As we move towards the holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas, it is a great time for being with family and stressing the importance of Jesus in all of our lives. Being thankful, being thoughtful, and doing works of kindness are important acts that need to be shared with our families, friends and acquaintances. It is also a time of the year when stress runs high for students, staff and parents. Understanding this and finding quality time is important in order to keep stress down and the enjoyment of the season high.

Congratulations are in order for Ryan Moser who authored and won a $3,344 grant from Trust Management, Inc., for adding technology to our science program. Also, to Jeff Simons for gaining a $250.00 grant from Bring Recycling for his program here at Marist High School.

Our students’ success on the athletic front continues; both soccer teams reached the state quarterfinals, our volleyball team finished in 4th place at the state tournament, and our football team has continued to advance in the playoffs. At the same time, boys and girls basketball and swimming have begun practices for their upcoming seasons. Congratulations are in order for Mike Allison, as he has been named to the Executive Council of the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association for a three-year period. Our cheerleaders and dance team are continuing to prepare for their state competitions that occur after the first of the year.

Cindy Roelofs has begun the accreditation work with our staff, and will be working with students and Advisory Council members in the upcoming months. The work involves assessment of the school’s mission effectiveness, institutional accreditation, and strategic planning over the next 3 to 5 years. This report will be shared with an accreditation visitation team next November.

In closing, I need to clarify my own position as Principal of Marist High School. I will be working through the end of the school year. This is to dispel rumors that I am leaving at Thanksgiving or after Christmas.

Until next month, may God’s blessings shine on all of you!

Doug Orton
Principal
PROGRESS REPORT GRADES
December 5th marks the end of the second progress report period. Those grades will be mailed during the week of December 8th. Remember that these grades show work-to-date for the second quarter that ends on January 16th.

The Christmas Break is a wonderful time for everyone to enjoy family and friends and experience the joy of the season. It is Marist policy that homework assigned should have a due date that allows the student enough time prior to or after the break to complete, so that vacation time should not be spent entirely doing homework. In the subject areas of foreign language and math, however, work may be given with the idea of keeping skills fresh.

During the break students are encouraged to take the time to reorganize materials in preparation for the remainder of second quarter and cumulative semester exams during the week of January 20-23. Old tests, notes, and study guides are good things to keep to use in studying for finals. A good rule of thumb is not to throw anything out - just put it in order - until after exams are taken.

SEMESTER EXAMS—LOOKING AHEAD
All academic courses include comprehensive final exams as part of the curricula. These exams comprise 20% of the semester grade.

Family vacations, college trips, etc., should be scheduled after finals have been taken. A $25.00 fee will be added to each test for students who will miss exams for non-emergency/non-school sponsored reasons.

Rescheduling of final exams with no charge will occur in the following cases:
⇒ When the student is participating in a scheduled school event;
⇒ For unavoidable family emergencies;
⇒ For illness.

Rescheduled exams will be made up prior to the absence. In cases of illness or emergencies, tests will be scheduled as soon as possible on the student’s return during after-school hours.

Students requesting early administration of semester exams must meet with the Assistant Principal at least one month prior to exam dates.

ABSENCE FOR EVENTS
Marist is blessed with great athletic teams who consistently compete in play-off games. Frequently parents call and ask for guidelines for allowing their student to attend these types of athletic events scheduled during the school day. Although it is important for our teams to feel support of their peers, we suggest that attendance is a privilege and we offer these questions to help a parent’s decision:
• Has your student attended games during the regular season and is a fan of the sport?
• Is your student in good standing behaviorally at school?
• Is your student in good standing academically?
• Has your student missed fewer than five days in the current semester?

If you can answer “yes” to each of these questions, then attendance to support a team playing in an important competition, during the school day, might be a reasonable choice. The parent then needs to send a note asking for the student to be released to attend. Please be aware that although the events are all supervised for student safety, attendance of released students is not verified.

It would be advisable not to endorse a student attendance at an event during the school day if your student:
• Has had a recent behavior issue - especially one involving missing classes.
• Struggles academically (under a 3.0 GPA) and/or is assigned to Mandatory Study.
• Has an important test/project/paper/presentation due on the day of the event.
• Has missed more than five days in the current semester.

It is Marist policy that when classes are held, important work is being done. On a day when several others are missing from class it may be an excellent time for students to have one-on-one time with a teacher or get caught up on work, tests, etc. If a parent has a question about allowing a student to miss school, a call to a specific teacher in a subject of concern is always recommended.
Since school began this past September, it has come to our attention that on several occasions students have brought airsoft and paintball guns onto our campus. The initial reaction that any type of gun was brought to Marist has caused concern and was immediately investigated. In each case, thankfully, the investigation has proven to involve non-lethal guns. Airsoft guns and paintball guns, however, often are alarmingly realistic in appearance, particularly so if viewed from a distance.

Due to the reaction caused by these guns, Marist High School will, effective immediately, ban them from any part of our property. Please be aware that this includes the parking lot. Guns of any kind are not to be carried in student cars.

This is not an issue that we feel can be taken casually. Therefore, the ban will be vigorously enforced. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jose da Silva at 686-2234.

A year or so ago one of the residents from the retirement center located at the corner of Kingsley Road and Goodpasture Island Road was hit by a car and killed. Taking this fatality into consideration, we would like to remind our parents and students that Marist has adopted a measure in an attempt to prevent students from taking a “shortcut” through the retirement center parking lot. A violation of this measure will result in temporary suspension of driving privileges on the Marist campus. A second violation will result in driving privileges on the Marist campus being revoked permanently. Any type of reckless driving, especially speeding and driving on the wrong side of the islands on Kingsley Road, will result in the consequences mentioned above - WITHOUT WARNING!
MARIST RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Marist community is invited to recycle its newspapers in the new newspaper recycling boxes that the Eugene Mission is dropping off at the eastside parking area. The school receives a payment per ton of newspaper.

In addition, the Eugene Mission recycles its paper for post consumer products. The Mission is able to help meet its goals of helping the homeless more easily with newspaper donations.

Thank you in advance for help with this, and if you have questions, please feel free to contact Jeff Simons at 686-2234.

MARIST CAFE

A special thank you to all of the moms who volunteer in the Marist kitchen; the service you provide our kids is so important and appreciated by all.

Thanks also to the Friday football moms who have done a great job with kitchen clean-up after the weekly football dinners.

Due to the abuse of a privilege, the students are now unable to charge their break or lunch items. Lunch tickets are available @ $25.00 (for $27.00 worth of food). Tickets may be purchased in the cafeteria.

Toni still needs volunteers to help with food prep and serving in the cafeteria, especially on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. If you can help, please contact Toni Lindberg @ 686-2234.

MARIST LIBRARY NEEDS VOLUNTEER HELP!

Volunteer help is needed on Tuesdays from 2:30-3:30 p.m., to monitor the Library after school. This time could be split between two volunteers (i.e., work every other Tuesday).

Call Robin Younger at 344-2525 for questions or if you can help. Thank you!

THEATER DEPARTMENT NEEDS SEAMSTRESSES...

Do you sew? Would you like to receive volunteer hours for helping to make simple costumes, such as tunic tops and the like for theater productions? If so, please contact Joyce Kenney, Theater Director, at the Marist Ticket Office (681-5490). If there is no answer, leave your name and phone number on the message machine and she will call you back.

HO, HO, HO! 'TIS THE SEASON TO SHOP AT THE MARIST MERCANTILE!

Pre-order your winter fleece now. Styles include our popular 1/4 zip pullover and our full-zip fleece.

Also available are the ever-popular reversible vests, fleece blankets, and our headbands and knit caps that are going like wildfire and loved by the students.

Now on sale! Navy polo shirts at $17.00, and the button-down Oxford shirts for $20.00: both with the Marist logo on them.

See Mrs. May in the Marist Front Office to shop for your holiday gifts.
ATTENTION COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS!

IDENTIFY PRIORITIES

The first step in selecting a school is to know what’s important to you. While everyone’s priorities may be different, consider the following when making your choice:

♦ **Curriculum**
  Does the school offer the courses/majors I want? Do I want to take advantage of special programs, like study abroad and internships?

♦ **Size**
  Do I want to be on a big campus with many majors and lots to do? Are large lectures with hundreds of students or small classes with more student participation better?

♦ **Location**
  Am I interested in a big-city or a small-town setting? Which part of the country would I like to experience? Or, do I want to stay close to home so I can visit frequently?

♦ **Admission Requirements**
  What does the school require for admission and look for in prospective students? What are my chances of being accepted?

♦ **Cost**
  What will it cost? Are federal or other types of financial aid available? How many students receive scholarships?

♦ **Quality of Education**
  How accessible are the professors? Will graduate students or professors teach my courses? Is the school accredited?

♦ **Facilities**
  Is transportation on and around the campus easy to get to? What would I like on or near my campus? Are restaurants and stores important? What about laundry rooms, libraries, and computer labs?

♦ **Athletics**
  Are intramural, club, and varsity sports offered? How are the sports facilities and coaches?

♦ **Campus Life**
  How is life outside the classroom? What special interest groups, activities, fraternities/sororities are available? Does the school offer a variety of meal plans? Would I have a roommate or live alone? What is the quality of dorm life?

♦ **Campus Security**
  What measures are taken to ensure my safety? How safe is the campus and its surrounding neighborhoods?

♦ **Retention and Graduation Rates**
  Retention rate is the percentage of students who stay for four years. Graduation rate is the percentage who graduate within four years. High rates indicate that students were satisfied with their school experience.

WEB RESOURCES

♦ **College Admissions**
  > College Search ......................... www.fastweb.com
  > NACAC ................................. www.nacac.com
  > College Prep Calendar .................. www.nacac.com/p&s.html#calendar
  > Steps to College ...................... www.nacac.com/p&s_steps.html
  > Trends & Space Surveys ................ www.nacac.com/research.html

♦ **Information**
  > Access America for Students .............. www.students.gov
  > Adventures in Education .................. www.adventuresineducation.org
  > American School Director ................ www.asd.com
  > Campus Safety ......................... www.securityoncampus.org
  > Chronicle of Higher Ed ................... www.chronicle.com
  > College is Possible ...................... www.collegeispossible.org
WEB RESOURCES CONTINUED . . .

- Information Cont... ↓
  > Council on Law in Higher Ed. . . . . . www.clhe.org
  > Education News . . . . . . . . . www.educationnews.org
  > Education Week . . . . . . . . . www.edweek.org
  > ERIC Educational Resources Info Center . . . . www.eric.ed.gov
  > Gateway to Ed Materials. . . . . . . . . . www.thegateway.org
  > Trio Program. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . www.trioprograms.org
  > U.S. Department of Ed . . . . . . . . . www.ed.gov

- Choosing a Major/Career ↓
  > Monster (Job Search). . . . . . . . . . . . . . www.monster.com
  > Career Planning . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . www.fastweb.com
  > America’s Career Infonet. . . . . . . . . . www.acinet.org
  > Bureau of Labor Statistics . . . . . . . . . stats.bis.gov
  > Occupational Outlook Handbook. . . . . . . www.bis.gov/oco

A student's counselor is one of his/her best resources as they plan for college. Mrs. Pimental has information about admission tests, college preparation, and the student's education and career options. Here are some basic questions to help get the conversation started:

⇒ What are the required and recommended courses—for graduation and for college prep?
⇒ How should I plan my schedule so I’ll complete them?
⇒ Which AP courses are available?
⇒ When is the PSAT/NMSQT going to be given here?
⇒ Is this school a testing center for the SAT, or will I need to go somewhere nearby?
⇒ Do you have any after-school or evening sessions available for college planning, or the SAT?
⇒ Do you have college handbooks or other guides that I can browse or borrow? Do you have a copy of the free Taking the SAT booklet, which has practice tests in it?
⇒ What activities can I do at home and over the summer to get ready for college?
⇒ What kinds of grades do different colleges require?
⇒ Are there any college fairs at this school, or nearby?
⇒ Where do other kids from this school attend college?
⇒ What are the requirements or standards for the honor society?

⇒ Can you put me in touch with recent grads who are going to the colleges on my wish list?
⇒ Do you have any information to help me start exploring my interests and related careers?
⇒ If my colleges need a recommendation from you, how can I help you know me better, so it can be more personal?
⇒ Are there any special scholarships or awards that I should know about now, so I can work toward them?
⇒ Can I see my transcript as it stands now, to see if everything is as I think it should be?
⇒ Do you have any forms I need to apply for financial aid?
⇒ How does our school compare to others, in terms of test scores and reputation?

REALITY √:
Your student’s guidance counselor may be the most wonderful and accessible person on the planet, or she or he may be juggling a thousand students and barely know your name. So remember that the person who has the biggest stake in their academics is YOUR student. It’s up to them to stay on top of opportunities and deadlines, to take control of their future.
THANKS AGAIN!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

• PREVIEW DAY (January 10). Volunteers will be needed to help in various ways at our Preview Day open house. Please call Terrie at 686-2234 or email tclemens@marisths.org, if you would like to help with this important event.

• LITTER PICK-UP at home basketball games. Go on line at www.marisths.org to get a list of the dates of the home games. We need volunteers to pick up litter in the stands after JV & Varsity home games. Call Terrie @ 686-2234 to sign up.

• THEATER DEPARTMENT is looking for seamstresses to help sew simple tunic tops for costumes. Call Joyce Kenney at 681-5490.

For up-to-date volunteer opportunities go on line to www.marisths.org.
SERVICE NEWS

Many opportunities to serve are available during the month of December. Please encourage your student to take advantage of helping the needy and disadvantaged during this Advent and Christmas season. Preparing and serving holiday dinners to the homeless, wrapping gifts for the poor, sorting and packing food boxes for the hungry, and assisting with Christmas parties for children in need are just some examples. Juniors and Seniors should check the Campus Ministry Board outside of the cafeteria for updates on opportunities, read the daily written announcements, and see Mr. Hendricks for places and dates regarding these service placements.

All Juniors and Seniors should have begun service by this time. Remember, journal checks occur after the 15th and 45th hour of service; conferences occur after the 30th and 65th hour of service. Conferences are held every Wednesday after school in the Chapel—just show up. Failure to comply with these checkpoints may result in a loss of hours.

Notices will be sent out in the December Progress Reports to all Seniors regarding their service status currently on record in the Campus Ministry Office.

RETREAT NEWS

The first two ENCOUNTERS have now taken place, and what a great time we had! For those Junior and Senior boys and girls who have not gone yet, be sure to note the dates for the final opportunities for this year - you don’t want to miss the Encounter! The next BOYS ENCOUNTER will take place FEBRUARY 21-23, and the next GIRLS ENCOUNTER will take place FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1. Students may sign up at any time for the Encounters. See Mrs. Baker, Mr. Martin or Mr. Oldham for more information.

Information on this year’s SENIOR METANOIA retreats will come out in December. Seniors are invited to attend their choice of three available dates. Come and check out your final opportunity for retreating as a class. Dates are January 23-25, January 30-February 1, and February 13-15. See Mr. DePaoli or Mr. Chronister for more information.
“I WISH I MAY, I WISH I MIGHT, HAVE THE WISH I WITH TONIGHT...”

Unlike other school systems, Marist High School has to look to the generosity of its parents and the local community when it comes to supplying our teachers with a piece of equipment they would like to have to help them in their class, or stock the health room with a wheelchair that actually works, and so on. These things are not in the budget, and likely will never be in the budget!

Would you like to help fulfill a staff member’s dream? Just log on to www.marisths.org and view the Marist “Wish List” for ideas of how you can help to bring a smile to a teacher or staff member’s face.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

Registration has begun for the Sophomore Boys’ Retreat to be held December 13-14. Registration is $30. For more information please contact Mr. Nuxoll at Marist (686-2234).

NOTE: This is a change in dates to avoid potential conflict with football playoffs.

UPDATE FROM PALS...

Thanks again to all of the wonderful Marist parents who worked on the Annual Calendar Party. It was a huge success.

► Congratulations to Blake Westling, Julie Trotter and Chris Nowak who received PALs scholarships in the amount of $500 each for their strong commitment to volunteer service above and beyond the requirements of Marist High School.

► The College Faire was a great success. Thanks go out to Stacey Biegler and her crew for helping with hospitality.

► PALs is still looking for a Junior and a Senior parent to complete our parent representation to the PALs Board. Please call Karen Evans at 998-3065 if you are interested. Volunteer hours are given for this.

► The PALs organization is pleased to support Marist’s SAFE: Teen Program via the important workshops that were held in November. Thank you to those PALs members who helped with that vital event.

► Our next event will be the coordination of a Marist community event with the Spartan Club. Look for more information in the next Marist newsletter issue.
SYMBOLS OF THE SEASON

“Just a week before Christmas I had a visitor. I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room and, to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree. He placed a finger over his mouth so I would not cry out.

‘What are you doing, I started to ask?’ The words choked up in my throat, as I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement, ‘Teach the children.’ I was puzzled; what did he mean?

He anticipated my question, and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood there bewildered Santa said, ‘Teach the children! Teach them the meaning of Christmas. The meaning that children nowadays have forgotten!’

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a fir tree and placed it before the mantle. ‘Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year around, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind. All the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man’s thoughts toward heaven.’

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant star. ‘Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a savior for the world, and the star was the sign of the fulfillment of that promise.’

He then reached in his bag and pulled out a candle. ‘Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of He who displaced the darkness.’

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a wreath and placed it on the tree. ‘Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the eternal nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round.

He then pulled out from his bag an ornament of himself. ‘Teach the children that I, Santa Claus, symbolize the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December.’

He reached in again and pulled out a holly leaf. ‘Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the Crown of Thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly berries represent the blood shed by Him.

Next he pulled out a gift from the bag and said, ‘Teach the children that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...Thanks be to God for His wondrous gift. Teach the children that the Wise Men bowed before the Holy Babe and presented Him with gold, frankincense and myrrh.’

We should always give gifts in the same spirit as the Wise Men. ‘Santa reached in his bag and pulled out a candy cane and hung it on the tree. ‘Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherd’s crook. The crook on the shepherd’s staff helps to bring back strayed sheep to the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brother’s keeper.’

He reached in again and pulled out an angel. ‘Teach the children that it was the Angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior’s birth. The Angels sang Glory to God in the Highest, on earth, peace, and good will toward men.’

Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, from his bag he pulled out a bell. ‘Teach the children that the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, and it should bring man back to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return.’

Santa looked back at the tree and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, ‘Teach the children the true meaning of Christmas, and to not put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant of the One That Is, and I bow down and worship Him, our Lord, our God.”

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
The Marist High School Staff
Please note that the Front Office staff will not be answering telephone calls from 8:00 to 8:10 a.m., each day in order to participate in morning prayer with our students and staff.

Thank you!