

Archbishop Molloy High School

Parent Newsletter

September - October 2009

Dear Stanner Families,

2 Peter 3:18 – “But continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior.”

Here we are, each of us, beginning another unique year at a unique point in our Molloy experience. Some are new to school, beginning as freshmen or parents of freshmen. Others have succeeded in year one and are now second year students and sophomore parents. There are those past the mid-point of their high school career, our juniors and their parents. Then there are our seniors and the parents of our fourth year students, those ready to complete their Molloy experience and move on.

For all of us there is a challenge in this new year, the challenge to continue to grow, both students and parents. It's like climbing a mountain. Each higher vantage point gives a broader and better view. But you have to climb to experience improvement.

Each one of us must climb – grow, study, learn, improve and mature. Each one of us must put in the time and energy to improve. Look for new experiences at school or work that will give you the opportunity to become a better person. Commit yourself to constant learning. Get ready to learn something new each day.

Make the best of this year and every year. God bless.

Br. Roy



National Merit Scholarship Program

We are very proud that two Stanners have been named Semifinalists in the 54th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Congratulations to seniors Kaitlin Carr and Kyle Hounsell for being among the 16,000 Semifinalists throughout the nation. These two academically talented seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for the National Merit Scholarships that will be offered next Spring.

Masses of the Holy Spirit

During the week of September 22nd each year level will gather together for a special Mass asking God to bless our school year.

Freshman Parents' Orientation

Letters have been sent to all of our “new” freshman families inviting them to a special night here at Molloy. We will share some special information and give our parents a chance to meet the teachers of their sons or daughters. The evening will begin with an assembly in the gymnasium at 7:00.

Yearbook Photos

Soon it will be time for a new haircut, because on September 30 or October 1 your son or daughter will have his or her Yearbook photo taken. Let's look sharp!



Special Schedule

On Wednesday, October 15, all sophomores and juniors will take the PSAT/NMSQT to help them assess their readiness for college admissions and participate in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Because of this special testing program, Freshmen and Seniors will not have school that day.

Walkathon 2008

We have only one student fund-raising activity each year to benefit our school: our annual Walkathon. The

Walkathon will take place on *Friday, October 24*. Parents will receive a letter with details, and all students will receive more information and a pledge card in school. Thanks to the enthusiasm and support of our students for the Walkathon, we have been able to provide improvements in the school that directly affect the students. Your support means that we can continue to provide important improvements while keeping our tuition and fees among the lowest in the diocese.

Open House

On *Sunday, October 19*, an informative program for eighth grade boys and girls and their families will be held from 11 AM to 4 PM. A short video and tour of the campus will be offered and faculty members will be available to answer questions on every aspect of school life. Please let your neighbors know about this opportunity.



Retreats/Encounters

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the many school activities that are designed to foster the spiritual growth of the individual. Retreats and Encounters are excellent opportunities for students to pursue a deeper spiritual life.

The schedule of retreats and Encounters for this school year is:



Retreat/Encounter Schedule 2008-2009

Freshmen	Oct. 24 to 26 and May 1 to 3
Sophomores	Dec. 12 to 14 and March 6 to 8
Juniors	Nov. 7 to 9 and January 30 to February 1
Seniors	Jan. 16 to 18, Feb. 5 to 8, March 13 to 15, April 2 to 5

Calendar Reminders

Oct. 13.....Columbus Day (no school)
Oct. 20.....Community Holiday (no school)

Calendar Additions

Junior Homeroom Assembly - October 7
Parent-Teacher Conferences - February 11,
5:30 to 7:30

Recommendations for 8th Graders

Admission to Molloy is based primarily on marks earned in elementary school and the TACHS (Test for Admission to Catholic High School). Additional consideration is extended to family members of students and alumni. If there is an eighth grader in your family applying to Molloy, please have your son or daughter complete a recommendation form, available in the general office.



National Honor Society Induction

The induction ceremonies for seniors admitted to the National Honor Society will take place Wednesday, October 29 at 7:30 PM. Membership in this society is an indication to colleges of a student's scholarship, leadership, character, and service to others.

Because service and leadership are part of the criteria set by the NHS charter, parents of underclassmen should encourage their sons and daughters to participate in school activities and to get involved in the many service programs that Molloy offers.

The Parking Lot

Parents who drive their sons or daughters to school in the morning are reminded that they should drop off passengers at the curbside on Main Street or Manton Street. Do NOT double park near the school or drive into the parking lot to leave them off at the back doors. Also, do not block the driveways or bus stop while stopping at the curbside.



These rules are in place to prevent accidents. We are sure that you agree that the safety of all students is of the utmost concern, and we appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Single Parents' Support Group

The next Single Parents' Support Group meeting will be on *Thursday, October 2* at 7 PM in the school library. These informal meetings consist of sharing conversations and stories, hopes and fears over coffee. All are welcome.

Deficiency Reports

In addition to the four quarterly report cards that all students receive, our teachers mail deficiency reports home three times a year to forewarn parents if a student's work is inadequate. The first of these deficiency notices will be mailed on Friday, October 10

CAMPUS MINISTRY

We will have 31 of our seniors installed as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on Tuesday September 23rd. We are very proud of this ministry and we

wish them all the best as they serve during our liturgies and at local hospitals and nursing homes.

All students are invited to come to a "Get Involved with Campus Ministry" meeting held on September 30th for the Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors and on October 1st for the Freshmen. This is the one and only meeting to find out about the various programs that Campus Ministry entails. All service programs will start October 21st

Our Annual Coat Drive will start November 3rd and last until November 17th. During this time, anyone is invited to bring in brand new or slightly used coats to the Campus Ministry office. Please do not donate any other clothing items. We had our most successful drive last year when we were able to donate 620 coats.

Operation Christmas Child- Within this program, we are asking our community to make up 'care packages' in shoe boxes with small gifts which will then be sent to various countries. It is a massive program that benefits millions of children worldwide. A meeting will take place on October 22nd that will explain all the specifics of this wonderful endeavor.

Please contact Mr. Germano in the Campus Ministry Office (Room 334) @ 718.943.3163 or e-mail him at mgermano@molloyhs.org for more information regarding these and upcoming events.

Technological Developments

During the summer we completed the installation of a Smartboard (interactive white board) in every classroom in the building and every teacher has been given a laptop computer. Many of our faculty have seen the power of Smartboards and are willing to spend the time building collaboration and interactivity into their lessons. We are convinced that we will see many chances for our students to do many amazing things



Homework

Molloy students are expected to complete at least two hours of home study each night. Twenty to twenty-five minutes of homework per subject is the minimum amount of work a student should do to master the intellectual demands of a subject. Fortunately, most Molloy students are academically motivated and all of them are academically talented, but the time dedicated to homework is an area in which parents' encouragement is crucial.

Students sometimes say that they can get by with a minimum of homework. It may be true that a student can pass or get "good enough" grades, but without homework, a student does not accomplish as much as possible. Homework is more than discipline. It is a practice of skills that are taught during the school day. A student in math class may understand a teacher's explanation of a math problem, but unless the student can apply the teacher's solution to problems in other situations, the object of the lesson has not been achieved. To retain knowledge, it must be practiced and recalled. This is achieved through daily homework assignments.

