

The Stanner

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Archbishop Molloy High School

March 2009

Curse over: AM gets 2 snow days off

By Derek Sokolowski '11

The good news on March 2 was in red letters at the top of Molloy's website: "SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER."

A snow storm that dropped as much as 10 inches in some neighborhoods forced Principal Bro. Roy George to close school for the second time this year, the first occurring on Jan. 28, the first day the third marking period.

"Ahhh, snow days are the best," said sophomore Stefania Vendome, "because you have all your homework done, thinking you have school that day, and then you find out that you don't. So you just get to relax the whole day. It's amazing."

Stanners have waited a while to have two snow days in one year as last year there weren't any snow days at all.

"Well, before this year, we had an ice day in -- I think it was in 2007," said Bro. Roy. "Other than that, I can't remember the last snow day that happened before this year."

Bro. Roy explained the process with which he decides whether or not to close school.

"Snow days start when I listen to the weather report and I wake up at about three o'clock in the morning to see what the weather is like outside," he said. "Sometimes I even want to go drive out on the roads to see what conditions are like."

Bro. Roy doesn't make the decision on his own.

"I consult with a network of Catholic high schools such as the Mary Louis Academy, Holy Cross High School, and Saint Francis Preparatory High School to see if they would close their schools as well," he said.

Bro. Roy doesn't second guess himself once the decision is made.

"I don't regret closing school but I never regretted not closing school either," he said. "If we have a situation where we are in school and the weather conditions are getting worse, I would simply call for an early dismissal."

Most students were thrilled to have two snow days this year.

Some teachers also enjoy snow days but others dislike having an unexpected day off because they don't like having to delay a test or the due date for a paper or missing a day of class.



Snow blanketed Molloy on March 2. (Photo by Bro. Roy George)

Icy cold can't quiet Pipes and Drums

By Brigid Carragee '09

Molloy's Pipes and Drums Band goes to great lengths for its fans in the month of March by toughing out bad weather to perform every weekend.

The band kicked off its busy schedule by marching in Garden City's St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 1, a day which Moderator Mr. Ed Cameron described as "frostbite cold."

Despite the less than stellar weather, the Stanners came out bundled up and ready to go.

Senior Pipe Major Andrew Christ

said, "It was freezing cold outside. It's hard to play pipes when you can't feel your fingers."

The Garden City parade was just the first of many performances by the band this month.

It marched in the Rockaway St. Paddy's Day Parade, which featured much warmer weather on March 7 and in the Ronkonkoma parade in Suffolk County on March 15.

The band capped off the month by marching in New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade on Fifth Avenue on March

17, the highlight of the season.

Although Molloy has marched in that parade since 1995, the thrill remains.

"We're really excited to march in the best parade in the world," junior Drum Sergeant Elise Lontos said.

The excitement from the spectators along the parade route is what the band most looks forward to experiencing year after year.

Senior Drum Major Brittany Dombrowski said of marching on Fifth Avenue, "The atmosphere is electric. The best part is the fans, all the Molloy

kids that come out and support us."

Both Christ and Mr. Cameron joked that the best part of being in the Pipes and Drums Band is getting the opportunity to wear a kilt.

Mr. Cameron, however, teased that seeing Mr. Ken Auer wear an "exceptionally large kilt" was his favorite part of every parade.

Other faculty in the band are Bro. James Norton and Mr. James Sheldon.

The band begins St. Patrick's Day every year with its annual breakfast at Molloy before leaving for the parade, which started at 10 a.m.

Molloy was scheduled to begin marching roughly around 1:45 p.m., although Mr. Cameron anticipates Molloy's step-off time would likely be closer to 2:30 p.m.

Although the band plays several traditional Irish and American tunes during the march, its members have personal favorites.

Senior piper Sean Hickey's favorite song is "Dawning of the Day," while Dombrowski prefers "Minstrel Boy."

Regardless of how early they must rise or how harsh the weather might be, all band members said it's always exciting to be part of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Manhattan and felt it was bound to be a great day.



Molloy's Pipes and Drums Band braves the cold in Garden City on March 1. (Photo by Joe Dionisi)

Argue the facts; avoid scare tactics

Molloy's Right to Life Club created a display in the case across from Room 123 last month to promote its anti-abortion stance by highlighting the human rights of a fetus.

The club's anti-abortion point of view is in line with the teachings of the Catholic Church and therefore its display in school was appropriate for Molloy students to see and discuss.

What is not appropriate is for the Right to Life Club to include false statements about cancer in its presentation and for it to single out just one racial group to criticize for its rate of abortion.

The display said, "Women who have abortions are 50% more likely to have breast cancer."

This is simply not true.

According to the American Cancer Institute and a February 2003 study done by the National Cancer Institute, there is no link between abortions and an increased risk of breast cancer.

So why is the Right to Life Club using scare tactics to discourage girls from having an abortion with erroneous claims when the moral argument about life

beginning at conception is a more effective tool to make girls think about not having an abortion?

Another aspect of the display that bothered us was the part which unfairly

An Editorial from The Stanner

targeted minorities with comments such as: "If Barack Obama was born after 1973, he would have had a 33 percent chance of being aborted."

This shows a lack of statistical understanding.

The statistic isn't that 33 percent of minorities' pregnancies end in abortion; it's that 33 percent of all abortions involved minorities.

But if it's true that minorities get 33 percent of all abortions, then minorities are much more pro-life than the rest of the American population because all minorities — Hispanics, African Americans, Asians, and Native Americans — together make up 44 percent of the United States population according to the U.S. Census Bureau's website www.census.gov.

But if minorities are going to be singled

out by the Right to Life Club, shouldn't the club target other groups as well?

According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, which tracks abortion data, non-Hispanic Catholic women of

childbearing age are 29 percent more likely than their Protestant counterparts to have abortions. The rate is 33 percent if Hispanic Catholics are factored in.

So while Protestant women make up about 54 percent of the population, they account for only 37 percent of the abortions.

Catholic women make up 31 percent of the population and account for 31 percent of the abortions.

Yet it was minorities who were singled out by the Right to Life Club. Catholics were not.

Molloy has many more Catholics in its student body than it does minorities, so why didn't the Right to Life Club direct its message to the majority of the student body?

The Right to Life Club should be

commended for traveling to Washington, D.C. to march in an anti-abortion rally.

The club should be commended for taking a firm stance on an issue that is very important to it.

But the club shouldn't be commended for protesting the legal status of abortion in America by using false information about cancer risks and creating a false impression about one racial group.

This issue of accuracy was brought up the last time the Right to Life Club put up its anti-abortion display and The Stanner editorialized against the club's tactics then by pointing out its errors.

We hope this time the Right to Life Club will learn to only install displays that are factually correct and do not unfairly single out any particular group.

We encourage the Right to Life Club and all Molloy clubs to express their beliefs in the halls of Molloy.

However, their beliefs must be substantiated with facts, not propaganda.

— Ray Ferreira '09 and Sarah Mauro '09



Seniors go Greek for Easter

By Adara Simonelli '09

Vito Prainito calls the chance to go to Greece with 31 other seniors and Mr. Chris Dougherty during Easter Vacation a once in a lifetime opportunity.

"I'm looking forward to this trip," said Prainito. "I'll be around my friends and I'll be able to see ancient rubble sites. It's a new life experience to be surrounded by new culture."

The 32 seniors, who will be accompanied by Bro. James Norton, Mr. Glenn DaGrossa, Ms. Kelly Early, Mrs. Kathy Forgione, and alumnus Joe Napolitano, will begin their 10-day trip by boarding a 6 p.m. flight to Athens on Wednesday April 8.

These tourists will spend two nights in Athens before traveling by boat to the Greek islands of Santorini and Mykanos. After spending two nights on each island, the Stanners will return to Athens for their last two nights in Greece.

The group will arrive back in New York on Friday April 17.

Mr. Dougherty, who has been running overseas trips for Molloy students since 2004, said seniors asked to go to a warm climate on their trip this year and the majority voted for an Easter trip to Europe over a February trip to either

Costa Rica or Mexico.

The seniors then chose to go to Greece rather than Spain thanks to the lure of Santorini, the Greek volcanic island known for its beauty.

"This is the most expensive trip we've been on," Mr. Dougherty said. "We're with one of the best companies this year, ACIS. So it'll cost [each student] about \$4,000."

Senior Meghan Shevlin is eager to visit the world famous party island of Mykanos.

"It's going to be a good way to end my senior year," she said. "I'm really looking forward to it."

As part of their itinerary, the Stanners will tour the Parthenon on the Acropolis in Athens, the black sand beaches of Santorini and the beautiful windmills and canals of Mykanos.

"I love seeing kids marvel at different sights and seeing their reactions, like in 2006 at the Parthenon one night," said Mr. Dougherty. "We all chilled on a hill and watched the city glow beneath us."

"It's great to see the kids catch that travel bug and want to keep traveling. I hope it's one of those life-long memories, a capstone like Senior Prom, something they'll never forget," Mr. Dougherty said.

Sweeney says: Come on, let me take you on a sea cruise!

By Leslie Corona '09

Forty-one students from all four grades will embark on a nine-day trip to Greece during Easter vacation with Eastern European and Greek Club Moderator Mr. Mark Sweeney.

The group will leave April 10 and return April 19 after visiting Athens and the Aegean Sea on a five-day cruise to one Turkish and four Greek islands.

The group will spend two nights in Athens and then spend the remainder of the trip on the cruise.

The cost of the trip for each student was approximately \$4,000, which includes airfare, hotel, two meals a day, taxes, and the cruise.

The six other chaperones for the trip are: Mr. Edward Cameron, Mrs. Joanne Ivie, Mrs. Maureen Kelly, Mrs. Nancy Catalanotto and Mr. James Lally.

This will be the first time taking Stanners abroad for Mr. Sweeney, a former Stanner who began teaching English here last year.

Mr. Sweeney chose Greece and Turkey for his first trip because, "I felt that the students would get to be able to see the most for a reasonable price. I'm also moderator of the Eastern European and Greek Club and I thought it would be fitting for the club."

Senior Christina Damore decided to go on the trip because she believes it will be a great opportunity to see a beautiful place.

"I'm really looking forward to it," she said. "I'm excited to go into the Aegean Sea, no matter what the temperature is, and basically just see all the different islands."

She hopes to have new experiences and "lots of really good memories to go off to college with."

Mr. Sweeney hopes the students will have "an experience where they learn about a different culture. Many of the things we learn about in the classroom, we'll see first-hand. And they'll be able to socialize with teenagers from all different cultures."

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Teachers' secret talents are revealed

By Olutayo Oni '10

When we were little, many of us wondered what our teachers were like when they were our age or what they did once they left the classroom.

Some of us with more creative imaginations liked to imagine that teachers were simply created like robots and once they were done for the day, they would just power down and be recharged for the next day.

Obviously we outgrew our naïve daydreams, but the question still remains: What are our teachers really like when the Smartboard markers and Scantrons disappear?

Everyone knows that Mr. Mark Verdi teaches Earth Science and Environmental Science at Molloy, but did you know he also loves to cook?

Mr. Verdi said he got serious about his cooking skills about five years ago,

with his daughter frequently giving him a helping hand in the kitchen.

He gives her small jobs, such as chopping things up, with careful supervision, of course.

One of her favorite dishes to eat is a dish Mr. Verdi calls "Chicken Verdi," whose main ingredients are chicken, dried tomatoes, peppers, onions, and white wine.

Mr. Verdi says that he likes cooking because it makes people happy.

Mr. Matt Kilkelly is known as the laid back English teacher who moderates both the Literary Magazine and the Asian Club.

But underneath his calm exterior, Mr. Kilkelly is a skilled boxer. He's been boxing for almost two and a half years with a personal instructor who likes to insult Mr. Kilkelly to motivate him.

Mr. Kilkelly admits that he loses to

his instructor whenever they spar but it doesn't stop him from having fun.

Mr. Kilkelly said the first time he boxed, he was exhausted afterward.

So his advice to anyone interested in boxing is to get into great shape first and watch what you eat.

Mr. Kilkelly said he enjoys boxing because it's great for anger management.

Mr. Jim Sheldon is another teacher whose hidden talent might come as a surprise. He is a certified referee by the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials.

Stanners may have seen him refereeing the annual Senior-Faculty basketball games a few times.

Mr. Sheldon's father was a high school referee and Mr. Sheldon got his start as a Molloy student when he was part of the Referee Association for

intramural basketball.

Mr. Sheldon has had some interesting experiences on the court, such as the time he made a team forfeit a game after a player spit at him to show his disagreement with a call Mr. Sheldon had made.

"I said, 'That's it. This game is forfeited,'" Mr. Sheldon said.

Mr. Sheldon stopped being a high school referee once he started to coach Molloy's ice hockey team but he is a still certified.

There are many other hidden talents that Molloy teachers possess, such as Mr. Ed Cameron being ambidextrous or Mr. Ken Auer leading the nation in doubles as a high school baseball player or Mr. Ted McGuinness being an actor in TV commercials.

This is just a glimpse into the lives of a few of the teachers at Molloy.

50 Years with Mr. Diorio at AMHS

By James DiMaggio '11

When Mr. John Diorio first started teaching at Archbishop Molloy High School in 1960, the all-boy student body stood at tall tables in the cafeteria to eat lunch every day and students had to remain absolutely silent in the halls on their way to class or else face detention.

One thing that hasn't changed, said Mr. Diorio, is that, "the students are still the best academically, athletically, and personality wise."

During the 50 years Mr. Diorio has taught social studies at Molloy, there have been many changes and he and his students have witnessed historic firsts in our country including the election of the first Catholic president, John F. Kennedy, and the first black president, Barack Obama. Telephone booths have given way to cell phones and record players to iPods.

Mr. Diorio has also seen changes in the subjects he's taught over the years.

During his tenure he has taught American History, Political Science, Business Law and American Government.

"My time has gone by very, very fast because I enjoy what I do," said Mr. Diorio.

He has taught thousands of students, including many sons and daughters of alumni.

He said he hasn't taught any grandchildren of alumni yet but since Mr. Diorio has no plans to retire anytime soon, it won't surprise him if he does and he will do so with great pride if and when that first grandchild arrives in his class.

His former students have included many teachers now at Molloy including Mr. Mark Sweeney, Mr. Jim Sheldon, Mr. Frank Gambino, Mr. Bill Flemen and Mr. Jeff Gallagher.

He has had the chance to teach many Stanner notables including New York State Attorney General Andrew

Cuomo, former upstate assemblyman and Republican candidate for Governor John Faso and the current Molloy President, Mr. John Sherry.

Mr. Sweeney called Mr. Diorio, "the most knowledgeable man I know" and said the poise and confidence that he projects in the classroom make him a standout teacher who is remembered by his students.

What Mr. Diorio enjoys most about teaching at Molloy is "the students, the subject I teach, and my friendships among the faculty."

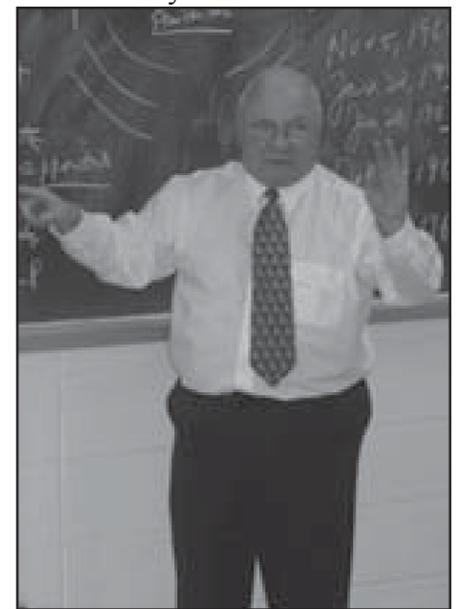
All students who take his classes today know his serious and professional demeanor as he begins each class with his trademark phrase, "I'm ready."

He said he opens his classes this way because, "the students know what it means: silence. It's the beginning of class."

Molloy will hold a dinner for Mr. Diorio on May 19 to celebrate his 50 years of teaching at Molloy. Mr. Diorio said he is looking forward to the event

because it will give him an opportunity to see former students, many of whom who have become friends.

As a member of Molloy's Hall of Fame, Mr. Diorio knows he is something of a legendary figure at Molloy but says, "only because of the great students I taught and the successes they achieved."



Mr. John Diorio

Happy (Chinese) New Year!

By Mia Polizzotto '12 and Megan Wenzler '12

"Gung Hay Fat Choy" and "Xin Nian Kuai Le" are some of the ways to wish someone Happy New Year in Cantonese or Mandarin, the two official languages of China.

Molloy's Asian Club celebrated the holiday on Jan. 27 with a party where red envelopes with chocolate coins inside were given out to club members.

Traditionally, red envelopes or packets with coins inside are passed out during Chinese New Year but the Stanners decided to substitute chocolate instead.

In Chinese astrology, the zodiac of 12 animal signs represents the 12 different personality types and 2009 is the Year of the Ox.

The ox is a sign of prosperity gained through fortitude and hard work.

The Chinese use a Lunar Calendar; thus the date of Chinese New Year changes every year.

The Chinese New Year celebration lasts 14 days and the starting date varies from the end of January to the beginning of February.

Overall, Asian Club members agreed that their Chinese New Year celebration was a fun experience.

Frosh Crystal Wong said, "The Year of the Ox means it's a time for change and that we have to realize we are getting older."

Frosh Stephen Eng said that the New Year is "like a new beginning and a time of happiness."



Molloy had two finalists in the 2009 Competition for National Merit Scholarships, seniors Kaitlin M. Carr and Kyle Hounsell (Photo by Bro. Roy George)

196 Stanners donate pints of blood

By **Melanie Dostis '10**

Despite a snow storm which closed school the previous day, Molloy's annual Blood Drive on March 3 in the Jack Curran Gym managed to surpass last year's total of pints donated.

Students, faculty and staff members donated 206 pints, surpassing last year's mark of 169.

School Nurse, Mrs. Kathy Forgione, came into school on Sunday March 1 to make calls to remind students to come in on time to donate blood.

With Blood Drive signup sheets distributed in upperclass homerooms, daily announcements made during homeroom and lunch periods and assemblies promoting the drive to seniors and juniors, 235 people signed up to donate blood.

A total of 113 seniors, 100 juniors, seven sophomores who were 16-years-old, and 15 teachers and staff members registered to give blood.

Of these 235, the blood bank workers from the New York Blood Center rejected 23 volunteers for various medical reasons on March 3, while 16 other volunteers were absent.

"I was supposed to give blood but I found out I couldn't because I was still on antibiotics for my throat infection," said junior Patryk Perkowski. "It was disappointing but I'll do it next year and hopefully I won't get sick the week before."

In the end, 196 people were able to give blood and 10 of those students, Ms. Forgione, recalled, donated red blood cells.

Junior Jennifer Caceres signed up because she knows a lot of people who are in hospitals and are in need of blood.

"It felt like tension and a pinch," she said of the entire process. "They couldn't find my vein [with the needle at first] so my arm turned really blue

for a couple of days."

Fellow junior Laura Prendergast said that after giving blood she felt lightheaded and exhausted.

"I had to sit down for about 30 minutes before I felt good enough to back to class!" she said. "That night I went to sleep at 7:30."

Every student who gave blood received a water bottle and a t-shirt as a thank you gift from the New York Blood Center as well as a sticker asking others to be nice to them as it had been their first blood donation.

"It felt great that I gave blood even if I felt tired and a little dizzy," said Caceres.

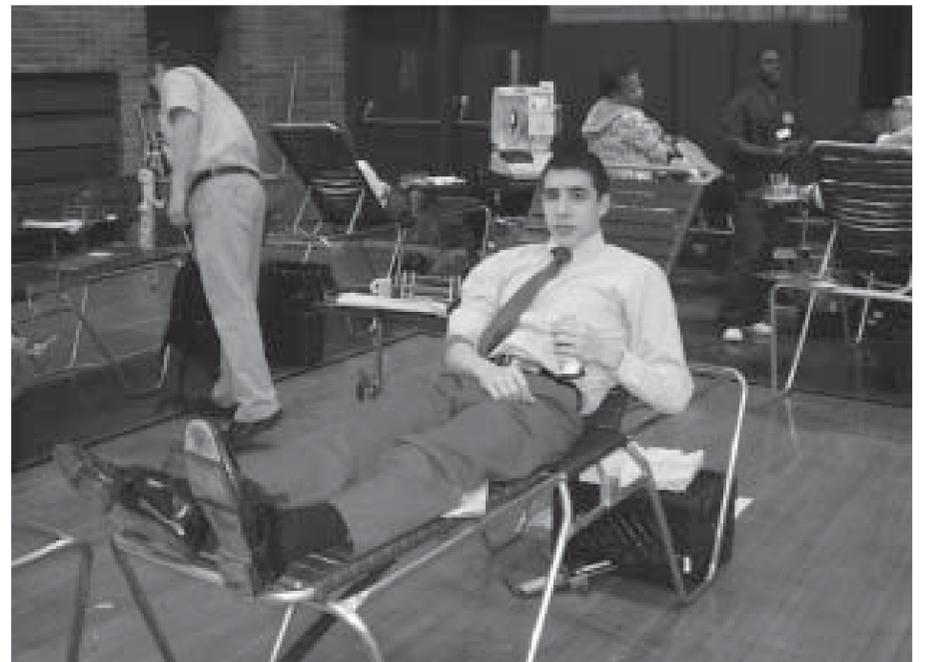
"I didn't care much though because I got free food," she said with a laugh.

Prendergast said, "Without a doubt I would do it again because the pain is such a minor inconvenience in your life when you can help save a person's life. Why not give blood?"

Mrs. Forgione was pleased overall with how smoothly the event ran and with the amount of blood donated by Stanners.

"I want to thank them for their cooperation and generosity in giving the gift of life," said Mrs. Forgione.

Her main hope for the 2010 Blood Drive is to be able to surpass this year's total.



Junior George Halkias, above, donates blood while seniors Sigrid DeGuzman, Stephanie Halvax, Mike Webber, and Christina Damore have a snack after their donation. (Photos by Bro. Roy George).

Annual Fast-a-thon set for April 1st

By **Julianne Broderick '11 and Melissa Beale '11**

Campus Ministry's annual Fast-a-thon will take place on Wednesday April 1 to raise money for the Marist Missions.

The Fast-a-thon has been a tradition at Molloy for decades.

Students who sign up to participate in the Fast-a-thon will ask family members and friends to sponsor them by making a small donation.

"It's almost like getting sponsors for the Walk-a-thon," said Principal Bro.

Roy George.

Participants will then skip lunch in the cafeteria on April 1 and instead attend a prayer service in the Chapel.

After school, those fasting will be provided a meal of soup and bread by Campus Ministry Director Mr. Michael Germano.

During Lent, Catholics are required to pray, fast, and give alms. The Fast-a-thon fulfills all three of these requirements so it is a very good thing for students to do.

"Anybody can fast," said Bro. Roy.

"Fasting is a very purifying thing. It's a sacrifice you make. While you fast, you pray in the Chapel and your sponsors are donating to your cause. So you get all three things done," he said.

Sophomores Sarah Bipath and Jasmine Cervantes participated in the Fast-a-thon last year.

"I fasted to put myself in the position of a person who doesn't have food," said Cervantes.

Said Bipath, "It's a time to put others before yourself. Fasting for one day is

no big deal compared to kids who don't have proper meals on a regular basis."

For some first-timers, fasting can sometimes be a challenge.

"It kind of was," Cervantes said, "because I'm not used to fasting."

Bipath, however, had no problem fasting but said the key was not to think about it while doing it.

Both sophomores plan to fast again this year and they recommended others participate in the 2009 Fast-a-thon because, "it makes you feel good about yourself," Cervantes said.

Seniors adjust their eyes to bright, neon blue shirts

By **Anniela Vaccaro '09**

A long line of seniors formed outside the first floor bookstore on March 10 to pick up their traditional polo "senior shirts" after weeks of anticipation.

Every year, seniors are given the privilege of replacing their blue or white oxford uniform shirts with polo shirts costing \$25 each with every student who wants to a shirt required to buy a minimum of two.

Although seniors felt getting their shirts was long overdue, Assistant Principal for Students Mr. Ken Auer said the polos are always distributed in the first

full week of March since it would be too cold to wear short sleeves any earlier.

At first, most seniors were concerned with how bright a blue the color of the polos was.

"It took a bit of getting used to but I actually like them now," said senior Julie Keyes. "They're different and stand out from everybody else."

Mr. Auer said he makes the final decision on of the color and design of the shirts but he approached several students in the cafeteria and Student Council members for their opinions of

a few sample shirts.

But while seniors seem satisfied with their new shirts, others wonder if Molloy could do what other Catholic high schools, such as The Mary Louis Academy, do — allow seniors to buy football style jerseys with the school name and numbers that correspond to their graduation year.

"There's a possibility in the future that we may offer them to seniors at Molloy if enough students show interest," said Mr. Auer.

A few seniors complain that Catholic high schools in Queens give seniors

more opportunities to show class spirit by offering special activities but senior Manuel Cordero said, "I don't get bothered when compared to other schools because we do have Rock Aid and International Day, which are pretty unique."

Mr. Auer said, "You either have school spirit or you don't."

Keyes agreed, saying, "It's up to the students to get involved and create the spirit for themselves. If the students aren't into it, it doesn't matter what special opportunities are offered to them."

International Day spices things up

By Kimberly Darbouze '11

Archbishop Molloy's 29th annual International Day, sponsored by the school's ethnic clubs, the Foreign Language Dept. and Student Council, will take place Sunday March 29 in the Jack Curran Gym and Cafeteria.

The International Day committee has decided to return a main course of hot meals to the menu, which is a big change from last year's menu of just beverages and dessert.

The members of Molloy's ethnic clubs will provide the international cuisine.

Tickets are \$8 and will be available both in advance and at the door.

International Day is open to everyone, both members of the Molloy community and people from the Briarwood neighborhood.

"Just the fact that the kids perform and people pay to see it is amazing," said Student Council Moderator Ms. Kathy Loughran, who has been preparing since January for the event.

Meanwhile, several ethnic clubs such as the Asian, Eastern European and

Greek, French, Indian and Spanish Clubs have been rehearsing their performances for the big day.

The Step Team and Molloy's Pipe and Drum Band will also perform.

The day will begin at 2 p.m. and end at 4 p.m. but the performance schedule hasn't been set yet, said Ms. Loughran.

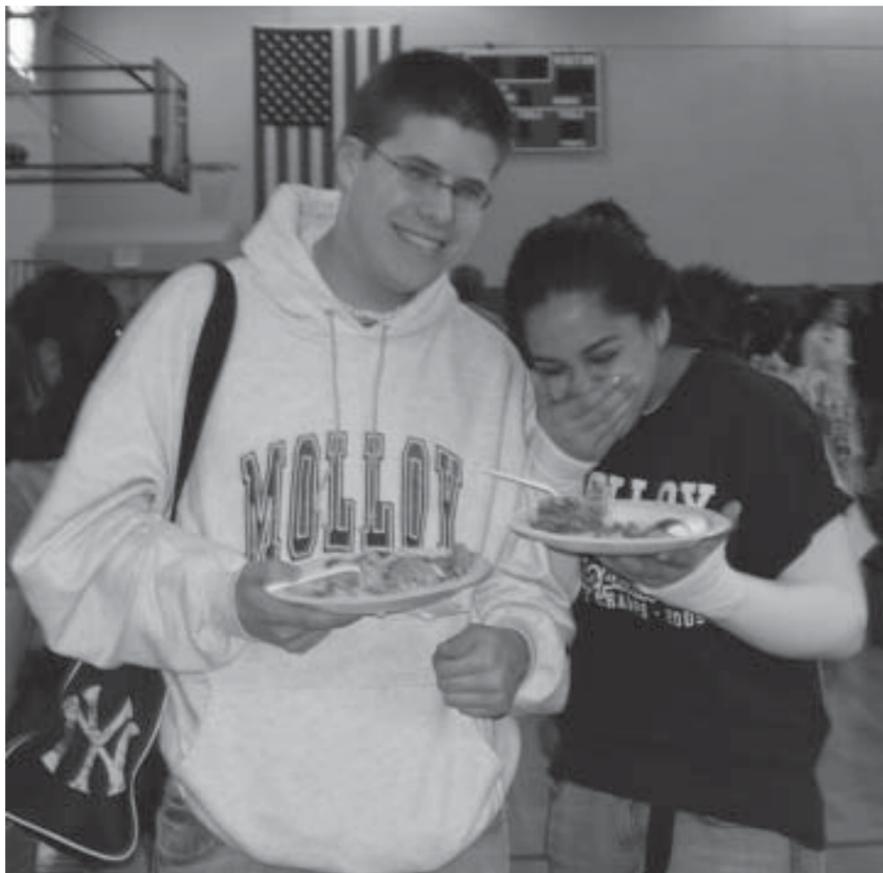
The Indian Club, which has performed at International Day for years, will perform a dance from a "Bollywood" movie musical and a West Indian dance.

"We've been practicing for one week," said Alyssa Shahzaman of the Indian Club. "It's going pretty well for only a week of practice."

The French Club, which is performing a number from the movie "Moulin Rouge," also have been practicing for a short amount of time.

"We've been practicing for two days and it's going great," said sophomore Carolyn Jativa, a first time performer for the club.

"I'm nervous but after seeing the performances last year, I knew I wanted that experience."



Seniors Travis Kessel and Adara Simonelli share a laugh over a hot meal at Molloy's International Day two years ago. After a one year hiatus, main course dishes again will be offered at the annual event that celebrates the diversity of the student body. (File photo)

American classic hits AM

By David Kane '10

The Stanner Players will follow up their winter musical production of "Godspell" with the Thornton Wilder classic play "Our Town" in the Jack Curran Gym during the first weekend in April.

Director Kevin Schwab, who is producing his seventh show at Molloy, said of Wilder's play, "There are comedic and dramatic moments and I chose it because the cast size and the prestigious title caught my interest. I had never done it before and I wanted to try an American classic."

"Our Town," which first premiered on Broadway in 1938, depicts the lives of the people living in the fictional New

Hampshire town of Grover's Corners in the early 1900's.

Sixty students tried out in February for the 18 roles in the show.

"We have a great mixture of seasoned senior actors and brand new freshmen performers as well," said Mr. Schwab.

Mr. Schwab has liked the work of several of his frosh actors in rehearsals.

"Lauren Kelly, as the precocious Rebecca Gibbs, Tim Frenzel, as the young paperboys Joe and Si Crowell, and Tiffany McCue, as a flirtatious townsperson, are all freshmen who showed great enthusiasm and talent at auditions and they are rounding out the cast excellently," Mr. Schwab said.

The frosh are joined in the cast by

several upperclass students, including seniors who have worked with Mr. Schwab several times in the past.

"Niccolo Pizarro is playing the narrator role called the Stage Manager," said Mr. Schwab. "Niccolo's audition had a very mature and knowledgeable presence and he is immediately likable."

"Connor Hubbard is playing George Gibbs, the somewhat dim but thoroughly genuine boy who goes through the process of growing up and becoming a husband and then a widower by the final curtain. Connor has a very expressive demeanor and his qualities for George were electric," said Mr. Schwab.

Senior Angela Dumlao has the unique task of "playing a role that was originally written for a man," said Mr. Schwab.

Dumlao, who was a "Godspell" cast member, said she is enjoying "my first straight play at Molloy. It's different and fun. My character [Samantha Craig] is not actually part of the town, Grover's Corners. She left the town to move out west so her perspective as an outsider is interesting."

Dumlao said that during rehearsals, "Niccolo Pizarro, who plays the Stage Manager, is doing a brilliant job. The Stage Manager is outside of the action and carries the show. Niccolo's the perfect person for it."

Senior Jackie Ehrhardt is playing the role of the town gossip, Mrs. Soames.

Mr. Schwab said that Ehrhardt's "bubbly and contagious energy won her the role."

Ehrhardt said, "My character is super! Being the town gossip is so much fun."

Ehrhardt also thought Pizarro was

performing particularly well in rehearsals along with junior Erin Brady, who is playing the role of Emily Webb.

Mr. Schwab said Brady's rendition of the famous graveyard monologue at her audition won her the coveted role.

Brady said she couldn't be happier playing the role of Emily Webb.

"Throughout the play she grows so much and it's exciting as an actress to be able to portray her different stages," Brady said. "My main goal right now is working on my performance skills to try to portray the depth of the show and to make the audience truly feel like they are a part of 'Our Town.'"

The play will be staged in the Jack Curran Gym, a departure from the Theatre where "Godspell" took place.

"The first time we rehearsed on the Jack Curran stage was very satisfying," said Mr. Schwab. "To see the actors in the larger space and working as a community was very inspiring."

Opening night is Thursday April 2 at 8 p.m. with additional 8 p.m. performances Friday April 3 and Saturday April 4 before ending the run with a 2 p.m. matinee April 5.

"I am hoping this show will teach an important message about appreciating life as well as giving the actors a unique experience unlike the previous six productions I have directed for The Stanner Players," Mr. Schwab said.

Dumlao's goals could be deemed a bit less lofty.

"Just to put on a good show that we're proud of," she said.



Senior Niccolo Pizarro, seen here in the Stanner Players' production of "Rumors," has the lead role in "Our Town" (Photo by Emily Balkan)

WANTED:
Writers for
The Stanner

Sci Oly misses state meet by 2 points

By Andres Gallo '09

Molloy finished sixth at the 2009 Science Olympiad on Feb. 7 at Grover Cleveland High School, missing out on qualifying for the state competition by just two points.

Forty teams participated, with the top five schools advancing to the state competition by virtue of having the lowest scores.

Townsend Harris of Queens finished first with 276 points followed by Stuyvesant of Manhattan (295), Cardozo of Queens (314), Collegiate of Manhattan (324), and Dalton of Manhattan (340).

Sixth place Molloy, with 342 points, was the third highest ranked private high school and the highest ranked Catholic school in the competition.

Stanner teams won six medals in individual events.

The team of senior Kyle Hounsell and sophomore George DeMarco finished second in the junkyard challenge and fifth in the electrical vehicle competition.

The team of senior Nick Chan and junior Louis Lamia finished third in both cell biology and chemistry.

Hounsell and junior Paul Bakoyiannis finished fourth in astronomy.

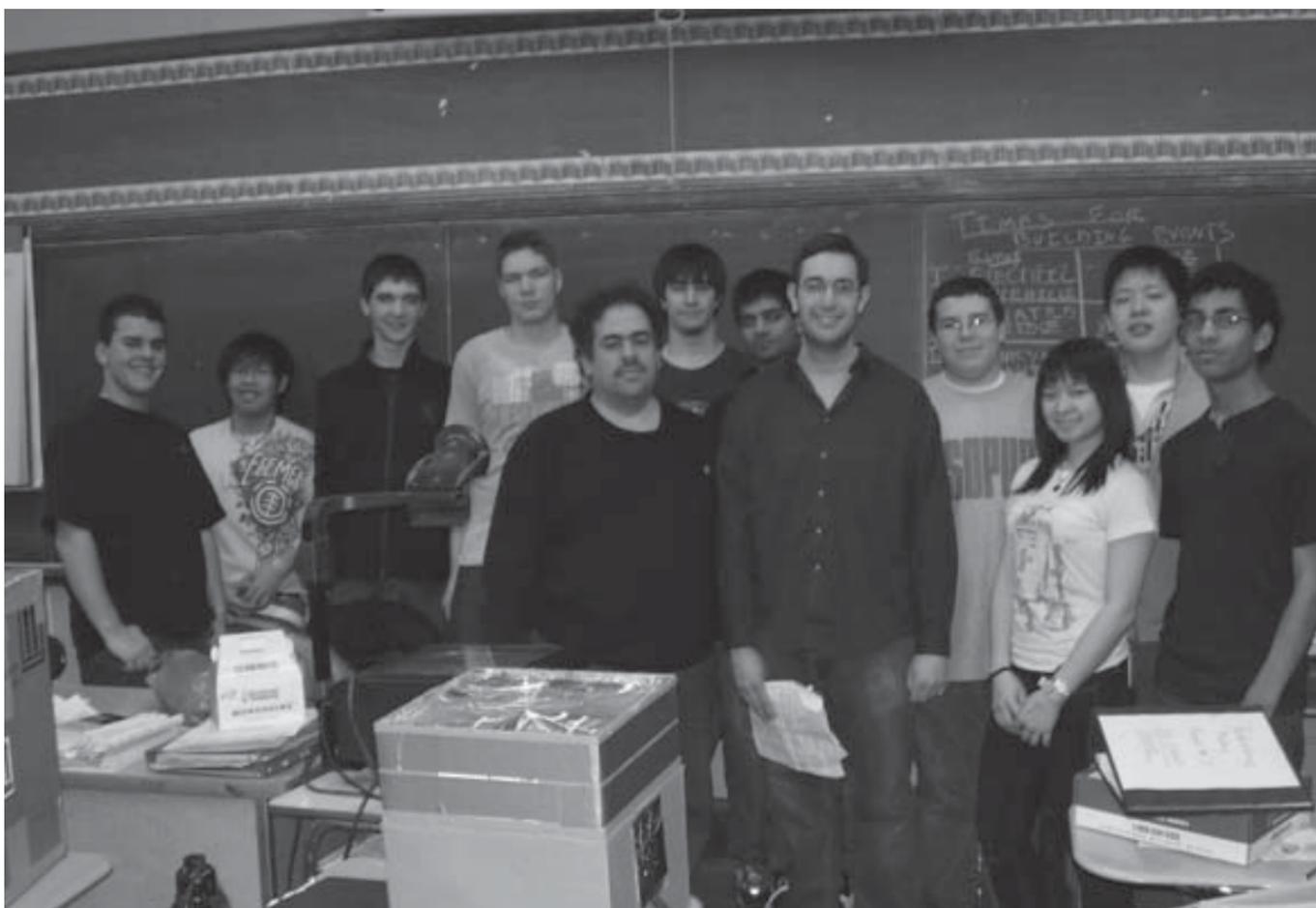
Juniors Justin Ly and Susan Zheng finished fifth in the solar power event.

For the second year in a row, Molloy missed qualifying for the state competition by just one place.

Moderator Mr. Mike DeMarco shared the team's frustration at coming so close to its goal.

"It's always tough," said Mr. DeMarco, "but at least we weren't blown out. We gave it a good fight."

Mr. DeMarco says that fifth place



Molloy's Science Olympiad team gets together before starting competition. (Photo by Bro. Roy George)

Dalton, a private school opponent from Manhattan, should "consider themselves lucky" that they advanced to the state meet by just a margin of 0.2 percent of total points scored.

"Luck just wasn't on our side," Mr. DeMarco said.

Yet Mr. DeMarco still applauded his team's performance.

"I think they gave it their all," he said. "We were well prepared, yet we didn't expect some things [that happened during the competition]."

Mr. DeMarco hopes to do just as well next year because the team has a

"strong nucleus to build from. We just need more 'mechanical' people, someone who can use their hands. We're losing Kyle Hounsell, who was our builder. Right now we need more practical people to join the team."

Hounsell, who competed at the city meet all four years, said of losing out to Dalton, "It was really close, but what I really want to know is the other guys' reaction, having won by two just points. Either way, it's not a situation you want to be in."

Hounsell feels the team performed to the best of its ability and that coming

up just two points short can't be blamed on anyone.

"You can't pin it on anyone," he said. "You can do a lot of finger pointing, but someone's always pointing one back at you."

Despite not advancing to the state meet, the team still enjoyed the competition.

"We always have fun," Hounsell said. "Someone always brings a handball or a deck of cards. We unwind."

Having earned medals in three of his five events, Hounsell said he was "pretty pleased" with his performance.

Boys Step shows America its talent

By Jennifer Caceres '10

The Archbishop Molloy Boys Step Team failed to finish in the top three in the finals of the Hot 97 Step Competition on Friday March 13 at Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn but managed to impress the producers of the TV show "America's Got Talent" just the same.

Molloy, which placed fifth last year after winning in 2007, got off to a great start in this year's contest by placing second among 18 teams in the semifinals last month.

"The crowd was cheering the loudest for us," said junior Kristopher Wilson, who added he was very pleased with the way the team performed.

When the semifinal results were announced, sophomore Ray Anthony Gejon said, "We were anxious at first, but we were really happy to find out that we placed second."

Mrs. Anne Lonergan, moderator

for both the Boys and Girls Step Teams, said that she had high expectations for the boy steppers in the finals but the team didn't perform its best when the time came.

"We were very disappointed Friday night," she said.

That changed at 6 a.m. Saturday when she received a call from the producers of "America's Got Talent," inviting the team to audition for the show on Sunday night at the Jacob Javits Center in Manhattan.

The team cut down its eight-minute routine to just two for the audition.

"It was fun," Mrs. Lonergan said. "I think they did well. We'll find out in the next three weeks. If we don't get a call, we didn't make it."

The Boys Step Team has more competitions coming up, including the Paramus Regionals, the Unity Step Show in Brooklyn, and a competition in Freeport. It will also perform at International Day on March 29.

The Stanner Players' Puzzle

By Dana Giuntini and Claudia Goncalves

W E V T J R T Z Y I T E J Y J A X N F Y
 B M R Z B Q J X M Z W R G P G K K I G A
 N T U C X A O A Q H G T L P T C F C U S
 I E I S N O I T I D U A Z Q D O D U U J
 S C M C I H T J M G Y E U A L R R U Z W
 X H E Y K C Z N G M S H G N D J F W S B
 Y N Q D R E A M C O A T A S K H P Y O K
 R I R S I G T L Z S N U A A D T G Z V A
 G C K X F A N S N P D E D G J O X D U D
 B O N N Y D A A D I D V F S E R V X Z W
 G L D Q B H M X E N O D N G G U D Z Q G
 B O L S V C M N O V L N K Y K Q E E G U
 Y R M R P S C J M G L H H B R X Z O U B
 J F S O W E J J G O S E L O N I Q X D A
 N O F T N U L S G R E S W M P M D J O A
 Q V R C R W S L O O F Y H T C C U E L J
 M S E A K Y A M M B P N O Y O V L L X L
 V S G L I C U N O B U G J C S P Y P T F
 J Y Y V C R I J M W D T U O I X Q N G W
 T E I S C Q S K Y W E V N V J H Z A I E

ACTORS
 AUDIENCE
 DREAMCOAT
 FOOLS
 GODSPELL
 GUYSANDDOLLS
 MUSICAL

PLAY
 RUMORS
 STAGE
 TECHNICOLOR
 THEATRE
 TICKETS
 TWELVEANGRYMEN

Senior vs. Faculty at the hop

By Stephanie Kotnik, '09

This year's Senior vs. Faculty Basketball game will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday March 27 in the Jack Curran Gym, followed by a "sock hop" for all Molloy students.

The Senior-Faculty game is a long-standing Molloy tradition, and this year will be the third in a row to include a dance, which will begin at approximately 9 p.m. immediately after the game ends.

Molloy's Dance Team is scheduled to perform at half time, and Regine Marquez and LeBrandon Smith are rumored to be the M.C.'s for the night.



The Dance Team will perform during halftime of the annual Seniors vs. Faculty Basketball Game in the Jack Curran Gym on March 27. (Photo by Blue & White Staff)

Alumnus Matt Lavanco will be the D.J., as he has been for several other dances at Molloy.

Mr. Chris Dougherty, the game organizer, expects a pretty big crowd at the game.

For the past two years, the bleachers have been packed with students; Dougherty estimated the attendance to have been at least 500 people.

"Hopefully, just as many people will come this year," said Mr. Dougherty. "We don't have many dances at Molloy, so hopefully this will draw more students to the game. Plus, the kids like to see the faculty play."

Tickets are \$4 each and will be sold during lunch periods and out of Mr. Dougherty's office during homeroom.

Tickets will most likely not be sold at the door on game night.

Some of the money raised from ticket sales will be sent to a division of Marist Missions through Mr. Mike Germano and the Campus Ministry program.

Half of the proceeds will benefit the school sponsored service trips to Lourdes and New Orleans during the summer. The Lourdes trip is expected to cost \$68,200 for everyone to go, so the funds raised at the game will be beneficial.

There have been two seniors vs. faculty face-offs so far this year.

The faculty has beaten the seniors in both football and softball, so Mr. Dougherty is confident that the faculty will come out on top again, even though the faculty has a losing record in basketball over the past few years.

In 2007, the seniors won, with one senior scoring almost 30 points, but last year it was the faculty's turn to win.

Mr. Dougherty said that both years featured fun, competitive games, and he hopes this year will be no different.

Senior Travis Kessel, who plans to play in the game, is confident that his classmates can beat the faculty despite their losing record so far this year.

"We can definitely beat them," he said. "With age, their speed decreases."

Senior Keith Devas also signed up to play.

"If we wear them out and run a lot, the teachers won't be able to keep up with us," said Devas.

As far as playing before a large crowd is concerned, Devas said that "some players might get nervous, but once the game starts, they won't worry."

Kessel believes that the crowd will encourage the seniors to do well.

"It's great having the support of other seniors," he said. "It'll be fun to see what they have to say about the teachers."

The rivalry between students and teachers could cause some trash talking before and during the game.

"An overconfident faculty team may want to talk trash, but when we win they won't be able to," said Kessel. "I love the teachers, but after their past wins, they have pretty big heads."

Devas thinks the rivalry might be more physical this time around.

"There'll be a lot of fouling," he stated. "Plus, I'm looking forward to see if Mr. [Mark]Verdi plays as well as he says. And I want to see Mr. Dougherty in those goggles that he calls glasses."

If the seniors win, they'll go 1-2 against the faculty for 2009, with an opportunity to tie things up in the volleyball match later this spring.

Esopus is one 'special place'

By Natalie Kurzyna '11 and Karolina Dzieniszewski '11

Stanners made their first retreat to Esopus in 1966 and now going to the Marist Brothers retreat house in upstate New York has become an essential part of the Molloy experience as over 50 percent of students go at least once before graduating.

"Esopus is a special place," said Principal Bro. Roy George. "It is a very nice and big facility, perfect for organizing retreats."

Stanners are introduced to the Esopus experience even before they start classes at Molloy.

Freshmen Camp, held every summer at Esopus, allows frosh to meet their future classmates and make friends with older Stanners.

Molloy's retreat program has stayed basically the same over the years, but new activities are added to help students learn more about themselves and their classmates.

Many students who go on retreats look forward to returning to Esopus.

Senior Vito Prainito has been to Esopus nine times, starting with Freshman Camp, continuing through his attending annual class retreats during the school year, working at adult camps during the summer, and finally, participating in the Senior Encounter.

Sophomore Julianne Broderick has

attended three retreats so far. For her, the best thing about Esopus is "the beautiful grounds."

Prainito agreed.

"It's a very big, open space. There are no cars, and it's just pure nature," he said.

Broderick said she likes "the fact that you can connect with so many of your peers."

Sophomore Gabrielle Grancio's favorite part of the retreat program is that "everyone gets along and acts as one big group."

For Prainito, being in Esopus is different from just hanging out with his friends because "you don't know the people in your groups as well, but then you get to know a deeper side of them."

Grancio said, "Esopus is different because we do other types of activities [than in school] and we get breaks, unlike school."

The first time Grancio went to Esopus, she was surprised "that it was fun, and not all religious. We had a lot of free time."

Prainito wasn't as surprised because he had attended Freshman Camp, but he was surprised by "how deep the reflections were."

Some Stanners have never been to Esopus, however.

Prainito thinks this may be because, "you have to open yourself up and some

people may not be comfortable with that."

Grancio said the reason might be that, "people may think that it's very religious and not fun."

Broderick feels that students who choose not to go on a retreat are making a mistake because, "Esopus and the retreats are a really unique part of Molloy, so they miss out on the uniqueness of our school."

Bro. Roy agreed.

"The students who decide never to go to Esopus are definitely missing out

on an opportunity to have a great experience," he said.

So can you really consider yourself a true Stanner if you don't go to Esopus at least once?

"Yes," said Prainito. "You're a Stanner because you go to Molloy, but you're not in the full respect because you haven't fully experienced Stanner life."

Bro. Roy said, "You can still consider yourself a Stanner if you never go to Esopus, but you are definitely missing out."



Junior Steve Tanico, left, was one of the leaders on a Sophomore Retreat. (Photo by the Blue and White Staff)

Boys Varsity Basketball loses to Rice in city playoff game

By Joe DiRico '11

Molloy's city championship hopes were cut short by a 96-84 playoff loss to Rice at Christ the King High School on March 7.

Molloy (15-10, 7-7) was no match for Rice's outstanding defensive play which had Molloy's offense stifled the entire game.

Senior guard Russ Smith, Molloy's leading scorer this season, scored 26 points while hardworking big man Jin Hong, a senior, added 13 points and an excellent effort on the boards.

Coach Mr. Jack Curran had hoped the team would've fared better this year although he thought the season was, "overall okay; however, the team didn't

reach their full potential in some games and lost three or four games where we should've come out on top."

When asked about next season, Coach Curran said the returning players "lack size" but he likes the way they play together as a team.

Junior guard Steve Foertsch said, "Six of us won the [Junior Varsity] city championship together [in 2008] and so we're looking forward to next year."

With the help of rising sophomore stars Chris Dorgler and Chris Garcia, the returning juniors look forward to making another run at the city championship next season.

Tyler Bay '11 contributed to this story



Senior Jin Hong drives to the hoop. (Photo by the Blue & White staff)

Doherty, Collins qualify for state

Sophomore Chris Doherty and senior Dan Collins qualified to compete in the 100-yard backstroke in the New York State Swimming and Diving Championships on March 6.

Doherty finished third in the 100-yard backstroke in a time of 55.36 seconds, while Collins finished fifth in 55.80 at the CHSAA "A" Championships on Feb. 6 at the Nassau County Aquatics Center in East Meadow where both swimmers surpassed the state qualifying time of 56.98 seconds.

Collins finished 47th in the 100 backstroke in a time of 56.46 seconds at the state meet while Doherty finished 55th in 57.12 seconds.

Here are Molloy's results from the CHSAA "A" Championships:

Team scores: 1. Fordham Prep, 776; 2. St. Anthony's, 759; 3. Chaminade, 721; 4. Molloy, 324; 5. St. Peter's Prep, 310.

200-yard individual medley: 6. Daniel Collins, 2:00.84.

100-yard backstroke: 3. Christopher Doherty, 55.36; 5. Daniel Collins, 55.80.

200-yard medley relay: 5. Molloy (Daniel Collins, Kenneth Ejerta, Brendan Erskine, Denis O'Connor) 1:45.32.

200-yard freestyle relay: 6. Molloy (Stefan Guelly, Brendan Erskine, Chris Doherty, Joseph D'Antoni), 1:32.90.

400-yard freestyle relay: 4. Molloy (Stefan Guelly, Joseph D'Antoni, Daniel Collins, Christopher Doherty), 3:23.99.

Molloy bowlers win fourth city title in the last six years

Molloy's Varsity Bowling team won its fourth city championship in the last six years on Feb. 10 when it defeated Xaverian by 133 pins.

The victory avenged the Stanners' eight-pin loss to Xaverian in the Brooklyn-Queens championship match earlier in the season.

The victory means that Molloy's all-senior team of Nick Galli, Justin Gratta, Steve Masillo, Jonathan Menna and Tom Wengler goes out a winner in its final match, but also that Coach Mr. Vinny Leonardo has a major rebuilding job ahead if the Stanners are to repeat as champions next year.

Girls Varsity Track & Field finishes fourth in city meet

By Malik Dean '09

Molloy's 1,600-meter relay team set a school record at the CHSAA Girls Varsity Track and Field Intersectional Indoor Championships on Feb. 14 at the Armory in Manhattan.

Sophomore Stephanie Rey, frosh Casey Collins, sophomore Tonika Forrester and senior Monica Martinez finished second in a time of 4 minutes, 11.55 seconds.

Rey also was Molloy's only gold medal winner at the city meet, winning the pole vault with a leap of 8-feet.

Two frosh, Ashley Mayer and Rachel Ipsen-Riegger, completed Molloy's sweep of the top three medals in the pole vault.

Junior Andrea Martinez and senior Adara Simonelli finished second and third in the shot put.

Molloy, however, finished fourth in the team standings with 26 points behind St. John the Baptist, Ford and St. Anthony's.

Coach Mr. Austin Power was very encouraged by the results of the meet because so many of his frosh and sophomore athletes did well.

"I wasn't surprised by any performance," said Mr. Power. "I expect them all to do well."

Simonelli was pleased with the team's performance considering the number of injuries it had to deal with during a rough indoor season.

Now she is just looking ahead.

"I'm pretty anxious for the outdoor season [to begin]," said Simonelli.

Monica Martinez said, "My main goal would be to win outdoor city's [title] and set another school record."

The girls share a common goal with Mr. Power.

"Our goal is to win the plaque as [outdoor] city champions, which is a very realistic goal," he said.

Before the Indoor City Championships, the Stanners fared well at the Brooklyn-Queens Sectional Indoor Championships, finishing second to Ford on Feb. 8 in the Armory.

Rey was Molloy's only gold medal winner at the Brooklyn-Queens meet, jumping 7-feet-6 to win the pole vault.

Here are Molloy's results from both championship meets:

City Championships

Team scores: 1. St. John the Baptist, 51; 2. Ford, 37; 3. St. Anthony's, 28; 4. Molloy, 26; 5. Kellenberg, 23.

55-meter hurdles: 5. Stephanie Halvax, 9.48.

1,600-meter relay: 2. Molloy (Stephanie Rey, Casey Collins, Tonika Forrester, Monica Martinez) 4:11.55 (school record).

Shot put: 2. Andrea Martinez, 32-9.75; 3. Adara Simonelli, 31-5.25.

Weight throw: 2. Andrea Martinez.

High jump: 5. Sabrina Spataro, 4-8.

Pole vault: 1. Stephanie Rey, 8-0; 2. Ashley Mayer, 7-6; 3. Rachel Ipsen-Riegger, 7-0.

Brooklyn-Queens Championships

Team scores: 1. Ford, 70; 2. Molloy, 55; 3. Loughlin, 27.5; 4. St. Francis, 25; 5. (tie) Mary Louis and Kearney, 15.

55-meters: 4. Stephanie Rey, 7.9; 5. Nicole Kelly, 7.9.

55-meter hurdles: 2. Stephanie Halvax, 9.3.

300-meters: 4. Monica Martinez, 43.8.

1,000-meters: 2. Paulina Stefanowski, 3:24.7.

1,600-meters: 5. Ilsen Hernandez, 5:43.2.

3,200-meters: 2. Kathleen Woods, 11:42.4; 4. Gabrielle Rosado, 12:30.7.

High jump: 4. Ashley Meyer, 4-8.

Triple jump: 3. Monica Martinez, 32-8.5; 4. Lisa Giovinazzo, 32-3.5.

Long jump: 4. Tiana Salas-Ali, 15-8.5; 5. Sabrina Spataro, 16-5.5.

Shot put: 2. Andrea Martinez, 33-3; 3. Adara Simonelli, 32-2.5; 5. Catherine Terranova, 26-11.75.

Pole vault: 1. Stephanie Rey, 7-6; 2. Ashley Mayer, 7-0; 3. Anna Oldakowski, 6-6; 4. Rachel Ipsen-Riegger, 6-0.

Collins, Catera are only Stanners to score points at varsity boys city meet

Molloy scored just two points and finished 19th among the 20 teams at the CHSAA Intersectional Boys Varsity Track and Field Championships at the Armory Track and Field Center in Manhattan on Feb. 14.

Juniors Sean Collins, who finished fifth in the 55-meter hurdles in a time of 7.91 seconds, and Matt Catera, who finished fifth in the triple jump with a leap of 42 feet-5 inches, were the only Stanners to score points.

Fordham Prep won the CHSAA city championship with 54 points, followed by Chaminade with 24.