

Mercy Catholic High School

Red Bluff, CA

March 2009



Crowley, Wong Crowned MHS Royalty



Seniors Kyle Crowley and Allison Wong were crowned Homecoming King and Queen on Friday, February 13, in the Mercy High School gym as all four basketball teams took on the University Prep Panthers. Crowley is the son of John and Cindy Crowley of Red Bluff, and Wong is the daughter of Curtis and Shirley Wong of Redding.

Throughout the week, students participated in dress up days and rally games. On Friday of Spirit Week, each class decorated a portion of the gym, decorated a shopping cart float, faced each other in tug-o-war contests and rally games, and presented lip synch routines. The senior class won the overall class competition, and the junior class came in second place. Kevin Thibert was voted Spirit King, and Camille Gunsauls was voted Spirit Queen for their participation. On the basketball court, the Varsity Girls and JV Boys teams won their games, while the JV Girls and Varsity Boys lost. Spirit Week ended with a dance in the gym following the last game. Student Council would like to thank our dance chaperones and all who helped make Homecoming a success.

Dates to Remember

- Mar. 2 Sports Awards
Banquet 6 PM
- Mar. 5-7 Junior Retreat
- Mar. 9 Blood Drive
- Mar. 13 End of 3rd Quarter
- Mar. 16 No School:
Teacher In-Service
- Mar. 17 Late Day
- Mar. 18 Parent Guild
Meeting 6:30 PM
- Mar. 20 Comedy Night at Rolling
Hills Casino
- Mar. 23 Advisory Commission
Meeting 6 PM
- Mar. 26 Mass
- Mar. 28 Diocesan Youth Convention,
Bishop Quinn Center
- Mar. 30 Bishop Soto at MHS



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Preparing Our Hearts

Lenten activities are underway at Mercy High School as students and staff prepare their hearts for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. On February 24, Fat Tuesday, a potluck was shared by the school community in anticipation of Lent. Mass was held at Sacred Heart parish Church on Ash Wednesday, with students serving as lectors, readers, servers, and gift bearers. The choir sang beautifully at the service, which was also attended by numerous parishioners. The junior/senior religion classes are combining with the freshmen/sophomore religion classes every Thursday to share Lenten reflections and discussions. Junior/senior religion classes have each chosen to abstain from one harmful behavior, such as gossiping, and to serve others through another action, such as offering sincere thanks to others. All students throughout the school are encouraged to join the school wide quest to abstain from unnecessary technology while at school, including cell phones and I-Pods.

Blood Drive to be Held March 9

Friday Night Live is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Monday, March 9. Students who are at least 16 years and who weigh at least 100 pounds can donate blood with a parent's permission. Permission slips can be found in the newsletter and must be returned to Mrs. Lindeman.

Principal's Message

Keeping Mercy Successful



In preparing the budget for next year and in looking at the state of our economy, I think that it is time to look at reality and to make some important decisions and commitments. These are hard economic times everywhere and particularly here in the North State.

When we look at the School Data Report produced by the Diocese of Sacramento for the current year, we can see that the actual cost of education this year at Mercy High School according to our budget is much higher than what we charge in tuition. As a base of comparison, I would look at the tuition charged and the actual cost per student this year at each of the diocesan high schools:

St. Francis Catholic High School (Sacramento) Tuition	\$10,900	Cost per Student \$13,206
St. Patrick - St. Vincent Catholic High School (Vallejo)	\$ 9,775	\$10,760
Mercy Catholic High School (Red Bluff)	\$ 6,850	\$10,141

Most of our active families will enroll with a tuition base of \$6850. Each of the families that accepts that tuition rate is doing so under the agreement that the family will continue to be one that is active in the life of the school, will support our fundraisers, and provide service to the school in the amount of 50 hours. This commitment and service will help bring in additional monies to the school. It will also mean that we have help where we need it to support the activities and programs we offer our students at the school, whether it is in scorekeeping for games, painting the lines on the football field, doing make-up for the school musical, sewing costumes, helping with mailings, helping in the school office, and much more. Commitment is what makes the difference here.

Some of our students are enrolled at a higher tuition base of \$7850. These would be families that make the choice to enroll at a rate that is more reflective of the actual cost of attendance. Though parent hours are not required of these families, most still work well beyond the 50 hours required in service to the school. International students are accepted at the school with a base tuition of \$7850 also.

Where does the difference come from between what you as families are paying and what we need in order to operate the school? The diocese is generous with the school and provides tuition assistance to Catholic families in need. Many of you are recipients of that generosity, and it would be appropriate as a parent of Mercy High School to send a letter of thanks to Bishop Soto.

The school budget absorbs the cost of any financial assistance necessary for non-Catholic families that does not come from individual scholarship donors. In these lean economic times, we are also relying on our savings and endowment to support our budget. Additionally, the school sets a goal of earning \$70,000 in fundraisers as part of the budget. That money will help make up the difference if our fundraisers are successful.

For example, if your family receives two tickets to buy or sell for the Comedy Night at Rolling Hills on March 20th, are you taking responsibility for either buying them or selling them, or for inviting your friends to support the event? Each family regardless of the family's financial circumstances can work toward selling two tickets. Mary O'Keeffe is also looking for people to help work the event. Are you available? We still have a Golf Tournament on May 3rd at Sevillano Links and the Taste of Tuscany at Burnsini Vineyards on May 16th. Please support these events. You will make the difference.

The Parent Guild, among other things, is responsible for organizing the fundraising events and making sure that we have sufficient help to make sure they are successful. When I go to the Parent Guild meetings, I see wonderful leadership but little attendance by the parents. This means relying on the same few people to organize everything. People ask things like: Why is nothing happening with Sober Grad? It has been on the agenda twice with few parents present to discuss the options. Why are there so few people committed to being active in the Parent Guild?

We are trying very hard to hold the line on tuition costs for our families, but you can see that there is a big gap between what our families pay and what it costs to run our academic and extra-curricular programs. We have a wonderful school. The only way we will be able to keep it is if we are all committed to taking responsibility for the school's financial success and for making a commitment of our personal time and talents.

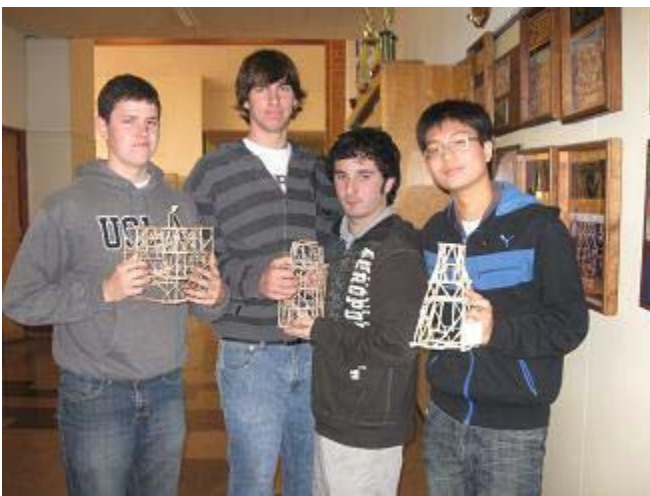


Into The Woods Coming to MHS

Mark your Calendars. The Mercy High School spring musical this year is *Into the Woods*. It will run this spring on May 1st, 2nd, 8th, and 9th. The cast has already been hard at work learning their lines and the many difficult songs. *Into the Woods* is a mix of a number of fairy tales, including Little Red Ridinghood, Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Rapunzel. The students have had a lot of fun in practices so far, and look forward to the performances. Denise Peters has been invaluable helping with the music during the after-school practices. There's a lot of work left to be done, and any parent interested in helping should come to the informational night on Monday, March 9th at 6:30 at Mercy. We need help with costumes, makeup, the gala, the set, and advertising.

Forces of Physics

In Physics, students have been studying the nature of forces. In the "Toothpick Tower Challenge," they worked in pairs or individually to create the most efficient tower out of only toothpicks and glue. Certain specifications had to be met in terms of height and width. When the towers were completed, students tested the towers by hanging a bucket from them. The bucket was then filled with sand to a maximum weight of fifty pounds. Some towers held the maximum, and others were crushed. Students calculated a ratio of "Load Weight" (sand) to "Tower Weight." The most efficient tower had an amazing Load to Tower Weight ratio of over 370! *Left: Carter Mudd, Kyle Crowley, Eric Lindeman, Ryan So.*



Mr. Cherveney: St. Joseph's School

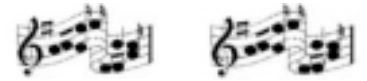
Mr. Cherveney took students living in the Redding area to St Joseph's grade school in Redding. Many thanks to Mrs. Patsy Cole, the principal, and all the faculty and staff for the warm welcome our students felt. Our students spent time in the classroom working with kids, helping teachers get caught up with assignments grading and prepping for classes. You could tell how much our students were enjoying their time with the little ones during lunchtime, playing basketball and other games during recess. *Right: Sean Kearns and Cameron Vietti help out in the classroom.*



Juniors Host Bowling Tourney

The Junior Class had a bowling tournament fundraiser January 31st starting at noon at Lariat Bowl. The proceeds went to the support of prom and was a great success. Besides first and second place bowling awards there were various prizes raffled off throughout the tournament. The tournament ended up with 18 teams each playing 3 games. With amazing support from Lariat Bowling Alley, the junior class was able to make this possible. Congratulations to the First Place team The Sour Apples and the Second Place winners Sucky but Lucky. The tournament was a great success and we hope to see you participate next year at our second annual tournament. We would also like to give a special thanks to the Lariat Bowl, the Grace Family, Best Buy, Toys R Us, Tehama Family Fitness Center, Bell Carter Olive Co. Mission Beauty Supply, and Gates Resale.

2009 SAT Dates



2008-09 Test Dates	Test	U.S. Registration Deadlines*		Internat
		Regular	Late (a fee applies)	Early (Internati only)
March 14, 2009	SAT only	February 10, 2009	February 24, 2009	N/A
May 2, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	March 31, 2009	April 9, 2009	March 11, 2009
June 6, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	May 5, 2009	May 15, 2009	April 15, 2009

2008 - 2009 ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee)
April 4, 2009	February 27, 2009	February 27, 2009
June 13, 2009	May 8, 2009	May 9 - 2009

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE 2009

The Annual Fund Campaign is one of the fundraising efforts which ensures that Mercy High School will remain a vital and dynamic part of the North State academic community.

In this challenging economy your support will really make a difference. Our attitudes, words and actions actualize our daily experiences and beliefs. When we support Catholic education, we provide a special opportunity for students in our communities. A Catholic education opens hearts and minds to all the possibilities that God has put before us.

Please help us continue our mission with a donation to our Annual Fund.

Michael Estrada Succeeds in the Lions Club Speech Contest

On February 23, 2009, Mrs. Arbini accompanied Michael Estrada to the Elks Club in Red Bluff to participate in the 72nd Annual Student Speakers Contest sponsored by the Lions Club. This is the second year that Michael has competed in speech contests. This year's topic was "Water-Will California be left High and Dry?" Michael is the son of a farmer and provided a great deal of information on how California's drought affects not only people in urban environments but also how the drought specifically affects the amount and type of crops that are planted. Michael received a second place award in the contest with a cash prize. Finally, Mrs. Arbini received a certificate of appreciation for having Mercy students participate in Lions Club speech contests for many years. Mercy should be very proud of Michael Estrada for his wonderful talent and effort!

Music Notes

We can all be very proud of our busy Mercy choir. On January 29, the choir helped to lead Mass. The cantors for the Psalm were Laura Germano and Harmony Lange. The choir sang "Shine on Us" by Michael W. Smith following communion. On February 7 & 8, the choir attended a choral workshop led by Allan Petker, an internationally known composer and conductor. I had worked with the girls some on the music we would be doing. When Natasha Czajka became ill Mr. Petker had the other sopranos from our school do the solo section on one of the pieces. They were wonderful. Then he also asked them to do the descant on another piece. You could hear those four voices clearly over the other 65 singers. I had one person who is a vocal instructor say to me that our choir made everyone else step up a notch. They made us proud! Mr. Petker also wrote me and said how much he enjoyed having our choir there. Thank you girls. On Ash Wednesday, February 25 our choir will be sang "O Jesus, Drink of Me", one of the songs from the workshop. Natasha Czajka was be the featured soloist. Laura Germano and Teresa Francis were cantors.

Scholarship Opportunities

California Retired Teachers Association Scholarship-A \$750 scholarship is offered to a graduate of a Tehama County high school entering the field of education. The deadline is April 21st. See Mrs. Agundes for an application.

2009 Student-View Scholarship- This is a unique opportunity for high school seniors. It is open to all students regardless of academic achievement or financial need. Simply complete a 15-20 minute online survey about local colleges. You will then be automatically entered into a random drawing for a scholarship award. Go to www.student-view.com.

Portuguese Historical & Cultural Society-PHCS will offer 2 scholarships for \$1,000 and 5 for \$500 each. Criteria: Portuguese descendency, Senior from Northern California, GPA of 3.0 or better. Deadline April 19. See Mrs. Agundes for an application.

CAA/NBFAA Youth Scholarship Program-\$1000 scholarship to a graduating senior whose parent or guardian is a member of a law enforcement agency or a full-time paid or volunteer member of a fire department located in California. Deadline is April 11, 2009. See Mrs. Agundes for an application.

Honors in the Face of Medical Adversity-The Kelly Moravec Academic Encouragement Foundation offers a \$500 scholarship to a high school senior with a GPA of 3.0 or higher who has dealt with serious medical adversity issues during their high school years or their lifetime. Deadline is April 21, 2009. See Mrs. Agundes for an application.

The Ronald Knight Memorial Scholarship Committee has 4 scholarships in the amount of \$2000 each for a 2009 graduate from a high school within the boundaries of the Tehama County Cattlemen's Association. You must enroll full time in college with a major in an agriculture or ag-related course of study with the intention of earning a Bachelor degree. See Mrs. Agundes for an application. Deadline is

April 24.

It's FAFSA Time!

- 1 Before Beginning a FAFSA
- 2 Filling Out a FAFSA
- 3 FAFSA Follow Up

Senior parents seeking financial aid for college need to complete the FAFSA application. Check out <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm> for information.

Special Announcements

[Updated information available for the new TEACH grant.](#)

[Alert! Important information about two new grant programs.](#)

We have simplified the process of filling out the FAFSA through for a comprehensive set of instructions.

Before Beginning a FAFSA

Get organized!
To simplify the application process, gather required documents and other information ahead of time.

Filling Out a FAFSA

Fill out the app
The FAFSA has that ask about financial information school plans,

Students Serve Community

In keeping with the theme of celebrating service during Catholic Schools Week, Mercy High School students and staff members went out into the community on Wednesday, January 24th, offering their time and their talents to help others. Two groups stayed on campus and beautified the Mercy High school campus. Mrs. Lee's group was joined for awhile in weeding and pruning the flower beds and planters. Following are summaries of the activities of the day.

Ms. Ashurt: Sacred Heart School

Eleven Mercy students spent the morning of January 28th teaching Spanish to students at Sacred Heart School in Red Bluff. They taught Spanish songs in grades K-8 as



a service to the community to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. The younger students in grades K-3 learned colors in Spanish, completing a brief worksheet and learning a song. The older students sang along to the alphabet song and had a competition between boys and girls. They also got into the action learning body parts with “*Cabeza, cintura*”, the Spanish version of “Head, shoulders, knees, and toes”. Mercy students came prepared with posters and visuals to aid in teaching. According to Ms. Ashurst,

“Mercy students were enthusiastic and very well-received. Every student participating in this event interacted well with the children and showed strong leadership skills”. Mrs. Cendejas, Mrs. Stokes, and Mrs. Rubright volunteered their time as chaperones and drivers. *Jackie Cendejas helps a student at Sacred Heart School.*

Mr. Matthews: MHS and Kelly Griggs Museum

Audra Muller, Benicia Grace, Aaron Gash, and Dylan Thomas went to the Kelly-Griggs House Museum for community service day last month. They helped restore the gazebo in the garden by sanding it down to get it ready to be repainted. They helped out at school for a half hour before going over. The Museum also gave the students an educational tour of the inside of the house. The students enjoyed helping out the community and Mercy High School looks forward to working with the Kelly-Griggs house in the future.

Mrs. Bryson: Humane Society

On community service day January 28th, 2009, a group of four students and one supervisor took a trip to the local humane society. Katie Sullivan, Christina Ordorica, Ali Syed, Mitch Lopez, and their supervisor Mrs. Bryson all learned a valuable lesson on the hardships that animals face and the amazing people who work to correct those hardships. Mrs. Bryson and the students were first given a tour of the humane society and were told of all the new developments that have recently taken place and the developments that are scheduled to take place. After the tour the group was put straight to work. They cleaned all the pens that the cats were kept in and also gave the cats a little attention for the day. Next they took out two dogs at a time and gave them all time to run around out of their kennel. The day was a great success and by the end everyone felt accomplished from the good deeds they had performed throughout the day! Mrs. Bryson also made the students take the eight dogs that were smuggled into her car, back to the humane society, but it was the thought that counts.

-Katie Sullivan

Mrs. Lindeman: The State Theatre

The State Theatre is one of Red Bluff's finest landmarks. Ariana Ramos, Mariha Lowe, Sang Hee Lee, Chris Bartlett, Wyatt Froome, and Liam Dobson helped paint the theatre. The girls painted two sets of doors leading outside, while the boys painted a small triangular cement room. The day began with a history of the theatre and a tour. After the painting was completed, the students travelled to a local restaurant for lunch before returning to MHS. *Right: Liam Dobson, Chris Bartlett, and Wyatt Froome paint at the theatre.*



Mrs. O'Keefe: Sacred Heart, Anderson & St. Anne's

Mercy High School students joined forces with Sacred Heart Parish, Anderson in "Celebrating Service". On Sunday, January 25, 2009 a Mass was held at Sacred Heart, Anderson featuring the Mercy Choir. Following Mass, Ryan James, Haley Kavanagh, and Mrs. O'Keefe assisted in the cooking and serving of breakfast for 95 parishioners and students. The Mercy choir also sang during breakfast. Haley displayed a Mercy High School table with information about the school and a sign up sheet for interested students.

On Wednesday, January 28, Camille Gunsauls, Jared Walters, Michael Uhalde and Henry Wan traveled with Mrs. O'Keefe to St. Anne's Church in Cottonwood to do yard work. The group filled 19 bags with leaves and trimmings as they cleaned out all the flowerbeds surrounding the church. The posts supporting the church sign were also repainted. After several hours of hard work, Jim Seale, a grateful parishner, treated them all to lunch at Eagle's Nest Pizza.

Mrs. Bauer: Sacramento River Discovery Center



Mrs. Bauer accompanied 15 students to the Sacramento River Discovery Center. Students were led on a tour of the grounds. Ongoing projects were described. One of the current projects is the naturalization of the oak forest that was planted several years ago. The trees were planted in rows and much too close together. Trees that were to be kept were flagged. Thinning is finished, so Mercy students removed yellow flags from the remaining trees. Students came away with a new appreciation for the Sacramento River Discovery Center. *Left: Breanna Rose and Giselle Espinosa flag trees.*

Mr. Lyon: RB City Park

Students Bailee Kernaghan, Shelby Brohn, Scott Farmer, Gabe Guerrero, Christian Mondragon, Patrick Farmer, and teacher Mike Lyon participated in a community service project for Catholic Schools Week. The group used picks, shovels and rakes to refurbish the horseshoe pits at the Red Bluff City River Park. The morning was laced with donut breaks, laughter, and some very hard work. When they were finished, they were praised by the City Parks Department for their excellent efforts.

Mrs. Arbini: Villa Columba

Mercy High School has a close relationship with Villa Columba and during Catholic School Week, Mrs. Arbini took some students to Villa Colomba to perform community service as part of celebrating Catholic Schools Week. Villa Colomba's maintenance manger, Clayton, had a variety of chores for Mercy students to do. The students with Mrs. Arbini collected trash around the building, swept patios and the front porch, vacuumed the halls, polished the railings, swept and cleaned the laundry room, cleaned windows, cleaned out leaves from the property and even painted hallways. Students who were active in this event were: Jared Brown, Ryan So, Patricia Korbackova, Hana Hedorva, Daniel Hammond, Jeremie Jones, Gaby Reynoza, Emyleigh Nelson, Jennifer Bui, Marina Gist, and Chris Rosauer. It was a wonderful morning of service and time went by quickly!

March 2009



March 2	Sports Awards Banquet 6 PM
March 3	Tennis-West Valley @ Mercy 3:30
March 5	Tennis-Corning @ Mercy 3:30
March 5-7	Junior Retreat
March 8-12	Alpine Championships @ Mammoth Mt.
March 9	BLOOD DRIVE <i>Into the Woods</i> Informational Parent Meeting 6:30 PM
March 11	Baseball x2 @ Hayfork 1:00
March 13	End of 3 rd Quarter Tennis-Red Bluff @ Mercy 3:30 Baseball & Softball @ Faith Christian 4:00
March 16	NO SCHOOL – Teacher In Service
March 17	Late Day Softball only-Champion Christian @ Mercy 4:00
March 18	Parent Guild Meeting 6:30 Baseball & Softball-Chester @ Mercy 4:00 Track @ Los Molinos 2:30
March 19	Elk's Student of the Month 12:00
March 19,20,21	Baseball & Softball @ Liberty Christian Tournament TBA
March 20	Comedy Night @ Rolling Hills Casino
March 23	Advisory Commission Meeting 6:00
March 24	Tennis @ Colusa 3:30 Softball – Mt. Shasta @ Mercy 3:00
March 25	Track @ University Prep 2:30
March 26	MASS Tennis-Live Oak @ Mercy 3:30
March 27	Baseball & Softball @ Maxwell 4:00 Track @ B. Williams Classic-Central Valley 10:00
March 28	Diocesan Youth Convention @ Bishop Quinn Center, Palo Cedro
March 30	Bishop Soto on campus
March 31	Tennis @ Orland 3:30 Tennis @ Willows 3:30

*Parent reminder for the Junior and Senior retreats which are just around the corner. Please have your son or daughter's permission slips and money into the office by the required deadlines.

If you have further questions about retreat specifics please call Mr. Chervenky at (530) 526-6661.



Basketball Playoff Updates

The Varsity Boys Basketball season came to an end at Dunsmuir on February 24 when the Warriors lost their first game of the playoffs by a score of 68 to 73. Kyle Crowley had a season-best 32 points with 20 rebounds. *Left: Ryan James.*

The Varsity Girls won their first playoff game against Providence of Orland on February 25 by a score of 61 to 27. The Lady Warriors travelled to Hayfork on Friday, Feb. 27 for their second playoff game. Results were not available at press time. *Right: Katie Sullivan.*



From the Athletic Director

With spring sports gearing up, a couple of reminders:

a) All school volunteers are required by the Diocese to complete a child abuse prevention course called "Shield the Vulnerable." If you drive students other than your own, help at practice, or volunteer any other way for the school, you need to take this FREE course. www.shieldthevulnerable.org.

b) Parent Drivers are not cleared until we have a copy of a valid driver's license, proof of 100K/300K insurance, and cleared fingerprints. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THIS! WE NEED ALL THE DRIVERS WE CAN GET!!!

Art Classes Travel to Chico

This past Tuesday twenty-three students from Art 1A and 3D Art made their way to Chico to visit two art galleries with Mr. Cherveney and parent chaperones. The first show was at the Chico University Gallery titled **Fecund Earth: Contemporary Ceramic Sculpture** with artist's Patsy Cox, Juan Granados and Alison Petty Ragguette. Students were also given a tour guide of the ceramic studios and current student work that is in process. After a hearty lunch in downtown Chico we walked to the Chico Art Center gallery, which is



hosting **Creative Fusion 5**, a student exhibition featuring ninety-one artworks. All of the artists came from the local junior and senior high schools of Chico. On a very positive note the gallery opened the doors to our Mercy Students for next years show.



Our amazing cheerleaders entertain the crowd during homecoming. The cheer squad was lead by captain Camille Gunsauls, far left.

Mr. Weber: Notre Dame

On our schoolwide Catholic Schools Week Community Service day, ten students from the Chico area met Mr. Weber at Notre Dame School and worked in classrooms for the day. In Kindergarten, Michael Estrada and Maureen Dorsett lended a hand. In Second grade, Ryan Ward, Marcus Estrada, Mark Eachus, and Ryan Ward helped students paint Dinosaur pictures. In Third Grade, Missy Grens and Sienna Retzer aided in the learning process. In Sixth and Seventh grade, Nick Cook and Teresa Francis helped grade work and prepare lessons for upcoming weeks. Notre Dame teachers all expressed tremendous gratitude for the help, and hoped that MHS can continue to help out in the future.

