

St. Mary's Messenger



A newsletter of St. Mary's Catholic School



A ministry of St. Mary's of the Assumption Church

Tech Lab gets a make-over

Thanks to an anonymous alumnus, St. Mary's was able to completely renovate and upgrade our technology lab this summer. With the help of this \$15,000 donation, we purchased 25 new computer desks and chairs, 25 new HP desktops with Microsoft Windows 7 and Microsoft 2010 Office Suite, two network printers and a 55" flat panel TV monitor with BluRay® and cable service. This classroom now



provides our students with the technological resources they need. As we prepare our students for the 21st century jobs they will compete for, we align our curriculum to educate our students for the future. This technology lab is just one of the ways we do this.

A Welcome Facelift



After over a decade, the St. Mary's School lobby underwent a much needed makeover. Thanks to the continued kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Brown, longtime benefactors of St. Mary's School who funded this renovation, the lobby walls and floor were ripped out and replaced with a beautiful, natural stone. The statue of our Blessed Mother Mary now has a marble backdrop and a tiled pedestal. In addition, at the insistence of a alumnus, the traditional bench, which graced the lobby for many,

many years, was refinished by Mr. Steve O'Donnell, a parent and school board member. We are truly blessed to have the support of so many families like the Browns and the O'Donnells, all of whom assist us in the preservation of our school and its traditions.

Letter From the Principal

Dear Friends,

I had a conversation recently with a woman who is currently one of our substitute teachers. Her name is Mrs. Harnett and she is a retired teacher and former Catholic School principal from downstate New York. For several years she also taught in public school. I stopped in the third grade classroom to see how things were progressing for her and she told me she felt "back at home" at St. Mary's. She had forgotten how wonderful it feels to be in a school where we begin and end our day in prayer. I couldn't agree with Mrs. Harnett more. Though it is often difficult to articulate, she hit the nail on the head....being able to make prayer and our faith in God such a prominent part of our day is truly a blessing. I believe it is the single greatest factor in determining how our children learn to live with, love and treat one another.

Our middle school students again hosted a Charity Softball Game this month. 8th grade students took on the St. Mary's Faculty at the St. Mary's Athletic Fields on Middletown Road for the benefit of Waterford families affected by Tropical Storms Irene and Lee and the subsequent flooding. This is just another example of how we instill in our students the mission of our founding order, the Sisters of Mercy, "to live in service to others".

Throughout this issue, you will read stories about friends of St. Mary's School who have come to our assistance. These are alumni or former parents who have made sizable donations to the school, investing in our school's future. We are reaching out to all in our community; alumni, former parents, and parents to join with them in this investment. We are beginning a Capital Campaign 2011-2014, with the hope that improvements and renovations can be made to the school, the parish, and the hall. If you are able to assist us in this endeavor and want more information on how you can help, please contact me at the school office.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous autumn season. May God bless you and your family with all His choicest blessings.

Prayerfully yours,

Mary Rushkoski

Annual ziti dinner a big hit!

On October 21st the St. Mary's PTO hosted an Italian ziti and meatball dinner. This is a favorite event among St. Mary's families. Our own Chef Tony cooks and the St. Mary's teachers serve dinner! Thanks to everyone who joined us for a night of food, family and friends

Coming up...

Oct 28th - Haunted House hosted by 6th and 7th grade

November - Thanksgiving Food drive for the Little Sisters of the Poor

Nov 1st, 9:30am - All Saints Day Liturgy (8th graders to assist with the Mass)

Dec 8th - Christmas Concert at the Knickerbacker Middle School

Dec 22nd - 9:30am - Christmas Mass



At St. Mary's School we are blessed to have many talented and devoted Faculty and Staff members who help our children grow in mind, body and spirit, each and every day. Learn more about our newest teacher, Sr. Ann Elizabeth.



Why did you choose to be a teacher?

I wanted to be a teacher from the time I was eight years old. School was always a positive experience for me. I also love children, and I wanted to help them be the best they can be. I always wanted to be a Catholic School teacher because I believe firmly in educating the whole child, and that includes educating them spiritually. I have never regretted my decision to be a Catholic School teacher for even one moment. That's why, when God called me to religious life, I knew I wanted to be in a community of Sisters who are also teachers.

What do you love about our school?

In the short time I have been here at St. Mary's, I have felt very welcomed by the students, faculty, and parents. There is a strong sense of family and community here. I myself am from a small town and parish community, and I come from a large and close-knit family, so the family atmosphere is something I value highly. I love being so close to the parish church, too, and seeing the solid relationship between the school and the parish. These are elements of St. Mary's School that make it a great place for children to be educated.

Where did you teach prior to St. Mary's?

I am Canadian, so I taught in the Province of Ontario, Canada, until I entered the Sisters of the Resurrection in 2008 here in Castleton, NY. I have taught all grades between Grade Two and Grade Six, always in Catholic Schools. I also did lots of substitute teaching at St. Brigid's School (now closed) in Watervliet, NY, during the 2008-2009 school year, which was a very positive experience for me. Although I was a substitute teacher, I was there almost every day, so I got to know the students very well.

What are your hobbies?

I love to read and go for walks. I play guitar and sing. I enjoy cooking and baking, especially baking bread. I also crochet afghans, which is a skill I have learned since entering religious life. When I am visiting my family in Ontario, I enjoy spending time with my 7 nieces and nephews. We are a family who loves playing cards, board games and we rent a cottage together every summer, as we also like to swim and fish.

What else do you want us to know about you?

I have just made my first (temporary) vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, on August 15th, 2011. Before entering the Sisters of the Resurrection, in addition to my work as a Catholic School teacher, I was also involved extensively in Parish Ministry, especially RCIA and High School Youth Ministry. I enjoy my new teaching position immensely, and I am particularly pleased to be teaching Religion to the Grade Four and Five classes. Most of the Sisters who live with me at our Provincial House in Castleton are retired teachers, and they look forward to hearing about the students and St. Mary's each day at dinner. Thank you for welcoming me to St. Mary's School.

Charity Softball Game

On Thursday October 7th the St. Mary's 8th grade class organized the second annual Middle School vs. Faculty Charity Softball Game. The proceeds of the game benefited the Waterford Flood Relief. In all, through admission, concession, 50/50 and donations we were able to raise \$1273.85 .

The game was very competitive as both teams scored a run in the first inning. The game stayed tied until the Faculty plated three runs to take a 4-1 lead. That inning was good enough to give the Faculty their second straight win in the event's history.

The eighth graders would like to thank everyone who helped with the event. The game would not have been a success without everyone who volunteered their time to play, coach, bake or come out to cheer on their favorite St. Mary's teachers!



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