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THE STANNER

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ARCHBISHOP MOLLOY HIGH SCHOOL

JANUARY 2012

Walk-a-thon: \$80 or be 'punished'

By Lauren Miller '12 and Crystal Wong '12

While most Stanners were enjoying their Walk-a-thon holiday on Dec. 9, 65 students who failed to contribute at least \$80 to the fund-raising event were in school from 8:00 a.m. to noon watching the film "Ghandi" in the Theater under the supervision of Mr. Ed Shannon, the Administrative Assistant for Students.

Only 10 of the 75 students required to come to school on Dec. 9 didn't show up. Six brought in medical absent notes and did not receive any disciplinary detention while four did, said Mr. Shannon.

What to do about students who were not contributing enough money to Molloy's only fundraiser of the year has been discussed for years by the school administration, said Mr. Ken Auer, Assistant Principal for Students.

Both Mr. Auer and Mr. Shannon said that not giving a day off to the 75 students who didn't contribute \$80 to the Walk-a-thon should in no way be seen as a punishment.

"Why should you do nothing and get a day off?" said Mr. Auer.

Mr. Shannon said, "If we're to give all students the day off, then what would be the incentive?"

He said many students were "creative in finding different ways to raise the goal amount" because they were motivated by a day off.

Mr. Shannon said the administration is "empathetic" to those students who, based on their family's financial situation, can't simply go home and ask their parents for an \$80 check as many Stanners do.



Walking without paying up means no day off for Stanners under Molloy's new Walk-a-thon policy. (Photo by Jennifer Hwu '13)

But he said those students are the ones who benefit most from the Walk-a-thon so they need to do more to try to help.

"The Walk-a-thon raised approximately \$167,000," Mr. Shannon said. "There are 1,546 students in Molloy. [Raising that much money represents] a \$108 reduction in tuition per student. If we did not have the Walk-a-thon, we would have to add that amount to every student's tuition."

Seniors Justyna Gawrys and Maggie Goreczny, who attended school on Dec. 9, weren't angry about it but didn't like the movie, saying it was too long and boring.

Gawrys was tempted to leave because "the [Theater] seats were very uncomfortable after a while."

Senior Camille De Vera, who also had to come to school, said, "It isn't

hard to comply with Molloy's rules, no matter how absurd they may be. But this year's Walk-a-thon rule was a bit extreme.

"It made me question if the Walk-a-thon was indeed a fundraiser or a mandatory contribution for the 'vital' refurbishment of the gym bleachers.

"I also wasn't happy to hear that the administration made paying the \$80 minimum a condition for those seniors going on the Disney Trip. Those who didn't pay faced losing their spot for the trip, even if they already made the down payment of about \$150.

"And even those students who gave in a \$10 or \$20 donation were penalized, which perplexed me.

"So I took a stand and, I must admit, I enjoyed the punishment. We spent three hours watching a

biographical movie about Gandhi, a noteworthy and extraordinary man who spent much of his life practicing civil disobedience -- the very reason why I was sitting there watching that movie," De Vera said.

Some students who had the day off, however, felt that watching a movie wasn't bad and had no sympathy for those who were required to do so.

"They learned from it," said junior Melissa Foley. "It could've been worse."

Senior Paul Senica thought the students who had to come to school should've had someone actually teaching them in a classroom.

Junior Roberto Bertolini said the best option would've been for them to sit in detention and do nothing.

Mr. Auer said the administration plans to enforce this "so-called punishment" next year for students who do not contribute at least \$80 to the Walk-a-thon.

"Next year, we are planning to show a video of motivational speakers, such as Anthony Robbins and Jim Rohn," said Mr. Shannon, who hopes the video will "spark creative thinking" for future Walk-a-thons.

Mr. Jim Sheldon remembers the first Walk-a-thons when students who didn't get any pledges weren't allowed to walk but instead stayed in the Theater and did nothing.

He said the administration's new Walk-a-thon policy will "absolutely" encourage students next year to bring in the amount of money asked of them.

Molloy joins ¡Muralistas! at MoMA

By Pemashee Davé '12

Seniors Adrienne Zhou and Nicole Marino were chosen to represent Molloy in "¡Muralistas! Large Scale Painting From Around the World," a 10-week workshop

from Oct. 4 to Dec. 13, organized by the Museum of Modern Art, culminating in the opening Dec. 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Education and Research Building

on 54th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues. The mural stayed on display until Jan. 13.

"The opening was super exciting," said Zhou. "It was the penultimate time the Muralistas

would all be together, so it was an exuberant love-fest."

The students, inspired by Pablo Picasso's "Guernica" and Diego Rivera's horse painting technique,

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What's the 411 on class selection?

If you could go back in time and tell your younger self about one important thing you've learned, what would you say?

This question could produce many different answers so let's make it more specific.

If you could go back and change the course selections you've made, what would you do?

Many Stanners see too late the difficulty in taking advanced placement courses, participating in after-school activities and maintaining an active social life.

As frosh, we never knew the difference between taking AP, Honors, and regular courses but now, two years wiser, we regret some decisions we made.

If we knew now that taking a certain AP course would have helped us with our intended major in college, we would have taken it. But teachers warned us of the dangers of taking too many AP courses, so we got spooked and took the easy way out.

On the other hand, if we knew now how much work we would have to devote to Precalculus, we might not have taken it.

So how do you know what courses to take?

Assistant Principal for Academics Sister Elizabeth Bickar will describe to sophomores the courses Molloy is offering for juniors next year at a scheduling assembly on March 19.

Some sophomores will opt out of taking any chances when they submit their course selections out of fear of not doing well. Others will load up on challenging courses, assuming they can multitask their way to success.

The best way to decide which courses are best for you is to seek the advice of students taking those courses. After all, they have the inside 411.

So here is some advice from two juniors about some courses sophomores might be thinking about for next year.

Should you take regular Spanish 3 or Spanish 3 Honors with Mr. Luis Santos?

Mr. Santos makes Spanish 3 Honors fun and comfortable. He's a real angel — until it comes to workload.

At certain times it can be overwhelming having to conjugate 30 verbs or memorize 10 new vocabulary words for your daily quizzes but it helps you learn the language.

Correction

Frosh Giovanni Vittozzi created the Christmas illustration in The Stanner's December issue. His credit line was missing.



Assistant Principal Sister Elizabeth Bickar talks to juniors in the gym about senior courses on Jan. 17. (Photo by Monish Pahilajani '13)

If you have an interest in improving your fluency and have done well in Spanish the past two years, take Spanish 3 Honors.

Should you take U.S. History Honors or AP U.S. History with Mr. Jeff Gallagher?

AP U.S. requires a lot of note taking, which can be broken up "once in a blue moon" by a very exciting game of "Jeopardy!"

It's a fairly straightforward class and sophomores who have taken the AP World History class with Mr. Chris DeSarno will experience a smooth transition.

AP U.S. is just a more detailed version of U.S. History except for having to take the AP exam in May.

Should you take English 11 Honors or Ms. Mary Pat Gannon's AP Literature course?

AP Lit entails writing essays, reading literature, and preparing for the AP test in May.

It exposes students to more poetry than students in regular or Honors English, which focuses more on novels and prose.

Ms. Gannon gives you the chance to earn many extra credit points and has a variety of group projects, so don't be too intimidated by the workload the course requires.

If you can write flowing, beautifully crafted essays or at least are doing very well so far in English 10, AP Lit offers a great opportunity to become a better reader and writer.

English 11 Honors, when taught by the charismatic Mr. Dennis Vellucci, is seen by some juniors as harder than AP Lit.

Reading 100 pages of a 19th century novel like *McTeague* and then taking a difficult reading quiz isn't exactly a piece of cake.

Each quarter requires two essays: an in-class essay on the reading and a take-home SAT style essay chosen from a long list of topics.

Don't be too disappointed if your essay receives a page full of critical comments and you get an 85 in the class. English 11 Honors doesn't sugarcoat anything anymore.

But Mr. Vellucci might give you a penny on special occasions, so be on the lookout!

Should you take AP Chemistry, Earth Science, or Physics?

Physics is mostly formulas and involves lots of mathematics, so if you aren't strong in math, hate formulas, and want nothing to do with science when you go to college, take Earth Science.

AP Chemistry builds on sophomore year Chemistry but is much more in-depth. If you understand what is being taught in Chemistry and want to learn more, take this course.

Should you take Trigonometry or Advanced Algebra 2/Precalculus Honors?

Advanced Algebra 2/Precalculus Honors is for strong math students who can keep up when the class is going twice as fast as regular math classes do.

Classes meets nine times over the six-day schedule for the first semester and once a day in the second.

There is no intermediate class between regular Trigonometry and Precalculus, so it's a difficult

choice to make.

If you struggled with Algebra I as a frosh and are struggling with Geometry now, Precalculus is definitely not for you.

Meanwhile, frosh will have to make their only course selection decision when choosing between Global Studies 2, Global Studies 2 Honors, and AP World History.

AP World History is intense and designed for very hardworking students who can work under pressure and read Peter Stearns' onerous AP textbook.

Mr. DeSarno's tests are difficult but you will get used to them and with hard work and study, you can pass with flying colors.

AP World History is for students interested in getting a head start in taking AP courses.

So, if you could go back in time and change the amount of effort you devoted to academics, what would you change?

Sister Elizabeth said all Molloy students should spend two hours a night doing homework.

Yet some of us who are taking AP classes know we'd be lucky to finish all our work in that short period of time.

Before leaving Molloy, you will know the answer to one more question: Was taking challenging courses really worth sacrificing most of your social life?

It will be if you have a genuine interest the advanced courses' subject matter and love to learn.

It's won't be if you do it to please other people.

So do it for yourself. Do it because because you love knowledge for knowledge's sake or love the idea of getting into a highly selective college.

Don't take on more than you can handle but don't do less than you are capable of just to take it easy.

Choosing courses is in some way a test of character.

This is just another way Molloy makes us realize it's "not for school but for life."

— Monish Pahilajani '13
and Ashwini Chawla '13

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Naviance receives mixed reviews

By Paige Whelan '12 and Loren Licausi '12

Molloy's college guidance counselors said the first year of seniors using Naviance to apply to college was a success.

But now that it's all over, the class of 2012 has mixed feelings about the computer program.

College guidance counselors Mrs. Christine Loo and Mr. Ted McGuinness both saw positive outcomes from using Naviance.

"It helped kids become more organized, was a more efficient process and, with the click of a button, all materials could be sent to any given college," Mr. McGuinness said.

Mrs. Loo said seniors and teachers learned how to use the system quickly and had good help from

Molloy's tech support team.

The only problems the counselors found while using Naviance was a lack of communication between students and counselors.

"Students were not staying on top of their stuff and when they would add schools to their Naviance portal, they wouldn't notify us [which caused confusion]," said Mrs. Loo.

Both Mr. McGuinness and Mrs. Loo said they thought most seniors liked Naviance and thought it was helpful.

However, 20 out of the 30 seniors interviewed for this article felt otherwise.

Senior Katie Giustiniani said Naviance helped her stay organized by "letting me know what was required from each of the

schools I was applying to and I successfully applied to each one."

However, she felt rushed into using the system.

"Molloy would be better off without Naviance because it confused a lot of people and it was just another thing to worry about," Giustiniani said.

Senior Shannon Dinerman said, "I still really don't see the point of it. It's not really for our benefit but for the students after us."

While she didn't really like Naviance, Dinerman said that Molloy should keep using the program because it might get better for the future seniors using after counselors, teachers and students have a year's worth of experience using it.

When asked if the seniors were

Molloy's Guinea pigs for Naviance, both McGuinness and Loo said they were more like "pioneers."

They said the Class of 2012 was a good class to start Naviance with because they caught on quickly and were very cooperative.

The counselors said they will start teaching juniors to use Naviance this month so they'll be more familiar with it next year.

Giustiniani advised juniors that when using Naviance "don't stress about it but make sure you understand it completely before jumping into your applications."

Dinerman said to "ask a lot of questions and try to familiarize yourselves with it as much as possible in the beginning and then stay on top of it throughout the entire college process."

Junior College Night designed for Class of 2013

By Noelia Morales '12

College Night for Molloy juniors at 7 p.m. on Feb. 2 in the Jack Curran Gym will feature a private college consultant giving a presentation to help the Class of 2013 prepare for the college application process.

Unlike the Junior-Senior College Night in the fall, which features college representatives talking about their schools, former Columbia University admissions officer Emily Wolpert will summarize everything juniors need to do during the college application process.

Molloy's college guidance

counselor Mr. Edward McGuinness said that all juniors will benefit from attending this event.

"They will learn what they need to be doing for the whole transition to college," he said.

College guidance counselor Mrs. Christine Loo said, "Junior College Night will be very important and helpful. Parents should be there with their kids."

She said the members of the Class of 2013 should start seriously getting involved in the college application process this summer.

Junior Tarundeep Kaur says that she will probably attend Junior College Night because she wants

to learn more about college but also because her parents will force her to go.

"I have started looking into college because my sister is currently in the process of applying to colleges," said Kaur, who would like to go to NYU.

She admitted that she doesn't care much about college yet, but realizes that when senior year comes around, she'll be worried about all "the deadlines and stuff."

Junior Patrick Kowpak is looking forward to going away to college.

"I can leave my home and get the change to experience a whole different lifestyle," he said.

He said Junior College Night is very important.

"It puts everything into perspective; you think college is far away, but it comes quicker than you think," Kowpak said. "If you don't go to Junior College Night, you are at a big disadvantage."

To help juniors learn more about applying to college, three college guidance sessions have been set up this year to help them learn about Naviance and the Common Application.

In addition, some college representatives will come to Molloy throughout the rest of the year to talk to juniors about their schools.

Online classes gain in popularity at Molloy

By James Botwina '12

In its second year at Molloy, many more Stanners wanted to take online courses from Virtual High School because it offers a wider range of courses with more specialized topics, said Guidance Counselor Mrs. Rachel Galla.

With about 60 tuition-free classes ranging from Pre-Veterinary to Screenplay Writing, Virtual High School (VHS) allows students to pursue their own personal interests.

"VHS's flexibility and the ability to learn through my own research and perspective made it appealing," said senior Joseph Tavera who is taking World Conflicts online.

VHS students enjoy the Watercooler feature, which allows them to talk via chatroom to the other students around the world also taking the class.

Many more seniors applied for the 30 places available in VHS, so Assistant Principal for Academics Sister Elizabeth Bickar had to

choose the students who ultimately were accepted.

VHS is especially useful to seniors whose in-school maximum schedule of 4.5 or 5.0 credits limits his or her ambition.

Senior Christopher Guevara is a Peer Group Leader, therefore could only take 4.5 credits at Molloy. But Guevara was able to take the VHS Screenplay Writing course because it meshed his thespian interests.

The online class count as a Molloy course credit and the grade is factored into the student's overall average.

Students, who are assigned a user name and password, can take the classes at home or on the computers in the Library.

Assignments are posted on the website and are due every Tuesday in the virtual "dropbox."

Both Tavera and Guevara said VHS classes are educating and entertaining, but it is easy to get distracted from doing their individual online course work, so organizational skills are a must.

"Students are given free periods in their Molloy schedule to work on their [VHS] projects but most do not utilize their time," said Mrs.

Galla, though she was happy to see that the grades for the online classes have gotten better in the second semester.

Aiding kids with cancer



JV Softball players frosh Amanda Zeni, sophomores Daniela Fazio and Tiffany Wayte clean up after baking treats for the children at The Ronald McDonald House in New Hyde Park.

New Esopus shirts to make debut

By Kristen Loyer '12

The traditional block-lettered Esopus t-shirts, which have been worn by Stanners for over 20 years, will be replaced next fall with a new shirt design created by a student committee.

Bro. Donald Nugent, manager of the Esopus property, wanted to change the look of the t-shirts to focus more on the specific Esopus experience and its Marist connection.

About a dozen students, from frosh to seniors, have joined the committee.

Committee Moderator Mr. Brian Klimas is "counting on the creativity of the students" to create an attractive design before Easter.

One suggested design has the traditional block lettered font incorporated into the design with the signature Marist "M" to include the Marist aspect of Esopus.

Senior Anna Oldakowski said, "I signed up for the Esopus t-shirt committee because I thought it'd be a great way to be remembered after having graduated. Esopus has so many memories for me. This is a way of giving back to all of the people who put the time and effort into all of the retreats I've been a part of every year."

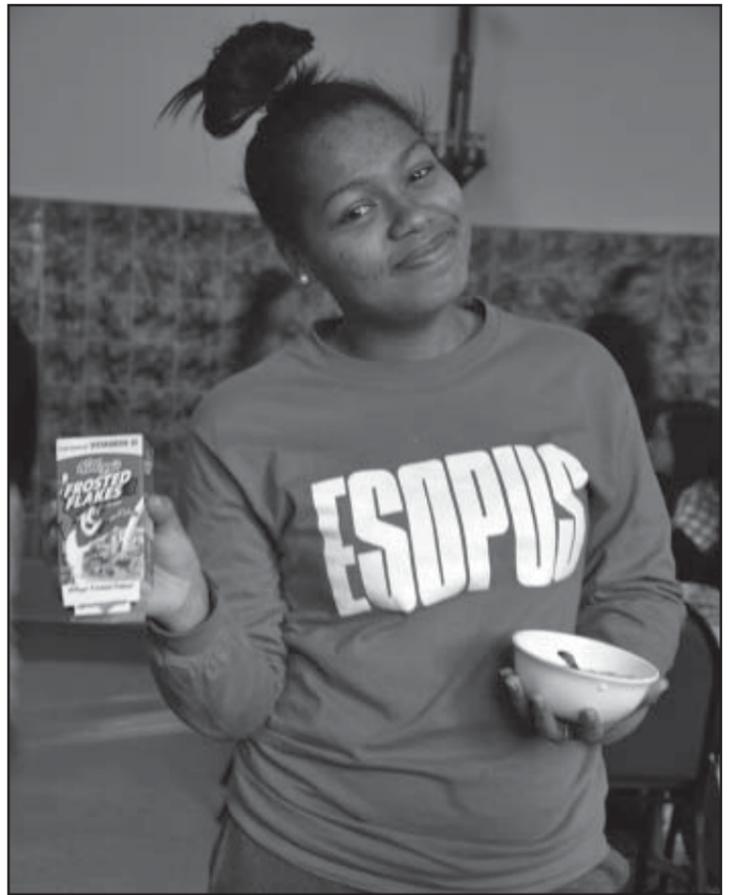
Committee members are nervous about whether their final design, which will be announced in the spring, will please the Molloy community but hope it will represent the meaning of Esopus.

Production of the current t-shirts will stop once the new ones are made.

The new t-shirts will cost \$20 and will only be sold at Esopus to keep the shirts' special meaning.

Any students interested in joining the committee can see Mr. Klimas in Room 212.

Junior Aliasha Grandison models the traditional Esopus shirt at breakfast at the Junior Retreat. (Photo by Joanna Pingol '13)



Poetry Slam returns to AM stage

By Randolph Herbert '12

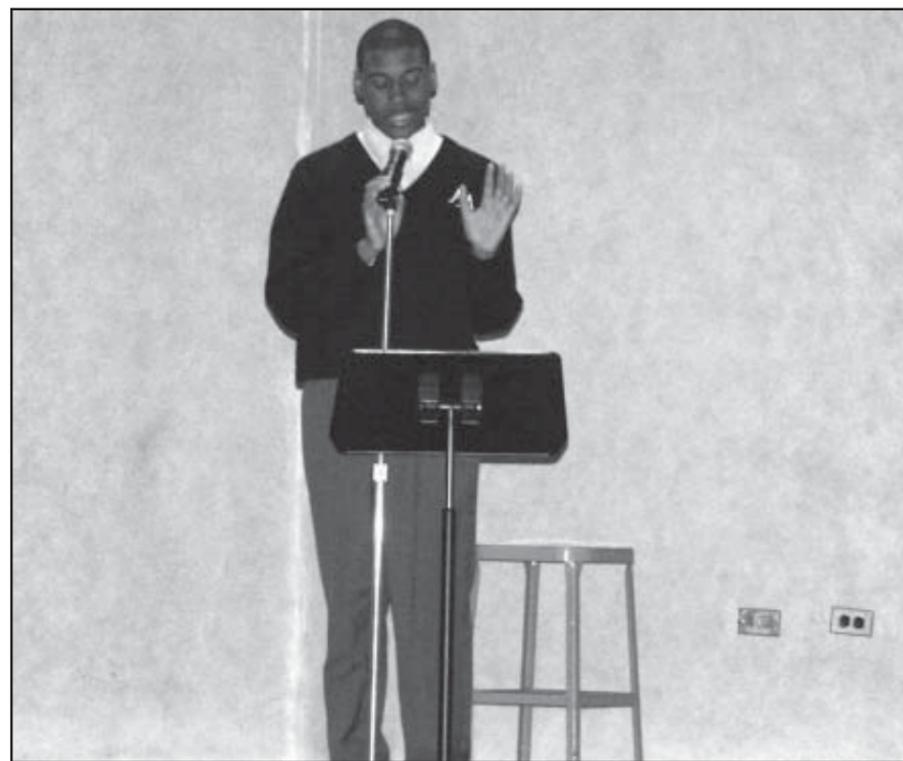
Molloy's Literary Magazine "Out of the Box" is sponsoring a two-hour Poetry Slam on Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. in the Theater where Molloy students will perform their own poetry, rap, or any other type of writing.

The Poetry Slam, which started with two shows last year, was created to illustrate the value of the spoken word, said Lit Mag moderator Mr. Matt Kilkelly.

Any Molloy student can participate by asking Mr. Kilkelly for an entry form.

Many students who performed last year, such as sophomore Rosemarie Casono who earned third place at one of last year's slams, are expected to participate along with new talent.

Four Molloy graduates will select three winners who will receive prizes such as Barnes & Noble,



Senior Freddy Francois performs at last year's Poetry Slam.

Dunkin' Donuts, and Subway gift cards, but it is all just friendly

competition, said Mr. Kilkelly.

Senior Freddy Francois, the Lit

Mag co-editor who will perform at the event, likes the Poetry Slam because it gives writers the chance to perform their work in front of people, which wasn't an option until last year.

Francois, who started writing poetry at age six, joined "Out of the Box" as a frosh because his co-editor, senior Anna Oldakowski, encouraged him to come to a meeting.

He said being around other writers rekindled in him his desire to write and he found his love for poetry again.

Francois likes the constructive criticism given to him during the Lit Mag club meetings and he uses it to develop his own performance style and to improve his content.

He will perform his poem, "Angel in My Church," at the slam and another poem that he is still working on.

Molloy is now enforcing the ban on Sperry shoes

By Laura Banker '12

Molloy began strictly enforcing its "No Casual Shoe Wear" rule in the Student Handbook this year, which has angered students who were allowed to wear Sperry shoes last year but not this year.

Assistant Principal for Students Mr. Ken Auer said, "All boat shoes are illegal, not just Sperrys. If the brand Sperry sells more professional looking shoes, students are allowed to wear them."

"Casual shoes were always illegal, but we decided to start enforcing the rule this year," said Mr. Auer.

The first time students are caught

wearing casual shoes, they receive one detention, "for the second offense, they receive two and so on," Mr. Auer said.

When asked why brown and black Sperrys were allowed to be worn last year, Mr. Auer said, "I don't know."

Junior Quinn Banks bought new Sperrys last summer and was shocked to learn they'd been banned.

"Mr. Auer told me last year that my Sperrys were legal because the soles were the same color as my shoe," she said. "After finding out that they were illegal, I had to purchase a new pair of shoes."



These shoes are banned at Molloy. (Photo by Melissa Gabriel '12)

She said that if the administration had sent out an e-mail to parents last summer explaining the new rule, it would have saved her a lot of money and detentions.

Senior Sperry-wearer Rob Daley

said he also had to go out to buy new shoes after he received three detentions for shoe violations, which he said is ridiculous because he has seen a few teachers wearing boat shoes.

ISA students learn glass bending

By Maggie Goreczny '12

The Integrated Science Association held its annual glass bending session on Jan. 3 with students creating various works of art out of hollow glass tubes, said Ms. Mary Mallia, the club moderator.

Twenty Stanners, about eight fewer than last year, heated hollow glass tubes over a Bunsen burner to soften them and make them pliable before attempting to bend the glass into a desired shape.

While participants were fewer in number, this year's group was the second youngest overall to try to create art out of science, said Ms. Mallia.

"The most popular things to create are stars, hearts, and Christmas trees, but more intricate things have also been created, such as the skyline of New York, or 3-D cubes," Ms. Mallia said.

Senior Samson Zachariah has participated in the glass bending event since his sophomore year

and this year he attempted to make the Assassin's Creed symbol but his glass broke. Even so, he said he "greatly enjoyed himself."

Junior Maria Grbic, who made a star while participating in glass bending for the first time, said, "It was easy — a little scary, but fun."



Juniors Aixla Ciudad, Brenda Quijije, and Nina Menchaca work on their glass bending skills during the in the Chemistry Lab on Jan 3. (Photo by Jennifer Hwu '12)

When bending glass for the first time, it is difficult to get the feeling of when to shape the glass after heating it, ISA President Jennifer Hwu said.

During Hwu's time as president, she has not seen any serious burns because club members use safety

procedures by using forceps and crucible tongs to hold the hot glass.

But in previous years, there were a few first and second degree burns when students carelessly handled the hot glass or Bunsen burners.

This year's glass bending event was less publicized than previous years to maximize safety.

"The club needed to be more selective and limited attendance to club members who have already taken chemistry or are in chemistry in order to make sure it is a safe experience," Hwu said.

Ms. Mallia hopes this experience taught students the relationship between art and science.

"People don't realize that there is so much chemistry in art, and that a lot of different art techniques require chemistry," Ms. Mallia said. "We don't always get a chance to teach about this relationship in the classroom."

Glass bending "adds a different dimension to chemistry," Ms. Mallia said.

Lifespire aspires to inspire love

By Rachel Ipsen-Riegger '12

LifeSpire gives mentally and physically handicapped adults an opportunity to have fun bowling with the help of 19 Stanner volunteers who assist them and cheer them on every other Sunday from 9 a.m. to about 12:30 p.m. at Jib Lanes in Flushing.

Stanners began working with LifeSpire in October of 2007 when Campus Ministry Director Mr. Mike Germano was contacted by the organization, met its directors and "had a good feeling that it would be very worthwhile."

Lifespire since then has grown to become an "enduring program with volunteers who feel they are gaining more responsibility [by participating in it] and they're actually helping [people]," Mr. Germano said.

The handicapped adults, who commute from all over the city to Jib Lanes with their families, form relationships with the Molloy volunteers.

"It means so much to them that the volunteers actually want to be there," Mr. Germano said.

LifeSpire gives Stanners another opportunity for "direct one-on-one service" with the handicapped who are usually ages 20 and up.

LifeSpire, working in partnership with Stop & Shop, is a social program based in New York that helps the mentally and physically handicapped find jobs, housing, and more.

When senior Jarrett Sledge saw a list of activities for Campus

Ministry in the announcements last year, he asked Mr. Ed Cameron what LifeSpire was.

He became interested and after talking with Mr. Germano, Sledge and his friend Eddie Pizzo attended a meeting to meet the Lifespire directors.

"It seemed like a rewarding program for us and bowlers," he said.

"I never dealt with mentally challenged people before," Sledge said, so he thought it would be a good experience.

"They are people," he said. "They have their own stories, their own lives and they know what they're going through."

What volunteers do to assist the bowlers depends on each person's

handicap, with some requiring more help than others, but most are highly functional.

One bowler, Charles, is legally blind and Sledge directs him by holding his hand and making sure he doesn't trip.

He said his favorite bowler is Adrian Lewis, who is always "so optimistic."

Lewis told Sledge that "as long as they are having fun, it's fine," even if he doesn't get a strike.

Senior volunteer Paulina Stefanowski joined LifeSpire because working with the mentally and physically handicapped was a "new experience" for her and she wanted to "gain a better understanding of how they interact."

She was surprised to find that even when the bowlers didn't knock down any pins, they would still cheer and be positive.

Her favorite bowler is Richard, who is quiet but funny and always optimistic.

LifeSpire has been "eye-opening" for Sledge and "a great experience" for Stefanowski.

When Sledge sees a bowler on the street and the bowler remembers him, Sledge knows that he "made such a great impact."

Stefanowski said, "We benefit and learn from each other."

Mr. Germano said, "The beauty of this program is that it shows the handicapped they are truly cared about and that alone speaks volumes."

Math team adds up its successes

By Robert Klein '12

Molloy's Varsity Math League team is in first place in the second division of advanced math competition among Catholic high schools in New York State at the halfway point of the season, said team Moderator Mrs. Adele Solari.

The team consists of 46 seniors and 36 juniors with leading scorers being seniors Cara Chow and Jennifer Hwu and junior Margaret Rooney.

Although the second division math is "challenging," it is "more doable," than the tests in the first

division competition, said Mrs. Solari said.

The Junior Varsity, which fields teams in the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II divisions, ranks among the top three teams in New York State in all three competitions after taking the first two tests of the four-test season.

Students with the top scores were frosh Hyunwoo Jeung in Algebra I, sophomores Connie Zhao and Kristian Mosquito in Geometry, and juniors Monish Pahilajani and Angelina Sun in Algebra II.

Over the course of the year, team members are given four, 25-

question tests and have 30 minutes to complete each one.

Mrs. Solari said all team members are good math students but Mosquito said the tests are still challenging, even for someone like him for whom math comes rather easily.

"I take the geometry tests and many of the questions are about things we haven't learned yet in geometry class, so it's very challenging," he said.

Mrs. Solari said her teams have potential to do better if students spent more time working on their practice sheets.

Molloy's Muralistas! are on display

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attempted to represent the different cultures represented by the teens in the workshop and their multiple perceptions of the world, with the New York skyline as a key image in the mural.

"I've been asked which part was predominantly mine, and I'm proud that I can say that no one part is done only by me," said Zhou. "I'm everywhere and so is everybody else; I think it says a lot about how much we've bonded over the 10 weeks that we spent together. This mural would not be what it is without every person's voice."

To create the mural, all 22 students first sketched individual ideas which were put together by their teacher, Lauren Adelman.

The final design was projected onto six wooden panels that were divided into sections and then painted by number. It was finished in about 20 hours.



The 22 students were chosen from schools in all five boroughs but Molloy was the only school with two representatives.

Students applied to the program by filling out an application and getting a teacher recommendation.

After hearing of the program

from senior Suzanna Petot, both Zhou and Marino asked their art teacher, Mrs. Terri Burke, for recommendations.

Stanners have been part of MoMA's high school program for 10 years, as well as programs associated with Parsons School of

Design, FIT, Columbia University, NYU and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"Maybe with this write up in our newspaper, more students will be made aware of the programs offered to high school students in the arts," said Mrs. Burke.

SMS serves Boston through volunteer work

By Camille De Vera '12

Stanners will perform more good works in another school sponsored service trip, this time performing acts of kindness for Boston's needy during the weekend of Feb. 3-5.

Mr. Christopher Dougherty and Mr. Edward Cameron, both part of the St. Marcellin Society (SMS) which ran the South Dakota service trip last summer, will lead a group of about 14-16 Stanners that will spend a day and a half building houses in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood working with

Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organization that builds houses for the poor.

The group will also volunteer around the city at places like soup kitchens and food banks.

"We've never done Habitat for Humanity, and in doing so I hope the Stanner volunteers will get a real sense of helping to build communities - literally and figuratively," said Mr. Dougherty with his trademark smile.

Stanners, who will stay at the Hostelling International-Boston,

will pay \$290 to take this service trip to show their Marist marks.

Senior Jacky Diaz said, "Oddly enough, helping to build a home is on my bucket list! I absolutely love helping out, so this sounds like something I'd really enjoy. I expect the same incredible satisfaction that comes from being a part of any volunteer work. This is unlike anything I've ever done, so I'm excited to see what I will learn about others and myself along the way."

Senior Mary Gallagher said, "It

seems like a great opportunity to help the less fortunate and to grow as a person."

Mr. Dougherty, who is often involved in Molloy's European trips and is an avid traveler, said, "We wanted to do a short term domestic trip. Traveling in a group brings about a certain camaraderie and helps to expose kids to new places."

Senior Karla Hernandez believes this trip will broaden her perspectives on social and economic issues in other parts of the country.

I A.M. Green takes trip to High Line

By Pamela Ramirez '12

Twenty-five members of Archbishop Molloy's I.A.M. Green environmental club will travel by subway to visit the High Line Park in Manhattan on Jan. 27 because

"the park is an innovative way to use urban space," said Moderator Mr. Christopher Dougherty.

The environmental club chose to visit High Line Park, which is built on an abandoned elevated railway line from 33rd St. to just below 14th St., this month rather than in the spring when the weather is better because of scheduling issues.

The cold weather will ward off large crowds so that club members will better see what native species are still growing there, said club President Adrienne Zhou, a senior.

The High Line Park was chosen as the field trip destination because Mr. Dougherty felt the park "added some green to the city and could be the definition of 'urban jungle'."

Both Mr. Dougherty and Zhou haven't been to the High Line Park, but both are looking forward to the club's first trip there.

"This trip will be similar to past

trips in that we will purchase food from a healthy eatery that uses local and/or organic ingredients while showing club members cool spaces created by tree-huggers and preservationists," Zhou said.

Mr. Dougherty hopes that the club members who visit the park will gain an appreciation for new, green ideas in New York City and learn how things constantly change and improve.



Stanners' 4-day Disney weekend

By Marcus D. Alvarez '12 and Joel Antolijao '12

One hundred seniors and seven chaperons went to Disney World in Florida from Dec. 7-11 in order to have a less expensive trip than ones that have been offered in the past.

The four-day weekend trip, one of the shortest senior trips ever, seemed sufficient for just one location but trip organizer Mr. Mark Sweeney said one more day was needed to enjoy everything.

The \$800 trip included admission to Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom, Epcot, Hollywood Studios, and Downtown Disney,

but no water parks.

Mark Ochs said, "The trip was a great experience, a change of pace from traveling with family to enjoying yourself with friends, giving you a sense of freedom."

Principal Bro. Thomas Schady said, "The trip's main focus was fun, but it still possessed educational elements in the travel experience itself, the growth of being social with one's peers, and the knowledge one gains when exploring Disney's many parks, such as Epcot, that teaches you of the many diverse cultures around you."

AM feels joy of giving toys

By Megan Wenzler '12

The Christmas season puts Stanners in a giving mood, which made Molloy's annual Toy Drive a huge success last month, said Campus Ministry Director Mr. Mike Germano.

Over 40 students involved in Campus ministry went to the Theater to help sort 1,423 toys donated by students, which surpassed last year's total of slightly over 1,300 toys, but still fell short of the all-time record of 1,600 toys, Mr. Germano said.

Almost 700 toy forms were distributed in homeroom to give students an idea of the age and gender of a child for whom to buy a toy.

Another 350 toys were donated without a form and an additional 390 toys were bought with the money raised in the homeroom mission collections.

Senior Jamie Giuntini has helped out with the Toy Drive since she was a frosh.

"I decided to help because I just love the whole idea of it. I think it's a wonderful thing to know that these toys will bring happiness to multiple children who deserve it,"



Toys are piled high every year at Campus Ministry's annual Toy Sorting Party in the Theater.

said Giuntini. "I love volunteering and it's nice to see everyone together working for a cause. Mr. Germano also played The Santa Claus movie on the screen while we did it, so that was cute."

Senior Isabel Méndez, who also sorted toys, said, "I was really happy I participated. It made me feel good! I felt like Santa. It put me in the holiday spirit."

Mr. Germano said, "We do a wonderful job with this drive."

Unfortunately, the same can't be said for the annual Candy Cane Gram Drive.

Target stores provided Molloy with 2,000 candy canes, but despite being allowed to order grams in advance, students bought only 1,200 at \$1 apiece.

Germano wasn't too upset, however, because he said every year the total grams sold fluctuates.

Last year 1,973 were sold and the year before 2,600 were sold.

The money raised this year will be donated to help fund Molloy students' summer volunteer work in Lourdes and at another location yet to be determined.

Campus Ministry might not do Candy Cane Grams next Christmas, Mr. Germano said but instead do something around St. Patrick's Day or Easter to separate this type of fund-raiser from the Toy Drive to get better and more consistent results in years to come.

Do toys affect kids' psychology?

By Joseph Guzman '12

Seniors in Mr. Bill Niklaus's elective Psychology classes were assigned to start off the second marking period in November with his annual Toy Project in order to learn how psychology applies to everyday life.

Mr. Niklaus began assigning his students this project in 1988 in the hope of creating something unique and fun for them to do but also to encourage them to examine the objects they use in their everyday lives and what using those objects might say about them as people.

The project is based on famous

psychologist Jean Piaget's theories on the four stages of child development with each student coming up with a different analysis of the psychological effect of the toy on its owner. Students were allowed to choose their toy for the project without a minimum or maximum price.

Students hand in the toys they wrote about along with the paper and the toys are donated to the Molloy Toy Drive in December.

"What I want my students to get out of this project is to see that they can write a paper based on their own ideas without the need to

plagiarize," Mr. Niklaus said. "I am never disappointed by the results of this project. The students are always so generous and really impress me with their insight."

Senior Gregory Insana found the project very interesting, bringing memories back from when he was a child, going to the store and picking out a toy.

"The toy I chose to buy for the project was the Moto Rev Launcher by Hot Wheels because I thought it could help a child widen his imagination and try things out of the ordinary," he said. "I would have played with this toy when I

was younger because I loved Hot Wheels."

The paper is split into two parts, with individual grades.

The first part must consist of a background of Piaget along with a description of each of the four stages of Piaget's theory of cognitive development in children.

The second part provides a detailed description of the toy chosen by the student and then a description of what a child can learn from playing with the toy.

Mr. Niklaus said the project is a great learning opportunity and helps a good cause.

Stanners to help hospital

By Ivonne Caceres '12

Stanners can volunteer to assist patients at a local hospital this year thanks to the efforts of Campus Ministry.

For the first time Molloy has teamed up with New York Hospital Queens on Main St. and Booth Memorial Ave. to allow Stanners to perform minor tasks around the hospital such as keeping patients company or pushing them around in wheel chairs.

Campus Ministry Director Mr.

Mike Germano said of 57 interested students, "42 made the next step" and became volunteers.

Not everyone was accepted for the first shift of volunteer work but another 12 students will be chosen for a second shift in two months.

Volunteers pick a day of the week to work and travel to the hospital on their own.

"Any service we do to directly help someone one on one is a more effective way to volunteer," said Mr. Germano. "Having compassion for

other people is a great, worthwhile experience."

Senior Natalie Look said, "I wanted to volunteer because when my grandmother was at the hospital this summer I had a good experience with the staff and helping patients while I was there."

Even though Look planned to apply for a volunteer job at the hospital, Molloy made it more convenient by setting up this volunteer service.

"Volunteers start out working

four hours once a week," Look said. "As time progresses, we'll have the opportunity to pick up more days."

2 named semifinalists

Seniors Christine Georghiou and William Hannigan are semifinalists in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Competition based on the results of the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test taken by over 1.5 million students.

B-team wins Holy Cross tourney

By William Sherman '12

The Molloy Varsity "B" basketball team became the first team to repeat as champions of the Matthew Gianuzzi Tournament Dec. 17-18 at Holy Cross by defeating Cathedral Prep and Frederick Douglass high schools.

Molloy was led by tournament MVP junior guard Anthony Torres and all-tournament small forward Messay Kassi, a senior.

"We played very hard, had two tough teams to play and we came out on top," said coach Mr. Steve Borhi. "We need to work on our chemistry, but our solid defense has been our strength."

Senior sharpshooting guard Mike Siconolfi said, "We played well in the first game and took control easily. The title game we played a better team but came together as a team to pull away."

Kassi, the team's leading scorer, is joined in the starting lineup by

junior guards Darryl Carpen and Jason Natland, senior power forward Walter Rodriguez, and senior center Fredrick Francois, the team's leading rebounder.

Providing a spark off the bench are Torres, Siconolfi, and junior forward/guard Kevin Magee.

"Everyone's playing well," said Siconolfi. "Our bench is putting up double digits in points and our big men have been destroying opponents in rebounding."

Last year's Varsity B team won the CHSAA city title.

This year's team is off to a 8-4 start.

"Every year we always want to win and this year we hope to repeat with four guys from last year returning," Mr. Borhi said.

The players are optimistic.

"Without a doubt, we have confidence in our team," Siconolfi said. "We just need to continue to work together."



Senior Messay Kassi, center, is the Varsity B team's top scorer.

AM steppers invited to teach kids



Steppers practice in Room 319. (Photo by Melissa Gabriel '12)

By Nora Soliman '12

The Youth Step Organization will sponsor both the Molloy's boy and girl step teams for an all-expenses paid trip to Harrisburg, Pa. on March 30 to teach underprivileged kids how to step.

Moderator Mrs. Anne Lonergan said Molloy's two teams were the only ones invited in December to teach at the clinic due to their dedication to the sport as shown by the girls' fourth place finish in the Daily News Youth Step USA State Championship and the boys' first place finish at the Manhattan Borough Competition last year.

The steppers see this opportunity to teach young children as an honor, says girls captain Geahna London, a senior.

Mrs. Lonergan sees the occasion as an opportunity for Molloy to share its talent and believes both teams will find the experience very

rewarding.

This year both teams have been in several competitions; including the boys, who won the Sixth Annual Daily News Youth Step USA Queens Borough Competition, and the girls, who competed at the Youth Step USA Brooklyn Borough Competition on Jan. 14.

Both teams hope to win the National Finals in Harrisburg in May because it would mean the judges recognized the passion Molloy has for step, said London.

To prepare for competitions, each team practices daily from 2:15 to 4:00 p.m, choreographing their own routines and steps.

Their goals are to be the best they can be, perform in a professional manner, and have people enjoy their performances, said boys step team member Joel Antolijao, a senior.

Ping-pong and fast girls

Senior Andres Camaal defeated senior Terrance Donahue to win the Junior-Senior Singles at the Intramural Ping-Pong Tournament in December.

Team Champs, seniors Michael McCarthy and Ryan Vesey, defeated The Americans, seniors Andrew Crimmins and Chris Gilligan, in Junior-Senior Doubles.

The Avengers, sophomores Massimo DeCarvalho Robert Moncino, won the Frosh-Soph Doubles and sophomore Darien Dey won the Frosh-Soph Singles.

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Molloy's girls sprint medley relay team set a school record at the Millrose Trials on Jan. 11 at the Armory in Manhattan while qualifying to compete in the Feb. 11 Millrose Games for the first time since 2004.

Frosh Mary Ellen Woods, sophomore Niamani Morrison, senior Tiana Salas-Ali, and senior Kathleen Woods finished fifth in the CHSAA qualifying race in a time of 4 minutes, 21.51 seconds.



A ping-pong match draws a crowd in the Cafeteria. (Photo by Jordi Sevilla '14)