



The REGINA

"A publication of the Journalism students of St. Mary's Academy"

2011-2012 School Year

No 1

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2011-2012 Homecoming Court Reigns at SMA



SENIOR MAIDS
Brittany Zardes & Megan Desmesme



HOMECOMING QUEEN
Amber Stokes



JUNIOR MAIDS
Dorian Carriere & Martina Ratliff



SOPHOMORE MAIDS
Toya Mathieu & Sydney Williams

St. Mary's HOMECOMING DANCE
November 19



FRESHMAN MAIDS
Delaney George & Jenay Barnes

Principal's Message

My Dearest Maryites:

God has blessed our family abundantly and given us more than we could have ever imagined. Our students have been afforded the opportunity to receive an exemplary education in a new state-of-the-art school. How wonderful it is to be surrounded by so much beauty each day.



God has also granted us a miracle this year by restoring our Maryite sister Jasmine Bindom to good health. Truly, we are blessed and highly favored!

Remember Maryites, "to whom much is given, much is expected." God expects you to always keep Him first in your life. He expects you to be fine examples of young ladies and to do your best in school. Your parents have invested a great deal of time and money in your future. Fulfill your responsibility by being diligent about your lessons and bringing home good grades.

Remember to always be polite and kind to one another and refrain from cheap gossip. Exercise good manners both in and outside of the classroom. The words "please" and "thank you" cost you little; however, they are worth so much when you extend them to one another.

Wear your uniform with pride. Remember that what you wear speaks volumes to others about who you are.

Lastly, should you ever have a problem or concern, remember we are always here to listen and encourage. Do not hesitate to ask for help should you need it.

God Bless You,

Sr. Jennie Jones, SSF

Maryites Choose New Student Council



St. Mary's Academy's 2011-2012 Student Council

Front Row: Lorena Bickham, President; Brittany Jones, Vice-President;
Back Row: Kebiah Mathieu, Treasurer; Jordan Jones, Secretary.
At the beginning of each school year, the SMA student body elects the members of the Student Council. The council serves as the voice of the school as it regards issues involving students. It strives to insure that the concerns of students are heard and reviewed. The council promotes school spirit and solidifies the unity of the student body at SMA.

Freshmen Initiation Links Big and Little Sisters

By Taylor Shephard

St. Mary's Academy's annual tradition of fun and excitement called Freshman Initiation took place on September 23 in the school's gymnasium. The initiation is a unique way of welcoming freshman students to St. Mary's high school level.

The most popular occurrence in the initiation is when the seniors and freshmen match up as big and little sisters.

The seniors and freshman were excited when they met and received their designated sisters. In fact, many of the newly found sisters treated each other as if they had been sisters their entire life.

Two of many sisters who were particularly excited and treated each other as true sisters were Amber Stokes and Amber Williams. The two new "sisters" said they had a lot of fun together, and they also love the fact that they have the same first name.

Both "big sister" Amber and "little sister" Amber's expectations for their relationship are to be there for each other, and not just for this year but for long after this year.

Other seniors and freshman agreed that the freshman initiation was a fun and exciting event. It featured games, a talent show and lots of good food.

SMA tradition was a day of fun, games and bonding



The SMA Class of 2015 (Freshmen/Little Sisters) gather at Freshmen initiation for a photo.



The SMA Class of 2012 (Senior/Big Sisters) helped introduce their Little Sisters to high school life.



Freshman Madison Miner



Senior Tyreshia Thompson

Maryites discuss Pro-Life issues

Opinions will help bishops communicate Church's teachings



The SMA focus group recently met to discuss Pro-Life issues.

Twelve seniors of St. Mary's Academy were selected to participate in a focus group on life issues for the Office of Cultural Diversity of the Catholic Bishops. The purpose of the focus group was to learn from young people what they already knew and believed about Pro-life issues and to solicit suggestions about the best way for the Bishops to communicate with youth.

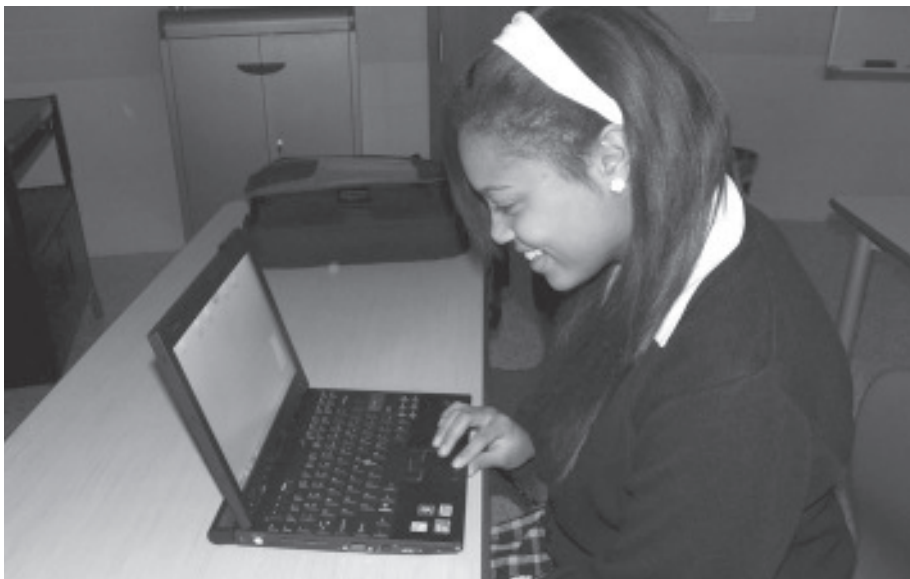
The students discussed what "Pro-Life" means to them, the issues involved in Pro-Life and what they know about the Church's teaching on pro-life. Most students acknowledged that they learned about life issues at school in their religion classes or from guest speakers. They agreed with the Church's teaching that "all life is precious". The students articulated their views on abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty and the rather recent phenomenon of desperate young parents killing their own babies and tots.

The group, speaking from their experience in their homes, parishes and communities gave suggestions to the bishops to help them develop resources to promote education on life issues. They suggested that the bishops encourage speakers who can relate to youth to come to parishes and schools to speak on Pro-life Issues, and put messages on Facebook and Twitter. Billboards and TV ads were also suggested as good places to explore. Surprisingly, most of the young ladies expressed how excited they would be to actually receive "real" mail from their bishops.

The participating seniors were Lyndsey Ausama, Kelsey Boyd, Sattia Breckenridge, Chelsey Coleman, Taylor Gibbs, Kirsten Lee, Brittany Jones, Kaila Rayfield, Anjelle Rogers, Tyler Sherman and Zenobia Johnson. The Moderators were Mrs. Kathy Green-Miner and Sr. Judith Therese Barial. Mrs. Irene Young was responsible for the audio which was sent to the bishops. Mrs. Miner videoed the discussion for the group.

The group was animated and eager to share. They asked if they could to stay together as a group and promote life in all its forms first here at school and then to go to the middle schools to teach and promote the Church's teachings on life issues.

High and Middle Schoolers Receive New Computers



SMA middle and high school students, like Brooke Sylvester above, now each have a brand new, state-of-the-art laptop computer to use in their classes at school and for their homework at home. The new computers replace those lost during Hurricane Katrina.

St. Mary's Welcomes New Teachers

Gary Scavo

By De'Quanna Alexander

Gary Scavo was born in Oneonta, NY. When asked his age he described it as "older than a rock".

He has been married for 40 years. He has two children and six grandchildren. Some of his hobbies include: season tickets to the Saints, reading, traveling, walking and biking.



He attended Oneonta High School. The colleges at which he studied were SUNY at Oneonta and SUNY at Courtland. He earned a Bachelors and two Masters and majored in Math Administration; his certification is in Math Teaching and Administration.

He was a middle school teacher for four years, a high school teacher for nine years and a principle for twenty-one years and seven years were spent doing various intern principal ships, for a total of 47 years.

He is serving as the curriculum coordinator at SMA. He worked and volunteered at SMA for two years. Working with Sr. Jennie, Sr. Clare of Assisi, and the rest of the SMA administration, he has gained a lot of respect for them and what they do. When he was offered the job, he says it was "easy to say yes". He feels blessed to be able to work with the teachers and administration to make SMA better and better.

Velinda Mascorro

By Kaila Rayfield



St. Mary's Academy welcomes back Ms. Velinda Mascorro.

Although she was born in Galveston, Texas, Ms. Mascorro attended Cabrini High in New Orleans. She attended college at Tulane University, the University of New Orleans, and the Baptist Theological Seminary in Gentilly.

She majored in Sociology and has a certification in Spanish. She has been teaching high school for fifteen years. Her subjects have been Spanish, Sociology, and Psychology.

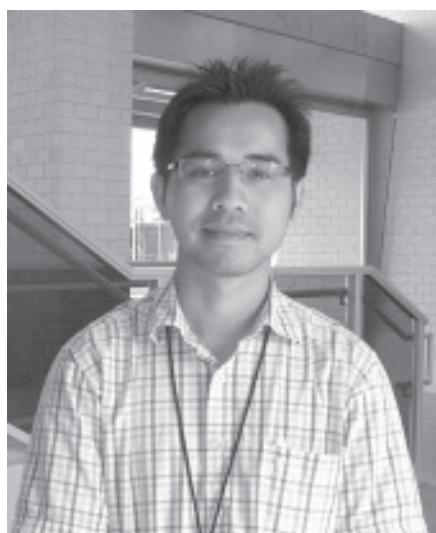
She chose St. Mary's Academy because St. Mary's is a home to her, and she had previously taught here for seven years.

She currently teaches Spanish I & II, as well as Psychology. Her first impressions of her return to St. Mary's are that it is a caring, warm, inviting, and hospitable environment.

Ms. Mascorro is interested in serving as a career missionary to Mexico for the advancement of the Gospel.

Dong Nguyen

By Sattia Breckenridge



Mr. Dong Dinh Nguyen is originally from Vietnam, but currently lives in New Orleans. The 27-year-old computer technology expert teaches math and technology (computer) classes at St. Mary's Academy. He also helps Ms. Harris with the school's technology and computer systems.

Mr. Nguyen has a Master's degree in Mathematics; his hobbies include music and reading. He attended the University of Alabama as well as UNO.

His experience as an educator includes teaching Math 125 on the undergraduate level in college.

"This is a very, very warm and kind environment," states Mr. Nguyen when asked about his impressions of St. Mary's. "It's the best environment in which I have ever worked!" he adds with enthusiasm.

His other impressions of St. Mary's are that it's a friendly and co-operative place. Mr. Nguyen is a rather quiet person; he is single with no children.

Jennifer Moises

By Anjelle Rogers

St. Mary's Academy welcomes Jennifer Moises as a new kindergarten teacher. Ms. Moises is a native of New Orleans and is married with two sons. She went to Fortier High School and attended college at the University of New Orleans.

At UNO, she majored in elementary education. She has a great deal of teaching experience, having taught for thirty-five years.

Ms. Moises taught third grade for six years; she spent seven years teaching four-year-olds, eleven years



When asked why she chose Saint Mary's, Ms. Thomas answers "My son Royce E. Paul has been a student here for two years, and I love the school's atmosphere."

Terri Lacour

By Taylor Shephard

St. Mary's Academy welcomes Ms. Terri Lacour as a new member of our school's faculty. She is currently teaching Environmental Science, Chemistry, and Study Skills at St. Mary's to ninth and tenth graders.

The McMain and Southern University at NOLA graduate possess a Bachelor's degree in Science with a major in Biology.

Ms. Lacour has 18 years of teaching experience – 16 years teaching Chemistry and 2 years of teaching Earth Science.

Ms. Lacour said she came to St. Mary's because, "It is a school dedicated toward the education of young girls, and it gives the students a chance to excel at the highest level possible. I want to be a part of this endeavor."

The most interesting and inspiring thing about Ms. Lacour is that she is a cancer survivor and has been free from the disease for over a year. As a religious woman, she says the Lord has been good to her and her family.



teaching three year olds, and eleven years teaching kindergarten.

In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and playing cards. Her favorite color is purple, and her favorite movie is "Dances with Wolves."

She reveals that she chose to teach at St. Mary's Academy because it's a respected all-girls Catholic school in New Orleans.

Mia Thomas

By Taylor Shephard



St. Mary's Academy welcomes Ms. Mia Thomas as a new pre-K teacher.

Ms. Thomas was born and raised in New Orleans and attended Redemer-Seton High School and later graduated from SUNO.

The single 30-year-old Pre-K-4 teacher has seven years of teaching experience and is CDA (children development associates) certified.



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Editors

De'Quanna Alexander & Sattia Breckenridge

Reporters

Kaila Rayfield, Anjelle Rogers, Taylor Shephard, Daja Vigne, Kayla Wright

Faculty Advisor

Mr. Peterson

Volleyball Team completes a "Great season"

By Regina Staff

With a district record of six wins and six losses, SMA's volleyball team has concluded what Coach Andre Simon calls "a great season."

It began very early in the school year, when St. Mary's Academy hosted its first annual Volleyball Jamboree. "It was one of the best overall game experiences for the team and for the school," said Coach Simon. "With the help of my parents and the team, it was a huge success. I look forward to doing it again next year."

Overall, the team's record was 11-6, and among many outstanding players were Iman Ricks (#9) and Eryn Hartzog (#11).

Ms. Karen Durand served as the team's assistant coach, and Kayla LeCoq and Raven Roberts were score keepers.

"The team made some remarkable improvements during the season," said Ms. Simon. "We look forward to an even better season next year."



Iman Ricks spikes a winner!

SMA Volleyball Team



Front Row: (left to right) Jasmine Adams, Tiffany Doss, Raynice Crayton, Dominique Summers, Maya Estives, Iman Ricks;
Back Row: (left to right) Teona Grayson, Eryn Hartzod, Crystal Randolph, Micheala Faison, Brandy Gibson, D'Andrea Lindsey.

Are you ready for some Football?

It's a whole new ballgame at SMA



In its first year of competitive flag football, SMA compiled a record of three wins and five losses. The team was coached by Ms. Chance.

Front Row: (left to right) Kerrielle Smith, Tyesha McCann, Keterra Harris, Candice Dickerson; Back Row: (left to right) Danyelle Jones, Sierra Wilson, Jovan Bercey, Deja Vinge.

Flag Football vs. Regular Football

Flag football is similar to regular football, but the two sports have many basic differences. Flag football fields are smaller, measuring 70 by 30 yards. Each endzone is 10 yards deep.

In flag football, there are no kickoffs or punts. Each offensive series begins on the five-yard line of the team with the ball. The team has 3 plays to reach midfield; if it reaches midfield, then it has three more downs to score a touchdown. If the offense fails to reach midfield in three downs, the other team takes over on its five-yard line, and the whole process begins again.

Teams may either run or pass the football, except in a 10-yard "no run" area at the center of the field. Games are timed and are over after 40 continuous minutes of play (two 20-minute halves). Half time intermission is a short one minute, so there's no time for marching bands or school flag teams to perform.

A touchdown gets the team 6 points, and teams can choose a one- or two-point extra point attempt. In the event of a tie score, the team with the most gained yards is the winner.

Players are not allowed to block or screen for the ball carrier or passer. Each player wears a belt around her waist with two "flags" (actually ribbons) hanging down on each side. A player with the ball is "tackled" when a defensive player pulls one of the flags from the belt. Runners may spin or turn away to prevent another player from grabbing the flag, but runners are not allowed to jump (leave their feet) in an attempt to avoid being tackled.

Each league determines the number of players on each team, which is usually six or eight. Schools must field a team of no less than four players.



Keterra Harris runs for yardage.



Sierra Wilson makes a "tackle."

THE STORY

When Dorothy, a twenty-four-year-old kindergarten teacher from Harlem, is celebrating Thanksgiving with her family, she doesn't seem to be thankful for much in life. She is shy and lives a sheltered life. Things change for her when she is caught in a snowstorm while chasing after her dog, Toto. Both are transported to the mysterious Land of Oz, and Dorothy wants nothing more than to go back home, but she must get the assistance of the powerful wizard in the Emerald City. Meanwhile, she befriends some creatures who are also facing problems. In their quest to find and get help from the wizard, they also face Evillene, the wicked witch.

THE CAST

Dorothy	Nicole Washington
Scarecrow	Leah Anders
Lion	Ravyn Cruse
Tinman	Dominique Lee

with

Mia Petty	Alyssa James
Carolyn Bedon	Dariane Vining
Raiyon Hunter	Tyler Sherman
Rosemary Jones	

Don't Miss

St. Mary's Academy
presents

**THE
WIZ**

in Austin Gym
November 3 & 4

Don't Miss

Don't Miss