

MERCY MOMENTS



Mercy High School Parent Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue 3

November/December 2011



Congratulations to Monica Keenan - Runza Student of the Week

Senior Monica Keenan will be honored as a Runza Student of the Week. Monica is involved in a wide variety of clubs and activities at Mercy while taking AP and honors courses.

Students Meet Author of Summer Read

Thirty-one students and two faculty members were able to hear Sonia Nazario, author of *Enrique's Journey*, speak on Wednesday, September 21. The students enjoyed hearing her speak and were particularly interested in her updates on the characters and how she decided to become a journalist.



West Selected for All State Band for Second Time

Each year, over 2000 of the best high school musicians in the state audition for the Nebraska All-State Band, Chorus, Jazz Band and Orchestra which are sponsored by the Nebraska Music Educators Association. Selection as a member of one of these groups is one of the highest musical honors attainable in Nebraska. Congratulations to Allie West who made the 2011 All-State Band. Allie plays the clarinet and will be taking part in a three day program at UNL in November.



New Art Club Officers

Congratulations to the new officers of the art club, Gabbie Sylvester-Events Chair and Jessi-Lang Secretary.

Freshman Class Officers

Congratulations to the Freshman class Officers for the 2011-12 school year. President: Nina Theiler; Vice President: Kylie Flott; Treasurer: Allie Bray; Secretary: Diana Estrada.

Blood Drive Tradition Continues

The annual National Honor Society/Holy Cross blood drive was held on Saturday, October 15.

Junior Rachael Cambridge and her mom, Zibby Gillen Cambridge '85, donate blood.



Senior Fall Athletes Honored

All Senior athletes from volleyball, softball, golf, cross country, and cheer were recognized on Tuesday, October 25, before the varsity volleyball game.



The Senior fall sport athletes.



Katie Jerram performing with the dance team on Senior night.



Dani Lamer, Breanna Brown, and Melissa Nigrin on Senior night....or was it Señora night



Principal Connection



Dear Parents & Girls,

We are quickly approaching the end of the first semester! Where does the time go? The girls, teachers, coaches and directors have been extremely busy thus far this year both in and out of the classrooms. I truly admire all their hard work and effort. I thank the Seniors and their sponsors for a wonderful

celebration of Mercy Day; the cast, crew and directors of the fall musical “*She Loves Me*” for such a wonderful evening of entertainment; and to all our Fall athletes and their coaches for giving us something to cheer about throughout the Fall months.

I also salute our parents who continually take the time to support all the academic endeavors and extra-curricular activities around here be it attending one of their daughter’s events or actually “heading up” events such as the New Student Welcome Dinner, Monarch Club Tailgate parties & receptions; MOM’s Mass & Brunch; serving on Fiesta committees; working concessions or selling spirit wear, or putting on a dinner for the faculty during Conference night. Whatever the need, our parents always step forward to help and become involved. Perhaps one of the most striking indicators of parental support and involvement was the 95% turnout at Report Card Conferences October 20th. It is at times like these that I give thanks that I work within the school community that I do.

Certainly the rest of this semester is shaping up to be quite busy as well since November and December hold Open House, District & State Volleyball, National Honor Society Induction, District & State Play Production, our annual Christmas Program, the launching of the Competitive Speech season, Basketball and Swimming, as well as the Food Sale Pick-Up, Freshman Unity Day, November Nocturne Homecoming Dance, Thanksgiving, Advent, Reconciliation, FINALS, and of course, Christmas!

November Nocturne: Mercy’s Homecoming Dance is open to all Mercy Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors and their male dates. The dance is scheduled Saturday, November 19th in Mercy’s Franey Hall from 8:30 pm-11:30 p.m. with coronation of Homecoming Royalty at 10:30. Girls and their dates must adhere to a dress code, which was mailed home in October. Please note there are no school nor parent-association-sponsored post-parties following this dance. All of Mercy’s rules concerning drinking and/or drug usage will be enforced. We want the girls

and their dates to have a fun and safe evening. We need the co-operation of the girls and their parents to ensure this happening.

Reconciliation: Mercy is privileged to have Reconciliation twice during the school year ... once during Advent, and once during Lent. This year the girls will be attending Reconciliation during one of their Theology classes during the week of December 5th. Please encourage your daughter to take advantage of this sacramental opportunity provided by the wonderful priests in our diocese who give of their time to make this possible.

Final Assessments: On December 19-20-21, we will run special schedules allowing one hour & 40 minute blocks for FINAL ASSESSMENTS for each class. Teachers may use this block period for on-demand performance assessments, extended oral or written tests, student presentations, or field trips which capture the essence of the class. When students do not have a Final scheduled, they will report to their regular study hall. Some teachers may also use a day or two preceding December 19th for additional time for assessment activities.

Please keep **Thursday, December 22nd** reserved as a backup date if school is cancelled due to bad weather or if a student missed an exam day due to illness Dec 19-20-21. You can find the complete Final Assessment Schedule in this newsletter as well as on **EdLine**.

It is with a heart full of gratitude that I take this moment to thank each and every one of you for such a wonderful beginning of the 2011-12 school year. You can be assured that each of you will be remembered in my *Litany of Gratitude* come this Thanksgiving season.

May the God of Mercy continue to shower you with blessings upon blessings during these special holidays awaiting us in the next few weeks!

Thank you & God bless you!

Carolyn Jaworski
Ms. Carolyn Jaworski
Principal

Open House
for 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Girls & their Parents
Sunday, November 6 12:30-3:00
Spread the word to neighbors & friends

Mercy Moments

the President's Post



Dear Parents and Students,

Wow! Can you believe that the first quarter is completed and we are on to the next? Thank you for the privilege of being part of your daughter's lives. They are a blessing to me each day.

- ❖ **Nov. 11—A Time of Prayer:** Nov. 11 is the 170th anniversary of the death of Sister Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. Around the world Sisters of Mercy and our associates, co-workers, students and friends will join in prayer. During the day please join us in praying Catherine McAuley's Suscipe.

*My God I am yours for time and eternity, Lord I am yours forever.
It's you that must teach me to trust in your Providence, loving Lord.
You are a God of love and tenderness, I put my faith in you.
And I ask that you grant me acceptance of your plan, O loving Lord.
Take from my heart all painful anxiety. Let nothing sadden me but sin.
And let my delight be hoping to see your face, God, my all.*

- ❖ **FIESTA 2012 Celebrating Mercy's Heritage:** February 11, 2012 is less than four months away. Remember that every girl's education is supported by FIESTA income. You will be receiving your raffle tickets in November. Please sell those tickets! By Thanksgiving break you will have received a phone call from the chair of the committee on which you have volunteered to serve. If you have not received a call, please contact Mrs. Gaydusek at 402.553.9424 or gayduseks@mercyhigh.org. Many people are already working for the success of FIESTA, but **ALL** are needed. Thank you for your support.

- ❖ **Outstanding Obligations:** Deadline for all outstanding obligations is December 15. On page 40 of the parent/student hand book is the guideline for "Semester Assessment Eligibility". All tuition and fees, as well as any other designated obligations must be taken care of by 4:00 PM on Thursday, December 15, 2011. Please address your outstanding bill immediately and avoid a tension filled time at the end of the semester. **Remember students may not participate in the semester assessments until all accounts are cleared.**

- ❖ **Food Sale:** Thanks to all of our young women who sold food sale items. The total income has not been tallied, but I know it will exceed last year. Great job! Thank you to your daughter and yourself for making this a successful event. **Remember pick up is November 8, from 3:15- 5:30.** It is critical that you pick up your frozen merchandise that day. We do not have storage for items here on campus. If your daughter has not sold enough items to raise \$200 for her fund raising obligation, she will have another chance with the Spring Plant Sale to fulfill her responsibility.

- ❖ **Thanksgiving:** This is one of my favorite holidays. I pray that it may be a time that you enjoy those you love and give thanks to our God for the many blessings of your life.

God bless,

Sister Delores Hannon, RSM

Sister Delores Hannon

Food Sale Pick-Up
Tuesday, November 8
3:15-5:30

November Nocturne
Mercy's Homecoming Dance for
Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors

Saturday, November 19
8:30-11:30 Franey Hall

Coronation of Royalty 10:30 p.m.
Appropriate dress required.



Mercy Moments



Ministry Matters

Ms. Ashley Shrader
Campus Minister

Roman Missal. Third Edition

As many of you have heard, the Catholic Mass will be seeing some changes this coming Advent. Just as you will be hearing some differences at your parish Masses, your daughters will be hearing these changes during Mass at Mercy as well. In case you would like to learn more about these changes and the reason behind them, there is a great video for parents that was created by Life Teen. Along with being on YouTube, the video can be found at <http://vimeo.com/25418499>. This video is very well done and only takes a little over 10 minutes to watch. Another site that has many difference resources and comments on the new version of the missal is the United States Council of Catholic Bishop's website, <http://old.usccb.org/romanmissal/>. I hope that you will find these sites helpful in furthering your knowledge on the upcoming changes within the celebration of the Mass and give you some additional knowledge to share with your daughter if questions should arise.

Mercy Merchandise

Mercy aluminum water bottles are now on clearance for only \$5!

Pastoral Council has made a T-shirt for the Mercy faith community that is \$12 and available to purchase until November 15.



Please contact me at shradera@mercyhigh.org if you are interested in purchasing either of these items.

Retreats

On October 28th the Juniors and Seniors will spend the day on retreat with their classmates! The theme for the Junior Retreat is Compassionate Service. During the morning the Juniors will volunteer at the Open Door Mission or with Keep Omaha Beautiful. At the Open Door Mission students will make lunches to be given out that afternoon and sort cloths in the outreach center. The group working with Keep Omaha Beautiful will spend the morning cleaning up Spirit Lake Park. When not serving, the Juniors will process through the service they participated in and how that service impacts others and themselves.

The Seniors will spend the day at St. Adalbert's parish hall. With the retreat centering around the theme of Blessed Are the Mercy-full, the Seniors will look at where they are currently, the journey that formed them into the person they are today and how to become Women of Mercy!

Reconciliation

All students will have the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation during their Theology class or study hall on either Dec. 5th, 6th, 7th or 9th. All students are invited and encouraged to participate. Reconciliation is an important and beautiful Sacrament that provides us with an opportunity to evaluate how we are living like Christ, where are we struggling and provides us with the grace of being forgiven for those times when we have made mistakes.

In Catherine's Words

" See how quietly the great God does all his mighty works."
- Catherine McAuley

Peace and Prayers,
Ms. Ashley Shrader
Campus Minister

National Honor Society

Induction Ceremony

Tuesday, November 16th

7:00 p.m.



Parents Club Corner

As the leaves turn and the weather cools, we are certainly in the midst of another great school year. Most fall activities have concluded we now enter the second quarter with momentum.

We'd like to thank Mary Lee Brock and Jennifer Varner for another successful M.O.M.'s Mass and Brunch. The change in venue was a win-win as parking was easy, the Scott Conference Center was centrally located, and it went off well due to excellent planning and work by our co-chairs and volunteers. This annual event is a wonderful opportunity for our daughters to share the Eucharist and a meal with women who have been and remain an important part of their formation into women of Mercy.

We also offer a huge thank you to Laurie States for organizing delicious refreshments for our faculty during Report Card Conferences! It is one small way our Mercy parents can show our outstanding teachers how much we appreciate what they do every single day.

We encourage all Mercy families to invite a prospective student and their parents to attend our Open House on Sunday, Nov. 6th. Mercy is built on a foundation of relationships and connections, and a personal invite might be the deciding factor for a future Mercy girl. We see many current Mercy parents acting as hosts on this special event and you are welcome to come and help tell the Mercy story if you have a friend's daughter considering our gem of a school!

If you have been contacted by a FIESTA volunteer remember to say "yes" as it helps all of us achieve our goal of making Mercy affordable. There are a variety of activities and committees that can use both a little and a lot of help--please do what you can.

If you are interested in helping with any of our events this year, please do not hesitate to get into touch with us! We would love to hear from you. God Bless,

Paul and Maureen Berg
Parents Club Presidents
402-558-1626 pberg6@cox.net

Upcoming Parents Club Events:

Open House for Prospective Students--

Sunday, Nov. 6th, 12:30-3:00 p.m.

Parents Club Steering Committee Meeting--

Monday, Nov. 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Program Reception--

Monday, Dec. 5, 2011 following the program around 8:30 p.m.

Parents Club Fundraising Programs with Area Businesses:

Hy-Vee Grocery Stores--"Cash for Students" Promotion.

Beginning September 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 save all your receipts from any Omaha and Council Bluffs Hy-Vee Stores. Send the receipts to school weekly and place them in the box located near the school office. Ask relatives, neighbors and friends to save their receipts, too.

Target--"Take Charge of Education" Program. Mercy receives a percentage of your purchases made on the Target Credit Card when you designate "Mercy High School" to receive their contribution. Apply for a credit card at any Target Store or go online at www.target.com.

SEMESTER ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Monday, December 19

7:45-9:25 = 01 Classes

9:30-11:10 = 02 Classes

11:10-11:35 = "A" Lunch

"B" Homeroom Activities

11:35-12:00 = "B" Lunch

"A" Homeroom Activities

12:05-1:45 = 03 Classes

Tuesday, December 20

7:45-9:25 = 04 Classes

9:30-11:10 = 05 Classes

11:10-11:35 = "A" Lunch

"B" Locker Clean Out

11:35-12:00 = "B" Lunch

"A" Locker Clean Out

12:05-1:45 = 06 Classes

Wednesday, December 21

7:45-9:25 = 07 Classes

9:30-11:10 = 08 Classes

11:15-11:45 Assembly & Student Gift Exchange

11:45 = Dismissal

Thursday, December 22

Hold in Reserve for a makeup day if school is cancelled or someone misses school

Dec. 19, 20, or 21.



Dean's Letter

Dear Parents,

As we turn the calendar page to November, I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your daughter for a successful first quarter. The spirit of dedication and cooperation is commendable.

Our attendance and discipline issues are minimal. At the conclusion of the 1st quarter, 87% of our students have two or fewer days of absence from school. Forty-five percent of our students have perfect attendance. Additional statistics are listed below. These statistics speak well for our girls and their families. It is obvious that you value the importance of attendance.

% of Students Missing 0 – 2 Days of School

Grade 12 = 84%	Grade 11 = 91%
Grade 10 = 90%	Grade 9 = 82%
All Grades Combined = 87%	

As noted above, our girls have outstanding attendance. Attendance plays an important role in student success and our teachers place a high priority on students being present for class. With this in mind, I ask that you try to schedule family vacations/trips when classes are not in session. It makes it extremely difficult for your daughter to be successful in her classes when she misses a significant number of days due to vacations/trips.

The girls also have top ranking in the area of discipline. At the conclusion of the 1st quarter 92% of our student body is free of "Demerit Detentions". Ninety-seven percent of our student body is free of "Class B Detentions." As you can see, receiving demerits and detentions is not the norm at Mercy. We are blessed with outstanding young women.

% of Students Who Are "Demerit Detention Free"

Grade 12 = 91%	Grade 11 = 93%
Grade 10 = 96%	Grade 9 = 86%
All Grades Combined = 92%	

The fall sports season is winding down. I am pleased to report that Cross Country runners Erin Artz, MaKayla Roberts and Alicia States qualified for the State Meet in Kearney. Congratulations to Erin, MaKayla and Alicia and their coaches Mr. Rainbolt, Mr. Stara and Ms. Walsh. On October 25th we honored 17 fall sport senior athletes and cheerleaders. We are grateful to the seniors for their dedication and

leadership. Varsity Volleyball is the only fall sport team still involved in competition. District play begins on October 31st at Fremont High School. I hope many of you will have the opportunity to attend the district games and support our volleyball team and coaches. Thanks to all of our fall sport athletes, cheerleaders, dance team, coaches and sponsors for a job well done this past fall sport season.

Winter sports begin on November 14th. The parent/athlete winter sport meeting will be held at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9th** in Franey Hall. If your daughter is planning to try out for **basketball or swimming, you and your daughter must attend the meeting.**

Athletes planning to try out for soccer in the spring should be making plans to participate in the off-season soccer activities. The off-season soccer activities begin in November. Check the varsity soccer page on EdLine for more details. Athletes planning to try out for track should contact Coach Rosenthal to make arrangements for weight training and off-season field event work.

I am in the process of changing to a new athletic scheduling program. Within the month, you will no longer be able to view schedules on www.highschoolsports.net. Please watch EdLine for details regarding our new scheduling program.

Please call me or email if you have questions or concerns.

Ms. Holly McCoy
Dean of Students and Athletic Director

Thanksgiving Vacation
Wed. Nov. 23, Thurs. Nov. 24 & Fri. Nov. 25

Bad Weather Closings
Mercy will do whatever the Omaha Catholic Schools are doing. Mercy's name will not be mentioned separately on TV or Radio



COUNSELOR'S

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The standardized testing administered in October is complete and the results of the PLAN for freshmen and sophomores usually arrive in late November or early December. Students will receive the information and suggestions will be made related

to ways that they can use the results as they continue to make decisions regarding future educational and career options. The PSAT results arrive later in December and since students are involved in preparations for final assessments, the score reports will be distributed in January. If you have questions or concerns regarding the tests, please contact your daughter's academic advisor or the guidance counselor.

Many of the seniors are completing college applications and exploring scholarship and financial aid opportunities. Please remind them to check on deadlines so they can obtain transcripts, letters of recommendation or other documents that they may need to complete applications. Seniors seeking college financial aid will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on-line as soon as tax information is available. This process usually begins in late January or early February. Assistance with the FAFSA application and additional sources of financial aid information are available at the EducationQuest Foundation in Rockbrook Village and on the EducationQuest Foundation web page. Appointments are requested and can be scheduled by calling 402-391-4033.

Final Assessment Week scheduled in December frequently proves to be a stress filled time for students. Students should create a realistic timeline in order to prepare for the end of the semester assessments. They should find out from their instructors what material will be covered and what type of assessments will be utilized. The How-to-Study web site (www.how-to-study.com) provides many helpful hints for exam preparation and additional tips can be found in the student agendas. Several of the teachers provide review sessions either before or after school and students should be encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities.

Georgina Morse
Guidance Counselor

ACT and SAT Information

ACT TEST DATE:

December 10, 2011

Registration Deadline: November 4, 2011

SAT TEST DATES:

November 5, 2011

December 3, 2011

Registration Deadline: November 8, 2011

Christmas Music Concert

Monday, December 5

7:00 p.m.

Franey Hall

Little Women – Dec 9, 10, 11



Meg, Jo, Beth & Amy— Little Women,
Alcott's most famous novel

This full-length version of Little Women begins that memorable Christmas when Marmee leaves to visit her sick husband and Jo sells her beautiful hair to help finance the trip. It ends just a year later when the happy family is again preparing to celebrate not only Christmas but also the return of Mr. March. In between these two events, we again live, laugh, love and cry with Meg, Jo, Amy and Beth as they go through the many trials and tribulations that have made this story a classic.

SPECIAL NOTE:

In order to participate in Finals Week
ALL OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS

(Tuition, Fines, Library Books, Work Study, Downslips, Detentions)

MUST BE CLEARED NO LATER THAN

Thursday, December 15 4:00 p.m.

Classes Resume

Thursday, January 5

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November</h1>						
		1 Suscipe Feast of All Saints Memorial Mass at Mercy 6:00 p.m. District Volleyball	2 Late Start Faculty Meeting Feast of All Souls	3 District Volleyball	4 Freshman Unity Day	5 SAT Test
6 6, 7 & 8 Grade Open House 12:30-3:00 p.m. Daylight Savings Time Ends	7	8 Food Sale Pick-Up 3:15-5:30	9	10	11 State Volleyball	12
13	14 First Practice Winter Sports	15 NHS Induction 7:00	16	17	18	19 Nocturne 8:30-11:30
	Spirit Week					
20	21	22 Suscipe Thanksgiving Prayer Service	23	24 Happy Thanksgiving No School	25	26
27	28	29 Donor of Distinction Dinner 6:00 p.m. V BB Jamboree @ Conestoga	30 Late Start Faculty Meeting Prospective Parent Dinner 5:45-7:00			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December</h1>						
				1 SUSICPE F BB vs Skutt Swim vs Lincoln Pius X	2 Sisters Mentor lunch with Juniors	3 SAT Test Swim @ Beatrice Invite
4	5 Reconciliation Christmas Concert 7:00 p.m.	6 Reconciliation F BB vs Elkhorn South JV/V BB @ Skutt	7 Reconciliation	8 Suscipe Feast of the Immaculate Conception F BB vs Elkhorn JV/V BB @ Platteview	9 Reconciliation Competition Play 7:30 p.m.	10 ACT Test Competition Play 7:30 p.m. Swim @ Bryan Invite
11 Competition Play 7:30 p.m.	12	13 F BB @ Bennington JV/Var BB @ Elkhorn	14	15 Swim vs South Outstanding Obligations due 4:00 p.m.	16 F/JV/V BB vs Wahoo Neumann	17 Swim @ Elkhorn Invite
18	19 1-2-3-Finals 1:45 Dismissal Swim vs Skutt	20 4-5-6 Finals 1:45 Dismissal	21 7-8 Finals 11:45 Dismissal	22 Finals Make-Up Day	23	24
					NSAA Practice/Competition Moratorium	
					Christmas Break	
25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31
NSAA Practice/Competition Moratorium			Var BB @ State Farm Tournament in Jefferson City, MO			Classes Resume January 5, 2012
		Christmas Break				