

ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2009

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

From the Desk of Mrs. Nietzsche

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

From me, to you, welcome back. The season is changing, the air is brisker, the nights are cooler, and, like our students the trees are beginning to shine their brightest. The faculty and staff at St. Mary High School are looking forward to working with you and your children to make the most of these opportunities and overcome any challenge that this new school year might bring.

I have already had the opportunity to visit many classrooms and can assure you that our teachers are committed to the responsibility of providing our students with high expectations and a challenging curriculum in a Christ-centered environment.

Might I suggest that you allow yourself and your children to take advantage of the many opportunities that our community offers. Parents can become involved in the Parent Information Committee, take a bus trip to New York City, or participate in one of the many social events throughout the year. Students, make a new friend, join a club, participate in the drama performances, or try out for a sport of your choice. Whatever it is that you decide to do, let this year be one of growth and transformation.

May our entire community be blessed with a new dedication toward learning and be guided in the paths of justice, wisdom and compassion as we continue along this journey together.

God bless.

Nichole Nietzsche

St. Mary High School Welcomes New Teachers

The administration, faculty and staff whole-heartedly welcome the following teachers to our community.



Alexandria Lanese
English Department



Mary-Kate Ragno
English Department



Melissa Williams
Foreign Language



Kathryn Gaudreau
AP History

Please join with us in making our new teachers feel at home.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Parent's Back to School Night - October 1st
- ◆ PSAT - October 14th
- ◆ Placement Exam (Prospective Freshmen) - November 14th

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Bonus Bucks for Schools</i>	2
<i>College Planning</i>	2
<i>Community Service</i>	2
<i>Influenza Update</i>	3
<i>Advancement Drive</i>	4

Stop & Shop and Big Y Bonus Bucks

Earn \$\$\$\$\$ and Supplies for our School with Groceries!



Pasta Supper – Save the Date! Our famous pasta supper, hosted by the Saints hockey team, will be held on November 14th at 5:00pm in the High School gym. Delicious spaghetti and meatballs will be prepared by (who else but) our Italian parishioners. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5 thru 12. Under 5 is free! Proceeds to benefit STM hockey. For tickets please call the high school at 568-5692.

Do you shop at Stop & Shop or Big Y? Then it is time to register your cards for the 09-10 school year! Here is how it works:

Stop & Shop: With A+ Bonus Bucks points accrue with each purchase if you use your **registered** Stop & Shop card. At the end of the school year, we are awarded a check to spend as needed. Last year we earned close to \$1,000 with only 23 registered participants. Imagine if everyone registered their card! Go online at www.stopandshop.com/aplus and follow the prompts. Our school ID is 05193.

Big Y: With BIG Y Education Express, points are earned to get items such as computers, art supplies, sports equipment, etc. You can register your card at the customer service desk. Our school ID# is 6488.

We have our own customer service department! If you wish us to register your cards, please email ktjaszek@yahoo.com with your last name and card numbers. Be sure to include all numbers on the back of the card. Please join us in participating in these valuable programs for our school.

Community Service Opportunities

- Work the Lion's Den at the Big E. Free admission. See Mrs. Schweitzer for available dates and times.
- Out of the Darkness Community Walk. See Mrs. Schweitzer or any member of Key Club to sign up.
- Soup Kitchen. 1st Monday of each month. See Mr. Lepage or Mrs. Schweitzer.
- Homework House. Volunteer to tutor elementary school students. Mrs. Schweitzer provides transportation. See her to sign up.
- Service mission to Ecuador - February vacation. - Contact Mrs. Cindy Geiger Geigerc@GilbertSchool.org

College Planning Night

St. Mary High School will be hosting a College Planning Night in the gymnasium on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm. While the evening is open to all, parents (and students) of the Junior and Senior classes are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to attend. The evening will begin with an introduction to the college application process by Mr. Michael

Hourihan and Mrs. Kimberlee Jaszek. Guest speakers will include: Mr. Peter Miller (Director of Admissions, American International College), Mr. Harold Santiago (Director of Admissions, Holyoke Community College), Mr. Troy Davids (Financial Aid Officer, Elms College), Mr. Richard Lenfest, (Athletic Director, Westfield State College), Mr. David Kells (Counselor, St. Mi-

chael's College), Mr. Martin Gaudrault (former STM graduate currently attending WNEC).

It is our hope that parents and students, no matter where they are in the selection or application process, will have an opportunity to have their questions and concerns addressed.

Community Service Requirements

The following community service requirements have been set forth by the administration of Saint Mary High School:

- Class of 2010 - No requirement
- Classes of 2011 & 2012 - 30 hours over the course of the high school career
- Class of 2013 - 30 hours per school year.

Students are required to log and respond to community service projects in the Community Service Notebook. Theology teachers share the responsibility of verifying all logged hours and journal entries.

For more detailed information about this requirement please contact Rob Lepage or Jillian Fiorentino.



Seasonal and H1N1 Flu - Back to School Update

Earlier this week an informational letter from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services was mailed to you regarding both Seasonal and H1N1 Flu. Please take the time to read the information and discuss your options.

As a result of the recommendations from the Department of Public Health, we will be enforcing the following procedure:

- Students or staff becoming sick or complaining of flu-like symptoms will be isolated in the nurses office until they can be sent home

from school.

- All sick students and staff will be required to stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever. This fever-free period must be without the use of fever-reducing medicines like ibuprofen or acetaminophen.

The Department of Public Health strongly recommends that all students and staff receive the seasonal flu shot as soon as possible. In addition, children will be able to receive the H1N1 vaccine in October.

While we are taking every precaution we can, including emphasizing and reminding students and staff about the importance of proper hand washing and cough etiquette to prevent the spread of disease, there is no guarantee that our school will not be affected by an influenza outbreak.

Please strongly consider the recommendations made by the Office of Health and Human Services and The Department of Public Health.

MIAA Policy on Sports Physicals

All students must pass a physical examination within thirteen months of the start of each season. Students who meet this criteria at the start of the season will remain eligible for the entire season.

We will not allow students to participate or practice in sports without a current physical on file. If you have not yet submitted your child's physical. Please do so as soon as possible.

Notes from PIC - Parent Involvement Committee

The Parent Involvement Committee would like to thank the parents of our 9th graders for coming to PIC's annual meet & greet, Freshmen Parent's Night. We are thankful to have met you and look forward to developing and fostering our relationship with you in the years to come.

New York City

Bus Trip

Saturday, October 3, 2009

Leaving:

Westfield South Middle @
7:00am

Departing NYC @ 7pm



Limited Seating - \$35 p/p

Contact Patty Schweitzer for more information or to reserve.

Food Certificates

We sell food certificates for Stop & Shop, Big Y, and North Elm Butcher Block.

They cost no more than paying cash!

We keep track of the number of certificates you buy. In the December & June billing periods we credit 5% of your total gift certificates purchases towards your tuition bill. No one else benefits but you. Not only can you purchase the certificates, but sell them to friends and family too.

(Big Y has a 2% discount 10 months out of the year-we buy in bulk twice a year @5% to pass a larger savings on to you)

Certificates are sold every Thursday*.

Call the school for more information.

It is so easy.....

***** Due to scheduling conflicts, food certificates will only be sold on Thursdays. Orders can not be filled on other days of the week.**

ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL

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**WE'RE ON THE
WEB...**

www.stmaryhs.com

WHERE OUR STUDENTS
LIGHT THE WAY TO THE
FUTURE.

St. Mary High School
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.

From the Advancement Office

The 2009-2010 school year is underway and it is great to see the excitement in all of our students from PreK to Elementary to High School. It is remarkable to witness the pride they share in our schools. You have an opportunity to build and sustain this momentum of pride.

As we begin the 2009-2010 Advancement Drive I want to reach out to you, our high school parents, to explain the importance of this drive and ask for your support.

Your gift adds incredible value to STMHS in many ways. Your gift builds quality by strengthening our academic programs; your gift helps to attract, retain and develop outstanding faculty; your gift makes a St. Mary's education attainable for those in need of tuition assistance; and your gift enhances our facilities, learning resources and libraries.

You will receive an Advancement Drive Envelope shortly by mail. They are also available in the back of the church or by calling my office at 568-1160. Please be as generous to the Advancement Drive as you possibly can. Every donation really does make a difference. We are grateful for your continued support.

Kristin Hagan

Advancement Director