

The Stanner

Vol. 54, No. 5

Archbishop Molloy High School

January 2011

Bye, bye Mr. Mecca; Stanners mourn the day the music died in Room 321

By Natalie Kurzyna '11, Julianne Broderick '11, Adrienne Zhou '12, and Natalie Look '12

The sound of Frank Sinatra singing "Summer Wind" will be heard no more coming out of Room 321.

Mr. John Mecca has passed away.

The Molloy family — students, alumni, faculty and staff — packed St. Brigid's Church in Westbury for Mr. Mecca's funeral on Jan. 10, a day Molloy had off from school so students could attend the mass.

Mr. Mecca taught Global Studies, Constitutional Law, Government, AP U.S. History, and Criminal Justice to Molloy sophomores, juniors and seniors since 2001.

Mr. Mecca also sang in Molloy's annual Talent Show.

Stanners who were taught by Mr. Mecca will never forget him.

Junior Claudia Fernandes said, "I loved how, no matter how bad of a mood I was in, the music I heard everytime I walked into his room would cheer me up.

"I remember how he made us recite the Declaration of Independence as if we were the ones who had written it and how excited he got every time he mentioned Abraham Lincoln."

"I will never forget his agenda on the blackboard and how the first thing I looked for in class was if I needed my textbook or not," Fernandes said.

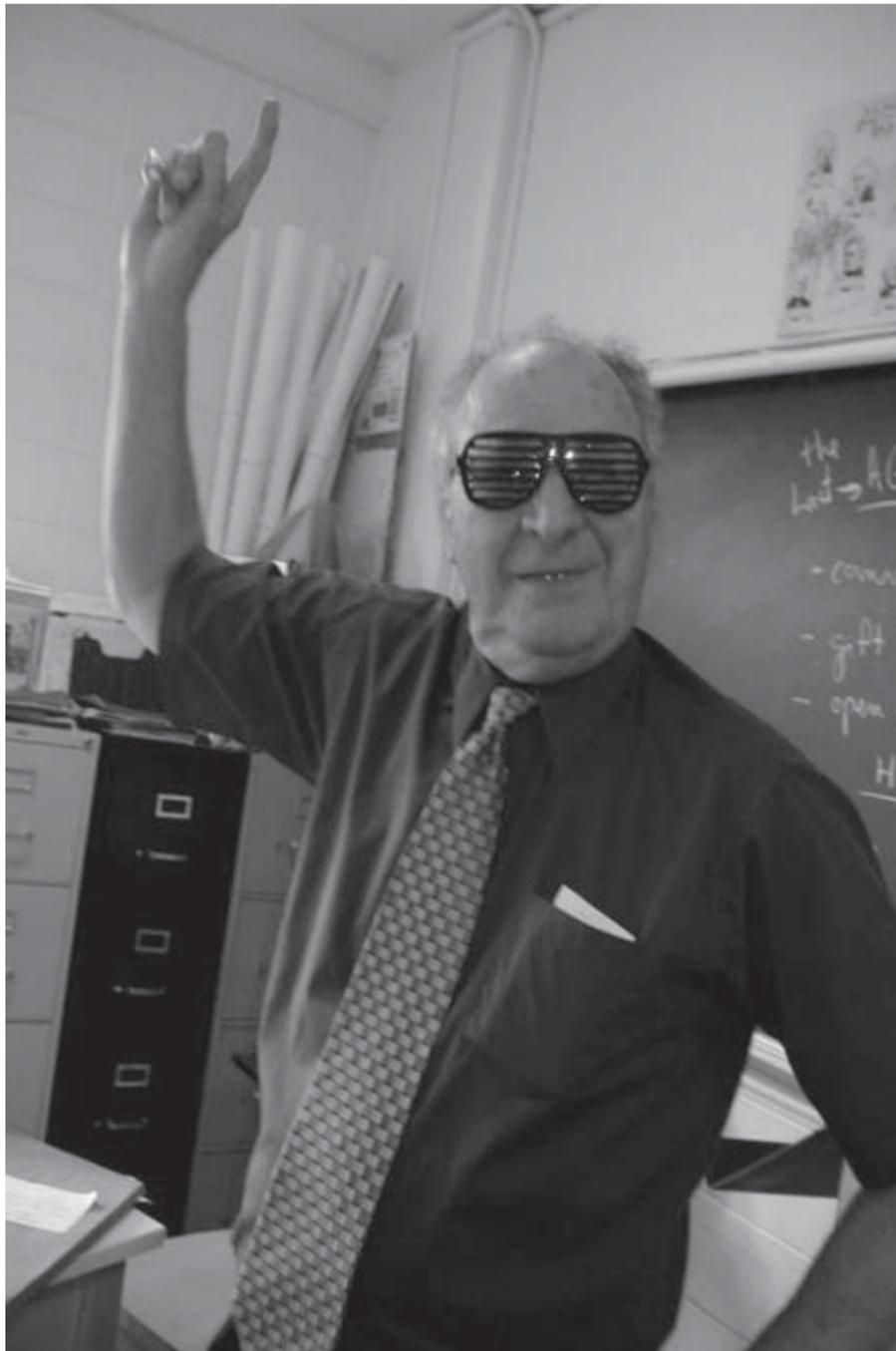
Junior Crystal Wong said, "I remembered he told us that he was on our side no matter what happened. That was something that I remembered and loved most about him.

"One time, just before my big English vocab test, he gave us time to study for it, something that most teachers would not allow us to do. This really showed that he was on our side.

"Everybody knew him from the music he played [in his classroom], which brightened everybody's day. The hallway was always blasting with his music, something that made that hallway special. Last year, I always passed by there for no reason, just to hear the music; it really made my day every day.

"He was more than just a teacher, he was like a grandpa to me. I would stand outside his classroom and wait until he could see me and wave to him. He was such a good teacher. I feel bad because the freshmen and the future Stanners will never see such a great man," said Wong.

Junior Maria Macchiarulo said, "Mr. Mecca wasn't just a great teacher. He



Mr. John Mecca will be missed by the Molloy students he taught.

taught life lessons in his class that will stick with me forever. He had a welcoming smile and music that lit up the hallways. I was in tears when I heard he passed away. It feels like a piece of the Molloy spirit is missing but he will remain in our hearts."

Senior Andrea Lai said she misses Mr. Mecca's singing and his music, the way he'd tap his ring on the blackboard and how he'd always tell stories.

"I wish I could hear him tell me one more time about the time he hitchhiked out west and took the freight trains back east. I wish he could tell us one more time about Abe Lincoln. I wish I could hear him do a southern accent again. I wish I could see him wearing a Molloy sweatshirt or see him dressed up on a dress down day, telling us we looked like public school kids."

Senior Markus Shum said, "Mr. Mecca was more than a teacher, he was a friend for many of his students. His class was always more active and fun

whenever he played music before the class began."

Senior Camilla Chodkowski said, "My favorite memory of Mr. Mecca was when I was having a bad day one day and I guess it showed. So after class, he called me over to ask if everything was okay. He was a genuine person who cared about his students."

Senior Christine Hurley remembered that "he was always excited about the lesson and you could tell that he loved to teach"

Senior T.J. Darcy said, "Well, there was one point in his class where I was suffering from my insomnia problems like I do all the time. He pulled me over once or twice to make sure I was doing all right, and it was really nice of him."

Senior Frans Cuevas said, "I used to take 'water breaks' during Religion class to do some one on one catching up with the big guy. He really knew what he was talking about. He even tried teaching me how to dance."

Senior Gina Galizia remembered that "many students walked into Mr. Mecca's room with a smile. Listening to him singing his favorite songs and hearing his well-told stories were the best things about him. Mr. Mecca wasn't just a teacher, he was like the Molloy grandpa and he was well loved. I will always remember his quote, 'If no one tells you this, know that I love you.'"

Senior Kevin Kennedy said, "He was always trying to help students. He would always offer to do anything with any student personally if they needed it.

"I'll never forget the time he pulled me over and complimented me on my essay and used it as an example for the rest of the class. He was always trying to give confidence to his students and help them learn how to perform better in school," Kennedy said.

Senior Mavricks James said, "Mr. Mecca was amazing. He actually was one of the main reasons why I got so involved with school. He would say that you should be involved in school events like he did with his amazing Talent Show performances because it shows you care about the school.

"I guess I wouldn't have realized how much Molloy is my home and how important this place is for me if Mr. Mecca didn't tell me that. I owe him a lot. Plus, he was a history teacher I loved to pay attention to," James said.

Senior Daniella Antolos said, "I'll always remember how Mr. Mecca sang to us everyday in my junior year history class and now he sings for the angels everyday. They're so lucky."

Senior Matthew Tirado said, "I never met a man like Mr. Mecca before. He was the kind of person who could fill you with hope. When I was in his class my stress from the day melted as I learned from and admired a great teacher, person, but, most importantly, a friend."

Alumnae Christine Fiore said, "I'll always remember that he told us the Rhode Island fleet was comprised of two men in a rowboat, and that Wyoming is 'closed.' Who could forget how excited we all got when it was time for 'First Monday'? And now there is no one else I will think of when I hear the song 'Summer Wind' except Mr. Mecca.

"But he won't ever have to get choked up talking about Alexander Hamilton or Abe Lincoln again because now he can just talk with them in heaven," Fiore said.

Saying ‘Hi, Mr. Mecca’ one last time

When I got a phone call from a friend telling me that Mr. John Mecca had passed away, I was in complete shock and struggled to hold back my tears.

Last year, Mr. Mecca was my Global Studies teacher and I remember him teaching his students with great passion.

He loved teaching and made his students love learning.

I have so many memories of him that come flooding back to me now that he’s gone.

I remember when I once helped him put his tie on.

I remember when he sang “Happy Birthday” to me in class.

I remember how I always loved to scream out “Hi, Mr. Mecca!” when I saw him in the Cafeteria after school.

And I remember that when he checked my homework, he always called me one of the good kids for doing it neatly.

Last Christmas, I gave him a present and when he received it, he gave me such a kind smile and such a big hug that I could feel his immense gratitude.

He had the pure heart of a child; I guess that’s why most of us got along so well with him.

He always explained everything with such excitement and energy that we got excited, too.

He never failed to tell us one of his stories to keep us interested throughout the class period, whether it was about his days in the Navy or his grandson’s addiction to video games.

What hurts me most right now is to remember what happened on the last day of classes last June.

I said goodbye to Mr. Mecca that day and he said, “Goodbye, Gabriella. You better visit me next year!” And, of course, I said, “I will.”

But when we returned to school in September, I found out he was very sick and so he wasn’t here very much.

I began to get a little worried about him but not a lot because I believed he was strong and he could resist anything.

He came back to school once before Christmas and I was surprised to see him in Room 321 when I peeped through the window in his door.

I said to myself that I was going to stop by later to say “hi,” but I forgot.

After returning from Christmas vacation, I didn’t see him but I expected to see him around school again soon and I promised myself I would visit him the day he came back.

Now I won’t get the chance to see him ever again and it makes me very sad.

Mr. Mecca, Molloy will not be the same without you. You made all of us smile with the beautiful music you played every morning and your beautiful singing voice.

I will miss you so much, Mr. Mecca. I’m just thankful I was one of your students.

Rest in peace, Mr. Mecca. The angels in heaven will learn much from you.

— Gabriella Vasquez ’12

We need to make applying easier

As seniors at one of the most prestigious Catholic college prep schools in the city, Molloy’s Class of 2011 has a lot to deal with. From keeping up with schoolwork, leading extra-curricular activities, and navigating the all-too confusing world of college applications, our workload can seem overwhelming at times.

As some colleges have changed their application process from paper to online forms and some have not, this year’s seniors are stuck in the middle, submitting essays and applications online but having to mail in many supporting documents such as recommendations, secondary school reports, and transcripts.

Personal guidance appointments, where students meet in pairs or one-on-one to speak with a college advisor, concentrate on helping a student decide what schools to apply to by analyzing averages, SAT scores, and the student’s career goals.

But after most seniors choose their schools, they often are unsure about how to apply to them.

The College Guidance Dept. tries to make it easier for us by requiring seniors to attend three college guidance sessions at the beginning of the year to explain the application process.

But I found myself among the majority of seniors who still were confused, as the sessions seemed to raise as many questions as they answered.

What’s an SSR form? What goes in the envelopes? How do I apply for financial aid?

Seniors were further confused by the

different deadlines to submit to the Guidance Office the envelopes addressed to colleges and stamped by the student that are used to send out transcripts and other school forms.

Most met the deadlines, but some seniors later discovered some colleges discard supporting paperwork sent in before the application itself and this resulted in their having to re-submit envelopes or call the colleges to ensure they received all the necessary documents.

Many teachers opt to write recommendations on paper and give the letter to the guidance office, which mails it out on behalf of the student.

Some seniors were surprised to find out that they must submit more envelopes to the office in order for those recommendations to be sent out.

It seemed as if every week seniors were surprised by another hurdle they had to leap as part of the process.

If one student tried asking another why a certain task had to be completed, often the answer was either “I don’t know” or “Someone told me to do it.”

To avoid the confusion many seniors are experiencing this year, juniors need to start working with the College

Guidance Dept. this spring to avoid the last-minute confusion that is plaguing the Class of 2011.

Juniors should ask the College Guidance Dept. for a schedule which notes all deadlines students must meet in the college application process and clearly explains what they must do to meet all the requirements.

This way, when the Class of 2012 returns next fall as seniors, they will have a clearer understanding of the application process, will manage their time more effectively, and will not be shocked by sudden end-of-the-week

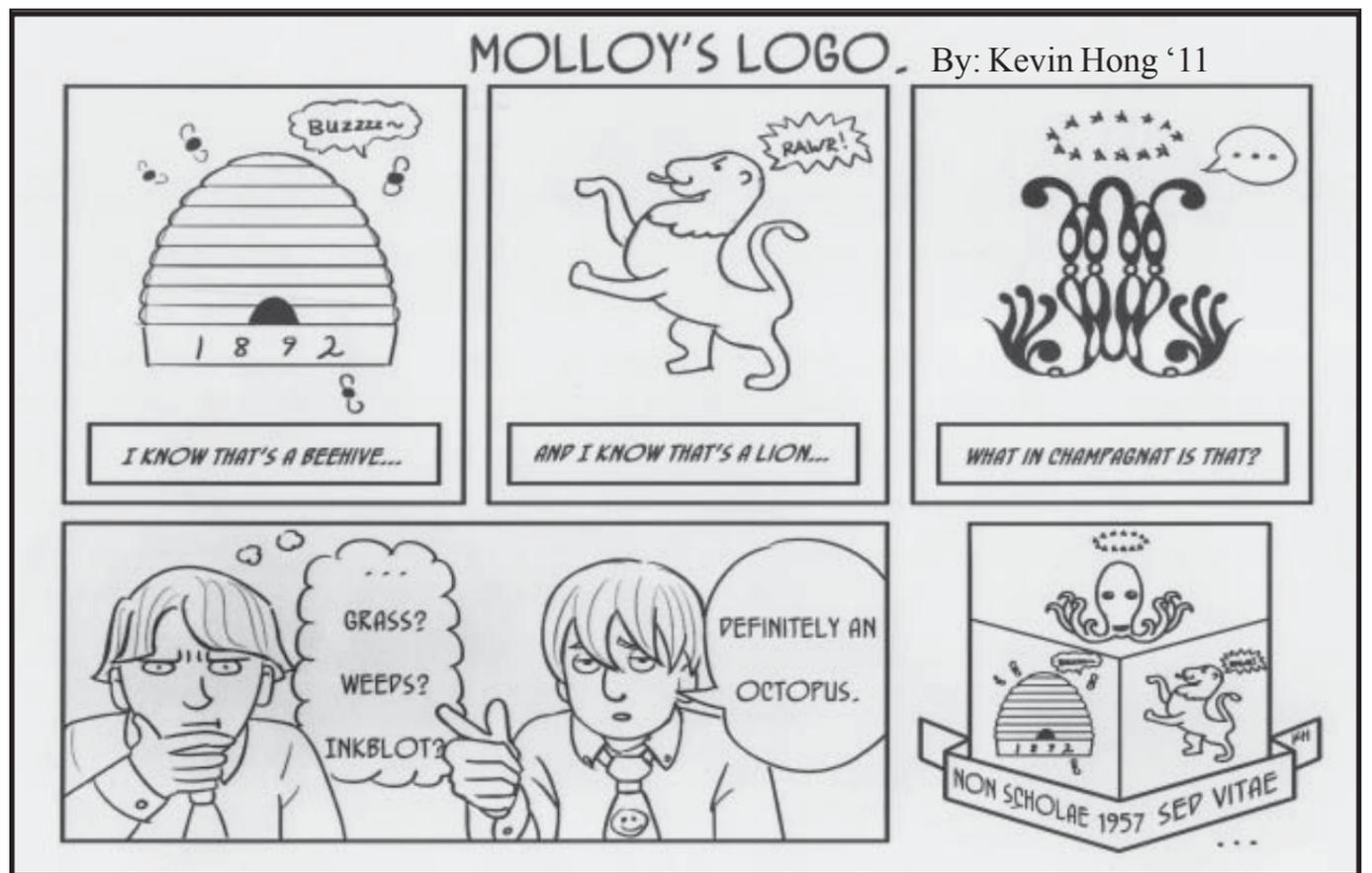
deadlines as many members of the Class of 2011 were.

Since many seniors are already finished with most of the application process, these changes would come too late for us.

But the College Guidance Dept. should remember the Class of 2011’s confusing ordeal when it comes time to prepare the next batch of seniors for the college application process.

Getting the process started in the spring might make things easier for them than it was for us.

— Stacey Nieves ’11



The Stanner

Volume 54, Number 5

Editor-in-Chief:	Natalie Kurzyna
Managing Editor:	Mary Rooney
News Editor:	Julianne Broderick
Photography Editor:	Monish Pahilajani
Layout Editor:	Carolina Mlynarczyk
Production Staff:	Natalie Look, Pamela Decolongon, Adrienne Zhou
Stanner Moderator:	Mr. Charley McKenna
Publisher:	Bro Thomas Schady

Uniform change for the Class of '15

By George Gulino '14

After years of complaints from students about the ill-fitting shirts and skirts provided by Marlou, Molloy's uniform provider, the Administration has decided to switch to a new company, Land's End Business Outfitters, starting next year.

"Students had complained about the quality of clothing," said Assistant Principal for Students Mr. Ken Auer. "We looked around for a company that had better material and better quality. Land's End fit that description. Prices are also reasonable."

Members of the incoming Class of 2015 will be required to order their uniforms from Land's End, but other students will have the option of continuing to wear their Marlou uniforms or switch to those provided by Land's End.

"Incoming freshmen will all have to buy clothing from Land's End," Mr. Auer said. "Sophs, juniors, and seniors will only have to buy replacements."

Stanners can shop for the new uniforms at Land's End retail store or online at the company's website, www.landsend.com.

Mr. Auer said that because it is a larger company, "Land's End has a better warrantee policy."

Clothing bought from Land's End has a lifetime guarantee and worn out — but not damaged — items will be replaced at the company's expense.

Aside from the improved quality, the move to Land's End will result in a change of dress code for the girls in the Class of 2015.

Girls will wear both a new style oxford blouse that is designed not to be tucked in and "skorts," a one piece skirt and shorts combination, or pants.

"The shirts the girls wear now are basically boys' shirts," Mr. Auer said. "These shirts are designed specifically to fit girls."

Mr. Auer hopes the new shirts, which won't be tucked in, will reduce the number one dress code violation



Marisa Puzino models a prototype of the 2011 Senior Shirt for classmate Taylor Conroy in Room 123. (Photo by Derek Sokolowski '11)

committed by girls — the untucked shirt.

Mr. Auer said the skorts are "cut to be a better fit for girls."

He hopes this will address the second biggest female dress code violation, a too-short skirt caused by rolling it.

Skorts are much more difficult to roll, Mr. Auer said.

Boys will still have to wear shirts and ties, and the blue or white colors of the shirts will remain the same.

However, there will be a different shade of blue, for instance, and other minor differences between the Land's End uniform and the Marlou uniform.

Most articles of clothing will have a standard price. For example, boys' long sleeve shirts will sell for around \$24.50.

The move to a new uniform will have no effect on the senior privilege of wearing Molloy polo shirts for the second semester of senior year, as that tradition will continue next year.

Mr. Auer recommended that Stanners maintain the same number of school shirts, pants or skorts when they switch

to Land's End as they do now and the switch to a new company will not mean that students will need more sets of clothes than they already have.

Many students are already happy about the change.

Frosh Madelein Glaeser said, "I think that the change was a good thing. It's not smart that girls should be wearing the same shirts as guys. Girls have a different body structure and the uniform should accommodate for that."

"Personally I haven't been having the problems with the fit of the skirts, but the material on the blue skirts should be different because they move up when you walk," Glaeser said.

Junior Becky Albergo said, "The uniform change in general was a good idea. It had to come around sooner or later."

Boys, however, were less likely to see a need for a change.

"Most likely, it won't make much of a difference for the boys at school," said frosh Ryan Lee. "For girls, it probably will, due to all the changes."



Senior Jennifer Moncino, Ariella Levine, and Sebastian Altomarinio look at the new Land's End catalog from which Stanners will order their school uniforms starting next year. (Photo by Derek Sokolowski '11)

Online classes reviews mixed

By Stacey Nieves '11

Now that the first semester of online classes at Molloy is almost over, it appears that they are likely to become a fixture at Molloy because they offer students the ability to connect with students and teachers from other schools around the nation, said Mr. Ed Cameron.

But even though they are here to stay, Mr. Cameron warns that they may be a challenge for any Molloy student who is not a strong writer, which is the primary method of communication in an online class.

Molloy plans to offer roughly the same number of online classes to its students next year as it did this year, Mr. Cameron said, but he guessed that after "a few kinks" have been worked out, online learning will grow in popularity at Molloy and in other high schools nation-wide.

Mr. Cameron is the only Molloy teacher currently teaching an online class, Contemporary Issues in American Law and Justice, a half-year class he described as a blend of criminal justice, constitutional law, and current events, which is graded on basis of standard written assignments and online discussion boards.

The class attracts students living primarily in the northeastern United States, especially Massachusetts and New Jersey, and the students' educational experience varies, "from AP to IEP," Mr. Cameron said.

But his course requires that all students be good writers and good readers.

Mr. Cameron found that only a certain type of student might be prepared for this different style of learning and suggested that any student considering taking an online class in the

future, "Ask yourself: Am I an independent learner? Am I motivated? How are my writing skills?"

Never seeing students face to face was "absolutely the hardest part" of teaching the class for Mr. Cameron, who described the online classroom as "not the same level of interaction" and that it "could never replace the in-class experience, but is good as a way to take an elective [course]."

Mr. Cameron called teaching the online class "a challenge," given that he didn't have a background in this particular course's topic and had to deal with a different type of interface with students. But he said it has gotten easier over time.

Senior T.J. Darcy, who recently completed an online class called Engineering Perspectives, said that his online class was "definitely harder" than

classes at Molloy because "it was harder to stay on top of deadlines without having to 'see' the class every day."

"I don't honestly feel like I actually learned anything from the course," Darcy said. "It seemed more like, 'Here's this concept that has to do with engineering. Go look up stuff about it online and use it to do Project X for me, then never use it again.'"

Mic is open a 2nd time

Molloy's second Open Mic show of the year was held on Jan. 12 in the school Theater and among the featured performers were:

Jessica Chen, Herbert Leona, Anthony Dolengewicz, Thomas Ashton, Thomas Hackimer, Ray Anthony Gejon, Rachel Lung, Matthew Maneri, Deanna Mayo, Vinh Tran, Melissa Foley and Jennifer Foley.

Alumni complain Thanksgiving was far too restrictive

By Vimla Warslie '11

Molloy alumni returned to school on Wednesday, Nov. 24 to take part in the school's annual Thanksgiving Liturgy but due to their large number, the Administration did not allow them to roam the halls to visit teachers while classes were in session.

This did not sit well with many alumni.

Molloy President Mr. Richard Karsten said Molloy takes into consideration any complaints made by alumni when determining school policy but as of now there is no plan to change the policy for next year when members of the Class of 2011 return for the first time as alumni.

Thanksgiving marked the second time in school history that the Administration told returning graduates that they had to remain in the Cafeteria for a

reception after the liturgy and hope that teachers would visit them there.

The policy did not change for the Christmas Liturgy, even though some alumni managed to get upstairs.

The more restrictive Thanksgiving visitation policy was first tried in 2008 but after graduates complained to the Alumni Office, the old free range policy was reinstated for 2009.

This year alumni were asked again to remain in the Cafeteria for security reasons.

Mr. Karsten said that school returned to its more restrictive policy because it is not safe to have over 1,580 current students plus a few hundred alumni walking in the halls between classes in case there is an emergency.

Even though a few alums were upset, Mr. Karsten said those few complaints



Alumni packed the bleachers for the Thanksgiving Liturgy but were not allowed to leave the Cafeteria afterward to visit teachers in their classrooms. (Photo by Blue & White Yearbook Staff)

he received were respectful.

He believes that next year the Thanksgiving Liturgy might lose a few visiting alumni due to their negative reaction to this year's policy.

Javed Yunus, a member of the Class of 2010, said, "I was disappointed because part of the tradition was going up to the classes; that's how I remembered it at Molloy. But I will come back [next year] because I get to see a lot of people from my graduating class."

Amanda Wood, class of 2008, said,

"I will come back to Molloy liturgies because I will get to see my teachers and classmates, and that's what counts."

Mr. Karsten said the new policy is not meant to discourage alumni from returning for the liturgies.

He hopes alums will come back for all holiday liturgies and he encourages alumni to come back on days other than that of liturgies.

"Any alumnus is welcome back at Molloy, any day, and they can visit whomever they please," Mr. Karsten said.

Toy Drive surpasses last year's total



Sophomores Jaelyn Eng and Christine Stanolevich help out at the Toy Drive sorting party in the Theater. (Photos by Blue & White Yearbook)



By James Di Maggio '11

Molloy's Annual Toy Drive distributed 1,348 toys last December by working with numerous foundations for underprivileged kids.

The toys were donated to the Briarwood Shelter, Heart Share, St. Gerard Majella, which donates to three different hospitals, Toys For Tots, and St. John's Bread and Life.

Campus Ministry Director Mr. Mike Germano was impressed that the total was higher than last year's 1,248 toys distributed.

Mr. Germano was very happy about the success of the 2010 Toy Drive.

"Yes, without a doubt, especially with the economy this year," Mr. Germano said. "Molloy students showed their generosity."

Mr. Germano also said he was pleased that \$2,200 was raised through homeroom collections and while some homerooms did not donate very much money, other homerooms made up for them by donating a lot of money.

Mr. Germano thanked all Molloy students, especially the Campus Ministry members, and the faculty for their generosity and hard work.

Campus Ministry member Diego Martinez said, "We got a good number of toys and the students were very generous this year."

Martinez, a senior, bought a toy to donate to the cause and then helped sort the toys before distribution.

Martinez said he loved the fact that he knew he was helping some kid somewhere by donating that toy.

Mr. Germano said he loves running the Toy Drive every year.

"We were all children at one point," he said. "There's something special about a Christmas present. We are doing something the parents can't. We are being Santa for these kids. Nothing is better than a smile on a child's face."

In another fund-raising effort, Campus Ministry sold 1,967 candy cane grams at \$1 each, which was just 33 shy of its goal.

Sci-Oly team aims high at city meet

By Andrew Antonio Buzzetta '11

Molloy will compete in the annual New York City Science Olympiad on Feb. 5 at Grover Cleveland High School in the hope of returning to the State Championships for the second consecutive year and the 19th time in the last 25 years.

"Last year we did pretty well and came in third place in the city," said Mr. Mike DeMarco, who has won five city titles during his 25 years as moderator for the Science Olympiad team.

If Molloy's team places among the top four schools in the City Championship next month, it will advance to the state competition at West Point in March.

The top two schools from the state meet go to the national competition.

The city competition among public, private and Catholic schools from all five boroughs features events based on engineering skills and all four sciences: biology, chemistry, physics, and earth science.

Molloy's team this year consists of: seniors Mary Rooney, Judi Li, Serg Ostrowski, Andrea Lai, George DeMarco, Jovi Rodriguez, William Vista, juniors Alexandra Woods, Thomas Hackimer, Jennifer Hwu, sophomores Joseph Ingrassia, Chris DeMarco, Shibin Mathews, Derrick Adam, and Marion Galvez.

Mr. DeMarco said Molloy's best performance in its history was a 12th place in the State championships but would like to do better this year.

Team members spend weeks preparing for each event.

George DeMarco is designing a robot for the "Sumo Robot" event where two remote control robots try to force each other out of a ring.

"I've been working on projects like these to prepare for the city meet five days a week, staying in school until 6 [p.m.] just to prepare," DeMarco said.

Vista is designing a balsa wood bridge that weighs a few ounces but should support as much as 33 pounds.

Book drive overcomes critics

By Ivan Sanchez '11

The National Honor Society, under the direction of Vice President Karen Zhou, collected 213 books that were donated by Stanners from Dec. 13-17 for the New York City Books Through Bars organization.

The book drive, which gathered books ranging from dictionaries and thesauruses to how-to books, was designed to help rehabilitate prison inmates through the organization's prime purpose of "sending free donated books to people in prisons across the country."

Zhou, a senior, said that in addition to promoting a NHS membership criteria of service to the community, she was moved to start the drive last September by the comments from other Books Through Bars volunteers about the lack of dictionaries in prisons.

"I thought it would be an opportunity for Molloy to help out a grassroots group that has an enormous impact with a subpopulation that most Stanners perhaps do not have associations with," Zhou said.

However, Zhou has found that criticism of and outright objections to the book drive eventually surfaced from students based on their hostility toward the idea of helping the incarcerated rather than other target groups such as lower socioeconomic neighborhoods.

The resulting conflict generated discussions among many students and teachers regarding prison literacy, something that otherwise would not be a normal classroom discussion topic.

"I was extremely surprised by the reaction," Zhou said. "I admit I was perhaps naïve in believing that all Stanners, after having been given the chance to get a great education, would think it is a right that should not be taken from even the lowliest of criminals."

"At least 95 percent of all state prisoners eventually are released from prison and so it becomes a question of what type of person do you want re-entering society."

"If 68% of all state prisoners have no high school diploma, shouldn't they be at least given the opportunity to get an education in jail?" Zhou asked.



National Honor Society members display the books collected in the Books Through Bars book drive. (Photo by Derek Sokolowski '11)

Despite the criticism, Zhou stated that the drive was successful on many levels.

"I think it went fine, although perhaps it shouldn't have been as restricting in its requirements" of what types of

books could be donated.

"We collected over 213 books, which essentially translates to 213 more people with learning opportunities," Zhou said.

Kindles appear in classrooms

By Matthew Tirado '11

While the Molloy Administration has long banned electronic devices such as cell phones and iPods from being used during school hours, when new technologies are used to advance the educational process, the Administration is willing to take a different view.

Kindles, or other electronic readers which can be used to download books for class, are already appearing in Molloy classrooms.

Senior James Mc Donnell brings his Kindle to English class.

"Mr. [Dennis] Vellucci thinks it's cool," McDonnell said.

However, the Molloy Administration has not yet established an official policy regarding the use of electronic readers at school. Assistant Principal Mr. Ken Auer said, "It's so new we haven't brought it up."

The major concern of the Administration about these devices is the unrestricted internet access provided by most iPads and some Kindles that the Administration does not want students to have access to while in school.

It is for this reason that Mr. Auer believes a policy will be formulated soon under which Kindles which don't have the internet access of iPads will be allowed while using an iPad will be against school policy.

Many students say they would be fine working with that type of policy.

Brandon Rodriguez, a senior and Kindle owner, said that owning an e-



Senior Eric Dorcean reads a novel for English class on his Kindle. (Photo by Derek Sokolowski '11)

reader, "makes things a lot easier. I don't have to wait in line at the bookstore [to buy paperback books]. It also provides for neater notetaking and doesn't clutter what's already on the page."

The iPad for the moment is not as

popular with Stanners as the Kindle.

Very few Stanners own iPads and those who do probably would not bring them to school.

Senior Kevin Crawford theorized that an iPad owner would leave it at home because, "it's too fragile. It's very

expensive and he wouldn't want to break or lose it."

These new technologies, which save the students time in line and weight in their backpacks, will probably be seen in Molloy classrooms and the Cafeteria more and more this semester.

Attend the Winter Wonderland Dance Feb. 11th!

1 new senior elective offered

By Joe Anton '11

After attending an assembly on Jan. 18 to learn about the 2011-12 course catalogue, juniors will have until Feb. 9 to decide which of the school's 61 senior elective courses they will take when they return in the fall for senior year.

As of now, the only new elective course being introduced for next year is Social Justice by the Religion Dept.

Assistant Principals Sr. Elizabeth Bickar and Ms. Mary Ann Safrey stressed to juniors the crucial need to choose courses that suit their individual interests and talents.

Ms. Safrey believes that a major factor in a junior's choice of courses is the teacher who teaches them, which can be problematic as different teachers can teach different courses from year to year because department chairpeople often rotate the teachers

assigned to electives in order to give the faculty in each department more experience in different areas.

Ms. Safrey said students who pick a course assuming a certain teacher will be teaching it next year might be in for a surprise when they show up for the course next year.

With Molloy offering more classes to seniors than many other high schools, Ms. Safrey said it's easy for juniors to simply go along with whatever their friends are signing up for.

Ms. Safrey said senior electives can be something of a "cheap preview" of what a college-level course in that particular field will be like but without the steep college tuition price.

She strongly encouraged juniors to speak with seniors, as well as the current teachers of any courses the juniors might be interested in, in order to get a better sense of what any elective

course entails.

Ms. Safrey, who has taught many electives in the English Dept., said juniors should, "talk to other students and teachers [about the electives being offered] and filter that through their own interests and desires."

Many senior courses that were not held this year due to a lack of enrollment, such as AP European History, U.S. Foreign Policy, International Law, AP Statistics, and AP Spanish, will be offered to juniors registering for courses next month but whether they actually run or not will depend on how many juniors enroll.

Because the Class of 2012 is unusually small, it's very possible that many classes will be dropped again due to lack of enrollment.

However, Sr. Elizabeth said it's difficult to predict which classes will be popular among students.

The numbers of sections per senior elective class usually range from one to six.

Two courses that have been popular with seniors are Psychology, taught by Mr. William Niklaus, and Participation in Government, taught by Mr. John Diorio.

These elective courses, which Sr. Elizabeth calls "classically popular" at Molloy, most often have the most students sign up for them.

Sr. Elizabeth cited Forensics, taught by Mr. Jim Sheldon, as a newer elective course that has been steadily gaining popularity.

Other senior elective courses, such as Shakespeare and Science Fiction in the English Dept. or Sociology in the Social Studies Dept., often run as only one section but they feature a "small, but devoted number of students," said Sr. Elizabeth.

Seniors stress over college applications

By David Polanco '11 and Dylan Cepeda '11

Applying to college can be a stressful process, but the Class of 2011 is doing a great job handling the pressure and meeting deadlines, according to Molloy's Senior College Advisor Mr. Kerry Hughes.

The challenge of the application process includes writing essays, getting teacher recommendations, and sending off secondary school reports, SAT or ACT scores, and any additional information required by colleges or universities by their individual application deadlines.

Molloy requires all secondary school reports to be turned in to Mr. Hughes by Oct. 12 for SUNY and CUNY schools and by Nov. 2 for all other schools.

Most colleges' application deadlines are Feb. 15, except for Ivy League schools which have a Jan. 1 deadline.

Early Action and Early Decision applications, meanwhile, were due before Christmas and seniors who applied for Early Action or Early Decision have begun receiving their acceptances or rejections.

Mr. Hughes said those not applying early should have already sent in their essays and secondary school reports and should be in the process of sending their letters of recommendation.

Senior Elizabeth Langer has finished all of her applications and gives credit to the Guidance Office for some of her

college choices.

"Mr. Hughes opened my eyes to a couple schools that I eventually applied to," she said, including her top choice, SUNY-Geneseo.

Senior Lauren Conter said, "College Guidance and appointments with Mr. Hughes helped a lot" in helping her choose to apply to three SUNY, six CUNY, and seven private schools.

Bro. Eugene Birmingham, a college counselor who has processed 45 applications this year, said most students applied to 10-15 schools.

Mr. Hughes said the most popular colleges are the SUNY and CUNY schools because their tuition is less than most private schools, and St. John's University, which about 25 seniors attend every year.

Mrs. Joan McCabe, an assistant to Mr. Hughes, said the Class of 2011 is doing a good job with the application process and calls this year's senior class "one of her favorites," but admits that "some didn't follow directions."

"I really think having to use both the online and the paper applications was confusing," said Mrs. McCabe. "Once everything is the same, it will be easier."

Bro. Eugene agreed, saying, "electronic processing allows the student to know that the application has been processed and they save money on stamps and envelopes."

Mr. Hughes predicts that by next year, the application process will be done almost entirely electronically.



Venice will be one of three stops on Mr. Chris Dougherty's trip.

Stanners see Italy in Feb.

By Cynthia Rivera '11

Mr. Christopher Dougherty is taking 24 students to Italy next month, the second February trip he has organized at Molloy.

Mr. Dougherty usually takes seniors on trips during Easter break, but this year, going during Easter vacation would conflict with his plans to take the Anime Club to the Anime Boston '11 convention.

Mr. Dougherty's travel party, which includes chaperones Mr. Matthew Kilkelly, Mr. Daniel Charvet, and Mrs. Kathleen Forgione, will depart from JFK Airport on Saturday, Feb. 19, and return Sunday, Feb. 27.

Although this was supposed to be a seniors-only trip, it was opened up to all grades because not enough seniors signed up to go.

Mr. Dougherty originally proposed to seniors a February trip to Croatia and Venice, Italy, but only three students signed up for it.

Mr. Dougherty then proposed a trip to the Dominican Republic but only four people signed up for that, so he ended up going to Italy.

"It's either third time's the charm, or three strikes and you're out," said Mr.

Dougherty, and in this case, the third time was the charm.

Junior Marissa Sblendorio, who is taking her first Molloy trip, said she chose to go on this one because, "I'm of Italian descent and I'm interested in my culture. Plus, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I'm just excited to go some place new."

She's most excited to visit Rome to see all of the monuments and experience the rich culture firsthand.

There is still space left for anyone who still wants to go on the trip, but if a student chooses now to go, he or she will have to pay more than the others did, which was around \$3,100, because of late registration fees.

Mr. Dougherty plans to take his students on a tour of Rome, Florence, and Venice, and while he believes it will be a little warmer there than in New York next month, he still recommends students to take fleeces, sweatshirts, and heavy jackets on the trip.

While it may be a bit chilly in Italy, Dougherty believes being there in the winter has its benefits, such as fewer tourists and smaller lines to get into famous places such as the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City.



Uno is the only card game allowed to be played in the Senior Lounge. (Photo by Derek Sokolowski '11)

Disappointment with Senior Lounge

By David Gentile '11

Tucked away in a corner of the school basement, going to the Senior Lounge is supposed to be one of the privileges of being a Molloy senior.

But this year, many who go to there regularly are calling for the Administration to make improvements to the Senior Lounge.

Bro. John Raeihle, who has managed the Senior Lounge since 1979, said it serves an important function as a place where "seniors can get a break from the academic day."

The lounge currently has one ping-pong table, one pool table, which costs players seventy-five cents per game, one radio, and one table where students are allowed to play the card game Uno.

Seniors Mark Perkowski, Randell Gaskins, and Brian Greene all agreed the Senior Lounge needs an upgrade.

Greene described it as "run down," adding "everything's broken."

The history of the Senior Lounge began in what is now the Music Room but lost that space when a music course was added to the curriculum.

It was later moved to its current location in the basement, but lost about a third of its space a couple of years ago to make room for the recovery tanks for the new Chemistry Lab.

Perkowski said that "they could have done a lot more [with it] if only [the room itself] was bigger."

At various points in its history the lounge contained additional pool and ping-pong tables, pay-to-play video games, a television set, which had to be scrapped with the advent of cable TV, and a stereo, which had to be removed because the loud music disturbed students in the Library.

A common complaint about the lounge is that its amenities are often broken.

"We need things that work," Gaskins said.

However Bro. John said that "the students are responsible for any damage" found in the lounge, and that seniors have broken more ping-pong paddles so far this year than last year's seniors did for the entire year.

Seniors also complained about having

to pay to play pool but Bro. John said the money goes toward maintaining the lounge and buying equipment.

Bro. John said that while the lounge gets repainted every year, he believes spending any more money "to refurbish it now seems like a waste a money" and would prefer for the Administration to wait "until it gets really bad" before investing money in any rehab project.

However, Perkowski, Gaskins and Greene all said the lounge should be upgraded very soon.

Perkowski recommended the Administration "add more amenities" such as a couch and suggested that some money from the annual Walk-a-thon be used to improve the lounge.

Greene shared Perkowski's desire for a couch and suggested the lounge "get a better radio."

Gaskins would like to see another ping-pong table because now "only a few people can play ping-pong at once," and he would like to see card games other than Uno be allowed to be played "because more people want that."

Girls hurdling towards their B-Q goal

By Conor Davan '11

Molloy's Varsity Girls Hurdle team, which had a good season last year, has taken a step backwards this indoor season, largely due to the loss of last year's top runners to graduation.

The two big losses were former captain Danielle Reddy, who ran a personal best of 9.2 seconds in the 55-meter high hurdles, and Dominique Kalpakidou, who ran a 10.2.

"The loss of those two seniors has had a significant impact and weakened the team overall," said coach Bro. Pat Hogan. "This has forced the current seniors to step up and take more responsibility in leadership roles."

The top hurdlers this indoor season

have been junior Casey Collins, who ran a personal best of 10.3 seconds at The Stanner Games Jan. 15 at the Armory in Manhattan, senior captain Christa Ciuffo (10.6) and senior Sherise Bunche (10.9).

"It's been tough, absolutely, but although we lost of a lot of talented seniors [from last year], our team has moved past that and we have been improving very well," said Ciuffo. "In the end, it just makes us stronger as we have all worked hard this year to make up for the gap that was left."

Bro. Pat is satisfied with the performance of the team so far this season.

"The effort has been there and it has

been good, considering that we have had to work through adverse conditions such as the recent snowstorms that have made the track useless [to practice on] to us," he said.

The Girls Varsity Shuttle Hurdle Relay team finished 10th in The Stanner Games, over five seconds behind first place finisher Kellenberg.

Bro. Pat said that the hurdlers' overall goal this indoor season is to score points for the team by finishing among the top six places in the two most important meets at the Armory, the CHSAA Brooklyn-Queens Championship on Feb. 6 and the CHSAA Intersectional Championships on Feb. 19.

Varsity "B"

Borhi's best ever is ready for a title

By Robert Hogue

The Boys Varsity "B" Basketball team is off to a hot start this season, and, after winning the Matthew Gianuzz tournament on Dec. 19 at Holy Cross High School, the Stanners raised their overall record to 14-3.

Molloy, which has a 5-3 record in league play, defeated rival Christ the King 76-64 in the opening game of the tournament and beat Holy Cross 63-57 in overtime in the championship game.

"I expected to win the tournament but didn't think it would be against two tough teams," said Coach Steve Borhi. "King was an interesting and tough team as usual, and Cross was hard-nosed and very hard to beat in their home court."

Starting senior guard Ernesto Vega said, "Winning felt great, especially when we beat two tough teams back-to-back. The key to winning was the contributions from each player and our ability to shut down their [the other team's] offense in the second half."

Starting senior forward Dan Margan said, "The Cross game was the most exciting because we came back to tie the game at the very end of the fourth quarter and then won it in overtime."

Both Coach Borhi and Vega agreed that the top players for Molloy in the tournament were Margan, senior guard Kevin Kennedy, and starting senior guard Kevin Lawlor.

"Lawlor is Mr. Consistency and when he plays [well] the whole team plays well; Kennedy is instant offense off the bench and has the ability to knock down shots when we need him," said Mr. Borhi. "Margan was a surprise, averaging a double-double in the tournament."

Kennedy said winning the tournament has given the team the belief that it can win the City Varsity "B" Boys Championship.

"I think we have a great chance of winning this year," he said. "We are the best team out there, and everyone on the team has to know it."

Coach Borhi also expects to be at Saint Francis College in Brooklyn on Feb. 17 to play for the City Championship.

"This is one of the best teams I've ever had," he said. "The chemistry between the players is amazing."

Varsity Boys off to solid start

By Daniel Acosta '11

After opening the season with seven consecutive victories, the Molloy Boys Varsity Basketball team continues to enjoy one of its best seasons in years despite a loss at home to Holy Cross on Jan. 14 which dropped the Stanners' record to 10-4.

Midway through the season the Stanners are enjoying one of their best seasons in years and 6-foot-3 senior swingman Chris Dorgler has high hopes of Molloy continuing its winning ways throughout the rest of the season and into the playoffs, which will begin after the season finale at home against Rice on Feb. 15.

"Making it to the [City] Championship game at Fordham [University] is going to be a long shot, but I believe we can hang right in there with the elite teams," said Dorgler, who will play for the College of St. Rose next season.

Two of Molloy's four losses came during the Aviator Christmas Tournament on Dec. 28-30 when the Stanners fell to Curtis, 58-57, in the first round, then defeated Brooklyn Collegiate, 76-44, before losing to Midwood, 76-73.

Molloy's only other loss was a 65-60 defeat at home to Christ the King on Jan. 4 but the Stanners bounced back just three days later to defeat Long Island power Half-Hollow Hills West



Stanners gather around Coach Jack Curran during a timeout. (Photo by Blue & White Yearbook staff)

and its Iowa State-bound star, Tavan Sledge, 70-69 in overtime.

Molloy then defeated Bishop Loughlin on Jan. 11 before losing to Holy Cross to end a two-game winning streak.

Before the season started, Molloy's lack of size in the frontcourt appeared to be the team's major shortcoming and lack of rebounding its major weakness. But Molloy has proven its critics wrong.

"We're rebounding and playing defense very well as a team," said Dorgler, who added that to make up

for the team's lack of size, it's important for all five players on the court to crash the boards and play suffocating defense for all 32 minutes of the game.

Molloy's starting lineup consists of Dorgler and 6-3 sharpshooter Chris Gorciaj at the forward, 6-7 center Stephen Kelly, dynamic scorer and defensive specialist George Davis III, and a sniper from behind the arc, Mark Parisi, at the guards.

Molloy has received major contributions from its bench as well, particularly from underclassmen.

Coach Jack Curran said, "Sophomores like Tyler Bennett, Christian Giles, and Marko Kozul have played very well. Kozul has given us a lot of energy off the bench due to his inside presence and aggressive rebounding in the low post."

Due to Molloy's recent success, Dorgler remains optimistic about the team's chances of reaching the championship game.

However, Mr. Curran said that he tends to focus more on the team's next game rather than look too far ahead.

Frosh sets girls 55-meter dash record

Stanners have been setting several indoor school records in the month of January.

Niamani Morrison set a Molloy frosh girls school record by winning the Frosh



Senior Pat Cooney, seen here during a cross country race, has had a successful indoor season, finishing second in the 600-meters at The Stanners Games. (Photo by Melissa Gabriel '12)

Girls 55-Meter Dash in a time of 7.63 seconds at The Stanner Games on Jan. 15 at the Armory Track and Field Center in Manhattan.

Brenden Warders won the Frosh Boys 55-Meter High Hurdles in 9.94 seconds to earn the only other gold medal won by Molloy at The Stanner Games.

Senior Pat Cooney was the only other Stanner to finish among the top three finishers at the Stanner Games, as he finished second in the Boys Varsity 600-meter run in a time of 1 minutes, 23.27 seconds, just 0.2 seconds behind Colonie High School junior Giancarlo Sainato.

Morrison, meanwhile, also finished fifth in the Girls Varsity Long Jump with a leap of 16-feet-8.5 inches, which was good enough to set a frosh girls school record.

Junior Kathleen Woods finished sixth in the Girls Varsity 1,600-meters but thanks to competing in a very fast field, her time of 5:25.29 was good enough to set the varsity girls school record.

At the CHSAA Bronx and Cardinal Hayes Invitational Meet on Jan. 8 at the Lombardi Center, Molloy had two first place finishes.

Senior Tyler Bay won the Boys Varsity 600-Meter Run in 1:29.4 and Benedict Harvey won the Frosh Boys Triple Jump with a leap of 35-2.5.

Molloy's Girls Varsity 1,600-meter relay team of seniors Tonika Forrester and Stephanie Rey and juniors Casey Collins and Tiana Salas-Ali ran a school record of 4:13.08 in the Milrose Games time trials on Jan. 12 but it was not fast enough to qualify to run at Milrose Games at Madison Square Garden on Jan. 28.

Here are the Molloy individual results from those two meets:

Bronx & Hayes Invitational January 8

Varsity boys 55-meter high hurdles: 5. (tie) Mark Lubicich and Conor Davan, 8.6

Varsity boys 300-meters: 4. Pat Cooney, 38.4

Varsity boys 600-meters: 1. Tyler Bay, 1:29.4

Varsity boys triple jump: 4. Matthew Lambert, 38-8.25; 5. Chris Hadjigeorgiou, 38-6.25.

Varsity boys high jump: 5. Marc Ochs, 5-6.

Varsity boys shot put: 5. Pat McGibbon, 42-10.

Frosh boys triple jump: 1. Benedict Harvey, 35-2.5; 4. David Stachnik, 30-5.

Frosh boys high jump: 5. John Mancini, 4-9

The Stanner Games January 15

Varsity boys 600-meters: 2. Pat Cooney, 1:23.27.

Varsity boys shuttle hurdles: 6. Molloy (Alan He, Dylan Foster) 35.23.

Varsity girls 1,600-meters: 6. Kathleen Woods, 5:25.29. (School record)

Varsity girls long jump: 5. Niamani Morrison, 16-8.5. (Frosh record)

Varsity girls shot put: 6. Cathy Terranova, 32.35.

Frosh boys 55-meter high hurdles: 1. Brenden Warders, 9.94.

Frosh girls 55-meter dash: 1. Niamani Morrison, 7.63.



Junior middle distance runner Kathleen Woods has added another school record to her resume, this time for the girls varsity indoor 1,600-meters. (Photo by Melissa Gabriel '12)