



# St. Mary's Messenger

A newsletter of St. Mary's Catholic School



A ministry of St. Mary of the Assumption Church



## Sprint for St. Mary's

The students of St. Mary's were off and running again in May with huge grins on their faces. Why were they so happy to run? The annual Sprint for St. Mary's is the answer. For four years St. Mary's students have been running to raise money to upgrade the technology in their school. In past years the students have raised enough money to buy ten new computers and four Smartboards. This year should be no exception. With the support of family and friends, as their sponsors to run, the students raised over \$15,000 by running 794 miles! Even more important than the improvements to

the technological resources of St. Mary's School is the pure joy of the students, as evidenced on their faces and their efforts to run 3,176 laps, from being involved in an event where the families of the students come out to cheer on the children as they sprint for their school.

## Invention Convention

The Invention Convention, a statewide invention education program for students, is held each year to encourage young minds to solve problems with imagination and creativity. The competition is broken into four regions of the state. This year there were over 1,300 applicants in the Capital District. 100 semi-finalist were chosen in March. Four of those semi-finalists were St. Mary's students. Congratulations to Anthony Atalla, Emily Spoor, Kyrstin Messier and Elsie Stalker! The students had their inventions on display at the Schenectady Museum and Suits-Bueche Planetarium for the month of May. They were also invited to attend a reception where the 25 winners were announced. Anthony, Kyrstin and Emily were among the 25 winners. St. Mary's is growing the innovators and problem solvers of tomorrow!



## Letter from the Principal

Dear Friends,

*Over \$15,000! That is the astonishing amount of money raised this May in our annual Sprint for St. Mary's. When I think of this event however, I see more than the dollar amount raised. I see the commitment on the part of parents, grandparents and others in our community to improve our school. In a time of budget cuts and financial woes in the public school sector, our community has been blessed with the support of so many people who truly value the education their children and grandchildren receive. I also see the 50 plus parents and grandparents who joined us that morning at the Waterford Halfmoon School track, to cheer us on or lend a hand. Thank you all for your support of this event and for all the events and fundraising efforts this past year. I would also like to thank the folks at the Waterford Halfmoon School District for the use of their facility and their assistance in scheduling this event. These funds will be used again this year to upgrade technology in the school and continue to outfit our classrooms with SmartBoard® technology.*

*As I write this letter, we have just ten days until our 8th graders will graduate. Knowing most of our graduates since kindergarten, I am amazed to see how they have grown into such capable and compassionate young men and women. Like their parents, I am very proud of them. But I am also proud of the school which helped to bring about this growth and change.*

*As we break for the summer, I wish you all a wonderful summer recess. May God continue to watch over you and your family in the weeks of rest ahead and may He bestow upon you His blessings of peace and good health.*

*Prayerfully yours,  
Mary Ruszkoski,*

### First Holy Communion

Congratulations to this year's First Holy Communion class! Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> was a beautiful day to celebrate mass and day with family and friends. Miss Norton and Mrs. DelSignore have been working with the children all year, preparing



for this joyous day. Everyone did wonderfully. Over the course of the year, the children learned about the Sacraments, leading up to this day. The children and their families enjoyed a special breakfast reception the following Friday. The children had a class photo taken to remember this momentous occasion. First Holy Communion is a big step in the Catholic Faith. We are all so happy for these beautiful children!

## Mother/Son Event

Smiles were broad, and shrills of delight were heard throughout FunPlex Funpark during the annual Mother/Son event, which was held on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. A total of 59\* people (31 students from grades Pre-K through 8, plus 28 Moms) attended the fun, outdoor event. Fortunately, the weather was on our side during the day. Originally scheduled for Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, due to inclement weather, the event was moved to the main date of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Although the skies were overcast, the weather was dry and FunPlex was hopping, which made for a terrific setting and a great time!

For 3 fun-filled hours, Moms and boys got to choose the activities that they wanted to participate in, including go-karts, batting cages, basketball, mini-golf, rock climbing, the bungee trampoline, bumper boats, the bouncy bounce, the Funhouse and more. The favorite activity appeared to be the go-karts and mini go-karts, where Moms and sons were competitively cruising along the racetrack to see who would make it to the finish line first! Baseballs were heard cracking against the bats in the batting cages and many sons and moms were seen trying to hone their skills on the mini-golf course. Those who seemed to enjoy the possibility of getting wet jumped at the chance to ride the bumper boats, where they got to squirt water at each other and navigate their crafts directly under the water shooting from the spouts! Many of the boys thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they dove into the Funhouse ball pit and jumped around in the bouncy bounce. Everyone took a short break for a pizza lunch at the picnic tables, and then it was back to more playtime before the event was over. All in all, a very successful event!



## Father Daughter Dance!

The annual Father-Daughter dance was held on April 30 in the hall. There were 92 girls and 77 dads. Pre-K girls were included this year, and of the 92 girls who attended, 9 were members of the Pre-K class. Everyone seemed to have a good time.

A few highlights of the evening were a TV theme song contest and a limbo contest. The DJ later passed out glow stick necklaces and beads to the girls, then requested that the lights be turned down. Multi colored disco-type lights flashed around the room while the music played. It was a lot of fun!

Mrs. Rushkoski stopped by for a visit, and while she was there, drew the names of our many father & daughter door prize winners.

Special thanks to Price Chopper for their gift certificate donation that was used toward the purchase of refreshments for the dance, to Hoffman's Car Wash and Country Drive-In for their donations of gift certificates that were used for door prizes for the dads, and to Stewart's for their donation of certificates for free ice cream cones that were used for the favor bags for the girls.



## Day of Recollection

Our graduating 8th graders spent a beautiful May day in the Berkshire mountains at the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. How fitting that our graduates should spend the day at Divine Mercy, a shrine which promotes loving devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and honors Our Lady who means so much to our school community. The day began with a quiet mass in the Chapel, celebrated by our pastor, Fr. Kelley. This was followed by a tour of the Shrine and an afternoon of recollection on the part of our 8th graders, who were able to enjoy the Grottos and memorials on the Shrine's 350 acres. Especially meaningful to our graduates was the poignant letters they received from family members and friends, expressing what they felt the graduates needed to hear at this important time of transition in their lives. This retreat day will become a St. Mary's tradition for years to come, as both family and graduates felt it was a special way to reflect on their experiences here at St. Mary's School.



## Boston Bound

St. Mary's Class of 2011 will soon be traveling to Boston, MA for their field trip. The class members and their chaperones plan on visiting the Boston Museum of Science, the Theater of Electricity, the New England Aquarium, and Quincy Market. They also plan on seeing an Imax movie in the Mugar Omni Theater, and having dinner at Durgin Park. The class held bake sales and raffles throughout the school year to help offset the cost of the trip.

## 9th Annual L. Scott Cuomo Golf Tournament

Parents, parishioners, teachers and friends will again tee up on June 23rd at the 9th Annual L. Scott Cuomo Golf Tournament. Each year about 130 golfers turn out at the Van Patten Golf Course in Jonesville, New York in support of our school. Registrations are still being accepted for this wonderful event. The day includes light fare for breakfast, lunch at the turn, a buffet dinner and an Auction with door prizes. For more information on the event, contact the school office or visit us online.



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