

ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2009

VOLUME 2, ISSUE III

From the Desk of Mrs. Nietzsche

Dear Parents / Guardians:

Advent is a season to celebrate and rejoice! In addition, it is a season of preparation for the birth of Christ and the hope that His birth brought onto the world. In the words of Robert Louis Stevenson:

“Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over our world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forging and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.”

On behalf of the entire St. Mary High School family, may you have a blessed Christmas season and joyous new year.

Blessings,

Mrs. Nichole D. Nietzsche

Principal

St. Mary High School

Win/Win Lottery

Recently, you received your Win/Win Lottery tickets in the mail. We appreciate your efforts in selling these tickets to friends and families. If your son or daughter is having trouble selling these tickets, please let us know as soon as possible. Mrs. Jaszek and Mrs. Nietzsche have many suggestions and ideas as to how you can make those sales!

Parents, please understand the importance of this fundraiser to our community. The Win/Win lottery is built into our budget as a way to keep our tuition the lowest of all four Catholic high school's in Western Massachusetts. Your participation is *the only way* that we can be successful in this endeavor.

While many small incentives have been planned for the month of December, the largest incentives are dress down days and days off from school. Any student selling two books will begin their Christmas vacation *one day early*, taking off Wednesday, December 23rd. Those students selling four books will begin their vacation *two days early*, also taking off Tuesday, December 22nd. For those students choosing not to sell Win/Win tickets, the school will be open and the day will remain a day of learning.

We appreciate your participation and understanding the tremendous impact that this fundraiser makes on our budget.

Additional tickets are available in the main office.

From the Drama Club



Auditions will be held during the week of December 7th for the Spring Musical, “Bells are Ringing”. Mark your calendars for the performances which will take place March 11th - March 13th 2010.

See Mrs. Reardon or Mr. Lepage for information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>From Mr. Hourihan</i>	2
<i>Sunday River Trip</i>	2
<i>From Mrs. Pelli</i>	3
<i>From Mrs. Ritchie</i>	3
<i>Advancement</i>	4

Anyone interested in joining the Spanish Club?



Due to increased student interest The Spanish Club is back!!! Students interested in joining should see Mrs. Williams in the Spanish Clubhouse for information on meeting dates and times. All students (regardless of their foreign language background) are welcome.

Fight the Flu!

Get vaccinated—Make sure that your children get vaccinated. It is the best protection from the flu. Be sure to get protection from both the H1N1 and seasonal flu. For information on flu clinics, please contact the City of Westfield's Health Department.

Cover your cough - Cover your mouth. Sneeze into a tissue or into your inner elbow, but never your hands!

Wash your hands - Wash your hands often with soap and water. To make sure your hands are clean, consider singing the Happy Birthday song twice in your head while washing. This is about the length of time it takes to properly clean your hands. You can also use a hand sanitizer.

Stay home when sick - If you are sick with the flu stay home from school for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone. This means that the fever has subsided for 24 hours WITHOUT fever medicine.

Community Service

Community Service Requirements - Community Service is a requirement for grade promotion and graduation from St. Mary High School. Please see the school handbook or your Theology teacher for specific requirements. An extraordinary amount of volunteer activities are available for our students. If you need some suggestions, please contact the school. Freshmen, remember that you must complete 30 hours - less than one hour a week, every week of the school year is all that you need to fulfill this requirement. Thank you to those of you who have worked so diligently to serve our community. A special thank you to 9th grader Kaitlyn Carpenter who worked from start to finish on both days of the Holly Days Craft Fair! Also, a special thank you to Alex Jez & Drew Malloy who have each worked nearly 10 hours over the course of the last few weeks to update information for next year's Open House.

Soup Kitchen - On the first Monday of each month our school has committed to preparing and serving a meal at The Community Table in Westfield. During the previous school year 130 of our volunteers provided a meal for 612 people.

Dates for the remainder of the year are:

December 7th, January 4th, February 1st, March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th, and August 12th.

Parents and friends are welcome to volunteer as well. Contact Mrs. Schweitzer or Mr. Lepage for more information.

From the Desk of Mrs. Sue Turrini

Information on FACTS Tuition Aid is now available. Applying online is fast and convenient and can be done now. Paper applications will not be available until January. Diocesan Aid is available for qualifying, participating Catholics. To be eligible you must be a registered, contributing member of a parish. Diocesan financial assistance is based upon need. To receive the maxi-

mum benefit, applications must be completed by MARCH 15, 2009. If you feel that you have a greater need than the Diocese of your parish can provide, St. Mary High School has financial aid available. If you are interested in applying for aid from the school, please send a copy of your completed Diocesan Aid form to the school. If you are not Catholic, and therefore not

applying for Diocesan Aid you may still qualify for STMHS Aid. Please send a copy of your W2 forms to the school for evaluation.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Business Office directly at 413-568-5692.

Ski / Snowboard Trip to Sunday River

Get ready for Fr. Brian's annual Parish trip to Sunday River (February 17th - February 20th 2010). Families will have the opportunity to carve up the seven mountains that make up Sunday River. This year the trip will take place from Wednesday through Saturday. Plus, accommodations are closer to the mountain and Town & Country Inn. Every morning a large breakfast will be offered, then it is off to the slopes for a day of fun. For those who do not ski, there is also a cozy lodge to relax in, or sledding hill to have some excitement. Upon returning to the inn both Mass and dinner will be available. In addition, there will be an indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, and arcade. Once again, the group will be taking a King Ward bus. This trip was purposely scheduled for February vacation with the hopes that whole families will be able to partake in the fun! Older students are also welcome to attend.

From the Desk of Mrs. Pelli, School Nurse

H1N1 Vaccinations – Thank you to all parents for completing the consent forms for the H1N1 vaccines. We recognize that there were a number of forms that needed to be completed and we appreciate your patience while completing the process. If you have not yet returned the second set of forms, please do so as soon as possible so that your child will be able to receive the vaccination. Without the appropriate forms on file, the shot **WILL NOT BE GIVEN**. We have received notification from the City of Westfield that the clinic will take place, on site (St. Mary High School) within the next two weeks. We will keep you informed and update you as soon as we receive further information. If you have changed your mind and wish for your child to have the vaccination, you must contact City of Westfield for information on future clinics.

AED Machine Donation & Training - Due to the extreme generosity of an anonymous STMHS family, the school has received a portable, automated external defibrillator machine. This machine will remain in the building throughout the school day, and travel with designated sports teams to away games after coaches have been appropriately trained. A special thank you to Lieutenant Jerome Pitoniak of the Westfield Police Department who conducted a recent training for the main office. Additional trainings for

From the Desk of the Athletic Director

Hockey - St. Mary High School would like to welcome our new hockey coach Kevin Uva. We look forward to an exciting season. Go Saints!

Boy's Basketball - Boy's Basketball games will be played at South Middle School this year. Please park in the main parking lot on the right (3rd entrance). You are encouraged to park in the back of the lot, near where the jersey barriers are located (Amelia Park Ice Arena's parking lot will be located directly in front of you). The entrance to the building will be up the sidewalk, alongside the fenced in play area. This will be the only door accessible to fans entering the building. For those with a GPS, the address is: 30 West Silver Street, Westfield, MA 01085.

Athlete of the Week - Please check the St. Mary High School web page each week to see the STMHS Athlete of the Week. This is a new feature that we are implementing. It is our intent to feature students who have achieved the respect of their coach, teammates, and school administration for their talent and character. A new athlete will be featured each week for the remainder of the school year in the Athletics section of the school web page. For more information check out: www.stmaryhs.com/athletics.

From the Desk of Mrs. Ritchie

TARDINESS TO SCHOOL - It is essential that students who are tardy to school at the hands of their parents, or being dropped off by their parents, must have a note. Only those students with a note from home will receive excused tardies. **SENIORS** - Please remember that all tardies (excused or unexcused) will count toward your eligibility for senior privileges. Please see the handbook for further information.

ABSENCES AND DOCTOR'S NOTES - Students are only allowed 10 absences from school before credit is lost for the quarter. Those students requiring extensions on this policy must have been seen by their doctor and have a note verifying their illness. Without a doctor's visit and a note, the absences are unexcused.

HOMEWORK REQUESTS - Please remember that all homework assignments are posted nightly on Edline. The main office is unable to fulfill homework requests during the school day. Parents wishing to pick up their child's textbooks may do so.

Thank You for Your Charitable Donations

A special thank you to our parents and students for their charitable efforts this holiday season. Our students donated **HUNDREDS** of boxes of tissues and received two days of dress down before Thanksgiving. In addition, over 250 items of food were donated to our St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive. While Mrs. Garfield's homeroom led way by contributing over 50 items, nearly all of our homerooms had 100% participation.

It's the Season of Giving



Are you looking for that perfect Christmas gift for a student, alumni, or yourself?

We have sweatshirts, polo shirts, golf hats, and other spring wear with the SAINTS insignia available for purchase in the high school. All proceeds to benefit our student body. Please stop by and take a look at our school store or call for more information.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Mary High School, serving Westfield and the surrounding communities for over 100 years, is to educate our students in a comprehensive college preparatory curriculum. Through a demanding academic program, students are challenged to reach their highest potential. Guided by the Gospel message and supported by parents, students are prepared in matters of faith and moral development. We value a caring and diverse community environment, inspiring students to mature into responsible young people.

“Lighting the way to the future”



PROGRESS REPORTS



Progress Reports will be posted to Edline on Dec. 4th 2009. Just a reminder, if your son or daughter receives a Progress Report it is your responsibility to sign and return it to the school within one week. If we do not receive the signed report we will be making individual calls to your home.

Blankets

\$20

Now Available in the Advancement Office

Show your school spirit with a “Saints” blanket!

These beautiful 4x6 blankets are hunter green with gold “saints” logo. Warm sweatshirt material blankets are durable and perfect to sit on while cheering on your favorite Saints team or for curling up with a good book at home. Blankets come with a detachable nylon handle for easy transportation and are machine washable.

Simply call Kristin Hagan at 568-1160.

A Note from Kristin Hagan, St. Mary Advancement Office

It’s about to be that time of year when we think about our favorite non-profits and the final tax deductions that we will be making for the year. Please keep St. Mary’s Schools at the top of your list! There are many ways to give: The Annual Drive, perhaps a patio brick in honor or memory of a loved one, or to the Sr. Gill Reilley Endowment Fund which will provide scholarship money to our students. If you are interested in making a gift to any of these, please contact the Advancement Office and we will be glad to assist you.

If you have not yet purchased a Saint’s blanket, they would make a great Christmas gift!

Save the Dates:

Santa Breakfast and Coffee Hour - 12/13/09 after the 10am Mass.

5th Annual Wine Tasting - 02/27/10 - 6pm at Tekoa Country Club. Please note the change of date and change of venue. Contact the Advancement Office to purchase your tickets.

From the Desk of Mrs. Kimberlee Jaszek

Director of Admissions and Recruitment

Are you the parent of an eighth grade student looking for an excellent high school experience? We are now accepting registrations for prospective freshmen. Not only do we have provide students with a prestigious college preparatory education, including Advanced Placement courses, extra-curriculars, and top-notch athletics, but also 98% of our graduates choose to continue their education. We have the lowest tuition rate of any regional parochial high and are committed to remain affordable for our families. Come see why St. Mary High School students ‘Light the way to the Future’

Log on to www.stmaryhs.com or email Kim Jaszek at kjaszek@stmaryhs.com for more information.