

Mercy High School Monarch



February 1, 2010

Students March For Life in D. C.

Nine students and Campus Minister Ms. Ashley Shrader went to Washington, D.C. Jan. 20-23 to participate in the March for Life. Ms. Shrader said she got the group of students together back in November to sign up to participate in this national walk that celebrates life.

She said that during the time they were there each morning prayer focused on Pro-Life issues.

"I chose this trip because it is an important issue - especially since we are a Catholic school; we need to fight against the Health Care Bill that includes taxes going to pay for abortions," said Ms. Shrader.

Senior Jenny Lee said, "It was cool to hear the stories about why people were in the march and

why they supported Pro-Life."

Jenny also added that "it was fun to be around many who believed in the same things that I did."

Senior Amanda Weise said, "I went on this trip

as many people who get the chance should go on the trip. They said they hope that many can have the experience that they had.

Amanda said that at the march there were

so many people there, she felt small. "There were so many people that for just a moment, I didn't feel important. Then I thought

about it and realized that one person can affect the entire world. I realized that even though I'm small in the grand scheme of life, I can stand for something good because you never know whose life you may change."

Jenny said, "There were so many people who were there and it was a great to see that 300,000 or more people in Ameri-

ca who were standing up for this important cause in our country."

Miss Shrader added, "It was very uplifting and filled with energetic 300,000 people. I have been to marches before and this wasn't somber. People were cheering and the group's favorite were 'Go Baby Go!' and 'We love babies yes we do, we love babies how 'bout you'. There was definitely tons of excitement."

In addition to Jenny and Amanda, the other Mercy students who attended the March for Life were Abigail Berg, Christina DiSomma, Melanie Gutierrez, Mary Ryck, Allie Schulte, Rachel Slowik and Mary Szalewski.

-Tiffany

"... I felt this was my chance to really speak out for those who can't speak for themselves."

- Amanda



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Treble Makers Sing, Dance For Competition

Show Choir may just be the only group in the school dedicated solely to dancing and singing . . . at the same time. The group, which was started last year by Music Teacher Miss Joy Augustine, sings a collection of four songs while performing dances to each one. After many months of practice the choir finally got to perform their routine for competition.

Freshman Claire Mueller said that by the end of the year they will have competed at three to four competitions and will have performed at FIESTA and other school events.

The 22 girls in the choir call themselves "The Treble Makers." They perform the songs "Let's Hear it for the Boy," "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend," "Shoop Shoop," and "Without

You" which was arranged by Miss Augustine, said Show Choir President Madison Hoge. They rehearse every Monday and Tuesday at

have silver swirls. They are cute."

Junior Edmary Romero said the choir arrives to the competition location early in the morn-

The group of girls are amazing also."

Madison said her favorite part of being a member of the choir is "when we perform our

routine at competitions because we finally get to show off all our hard work." Senior Elise Snyder



6:50-7:30 in the morning and sometimes there are even four hour practices on the weekend, explained Madison.

So far the choir has competed at only one competition on January 23 at Millard West's "Singsation." They placed fourth out of seven other schools.



Senior Kassi Jaime said when it comes to competition, the girls wear "royal blue dresses that go a little past our knees and

ing. Each choir gets its own room where they get ready, do make-up, hair, change, etc. Once they're ready they perform their show for competition. After they perform the choir goes into a room where a judge critiques them for about fifteen minutes. The choir then changes out of their dresses and watches the rest of the teams. In between choirs there are usually audience involved activities.

Kassi said her favorite part of being in Show Choir is that she gets to do "what I love - singing and dancing - at one time.

said that to become part of the choir, students have to go to the auditions that are held toward the end of the year, usually around April. Those interested have to learn a part of a song that will be learned for the next year and a dance piece that Miss Augustine teaches before.

The Show Choir will perform at FIESTA on Saturday, February 13.

-Dallas

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Mercy Schools Discuss Differences

There are Mercy schools all over the world that were established by the Sisters of Mercy in honor of Mother McAuley. Over Christmas break the basketball team was able to meet girls from five Mercy Schools in the United States. The Mercy High School teams were from Riverhead, NY, Burlingame, CA, Baltimore, MD, Cincinnati, OH, and San Francisco, CA. There are many similarities and differences between Omaha Mercy and the other Mercy Schools.

Senior Beth Meisinger said that Bishop-McGann-Mercy High School in Riverhead, NY is a co-ed school. She said, "They also have a way shorter school day and more senior privileges."

Senior Killian Matsumami said that New York Mercy girls told her that they have to wear specific shoes that were very unappealing as a part of their uniform. She also mentioned that they debated over the use of two words "soda" versus "pop."

Beth said that the New York team would go to the beach all the time as their weekend activity. They were surprised that some of the Omaha Mercy girls had never

even seen the ocean.

Riverhead, NY Mercy has a total of 490 students in grades 7-12. They offer sports such as wrestling, weightlifting, tennis, lacrosse, and football.

The basketball team also met girls from Mercy High School in Burlingame, CA. The school

options for uniforms, they have a harsher punishment than Omaha Mercy. Students there receive an automatic detention after one infraction of the uniform.

Players from Mercy High School Baltimore also attended the tournament over Christmas

Field Day.

Mother of Mercy High School in Cincinnati, OH has 532 students. They have block scheduling with eighty-five minute class periods. They also offer tennis, bowling, and lacrosse. They are located in a suburb of Cincinnati.

Mercy High School San Francisco, CA was another team that attended the Omaha basketball tournament. They have all of the same athletics that are offered at Omaha Mercy. There are 500 girls that attend the school. The classes offered that differ from Omaha Mercy are poetry classes, self-defense, and ceramics. They also have overnight class retreats instead of one day retreats.

Killian said that all of the teams really enjoyed ice skating while they were in Omaha.

Beth said "Burlingame loved the snow; I am pretty sure they played in it outside their hotel!"

Even though there are many differences between the Mercy Schools, the one central connection is that they are all created, because of the Catholic faith and determination of Mother McAuley.

- Galena



Above: All six Mercy schools from the Christmas basketball tournament prepare for the Sunday Mass representing their unique schools.

has approximately 500 girls and is located on the Sisters of Mercy 40-acre campus. They offer sports such as tennis, water polo, lacrosse, and gymnastics. Burlingame also has a wider variety of options in their uniform such as being allowed to wear a coat over their school uniform sweater in the months of November through February. While they are allowed more

break. Their school day begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 2:20 p.m. There are 448 girls attending the school. Their schedules consist of seventy-five minute class periods that meet every other day. Another difference is that they have junior "big sisters" instead of senior "big sisters." Another difference of traditions is that Baltimore has Sophomore Unity Week and

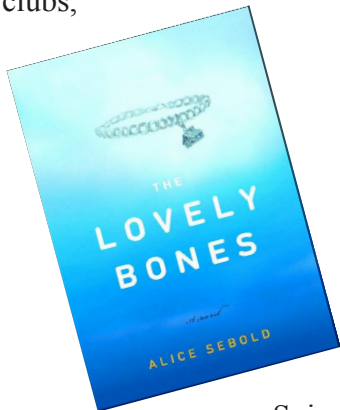
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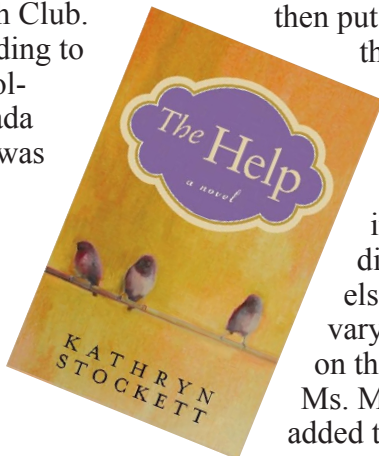
Book Club Adds Variety

High school is a chance to get involved and try new things. At Mercy there are many opportunities for girls of all interests. Mercy offers a wide range of sports teams as well as clubs and students are able to get involved in Religious clubs,



Spir- it clubs, as well as a Robotics Club. A unique club that Mercy has is the Book-of-the Month Club.

According to Senior Colleen Ourada this club was made for girls who want to read and discuss more modern literature.



Each month, the club decides on a book and then meets to discuss what they felt about it.

"It's nice to read books by more modern authors," said Colleen, "With all of our other work it's hard to find time to read. This gives me a chance to read books other than my required reading for English."

The Book Club members meet once a month to discuss the book they have read. The club is headed by American Literature Teacher Ms. Mandy Marcuccio and British Literature Teacher Mrs. Cathy Kessler.

Ms. Marcuccio said that she and Mrs. Kessler usually choose several books that are more popular. The list is then put to a vote by the members to decide which book they would find most interesting to read. The difficulty levels of the books vary depending on the month, said Ms. Marcuccio. She added that the books

were all high school reading level or higher.

The club was started last year and the interest level has definitely gone up this year, she said. The group is mostly freshmen and seniors and anyone is welcome



to attend the book discussions. Ms. Marcuccio said that this was a club to give girls something different to read and with more impromptu conversations. The club is much more laid back than an English class.

- Alyssa

Book Club Reading So Far

December

The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears

by Dinaw Mengestu

January

Lovely Bones

by Alice Sebold

This Month

The Help

by Kathryn Stockett