark) – This novel is a combination of mystery and murder in a Cape Cod setting.

Briar Rose (Jane Yolen) – The story of Briar Rose (Sleeping Beauty) is linked to the Holocaust when a young woman promises her dying grandmother that she will return to Poland and discover the truth about her past.

House (Frank Peretti & Ted Dekker) – A supernatural thriller by the famous pair of Christian writers that gives new meaning to the phrase "haunted house."

Friday Night Lights (H.G. Bissinger) – Bissinger chronicles a season in the life of Odessa, Texas, and shows how single-minded devotion to the football team shapes the community and inspires – and sometimes shatters – the teenagers who wear the Panthers' uniform.

Fahrenheit 451 (Ray Bradbury) – Bradbury's classic science fiction novel of censorship and defiance.

Castaway Kid (R.B. Mitchell) – The true story of an abandoned kid who was one of the last "lifers" in an American orphanage.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (R.K. Rowling) – Book 7 in the Harry Potter series.

Brave New World (Aldous Huxley) – In a chilling vision of the future, babies are produced in bottles and exist in a mechanized world without soul. This is a science fiction classic.

11th Grade

English 11 students are to choose any **two** of the following

The Andromeda Strain (Michael Crichton) – A frightening situation develops when deadly extraterrestrial bacteria invade human's environment.

Black Boy (Richard Wright) – A sensitive and

2008 Summer Reading Assignment

rebellious African-American youth survives a life of poverty, familial strife, and Southern bigotry to pursue his goal of becoming a writer in the North.

The Firm (John Grisham) – A young law school graduate is hired by a Memphis law firm. He soon learns that things are not always as they appear to be.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (Betty Smith) – Francie Nolan lives in turn-of-the-century Brooklyn where she struggles against all odds to survive and thrive.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (Mark Haddon) – This is the story of an autistic boy's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog.

My Sister's Keeper (Jodi Picoult) – Anna was conceived as a bone marrow match for her sister Kate – a life and role that she has never challenged ... until now. This novel is the story of one family's struggle for survival at all human costs; it raises many questions, including: where does selfishness end and self-preservation begin?

A Raisin in the Sun (Lorraine Hansberry) – This classic drama shows how the sudden appearance of money tears an African-American family apart.

Into Thin Air (Jon Krakauer) – A first-person account of an expedition to Mt. Everest that turned from dream climb to nightmare.

Catch 22 (Joseph Heller) – In this satirical novel, Captain Yossarian confronts the hypocrisy of war and bureaucracy as he frantically attempts to survive.

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close (Jonathan Safran Foer) – Nine-year-old Oskar Schell lost his father in the World Trade Center collapse on September 11. He embarks on a "secret mission" to find the lock that matches a key that belonged to his father. This seemingly impossible task will bring him into contact with survivors of all sorts during this healing journey.

What Happened (Peter Johnson) – This novel, written by a Canisius High School graduate and set in an all-boys Buffalo high school, is an account of a car accident that unfolds slowly from the voice of an unnamed narrator.

Dead Man Walking (Sister Helen Prejean) – Sister Helen Prejean provides a gritty look at what happens in the final hours of a death-row inmate

12th Grade

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

Bleachers (John Grisham) – As their football coach hovers between life and death, his former players gather at their high school field and recollect the good and bad times of their lives and high school football careers.

Farewell to Arms (Ernest Hemingway) – Set in Italy, this is a poignant love story taking

place against the backdrop of World War I.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven (Mitch Albom) – A novel about heaven and earth and the five people who escort you on the journey to the afterlife.

19 Minutes (Jodi Picoult) – Sterling is an ordinary New Hampshire town where nothing ever happens – until the day its complacency is shattered by an act of violence.

The Bell Jar (Sylvia Plath) – Plath's only novel tells the story of college student Esther Greenwood, her nervous breakdown and fight to regain both her sanity and her life.

The Great Santini (Pat Conroy) – A novel about the Meecham family: Bull, he's all Marine, fighter pilot, king of the clouds, and absolute ruler of his family; Lillian, wife and mother, beautiful, Southern bred, with a core of velvet steel; Ben, the oldest, a born athlete whose best never satisfies his father.

1984 (George Orwell) – The classic sci-fi novel. The year 1984 has come and gone, but Orwell's prophetic, nightmarish vision of the world we are becoming – written in 1949 – is timelier than ever.

Native Son (Richard Wright) – For Bigger Thomas, an African-American man accused of a crime in the white man's world, there could be no extenuating circumstances, no explanations, only death.

In Cold Blood (Truman Capote) – The documentary account of a 1959 murder in a small Kansas town.

The Perfect Storm (Sebastian Junger) – Haunting premonitions did not save seven fishermen from the ferocious and deadly power of the sea.

The Things They Carried (Tim O'Brien) – These stories follow a platoon of American soldiers through a variety of personal and military encounters during the Vietnam War.

Assignment for

10th, 11th, & 12th Grades

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.)
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. 8.

The project will be graded, and the grade will count toward your first quarter English average. 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.

AP Literature & Composition Grade 11

1. You must read **The Stranger** (Albert Camus)
2. Choose any two from the following list:
The Andromeda Strain (Michael Crichton)
Black Boy (Richard Wright)
The Firm (John Grisham)
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (Betty Smith)
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (Mark Haddon)
My Sister's Keeper (Jodi Picoult)
A Raisin in the Sun (Lorraine Hansberry)
Into Thin Air (Jon Krakauer)
Catch 22 (Joseph Heller)

(Continued on page 8)

2008 Summer Reading Assignment

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

(Jonathan Safran Foer)

What Happened (Peter Johnson)

AP Literature & Composition Grade 12

1. You must read ***The Stranger*** (Albert Camus)
2. Choose any two from the following list:
Farewell to Arms (Ernest Hemingway)
19 Minutes (Jodi Picoult)
The Bell Jar (Sylvia Plath)
The Great Santini (Pat Conroy)
1984 (George Orwell)
Native Son (Richard Wright)
In Cold Blood (Truman Capote)
The Perfect Storm (Sebastian Junger)
The Things They Carried (Tim O'Brien)

AP Language & Composition Grade 12

1. You must read ***Eats Shoots & Leaves*** (Lynne Truss). Assignment – there will be a punctuation test on Monday, Sept. 8.
2. You must read ***On Writing*** (Stephen King)
2. Choose any **one** from the following list:
Farewell to Arms (Ernest Hemingway)
19 Minutes (Jodi Picoult)
The Bell Jar (Sylvia Plath)
The Great Santini (Pat Conroy)
1984 (George Orwell)
Native Son (Richard Wright)
In Cold Blood (Truman Capote)

The Perfect Storm (Sebastian Junger)

The Things They Carried (Tim O'Brien)

Assignment for All AP Classes

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 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 8.** 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.

A tree grows in Lancaster

The Lancaster Garden Club recently donated three flowering Cleveland Pear trees to St. Mary's High School as part of the tree replacement project from the October '06 storm.

Juniors Andrew Adolf and Joanna Cianciosa look on as Steve Wrobel waters one of the two trees that was planted in the front courtyard, on either side of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The third tree will be added very shortly.





Student Views

St. Mary's students present 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.

Media Communications' Assignment – write about an interesting person you know

Steve Wrobel – Bandits' assistant equipment manager

By Chris Horvatits
Class of 2009

Many people know Steve Wrobel, the scholar. But, what many of you don't know is that Steve plays a major part of one of our professional sports team here in Western New York.

For the past four seasons, Steve has been an assistant equipment manager for the Buffalo Bandits. "I help out before and after games and some practices. I make sure the water bottles are filled, that there are enough balls on the field for practice, help fix gear, and just make sure everything runs smoothly," Steve says.



Steve attends all of the home games, standing in the tunnel leading from the locker room to the bench watching all the games. Once in a while, he will even travel with the team, sometimes to Toronto or Rochester.

Head equipment manager John Craig, who was Steve's basketball coach in fifth and sixth grade, offered him the job in 2004 after one of Mr. Craig's assistants quit. "I was thrilled when he offered me the job. I knew it would be a lot of fun, and it hasn't disappointed," says Steve.

One of the fun parts of the job for Steve is that he sees some things that the average fan would not get to see.

"There are a lot of rituals. If we win a game, things have to stay the same until we lose. Coaches will change their piece of gum if the other team scores. They are very superstitious," Steve says.

Steve enjoys being a part of the game day experience and meeting the players. He has met some of the best players the game of lacrosse has ever seen, including guys like John Tavaras and Mark Steenhuis. Steve says that he gets along very well with the players.

One thing is for sure, Steve will continue to do this job as long as he is able to. "I love this job," he says. "It's a lot of fun going to the game, associating and helping out with the guys, having a good time, and enjoying the atmosphere of the game."

Mr. Grieco – baseball star

By Kelsey Polanski
Class of 2009

Here at St. Mary's High School, many people know of Mr. Steven Grieco as the SMH director of Enrollment. But many do not know that this 2001 SMH graduate has had an interesting career in baseball.

Mr. Grieco got his start in baseball when he was four years old. Mr. Grieco was very active in sports growing up and he said that baseball was the one that stuck out the most.

Mr. Grieco became a student at SMH in 1997 and joined the varsity baseball team and played catcher for all four years of high school. A three-time Dick Woj award winner, and a letter winner in baseball, basketball, and soccer, Mr. Grieco was also awarded by making the All-Catholic team in baseball as both a junior and a senior.

Mr. Grieco attended Medaille College after receiving a grant to play for the schools baseball team. Again as catcher Mr. Grieco



started all four years and was awarded for his outstanding playing by being the most valuable player as a freshman and making the all-conference teams as a sophomore, junior, and senior.

Mr. Grieco has had several opportunities to expand his horizons by playing in other areas of the United States and the world. Before attending college, Mr. Grieco was chosen to play for the New England division of the United States baseball team in a tournament in Hawaii. While in college Mr. Grieco had the opportunity to represent Team U.S.A. in a non-Olympic year in a tournament in Belgium.

Mr. Grieco said, "The team was made up of a bunch of college kids who competed against professionals from other Olympic teams who had been playing together for years. We literally just met in the airport."

The team came in third place in that tournament, and Mr. Grieco was asked to play for the professional league in Belgium. However

(Continued on page 16)

Mr. Mihelbergel – Navy veteran

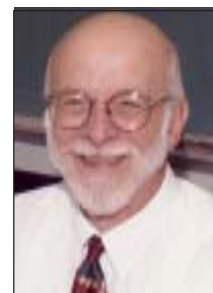
By Austin Chudyk
Class of 2009

Many of the students of St. Mary's know Mr. Robert Mihelbergel, one of the English teachers. They know that he is a kind, interesting, and fun-loving teacher. But, many students don't know all about the interesting life he has led.

Mr. M was born June 21, 1945, in Buffalo. He married his high school sweetheart in 1966 and is still happily married. Mr. M has two children: Eric and Leeh, and also has three grandchildren.

One of the most interesting parts of Mr. M's life was his six years in the Navy. He spent most of his years in the Caribbean and was part of the Medical Corps in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. There, he worked in sur-

(Continued on page 16)



St. Mary's begins Girls' Prayer Group

By **Austin Chudyk**
Class of 2009

St. Mary's High School is proud to announce the creation of a girls' prayer group.

Mr. Tom Fay, a religion/math teacher, will be running the girls' prayer group throughout May. He plans for it to take place every Thursday from 2:30- 3 p.m..

As the leader of this new club, Mr. Fay has many goals that he plans to achieve for the young women of St. Mary's. One of his main goals for the girl's prayer group is to help its members "become more comfortable with prayer and to realize that their relationship with God is everyday." Mr. Fay hopes

that the group will attract more young women that are attending St. Mary's to a deeper understanding of their faith.

The new girls' prayer group follows in the footsteps of God's Squad, a boys' prayer group started earlier in the year by Rev. Paul Salemi, school chaplain. Fr. Paul said he feels that having a prayer group for each gender at any Catholic high school is essential for the students to "go beyond religion class with their faith." He feels that the group will do a great job in helping the young women at SMH to "establish a faith-filled relationship with each other."

Juniors Alyssa Cavallari and Sam Spisiak feel very attracted to the group. Both are glad

that there is finally a prayer group just for girls.

Mr. Fay said he feels confident about the group and says that it will continue next year if there is enough membership.

SOUL raises money for Sisters Hospital

By **Kelsey Polanski**
Class of 2009

On Friday April 25, the St. Mary's High School pro-life group, Students of Universal Life (SOUL), sponsored a jean's day to benefit Sisters Hospital. Students who participated in the day donated two dollars and were than able to wear jeans and an out of dress code top.

The money, collected in homeroom, was put together and sent to Sisters Hospital to benefit the Neonatal Unit.

The neonatal unit at Sisters is an intensive care unit for newborns. The purpose of this unit is to care for pre-maturely born babies or other babies who need intensive care. Some of the babies in this unit are only a few pounds and are very small.

The babies are nursed back to health in special "giraffe" beds that allow nurses and doctors to care for the baby in a proper environment. The neonatal unit costs a lot of money to run and a single giraffe bed can cost \$35,000.

Members of the SOUL club attended a tour of the neonatal unit on May 13. The students were able to view the neonatal unit and saw several pre-maturely born babies who were being nursed back to health and other babies who were born just hours earlier.

Alyssa Cavallari said of the experience, "It was touching to see what babies look like when they are that small; it makes you realize how valuable life is."

The SOUL group's mission is to raise awareness on social issues regarding the preservation and quality of life. In the past this group has sponsored a baby drive where students donated baby items and supplies. SOUL has also held a white-ribbon day in which students pledged a vow of silence in recognition of those who cannot voice their own opinion.

Samantha Spisiak said of the club, "It gives students a chance to speak up for those who can't fend for themselves."

SOTE spreads recycling message

By **Samantha Spisiak**
Class of 2009

"Keep it green" is a slogan that is becoming increasingly popular in today's society. But what does "go green" really mean? Many people buy the bags and the t-shirts that say that they are all for recycling and respecting the environment, but are people really doing anything to solve our environmental turmoil? Stewards of the Earth (SOTE), an environmental Club at St. Mary's is spreading the message of how we can do simple things to help make the world a cleaner greener place. SOTE recently produced a movie that addressed issues about recycling and environmental issues. This club is dedi-

cated to making SMH an eco- friendly environment.

Mr. Phil Conner, the biology teacher at St. Mary's, is the head honcho of SOTE. This is Mr. Conner's first year being in charge of this club. His goal is to make sure the recycling needs of St. Mary's are met. For Earth Day, Mr. Conner showed his classes the movie *The Lorax* by Dr. Suess. Mr. Conner encourages everyone to protect the environment and to "recycle, reduce energy uses, walk, and carpool."

In honor of Earth week, the SMH Stewards of the Earth held a poster contest. Sophomore Nicole Richter won the contest by artistically demonstrating how important it is
(continued on page 11)

Campaigning for their candidate



Mitch Krieger makes his pitch for Senator John McCain while Bob Mohring, Lawrence Chirico, and Mary Scotland look over their notes on Senator Hillary Clinton during their "Presidential Debate" in Mrs. Trish Connelly's Participation in Government Class.

SOTE (continued from page 10)

to save energy. SOTE also made a movie inspired by old-fashioned ninja movies. This movie took a lot of hard work and dedication. They composed a loose script, used a lot of improvisation and last minute direction according to Alex Cappola and Kenny Held. They made this movie to show their "love of the environment," Kenny says.

SOTE hopes that this club will inspire more people to put more effort into saving the earth and also hopes that more people will join the club to support their environmental causes. SOTE encourages everyone to recycle and make more environmental friendly decisions.

There are plenty of ways to help save the environment just by changing simple everyday habits. Justgive.org provides numerous examples of ways to save the environment. By recycling everything including paper, bottles and aluminum there would be a lot less waste building up in landfills. It is also important to conserve electricity by turn-

ing off the lights or television when they are not in use or turn down the heat and wear a sweater instead. By starting a compost pile in the backyard or planting short dense shrubs around the house to provide insulation against the home, the world would be a

much cleaner place.

It is important to show respect for the environment by doing simple things everyday that will make a world of difference. Follow SOTE's example, and help make the world a better place to live.

Crowning the Prom Court



At Prom 2008, held on Thursday, May 22, at Salvatore's Italian Garden in Lancaster, the following were crowned as Prom

Royalty:

Jordan Hokaj –

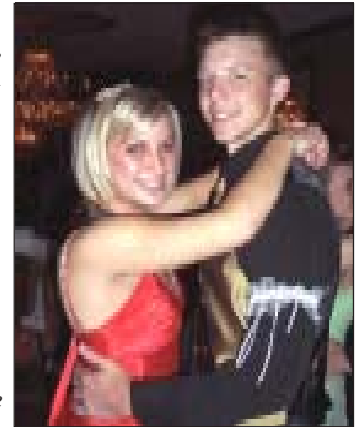
Queen

John Anstett – King

Ally Severyn –

Princess

Matt Bittner – Prince



IT'S TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING WITH



As the weather warms up and the school year quickly draws to a close remember:

Make Every Page Count™

Here's a quick reminder of what should and should not be put in our recycling bins.

We Want Your:

Newspapers • Magazines • Catalogs • Workbooks • Paperback Books
School Paper • Junk Mail • Hard Cover Books (with covers removed)

We Don't Want Your:

Phone Books • Trash • Glass • Plastic
Anything from Kitchen and Bathroom • Cardboard



REMEMBER!

We All Win When You Put It In The Bin!

www.paperretriever.com

Counseling Corner

Mary Jakubowski (mjak@smhlancers.org)

683-2349

Kelly Smith (ksmith@smhlancers.org)

The role of recommendations

While sparkling recommendations cannot overcome mediocre grades and middling test scores, the right kind of recommendations can add value to an already solid student's application file. The recommendation, like the personal essay, provides a "tip factor", and might just move the qualified applicant to the "admit" pile. All recommendations are not alike; their role differs based on who writes that letter of recommendation.

Your teacher recommendations should come from instructors you've had during 11th or 12th grade who know you well enough to comment on your academic credentials. Talking about your grades won't really help; grades already appear on your transcript. However, a short anecdote about a class discussion you initiated, comments about the insightful nature of a paper you wrote, or examples of the ways in which you've showed intellectual curiosity

by going beyond the scope of an assignment, all add value and flesh out the numbers that appear on your transcript. The admissions committee is most interested in your potential to contribute to a community of learners; this potential is best seen through your past contributions.

The "school report" or counselor recommendation describes you in the context of your senior class. Take advantage of opportunities to talk with your school counselor and share with him or her the ways you've impacted your high school. Let your counselor know how your involvement in school or community has shaped you and influenced your ideas. Tell your counselor what makes you unique—your experi-

ences, upbringing, interests, goals and dreams. This provides the information needed to write a strong and personal recommendation.

Additional recommendations (limit to no more than one or two) should be used only if they can add value, that is, provide new information not seen elsewhere in your application.

For example, an employer can talk about your dedication, initiative, and ability to persevere. A club moderator might comment on your organizational abilities or leadership qualities. Once again, it's anecdotal evidence that brings the recommendation to life; talk with your recommenders about the positive qualities you hope they'll describe.

Keys to a successful freshman year

Starting college is a major life transition. While it's liberating not to have anyone telling you when to go to bed, or to study your biology, the tradeoff is that you're responsible for yourself. No more having your mom call the guidance counselor to get your schedule changed. It's up to you to handle problems with professors or roommates, and as you do, you'll gain confidence in your ability to manage your life.

Speaking of confidence, especially at selective colleges, there will be a lot of smart, accomplished students, and it can be intimidating. However, admissions officers don't admit students who can't do the work. In fact, they turn down thousands of well-qualified students, so if you're at UCLA or Yale, you've assuredly got what it takes.

High school is over, and you don't need to keep proving you can handle the most rigorous curriculum.

Give yourself a break the first semester, and sign up for at least one course that just sounds interesting and fun. If a class you really want is full, talk to the professor. Teachers love enthusiastic students, and you may very well find that a space opens up for you.

Take some time to adjust to college life. Your first task is to make friends, and you'll find many opportunities to do so. In freshmen residence halls, the first few weeks are nonstop socializing. Students leave their doors open and everyone visits at all hours. Resident advisors will host pizza parties to help you get to know your hall-mates.

You may not be best friends with your roommate, but chances are you'll get along. In the rare case when you really can't live with your roommate, you can ask the housing office to make a change.

(Continued on page 4)

CC Timeline

June 2008

7th – SAT and Subject Tests
14th – ACT and ACT plus Writing

Summer 2008

Everyone

Read, Read, Read

Explore College Choices:
College Websites
Guidebooks
Visit Campuses
Virtual Tours

Seniors

Narrow College List
Prepare for SATs and/or ACTs
College Tour

Juniors & Sophomores

Prepare for PSAT or PLAN

College north of the border

The number of U.S. students attending college in Canada has been increasing each year. With so many fine schools in the U.S., what draws these students northward?

For some students, the attraction lies in attending college in a foreign country that is different, but not too dissimilar, from their own. For others, it is the cost. Canadian universities tend to be a good deal less expensive than institutions of like quality in the U.S. Tuition for foreign students at McGill is about \$8,000 per year, less than a third of that at some U.S. private colleges and often less than in-state tuition at

many U.S. public universities. But for most students who apply to college in Canada, it's simply a matter of supply and demand. As the prestigious universities in the U.S. have gotten progressively more selective, with many accepting less than 25 percent of applicants, U.S. seniors have discovered that their chances of being accepted to the top tier Canadian universities are considerably greater.

The "Canadian Ivies", the University of Toronto, Queens University in Ontario, the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, and McGill University in Montreal, are now popular destina-

tions for American students seeking an excellent education at lower cost. Admissions decisions are generally made on the basis of high school grades and test scores.

The lower tuition and easier entrance standards are made possible just by the numbers; Canadian universities are heavily subsidized by the government, and Canada's relatively small population has not taxed the public university system.

Want to learn more? Check out these websites for in-depth information on Canadian colleges: www.aucc.ca and www.studycanada.ca

More Information

Summer Workshops

Canisius College Summer Reading Programs (helpful for SAT and ACT prep). Call (800) 978-9596 for more info. There is a cost.

Buffalo-area Engineering Awareness for Minorities – Summer program for women, minorities, and students interested in exploring careers in engineering, architecture, and technology. Call BEAM at 645-3066 for more info. No Cost.

ECC Summer College Experience for High School Students (juniors or seniors). Courses in CAD,

Website Design, Computer Repair, Microsoft in the Telecommunications Industry, Medical Terminology, Business Administration, and more. Deadline: June 13. www.ecc.edu/academics/hsummer.asp. There is a cost.

Villa Maria Summer Camps in Theatre, Fashion Design, Jazz, Songwriting, Percussion, Art, Adobe Flash, and Animation. Contact Life Long Learning & Workforce Development Center, 240 Pine Ridge Road, Cheektowaga, New York. There is a cost.

Canisius hosts Writing Project

Canisius College will be the sight for the Western New York Writing Project from July 21 through 25. The theme this year is *Tell Me About Yourself: Personalizing the Personal Essay*.

The project, only open to incoming high school seniors, is designed to help in writing the college entrance essay with the aid of high school teachers. The cost of the camp is \$100 (\$125 after July 14). Enrollment limited to first 24 applicants.

More information is available at www.canisius.edu/wnywp.

Dear Class of 2009 & Parents,

St. Mary's High School has selected Edge Imaging as the official senior photographer for this year. Although it may seem early to have your senior pictures taken, the Yearbook staff has strict deadlines in place to finish the Yearbook.

Portraits will be taken at the school on July 16, 17, and 18, and August 7. In order to be in the Yearbook and on the composite, seniors need to be photographed by Edge Imaging.

It is the responsibility of the student and/or parents to schedule an appointment. Appointments must be made by June 27 by calling 481-5158 or dave@edgewny.com. Parents are welcome to attend the sittings.

Edge Imaging offers a wide variety of poses and backgrounds to choose from. Because they shoot digitally, proofs to take

home will be printed the day of the shoot. Students are encouraged to bring their sport uniforms, instruments, and other props to personalize their Senior photo.

Sitting Fee options include:

- Luxury (\$50) – 18-20 poses, up to three outfit changes, includes vinyl folder with senior composite.
- Deluxe (\$40) – 14-15 poses, up to two outfit changes, includes vinyl folder with senior composite.
- Standard (\$30) – 10 poses, one outfit change, includes vinyl folder with senior composite.
- Economy (\$15) – 6 poses, one outfit change but no composite.
- Yearbook only (no charge) – 2 poses

Please bring sitting fee at time of appointment. Cash, Visa, MasterCard, or

checks/money orders payable to Edge Imaging are accepted.

The picture packages begin at only \$53 and include free retouching on all packages.

Please note – the following is the expected dress for the Yearbook and Composite Portrait: A traditional jacket and tie or tuxedo for men; drapes or formal attire (no spaghetti straps) for ladies. Standard backgrounds must be used for Yearbook pictures; this ensures uniform head size and background consistency. Tuxes and drapes will be available. Men are reminded that they can not have facial hair or earrings, and hair must be neat and off the collar.

Those who have any questions should contact Mrs. Walh-Henshaw at 683-4824 or kwalhenshaw@smhlancers.org.



Spotlight on College Majors — Neuroscience

It's an exciting time to be involved in neuroscience

Neuroscience is the study of the brain and nervous system, with an emphasis on how the nervous system affects human behavior. As such, neuroscience draws from many different areas of study including biology and the life sciences, chemistry, psychology, physics, and biomedical engineering. Although it has connections to the social sciences and humanities, neuroscience is firmly based in the laboratory. It is there that neuroscientists study the relationship of the brain to behavior, the biological basis of thought, and how memories are stored or lost. It is topics – like Why addiction occurs? How can we help nerves to regenerate? What causes depression? and How can we treat pain? – that consumes the interest of neuroscientists.

Although many universities have neuroscience departments, even at the undergraduate level, many neuroscientists have gotten their initial training in areas such as biology, pharmacology, physiology, or psychology. Typical introductory courses in this major include general and organic chemistry, math including calculus and statistics, physics, psychology, and general biology.

More advanced courses may include neurobiology; cognitive, developmental, and systems neuroscience; behavioral and evolutionary neuroscience; and neuropharmacology. Although undergraduate programs may allow for a concentration in one area of neuroscience or neurobiology, it is at the graduate level that most of the specialization occurs. Thus, most neuroscience majors go on for an M.D. or Ph.D. degree, or both.

In choosing an undergraduate program, look carefully at the course offerings to determine the emphasis of that school's neuroscience program and to see if the courses in their major correspond with your interests. Some colleges with undergraduate majors in



www.cmich.edu

neuroscience include a number of the campuses of the University of California, most of the Claremont Colleges, Colorado College, Wesleyan University, Northwestern, Bates, Bowdoin, Colby, Johns Hopkins, Amherst, Boston University, Brandeis, Hampshire, Harvard, Northeastern, Smith, Washington University (St. Louis), Dartmouth, Cornell, Columbia, Colgate, NYU, Union, Duke, Vassar, Kenyon, Oberlin, Franklin & Marshall, Gettysburg, Brown, Baylor, Texas Christian, William & Mary, Washington & Lee, and Washington State University.

High school students interested in this area should make sure that they have taken a rigorous high school curriculum, including four years each of the core subjects of math, English, social studies, and lab science, and at least three years of foreign language. Experience in laboratory research is a plus.

This is a very exciting time to be involved in the neurosciences. At

institutions like Johns Hopkins University, scientists are attempting to understand the inner workings of the human mind, and to find the causes of and treatments for some of our most disabling diseases. Some of the subspecialties include:

- Neurobiology—studies the biology of the nervous system
- Neuroanatomy—studies the structure (anatomy) of the nervous system
- Neurochemistry—studies the chemistry of the nervous system, such as how neurotransmitters work

- Neuropharmacology—studies the action of drugs on the nervous system and on behavior
- Neuropathology—investigates the diseases of the nervous system, such as Alzheimer's, stroke, and multiple sclerosis
- Neuropsychology—studies the relationship between the brain and behavior, especially as related to thought
- Neurophysiology—studies the electrical responses of the nervous system

While research careers in the neurosciences generally require graduate degrees, some undergraduate majors go into teaching, journalism, nursing, psychology, radiology, or medical technology. Others pursue a medical degree to become practicing neurosurgeons or psychiatrists.

To learn more about this rapidly expanding field, explore the website of the Society for Neuroscience at www.sfn.org.



Freshman year *(continued from page 1)*

Everyone goes through a period of adjustment, but there are ways to minimize the stress. Even seemingly small things, like keeping your room clean, can impact mood. Exercise can help you stay mentally as well as physically healthy. Working out will get those endorphins going and relieve stress.

Creating a structure that provides time to study and sleep is another way

of taking care of yourself. You'll probably have no more than 15 hours a week in class. That leaves plenty of time, and, if you treat college like a 9-5 job, you can get your studying done during the day and have evenings for fun.

It is important to actually go to class. Sit up front and you're less likely to doze off. After each class, read your notes and clarify anything you didn't

understand. Good notes are very helpful at exam time. Compare notes with a classmate.

If you're struggling in a class, ask for help. That's what professors and teaching assistants are there for, and many schools also have tutors and writing centers. When it comes to studying, it's much easier to keep up than to catch up.

Studies show that students who are successful and happy in college participate in campus life.

Whether you love film, environmental issues, vegetarian cooking, hiking or improvisational comedy, you'll find people who share your passion. Joining a club is a great way to create a feeling of community, which is especially important at a big university.

Everyone feels homesick at some point. You realize how much you miss your parents, friends, even your house or dog. Add the stress of midterms and sleep deprivation, and it's easy to feel overwhelmed. The counseling center is a great resource. They see many students who are having trouble adjusting to college, and talking to someone can really help.

Getting into college took motivation, commitment and self-discipline. Give yourself some time, and you'll find that those qualities will also help you have a successful and rewarding college experience.

Lancaster Youth Bureau holding Regents review classes

The Town of Lancaster Youth Bureau is hosting a Special Exam Preparation Session for High School Students taking Regents Exams.

There are a limited number of

openings for each subject area; therefore, students will be registered on a first-come, first-served basis.

The schedule of classes is as follows:

Gp	Subject	Time	Dates	Fees	
				Residents	Non Res.
A	Math A	5-6 p.m.	June 3,5,10,12,17	\$30	\$40
B	Math B	4-5 p.m.	June 2,4,9,11,16,18	\$36	\$48
C	Math B	5-6 p.m.	June 2,4,9,11,16,18	\$36	\$48
D	Global History	5-6 p.m.	June 3,5,10,12,17	\$30	\$40
E	US History & Gov't	4-5 p.m.	June 3,5,10,12,17,19	\$36	\$48
F	Earth Science	4-5 p.m.	June 3,5,10,12,17,19	\$36	\$48
G	Earth Science	5-6 p.m.	June 3,5,10,12,17,19	\$36	\$48
H	Biology	4-5 p.m.	June 3,5,10,12,17,19	\$36	\$48
I	Chemistry	4-5 p.m.	June 2,4,9,11,16	\$30	\$40
J	Chemistry	4-5 p.m.	June 2,4,9,11,16	\$30	\$40

Please remember – The purpose of these sessions is to review course materials, not to learn it for the first time.

Students should bring note books,

test papers, and Regents Exam Review Books.

All payments must be paid in either check or money order, made payable to Town of Lancaster.

2008 SPECIAL EXAM PREPARATION SESSION

June 2 through June 19

(Please Print)

Student _____ Grade _____
 Birthdate _____ Age _____
 Address _____
 Phone (home) _____ (work) _____
 Subject(s) _____ School _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date _____ Town of Lancaster Resident _____
 Amount Enclosed _____ Non-Resident _____
 Check/Money Order Number _____ Receipt Number _____

Spanish/French Placement Exam June 7

Students who plan to advance to the second level of Spanish or French during their freshman year **MUST** take the Placement Exam. This exam will be held at St. Mary's High School on Saturday, June 7, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Please arrive 15 minutes early. Those who plan to take the exam and have not notified the Counseling Centre need to do so as soon as possible by calling 683-2349.

Sports Update

– Compiled by Juelie Scanlon, Class of 2009 –

Baseball

The varsity baseball team defeated Bishop Timon/St. Jude in the first round of the Georgetown Cup Playoffs this past Friday 3-1. The team advances to play St. Francis in the semi-finals on Sunday, June 1, at Sal Maglie Stadium in Niagara Falls.

Softball

The girls' softball team finished one of the most successful seasons in recent history. The girls beat Mt. St. Mary's in the first round of the playoffs and lost 4-0 to eventual league runner-up Immaculata Academy. Congratulations to sophomore Stephanie Simmeth (first team) and freshman Lauren Wesolowski (second team) on earning All-Catholic recognition.

Track

Congratulations to James Knapp, Connor

Powell, and Jake Evans on their participation in the State Catholic Track Meet this past weekend.



Senior Charlie Hypnarowski was the winning pitcher in the game against Timon.

Tennis

The following girls' tennis players will be participating in the All-Catholic tournament this week: Rayna Rickard, Amanda Dipiazza, and Emma Concannon.

Cheerleading

The St. Mary's Cheerleading squad will be hosting a car wash fundraiser on Saturday, June 21, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Mobil on the Run at William and Aurora Street. Proceeds will help fund competitions and uniforms. Please come out and support our cheerleaders.

Boys' Volleyball

The next boys' volleyball open gym will be on Thursday, June 5, at 6 p.m. in the Athletic Center. Anyone interested in participating in boys' volleyball is welcome to attend.

Sports Banquet is June 20

This year's Spring Sports Awards Banquet and St. Mary's High School Athletic Hall of Fame Induction will be held on Friday, June 20, at 6 p.m. at Kiebzak's New Beginnings, Crocker Street in Sloan.

On this day, St. Mary's High School will recognize all of the student athletes at St. Mary's who participated in a sport this spring. In addition, the Athletic Department will present the major awards, such as the Harry Paul Memorial Award, Joe Monin Memorial Hustle Award, Dick Woj Basketball Award, the Ken Jakubowski Dedication to Sports Award, and the Male and Female Athlete of the Year Awards.

This year's Hall of Fame Inductees include the 1987 State Champion Girls Volleyball Team.

The cost of the banquet is \$10 per person (including athletes), which includes a buffet dinner. Reservations must be made by Friday, June 6 (sorry, no exceptions).

More information on the banquet may be obtained by calling Dan Gill, Athletic Director, at 683-4824, ext. 35, or by e-mailing to dgill@smhlancers.org.

Mr. Grieco (continued from page 9)

he decided not to play on this team because he did not want to give up his education. Mr. Grieco was also invited to play for another team in Australia, but the tournament was cancelled on the account of terrorism.

On his experience in playing in these places Mr. Grieco stated, "I got the opportunity to meet new people and the opportunity to be recognized overseas. I got to bring back home my experiences."

After college Mr. Grieco had the great honor of being asked to try out for five major league baseball teams: the Chicago White Sox, the Pittsburgh Pirates, the Atlanta Braves, the Cleveland Indians, and the San Diego Padres.

While trying out, he was asked to play for the Pan-American team. Mr. Grieco turned

this down in hopes that something better would come up and when it didn't he decided to enter what he calls "the real world."

Mr. Grieco took his degree in Sports Management from Medaille and started as the youth director at St. Joseph's Parish in Niagara Falls. Mr. Grieco has always wanted to come back to SMH, and when the job for Director of Enrollment came up Mr. Grieco eagerly took the job.

Mr. Grieco still enjoys playing baseball and plays for the triple -A MUNY league and coaches young kids in baseball. Recently Mr. Grieco bought a house in Buffalo and is looking forward to his marriage to Miss Kelly Clark in 2009.

Mr. Grieco would like to thank his parents for all their help throughout the years. Mr. Grieco said, "They gave me the moral support to keep on trying."

Mr. M. (Continued from page 9)

gery, at a prison and with the Marines.

Mr. M was a member of the *USS Plymouth Rock*.

Mr. M says that another interesting part of his life was teaching. He taught 30 years at

Cheektowaga Central and the past four years at SMH, where he plans to continue to teach.

Mr. Mihelbergel also has several interesting hobbies such as lifting weights, bicycles, and racing canoes.

**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

June 2008 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Baccalaureate Mass / Seniors Awards Banquet 9am Hearthstone Manor BB Semifinal Game @ Sal Maglie Stadium vs. St. Francis	2-E Graduation Rehearsal at Villa Maria College 10am-12noon Student Senate 2:30pm	3-F AP Bio Field Trip to Gross Anatomy Lab 8-10:13am Graduation at Villa Maria College 6:30pm	4-A	5-B	6-C	7 Foreign Language Placement Test SAT Test Date (Registration Deadline May 6) BB Finals at Dunn Tire Park (best of 3)
8	9-D Last Day of Classes Student Senate 2:30pm BB Finals at Dunn Tire Park (best of 3)	10-Awards 1pm Dismissal Underclassmen Awards Ceremony End-of-Year Picnic Par Guild Bd 6:30pm 1pm Dismissal	11-Exams School Exams See page 1 for Schedule	12-Exams School Exams See page 1 for Schedule	13-Exams School Exams See page 1 for Schedule	14 ACT Test Date (Registration Deadline May 9)
15	16-Exams School Exams See page 1 for Schedule	17-Exams Regents Exams See page 1 for Schedule	18-Exams Regents Exams See page 1 for Schedule	19-Exams Regents Exams See page 1 for Schedule	20-Exams Regents Exams See page 1 for Schedule Sports Banquet 6pm	21
22	23 St. Mary's Golf Tournament	24-Exams Regents Exams See page 1 for Schedule	25-Exams Regents Exams See page 1 for Schedule	26-Exams Rating Day End of Fourth Quarter	27 Freshmen/Sophomore Field Trip to Darien Lake	28
29	30 Offices Open 8am-1pm	1 Offices Open 8am-1pm	2 Offices Open 8am-1pm	3 Offices Open 8am-1pm	4 School Closed	5

School Meals

We serve education everyday through healthy choices

June 2008 Lunch Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Cook's Choice	3 Cook's Choice	4 Cook's Choice	5 Cook's Choice	6 Cook's Choice
9 Cook's Choice	10 School Picnic	11	12	13

Have a Great Summer!

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

Cost — \$1

Juice / Milk with Bagel & cream cheese
OR Cinnamon bun

Note - a la carte items (Pop-Tarts • Cereal • Toast) may be purchased 60c each, milk or juice for 40c each

All students eligible for Free/reduced Lunch are eligible for breakfast

Students may prepay for lunch by the week or month at \$2.25 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.



St. Mary's High School
142 Laverack Avenue
Lancaster, NY 14086