

Mercy Catholic High School

Red Bluff, CA

September 2008



Mercy Day to be Celebrated on Sept. 24th

Mercy High School will be celebrating its 126th birthday on the 24th of September. Originally named our Lady of Mercy Academy, the school was founded in 1882 by the Sisters of Mercy. The school was K-12 and had boarding facilities for those students who didn't live very close. In 1959, the elementary and the high school separated and the high school moved to its current location on Riverside Way. The school was a girls school until 1960 when it became a coed. In 1984 the school became a diocesan school within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento. Over 100 years has passed since the founding of MHS, and it is still working with the principles and morale beliefs that the Sisters of Mercy set up.

The celebration of Mercy Day will include a 10 AM Mass held at Sacred Heart Parish Church with an acknowledgment of the Sisters of Mercy and their associates. The faculty and staff will then host a luncheon for the sisters and the clergy. The junior and senior Christian Leadership classes will add to the celebration by displaying projects related to MHS and its founding throughout the school and by sharing gifts and food with the student body.



First Mass Held August 20th

MHS kicked off the first day of school on August 20th by having a special Mass held at Sacred Heart Parish Church. Father Eric Lofgren (left) presided. Mercy High Student Council members helped prepare the Mass. Kyle Crowley, Bianca Torres, Haley Kavanagh and Audra Muller presented petitions. Camille Gunsauls gave the first reading while Eric Lindeman, Michael Burns, and Natasha Czajka sang. The choir sang beautifully on their first day, accompanied by Mrs. Denise Peters.

School Begins with a Bash!

On the evening of Saturday, August 23, following a day of football scrimmages, Mercy High kicked off the school year with the Back to School Bash. We all had a great time as we gathered around playing fooseball, eating pizza, watching Aladdin, and welcoming everyone back from summer.

Student Council hosted this event and set precedence over all school activities planned for the year. Mr. Lyon remarked that the food seemed to be the highlight of the night, and it seemed that everyone had a great

time. Freshman Brady McDonald said, "The soda was cool." We are all looking forward to this upcoming year and the following bashes to come.---*Teresa Francis & Christina Ordorica.*



Left: Jennifer Gentry enjoys the bash with Alex McFadyen and Jess Foss.

Dates to Remember

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| Sept. 1 | Labor Day: no school |
| Sept. 5 | Class elections |
| Sept. 10 | Back to School Night |
| Sept. 12 | Awards Assembly: dress up day |
| Sept. 15 | Parent Guild meeting, 6 PM |
| Sept. 16 | Late day. School picnic |
| Sept. 19 | Cinch day |
| Sept. 22 | Newsletter article deadline |
| Sept. 24 | Mercy Day Mass: dress up day |
| Sept. 29 | School picture retakes |



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www.mercy-high.org

Principal's Message



One Heart, One Spirit, One School

Welcome to Mercy High School for the 2008/2009 school year. It is great to have the halls alive with the sounds and laughter of our students. The spirit in the building is so much nicer once the students are here. I offer a special welcome to our new students and to their families.

The presence of a number of Bishop Quinn students, new freshman from varying schools, some transfer students, and 10 international students brings a fresh look to the student body. Each of these students enriches our student body through his or her unique personality, talents, and background. Once again, welcome. I know that we are going to have a wonderful year!

New students and current students are busy becoming involved in the life of the school. Already, on the opening day of school, the new choir amazed us with their talent. Congratulations to Mrs. Lee on doing such a fine job with the choir with about a 45-minute practice. Thank you, Mr. Cherveny for having so many students actively participate in the Mass as altar servers, readers and gift bearers. Thank you to Father Eric for his presence on the first day of school and for encouraging us to be *one heart, one spirit, one school*.

The football, volleyball, swimming and tennis teams are forming and getting ready for competition. Mr. Matthews and a dedicated group of parents are putting their heads together to be proactive in organizing and promoting the Madrigal dinner scheduled for early December. Thank you to Mrs. Lindeman and Mrs. Arbini for their help in planning the Back to School Bash for our students. Also, thanks to parents, Diane Poundstone and Kim Inman, for working hard to get the annual dinner auction organized for November 1st. Please mark your calendars for this important fundraiser. We count on everyone's involvement in the success of the fundraisers.

Each of you has a role in the life of this school. As parents, please become as involved as your students and their teachers are. The first Parent Guild Meeting is on September 15th at 6:00 pm. I would love for that to be the biggest meeting of the year. What makes me proud of Mercy High School is the fact that we are a school community. Let us resolve to be that this year too. In all that we do, let us be *One Heart, One Spirit, One School*.

God Bless,

Cheryl Ramirez, Principal

Business office news

WELCOME BACK

If you still have paperwork at home that needs to be turned into the office
Please do so at this time.

All families must have a signed contract regardless of your payment option.

If you receive one in the mail, please sign & return.

Thank you.

Please call the business office at 527-8313 ext. 3003
if you have questions or concerns.

HOME OF THE WARRIORS:

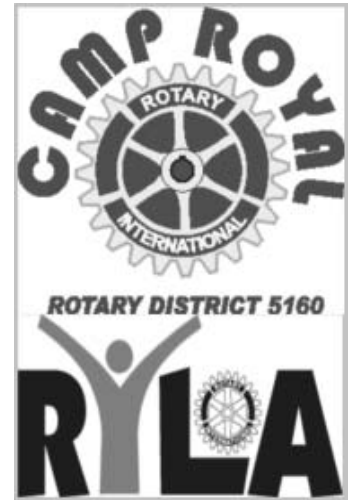
HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE FOOTBALL & VOLLEYBALL GAMES

Thibert, Francis Attend Camp Royal

From June 15th to the 21st, Mercy High School seniors Teresa Francis and Kevin Thibert traveled into the Trinity Mountains for a leadership camp, Camp Royal. Camp Royal is sponsored by Rotary Clubs throughout Northern California. Every year, in the mountains, young students yearning to become leaders travel to Camp Royal in the hopes of becoming a better person and to meet new people from all over Northern California.

Francis and Thibert, along with other young men and women from Chico and surrounding areas, left Sunday afternoon to go up to the Trinity Mountains. When we arrived, nobody knew each other and a feeling of anxiety was in the air. The first day we met Lain Hensley, our camp leader and mentor. He was an amazing person of the highest personal quality. Throughout the week, we participated in several activities, including meditation sessions and various leadership meetings, where we learned much about our own leadership qualities. The ropes course was by far the most memorable of all the days spent in the mountains. The course was designed to symbolically represent the campers overcoming their own faults and shortcomings. It was a very emotional day including tears and laughter, and it is an experience we will never forget.

“It was an experience of a lifetime. We met new friends, who soon became our family. We strongly recommend all juniors to apply for Camp Royal 2009,” agreed Teresa and Kevin. ---Teresa Francis and Kevin Thibert



Michael Burns Attends Boys State



The 2008 Boys State camp was attended by Michael Burns, a senior at Mercy High School. According to Michael (shown above, center), Boys State was an enriching experience in which new friends were made, a new outlook on government was discovered, and knowledge of political roles in society were shared. The attendees of Boy State resided at Sacramento State University and lived in the dorms for a week. Michael recommends this camp to any junior boy who is looking for a fun new experience during summer.



Audra Muller Attends Girls State

“Are you from Girls State? Ya ya!”; this song is stuck in my head as I leave Girls State. This camp is a filled with outstanding girls from all over the state. Girls State is like a backstage pass into government and how politicians operate. Now don’t get the wrong impression. This camp is also about having fun and bonding. I was constantly doing things I never thought I would: yelling cheers we made up five minutes ago, sizzling like bacon, and wearing paper hats like I did in kindergarten. Getting involved in the action was inevitable with the array of activities they offered: in-house band, choir, talent shows, elections, and games. There was government at every level: city, county, and state. There were meetings, debates, and guest speakers.

Our final guest speaker, Secretary of State Debra Bowen, enlightened us how she became involved in politics and how we should continue to strive higher. She is currently the highest female in state government in California. She told us her intentions were never towards politics and that her career began when she became involved in city government. She also said that girls should strive to be president or governor, that we are the future, and that each of us should strive to be the best. She also gave us her facebook account information and the freedom of contacting her there with questions when we need help. As her parting gift to the the camp, she conducted the swearing in ceremony for the camp's elected officials. --- Audra Muller.

2008-2009 SAT Dates

| 2008-09 Test Dates | Test | U.S. Registration Deadlines | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| | | Regular | Late (a fee) |
| October 4, 2008* | SAT & Subject Tests | September 9, 2008 | Sept 2008 |
| November 1, 2008 | SAT & Subject Tests | September 26, 2008 | Octob |
| December 6, 2008 | SAT & Subject Tests | November 5, 2008 | Nover 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: |

Dean's Corner

I'd like to welcome all the students back to school. What a fun group we have again this year. Please review the dress code with your student. All students must wear collared shirts or Mercy High, Bishop Quinn, or college t-shirts. All clothing must be modest and appropriate. There will be a Dress Day on Sept. 12 for an Awards Assembly. Dress for these days is skirts and dressy blouses or dresses for girls and slacks, ties, and dress shirts for boys. Shoes may not be athletic type and no flip-flops are allowed. I'm looking forward to a great year.

---Eileen Bauer

If you need to drop off items for the October 18th yard sale, Jerry Begley is at the high school until 9pm, Monday – Thursday, and until 8pm on Fridays. For Saturday drop off, Jerry's phone number is 527-8908.



Music Notes

What a busy first few days of school for the Mercy choir! On the first day of school, we sang for Mass with Michael Burns, Eric Lindeman and Natasha Czajka acting as cantors for the Psalm. The choir then followed communion with an anthem. Our choir this year consists of 11 very talented young ladies. It is going to be a spectacular year! We have already begun working on music for the Madrigal. Mark December 9 & 10 down on your calendars! Plus we are working on music for the school Masses. I am looking forward to a very music filled year.

---Darlene Lee

Every Friday from now until the October SAT, there will be a drop in prep class from 1-3 in the computer lab. This prep class will focus on each section of the SAT, and will be moderated by Mr. Weber. There is a \$5 per student fee each Friday. Call or email Mr. Weber with any questions. This session is best for Juniors and Seniors, but all students are welcome.

From Brazil to MHS

There are several exchange students this year and two from Brazil were able to discuss their experiences so far.

Wagner Rocha Junior is (below left) sixteen years old and is a senior at Mercy High School. He applied to the exchange program in order to improve on his English. When he first arrived here in Red Bluff, he liked the town a lot. Red Bluff was not much different from his town size in Brazil. He has been enjoying Mercy so far, and he likes the small school atmosphere. Also, he enjoys the other students attending Mercy.



Felipe Carvalho (above right) is another exchange student from Brazil. He is sixteen years old and is also a senior at Mercy High School. He chose Red Bluff because he wanted to come to California and out of the school choices he liked Mercy the best. The biggest difference for him with his school in Brazil to Mercy is that there are no mixed classes in Brazil. For example, seniors only take classes with seniors. He does not plan to come and live in America and plans to go back to Brazil at the end of the school year.

For Sale: Football Firewood

Firewood Fundraiser. Over the next month or so, the Football team plans to split and deliver seasoned walnut firewood to raise money for Mercy's football program. The donation request per cord is \$200.00 which includes local delivery. Stacking is available for an additional \$25.00 per cord. Firewood orders may be placed by calling or emailing Sam Mudd @ 530-949-4054, sam.mudd@aglandbrokers.com.

Student Council Officers 2008-2009

Student Council members this year were elected in May of the 2007-2008 school year. The President is Camille Gunsauls, and the Vice-President is Kyle Crowley. Secretary is Haley Kavanagh, and Treasurer is Audra Muller. Michael Burns is Rally Coordinator, and Bianca Torres is Volunteer Coordinator. Director of Athletics is Lora Trout, and School Advisory Commission Representative is Eric Lindeman. Two students from BQ will also serve on the Student Council. Alaina Germano will serve as Dance Commissioner and Cameron Vietti will serve as Public Relations Commissioner. The Student Council hosted the Back to School Bash on Saturday the 23rd, which was a huge success. Our next scheduled activity is the school picnic on Sept. 16. The Student Council members this year aspire to many more fun activities to come. ---*Haley Kavanagh & Camille Gunsauls*

Mr. Weber is new Athletic Director



At the turn of the school year, Mrs. Bryson handed over the title of Athletic Director to the very talented Mr. Weber. Mr. Weber has worked at Mercy High for eight years as a science teacher and a coach for tennis and baseball teams. When asked what his favorite aspect of being the new Athletic Director is he responded, "I have always enjoyed the sports programs here at Mercy and this gives me the opportunity to attend all sporting events." He did mention that he would miss his Physical Science class, but does enjoy the extra prep period he now has. Mr. Weber will be very busy this year as the new Athletic Director, the Technology Coordinator, freshman class advisor, and coach for the girl's tennis team and baseball team. We look forward to a great year from Mr. Weber both on and off the field. —*Kyle Crowley and Carter Mudd*



September 2008



- Sept. 1 **Labor Day/NO SCHOOL**
- Sept. 2 Volleyball @ Pierce 5:30
- Sept. 4,5,6 Varsity Volleyball @ Hamilton City Tournament
- Sept. 5 Class Elections
- Football @ Burney 5:30
- Sept. 6 JV Volleyball @ Red Bluff JV Tournament 8:00
- Sept. 9 Volleyball @ Chester 5:30
- Sept. 10 **Back To School Night**
- Sept. 11 Volleyball @ Los Molinos
- Sept. 12 AWARDS ASSEMBLY
- Football @ Weed 5:30
- Sept. 13 Student Council Dance
- Sept. 15 Parent Guild meeting, 6 PM
- Sept. 16 **LATE DAY/School Picnic**
- Volleyball @ Dunsmuir 5:30
- Sept. 19 **CINCH DAY**
- Sept. 19-20 Varsity Volleyball @ Red Bluff High Tournament
- Sept. 20 Football-Rincon Valley Christian @ Mercy 12:00
- Sept. 22 *Newsletter Articles Due*
- Sept. 24 **Mercy Day Mass**
- Volleyball-Champion Christian @ Mercy 5:30
- Sept. 29 Picture Retakes

Chapel Wall

Mr. Chervený's 3D Art class will be creating a mosaic wall for the back of the chapel. The theme of the wall is still under consideration.

The 3D Art class is in need of tiles for the project. Do you have any leftover tiles from a project you would like to donate? Tiles measuring from 12"x12" to 4"x4" could be used in the mosaic. Please bring your tiles to the school at your earliest convenience.

Family Work Day Saturdays

| | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Sept. 6 | Oct. 4 | Nov. 1 | Dec. 6 |
| Jan. No Work Day | | | |
| Feb. 7 | Mar. 7 | Apr. 4 | |
| May 2 (Spring Musical) | | | |
| June School is out! Summer help will be needed! | | | |

Jerry Begley would like to thank all of the parents who helped out over the summer. If you have any questions about Family Work Day Saturdays, contact Jerry at 527-8313.

ALUMNI DAY / REUNION WEEKEND

October 11, 2008

Be our guest for a day of football, refreshments and reconnecting with classmates. The day starts off with an Open House at the school at 10am, followed by the J.V. football game at 12:00 noon, Sacred Heart Field. The Varsity game will be at 2:00pm. Everyone is invited back to the school for a BBQ at 5:00pm. Please RSVP to the school before October 6, 527-8313, ext. 3008. Be sure to visit the Sacred Heart Calico Fair that day at the Tehama County Fair Grounds.

Donating to Mercy High

When you make a donation to Mercy High School through the Annie B's Community Drive, we can take advantage of an incredible grant program from North Valley Community Foundation (NVCF).

This is how it works.

North Valley Community Foundation has committed to granting up to \$200,000 this year to our local nonprofits. In order to receive a portion of these funds Mercy High School needs to raise money from our organizations' friends from August 1 through September 30. These donations will be sent to NVCF earmarked for Mercy High School. Literally, you will make the check out to "Annie B's/Mercy High School".

One hundred percent of the monies raised for Mercy High School through Annie B's Community Drive will go to further school programs. After September 30, NVCF will tally the total amount raised by all participating nonprofits and determine the percentage grant amounts that will be given.

In 2007, NVCF distributed \$102,000 in grants and the nonprofits collectively raised \$787,000, with percentage grants totaling 14%.

This is how your dollar will be worth more to Mercy High School than a dollar!!

Donations must be received by NVCF between August 1 and September 30 to be eligible for the grant program. NVCF is very flexible in the donations that can be accepted. Checks are most commonly used for donations, but donations can also be made online with your credit card. NVCF also accepts gift of stocks or equities, and can even accept gifts of real estate or other personal property of value.

Checks are made out to:

Annie B's/Mercy High School
Checks are mailed to:
North Valley Community Foundation
3120 Cohasset Road, Suite 8
Chico, CA 95973

Contributions can be made online at www.nvcf.org.



..., sponsor of the Annie B's Community Drive, is a nonprofit, philanthropic organization that community needs for residents in Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Tehama counties.)l and make your contribution through the Annie B's Community Drive.

lcomes dents

Mercy High's 2008-2009 school year has experienced an increase in student population due to the closing of fellow Catholic high school, Bishop Francis A. Quinn High School this last year. Seniors this year include: Ryan James, Allison Wong, Daniella Gutierrez, Shelby Duivenvoorden, Brandon Trapozzano, and Sarahminda Czajka. Ryan, Allison, Daniella, Shelby, and Sarahminda have been together since the sixth grade. Juniors are: Alaina Germano and Cameron Vietti. Sophomores from BQHS include: Natasha Czajka, Diana Van Ert, Chris Abel-Jones, and Laura Germano. Natasha, Diana, and Chris have also been at the same school since the sixth grade. BQ also included an honorary freshman, Maggie Keller, who is the daughter of the MHS junior varsity volleyball coach Candi Keller. (Mrs. Keller also taught Religion, AP English, 12 English, and was campus minister at Bishop Quinn.) Many Bishop Quinn students play several sports and will likely continue that tradition this year. Though BQ students have endured the heartbreaking experience of losing their beloved school, they are staying optimistic for the new year at the new school.

High schools use ACT results in evaluating the effectiveness of their instruction, planning changes and improvements in the curriculum. Colleges use ACT results in a variety of ways, admissions decisions, course placement, academic advising, and sometimes scholarships. A report sent to Mercy High School from ACT tracked the test scores of Mercy students over the last five years. In ALL areas of testing, Mercy students scored above the state average. ACT research has shown that it is the rigor of the course, that has the greatest impact on college readiness.



JV Football

JV football is a small team with big goals. Over the past several weeks, the JV team has been working hard and the coaches have set them up in the following positions; Sophomore positions are: Michael Uhalde, playing quarter back; Mitch Lopez; playing quarterback, tailback, and linebacker; Liam Dobson, playing tailback; Wesley Inman, playing offensive line and linebacker; Mitch Inman playing offensive line and defensive line; Sammy Kellar playing tight end and defensive end; Jared Walters playing offensive line and defensive line; Jarrett Gash playing tight end and linebacker; Wyatt Froome playing offensive line and defensive line; and Gabe Lange playing receiver and tailback. Freshman positions are: Chris Bartlett playing center and defensive line; Isaac Williams playing linebacker and receiver; Robbie Carillo playing offensive line and defensive line; and Logan Baer playing offensive line and defensive line. Their first game is on Saturday, August 30th against Los Molinos.

Varsity Football

The Mercy High Varsity football team is looking good this year. Senior Mike Burns will lead the team as quarterback and free safety. Eric Lindeman will play receiver, making great plays. Other seniors are Jerry Bartlett playing offensive line and defensive line, Kyle Crowley offensive line and linebacker, Carter Mudd as offensive line and linebacker, and Ryan James, a transfer student from Bishop Quinn playing offensive line and defensive line. All are seniors who are showing their skills leading the team. Juniors Ali Syed plays wide receiver and linebacker, Hector Rodriguez as running back and strong safety, Chris Rosauer as offensive line and defensive end, Mark Eachus wide receiver and defensive back. Scott and Pat Farmer the double threats with Scott playing running back and linebacker. Pat plays wide receiver and linebacker. Gabe Guerrero and Aaron Gash play offensive line and defensive line. To complete the team, sophomore Jeremie Jones plays running back and defensive back. "We're hoping for a large turnout and the support from our fans to go all the way!!" remarked Mike Burns.

Mercy High School's varsity football team starts the season off playing against Los Molinos on August 30th. The new head coach is Tim McKim, and the two assistant coaches are Tyler McKim and J.J. McKim. Assistant coaches include Jerry Bartlett, Sr., Doug Bauman, Steve Shellabarger, Coach Perry and Coach Scott. This season is looking promising and everyone is excited to see how the Warriors will do.

Mercy High's Varsity Football team exploded into the season with a bang at the Los Molinos Scrimmage on Saturday, August 23. The Warriors battled against Maxwell, Chester, and our perennial rivals Los Molinos High School. The Warriors first game was against Maxwell, which is ranked 2nd in Division 5 this year behind the Fall River Bulldogs. The Warriors went on to score once thanks to the combined efforts of Patrick Farmer, Michael Burns and the entire Mercy team, leaving Maxwell scoreless. The Warriors went on to challenge Chester and Los Molinos and tied with both teams. The Warriors may be small in numbers but no team can match our team spirit.



Swim Team



Mercy's swim team is back for another exciting year. Mercy welcomes former members as well as some new faces. The swim team will start out with a splash on September 4th at the Red Bluff relays.

This year we have three returning swimmers: Michael Estrada, swimming freestyle; Angie Poundstone, swimming backstroke; and Ryan Ward, swimming the dreaded 500 freestyle. We have six new students on the team this year who look to help better the team. They are Katie Sullivan, Kit Waits, Hanna Hederova, Marina Gist, Jennifer Payne, and Daniel Sandoval. Hope to see you all there at our meets!



Varsity Volleyball



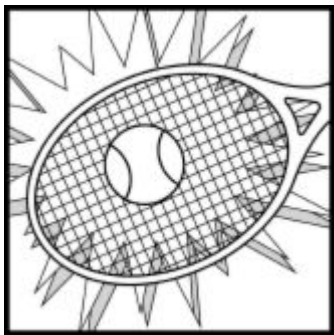
J.V. Volleyball

In the new upcoming season, the varsity volleyball team is looking sharp! With Zane Zelei returning to coach this season, the outcome of the varsity's success is looking up. The upcoming schedule shows games starting as early as September 2nd with home games on September 24th, October 7th, October 23rd, October 30th, and November 6th. All games start at 5:30 for junior varsity and then at 7:00 for Varsity.

Tryouts for varsity volleyball were Monday, August 25th. There were ten spots available on the team and ten girls tried out, meaning no one was cut. The team includes returning Mercy students and new Bishop Quinn students. Seniors Christina Ordorica and Allison Wong will lead the team as captains and the other players include Maureen Dorsett, Camille Gunsauls, and Daniella Gutierrez. Benicia Grace, Gaby Reynoza, Missy Grens, Marta Espinosa and Alaina Germano will join them as juniors. The team is very excited for this season and expects to be very successful.

Junior varsity volleyball is ready for a new year with a new coach. Coach Keller is ready to have a good season with the young lady warriors. She is coming from Bishop Quinn where she was the volleyball coach for both varsity and junior varsity. She was also a teacher at Bishop Quinn.

The following girls are on the Mercy High junior varsity volleyball team: Camille Crowley, Natasha Czajka, Giselle Espinosa, Jennifer Gentry, Maggie Keller, Alex McFadyen, Kayleigh Mincer, Emyleigh Nelson, Ashley Raschke, Julene Stokes, Diana VanErt. Their first match is at Pierce High school on Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 5:30. Coach Keller's goal is for the girls to have the experience of playing many positions. The team would love to see all of their Mercy fans at their first tournament on Saturday, Sept. 6th at Red Bluff High School.



Girls Tennis

This years Mercy High Girls tennis team is off to a great start! Practices started Monday, August 25th, and our first game is on September 12th against Orland. "I'm really excited for this year's tennis team. I really enjoy playing matches and playing with the other girls on the team," stated returning player, Audra Muller. Other returning players are Mariha Lowe, Jacqueline Cendejas, Teresa Francis, and Sienna Retzer. The new members of the girls tennis team are Emily Crowley, Laura Germano, Lora Trout, and Tatiana Hernandez. Jim Weber returns as our coach. The tennis team is working hard, staying sharp, and preparing for our first match. Wish us luck! --- *Mariha Lowe*

School Picnic! Sept. 16th

Please bring the following according to the first letter of your last name:

| | |
|-----|---------|
| A-F | Water |
| G-M | Soda |
| N-S | Chips |
| T-Z | Cookies |

Are your students being prepared for college at Mercy High School?

Mercy High School recently received a report that reflects the achievements of our graduates on the ACT over time and an indication of the extent to which they are prepared for college-level work. The ACT consists of curriculum-based tests of educational development in English, mathematics, reading, and science designed to measure the skills needed for success in first year college coursework.

This report shows that Mercy High students taking the ACT to be **above** the State level over the past five years. In English Composition and Social Science our students were rated in the 91% of students ready for college-level coursework. We were also well above state levels in Algebra and Biology. Your student is being well prepared here at

