



Mercy Catholic High School

Red Bluff, CA

December 2008

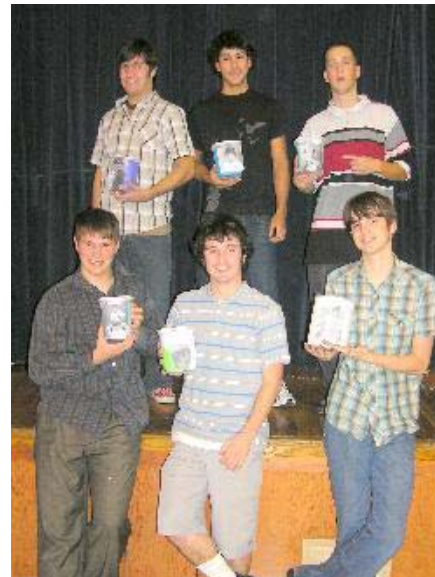


Students Dine With

Bishop Soto

On election day, November 4, 2008, Mrs. Arbini and Mrs. Gunsauls with the Mercy High School Student Council officers president Camille Gunsauls, vice-president Kyle Crowley, secretary Haley Kavanaugh, and treasurer Audra Muller went to the Catholic School Department in Sacramento to have an annual lunch with Bishop Soto and student council members of the rest of the Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Sacramento. The lunch included drinks, salad, raviolis, and cookies and candy for dessert. Bishop Soto was most interested in learning about the community service activities of all the high schools. He found all of students' efforts to be extraordinary whether it was participation in food drives, clothes drives, or helping the less fortunate during the holidays. His great message was that all of us should make these extraordinary activities an ordinary part of students' lives when they leave high school. In other words, we are called to be giving at every phase of our life not just in high school. As an example of a lifetime of giving, many thanks should be accorded to Mrs. Gunsauls for donating her time and treasure (gas and car use) as a driver to make this trip memorable for all who are connected with Mercy.---*Helen Arbini*

Big Man on Campus Raises Charity Funds



During the week of November, 17-22, six men competed to be Big Man On Campus. Each contestant raised funds for a different organization of their choice. The contestants were Eric Lindeman, who selected The

Salvation Army. Kit Waits who selected P.A.W.S., Brandon Trapozzano who chose The Lord's Table, Michael Estrada who chose The Battered Women's Shelter, Tommy Wilson who selected the National Autistic Society, and Daniel Hammond who raised funds for Passages. Each day of the week the men were put through different challenges. Monday they revealed their personalities in the Q and A portion; on Tuesday they entertained all in the talent show. On Wednesday they strutted their stuff in the fashion show, and on Thursday they showed off their moves in a group dance. On Friday the winner was announced. The first and second runner-ups were Kit Waits and Tommy Wilson. The big winner was Eric Lindeman! *Above: Candidates for Big Man on Campus were (back) Kit Waits, Michael Estrada, Brandon Trapozzano, (front) Tommy Wilson, Eric Lindeman, and Danny Hammond.*

Dates to Remember

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Dec. 1 | Advisory Commission meeting 6 PM |
| Dec. 2 | Fall Sports Banquet 6 PM |
| Dec. 9 & 10 | Madrigal 7 PM |
| Dec. 8 | Minimum Day |
| Dec. 9 | Late Day |
| Dec. 15-18 | Finals |
| Dec. 19 | No school: Teacher Work Day |
| Dec. 22- Jan. 2 | Christmas Vacation |
| Dec. 27 | Alumni Basketball Game 10 AM |



Mercy Catholic High School
233 Riverside Way Red Bluff, CA 96080
Tel: 530-527-8313
Fax: 530-527-3058
www.mercy-high.org

Principal's Message



Reflections on the Advent Season

Already, the season of Advent is upon us. It is a time of preparation and hope. During Advent, we prepare for the second coming while we commemorate the first coming of the Messiah at Christmas. During this time, our hallways at school, as probably your homes, begin to take on a different look. The nativity set, Advent wreath, and tree will be placed in our main lobby. The students will fill the hallways with melodic voices as they rehearse for the Madrigal Dinner, a festive event that ends with a wonderful concert that pulls our hearts towards the real meaning of Christmas. My hope is that each of us listens to the meaning of those beautiful and spiritual carols, looks at the evergreen hues of the tree and the advent wreath, gazes upon the crib in the manger, and contemplates the message of the eternal life promised to us through Christ, the Messiah.

In addition to the spiritual preparation we experience during Advent, we will do all of those things that daily life on campus calls us to do. Students will be preparing for their final examinations that occur just before our Christmas vacation. Semester grades are the only ones that appear on a transcript, and therefore are very important. Together the 1st quarter grade (40%) and 2nd (40%) and the final exam grade (20%) combine to form that one semester grade that appears on the transcript. Among the many other things going on in December, please help your student give precedence to the importance of studying until Christmas vacations begins.

Also, during Advent, our students will be preparing for the winter sport season, and will be busy with practice and tournaments. This will involve some new procedures. The diocese has just implemented for all programs involving youth activities a new permission slip. This form, the Youth Activity Permission, Medical Release and Parental Consent form, must be completed one time each year. We will keep the completed form in the office. This form is for all activities and not just for sports. For every specific activity, there may be an additional shorter form with the specifics of that particular activity. For instance, for a field trip, it includes the place, date, time, method of transportation, and what the student should bring. Also drivers and chaperones for every activity must be fingerprinted for the Diocese of Sacramento. Forms for that process are available in the office. A major goal of the diocese is to provide, as much as is possible, a safe environment and activity for your student.

I hope you all get your Madrigal Dinner tickets. The show should be great. I think the student participation this year is at a high level. It is one of those things that I think makes Mercy truly special. Not only will you see our fine arts stars giving their best performances, but also, the many who are open to developing their talents and having fun by being a part of the show.

If you know of students who would be interested in attending Mercy High School next year and may have missed our Meet Mercy Days, please have them contact me. I would love to meet with them and their parents and to arrange for a visitation day. What we have here at Mercy is very special and unique. It is up to us to share the news.

God bless you all during this holy Advent season.

Cheryl Ramirez, Principal

Student Council Hosts Christmas Activities

Student Council has a host of Christmas activities planned for December. On Dec. 1, they will decorate a Christmas tree for the school lobby. One fun Mercy tradition is the exchange of Kris Kringle gifts. Students and faculty alike draw names and act as secret Santas for each other. Students will sign up to be Kris Kringles on Dec. 1 and will draw for Kris Kringles on Dec. 3. Gifts will be exchanged for three days: Dec. 8, 9, and 10. Gifts should be inexpensive and appropriate for school. No toy weapons are allowed. Another endearing tradition extends to the community. MHS collects small gifts for senior citizens and delivers them to Villa Columba on Dec. 12. All students are asked to bring a small gift for a senior citizen to the school by Dec. 11.

Mr. Lyon's World Geography

Mr. Lyon's World Geography freshmen class is excited for the upcoming year. They are learning all about North America right now. Their next class project is a food project, where Mr. Lyon has students bring in food from all different regions. Mr. Lyon hopes to be able to continue the Thanksgiving Project that he has done nearly every year. This is where the classes take donations and food for families during Thanksgiving. Although there are only fourteen students in this class, they all seem to be enthusiastic.



Mr. Weber's Computer Science

Mr. Weber's sixth period computer science class is studying stocks. They are logging onto the website www.stocksquest.com. On this site you virtually buy and sell stocks for money. Everybody in the computer class started with one hundred thousand dollars; they then slowly gain or lose interest. The internet site shows how the stock market works and how to trade stocks worldwide. The class also set up rankings, and whoever at the end of the lesson has the most money will get a surprise from Mr. Weber. *Above: Wagner da Rocha practices virtual investing.*



Mrs. Lee's Choral Music

Mrs. Darlene Lee, MHS's choir teacher is well on her way to assembling her holiday concert during the Madrigal. Her all-girl choir will be singing favorites like *What Child Is This?* and *O Little town Of Bethlehem*. The first semester of choir is devoted to the singing of sacred music. The second semester

emphasizes secular music. The Mercy choir sings beautifully, and everyone should come see them in the Madrigal! Performances will be held on December 9th and 10th at 7 PM. *Above: The Choral Music class practices Madrigal songs in class.*

Mr. Matthew's Government Classes

Mr. Mathews is currently teaching college prep and AP Government. Over the last couple of chapters, we have been studying elections and campaigns, as well as political parties and political participation. We have been learning about the public opinion and interests of organizations. We are discussing the previous election and the various methods and strategies of a campaign. In upcoming chapters, we will be discussing issues about the media and Congress. After the first semester, all Government classes will switch to Economics classes. Mr. Matthews also teaches pre-calculus, Algebra 2, and AP Calculus AB and BC. ---Lora Trout



Mrs. Bryson's P.E.

This month in Mrs. Bryson's P.E. class the students are starting a new sport, basketball. As a current student in P.E., I view this sport as a very physical and fun activity; it's a great sport for students who just want to work out and forget about the hectic class schedules that they are taking. Just from observation, it looks like about the whole school enjoys this sport even if they aren't playing it competitively. ---Mark Eachus

2008-2009 SAT Dates

| 2008-09 Test Dates | Test | U.S. Registration Deadlines | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| | | Regular | Late (a fee) |
| December 6, 2008 | SAT & Subject Tests | November 5, 2008 | Novem 2008 |
| January 24, 2009 | SAT & Subject Tests | December 26, 2008 | Janua |
| March 14, 2009 | SAT only | February 10, 2009 | Febru: |
| May 2, 2009 | SAT & Subject Tests | March 31, 2009 | April 9 |
| June 6, 2009 | SAT & Subject Tests | May 5, 2009 | May 1: |

2008 - 2009 ACT Test Dates

| Test Date | Registration Deadline | (Late Fe |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| December 13, 2008 | November 7, 2008 | Nov 8 – 2 |
| February 7, 2009** | January 6, 2009 | Jan 7 – 1 |

Sophomores Sell Lunches

The sophomores are responsible for the sophomore-senior banquet, held in May. The banquet is a BBQ, held at a sophomore's home to honor the senior class. It is held in May right before graduation. The sophomores have been raising money to pay for the banquet. First they held a car wash. On every Monday they sell nachos during lunch. They also plan to sell Chinese food at lunch.

Juniors Raise Funds for Prom

Every year, the Junior class puts on prom. This year for fundraisers we have been selling spaghetti and lasagna during lunch time. Students and parents have prepared delicious lunches for the students and faculty to purchase on Wednesdays throughout the school year. These lunches have helped start the prom fund. The biggest fundraiser that we are planning is a bowling tournament which is set to happen in the near future. The juniors also plan to pay for prom with the sale of prom bids.



Music Notes

On November 13, we celebrated Mass with Teresa Francis and Natasha Czajka acting as cantors for Psalm 34. The choir sang the anthem "Ancient Words" following communion. The choir is now in final preparations for the Madrigal on December 9 & 10. Hope to see you all there. Natasha Czajka will also be singing the soprano solo in the Masterworks performance of the "Messiah" on December 7 at the First Church of God. We have some amazing talent in our choir. Don't miss these opportunities to hear it.

Yearbook Needs Pics

If any parents have pictures of any Mercy events the yearbook staff would greatly appreciate it if you could send them in. The yearbook staff could use pictures for volleyball and football teams. If any parents do have pictures of these events please send them in on a disk or e-mail them to Mr. Cherveney at rcherveney@mercy-high.org. Also another reminder is that the senior portraits need to be in by February 13. So make sure to make those appointments to get senior portraits taken.



Scholarship Opportunities

US Bank Internet Scholarship Program – Thirty \$1000 Scholarships awarded in a random drawing. No essays. No minimum GPA. Apply online Oct. through Feb.

Go to: http://www.usbank.com/cgi_w/cfm/studentloans/marketing.cfm

The McConnell Foundation Scholars Scholarship – Consists of a renewable (up to 4 yrs. Total) financial award of up to ninety percent of unmet need as defined by the Federal Student Aid Report, with a maximum of \$10,000 per year. Must be entering a 4 yr. College or university. Must be a resident of Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, or Trinity Counties, have a 3.0 or higher GPA, and have financial need as demonstrated by an EFC (Expected Family Contribution) of no greater than \$8,600. The EFC is assigned to you by the federal government after you complete the FAFSA form online at www.fafsa.edu.gov.

The McConnell Foundation Vista Scholarship – Must be a resident of the McConnell Foundation Program service area (see above). Must be under 21 by May 1st and intend to enroll full time at College of the Siskiyous or Shasta College in a degree or certificate program. Must have earned a high school diploma before starting college and demonstrate financial need. Go to: www.mcconnellfoundation.org/scholarships.html.

Ronald McDonald House Charities U.S. Scholarship Program – Must be a currently enrolled high school senior who is eligible to attend a 2 or 4 year college, university, or vocational/technical school with a complete course of study. Applicants must be legal U.S. residents, be less than 21 years of age and reside within the geographic boundaries of a participating Chapter. Applicants may apply for only 1 RHMC scholarship program. The RMHC/Asia scholarship must have at least one parent of Asian-Pacific heritage. The RMHC/African American Scholarship must have at least one parent of African American heritage. The RMHC/Hacer must have at least one parent of Hispanic heritage. Also available is the RMHC/Scholars scholarship. Applications available from Mrs. Agundes.

The deadline is February 16, 2009.

Gates Millennium Scholars – Eligibility: An individual is eligible to be nominated as a Gates Millennium Scholars if he or she:

- is African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American;
- is a citizen or legal permanent resident of the U.S.;
- has attained a cumulative GPA of 3.30 on a 4.0 scale;
- will enter an accredited college or university as a full-time, degree seeking freshman in the fall of 2009;
- has a significant financial need; and
- has demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extracurricular, or other activities.

If you meet these requirements and wish to be nominated, see Mrs. Ramirez for more information. DEADLINE: All materials must be postmarked on or before January 12, 2009.

Burger King Scholars Program – Assist students who work part-time and excel academically. To learn more go to <http://www.bk.com/scholars>. Access Key: BKS

Application deadline is Feb. 2, 2009.

Essay contest for High School Students on Ayn Rand's Books – For complete information about the contest go to www.aynrand.org/contests. There is over \$57,000 in prize money, 472 prizes. Top price is \$10,000. Entry deadline is April 25, 2009.

HOST FAMILY NEEDED

Mercy High is currently looking for a host family for an 11th grade boy from Serbia. If you are interested please call Cheryl Ramirez at 527-8313.



December 2008



- Dec. 1** Advisory Commission Meeting 6:00
- Dec. 2** Fall Sports Banquet 6:00
- Dec. 3-6** Boys Basketball @ Los Molinos Tournament
- Dec. 4,5,6** Girls Basketball @ Biggs Tournament
- Dec. 8** Minimum Day - Madrigal Dress Rehearsal
- Dec. 9** **LATE DAY** - Minimum Day - Madrigal 7:00
- Dec. 10** Minimum Day - Madrigal 7:00
- Dec. 11-13** Girls Basketball @ Durham Tournament
Boys Basketball @ Trinity Tournament
- Dec. 12** End of 2nd Quarter
- Dec. 15** FINALS – Per. 1 & Per. 2 – 11:50 Dismissal
- Dec. 16** FINALS – Per. 3 & Per. 6 – 11:50 Dismissal
- Dec. 17** FINALS – Per. 4 & Per. 7 – 11:50 Dismissal
- Dec. 18** FINALS – Per. 5 & Make-ups – 11:50 Dismissal
- Dec. 19** Teacher Work Day
- Dec. 22-Jan. 2** Christmas Vacation
- Dec. 27** Alumni Game 10:00

Finals Week Scheduled Announced

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Monday | Dec. 15 |
| Per.1 | 8:16-9:51 |
| Break | 9:51-10:11 |
| Per. 2 | 10:15-11:50 |
| 11:50 Dismissal | |
| Tuesday | Dec. 16 |
| Per.3 | 8:16-9:51 |
| Break | 9:51-10:11 |
| Per.6 | 10:15-11:50 |
| 11:50 Dismissal | |
| Wednesday | Dec. 17 |
| Per.4 | 8:16-9:51 |
| Break | 9:51-10:11 |
| Per. 7 | 10:15-11:50 |
| 11:50 Dismissal | |
| Thursday | Dec. 18 |
| Per.5 | 8:16-9:51 |
| Break | 9:51-10:11 |
| Make-ups | 10:15-11:50 |
| 11:50 Dismissal | |
| Friday | Dec. 19 |
| Staff Inservice Day | |
| No school | |



Meet Jerry Begley

Jerry Begley is Mercy High School's wonderful custodian. He has been working at MHS for nineteen years. He says the best thing about his job would have to be the fact that he works alone because he enjoys the quiet. Jerry Begley is originally from Chico; he has a wife and a stepson. He claims to have a dog that doesn't bark and a cat that doesn't meow. So that is a little peek of Jerry Begley's life.



Family Work Day Saturdays

- Dec.6 Jan. No Work Day
- Feb. 7 Mar. 7 Apr. 4
- May 2 (Spring Musical)
- June: Summer help is needed! Ask Jerry Begley for details.

If you have any questions about Family Work Day Saturdays, contact Jerry at 527-8313.



Varsity Football

The Varsity Warrior Football team finished their season off against Fall River in a first round playoff game. The Warriors fell to their opponents by a final score of 66-25. The Warriors started the game with their guns blazing, finishing the first quarter ahead of Fall River by a score of 13-12, thanks to a kickoff return and touchdown reception by Ali Syed. Kyle Crowley also marked up the stat sheet with numerous tackles and Michael Burns tore up the Bulldog defense in the air and on the ground with two touchdown passes and some important rushing yards. Patrick Farmer also stepped up and played very well, replacing his injured brother Scott. Scott was not alone on the sideline, however; the Warriors battled injuries all year, and this game was no exception. Jerry Bartlett was taken out of the game early on with a concussion. Hector Rodriguez was taken to the hospital with abdominal injuries and we hope for a speedy recovery. After returning a kickoff for a touchdown Mitch Lopez joined the fallen Warriors on the sidelines with a shoulder injury. Although the Warriors were not successful in their pursuit of playoff victory, they played hard, worked together, and finished their season with pride.



Varsity Volleyball

The Lady Warriors varsity volleyball team concluded their season undefeated and placed 1st in league. On November 4th, they beat Liberty Christian in three games and on the 6th they crushed Redding Christian in four games.

The Lady Warriors won in their first round of playoffs on November 13th against Etna, held in the MHS gym. Their second playoff game was November 18th at Hamilton City. Half of the student body attended the game to cheer on their team in an impressive show of fan support. The ladies put up a fight but lost in three games. The Warriors had a great season and are looking forward to next season.

Swim Team



This past swim season was an eventful and productive time for the Mercy students who participated. Everyone improved their season times and for those first year swimmers, a new knowledge of swimming developed. Two of the swimmers, Ryan Ward and Hana Hederova moved on to the first of section qualifiers. Hana made it to sections but did not advance further. "The swim team was fun and exciting opportunity for everyone on the team from the first year swimmers to the veterans of three years or more," said junior swim team co-captain Ryan Ward. Mr. Cherveney was an encouraging and supportive coach, and the team would like to thank him for his support.

J.V. Volleyball



The Junior Varsity Volleyball team has finished a great season. The Lady Warriors are co-champions! The other co-champions are the members of the University Prep team. Mercy lost to them twice, but beat them at home in two games with the scores 25-12 and 25-19. They also beat Liberty Christian in two games; the scores were 25-15 and 25-19. Redding Christian went down in three games, after winning the first game 17-25 and losing the second and third games 25-19 and 15-9. Overall this season, the Warriors had 13 wins, 14 losses, and 5 ties. They are 5 in 1 in League. The team and their coach, Candi Keller, appreciate all the help they received from parents throughout the season. They are also thankful to Mr. Weber, the Athletic Director, for his assistance.



Alpine Team

The snow has arrived at the Mt. Shasta Ski Park, and the Warrior Alpine Team is getting anxious to hit the slopes. This year's team consists of snowboarders Mark Eachus, Daniel Hammond, Nick Cook, Jenna Payne, Brady McDonald, and skier Chris Jones. Dry land practices began on Monday, November 24. The team's first on-mountain practice is Sunday, January 4th at Mt. Shasta, just prior to their first race on the 5th. The team, along with coach Mary Treat and other supporters are looking forward to this season. This season will feature a league race at Mt. Rose in North Lake Tahoe, as well as State Championships at Mammoth Mountain in Southern California. Good luck to our Alpine Warriors! Race hard and have fun!



Soccer

Soccer practice kicked off on Nov. 20, 2008. The soccer season looks to be a promising one this year. Our first game will be a home game against Los Molinos on Jan 6, 2009. Even though we are playing against only three different soccer teams, it will be a fun and exciting soccer season. Many students are trying out for the team, and are hoping that we become a competitive team. We are hoping to have new members on the team who will bring athleticism and sportsmanship. The returning players from last season are Christian Mondragon, Gabe Guerrero, Hector Rodriguez, Liam Dobson, Eric Lindeman, Carter Mudd, and Breanna Rose. Come watch them play at the Red Bluff High field. ---*Christian Mondragon & Tati Hernandez*

Cheerleading

This year we are extremely lucky to have enough girls to start up cheerleading once again at Mercy High School. In fact, with eleven girls, the cheerleaders may just outnumber the basketball team! Mrs. Gunsauls has graciously volunteered to be the coach for this year. Also the uniforms purchased this year will remain at Mercy for future girls to alleviate the high expenses of cheerleading. Practices will begin after volleyball finishes. We look forward to seeing everyone come and help the cheerleaders root on the basketball teams as our Warriors take home the gold!

---*Alaina Germano*



Varsity Girls Basketball

The 08-09 Lady Warriors basketball team started their team conditioning on November 17th. There are many returning varsity players including Katie Sullivan, Christina Ordorica, Missy Grens, Audra Muller, and Bailee Kernaghan. Bianca Torres will join the team as a junior. They also gained three senior additions from Bishop Quinn: Allison Wong, Shelby Duivenvoorden, and Daniella Gutierrez. Senior Lora Trout, who played basketball during her freshman year, rounds out the roster. With such a strong team, they will have a very promising season. Varsity coach Kim Williams should have a lot to look forward to with a team with this much athleticism and talent. The Lady Warriors will start their quest for a section with a tournament in Biggs. Good luck Mercy Warriors! Go, fight, win!

Varsity Boys Basketball

The basketball season has started again! The varsity boys had their first practice on Tuesday, November 18. We have two seniors that are returning to this court from last year, Kyle Crowley (shown at left) and Hee Yang. Four juniors have moved up to varsity this year: Chris Rosauer, Ryan Ward, Ali Syed, and Aaron Gash. Ryan James and Cameron Vietti, who played for Bishop Quinn last year, will join the Warriors on the court. Felipe Carvalho, a senior exchange student, rounds out the roster. With the blend of new and returning athletes, the team is sure to do great job in the games this year. On Nov. 29th, the Warriors will have their first practice game at Red Bluff High School. Coach Shellabarger will return as head coach this year and will also assume the helm of the junior varsity boys team.

