

**CELEBRATING THE 50TH JUBILEE OF
SR. MARY A. MCCARTHY, RSM**



Principal, Sr. Mary A. McCarthy greets friends at her 50th Jubilee Celebration on October 3, 2010.

On Sunday, October 3rd, 2010 a joyous crowd of Mercy family and friends gathered to celebrate Sr. Mary's 50th Jubilee. Guests ranged from Middletown's Mayor, Sebastian N. Giuliano to our student council president, **Hannah Woods '11**. Many of Sr. Mary's family members were also in attendance. It was apparent that there was a sense of warm admiration and true honor for our principal.

The day began with a traditional Mass which touched the hearts of everyone in the auditorium. At one point, all Sisters of Mercy gathered in front of the crowd and renewed their vows in unison. Sr. Mary was then blessed by Father Gerard Mulvey and looking over the sea of right hands extended one couldn't miss just how many people Sr. Mary McCarthy has touched in her life.

As the ceremony of dedication began, Mayor Giuliano presented Sr. Mary with a key to the city of Middletown, and he proclaimed October 4th Sr. Mary Day! Friends, colleagues and former students approached the podium, and expressed gratitude for her service as a Sister of Mercy and to reminisce, laugh and share stories. Sr. Mary has been a principal, a friend, and champion of the mission of Catherine McCauley for 50 years. The faculty and staff of Mercy High School were represented by Ms. Drewry who presented her with an artist's plaque of Catherine McAuley and a check for the Mercy Scholarship Fund.

Sr. Mary approached the podium, to a standing ovation and loud cheers. Selflessly, Sr. Mary thanked everyone for being "the blessing in her life for 50 years." She continued to thank her family, friends, faculty and staff, as well as parents and extended families of Mercy for keeping Catherine's warm hospitality and mission alive through Mercy.

A reception hosted by Mercy's Home and School Association followed the ceremony and those in attendance were able to thank and congratulate Sr. Mary personally. **By: Erin O'Donnell '11**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ENTRANCE
EXAM SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

Sr. Mary McCarthy is pleased to announce the winners of the Entrance Exam for the Class of 2014. They are l-r: **Ashley Chase, Caitlin McAuliffe, Emily Casserino, Margaret Bartolotta, Jessica Hoops and Alice Ochterski.**



OPENING MASS AND PIN CEREMONY

On September 16, 2010, the Mercy community welcomed Bishop Cote who joined us for our Opening Mass for the new school year. At this liturgy, we also welcomed the newest members of our community, the members of the Class of 2014 as well as transfer students.

During the Mass, the Administration, faculty, staff and students participated in a Ritual of Commitment for the new school year. Bishop Cote accepted that commitment and then blessed each group.

Following the Liturgy, the Freshwomen were presented their class pins by their junior class big sisters as an official welcome to Mercy.



*Freshwomen l to r: **Devan Corsini, Kelly Richards, Caitlin McAuliffe, Kaleigh Roberts and Christina Freitag** officially are welcomed to Mercy following Freshwomen Pin Ceremony.*



From the Desk of the Principal...

**BY SISTER MARY
McCARTHY, RSM**
Principal of MHS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We had a wonderfully smooth school opening this year. The seniors are great leaders and the other classes have all demonstrated spirit, enthusiasm and excitement. The Juniors were excited to receive their class rings at the Ring Mass and then to have the final turn of their ring at the Ring Dance last weekend!

The annual Walk-A-Thon will take place on Friday, November 5. This student fundraiser raised over \$50,000 for Mercy! Let me explain to you, especially to the freshman parents, the significance of this event. The cost per pupil of a Mercy education exceeds the actual cost of tuition by over \$2,000! Like most Catholic schools, we must raise the funds to cover the difference. The Walk-A-Thon is the students' part in our fundraising efforts. **It is our expectation that each student reached a personal goal of \$90.00 in pledges.**

I want to thank you for welcoming my sister, Sr. Pat, in true Mercy fashion when she spoke at Mini-Class Night. It was apparent that you enjoyed her remarks and she, of course, always enjoys returning to her "favorite school."

I thank our wonderful Home and School Association members who have already put in many hours of work this year. They hosted the Freshwoman Parents Reception, provided refreshments for Mini-Class Night, and the Ring Ceremony.

Last week the Yellow Rose Auction was a huge success – wonderful items, sell-out crowd, good food and a most enjoyable evening! Home & School managed to squeeze one more event in during a very busy Fall. On Oct 3rd they hosted a Jubilee reception for me. It was absolutely elegant. I thank them so very much for all they put into the day. The spirit was Mercy all the way! I also thank the many of you who came. Your presence was much appreciated!

Sister Mary

RECYCLED MITTEN PROJECT

Clean, old sweaters are wanted by the Art Department to be donated for their "Recycled Mitten" project. Clean wool, cotton or fleece garments; light damage are ok. Patterns will be cut from the good areas to make mittens, pillows, stuffed animals, pet blankets, etc for donations and projects.



ANNUAL THANKSGIVING PIE BAKE

Please join us on **Monday, November 22nd** from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the cafeteria to bake delicious Thanksgiving pies for the local areas less fortunate. Each year parents and students participate in this fun-filled evening baking over 300 pies. The apple and pumpkin pies are donated to St. Vincent dePaul Place, the American Red Cross, and the Shepherd Home. **Students may use this evening's time as service hours.** Forms may be picked up in the Main Office or email Maria Bergan @ mbergan@mercyhigh.com to register. Donations of any size are welcome to help defray supply costs. Thank you; we hope to see you on the 22nd! **Note: Please bring an apron, measuring spoons, measuring cups - 1, 2 and 4 cup size, knives, large mixing bowls, vegetable peeler, roller pin, paring knife, and rubber gloves.**



Library Media Center

All Freshwomen and transfer students have completed two classes of orientation in the Library Media Center with Mrs. Boothroyd, Library Media Specialist. Mrs. Fazzino and Sr. Jean, Library Assistants, were also on hand to answer questions. During session one library policies, location of books, the photocopier and two printers were discussed. The Computer User Policy, as stated in the *Student/Parent Handbook*, was reviewed. An overview of Microsoft Outlook and school email accounts, Group Fusion, Mercy's web page and saving documents was demonstrated.

During session two, a computer demonstration was given on the OPAC, the Online Public Access Catalog of Mercy's collection. The Freshwomen were also shown how to access ICONN, the Connecticut Digital Library, which has free resources for anyone in the state. ICONN contains articles from magazines, newspapers and e-reference books and is trustworthy and safe. Everyone was given ICONN bookmarks with the website (www.iconn.org) to access this database from home. The other databases that the library subscribes to were explained and where to access them from the school web page was demonstrated. Avoiding plagiarism and citing sources properly was stressed with the students. Finally, all girls received a brochure on the Library Media Center which contained passwords for remote access to Mercy's databases.

Please consult the Mercy website www.mercyhigh.com for up-to-date information regarding cancellations or postponements of school events. Please refer to Page 10 in the "Student-Parent Handbook" for information regarding weather-related closings and delayed openings.

Senior Named National Merit Semifinalist



Julia Kelly, '11 has been named a semifinalist in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program. Julia is among only one percent of U.S. high school seniors to receive this designation. These academically talented students have the opportunity to continue in the competition for 8,400 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$36 million, that will be offered next spring.

About 1.5 million juniors in 22,000 high schools entered the 2011 National Merit Scholarship program by taking the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Approximately 15,000 Semifinalists are expected to advance to the Finalist level and from this group all National Merit Scholarship winners will be chosen. In order to become a Finalist, a student must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's performance on the qualifying test. Merit scholars are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

In announcing Julia's selection as a National Merit Semifinalist, Principal Sr. Mary A. McCarthy, stated: "We are proud of Julia and congratulate her on this prestigious honor. She is an outstanding student and a great representative of Mercy's excellent academic program."

Julia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Kelly of South Glastonbury, was also named a Governor's Scholar in May, one of only thirty students in the state of Connecticut to receive this award. She is a two-year member of the Catherine McAuley Chapter of the National Honor Society, where she serves as Vice President of Tutoring. Julia is also an AP scholar, Mercy Ambassador and recipient of the Harvard Book Award, as well as many awards for excellence in her high school studies.

Julia Kannam Named National Commended Student



Senior **Julia Kannam** has been named a Commended Student in the 2011 national Merit Scholarship Program. Julia is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kannam of Durham.

Commended students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition by taking the 2009 Preliminary SAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. As a result of their outstanding performances in this highly competitive program, these students are considered among the most academically talented students in the country, and are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

FALL SPORTS - by A.D. Ms. Besty Gilmartin

SWIMMING

The Swim Team had 4 wins to start the season and are now 9-3. East Catholic was a very exciting win 95-91. Swimmers who have led the team in scoring are **Celine Coleman**, **Kelsey Fachini**, Capt., **Caroline Gallagher**, **Theresa Goehring**, **Michaela Kearney**, Capt., **Emma Kolb**, **Katarina Lisitsin**, **Jennifer Masselli**, **Mary McKenna**, **Erica Naumann**, **Nicole Rhodes**, Capt., **Leanne Shemeth** and **Amanda Zacchia**

SOCCER

Soccer Captains are **Katherine Donnelly**, **Jenna Cornwall** and **Victoria Hendel**. The Varsity record is 3-7-4. Leading the scoring for Mercy are **Victoria Hendel**, **Jenna Cornwall**, **Sheena Landy**, and **Jillian Wollman**. The defense has been anchored by **Katherine Donnelly** in goal, **Kaileigh Lombardo**, **Catherine Oidtman**, **Kara Urso**, **Sheena Landy**, and **Megan Urso**. The J.V. team is 7-0-1 and the Freshwoman team is 1-6-1

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball Team is 16-1 and has qualified for the SCC Play-Offs and the State Tournaments. Captains are **Amber Bepko**, **Alyssa Henry** and **Hunter Ralston**. **Kathering Nielsen** is leading the team with 75 aces, **Amber Bepko** with 207 kills, **Alyssa Henry** with 465 assists, **Nina Zimmitti** has 247 digs, **Hunter Ralston** has 103 digs, **Megan Nelson** has 79 kills, **Michelle Ruel** has 54 kills. The J.V. Team is 10-3 Freshwomen volleyball team 11-1.

CROSS COUNTRY

Mercy hosted and won the Mercy Invitational Race. Captains for this year's team are **Monica Castro** and **Alexandra Picard**. The team's record is 4-4 in dual meets. **Kathleen Darling**, **Molly Sweeney**, **Emma DiDominico**, **Alexandra Piel**, **Kaleigh Roberts**, **Allison Kiley** and **Christina Freitag** have led the team. **Kathleen Darling** was 6th at the River Front Invitational. **Kathleen Darling** and **Kaleigh Roberts** made the Quinipiac All-Division Team and **Kaleigh Roberts** also was on the SCC All-Conference Team.

FIELD HOCKEY

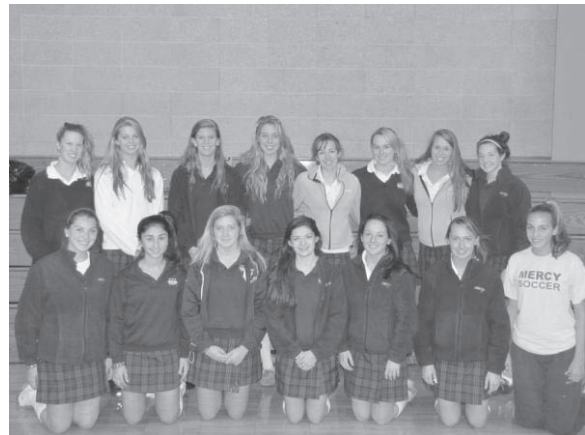
Captains are **Kristina Holt** and **Adrianna Simeone**. The Varsity got off to a great start with 4 wins to start the season. The team is now 8-4-1 and have qualified for the State Tournament. **Erika Nicholas** has had 6 shut-outs. Leading scores are **Sarah Bower**, 12 goals, 4 assists, **Kristina Holt**, **Lauren Marvin**, **Marissa Romano**, **Victoria Vickerman**, **Shannon McAuliffe**, Holding down the defense are **Caroline Woods**, **Dana Rasmus**, **Gabriela Orlando**, **Jenna-Lyn Geysen**, **Shannon Egan**, **Adrianna Simeone** and **Audrey Gaynier**. The J.V. team is 4-1-6.

SCC Scholar Athletes of the Month for Mercy are:

Jenna Cornwall – Soccer
Dana Rasmus – Field Hockey



Scholar Athletes of the Month Dana Rasmus and Jenna Cornwall take a moment to have their picture taken. Congratulations girls!



Fall captains for the 2010 season are: (Front row l-r) **Kristina Holt**, **Adrianna Simeone**, **Monica Castro**, **Shannon Newell**, **Ashley Parrilla**, **Jenna Cornwall**, and **Victoria Hendel** (back row l-r) **Hunter Ralston**, **Amber Bepko**, **Alyssa Henry**, **Nicole Rhodes**, **Audra Harris**, **Melissa Marks**, **Haylle Reidy** and **Kelsey Fachini** - Absent from photo: **Katherine Donnelly**, **Michaela Kearney** and **Alexandra Picard**

Mercy Students Attend various Summer Programs

Sr. Mary McCarthy has announced that five outstanding young women from the Class of 2011 were selected to represent Mercy High School as delegates to the 2010 Laurel Girls' State this past spring. Laurel Girls' State, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, is a program for high school juniors interested in the electoral process and legislative functions of the government. Candidates are selected on the basis of "scholarship, leadership, friendliness, and good sportsmanship". Delegates from Connecticut high schools spent a week together at Eastern Connecticut State University in June, exploring the process of running our state and local governments.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to attend the 2010 Session of Connecticut Laurel Girls' State: **Brianna Baribault**, daughter of Gary and Lisa Baribault of Marion, CT; **Jacqueline Fischer**, daughter of Ken Fischer and Jill Fischer-Collins of Plantsville, CT; **Haylle Reidy**, daughter of Thomas and Kathleen Reidy of Old Saybrook, CT; **Michele Ruel**, daughter of Raymond and Annmarie Ruel of Middletown, CT; and **Margot Schumann**, daughter of Jim and Nancy Schumann of Old Saybrook, CT.

All of the girls ran for a variety of elected positions. **Margot Schumann** and **Michelle Ruel** were both elected Senator for their respective towns and **Ms. Ruel** served as Chair of the Campaign Committee for her party. **Brianna Baribault** and **Jacqueline Fischer** were both elected Registrar of Voters for their respective towns. Ms. Fischer was also a Committee Chair in the House of Representatives.



Senior **Kristina Unikewicz**, journeyed to France, Switzerland, Austria and Italy with *People to People Ambassador Programs* this summer. Senior **Christina Gaunichaux** also was an Ambassador in this program and added Germany to her travels while there. *People to People* is a non-profit organization founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 to promote peace through face-to-face interaction by ordinary citizens around the world. It organizes and promotes global educational travel opportunities to bridge cultural and political borders through education and exchange, making the world a

better place for future generations. As a student ambassador Kristina represented her school, community, state and country while traveling abroad and working with UNESCO. Kristina learned about other cultures, engaged in fun activities, and met local citizens. Student Ambassadors come from diverse backgrounds but share common traits: a curious and adventurous spirit, an open mind and heart, the desire to learn about other cultures and people, and the belief in President Eisenhower's vision that each person can make a difference and help achieve peace through understanding.

Yale - Discover the Cure Program

During the summer of 2010, senior **Maschal Mohiuddin** researched potassium ion channels in the kidneys and was allowed to culture human tissue in the lab of Yale University, while **Leanne Brooks** worked in the lab of Dr. Robert Means in Yale University's Department of Pathology. Leanne studied a certain type of protein (VAP proteins) in Kaposi's Sarcoma Herpes Virus (KSHV), which is a cancer (caused by the virus) that affect many AIDS and transplant patients. By the end of the summer, she was able to determine that these VAP proteins are involved in a significant pathway that allows the virus to persist, which helps the lab to further understand the virus and ultimately design a vaccine against it.

At the conclusion of the program, students presented their research to Yale staff, parents, and teachers. Mrs. Psoter and Mrs. Brennan from Mercy's Science Department attended the presentation on 8/23/2010.



Discover the Cure Interns at Yale University Summer Program

Audrey Marinelli attended *Explore Engineering (E2)* at the University of Connecticut School of Engineering where she is now a UConn Ambassador for the School of Engineering. **Amy Gioco** attended a *National Student Leadership Conference* focusing on Entrepreneurship & Business for 10 days at Fordham University where she met students from Korea, China, Saudi Arabia, and the Bahamas. Students toured the Federal Reserve Bank, Wall Street, and the American Museum of Finance. Amy learned the basics in finance, marketing strategies and leadership skills.

A LETTER FROM LEAH CERRITELLI '11,



The Cerritelli family wishes to express our sincere gratitude to the Mercy community for their generous support with the "Cries for Supplies Social Justice Project". As soon as school closed for the summer, we began sorting and packing the hundreds of notebooks, folders, binders, arts and craft materials we had collected the last weeks of school. We finally zipped the last and eighth jumbo suitcase the morning of our departure, packed two vehicles and headed for New York. We arrived in Caberete, D. R. where we met our friend Lisa (whose children attend the local school). We then loaded our van to deliver the supplies to the "Teach the Children" school in the town of Montellano.

The words in this letter cannot even begin to express the reception we received. The town was small and cluttered, and homes resembled abandoned sheds. The road was unpaved and dust was constantly in the air, making it difficult to drive, let alone walk through it. We rounded the last corner to our destination and were greeted by what seemed like the entire community living there. We were astonished! Our van was surrounded by hundreds of smiling faces as they watched us unload the supplies. We were led to the local church/school only to find hundreds of children dressed in their finest to welcome the Americans who care enough to help them. It was heartbreaking to witness how little they have to live with, but seeing their faces as we walked through the door was one of the best feelings we have ever experienced. We then truly understood what Sr. Mary refers to as the "circle of mercy". The children recited songs of thanks and love to their new "family".

In conclusion, my family and I would like to thank each of you for providing us the opportunity to make a difference. I wish that each of you can one day experience the pure joy of helping people that are truly in need. Even though the demand is still strong and the heartbreak lives on, we the Mercy community, has made a small dent in making the world a better place.

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov. 7	Open House Class of 2015 2-4:30 p.m.
Nov. 11	NO SCHOOL – Veterans Day
Nov. 13	Entrance Exam Class of 2015 8-11:15 a.m.
Nov. 15	NO SCHOOL – Teacher In-Service
Nov. 16	NHS INDUCTION 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 18	Soph. Class Trip to NYC
Nov. 19	Father/Daughter Dance 8-11 p.m.
Nov. 22	Pie Baking 5:30 – 9 p.m.
Nov. 24	Walk-A-Thon Holiday for Goal
Nov. 25/26	NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving
Dec. 1	Drama Club Performance 7 p.m.
Dec. 3	Drama Club Performance 7 p.m.
Dec. 4	Entrance Exam Class of 2015 8-11:15 a.m.
Dec. 5	Mercy/Xavier Advent Mass & Breakfast 10 a.m. at Mercy
Dec. 16	Winter Concert 7 p.m.
Dec. 17	Snow Date – Winter Concert 7 p.m.
Dec. 20-31	NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break
Jan. 3	Classes Resume
Jan. 17	NO SCHOOL - M.L. King Day
Jan. 28	Mercy Mixer 7-10:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	Entrance Exam Class of 2015 8-11:15 a.m.
Feb. 3	Report Card Night 5:30-8: p.m.
Feb. 7	Snow Date Report Card Night



Tara Curry with Sisters of Mercy at the Convent in Ennis, Ireland

Tara Curry '13, vacationed in Ireland this summer with her family. Her grandfather is from Ennistymon, Ireland, which is near a Mercy Convent. While there, Tara delivered the Proclamations from the State and City to the Sisters of Mercy in Ennis, Ireland, where the Sisters of Mercy's first house opened over a century ago.



Mercy High School

Educating Today's Young Women in a Spiritual Community