Your Opportunities Amait at ... St. Mary's High School

CURRENTS December 2013

32 inducted into National Honor Society



On Thursday, Nov. 21, the Marian Chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed 32 new members.

The Induction was held in the Gus Galasso Performing Arts Center as part of a ceremony that included passing of a candlelight, reading of the new inductees' biographies, and a dessert reception. The newest members are (first row)
Paige Burkard, Alexandria Szpila, Zachary
Szpila, Erin Neary, Julie Sobczynski, Gillian
Sacco, Agatha Milholland, Rebecca Hojna,
Victoria Kwitowski, Alexandra Zelazny,
Hannah Hapeman, Bailey Michalski,
(second row) Shelby Strausbaugh, Kaitlyn
Tytka, Kaitlyn Schott, William Roskopf,

David Filion, Leah Meyer, Ashley Drzymala, Alyssa Ziobro, (third row) Tia Piotrowski, Danielle Hockwater, Jacob Shepard, Mason Smith, Hannah Gresham, Jacob Concannon, Ryan Ratajczak, Justin Hersey, Joseph Hamilton, Katrina Kenneweg, and River-Leigh Martinez (missing: Kayla Murphy).

Christmas is time for family

Dear Friends.

I was extremely excited last Wednesday, on our last day of school before Thanksgiving Break, to see so many of our alumni come back and visit. All day long, we had alum from the past several years stop by and share how they are doing.

It was wonderful to talk with them, to see them interact with our current students and staff, and of course, it was nice to see them

excited to receive a traditional loaf of blessed bread at our prayer service. It

was terrific to have part of our family home again.

We have many events coming up this month. We welcome all of our family members to come and visit. We have a family gift gathering party coming up before our always entertaining Christmas show. If you have an alum in your house

that is home from college, encourage

(Continued on page 5)

Pancake Breakfast to benefit Grieco Family

Sunday, Dec. 15 8-10 am at Zebb's Southwestern Blvd. • Orchard Park

Tickets - \$6 each

Tickets available at the school or through Mrs. Tytka. There will also be split clubs and a basket raffle. Anyone wishing to donate a basket should send it to the school, Attention Mrs. Tytka.

Congratulations, First Quarter Honor Roll Students

Top five Seniors







Christopher Hoffman



Erica Swannie



Christina Santucci



Catherine Blaszak



Kaitlyn Tytka



Hannah Gresham



Rebecca Hojna



Agatha Milholland



David **Filion**

Laura Cavallari **Senior 1st Honors** Adams, Torey M Blaszak, Catherine Bookmiller, Kathleen Braniecki, Dylan F Bystrak, Caitlin M Bystrak, Holly A Casillo, Alexandra T Cavallari, Laura E Chen, Mamin Amy Cheng, Yijing Shery Craddock, Reagan Denz, Aaron M Dolinar, Daniel J Dziadosz, Natalia Eggert, Kevin E English, Tyler R Enzinna, Laura A Francemone, Vincent Goldyn, Chelsea K Gonzalez, Marc E Hacker, Jacob J Haffey, Rylee T Heffernan, Chelsea Helak, Meghan E Helmbrecht, Brett A Hoffman, Christopher Kacala, Brooke L Keith, Nathaniel III Kiebzak, Cory J Krucenski, Emily A Krygier, Cailyn M Langley, Allison E Lyons, Ana B Martin, Mary T Matteini, Marco McManus, Mark W

Rowe, Michaela C Rozler, Victoria C Salamone, Abigail M Santucci, Christina Schroeder, Claire E Soluri, Nicholas T Steck, Jacqueline Sugg, Nicholas A Swannie, Erica R Szumla, Christopher Talbot, Erika L Tyson, Latrell C Wnuk, Hayley K Wrest, Megan N Wrobel, Matthew J Wrona, Trevor J Wu, Yige Jessica Zelli, Collin P Ziomek, Grant R

Senior 2nd Honors Cousineau, Samantha Evans, Benjamin W Faulkner, Cassandra Harris, Peyton J Hunziker, Jeffrey T Irish, Sydney K Kaetzel, Austin P Musialowski, Melissa Parente, Allison R Sperduti, Lucas G Vallone, Nicholas W

Junior 1st Honors Bargnesi, Paul A Blaszak, Andrew J Burkard, Paige A Cometto, Theresa V Concannon, Jacob P Cronmiller, Teresa M DeSanto, Nicolas Drzymala, Ashley R Dudzinski, Jennifer C Federico, Nicholas J Filion, David M Gorny, Brittany A

Grabski, Katie A Gresham, Hannah M. Guan, Xinyue Chloe Hamilton, Joseph R Hapeman, Hannah T Hersey, Justin J Hockwater, Danielle Hojna, Rebecca L Ineson, Zachary D Kenneweg, Katrina S Klink, Austin W Kwitowski, Victoria A Lukasik, Nicholas R Manuel, Magdalene Martinez, RiverLeigh Meyer, Leah M Michalski, Jessica A Milholland, Agatha B Murphy, Kayla R Piotrowski, Tia L Poules, Brianna J Ratajczak, Ryan R Roskopf, William R Sacco, Gillian A Schneider, Matthew F Schott, Kaitlyn R Shepard, Jacob C Smith, Mason P Sobczynski, Julie A Sperduti, Jackson W Strausbaugh, Shelby Szpila, Alexandria B Szpila, Zachary M Tomaszewski, Jacob Troidl, Mariah Truesdale, Christopher Tytka, Kaitlyn A Wierzbicki, Matthew J Wierzbicki, Michael A Wilk, Amber M Zelazny, Alexandra L Ziobro, Alyssa K

Junior 2nd Honors Cassel, Kayle M Coleman, Joseph Fontaine, Jonathon Freeman, Samuel D Heigl, Nicholas D Howard, Rachael K Kozminski, Sydney N Kruse, Michael T Mulkey, Sydney A Nasca, Nicholas W O'Neill, Marc A Propis, John E Tobolski, Benjamin Wang, Yu Charlotte Weber, Brandon T Wilson, Sean P Yebernetsky, Alyssa A

Sophomore 1st Honors

Badura, Jordan R Baran, Jennifer N Berchou, Bradley D Braniecki, Garrett F Calkins, Austin T Carl, Olivia N Cianciosa, Joelle M Ciezki, Kendra N Dantonio, Marissa A DiDomenico, Anna D Dolegowski, Bailey Fermo, Madison M Gali, Lisa A Gibson, Helen P Gorny, Victoria C Gresham, Christopher Hamilton, Ann R Hathaway, Jack M Hokaj, Alexander J Kidder, Carolyn R Kobis, Nicholas J Kranz, Jessica L Martin, Rosalie G May, Leah L

McKeating, Brendan Mecca, Ariel Netti, Katherine J O'Scier, Nina J Owczarczak, David G Pijacki, Julie H Piskor, Jennifer Powell, Victoria B Pyszczek, Grace A Ratigan, Jessica S Roetzer, James J Rozler, Veronica M Rusinski, Allison J Salamone, Andrew J Vallone, Joseph P VanRemmen, Isabel Vogel, Megan A Weiss, Regan T Winiarski, Emma Wnuk, Madeline L Zaprzal, Evan T Zirnheld, Alyssa M Zolnowski, Kevin

Sophomore

2nd Honors Blackhall, Benjamin DiGesare, Joseph D Dionne, Ean J DiPirro, Mitchell D Fischer, Allyson M Gu, Jia Wei Jimmy Herod, Bridget L Irish, Maddisen K Junik, Ashley M Krygier, Ethan R Maciejewski, Cora MacKay, Kaila M Michalski, Erica L Rowe, Jonathan C Samson, Nicholas J Solomon, Andrew S Thomas, Emily A Wisniewski, Stephen Zajac, Genevieve A

Freshman 1st Honors

Alexander, Asia A Ando, James A Appenheimer, Gina Bakeman, Elizabeth Bish, Alexander P Bristol, Charles E Connolly, John J Cress, Daniel J Cronmiller, Mark D Erwin, Jenna M Fontaine, Joshua R Fuller, Grace M Grabski, Samantha L Hanna, Meghan C Heerdt, Anna R Hossenlopp, Stephanie Jankowski, Victoria R Loniewski, Marissa L Meyer, Caitlyn Meyers, Faith V Meyers, Savannah H Nemmer, Stephanie Paul, Alex F Pufpaff, Hannah E Smith, Kristi A Stegmeier, Alexander Story, William L Tytka, Collin Vogl, Kathryn G Waley, Nathan C Wipperman, Haley N Zajac, Sydney E

Freshman 2nd Honors

DeJesus, Taylor C Feldmann, Kendra Freeman, Grace A Greene. Jill Hufford, Erin M Seeloff, Andrea E Tredo, Jacob M Wachowski, Brittany Zelazny, Maya A

Top five Sophomores



Michalski, Bailey S

Molino, Rachel L

Neidhart, Erin E

Raab, Katarina L

Roman, Kayla M

Podwika, Joseph R

Rockwood, Francesca

Rodriguez, Samantha

Neary, Erin V

Madison Fermo



Victoria Powell



Carolvn Kidder



Rosalie Martin



Christopher Gresham



McCartney, Mikala M

Daniel Cress



Marissa Loniewski



Top five Freshmen

Kathryn Vogl



Victoria Jankowski



William Story

Bringing science class to absent student



Upon his return to school, Richard Cieslak (second from right) met with the Living Environment class "technical team," (left to right) Andrew Grega, Takal Molson, Isabel VanRemmen, and Stephen Wisniewski.

When sophomore Richard Cieslak was out of school for an extended time, Mrs. Walh-Henshaw's Living Environment class did not let his absence mean he would not be part of the class. Instead, Richie was able to attend and participate with the class virtually through the use of school iPads.

When Richie was recovered enough

to sit up, Mrs. Walh-Henshaw was able to connect Richie into class. After spending a trial day working and practicing running all of the devices and programs, Mrs. Walh-Henshaw assigned four of Richie's classmates to help run the technical aspects of the virtual class.

They had to figure out such things as proper positioning of the iPad and how to

use the programs they would need. The class also checked to see if the sound levels and camera angles were okay.

All of the students in the class had to become comfortable with the fact that the class was "going live" and that microphones would capture all that they were saying.

This project turned out to be a great success for Richie as well as the class.

"My student helpers were amazing!" said Mrs. Walh-Henshaw. "I am so proud of the entire class! They worked hard every day to pay careful attention to the class, and to make sure Richie was always an active part of the class action."

"It was awesome!" Richie added. "I was able to keep up with all of my class work. It was so much fun to see everyone every day and say 'Hi!' to the class!"

From the Discipline Office

Policy when school districts are closed

Per St. Mary's High School, Attendance Policy, "If a school district is closed and not providing bus service for days that are NOT weather related, and St. Mary's High School is in session, students are required to be in school. District closings that are not weather related or a sudden emergency closing are not excused absences. Parents should check their school district calendars and make necessary transportation arrangements for those dates." (Student Handbook, page 35)

If a school district is closed due to weather, or closes suddenly due to an emergency situation and can't provide bus service, students are legally absent; however, parents are still required to call their students in absent to extension 227 by 8 a.m.

Students who are absent from school are not allowed to participate in any extra curricular activities on that day.

Math is interesting ... and tasty



Leah May (left) and Ashley Junik, members of Ms. Schaffstall's Geometry B class, learn about probability with and without replacement by using/counting M&Ms and Skittles.

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

Lancers in Action in Pictures



Eric Eggert and Mr. Kelso spread out refreshments for Donut Day sponsored by Campus Ministry.



Brian and Pamela Piotrowski place a School Ring on the finger of their daughter, Tia, at this year's Junior Recognition Mass.



Shelby Strausbaugh, Gary Li, Bailey Dolegowski, and Nicholas Samson stand with the boxes of items donated as part of Operation Give Back.



Members of the Senior Class pause during their visit to the 9-11 Memorial, as part of this year's Senior Class Trip to New York City.



Eric Eggert, Justin Hersey, Erin Neidhart, Carolyn Kidder, and Helen Gibson give a presentation on poverty as part of the Public Speaking class World Causes Series.

Who's reading Currents?

To encourage the reading of *Currents*, Mr. Kidder is sponsoring a little contest. Bring in the attached form to Mr. Kidder's office to enter a contest for a free snack.

The random drawing of submitted forms will take place on December 18.

Congratulations to last month's winner

- Chelsea Goldyn!

Yes, I'm reading *Currents*!

| Name _____

| Homeroom _

Bring to Mr. Kidder's Office for your chance to win a FREE Snack!



December 2013

Counseling Corner

Sarah Neudeck (sneudeck@smhlancers.org) • 684-2349 • Jamie Whitwood (jwhitwood@smhlancers.org) Counselor to Classes of 2015 & 2017 Counselor to Classes of 2014 & 2016

Strategies to boost memory and maximize learning

Memory skills, especially long-term lives. To help your teen boost her memory skills, are critical for learning. Long-term memory is what builds the "store of knowledge" we draw on all our

memory power, share these pointers:

· Look at the big picture. If she knows an upcoming test is only on Chapter

"Coaching" helps to make better decisions

Ever watch a coach teach an athlete a new skill? Generally, the coach breaks the skill down into parts, then lets the athlete practice them until the skill is mastered.

This same approach works for teaching teens how to make better decisions. Here's how:

- · Discuss the issue. What is it your teen needs to do or decide? What does he already know about this issue?
- Gather information. If your teen is facing a decision about a situation he's never faced before, encourage him to avoid making a choice until he has as much information as possible.
- List the alternatives. Encourage your teen not to think of all decisions as either-or choices. There may be several alternatives.
- · Think about consequences. Draw a line on a piece of paper. Write one

alternative at the top. On the left, write the positive consequences from the decision. Write negative consequences on the right.

- · Consider feelings and values. Sometimes, the best decision on paper may not feel right. Teens need to consider their family's values as they make a choice.
- · Choose the best possible course of action. Although it's hard for a parent to let go of this part of the decision-making process, it's the most important step to turn over to your teen. If your teen makes a wise choice, be sure to praise him. If he makes a poor choice, help him see how he can avoid that mistake another time.

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Four, she will want to spend most of her time on that chapter. However, she should also take a few moments to look at summaries of other chapters. This tells her how Chapter Four relates to the whole unit. Memory improves when this relationship is understood.

- Put information on index cards and review the cards frequently. This tried-and-true method really does make remembering small chunks of information easier.
- · Focus hardest on the middle part of reading material. Our brains remember the beginning and end parts best.
- · Use mnemonics or acronyms. Techniques like the poem, "Thirty days hath September," can help a teen remember.
- Study and then rest or sleep. The brain is never asleep. While your teen's body is getting much needed rest, her brain will still be working on sorting out and retaining the material she fed it just before going to bed.

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Christmas (continued from page 1)

them to come to our Christmas liturgy on December 20th and the Christmas show on December 19th. One of my favorite parts of the holiday season is purposefully spending time with my family, including all of the Lancers.

And of course this Advent season, we prepare ourselves for the most important family member. The birth of our Savior is

coming soon. This is a perfect time to renew our faith in Christ and our faith in family.

If you are looking for prayers and activities that are fitting for this Advent season, check out the interactive Family Advent Calendar on the USCCB website: http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/ liturgical-resources/advent/index.cfm

I hope that you and your family have a very blessed, happy and safe holiday season.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

Rebecca Kranz '92 Principal

From the Health Office

Annual vision, hearing, and scoliosis screening has been completed. If you received notification in the mail,

please return the form after any follow up visits so that the nurse may update her health records.

If you have any questions, please call the school nurse, Mrs. Murphy, at 683-4824, ext. 220.

Keep your kids safe. Get their seasonal flu vaccines every year. Seasonal Flu: A Guide for Parents

Is seasonal flu more serious for kids?	Infants and young children are at a greater risk for getting seriously ill from the flu. That's why the New York State Department of Health recommends that all children 6 months and older get the seasonal flu vaccine.						
Flu vaccine may save your child's life.	Most people with seasonal flu are sick for about a week, and then they feel better. But, some people, especially young children, pregnant women, older people, and people with chronic health problems can get very sick. Some can even die. A flu vaccine is the best way to protect your child from seasonal flu. It is recommended for everyone 6 months and older.						
What is seasonal flu?	The flu, or influenza, is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs. The flu can spread from person to person.						
Flu shot or nasal-spray vaccine?	 Flu shots can be given to children 6 months and older. A nasal-spray vaccine can be given to healthy children 2 years and older. Children younger than 5 years who have experienced wheezing in the past year – or any child with chronic health problems – should get the flu shot, not the nasal-spray vaccine. Children younger than 9 years old who get a vaccine for the first time need two doses. 						
How else can I protect my child?	 Get the seasonal flu vaccine for yourself. Encourage your child's close contacts to get seasonal flu vaccine, too. This is very important if your child is younger than 5 or if he or she has a chronic health problem such as asthma (breathing disease) or diabetes (high blood sugar levels). Because children under 6 months can't be vaccinated, they rely on those around them to get vaccinated. Wash your hands often and cover your coughs and sneezes. It's best to use a tissue and quickly throw it away. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands. This will prevent the spread of germs. Tell your children to: Stay away from people who are sick; Clean their hands often; Keep their hands away from their face, and Cover coughs and sneezes to protect others. 						
What are signs of the flu?	The flu comes on suddenly. Most people with the flu feel very tired and have a high fever, headache, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and sore muscles. Some people, especia children, may also have stomach problems and diarrhea. The cough can last two or more week						
How does the flu spread?	People who have the flu usually cough, sneeze, and have a runny nose. The droplets in a cough, sneeze or runny nose contain the flu virus. Other people can get the flu by breathing in these droplets or by getting them in their nose or mouth.						
How long can a sick person spread the flu to others?	Most healthy adults may be able to spread the flu from one day before getting sick to up to 5 days after getting sick. This can be longer in children and in people who don't fight disease as (people with weaker immune systems).						
What should I use to clean hands?	Wash your children's hands with soap and water, Wash them for as long as it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice. If soap and water are not handy, use wipes or gels with alcohol in them unless they are visibly soiled. The gels should be rubbed into hands until the hands are dry						
What can I do if my child gets sick?	Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks lots of fluids. Talk with your child's doctor before giving your child over-the-counter medicine. If your children or teenagers may have the flu, never give them aspirin or medicine that has aspirin in it. It could cause serious problems.						
Can my child go to school/ day care with the flu?	No. If your child has the flu, he or she should stay home to rest. This helps avoid giving the flu to other children.						
When can my child go back to school/day care after having the flu?	to school/day care after stay home until they are symptom-free for 24 hours (that is, until they have no fever withou						

For more information about the flu, visit http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/ Or, www.cdc.gov/flu Centers for Disease Control and Prevention





Campus Ministry Welcome to Advent!



Welcome to Advent. This is the time of expectation, waiting, and planning. As we prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Incarnation, please be reminded of the religious importance of this time.

The Catholic Church commemorates "God with us," the gift of Emmanuel. The presence/present and fulfillment of the Hebrew Testament promises a Redeemer of Sins. Tragically, the spiritual dimension of Christmas is overshadowed by secular concerns. The readings for the four Sundays of Advent are to prepare us for the coming of Jesus.

The first Sunday will warn us that the day when Jesus comes will be like any other day, so we must always be ready. The second and third Sundays will recall the Baptism and testimony of John. The Gospel of December 8 recounts the Baptism of John and the opportunity for the people of his time to be repentant. (The feast of the Immaculate Conception,

usually celebrated on the eighth will be celebrated on December 9). John's teaching recorded in the reading for December 15 serves as advance notice of how to recognize the "Anointed One."

On the fourth Sunday, the Gospel of Matthew (the basis of readings for Cycle A), describes the faith of Joseph, his obedience to God's will, and his faithfulness to Mary. The fifth and last Sunday of December is dedicated to the Holy Family.

The busy-ness, the stress, and the anticipation of the days between "Black Friday" and Christmas Eve can be overwhelming. It may also become a time of reconciliation, faith renewal, and thanksgiving.

May the presence of the Christ bring all members of the St. Mary's Community peace and blessings through this season and into the new calendar year.

Benedicat vos omnipotens Deus.



Lancer Parent Partnership



Save the Date

The Lancer Parent Partnership and its Fashion Show Committee are pleased to announce that the annual Spring Fashion Show will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2014, at Salvatore's Italian Gardens Restaurant.

The theme of this year's show was inspired by *Candyland* and promises to be an exciting evening! Several vendors and stores have already committed to the show. Along with perennial favorites Tuxedo Junction, DEB, and Dress Barn, the committee is working on some new additions to the show. Doors will open at 5 p.m. for shopping, raffles, and a cash bar, followed by a sit down dinner and the show.

The committee has months of work

to do in preparation for the event and could use help in many different areas, both behind the scenes and on the night of the show. Volunteers can help coordinate the models back stage, assist with raffles, work at the admissions tables, help with the basket raffle during the spring musical run, and much more.

Donations of gift cards and gift baskets are always welcome for the Theme Basket Raffle. Please think of the Fashion Show as you shop the holiday sales! Model sign up will begin in January, and students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni are all welcome to join in the fun. Stay tuned for more details and updates in upcoming *Currents*.

Future committee meetings will be

announced in *Currents* and via SchoolReach e-mail. Even if you are unable to attend committee meetings, but would still like to help, or if you would like more information about making a donation, please let Sandy Gibson know via e-mail at ekgib15@msn.com .

The Lancer Parent Partnership provided dinner and dessert for faculty and staff prior to the first quarter report card distribution on Monday, Nov. 18, in appreciation for all their commitment and hard work for the students of St. Mary's.

Many thanks to our entire dedicated faculty and staff!

Health Corner

Teen abuse of prescription drugs

By Allison Langley and Mrs. Barry Healthy Lifestyles Club

In more recent years, the over use of prescription and over the counter drugs

has increased. Sure, at some point we have all heard about how teens may abuse marijuana and alcohol, but what we have not heard much about is the abuse of prescription drugs and over the counter

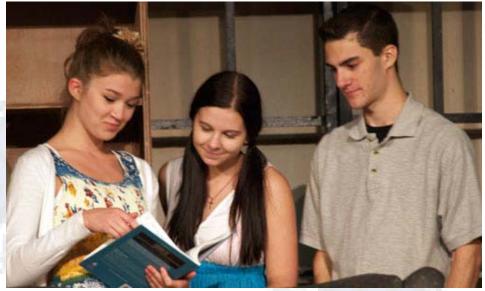
drugs. These types of drugs are having an immense impact on teens today.

These drugs are extremely addictive, and what's worse is that they are ex-

(Continued on page 12)

Pictures from Teen Antics

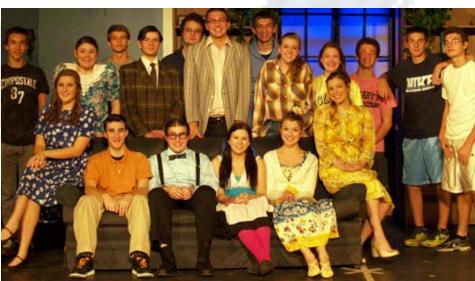












More pictures available at smhlancers.org.

Theater Department announces spring musical

The St. Mary's High School is pleased to announce that this year's spring musical will be *Footloose*. The musical will be performed March 20, 21, and 22.

One of the most explosive movie musicals in recent memory, *Footloose* bursts onto the live stage with exhilarating results. When Ren and his mother move from Chicago to a small farming town, Ren is prepared for the inevitable adjustment period at his new high school. What he isn't prepared for are the rigorous local edicts, including a ban on dancing instituted by the local preacher, determined to exercise the control over the



town's youth that he cannot command in his own home.

When the reverend's rebellious daughter sets her sights on Ren, her roughneck boyfriend tries to sabotage Ren's reputation, with many of the locals eager to believe the worst about the new kid. The heartfelt story that emerges is of a father longing for the son he lost and of a

young man aching for the father who walked out on him.

Auditions for the St. Mary's production will be held Tuesday, Jan. 7 (2:30 Vocal Auditions followed by 3:30 Dance Auditions) and Wednesday, Jan. 8 (2:30 Dance Auditions) and Wednesday, Jan. 8 (2:30 Dance Auditions followed by 3:30 Vocal Auditions.) Students must audition for both vocal and dance, but only need to come to either Tuesday or Wednesday. Call backs for major roles will be held on Friday, Jan. 10, at 2:30 in the Music Room.

More information regarding the musical or auditions is available from Ms. Ruhland.

St. Mary's Christmas Show

Thursday, Dec. 19 • 7pm Please Join Us!!

Snowball 2013

"Winter Wonderland"

Friday, December 6 • 8-11 p.m. \$10 Pre-Sale • \$13 at the Door Tickets now on sale!

Freshmen elect leaders



Sean McCarthy



Collin Tytka



Charles Bristol



Alex Paul



Victoria Jankowski

The Class of 2017 recently elected their officers and homeroom representatives for the 2013-14 school year.

They elected:

- President Sean McCarthy
- Vice President Collin Tytka

- · Secretary Charles Bristol
- Treasurer Alex Paul
- Administrative Assistant Victoria Jankowski
- Homeroom Reps Asia Alexander, Anna Heerdt, Caitlyn Meyer, Kathryn Vogl, and Nathan Waley

Gift Gathering Party on December 19

The Auction Committee will be hosting a Gift Gathering Party for Parents and Friends for this year's Lancer Auction. The party will take place prior to the Christmas Show on Thursday, Dec. 19.

Beginning at 6 p.m., Mrs. Pam Aquino, Special Events Coordinator, along with other members of the committee will be present in the school library to accept auction gifts. Those who donate items will be invited to enjoy food and refreshments. The Christmas Show begins at 7 p.m.

More information on the Lancer Auction or gift ideas is available by contacting Mrs. Aquino at 683-4824, ext. 223 or at paquino@smhlancers.org.

Students/Teacher of October



Marco Matteini



Chloe Guan



Jimmy Gu



Daniel Cress



Mrs. Tartick

Currents

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Vol. 22, Issue 4

Four VB players named All Western New York

Congratulations to the following members of the St. Mary's Women's Volleyball Team who were recently selected to the Coaches' All Western New York Volleyball Small School Team:



Senior Jacqueline Steck



Junior Ashley Drzymala



Junior Leah Meyer



Sophomore Alyssa Zirnheld

Office Hours during Christmas Break

From December 23 through January 3, St. Mary's High School will have no classes because of the Christmas Break.

During these two weeks, the school will have office hours from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, Dec. 27, Monday, Dec. 30, Thursday, Jan. 2, and Friday, Jan. 3. Staff members will also be available by appointment.

School resumes on January 6.

How can it be ...

... That this rose bud ...





Can be transformed into a beautiful rose ...

... That this crawling caterpillar





Can be transformed into a gorgeous butterfly ...

... That this bread and wine ...





Can be transformed into the body and blood of Christ ...

... That when we receive Eucharist ...
... WE are transformed into the Body of Christ ...
...THAT GOD BECAME HUMAN SO THAT WE MAY
BECOME DIVINE ...

... That we are made in the image and likeness of God ... GOD, OPEN MY EYES THAT I MAY SEE ... AND OPEN MY HEART THAT I MAY BELIEVE ...

... And give me LOVE ...

... So that I may be Eucharist in this fragile wounded world ...



2013 Winter Sports Schedules

Women's Varsity Basketball

Thurs, Dec. 5, Time TBA @ Maryvale Tournament

Sat, Dec. 7, Time TBA @ Maryvale **Tournament**

Mon, Dec. 9, 7:30pm @ Allegeny-Limestone

Tues, Dec. 10, 6:30pm vs. Park Thur, Dec. 12, Time TBA @ Wilson **Tournament**

Sat, Dec. 14, Time TBA @ Wilson **Tournament**

Mon, Dec. 16, 6:30pm vs. Burgard Wed, Dec. 18, 7:30pm vs. Lew-Port Mon, Dec. 30, 7:30pm vs. Depew Fri, Jan. 3, 7:30pm @ Niagara Catholic

Wed, Jan. 8, 6pm @ Mt. St. Mary's Fri, Jan. 10, Time TBA @ Pioneer **Tournament**

Sat, Jan. 11, Time TBA @ Pioneer Tournament

Mon, Jan. 13, 7:30pm vs. Buffalo Seminary

Wed, Jan. 15, 6:30pm @ Christian

Mon, Jan. 20, 2pm vs. Nichols Fri, Jan. 24, 7:30pm vs. O'Hara Mon, Jan. 27, 7:30pm vs. Nardin Tues, Jan. 28, 7:30pm vs. Springville Thur, Jan. 30, 7:30pm @ Park Mon, Feb. 3, 7:30pm vs. Sacred Heart St. Mary's

Fri, Feb. 14, 6pm @ Mount Mercy Sat, Feb. 15, 6pm vs. Christian Central

Tues, Feb. 18, 7pm vs. Niagara Catholic

Women's JV Basketball

Fri, Dec. 6, Time TBA @ Maryvale Tournament

Sat, Dec. 7, Time TBA @ Maryvale **Tournament**

Mon, Dec. 9, 6pm @ Alleghany-Limestone

Thur, Dec. 12, Time TBA @ Starpoint Tournament

Sat, Dec. 14, Time TBA @ Starpoint Tournament

Tues, Dec. 17, 4:30pm @ Mt.

Wed, Dec. 18, 6pm vs. Lew-Port Mon, Dec. 30, 6pm vs. Depew Fri, Jan. 3, 6pm @ Niagara Catholic Wed, Jan 8, 4:30pm @ Mt. St. Mary's Thur, Jan. 9, Time TBA @ Pioneer Tournament

Sat, Jan. 11, Time TBA @ Pioneer Tournament

Mon, Jan. 13, 6pm vs. Buffalo Seminary Mon, Jan. 20, 12:30pm vs. Nichols Mon, Jan. 27, 6pm vs. Nardin Tue, Jan. 28, 6pm vs. Springville Mon, Feb 3, 6pm vs. Sacred Heart Fri, Feb. 14, 4:30pm @ Mount Mercy Tue, Feb. 18, 5:30pm vs. Niagara Catholic

Men's Varsity Basketball Freshmen Basketball

Thurs., Dec. 5, 7:15pm vs. Middle College @ Daemen College Wed, Dec. 11, 7:30pm vs. St. Francis Thurs., Dec. 12, 7:30pm @ Niagara Catholic

Tues, Dec. 17, 7pm @ Timon Fri., Dec. 20, Time TBA vs. Clarence @ Canisius

Sat., Dec. 21, Time TBA @ Depew Mon., Dec. 23, Time TBA @ Depew Fri., Dec. 27, Time TBA @

Williamsville North Sat., Dec. 28, Time TBA @ Williamsville North

Thurs., Jan. 2, 6:30pm vs. Park Mon, Jan. 6, 7:30pm vs. Canisius Wed., Jan. 8, 6:30pm @ Nichols Fri., Jan. 10, 6:30pm @ Walsh Tues., Jan. 14, 7:30pm vs. O'Hara Fri, Jan. 17, 7:30pm vs. Niagara

Tues., Jan. 21, 7:30pm vs. Olean Thurs, Jan. 23, 6:30pm @ Cleve-

Fri., Jan. 24, 6:30pm @ Iroquois Wed., Jan. 29, 7pm @ St. Joes Fri., Jan. 31, 6:30pm vs. Walsh Tues., Feb. 4, 6:30pm @ O'Hara Sat., Feb. 8, 1:30pm vs. Nichols Tues., Feb.11, 6:30pm @ Park Wed, Feb. 12, 7:30pm @ Fredonia

Men's JV Basketball

Weds., Dec. 11 6pm vs. St. Francis Thurs., Dec. 12 6pm @ Niagara

Fris., Dec. 13 6pm vs. Clarence Tues., Dec. 17, 5:30pm @ Timon Sat., Dec. 21, Time TBA @ Depew Mon., Dec. 23, Time TBA @ Depew Fri., Dec. 27, Time TBA @ Williamsville North

Sat., Dec. 28, Time TBA @ Williamsville North

Mon., Jan. 6, 6pm vs. Canisius Wed., Jan. 8, 5pm @ Nichols Fri., Jan. 10, 5:30pm vs. Middle

College @ Flickinger Center Tues., Jan. 14, 6pm vs. O'Har Wed., Jan. 15, 6:30pm @ St. Francis Fri., Jan. 17, 6pm vs. Niagara Catholic Sat., Jan. 18, 12:30pm vs. Lancaster Tues., Jan. 21, 6pm vs. Olean Thurs., Jan. 23, 5pm @ Cleve-Hill Fri., Jan. 24, 5pm @ Iroquois Wed., Jan. 29, 5:30pm @ St. Joe's Tue., Feb. 4, 5pm @ O'Hara Sat., Feb. 8, 12pm vs. Nichols

Wed., Feb. 12, 6pm @ Fredonia

Sat, Dec. 7, 11am vs. Clarence Wed, Dec. 11, 4:30pm vs. St. Francis Sat, Dec. 14, 11am vs. St. Joe's Tues, Dec. 17, 4pm @ Timon Sat, Dec. 21, 11am vs. Niagara Falls Sat, Jan. 4, 11am vs. Niagara Falls Mon, Jan. 6, 4:30pm vs. Canisius Sat, Jan. 11, 11am @ Jamestown Mon. Jan. 13. 5pm @ Lancaster Wed, Jan. 15, 5pm @ St. Francis Thurs, Jan. 16, 6pm @ Clarence Sat. Jan. 18, 11am vs. Lancaster Sat. Jan. 25, 11am vs. Timon Wed, Jan. 29, 4pm @ St. Joe's Sat, Feb. 1, 11am vs. Jamestown

Hockey

Mon, Dec. 2, 6:45pm @ Lockport (Hyde Park)

Sun, Dec. 8, 7:30pm @ Lew-Port (Niagara University)

Mon, Dec. 9, 8:45pm @ Niagara Falls (Hyde Park)

Sun, Dec. 15, 3pm @ St. Francis (Buffalo State)

Thur, Dec. 19, 9pm @ Kenmore West (Northtown Center)

Sun, Dec. 22, 6:20pm @ Amherst (Northtown Center)

Fri, Dec. 27, 5pm @ Canisius (Riverside Park)

Sun, Dec. 29, 4pm vs. North Tonawanda (Riverside Park)

Fri, Jan. 3, 1pm vs. Lockport (Northtown Center)

Sun, Jan. 5, 7:15pm @ West Seneca West (Holiday Twin

Mon, Jan. 6, 7:30pm @ Timon (Cazenovia Park)

Sat, Jan 11, 12noon @ West Seneca East (Cazenovia

Thur, Jan. 16, 9pm vs. Kenmore West (Northtown Center)

Mon, Jan. 20, 1:15pm vs. Lew-Port (Leisure Ice Rink)

Sat, Jan. 25, 3pm vs. Niagara Falls (Northtown Center)

Sun, Feb. 2, 3:30pm vs. St.

Francis (Holiday Twin Rinks) Thur, Feb. 6, 7pm vs. Amherst (Northtown Center)

Sat, Feb. 8, 8:35pm @ North Tonawanda (Hockey Outlet)

Men's Bowling

All Matches begin at 3:35pm at Thruway Lanes

Tues., Dec. 3, vs. Christian Central Thurs.. Dec. 5. vs. Canisius Tues., Dec. 10, vs. O'Hara Thurs., Dec. 12, vs. Park Tues., Dec. 17, vs. St. Francis Tue., Jan. 7, vs. Canisius Thurs., Jan. 9, vs. Timon Tues., Jan. 14, vs. St. Joe's Thurs., Jan. 16, vs. Christian Cen-

Thur., Jan. 23, vs. O'Hara Thurs., Jan. 30, vs. Park Tue., Feb. 4, vs. TBA Thurs., Feb. 6, vs.TBA

Women's Bowling

All matches begin at 3:45pm at Thruway Lanes

Tues, Dec. 3, vs. Mt. St. Mary's Thurs, Dec. 5, vs. Mt. Mercy Tues, Dec. 10, vs. Nardin Thurs, Dec. 12, vs. Sacred Heart Tues, Dec. 17, vs. Buffalo Seminary

Thurs, Dec. 19, vs. O'Hara Thurs, Jan. 2, vs. Immaculata Tues, Jan. 7, vs. Mt. St. Mary's Thurs, Jan. 9, vs. Mt. Mercy Tues, Jan. 14, vs. Nardin Thurs, Jan. 16, vs. Sacred Heart Tues, Jan. 21, vs. TBA

Wrestling

Wed, Dec. 4, 5pm Olean; 7pm vs. Canisius @ Akron

Thurs, Dec. 5, 6pm @ Niagara Catholic

Sat, Dec. 7, Time TBA @ Maple Grove

Tues, Dec. 10, 6pm @ Gow Sat, Dec. 21, Time TBA @ North Tonawanda JV Tourney

Sat, Dec. 28, Time TBA @ Akron Tourney

Sat. Jan. 4. Time TBA @ Alexander

Tues, Jan. 7, 6pm vs. St. Joe's Fri, Jan. 10, 3:30pm @ Alden Tourney

Sat, Jan. 11, 7:30am @ Alden Tourney

Wed, Jan. 15, 6pm @ St. Francis Thurs, Jan. 23, 6pm vs. Akron Tues, Jan. 28, 6pm @ Canisius Tues, Feb. 4, 6pm vs. Gow

Schedules are subject to change, especially due to the weather. Updates available www.smhlancers.org

Prescription drugs (continued from page 7)

tremely easy to obtain. Teens are taking these types of drugs from their friends and relatives who were given a prescription by their doctor for a medical condition.

More often than not, the prescription is not getting used entirely, and the medicine sits in a medicine cabinet. This makes it easy for teens to get access to certain types of medicines which can be dangerous when not taken according to the doctors' orders.

As students learned in Health Class, it is imperative to follow our doctor's directions to prevent abuse and misuse of drugs and dispose of any medicines that are expired or no longer being used.

The most common drugs that are available to teens are OxyContin, Vicodin,

Xanax, and Valium. Even a simple cough medication to soothe that sore throat can be abused by teens. The abuse and misuse of over the counter medicines is on the rise because teens do not consider them to be harmful. This is false; taking over the counter medicines in a way other than directed is very dangerous.

Another increasingly popular prescription drug is Adderall, which is used to treat ADHD. Adderall, however, is now being used recreationally. Many teens think it is the perfect boost to finish that research paper, but they are not considering the consequences of taking such a drug without supervision of their doctor. It is very addicting and could be considered a gateway drug. Adderall also has negative

health effects; it increases blood pressure and increases heart rate, which in the end can be potentially deadly. Other side effects and health risks are slowed breathing, extreme drowsiness, nausea, disorientation, and extremely high body temperatures.

It is extremely important that we prevent teens from abusing these drugs. We can do so by listening to our doctors and by making sure we properly dispose of a prescribed drug when we no longer need it. Holding onto drugs like the ones described in this article is dangerous and gives our teens easy access.

More information is available by going to teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts or calling 1-800-662-HELP.

We serve education everyday through healthy choices December 2 Breakfast - \$1 **Friday** Wednesday Monday **Tuesday Thursday** Reduced -25¢ Bagels, cream cheese, Stuffed-crust pizza, Taco, seasoned Chicken nuggets, Spaghetti, Grilled cheese, assorted cereal, muffin, lettuce salad. meat, lettuce, dinner roll, crackers, meatballs, whole tomato soup, hash juice, milk, fresh fruit brown, patty, green garbanzo beans. grain roll, Romaine wraps, salsa, mashed potatoes, Served Every Day sweet potato fries, cheese, rice, fruit, gravy, peas, carrots, salad, corn, fruit, beans, corn, fruit, fruit, milk 7:15-7:45 p.m. fruit, milk milk 10 12 13 11 A la carte items: Pizza, Romaine Turkey or ham sub, Grilled ham & Cheeseburger, roll, Taco, seasoned Muffins - 60¢ lettuce salad, green salad, garbanzo meat, lettuce, sweet potato fries, cheese, over fries, Pop Tarts - 60¢ beans, oven fries, beans, sweet potato wraps, salsa, peas, mixed zucchini, fruit, milk Orange Juice - 50¢ fruit, milk fries, fruit, milk cheese, rice, fruit, vegetables, fruit, Milk - 50¢ milk 19 17 18 16 *20* **Lunch** – \$3 Spaghetti, Chicken patty on Popcorn chicken, Sahlen's hotdog on Grilled cheese, Reduced -25¢ roll, Romaine salad, rice, Oriental roll, baked beans, meatballs, dinner tomato soup, hash tater rounds, vegetables, dinner corn, fries, fruit, roll, Romaine salad, brown, green carrots, fruit, milk Students may prepay for roll, fruit, milk peas & carrots, beans, corn, fruit, fruit, milk milk lunch for one week or more - \$2.75 per day 24 25 27 23 All lunches include milk: Merry Christmas! White - 1% White - Fat Free Chocolate - Fat Free 31 *30* Happy New Year! A la carte items: Sandwiches - \$1.50 Other items vary everyday!

Looking for the perfect Gift for your Lancer? Go to ...



December 2013 Calendar

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2-F Day Gift Gathering Onthe-Go 7 - 9 am Student Senate (Holiday Decorating) 2:30pm Hockey @ Lockport 6:45pm	3-A Day Campus Ministry Meeting 7:30am Curriculum Committee 2:30pm MBowl vs. Christian Central 3:30pm WBowl vs. Mt. St. Mary's 3:45pm	4-B Day SEEK Meeting 2:30pm Wrestling vs. Olean 5pm, vs. Canisius 7pm @ Akron	Weekly Mass 7:30am in Chapel Senior Cap & Gown Measurements during lunches NHS Tutoring 2:30pm in Library Photos for Clubs / Winter Sports 2:30pm MBowl vs. Canisius 3:30pm WBowl vs. Mt. Mercy 3:45pm Var WBB @ Maryvale Tournament MBB vs. Middle College 7:15pm	6-D Day Special Schedule (Advent Prayer Service / Class Meetings) Snowball 8-11pm JV WBB @ Maryvale Tournament	7 SAT Testing Day FrshBB vs. Clarence 11am WBB @ Maryvale Tournament Wrestling @ Maple Grove TBA
8 SEEK Week Hockey @ Lew-Port 7:30pm	9-E Day Student Senate 2:30pm WBB @ Allegany Limestone 6, 7:30pm Hockey @ Niagara Falls 8:45pm	10-F Day Jeans Day NHS Meeting 2:30pm MBowl vs. O'Hara 3:30pm WBowl vs. Nardin 3:45pm JV WBB @ Mt. Mercy 4:30pm WBB vs. Park (Varsity only) 6pm Wrestling @ Gow 6pm Jeans Day	11-A Day Campus Ministry Meeting 7:30am Principal's Ad Board 2:30pm FreshBB vs. St. Francis 4:30pm MBB vs. St. Francis 6, 7:30pm	Weekly Mass 7:30am in Chapel NHS Tutoring 2:30pm in Library Photos for Clubs / Winter Sports 2:30pm MBowl vs. Park 3:30pm WBowl vs. Sacred Heart 3:45pm MBB @ Niagara Catholic 6, 7:30pm Var WBB @ Wilson Tournament JV WBB @ Starpoint Tournament	13-C Day Special Schedule (Advent Reconciliation & SEEK Presentation) JV MBB vs. Clarence 6pm	14 ACT Testing Day Fresh BB vs. St. Joe's 11am Var WBB @ Wilson Tournament JV WBB @ Starpoint Tournament
15 Hockey @ St. Francis 3pm	16-D Day Student Senate (Christmas Party) 2:30pm WBB vs. Burgard (Varsity only) 6pm	17-E Day SOuL Meeting 7:20am MBowl vs. St. Francis 3:30pm WBowl vs. Buffalo Seminary 3:45pm FreshBB @ Timon 4pm JV WBB @ Mt. Mercy 4:30pm MBB @ Timon 5:30, 7pm	18-F Day Faculty/Staff Meeting 2:30pm WBB vs. Lew-Port 6, 7:30pm	19-A Day Pride Day Weekly Mass 7:30am NHS Tutoring 2:30pm Family Gift Gathering Party 6 pm Christmas Show 7pm WBowl vs. O'Hara 3:45pm Hockey @ Ken West 9pm Pride Day	20-B Day Special Schedule (Christmas Liturgy / Christmas Show) MBB vs. Clarence @ Canisus 7pm Liturgy Dress Code	21 FreshBB vs. Niagara Falls 11am MBB @ Depew Tournament Wrestling @ North Tonawanda JV Tournament
22 Hockey @ Amherst 6:20pm	23 NOSCHOOL Offices Closed MBB @ Depew Tournament No School	24 NOSCHOOL Offices Closed	25 Christmas Day NOSCHOOL Offices Closed	26 NOSCHOOL Offices Closed	27 NOSCHOOL Offices Open 9am-12noon MBB @ Will North Tournament Hockey @ Canisius 5pm No School	28 MBB @ Will North Tournament Wresting @ Akron Tournament
29 Hockey @ North Tonawanda 4pm	30 NOSCHOOL Offices Open 9am-12noon WBB vs. Depew 6, 7:30pm	31 NOSCHOOL Offices Closed	New Year's Day NOSCHOOL Offices Closed No School	NOSCHOOL Offices Open 9am-12noon WBowl vs. Immaculata 3:45pm MBB vs. Park 6:30pm No School	3 NOSCHOOL Offices Open 9am-12noon WBB @ Niagara Catholic 6, 7:30pm Hockey @ Lockport 1pm No School	4 Wrestling @ Alexander Tournament FreshBB vs. Niagara Falls 11am

Thanksgiving Tradition



Senior Erica Swannie presents a loaf of bread to sophomore Allyson Fischer at the Thanksgiving Prayer Service. Students were encouraged to take the bread home to share with their families.

In the December issue of Currents

- 32 inducted into National Honor Society
- First Quarter Honor Roll Students
- Bringing science to an absent student
- Pictures from Teen Antics
- Theater Dept. announces Spring musical
- Freshmen elect officers, representatives
- Winter sports schedules
- December Calendar & Menu
- And much more!

For the latest news about St. Mary's High School, go to www.smhlancers.org



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