What’s New at St. Mary’s

Student Council Members

An overdue introduction to the Officers of the Student Council for the 2005-2006 school year.

President – Rebecca Lysiak
Vice-Presidents – Jimmy Harney & Sean Sweeney
Treasurer – Molly Waitt
Secretary – Stephen Coulter

Congratulations and thank you for all the hard work you do raising school spirit and helping the needy in our extended community. We look forward to the Student Council activities this spring including a Red Sox dress down day and poetry contest.

School Crest
Saint Mary’s School exudes a tremendous sense of community that is felt in the many school, parish, and social activities in which we participate. To further draw us together in our mission as a faith-based community, a crest has been designed to enhance the pride we hold in the school. The crest was designed to specifically memorialize those components of the school that have enriched our nearly 100 year old history.

The main component of the crest is the shape used universally by the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus – this holy order of Sisters taught at the school for nearly 75 years. In this shape, the triangle (a symbol of God) is overlaid on three conjoined circles representing the blessed trinity. The circle of twelve stars represents Mary’s crown of stars which reveal her as the Queen – the perfect follower of Christ, who is the crown of creation. The twelve stars also refer to the apostles who represent the entire Church as it surrounds Mary.
The fleur-de-lis is a stylized white lily – it symbolizes the purity of Mary and is a strong symbol of the Annunciation. The lily is seen in countless works of art depicting Mary as she accepts God’s message from the angel Gabriel. The shape below the fleur-de-lis is a combination of the two letters “V” and “M” – it recognizes that the Virgin Mary was first revealed at the Annunciation. The crest has been approved by the principal, School Board and PSO and we will start to see it on letterhead, newsletters, and some uniform elements as it is phased into use.

**Library Update**

Much work has been done on the Nolfi Library Media Center Wish List (currently on Amazon.com). The list is currently made up of reference, religious and some young readers’ books. These books have been recommended by: the children’s librarian at the Melrose Public Library; Sr. Mary Sampson, Pastoral Associate for the Parish; school faculty members; librarian Mrs. Mary Cafferelli; and from parents. To date the following Wish List books have been purchased and are available in the Nolfi Library.

- *Atlas of the North American Indian*
- *Loyola Kids Book of Saints*
- *115 Saintly Fun Facts*
- *Loyola Kids Book of Heroes: Stories of Catholic Heroes/Saints Throughout History*
- *The Kingfisher Children’s Who’s Who in the Bible*
- *A Peek Into My Church*
- *365 Fun Facts for Catholic Kids*
- *Child’s Guide to the Seven Sacraments*
- *Child’s Guide to Reconciliation*
- *Child’s Guide to First Holy Communion*
- *Child’s Guide to the Mass*
- *Great Women in Christian History*
- *Saint John Bosco & Saint Dominic Savio*
- *Never Turn Back: Father Serra’s Mission*
- *God Made All of Me: Activities for Young Children*
- *People’s Republic of China*

Library staff is in the process of updating the fiction collection as well and as new books are recommended they are being posted on the Wish List. Some books have been donated in memory of family members or to commemorate a student’s birthday. Each book has a bookplate with the donor’s name and inscription. A special thanks to all the families who have donated these books to our library! For information about the ongoing projects in the Nolfi Library you may contact parent volunteers Eileen McSherry or Debi Walsh.

**Doing Good Works**

**Consoli Mission Collections**

A drive for several much needed items for the Consoli Missions in the Dominican Republic were spearheaded by James (8B) and Eileen (7A) Marino. Dental health and basic nutrition were the emphasis of the collections with boxes placed in every classroom for: 1) toothbrushes and toothpaste; and 2) children’s vitamins. Over 500 toothbrushes and 300 tubes of toothpaste were donated. The nearly 200 containers of children’s vitamins will be a welcome contribution towards the fight against malnutrition in the mission where so many children suffer from the lack of a healthy diet.

**American Red Cross Christmas Stockings**

In the true spirit of the holidays the 5th and 6th grade classes embarked on a very worthwhile service
project assisting the American Red Cross by filling Christmas stockings for needy children in Melrose and surrounding communities.

The project was a HUGE success. The “Elves” filled over 50 Christmas stockings for children ages 1-10. The students should have a wonderful sense of satisfaction knowing that there were many happy girls and boys this Christmas because of their efforts and generosity.

Diaper Drive
The Student Council carried out a Diaper Drive Contest in the month of January. Diapers of all sizes were collected for distribution. Each class was given the challenge to gather the largest number of diapers. And the Winners Are!:

1st place, Grade 5A – 1033 packages
2nd place, Grade 2B – 653 packages
3rd place, Grade 2A – 336 packages

A TOTAL of 4,000 packages of were collected!!

Now that’s a lot of diapers! Winners were awarded Blue Ribbons during Catholic School’s Week.

Penny Pool
During Catholic Schools Week (January) the Student Council ran the traditional Penny Pool. It’s a little complicated but it goes like this: each class brings in pennies and other classes come around and add silver coins which subtract the penny amount. Each class tries to have the most pennies at the end of the pool - so receiving unwanted silver coins from other classes is a, well, a bummer. This year’s Penny Pool raised $997. The money was used to buy phone cards for American soldiers stationed active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Valentines for Veterans
This February Mrs. Morris’s 3rd graders worked with their 6th grade buddies making valentines for patients with the Jamaica Plain Veterans Affairs Healthcare System. The homemade valentines surely brought smiles to these hospitalized veterans as they realized that their sacrifice remains in our thoughts and that we continue to be concerned about their well-being.

Communion Dress Drive
A communion dress drive was initiated by several third grade girls. Gently used communion dresses were collected for children receiving First Holy Communion this spring at the inner city parish of St. Angela’s in Mattapan.

Third graders Olivia Scioletti, Molly Sullivan, Kate Cray and Lindsey Thorpe with some of the Communion Dresses collected for St. Angela’s Parish in Mattapan.
Fifteen gorgeous dresses were collected, cleaned, tagged and delivered. The dresses represent a beautiful gift and sacrifice that will bring great joy to fifteen little girls on their special day this spring. Many thanks to those who donated as well as to Blue Bell Cleaners who cleaned the dresses at a greatly reduced cost and to J. B. Edwards Uniforms who generously provided the clothing rack for the duration of the collection.

Special Events

Pre-K Christmas Pageant
The annual pageant of the Pre-K students singing and acting out the Christmas story was a wonder to behold as always. And can you say CUTE?! The entire cast of wise men, shepherds, angels, animals and Holy Family held their audience in thrall. The Pre-K should be pleased as punch with their performance. The pageant is an event that is eagerly anticipated each year and never fails to light the Christmas spirit in our hearts.

5th-8th Grade Christmas Pageant
The Christmas Pageant of the upper grades (5th – 8th) was especially moving this year. Held in the soaring nave of St. Mary’s Church, the program consisted of traditional Christmas prayers and carols. Music arrangements, recitation selections and the students amazing presentation were good enough to raise the hairs on the arms of many in the audience. The many hours of preparation and rehearsal were evident. All the students and teachers are to be congratulated on a job well done.

Women in Math and Science
Grade 6 presented another amazing display of presentation boards and collective knowledge on little known women in the fields of math and science. Physicists, biologists, astronauts, genetic engineers, aeronautic engineers, chemists, mathematicians, radiologists and many more too numerous to include here engrossed the 6th graders from the launch of the project in October until the public presentations in January. Students and visitors alike continue to leave this project with new admiration for the substantial contribution made by women to the fields of math and science.

Eighth grade boys decked out in their Christmas ties for the Christmas Pageant held this year in St. Mary’s Church.

Cam Neville and Danny Richard are ready to regale the visitor about “Women in Math and Science.” – and have the presentation boards to prove it!

The mystery always remains of course – Why haven’t we heard of these ladies before?!!! After visiting the presentation it is clear that their work
was critical to many advances in many areas of the scientific and mathematic disciplines.

So, THANK YOU to the 6th grade for their continued important work in getting these stories out there. Women can rock in science and math with the best of them!! Spread the word!!

Catholic Schools Week
Catholic Schools Week ran from January 30th to February 3rd this year. Kicking off the week was the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast provided by the PSO as something special to show our recognition and appreciation of the amazing job they do educating the students at St. Mary’s. The breakfast was catered this year by Panera Bread and by all accounts was deee-licious. For students, the week was full of special in-class excitement such as the Student Council’s Penny Pool, M & M counting contest and the class door decorating contest as well as out of class events for each grade provided by the school’s Cultural Enrichment Program. The special Liturgy for current families was followed by an exuberant Open House in the middle of the week and was a true celebration of the school community.

St. Mary’s Goes Traveling

Field Trips
In December 4th grade students were treated to a production of the North Shore Music Center’s A Christmas Carol. The production’s familiar story line was jazzed up with awesome special lighting, make-up, and stagecraft effects – as well as lots of dry ice! A Christmas Carol was a big hit and a fun way to start the Christmas season.

In January the 7th grades made their annual “in search of symbolism” trips to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross and the Museum of Fine Arts. The trip is taken as part of a curriculum unit in religion that focuses on Discipleship.

In March the Pre-K, Kindergartens and First grades took in a production of “Are You My Mother?” at the North Shore Music Center.

Also in March, second graders traveled to the North Shore Music Center for a production of “Seussical, Jr.” Second graders report that it was all about the elephant Horton (from Horton Hears a Who) and there was a lot of singing and dancing and wonderful costumes and everyone loved it!

The Cultural Enrichment Program

The Cultural Enrichment Group of St. Mary’s School brings extracurricular (art, music, theater, science, etc.) programs into the classroom to supplement the existing curriculum and enhance the students’ learning experience. Each year there is an attempt to provide a program for each grade during Catholic Schools Week as well as one additional program per grade at some other time during the school year. Below are some of the programs that have been made possible by the Cultural Enrichment Group for 2005-2006.
Mobile Archeology
Craig Chartier, head archeologist of the Plymouth Archeology Rediscovery Project (PARP) brought his hands-on mobile archeology program to the classrooms of Grade 2 and 3 for an hour long interactive presentation. Grade 2 explored the artifacts and culture of the Native Americans of southeastern Massachusetts – the Wampanoag. Grade 3 examined artifacts and history of the Pilgrims. Topics covered included food habits, clothing, jobs, games and crafts practiced by both the Wampanoag and the Pilgrims in the early 17th century.

Top Secret Science

Michael Bergen, chief scientist and classroom entertainer extraordinaire brought eye-popping programs to both the Pre-K and the 1st grade classes. The 1st grades explored kinetic motion and some of the basic properties of physics while spinning cups of water about (without spilling a drop!), creating balance scales from popsicle sticks and wire and flying gizmos from aluminum foil and paper. Happy happy first graders! Pre-K students explored the world of optical illusions eagerly donning their 3-D glasses and observing several tricks of the eye and tricks of the hand. Who needs a laboratory when the classroom can be this much fun!

Historical Perspectives
Time stopped as Amelia Earhart dropped in to talk to the 6th grade class as she got ready to take her last around the world flight. She regaled them about her early years in Missouri and how she first got interested in flight. Apparently, she thought about becoming a doctor but this idea “flew out the window” when she paid a pilot $1.00 to take her up for a short hop in his plane.

From then on the science of aviation became her passion as flying became her career. Amelia’s adventuresome spirit came through loud and clear. The program tied in nicely with the 6th grade’s “Women in Math and Science” project which aired on January 31st during Catholic School Week.

Folk Tales Near and Far

The Kindergarten class and 1st grade had the delight of being regaled by two actors from Boston’s City Stage in an interactive production of folk tales from around the world. In just one hour the actors presented five different folk tales in clever fast paced skits that involved dozens of children from the audience as well as several teachers. The familiar story lines and interesting props helped bring the stories to life and the humorous word play kept everybody laughing. Tales included Grandfather Sun (Native American), Three Little Pigs (American), Why Rat Came First (Chinese), The Wings of the Butterfly (South American) and Why the Sun and Moon Live in the Sky (African).
David Coffin – Music from the King’s Court
Musician/performer/educator David Coffin delighted his grade 2-4 audiences with a demonstration of his collection of early wind instruments. His engaging presentation covered the history of the recorder from the primitive ocarina through the medieval gems horns and the recorders of the Renaissance and Baroque periods. With period examples of music written for each instrument he illustrated with humor and energy the evolution of the early instruments. The students were captivated by this master entertainer!

David Coffin – Life at Sea
Grades 5-8 were treated to David Coffin’s maritime music song fest in which the audience explores the life of a sailor and hears the songs that illustrate the life they pursued at sea. They sang along on a shanty (work song) as they “hoisted” the sails and “hauled” on the lines. They learned terms from the Yankee seafaring Age of Sail such as press-gang, belaying pin, fo’c’sle, baggywrinkle and shellback. Mr. Coffin truly knows how to engage his audience and get them singing to shake the sails loose!

Farm to Factory
A living history educator from the National Park Service’s Tsongas Industrial History Center in Lowell came to the fourth grades in March. The program – Farm to Factory – focuses on the transition from an agrarian society to an industrial society as experienced by young woman who leaves her New England farm to work in a Lowell mill. Some members of the class tried on 19th century reproduction clothing and each student picked, carded and spun wool. Little hands then got to weave cloth on small looms. The fourth graders gained a true appreciation of the labor intensive process of textile production in the early years of the Lowell mills.
USS Constitution Museum’s Outreach Program
A member of the USS Constitution’s Museum staff brought the “Old Ironsides from Launch to Legend” program to the fifth grades on March 22. Students were taken back in time 200 years as they discovered what life was like on board the USS Constitution and why she is considered an important part of American history. Students learned about the daily life of a sailor, handled historic objects, tried on reproduction uniforms, and role-played using primary quotations.

Up-coming programs include:
April - Lawyers in the Classroom, Mock Trial with Grades 7 and 8.

Valentine Post Office
For the past ten years, the month of February has brought the first graders at St. Mary’s an exciting new unit on Social Studies. The unit is based on learning how a post office works – but it is SO much more than that! To prepare for the unit, the class reads books about the postal system such as Gail Gibbon’s “The Post Office Book: Mail and How it Moves.” They learn about a letter’s amazing journey from beginning to end.

Fourth graders Sara Lynch, Maddie Sullivan and Isabella Bertolozzi try their hand at carding wool during the “Farm to Factory” program.

Fourth graders Sara Lynch, Maddie Sullivan and Isabella Bertolozzi try their hand at carding wool during the “Farm to Factory” program.

Joe Flynn and Christine Murphy looking the part as they don authentic reproduction uniforms from the year 1812.

We’ve got mail!! Above: Miranda McSherry, Catherine Nee and Billy Muzarol of 1A get ready to post their valentines to their classmates. Below: Matt McKenzie and Adam Lew of 1B are at the mail box.

A working post office is set up in each classroom including a mailbox for each child. The children’s Valentines are used as mail. The post office is in operation for two weeks (Feb. 1 – Feb. 14). During that time students bring their signed, sealed, and addressed valentines to school.
along with “stamp money” consisting of two dimes and one nickel.

Let the postal process begin!! Each child has the opportunity to participate in the six essential post office jobs. Each little postal worker learns how to: mail, face, date, sort, and deliver the mail as well as how to sell the 5 cent stamps and make correct change. The project teaches across the curriculum and combines components of social studies, math, and reading.

Lessons and tasks are intertwined. For example, in selling stamps and making change the students expand their knowledge of place value. They begin counting by fives and tens (through the use of nickels and dimes) and experience real life applications of their addition and subtraction math facts. The investigation of the postal system is a perfect fit with the first grade social studies curriculum which focuses on daily life (business, government, schools, etc.) in the towns and neighborhoods of the students. Finally, in addressing, delivering and opening their mail the children practice reading and writing blissfully unaware that they are working on essential literacy skills.

The Valentine Post Office is play. It is work. It is real. It is imaginary. It has jobs, props and moving about the classroom. In other words, the first grade Valentine Post Office has all the necessary ingredients to make it an all time classroom favorite! Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Webster work hard to ensure a smooth operation. Each year brings new challenges and dynamics and of course - the reward of the children’s smiles.

Geo-Town
[by Special Contributor and Roving Reporter, Michael Ioffredo Grade 7A]

Geo-town, a place where anyone can become a giant! A mini-city with buildings that you are used to seeing around town in full-scale were reduced in scale and on display in the lower church for all St. Mary’s students to see. The imagination, creativity and hard work of the 8th grade students were definitely shown at this math fair.

The 8th graders were assigned a math project by Mr. Flint, called Geo-town. Students had to build fantasy buildings such as a university, church, skyscraper, arena, flower shop, funeral home, and many more. There were 46 building types in all. The students had four months to complete the
project. The first month, the students made a floor plan and wrote a description of their building. The second month, they drew a “blueprint” that calculated the perimeter, area, and volume of the building. The third month, they created a presentation board. It showed all of the geometric and basic information about the building, such as purpose, location, population, and number of rooms. The last month, the students had to build a scale model of their building using a variety of materials such as foam board, cardboard, wood, roof tiles, legos, and other unique materials.

What is Geo-town about? It is all about the MATH! The purpose of the project is to learn how geometry formulas are used in everyday life and how to use a scale. Students are also expected to use algebraic formulas to assist in this project.

When asked about the project, the response was unanimous, the students thought the project was fun but the hardest part was to make the scale model. “It took four months but it was worth it,” said Student Council President, Rebecca Lysiak. Rob Reynold gave advice to future Geo-town builders, “Don’t procrastinate or you will regret it!” Other comments about the project were - to “have fun with it” and “it was fun but you have to work constantly.”

Mr. Flint said that the 8th grade class put in a lot of effort. Geo-town sites were very detailed, artistically done, and better planned than last year. The project was a success and everyone let his or her imagination go wild. This “equaled” a fun time for students and was a wonderful experience.

Clips from the Classroom

Pre – K
The K-1 class is SQ proud of winning the Catholic Schools Week Door Decorating Contest sponsored by the Student Council. Using black paper and colorful chalk, we created a chalkboard illustrating what we love about St. Mary’s. The children really put their hearts into this project and it looked terrific. A blue ribbon special!!

Kindergarten
Mrs. Panzini shares that in November the Kindergartens celebrated Thanksgiving with a feast of corn bread, grapes, popcorn and apple juice. In January the children enjoyed the Gift Grab for our letter Gg week. February was very busy with the celebration of the 100th Day of School (February 10) as well as Valentine’s Day. In March the classes are looking forward to their field trip to the North Shore Music Theater to see “Are You My Mother?”
Grade 1
Phonics, addition and subtraction Math Facts and reading continue to be the emphasis of the first grade curriculum. However, they also have been learning about Ireland in honor of St. Patrick’s Day, reading Dr. Seuss favorites in honor of the author’s birthday and have started to work on telling time. See also the article on "Inspired Class Projects!" for a description of the Valentine Post Office project that the 1st graders enjoyed in February.

Mrs. Cole (top) and Mrs. Webster (bottom) working on the basics with the first graders.

Grade 2
Mrs. Mauriello checked in with the following. In honor of National Children’s Dental Health Month (February) 2A’s creative writing assignment was titled “If my teeth could talk, what advice would they give me about their care?” This month (Feb.) we also celebrate the 100th day. We are working hard to come up with 100 equations that equal 100. In Religion we are learning about the Eucharistic Prayer, which is also called the Consecration. By the power of the Holy Spirit and through the words and actions of the priest, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Mrs. Fennel (3B) reads to a rapt third grade audience.

Grade 3
First of all – new siblings and what excitement we had waiting for their arrival! Joey Tormo (3A) welcomed baby sister Ava Jacqueline on February 2nd. Daniel Marino (3A) welcomed baby sister Anya Rose on February 23. Congratulations to the big brothers and both families!
Besides the hard and continual work of mastering the multiplication tables and memorizing states and capitals - several projects were undertaken in the third grade.

Grade 3A produced the annual Jesse Tree presentation to students and parents shortly before Christmas. The Jesse Tree investigates the students family trees in conjunction with an examination of ancestors in the family tree of Jesus as illustrated in many of the old testament stories leading up to the birth of Jesus.

Grade 4A presented advertisements for Christmas which were creative and exciting additions to wish lists. Fourth grade book reports included world explorers and a tracking of their routes on the world map. We also researched African-Americans who made an impact on their culture during Black History month (February). –Mrs. Johnson

Grade 4B started the year with the “Masterpiece of the Month” project in which a particular artist and “masterpiece” is examined. We learned about Edgar Degas and movement. Something which 4B is familiar with!

Whangdoodle banquet students decorated their room, created crazy scrappy caps and loaded the banquet tables with delicious “wodge” – i.e. anything sweet and delicious. Still confused? Ask a third grader for an explanation and information about this amazing event!

Grade 4

Mrs. Johnson and her fourth graders starting the day with a discussion of sharing the gifts that God has given us.

Grade 4B started the year with the “Masterpiece of the Month” project in which a particular artist and “masterpiece” is examined. We learned about Edgar Degas and movement. Something which 4B is familiar with!

Katie Sullivan and Nick Sardo hang an ornament on the Jesse Tree.

Michael Loycano shows off his homemade scrappy cap in honor of Whangdoodle Day in 3A!

The month of March had Mrs. Morris’s third graders engrossed in the fantastical world of The Last of the Very Great Whangdoodles by Julie Andrews. Populated by such characters as the Prock, the Whiffle Bird, Oink, Gyuskutus, the Sidewinders, Treesqueaks and the Gazook. Culminating in a reenactment of the great

Jackie Hughes and Ellen Coholan grab their brushes and get into position for work on their “Sistine Chapel” masterpiece.
February brought Michelangelo with “painting under the desks” – our version of the Sistine Chapel. March (Spring) brings us to the “famous Picasso”. We will have to see how 4B interprets this great artist.

In February, we also read Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl. This classic is very “sweet” for the “sweeheart month” of February. Several activities were developed as well as sampling different types of chocolate, writing to the chocolate companies and creating our own “Golden Tickets.” Also, during president’s month we compare and contrast the two presidents using a Venn Diagram and creating cherries to hang in our classroom - one for each president with facts concerning each. Getting ready for spring both fourth grades participated in the Ash Wednesday Mass. We are going through the Lenten Season with our hearts open and filling our calendars with good works, trying to “Pay It Forward” - doing something good for one person each day. In March we are reading The Chronicles of Narnia – The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Who knows what a magical time we will have!! – Mrs. Wilson

The fifth grade has been busy in all subjects. Studying ecosystems in science, colonial history in social studies, reading The Watsons Go to Birmingham in reading and working on fractions, fractions and more fractions. Black History month was celebrated with each student reading a biography of a famous African-American and presenting their interpretation of the biography in timed oral presentations.

Grade 6 (See Special Events listing)

Grade 7 & 8 (See Jr. High News)

News from the Junior High

Honor Roll First Term

HIGH HONORS
Grade 7A: Katie D’Entremont, Laura Graf, Samantha Mallon, Eileen Marino, Catherine O’Brien, Sean Sanford

Grade 7B: Christopher Reed, Lindsay Smith

Grade 8A: Amanda Cronin, Margaret Kearnan, Colleen McCormack

Grade 8B: James Harney, Patrick Lenehan, Rebecca Lysiak, Kara McSweeney, Sean Sweeney

HONORS
Grade 7A: Elizabeth Alverson, Kyle Amato, Valerie Charry, Stephen Coulter, Melanie Fitzgerald, Michael Ioffredo, Antonella Martone, Jacquelyn Murphy, Brianna Tarantino, Molly Tierney

Mrs. Beebe reviews the fine points of grammar with the fifth grade.
7B: John Brickley, Rachel Buckley, Michaela Della Russo, Megan Mitchell, Erin Nee, Sarah Peterson, Ashley Proctor, Mary Frances Richardson, Molly Waitt, Olivia Wilkins

8A: Matthew Brennan, Brittany DiCologero, Simona Granfone, Allison Kelley, Timothy Littlehale, Brian Majoney, Lindsay McSweeney, Robert Reinold, Patrick Riley

8B: Jessica Bushee, Genevieve Flatley, Corinne Lavasseur, James Marino, Sean McKenna, Kaleigh Mulrenan, Tyler Murphy

Honor Roll Second Term

HIGH HONORS
7A: Katie D’Entremont, Laura Graf, Samantha Mallon, Eileen Marino, Catherine O’Brien, Sean Sanford, Molly Tierney

7B: John Brickley, Sarah Peterson, Lindsay Smith

8A: Amanda Cronin, Margaret Kearnan, Colleen McCormack

8B: James Harney, Patrick Lenehan, Rebecca Lysiak, Sean Sweeney

HONORS
7A: Elizabeth Alverson, Kyle Amato, Valerie Churry, Stephen Coulter, Andrew DeLillo, Melanie Fitzgerald, Michael Ioffredo, Antonella Martone, Christopher Mulrenan, Jacquelyn Murphy, Brianna Tarantino

7B: Rachel Buckley, Erin Nee, Christopher Reed, Mary Frances Richardson, Molly Waitt, Olivia Wilkins

8A: Matthew Brennan, Simona Granfone, Francesca Iebba, Allison Kelley, Lindsay McSweeney, Robert Reinold, Patrick Riley

8B: Joshua Baldwin, Jessica Bushee, Genevieve Flatley, Corinne LaVasseur, James Marino, Sean McKenna, Kara McSweeney, Kaleigh Mulrenan, Tyler Murphy

Tree Sale

The Annual Eighth Grade Tree and Wreath sale was a big success this year despite the bone-chilling cold and sub-zero wind chill factor. 200 Christmas trees, 60 kissing balls, and 20 dozen wreathes were sold! The bake sale (complete with hot cocoa and coffee) and raffles held inside the lower church were a welcome respite from the cold. The three day event raised $6,500. An additional $2,400 was raised at the Mom’s Night Out wreath decorating craft night. Funds will be used to help defray expenses for the 8th grade graduation week activities and fund new text books for the school. The tree sale is organized and run completely by 8th grade students and parents. (Special thanks to parent organizer extraordinaire Sandy Fitzemeyer who marshaled the troops throughout!) The 8th graders did a fantastic job working the sale and helping with set up and clean up!! Parents too! Each family provided at least two decorated wreaths, all beautiful and unique, as well as baked confections for sale in the lower church. Many parishioners and school families look forward to this event as the true beginning of the holiday season!

Catholic School Entrance Exams

Entrance exams for all catholic high school applications took place in late November and on December 10th. Students prepare for the test with prep classes the summer before eighth grade and through their eighth grade curriculum. Eagerly
awaited results are forwarded to join high school applications at the students’ schools of choice. High School acceptances (which depend upon the entrance exam outcomes) generally begin arriving during Catholic Schools Week in January. Scholarship information follows shortly. Right now, the 8th grade students are mulling things over and making some big decisions!

20th Kid Award
The 20th Kid Award is given to the student who the teachers feel is simply “good for the sake of being good” and who does the right thing even if…
   “…nobody is watching,
   … there is no reward,
   … it requires effort,
   … it requires a sacrifice and
   … it is not self-serving.”

This year the 20th Kid Awards go to:
7A - Kyle Amato
7B - Olivia Wilkins
8A - Patrick Riley
8B - Lauren Greski

Meet the Authors Project
Grade 7 English and Literature classes participated in an interdisciplinary project entitled “Meet the Authors”. The students researched their favorite authors and prepared a written presentation simulating a live interview. Biographical information, lists of stories and poems, reviews, awards and questions were accompanied by colorful, original posters and book jackets. Dr. Seuss and Lemony Snicket were two of the authors the students “met” during this activity. The projects were on display in the Junior High during Catholic Schools Week. – Mrs. Horan

Adventures of Ulysses
Grade 8 is reading the Adventures of Ulysses in literature and drawing a mural of his adventures on the chalkboard. The entire black board was covered with colorful depictions of the adventures. - Mrs. Sullivan

Religion – Tools of Discipleship
As a part of the 8th grade religion curriculum students embarked on a field trip to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross and the Museum of Fine Arts. Eighth graders are immersed in “Growing in Your Faith” - the third portion of the Tools for Discipleship curriculum. This portion or unit has a component on teaching church history, particularly through the rich symbolism found in church art and architecture. The emphasis of the exploration is on understanding how our story is told and how people’s faith is expressed in different ways. The student’s explore how they can deepen their own faith by carefully examining the symbolism embedded in religious art and architecture. Eighth graders begin with a tour of St. Mary’s Church which is extremely rich in the symbols of the Catholic Christian faith. They continue their exploration with a visit to the medieval art collection at the Museum of Fine Arts.

*!!CONGRATULATIONS!!*
Patrick Riley, Lauren Greski, Kyle Amato, and Olivia Wilkins.
20th Kid Award Recipients

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Grade 8 is reading the Adventures of Ulysses in literature and drawing a mural of his adventures on the chalkboard. The entire black board was covered with colorful depictions of the adventures. - Mrs. Sullivan

Religion – Tools of Discipleship
As a part of the 8th grade religion curriculum students embarked on a field trip to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross and the Museum of Fine Arts. Eighth graders are immersed in “Growing in Your Faith” - the third portion of the Tools for Discipleship curriculum. This portion or unit has a component on teaching church history, particularly through the rich symbolism found in church art and architecture. The emphasis of the exploration is on understanding how our story is told and how people’s faith is expressed in different ways. The student’s explore how they can deepen their own faith by carefully examining the symbolism embedded in religious art and architecture. Eighth graders begin with a tour of St. Mary’s Church which is extremely rich in the symbols of the Catholic Christian faith. They continue their exploration with a visit to the medieval art collection at the Museum of Fine Arts.
At the museum they pick four items (2 paintings and 2 non-paintings) to interpret with the help of a prepared packet. In the afternoon they visit the Cathedral of the Holy Cross where they continue their search for Christian symbols with a tour and brief introduction to the history of the Boston Archdiocese. At the cathedral their assignment is to take a photograph of a stained glass window that they like and reproduce it in watercolors back at the Junior High. The jewel tones of their selections currently grace the stairway at the Junior High. They are beautifully rendered and capture the timeless ethereal quality of a medium imbued with the history and symbols of our faith.

**Quiz Bowl**

Several St. Mary’s 8th grade students participated in Malden Catholic’s Annual Quiz Bowl. The team members were in the competition with thirteen other schools from the area. Quiz Bowl members this year were: Amanda Cronin, Maggie Kearnan, Patrick Lenehan, Colleen McCormack and Sean Sweeney. Corinne LaVasseur was the alternate. Questions cover everything from geography, history, science and religion to literature and math. The team did very well. It was a great experience and an enjoyable day.

**Sports Spectacular**

**A Coach’s Prayer**

Build me an athlete, who will be strong enough to know when they are weak and brave enough to face themselves when they are afraid, one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat and humble and gentle in victory.

[adapted from “A Father’s Prayer” by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Reader’s Digest, May 1952.]

**BASKETBALL – GO TIGERS!**

Stained glass watercolors by the 8th grade line the stairway of the Junior High.
5th Grade Girls [by Coach Fantozzi]

The SMS 5th grade girl’s basketball team capped off its inaugural season in style with exciting victories over Our Lady of Grace and St. Anthony’s of Everett. The regular season finale against St. Anthony’s was especially memorable as the girls fought back from four points down with less than two minutes left to post a 14-13 victory. Led by Erin Sanford’s tenacious defense, the girls forced turnovers on three consecutive possessions and then converted at the offensive end with Ashley Baldwin and Rose Fantozzi hitting key shots. With the two late season wins, the girls finished league play with a 5-5 record and qualified for the playoffs. The playoff game proved to be tough challenge as the girls traveled to Medford to face off against the St. Raphael’s 6th grade girls, one of the bigger and more experienced team’s in the league. Although the game ended in defeat, the girls more than held their own. Forwards Jillian Flowers, Katelyn Igo, Lauren Sadowski and Gianna Scioletti battled for rebounds against taller girls the entire game while guards Leah Brodeur, Nicole Herendeen, Alexa Lucas and Anya Ioffredo pressured the St. Raphael ball handlers all over the court.

Coaches Fantozzi and Ioffredo want to thank the girls for the enthusiasm and sportsmanship they brought to the court each week. They should be proud of what they accomplished and how much they improved. With the valuable experience gained this season, the future certainly looks bright.

5th Grade Boys [by Coach Littlehale]

S.M.S. 5th grade boys enjoyed a great introductory season into the Middlesex Catholic School B Division. As the youngest team in the conference, they faced many older and more experienced teams. The team took each game in stride, as the number of games increased, so did the team’s confidence and ability. Each member of the team contributed to the team’s success, growth and development. A great foundation has been established, as the team looks forward to next season. The boys were coached by Head Coach, Ryan Oreste, and Assistant Coaches, Tom Littlehale (dad), Christian Oreste, Michael Proctor and Tommy Littlehale (big brother). All the coaches are former S.M.S. graduates and boy’s basketball players. All players and coaches are looking forward to improving their 4 and 10 record next year.
Optimism was the word as the 2006 St. Mary’s 5/6 grade basketball season got under way. The team was a mixture of experienced and first time players from the 5 and 6th grade. All were first time players in the Middlesex Catholic Conference Basketball League.

The season began with the team drawing the elite of the league in the first few games. The opponents tested the teams resolve and it never wavered as they held there own and managed to let everyone know that they were not going to go away. Everyone gave it their all and played 40 minutes of tough play every game.

The first half of the season saw the team gel defensively. The leader of the defense was John Maffeo. His stalwart defensive play raised havoc on the opponent’s ball handlers and their health. Brendan O’Brien, the court thief, provided both offensive and defensive thrills, stealing the ball from all who came within his path, turning his thefts into baskets.

The big men provided the court muscle by keeping the always bigger and taller opponents off the boards. Matt Fitzemeyer provided the spark for the front court with his high intensity board crashing rebounding. Mike Nee, the “silent man”, just when about quietly grabbing rebounds game after game, and powering the ball through the backboard and basket. Chris Loycano the elder big man, anchored the 4 hole with his steady performance and quick shooting style. When Chris got the ball, no one could shoot the ball faster than him. Evan Barry, another of the elder statesman, provided a surprise with his long range sharp shooting and quick defensive footwork. Evan could be heard saying “I never saw a shot I didn’t like.”

The second half of the season saw the team pick up its offensive game. Tommy O’Donnell, the court general, brought order to the court with his take charge attitude. He felt right at home on the right side of the court and provided that long range threat. Fran (Kareem) Hannon provided the middle threat with his offensive rebounding and lane driving sky-hook shots. Colin Dyer, “Mr. Smooth”, anchored the wing with his smooth ball handling and tenacious and unflappable offense and defense. He didn’t know what game pressure was. John “The Pole” Lavasser was a pleasant surprise to the season. John was the swing man, playing many roles for the team including guard, forward, scorer and rebounder. He came up with the needed basket at crucial times in the game.

And last but not least, Nick “Curly” McMahon. Nick didn’t finish the season with the team but gave his all in the time he was with the team. One more lap to go Nick!

With every practice and every game the team continued to improve. Fans, parents and league refs commented that with each game they continued to improve. Every one of the players learned that you win and lose as a team. They relied on each other to pick themselves up after a loss or congratulate their teammates for a job well done. They never gave up. Although the record didn’t speak it, this team of young men are winners.

6th Grade Boys
The Sixth Grade boy’s basketball team wrapped up a successful 2005-2006 season compiling an outstanding 15 and 0 regular season record. Despite the fact that the team was undermanned during the play-offs which take place over the February vacation week, they were victorious in the first round before bowing out to a strong St. Charles
team in a tough semi-final match-up. Coaches Tim Igo and Mark Hennessey were extremely proud of the work ethic and focus the team displayed all season long, and expect the success to continue in seventh grade. Thanks to both coaches for all of their time and effort!

6th Grade Girls

6th Grade Girls basketball team, Middlesex Catholic Girl’s League Junior Division Champs. Coaches Nancy Feeley and Bill Brennan.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!
CONGRATULATIONS to the 6th grade girl’s basketball team for bringing the championship trophy home. All season long, brilliantly coached by Nancy Feeley and Bill Brennan, the girls showed tremendous effort and team sportsmanship compiling a 9-0 regular season record and going on to two playoff victories to clinch the Middlesex Catholic Girl's League Junior Division Championship. Every girl scored during the season and the skill and finesse with which they played was admired throughout the league. The fans that attended all of our games were a tremendous support and the team wishes to thank them all.

Congratulations to:

Hannah Andry  Maria Kaestner
Danielle Ayube  Renee LaJoie
Kelly Brennan  Jenny McGee
Kim Cataldo  Jackie Nickolas
Jen Feeley  Rachel Zagarella

7th and 8th Grade Boys

The 7/8th grade boy’s basketball team showed marked improvement over the year, working hard at practice and during their games. The team quickly learned how to press and how to play the press break and showed real spirit against some very big 8th grade teams. Coach Jim Mulrenan was scrupulously fair in giving the boys equal playing time which should pay off next year. Strong service at point guard was shown by Chris Mulrenan, Aidan DaPonte, Chris Reed, Michael Ioffredo, Max DeShields and Rob Reinold, all players showing good leadership and poise. The forward berths were filled by courageous teammates Sean Sanford, Tyler Murphy, Evan Carroll, Tyler Dolan, Andrew DeLillo and Andrew Brienze (whose strong hustle in the penultimate game resulted in a broken finger). Centers Jason Campbell and Conor Andry played well against often very tall odds. Thank you to all the supporters, cheerleaders, coaches and parents. Special thanks to our bookkeeper Kaleigh Mulrenan and Donna Mulrenan (the force behind the scenes). Good luck 8th graders with your future hoop careers.

7th and 8th Grade Girls

The Saint Mary's varsity girl’s basketball team had another successful season. The team consisted of six eighth graders and eleven seventh graders for a total of seventeen players. The team started strong winning their first six games, and finished with a record of 13 wins and three losses in the regular season. The record earned them second place and a number two seed in the playoffs. There was only one team with a better record than the Saint Mary's girls in the senior division. The St. Mary’s girls were victorious in their first playoff game, but were defeated in a close game in the semi-finals. They were selected to represent the Girls Middlesex Basketball League in the New England Catholic Championship Playoffs, due to their strong showing in the regular season, and the playoffs. We thank the girls for their efforts, good sportsmanship, and wish the eighth grade girls good luck in their high school careers. [Coaches D’Entremont and Al Waitt]
Cheerleading

The St. Mary’s “minis” cheerleading squad were special guest performers at the St. Mary’s High School Valentine’s Classic on February 11th in Lynn. The girls did an excellent job!

Swimming

The Saint Mary's students who swim on the Melrose YMCA Sharks team had a very successful season and dedicated at least three afternoons per week to the pool. Niamh and Rachel O'Grady, Brianna Ayube, Lindsey Thorpe, Kevin Walsh and EJ Kelley all earned qualifying times to swim in the District meet where they competed against 23 other YMCA swim teams. Niamh O'Grady qualified for the New Englands which are held in March.

Hockey

The Melrose Youth Hockey Squirt C team won the Squirt 3 Division of the Valley League’s Timmy Ernest Christmas Tournament this year. Congratulations to St. Mary’s team members Jack Eccles, Matt DiFraia, Tom O’Donnell and Chris Sullivan.

The Melrose Youth Hockey Squirt A team won the Districts and moved on to the Squirt Pier II Small Division Massachusetts State Championships in March. Although they did not make it to the final round at the States they deserve hearty congratulations for winning the Districts and making it to the States. Congratulations to St. Mary’s team members Luke Amato, Joe Flynn and Brendan O’Brien.

The Melrose Youth Hockey Peewee A team won the Peewee Tier II South Division Massachusetts State Championships in March making them the State Champs in their division!!! Congratulations to St. Mary’s team members Michael Ioffredo, John LaVasseur and Matt Mahoney.


Heroes Among Us

Here at St. Mary’s we have two particularly special Dads to recognize and to honor this spring. They are soldiers, one is shipping out and one is just home from the war in Afghanistan and Iraq. They each were called to duty by an inner certainty that in this time of war they must serve their country to the best of their abilities as active duty military. These Dads are heroes not just for their families but for the whole school community.

James B. O’Brien – Father of Brendan (Grade 5B), St. Mary’s School class of 1977, Malden Catholic class of 1981. Jim O’Brien has been in the business of saving lives for a long time. A fire fighter for over twenty years, he has served the communities of Lexington, Melrose and Malden. He is currently a lieutenant and skilled EMT with the Boston Fire Department. One can not discount as well that – it’s in the genes. Jim comes from a long family tradition in fire fighting and emergency services. Jim’s grandfather and father both were captains of the Melrose Fire Department. His father (Francis O’Brien) was Fire Chief in Melrose for many years and served with the U.S. Navy on a destroyer during World War II. His brother, John O’Brien, is the current Melrose Fire Chief. Knowing all this, it is perhaps not a complete surprise that Jim has recently shipped out for his second tour as a combat medic in Iraq.

Mr. O’Brien is currently a senior corpsman (combat medic) with the U.S. Navy and is attached to an infantry unit of the Marines. Marine infantry units are dedicated to combat missions involving counter insurgency operations such as locating and destroying enemy by combat arms and maneuvers, security patrols/presence and the capture of enemy forces.

Senior Corpsman O’Brien does not work in a hospital. He works in an infantry unit (Alpha Co) which means that he is often away from established camps or bases. He has ten corpsmen that report to him. Together they provide direct, primary medical care and emergency treatment for 200 Marines and are organic to their elements. That means he and his team go where the Marines go, and do what they do.

A recent Boston Globe article credits these advance combat medic units with enhanced survival rates for wounded soldiers. The combat medic units are so well trained and efficient that the wounded are reaching hospitals for treatment quicker and in better shape than ever before.

HM2 O’Brien taking a break with fellow Marines during his first tour of duty in Iraq.

Jim O’Brien with his son Brendan (Grade 5B).
When asked to list a few of his favorite things for the newsletter, Mr. O’Brien replied in a quick e-mail from his training base in California, that he likes history, the English language (especially debates and discussions), hockey and baseball (especially when they involve son Brendan). His favorite book is Nathaniel Hawthorne’s “The Scarlet Letter.” His favorite poem is *Sic Vita* by Henry King (1592-1669) about the fleeting brilliance of life – “like to the falling of a star.” He feels that the most important things to live our lives by and teach to our young people are:

- Don’t forget who you are and where you come from.
- Be true to your own values and those given by your parents.
- Remember to sacrifice something for your little part of America (i.e. Melrose).
- Integrity is everything.

Senior Corpsman James B. O’Brien shipped out on March 21**th**. He is expected to be gone for eight months.

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**Ted Korontjis** - father of Tyler (grade 3B) - has just returned from his second tour of duty with the U.S. Army. He was an Army Major assigned first to the 3**rd** Army Corps and second to the 53**rd** Infantry Brigade and 173**rd** Airborne Division in Iraq and Afghanistan. Major Korontjis’s first tour of duty was in the Baghdad area of Iraq. He was in charge of security teams for truck convoys, prisoner escorts, and explosive ordinance disarmament. His second tour was spent largely in Afghanistan where his mission changed. He was one of the team leaders of security with the palace brigade assigned to protecting Afghanistan’s president Hamid Karzai during his provincial travels. During the parliamentary elections Major Korontjis’s mission was to secure Kabul, make sure voters were not being intimidated, block checkpoints, isolate areas of trouble and intercept attempts to disrupt the voting process.

Following the elections Major Korontjis began a mission mentoring the Afghan army. He was assigned to a two-star general and embedded with an Afghan army unit to train them for missions in security and defense. This meant living and working with the Afghan unit with two interpreters-an amazing experience where he began to appreciate just how little the people of the country have but also how grateful they are and steadfast in their support for what we are doing in Afghanistan. He talked about the children and how even a simple piece of candy was an incredible gift to them and how hard their lives are. On being home he says that he is continually struck by how much we have and how much we take for granted here.

Mr. Korontjis also spoke about some of the conditions we just can’t imagine here in Melrose such as the heat of both Iraq and Afghanistan. The hottest temperature he remembers documenting
was 146 degrees Fahrenheit one day in August! You need to drink 2 to 3 gallons of water a day to stay hydrated and when on a mission you need to carry your water bottle in a cooler or within one hour the water will reach 100 degrees, burn your throat and be undrinkable. There is absolutely no shade. From April to September there is not a cloud in the sky and missions lasting just 8 hours were pushing the envelope on endurance for even a person in great shape.

Missions go out from a secure forward operating camp or base with tents, showers (sometimes), mess hall and a tactical medical center. On the base soldiers listened to music, worked out in the makeshift gym, watched portable DVDs players sent from home, read books, played flag foot ball and soccer (once the sun went down) and waited for mail. Everyone lives for the mail. Phone calls home were 10 – 15 minutes long every couple of weeks. E-mail is becoming a huge past time. Food at the camp was basic grub (lots of chicken and cold cuts). Local food (lamb, rice and Syrian bread) was dangerous. Eating meat in the local markets could almost guarantee 3 to 4 days of misery to the system. Sandstorms, flies and bugs were repeat nuisances. All this adversity without mentioning the near constant threat of hostile activity.

Mr. Ted Korontjis at home with his son Tyler (Grade 3B).

Home now, Major Korontjis is reentering civilian life with a magnified sense of appreciation for all that we have here in the United States and a conviction that what he has done in the service has made a difference. Prior to his service in the Army Ted Korontjis spent 13 years with the New Hampshire State Police and was a member of the National Guard. Major Korontjis is a generous and eloquent speaker. In addition to the (lengthy) interview for this newsletter, he recently visited the third grade at St. Mary’s and held the kids in thrall with his extensive photographs and stories.

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God’s gifts of courage and leadership have brought Jim O’Brien and Ted Korontjis not once, but twice, to the dangerous and deadly fields of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. We celebrate their lives by recognizing them as true heroes amongst us. We are grateful to have Major Ted Korontjis back home and we pray for the safe return of Senior Corpsman Jim O’Brien, USN. May we keep their example of self-sacrifice and certitude close to our hearts.

PSO Corner

$$ Finances to Date $$

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<td>Candy Sale</td>
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<td>Ladies Golf Tournament</td>
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TOTAL TO DATE $16,449.81

The fund raising efforts of the PSO thus far this year represent approximately 22% of our annual fundraising requirement of $65,000. The largest fund raising event of the year – the Moonlight Stroll Dinner and Auction - is ready to launch March 25th at Memorial Hall. We look forward to adding significantly to the plus column with this event. Please support our PSO events – every bit counts!

Greetings from the President

Get ready for spring!! With the auction so close at hand, we’re teeming with excitement about the evening. Not only has the dinner and auction been our largest fundraiser for the past 3 years, it has been one of the highlights of our social season, as well- a great night to relax and have some fun.

Speaking of fun – we’re already planning for the months after the auction. For the kids, we’re bringing back the popular Family Fun Night and
the Karaoke Night (for the 4th – 6th grades) on May 19th. For the adults, we’re going to try something new that sounds like a whole lot of fun – a Texas Hold ‘Em tournament. We’re going to take a year off from the Good Guys Golf Tournament and give this poker thing a try.

Let’s pray we’re as successful with these upcoming events as we have been so far, this year. The Candy Sale and Ladies Golf Tourney were great successes, and the Halloween Party was real hoot!

In addition to an auction fundraising item for some playground funds, we’re applying for a small grant. Hopefully, by next fall, you’ll see some new equipment and a general sprucing up of the Amanda Picardo playground.

Finally, it’s not too late to get involved in the many activities we have planned between now and year end. I’ve only listed a couple – there are more. We could always use additional help in our efforts to promote the spirit of Saint Mary’s school internally and externally. The PSO meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 in the Parish Center.

Sean O’Brien – PSO President

Wise Bits from Miss B.

Hello everyone! Below is an excerpt from Dr. Lonnie Carton’s book “No” is a Love Word. This is an excellent reference book for any parent, full of valuable insights and common sense wisdom.

1. Adults have nothing to fear but fear itself when they are afraid that children will not love them, will defy them, or will be harmed creatively or emotionally by being disciplined.

2. Fair, firm, friendly, and consistent guidance does not rob offspring of the bliss of childhood, or their natural or given rights as children.

3. The appropriate expression of normal parental anger or displeasure is healthier for all parties than grinning and bearing inappropriate child behavior. Adults need not feel uneasy or guilty when they stand up to children.

4. Living through or for children is an empty and dangerous pastime. Elevating offspring to a position over their heads puts them out of reach of the enjoyment, support, and guidance they need to have from adults. It also puts the pleasure, respect, and trust men and women have a right to gain from childhood beyond their grasp.

5. Parents who mistrust their own adequacy or competence in knowing how to discipline children should remember that everyone is an amateur doing on-the-job training. Even professional child developmentalists are amateurs when it comes to rearing their own children.

6. The difference between a child’s needs and wants needs to be understood by both parent and child if discipline is to be administered wisely and well.

Notes from the Nurse

The St. Mary’s Asthma and Food Allergy Groups have each been meeting every other week. Numbers have grown this year! We welcome the new members and the many family and friends who attend to support them. The groups have been working on designing monopoly games to make learning about asthma or food allergies fun and interesting. Constructing the game begins with a blank monopoly board. A computer program included in the kit assists us in printing property titles, good news and bad news question cards, and fake money. Would you like to buy the school
nurse’s office or earn money for remembering to bring your medication to school? The students have been very excited about playing the game during our meetings - “Asthma-opoly.” If your child would like to join either of our groups, please contact the school nurse. Thanks! Gail McCarthy.

**Girl Scout News**

Brownie Troop 7412 had a very successful year selling cookies. The girls enjoyed manning their first cook sale booth at St. Mary’s Church. The troop sold a total of 1,215 boxes of cookies this year!!! WOW!

**News of Note**

**Open Houses**

Open Houses in November and January were a great success. Over sixty new families toured the school enjoying the many classroom displays and informative student tour guides and talking with the teachers on hand. Classes for all grades are nearly filled to capacity for the 2006-2007 school year. Many thanks to the PSO, the St. Mary’s School Development Committee, Miss B., and of course school secretary Mrs. Debbie Mobilia for making it all work out so well.

**Important Dates**

- **March 31-April 5**: Grade 8 – Washington D.C. Trip
- **April 7**: Celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation
- **April 29**: Grade 2A First Communion
- **May 6**: Grade 2B First Communion
- **April 30-May 2**: Accreditation Team Visit
- **May 12-14**: Grade 7 – Trip to New York City
- **May 18**: Country Day (6th grades)
- **May 24**: Spring Musical, Grades Pre-K-4th
- **May 26**: Pre-K, Wedding of Q and U
- **June 15**: Graduation

**Excellence In Education Awards**

**St. Mary’s School WINNERS!**

- Mrs. Gail McCarthy
  School Nurse

- Mrs. Mary Ellen Mauriello
  Second Grade

- Mrs. Cynthia Wilson
  Fourth Grade

The St. Mary’s School Newsletter is put together under the direction of the Editor, Judi Q. Sullivan, with contributions from the staff, parents, students and teachers. Technical support is generously provided by Thomas Lew. We are always looking for news and pictures about our school. The next issue will be the Spring Issue published in June.
At Left: Little sisters Jessica Rushton and Caroline Meroski join the fun.

At Right: Kari Donahue, Abbey Meroski, Olivia Bowman, and Jackie Garvey take a breather on the boards.

Eileen Flynn, Brianna Bottaro Abbey Meroski, and Samantha Runge.


Troop 7412 Takes to the Ice
On The Pond At Mt. Hood

Teaghan and Aidan Cullen.

Bobby and Lia Brodeur.

Rowan and Molly Sullivan.

The whole gang had a blast! Left to right: Aidan Cullen, Colleen McCormack, Bobby Brodeur, Teaghan Cullen, Lia Brodeur, Molly Sullivan and Rowan Sullivan.
At left: Ready for anything! - Jack Thorpe and Andrew O’Grady.

At right: Erin Nee, Delaney Morris, and Lindsey Thorpe looking like the pros!

All smiles! Catherine Nee and Bethany Morris.

Delaney Morris and Katelin Nigro enjoying a day of skiing together.
Lindsay Smith enjoys a winter ride on a favorite steed.

Colleen McCormack and Delaney Morris beaming after a Nutcracker Ballet performance.

Jenna Trickett and Renee Carraggi on their way to a cheerleading competition are all smiles!

Conor Smith and Ryan Painchaud courtside with the Celtics!
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

The Melrose Excellence in Education Program was organized to recognize personnel who have made a positive impact on Melrose students. Excellence in Education is an annual city wide event sponsored by the Community Coalition of Melrose, Inc., the Melrose Chamber of Commerce and the Office of the Mayor.

St. Mary’s School is PROUD to have three of our staff receive the Excellence in Education Awards this year!!!

Mrs. Gail McCarthy
School Nurse

Mrs. Cynthia Wilson
Fourth Grade

Mrs. Mauriello
Second Grade

CONGRATULATIONS!