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December 2012



A prayer for our Marist families

The Marist staff prays that this Advent season brings joy to your heart. A joy to uplift you when your spirit feels low; a joy to refresh you when your life feels weary; a joy to sustain you when your days feel empty; the joy of knowing that God is with you this Christmas and always.

School-wide outreach

Congratulations and thank you for helping Marist exceed its goal for the "Five for the Feast" project. We delivered a check for \$3,225.00 to the Eugene Mission to assist with their annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Ours was the largest donation they received for that purpose and Executive Director, Jack Tripp, was deeply touched and very, very grateful for our support. Good work!

Annual Christmas Project The first week of December will mark the beginning of the 2012 Christmas Project which will be sponsored by our Theology Department and the National Honor Society. This program will support Catholic Community Services by means of "adopting" twenty-seven (27) of their client families. Each of our twenty-seven Theology classes will do its best to help brighten Christmas for its adopted family.

- [Marist on Twitter](#)
- [Marist Blog](#)

More details will follow in your students' Theology classes.

Thank you so much!

The Counselors' Corner

Summer opportunities for all students!

For students of all grade levels interested in participating in a unique or enriching summer experience, there is a long list of opportunities in [Naviance](#). Travel abroad, pursue in-depth learning programs in a subject that interests you - Science, Math, Creative Writing, Theatre, and more - or volunteer somewhere. There are seemingly endless options!

Now is the time to do some research if you may be interested. >From your Naviance account, click on the "**Colleges**" tab, then click on the "**Enrichment Programs**" link.

Upcoming Brown Bag Lunches

Dec. 6: Law Enforcement with Chief Pete Kerns of the Eugene Police Department and Captain Mike Bloom of the Oregon State Police.

Dec. 13: Legal Profession with Judge Tom Coffin and Attorney, Joel Ford.

Sign up in the Counseling Center or by emailing Mr. Ragan at jragan@marisths.org

Peer Tutoring Program

The National Honor Society (NHS) is once-again sponsoring a peer tutoring service. Each Tuesday and Thursday from 2:45 PM to 3:15 PM, members of the NHS will be available in specific rooms to offer assistance to fellow students. If you have a student who is struggling in a subject, please encourage him/her to take advantage of this awesome opportunity.

- English - Rooms 400, 401
- Math - Rooms 304, 305
- Science - Rooms 308, 311
- History - Rooms 204, 205
- Foreign Language - Rooms 300, 301

Need information or have questions? Call (541-686-2234) or email Becky Boyd (bboyd@marisths.org) or Jerry Ragan (jragan@marisths.org).

Seniors

Students applying to four-year universities should complete and submit their applications by mid-December. There are

exceptions to this, which is discussed in individual student-counselor meetings, but for most students the sooner they finalize their college research and get applications submitted, the sooner they can turn more of their attention to scholarships and financial aid - not to mention enjoying everything that is unique about senior year!

It is especially important to get applications in soon for any schools that have a deadline that falls during our Christmas break, so students can let us know of any transcripts, letters of recommendation, or any other forms from Marist's side that they need us to submit in time. Lane and other community college applications can be completed in the spring.

Seniors should *always, always, always* update [Naviance](#) as soon as an application is completed. Seniors should already have an accurate list of schools in there that they are planning to apply to, but it is essential that seniors let us know that they have submitted an application to a particular college and requested a transcript. This is how we know to submit the school forms colleges require (letters of rec, transcript, school profile, etc).

Remember, too, that test scores, either SAT or ACT, need to be submitted from the testing agency directly to the college. Students make this request on the appropriate website (SAT= www.sat.collegeboard.org, and ACT= www.actstudent.org). Marist does not include this information on our transcript. See Court Wirth or Mrs. Chris Deffenbacher, Registrar, with any questions.

Financial Aid Night Thursday, Dec. 6

For parents and seniors, as the end of "Application Season" quickly approaches, the next step in the process of going to college takes center stage: *How do I pay for college once my child has been accepted?* For help on that end, our annual College Financial Aid night is coming up this **Thursday, Dec. 6 at 7 PM in the Bob Devereaux Theatre.**

This year, we are fortunate to have two reps from Portland State to present information relevant no matter what type of school you are planning to attend: public, private, a 4-year school or a community college. **Blake Red Elk** is an admissions rep and will be focusing primarily on how to pursue scholarship opportunities. **Matt Sagayaga** works in Portland State's Financial Aid Department and will cover filling out the FAFSA, work-study, student and parent loans, and more. They will also be available to answer specific questions that may be unique to your family financial situation.

This event is designed for both parents and students, as it is often *both* groups who will need to navigate the world of financial aid to help pay for college.

If you are planning to receive any outside funding sources to

help pay for college, I hope you can make it to this event!

Local scholarship opportunities are included in the "Scholarships List" in Naviance (found in the "Colleges" section). As Marist is notified of additional local scholarship opportunities for our students, they will be posted there.

January 1st is the first day for FAFSA forms to be filed. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov for the preliminary worksheet and then file online after midnight on Jan. 1. Also on that site, get a PIN (both parent and child) so that you have an account and can sign the FAFSA when you are ready to submit.

PSAT Results for Juniors

Juniors and their parents will have an opportunity to review the results of the PSAT which was administered to students in October. The results will be given to juniors when they during the second or third week of December. An Constant Contact email will follow these classroom presentations. The email will contain general things to think about and talk about relative to the PSAT results and what to do next.

Here are a few things to consider ahead of time:

1. The PSAT is a "moment in time" for a student and in no way an absolute predictor of future student success. However, research has shown that students who take the PSAT generally show higher SAT scores than those who do not.
2. The PSAT results will include access to **My College Quickstart** which enables students to examine careers and majors. A strong recommendation is to compare interest and career information from My College Quickstart to that outlined in the **PLAN** results from sophomore year and the results of the Naviance survey "Do What You Are". The points where these three independent and objective data sets intersect may provide valuable information and direction as students look to future plans for colleges, majors, and ultimately, careers.
3. The long holiday break is a perfect time to be doing some work in the Naviance program!

Sophomores

Recently, all sophomores attended a mini-session which took a look at future options and, in particular, the option of attending college.

The path to college is a "process, not an event." Thus, it is important that sophomores do some self-reflection over the course of this school year, thinking about strengths and weaknesses, interests and talents, the rewards of academic rigor versus taking the easy route.

To facilitate this self-reflection, all sophomores are asked to

complete several tasks on Naviance by the end of Christmas Break. They each received a **red card** which lists the following tasks:

- Game Plan
- Learning Style Inventory
- Personality Inventory ("Do What You Are")
- Résumé
- Career Interest Profiler

Having completed these tasks will be a great help in future planning. **Due date is Jan. 8, 2013.**

Freshmen

In their World History classes on Dec. 20 and 21, freshmen will participate in two informational sessions: **Naviance** and **How to Study for Final Exams**. The Naviance training will be an overview of the program and how it can be used to investigate, research, track and plan for the college admission process as well as provide applicable career information.

All freshmen should complete the Naviance **Learning Style Inventory** which consists of 45 questions. The program provides students, parents, and counselors important insights about how students learn. The on-line tool assesses how each of the following dimensions affects your student's learning:

- immediate environment
- emotionality
- sociological needs
- physical needs

The inventory takes approximately 30 minutes to complete and provides instant feedback.

Mrs. Shari Pimental, Freshman Counselor, asks all freshmen to have the Learning Style Inventory completed **by the end of January**.

The session **How to Study for Final Exams** will discuss preparation as well as strategies to help students be successful on their January finals. The handout given to students will also be available on [Mrs. Pimental's teacher web](#).

Staff Appreciation Days and "Cookie Cook-Off"

Here's some food for thought: Of the 6.2 million teachers in the U.S., 60 of the very best staff are cooking up great lessons for our young men and women at Marist.

Please help show your thanks at this year's Staff Appreciation Days by delivering some cookies to the school **on Dec. 21** for our staff to enjoy.

Bring your mouth-watering gifts to the office, and, if you would

like, you can enter a Cookie Cook-Off contest, just by identifying your baked goods with your full name and phone number. We'll disguise the entries, and then ask the staff if they can tell the ones they think Look and Taste the best. If your cookies are selected, you could win a wonderful prize.

Our kids at Marist are learning from the *crème de la crème*. Let's make sure all the wonderful staff at the school know how we feel about their efforts.

Bakers - warm your ovens!

Any questions? Contact: April or Donald Venes at:
april.venes@gmail.com



Marist Theatre presents
Little Shop of Horrors
Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman
Music by Alan Menken

Friday Jan 11

Saturday Jan 12

Thursday Jan 17

Saturday Jan 19

all shows at 7:30 PM - Bob Devereaux Theatre

\$10 Adults \$5 Students

Tickets available at www.seatyourself.biz/marist

France & Italy for spring break

Students and parents, come to an informational meeting about the spring break trip to France



and Italy hosted by Mr. Ryan Baker.

Meeting in the Academic Resource Center on **Wednesday, Dec. 5 from 6 to 7 PM**. Contact Mr. Baker at rbaker@marisths.org if you have questions.

A "stocking stuffer" suggestion



Do you need a great idea for a stocking stuffer for your son or daughter this year? If so, how about ordering them a Yearbook?

[Click here to order your 2013 MCHS Yearbook](#)

NOTE: We need to receive your order form by **2:45 PM on Friday, Dec. 14** to ensure that we can process it before Christmas Break

Pizza party social

Mrs. Heidi Susec, Marist for Life's Advisor, recently said that, "We have a great group of dedicated freshmen and sophomores. We realized that this is the first year current Marist for Life students do not know the founding members of our pro-life club!"



The group is inviting past and present members to a **pizza party social hosted by Marist for Life on Dec. 12**. If you are or have been involved with Marist for Life, please **RSVP by Dec. 10** to Mrs. Susec at hsusec@marisths.org or on Facebook.

Thanks to a grant of the Storms Family Foundation, Marist for Life is able to once again sponsor a bus billboard for the season of Advent. Be on the look-out for a positive, pro-life message created by this year's members of Marist for Life.

Congratulations to sophomore **Jordan Gorman** who won the second annual Marist for Life t-shirt design contest!

Marist gear Christmas sale

Get 25% off all in-stock items now until Christmas: sweatshirts, lanyards, key chains, ties, scarfs, blankets. Contact Cinda Holaday at the5holadays@msn.com

Join the rowing team

Students - looking for a way to get fit and make friends this winter? Love water and team sports? Rowing is a full-body, year-round, non-contact sport for athletes of any size or experience level.



The **South Eugene Rowing Club** is open to all Eugene high schoolers who want to try a completely different sport while developing work ethic, communication and time-management skills. We are currently holding winter land training to build strength for spring season, and Races throughout the Northwest.

If interested in having a blast with this energetic, passionate and supportive crew, please call **Head Coach Jeff West** at 541-515-3965, or find us online at oarjrcrew.org.

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