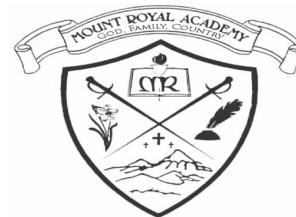


Mount Royal Academy Bulletin

Monthly Bulletin

January 4, 2012

Letter from our Headmaster



Dear Families:

Merry Christmas! It may sound like I am too late to be wishing you all a Merry Christmas but as Christians we actually begin celebrating on Christmas Day.

“The Christmas season begins with the celebration of the birth of Jesus, Christmas day, or as a vigil on Christmas Eve. The *Feast of Christmas* lasts 12 days, until Epiphany. However, the time from Epiphany until the Baptism of the Lord is also included in the Christmas season. Traditionally, Epiphany had been fixed to January 6th, and the Baptism celebrated on the octave of Epiphany, which was January 13th. In most countries, the Epiphany is now celebrated on the Sunday closest to January 6th, and the Baptism celebrated the following Sunday.” (<http://www.aquinasandmore.com/catholic-articles/the-catholic-liturgical-year/article/208>)

It is interesting to me that the culture is the opposite from this and many are done celebrating Christmas by Christmas Day. All the Christmas parties have been had, the cards have been received, the after Christmas sales are in full swing, and the trees are on the curb. The Good News is that we have another week to celebrate. A nice idea would be to continue celebrating this weekend for the feast the Epiphany this Sunday, January 8, 2012. The Epiphany celebrates the visit of the three kings or wise men to the Christ Child.

I also have exciting news for all of you. The week of January 30, 2012 we will begin the process for taking down the Upper School building in preparation for our new classroom building to be completed by August 2012. The new building will be two stories and will include larger classrooms for the Pre-K and Kindergarten, an adoration chapel, and classrooms for 1st – 8th grades. Our custodian, Greg Heath, will be helping me organize work days to clear out what we want to save. The Jr. High and High School students will be temporarily assigned a locker in the locker room for the remainder of the year and the staff has begun planning where Upper School classes will take place. We will be a little cramped for the next five months but the result will be new classrooms for the start of the next school year.

We appreciate your patience and support during this time. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you have regarding the new building via email or by phone.

God Bless your families and Merry Christmas!

David A. Thibault
Headmaster

A Word from the Teachers...

Pre-Kindergarten

I can't believe it is a new year already!

The kids are continuing to learn their letters and numbers, and doing a great job. Also they are starting to add two small numbers together, using counters to help.

The kids will be choosing what they want the theme for this month to be as a class.

As a reminder please make sure all snow gear is brought to school, even with no snow it helps with the cold and mud.

Also please make sure a change of clothes is in the classroom cubby as well as a blanket! Since the ski program is starting, Wednesdays will now be gym day! —Mrs. Lowe

Grades 1 & 2

Dear Parents - As nice as vacation is, it was wonderful to see a roomful of little first and second grade faces on Tuesday morning. We quickly got back into the routine and are having a productive week. Both grades have begun new language arts units; the first grade is reading "Arthur's Pet Business" and the second grade is reading a story called "In the Money: A Book About Banking", which has generated some very interesting financial conversations! Both grades completed writing assignments describing how to make their favorite sandwich, which they later read for the class. We are emphasizing complete sentences and proper punctuation in our writing.

In math, first grade is working this week on comparing and ordering objects by length and identifying pairs, and the second grade is learning how to add two digit numbers with regrouping. Both grades continue to practice addition and subtraction math facts; the fact sheets which they complete each day are to help ensure they have them down by the end of the year. Our science lesson this week focuses on machines and tools and in religion we are beginning to look at the life of Jesus.

Mrs. Dwyer has asked that the first and second graders bring in a smooth, 3-4" diameter rock for art class next week (Tuesday, Jan. 10). They will be doing a project involving felting.

I would ask that all children bring snow pants, hats and gloves each day for recess. Even though we do not have snow, the playground is a chilly place to be without adequate outerwear. Thanks for your help with this. — Mrs. Richardson

Grades 3 & 4

Happy New Year!

We have begun the second half of the term with new units in religion, social studies, and language arts.

In religion we are studying *The Revised Roman Missal* to learn the parts of the Mass and the meaning of the changes to the Mass.

In social studies we are learning about the original 13 colonies and the Constitution. We will be studying the role William Penn, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson played in the formation of our country.

Mount Royal Academy 2011-2012 Staff

Headmaster:

- David Thibault

Office Manager:

- Kathleen McDonald

Admissions Director:

- Derek Tremblay

Business Manager:

- Corina Ouellette

Faculty:

Pre-Kindergarten

- Mary Beth Lowe

Kindergarten:

- Elizabeth Heath

1st & 2nd Grades:

- Catherine Richardson

3rd & 4th Grades:

- Jacqueline Diebold

5th & 6th Grades:

- Cynthia Dabrowski

Grades 7-12:

- Derek Tremblay
- Mary Bellino
- Mitchell Kalpakgian
- Allen Ouellette
- Kelly Ouellette
- Bonnie Akerman
- Taylor Fitzgerald
- Matthew McDonald

Foreign Languages:

- Delphine Hill
- Marie-Laure Lovell

Art:

- Margaret Dwyer-Davis

Music:

- Leanne Bek-Wesoja

In Language Arts the stories we are reading support the Social Studies Unit. The Grade 3 students will be reading selections about the history of money and how it is made; and the grade 4 students will read selections about A Changing America. In grammar this week we will combine sentences with conjunctions and learn about adjectives.

In math the grade 3 students are learning to multiply by 3, 4, 10, and 7. Extra practice is needed at home to increase speed and accuracy. The grade 4 students are working on equal group word problems.

At the end of this month we will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week. We will be illustrating posters, writing essays, and decorating our classroom door. I will keep you informed of events as they occur. Homework (writing and spelling test) is due Friday. —Jackie Diebold

Grades 5 & 6

Welcome back; at our parish Mass on New Year's Day my pastor explained that Christmas is not a day, but a season. While Christmas trees and decorations are often put away Dec. 26th our class studies and celebrates the Feasts of Mary the Mother of God, the Feast of the Holy Family, the Holy Name of Jesus, and the Epiphany. May our hearts rejoice and open to the many divine graces of this Christmas Season.

On a mundane note: academics explode in full force this week. Summer Ancient History research comes together. Vocabulary and history tests occur and frequent quizzes are given. Now is the time for students to buckle down for winter studies.

Lastly, I will be continuing my daughter, Kate Coleman's, collections for the troops. Please remember their sacrifices. God Bless. —Mrs. Dabrowski

Foreign Languages: 5/6 Graders

The purpose of this month's curriculum is to introduce the basic principles of how Spanish is written and pronounced, the same way as students were brought in to the French language. If students understand these principles, they will have a head start when it comes to learning Spanish or French. All activities are designed the same as their French book to develop confidence in the early stages of learning a language. Many activities I utilize in class are inspired by the kind of games used to teach children to read their own language: flashcards, songs, matching games, memory games, joining exercises, anagrams, etc. This is not only a more effective method of learning new languages, but also much more fun.

As they worked their way through the French words, they found the spelling and pronunciation gradually started to come more naturally. I would hope to obtain the same result with Spanish. —Mrs. Lovell

Grades 7-12

Students in **Senior Seminar** have completed their study of Sophocles' ANTIGONE and Plato's GORGIAS and will be writing essays on these works. Junior and senior students in **Great Books** are completing their study of Flannery O'Connor's short stories and writing essays over the mistaken religious ideas and moral views that appear in those stories. Freshmen and sophomores have finished reading Dr. Johnson's short classic RASSELAS on the nature of human happiness and have essays due.

Latin I students are studying the first and second conjugation verbs with their different tenses and continuing their work in translating from Latin to English and Latin to English. **Latin II** students took their first major test of the quarter and are studying the relative pronouns and subjunctive mood. —Dr. Kalpakgian

The **Physics** class has moved on from Momentum and Energy (chapters 7 and 8) and are moving to circular motion. That is, we will introduce such terms as tangential speed, centripetal force, and angular momentum. We did our first significant lab report, and we were challenged with time and distracted with Christmas. We are back on track, fully aware of what we have and need to do. After this next chapter, we will have an exam over Momentum, Energy, and angular momentum.

To reiterate, if students or parents want to contact Mr. Ouellette at any time, do not hesitate to call him at his home at 938-2212, or email him at al.o@att.net. Whether it's for extra help, clarifications, or just to chat, a response and help will be expedited. Homework is expected to be on time and will be for zero credit except for excused reasons previously arranged. Thank you! —Mr. Ouellette

Biology

Happy New Year! We finished our unit on genetics before Christmas, and are now talking about evolution and populations. In class, we talked about what evolution really means, about the Catholic perspective on evolution, and what that means to us. I have asked the students to talk to their families about some of the topics that we discussed as part of their homework, hoping that they will gain an understanding that there are different perspectives, and one is not necessarily exclusive of the others. Hopefully parents will feel comfortable sharing their views on these matters, if there are any problems please just let me know!

We will not be able to finish another unit before the quarter ends, and some students have expressed concern about their grades without the possibility of another unit test. I have encouraged them to complete their homework to the best of their ability, and there will also be quizzes, labs and a class participation grade. Given all of these ways to boost points, I feel that everyone will be able to bring their grade up with a bit of effort. Please contact me if there are questions or concerns. —Mrs. Ouellette

French 1, 7/8 Graders

In this lesson, students are encouraged to think about how verbs work in French. In the first lesson, they will learn the singular forms, which sound the same, but which are not spelled the same. In the second lesson, they will study the plural forms with their endings, and notice how liaison helps link subject and verb together. Finally, in the last lesson, they will see the complete verb charts with both affirmative and negative forms. They will find out what a paradigm for regular verbs looks like, and how it can serve as a model. —Mrs. Lovell

Spanish 1, 9/12 Graders

This month, students will learn to talk about the places they go for fun when they are not in school, and with whom. In addition they will study how to ask questions of others about leisure activities. They will as well be taught a new folk song, "La Bamba." This song has easy, singable lyrics. Songs are an excellent means of teaching rhythm and stress as students acquire a second language. To practice their pronunciation, they will also learn a nonsense nursery rhyme that children in the Spanish-speaking world use when they play, the equivalent to "Eenie, meenie, minie, moe..." They will end this month study discussing facts about the history of Puerto Rico a commonwealth of the United States since 1952. —Mrs. Lovell

Scriptures: Overall, students completed excellent essays explaining the revised Roman missal translation. Now we are returning to our regular curriculum, continuing our in-depth study of the Scriptures. We will shortly conclude the exodus event and sinai covenant, subsequently moving into the period of the conquest. Students will be instructed on how to write a biblical commentary, which is not a personal interpretation of the scriptures, but rather an attempt to draw out some objective truth about God or humanity from a particular story.

Foundations: Before Christmas break, students finished writing essays on the revised Roman missal. We have since begun an introductory unit that surveys important topics based on the role of the Church, as instituted by Christ. A lively discussion regarding papal infallibility came about, which was very exciting yet challenging. We are currently discussing the importance of Tradition and Scripture.

Catechesis: Upcoming topics will be focused on the second major question of the curriculum. The first part of the year was based on the question, who is God? Now, we are going to look at several questions to help us answer this one: How do we know that God is present? Topics such "Eucharistic Presence", "Sinless to Receive Eucharist", and "What does the Eucharist do?" will be studied. Students are listening to podcasts in the classroom, and they are expected to take notes and write down questions. We also incorporate scripture and other exercises that help them discover why the Eucharist is important.

United States History II: The domestic and foreign policies of the Progressive period at the turn of the 20th century were studied before Christmas break. American Imperialism and the role of the domestic economy were looked at in several underdeveloped countries, including Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. We are now transitioning into World War I.

Western Civilization: Students finished studying the early Roman Republic, and were tested on the material. Imperial Rome is the next topic.

Christian Civilization: We have moved from the early period of the French Revolution, marked by different groups trying to achieve political supremacy, as well as the persecution of the Catholic Church, into the radical and inhumane stages of the revolution. Students are consistently challenged to detect the relationship between ideas and actions in history.

Mount Royal Athletics

MRA BASKETBALL SCHEDULE: The master schedule is attached to the Facts email. It will be sent out weekly, because the schedule is always subject to change. If you have any questions, please email Mr. Tremblay at dtremblay@mountroualacademy.com.

MRA BASKETBALL TRANSPORTATION: Please remember that families are responsible for arranging transportation to all basketball practices or games, including away games. We encourage families to communicate with each other, and create car pools. The month of January is perhaps the busiest of the basketball season. If your family has difficulty driving basketball players to games, please communicate directly with your coach.

Campus Ministry

VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK: Fr. Jason Jalbert, the vocations director for the diocese of Manchester, will be visiting Mount Royal on Friday, January 13th as part of Vocations Awareness Week. He will be speaking with the theology classes in the upper school during their regularly scheduled class time. If any parent is interested in organizing a lunch for him and the teachers, we would highly appreciate your help!

MARCH FOR LIFE PILGRIMAGE: An email regarding the March for Life was sent out over Christmas break. Students have been reminded daily about the importance of submitting registration and payment for the trip. Instead of academic classes on January 23rd and 24th, Upper School students are encouraged to travel to Washington D.C in order to promote a culture of life. If students fail to turn in their registration forms and payment for the trip by Thursday, January 12th, then our chances of going on the trip decline, and the likelihood of resuming regular academic classes goes up. The registration forms are attached with the bulletin. Students are also expected to raise funds in order to lower the overall cost of the trip. The cost of the trip is \$90, which includes transportation, accommodations, and 2 out of 5 meals. We also have a waiting list of youth not enrolled in Mount Royal Academy interested in going on the March. We need to fill the bus and families need to cover the overall cost of the pilgrimage. Please contact Derek Tremblay at dtremblay@mountroualacademy.com.

MARCH FOR LIFE SPONSORSHIP: If any family who does not have a child going on the March for Life is interested in sponsoring a child, please contact Mr. Tremblay. We are asking students to raise 5 individual pledges of \$22, which is a sacrifice of .50 cents per hour sacrificed in defense of life. Please prayerfully discern if your family is able to help sponsor an upper school student.

ST. JOSEPH'S ORATORY PILGRIMAGE: A future pilgrimage date is still being discussed. If you are interested in coming along pending the finalization of the date, please email Mr. Tremblay. Passports are required, so we encourage your family to apply and retrieve for a passport in the interim. The total processing time can take up to 4-6 weeks.

CAMPUS MINISTRY MEETINGS: The date and times of the meetings will be announced during morning and afternoon assembly. We invite all students in the Upper School to participate in Campus Ministry. The student-led Campus Ministry team directs outreach service opportunities, assists with in-school service events, and also helps other spiritual activities in the school year.

MASS INTENTIONS: MRA will happily offer the Holy Mass that is celebrated each week for the intentions or soul of any member of our wider community. We understand that God has called us to be vehicles of grace for our busy parents, and we can't think of a better way to say 'thank you'. So please, contact Mr. Tremblay if you would like to submit a Mass intention.

SERVICE HOUR FORMS are available in Mr. Tremblay's office. Students in grades 9 – 12 are expected to complete a specific number of service hours in order to fulfill their theology requirement each year. Students were informed of how many hours they are required to complete by the end of the school year. We encourage students to keep a running log of all their volunteer activities as the year progresses, rather than try to recall how many hours were volunteered at the very end of the year. Hastily seeking service hours at the end of the year removes the meaning and damages the purpose of offering one's self to others.

ST. JOSEPH'S ORATORY CLEANING: THANK YOU to all parents who have already stepped forward and generously offered their time to clean the chapel. We are covered until the month of January at the moment, but still need volunteers from February to June. Volunteers are needed to help keep our school chapel worthy enough for the presence of our Lord. We would like to draft a formal schedule of parents and students who clean the oratory. Please consider volunteering on a regular basis. It may only be once a month. We have up to January covered, and therefore need still need commitments for the remaining months in the school year. We are so blessed to have our Lord present on campus, and we ought to thank Him by keeping the school oratory as clean as possible.

BOOK OF INTENTIONS: We now have a formal book where we can continually compile special intentions for anyone within or outside of the Mount Royal community. The Book of Intentions will be kept inside of the St. Joseph's Oratory. We invite parents and classrooms to record any special prayer intention, and the school will explicitly mention those intentions before all school-wide prayer events, including our weekly Mass and rosary.

Other News:

MRA Ski Program: The program runs for 5 weeks and will begin today, Wednesday, January 4th. Dismissal for program participants and non-participants is 11:30 on Wednesday's during the program. The Pre-K and K will remain in school for the full day.

We are in need of skiing/boarding chaperones and "standing" chaperones! You can use your time spent assisting at the mountain towards Work Service Credit!! Please see Mrs. McDonald for a chaperone school release form if you are interested. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Jacqueline Tellier, Coordinator, at tellier.08@my.colby-sawyer.edu or (603) 305-4982.

First Friday Adoration: January 6th. Join us for prayer any time from 8 am - 2 pm! Come to thank our Lord for the blessings of 2011 and pray for the joys/ challenges of the New Year.

HASA

The HASA meeting is next Monday, January 9th at 7pm. Please mark your calendars and bring a friend! We will be talking about our spring fundraisers, Catholic schools week, and possible changes for 2012. Please plan to attend, we will have childcare available.

HASA Parent Rep. to the Board Report: The parent representative to the Board this year is Allen Ouellette. If you have any questions or concerns about anything related to Mount Royal, please feel free to contact Allen as another resource. His email address is a.o@att.net, and his phone number is 938-2212.

Upcoming Basketball Games: Please see attached schedule. **Go Knights!!!**

Bumper Stickers and Magnets are available in the Office for immediate sale.

\$2.50 for bumper stickers, \$3.50 for circular sports magnets, and \$4.50 for rectangular MRA bumper magnets. The circular soccer and basketball stickers make nice stocking stuffers for teens who play on MRA sports teams to put on their water bottle, notebooks, etc.

Collection for the Troops: You've probably noticed the box in the entrance to the lower school for donations for care packages that will be sent to the military. Please pick up some extra snacks and toiletries on your grocery shopping day to add to the bin! There is a list posted of suggested items, or be creative and think of your own fun things to add! Kate Coleman/Mrs. Dabrowski will be sending these for us to a US Marines squadron stationed in Afghanistan. If you have questions please see Mrs. Dabrowski.

March for Life: See attached information for more details.

Monday, Jan. 23rd and Tues., Jan. 24th - No classes for the upper school.

Parent Prayer Group: Thursday, Jan. 19th at 8am in the upper school Oratory. All are welcome, including young children. Please contact Jessica Fraioli, Coordinator, if you have any questions at 526-2285. *Please support our school in prayer.* If you are unable to join our monthly meetings, please pray at home for MRA and our community.

MRA on Facebook: Are you, your family, or your friends on Facebook? Facebook is a great way to keep up-to-date on upcoming activities, athletic results, and share the great things happening at our school. Please visit MRA on Facebook and "like" our page: www.facebook.com/mount.royal.academy. Please don't forget to share with friends and family.

Catholic Schools Week: Jan. 29th-Feb. 5th. Celebration and contests—TBA.

Work Service Credits: *Parents:* Please remember to fill out your page in the white Work Service Log binder (on the table in the entrance of the lower school) if you or your family members worked on projects or volunteered in/for our school. \$250 will be due this month if you have not done your work. Thank you.

Warm Clothing: Now that the weather is much colder, please make sure your children are wearing warm coats, hats, gloves/mittens, and snow pants for arrival, dismissal, and recess. Thank you.