Buffalo, New York can hardly be considered a bustling metropolis; however, one would be foolish to assume that this city of ours is culturally underdeveloped. On the contrary, Buffalo is practically seaming with galleries providing many opportunities to see various exhibits. The program Beyond/In Western New York started in Buffalo in the end of September, kicked off by French artist Didier Pasquette walking across a high wire strung between the two towers of the Liberty Building. Beyond/In Western New York is a region-wide art exhibit that will go on for three months, featuring a series of linked exhibitions taking place all over the city of Buffalo. The exhibition features over 100 artists whose work will be displayed in over 23 locations across the city. The sheer magnitude of the exhibition will guarantee a diverse selection of exhibits, and will offer exhibits with varying admission prices as well. New sculptures and other works will be permanently installed around Buffalo and foreign artists will take advantage of Buffalo’s beautiful architecture, as Millie Chen, a Taiwanese artist, will use the Lafayette Hotel to screen her collection, a series of perfections that showcase a more glamorous age of the past. Exhibits will also be showcased at the Albright-Knox, as well as the Buffalo Arts Studio. The main idea of the exhibition and the main thought that fueled the creators of the festival is the idea that the arts scene in Buffalo is not dead, indeed, far from it. In our sometimes dingy, often snow-covered streets the cultural world is booming, from the lowliest street artist to a nationally acclaimed exhibit at the Albright-Knox. The showcase will continue for the next three months.
Paladino and Cuomo: Where they stand

By: Victoria Dedloff (2011)

In November 2010, New York State will elect a new governor. Two of the major candidates are Carl Paladino and Andrew Cuomo. Carl Paladino is representing the Republican Party and Andrew Cuomo is representing the Democratic Party. These two candidates differ in many ways.

Carl Paladino was born on August 24th, 1946. He is an American business man, politician, and the former Chief Executive of Ellicott Development Company. Paladino is supported by the Tea Party Movement. His campaign emphasizes fiscal reform and improvement of the state’s educational system. He would like to cut the budget by ten to twenty percent. He also plans on eliminating state capital gains taxes and corporate franchise taxes. Paladino supports taxing the Indian Nations in New York State. In time, he would like to repeal the NYS Assault Weapon Ban. While stating he is pro-life, Paladino also supports abortion.

Andrew Cuomo is the Democratic candidate for governor. He was born on December 6th, 1957. He currently holds the position of New York State Attorney General. He was elected on November 7th, 2006. He previously was the secretary of housing and Urban Development under President Bill Clinton. Cuomo believes there should be a “one strike and you’re out” drug policy for public housing. He would like to make up-state economy a priority. Cuomo believes in taxing business based on how much business they do in New York.

Both Paladino and Cuomo have different views on many different issues. Paladino focuses more on downstate New York and Cuomo focuses more on upstate New York. Each also has their own plan of action for New York State. Who do you think should be governor?

Open House 2010 at MMA

By: Evania Santiano (2013)

This year’s Mount Mercy Open House has been a success because of the well-planned organization of everyone who volunteered at Mercy. Around 107 girls came on Sunday, September 26th, and more than 70 girls visited on Monday night, September 27th. From a tour guide’s point of view, the parents and girls seemed very impressed with our school, especially our connection with the Catholic Health System and the M.A.S.H. camps that Mercy offers to help aspiring doctors. This year, the route was said to be much shorter and easier than previous years, but it still covered everything to help the newcomers grasp the whole concept that Mercy will provide in the four years of schooling. When visiting the chapel, Mrs. Melonson explained to the families about Leadership Academy; the parents were especially pleased with how Mercy is trying to create a better person for the world. Towards the end of the tour, families were exceptionally impressed with Mr. Kirisits’ music department’s Pure Magic performance on Sunday and Magic Bells performance on Monday. Along with our very informative teachers, it was also the parent volunteers who helped out in the cafeteria and donated plenty of baked goods and refreshments, who helped to make open house successful. Thankfully, all the hard work from the people who have organized this year’s Open House paid off when most of the girls who toured wrote positive feedback about their visit to Mercy. Although there is competition with other high schools that can lead to negativity, we have a positive attitude about all other high schools and refuse to become negative because we act as mature Mercy girls.
“New” seems to be the theme this year for the Freshman class. New school, new teachers, new classes, and now the very new to the school, Leadership Academy. With all this turbulence, what are freshman thinking with an additional change? The purpose of Leadership Academy is to help develop interpersonal skills, such as goal setting, job etiquette, and helping to get the girls involved through the many clubs offered at Mercy. Every Friday the girls work on a binder full of worksheets with the hope of finishing it by the end of the year. But is it really beneficial?

“No,” says one freshman, “we’re not learning anything from it and it just takes up advisement time when we could do other work. We keep hearing ‘it’s good for college’ but how? No one has explained anything.” Leadership Academy is every Friday during advisement, a class period usually used for study hall and meeting up with teachers. A lot of the girls run late nights, and any chance to do work means less time slaving over a book at night. Most of us were just given binders and told to fill them out.

Another freshman adds, “If Leadership Academy looks good on resumes and will later help us land jobs, I say keep it.” Leadership Academy is supposed to build up confidence in the students and make them better prepared when they face the real world. Leadership has given us a lot of good points on the proper way of handling a job, such as the 5 Points of Job Etiquette. A good portion of the Academy is also set on goal setting. The girls have to give shape to what they want to do with their lives and have plans set up for the next five years. This is supposed to help greatly when students have to pick colleges and eventually careers. The Academy also touches a few basic points, such as using the school library and the 10 Commandments of Politeness.

Personally, I believe Leadership Academy has the potential of being something very good. But I believe the only way the girls can benefit from it, is that they have to be explained to what it is and the benefits offered through it. Right now, I think most are just scribbling down thoughtless answers just to finish it. But the main feeling I got from my research is a sense of confusion. No one really understands what Leadership Academy is, myself included.

Leadership is a new program here at Mount Mercy Academy developed by our faculty to give students a chance to achieve recognition for leadership in ways outside of sports or student government. Among the sophomores or our school, however, it is not being openly received. Many tenth graders gave their opinions including comments such as “I don’t like it”, “It’s a waste of time”, and “It’s pointless”. One sophomore made the comment that Leadership should be required “only for freshmen. It’s a four year program, so sophomores and upperclassmen won’t even be able to really do the whole thing.” This seems to be the general feeling of our year, but what we need to realize is the great advantage we will have in our upcoming years when applying to colleges and for jobs. Prospective schools and employers are always looking for skills and activities you participated in while in high school and with Leadership we will have all that information on hand in one binder, giving us an edge over our peers from other school. Plus, as a sophomore said, “the Investigating MMA was actually pretty cool.”
There have been many changes going on during this 2010-2011 school year at Mount Mercy. New rules and policies have been created to make the student environment friendlier as a whole. In addition to this, the administration has had us, the students, participate in a Leadership Academy. The idea of having a Leadership Academy was originally planned to begin a few years ago, but was put off until this year. Leadership Academy was designed with the intent of opening more opportunities in regards for college, for participation in Leadership activities looks exceptional on the standard college application, and may increase the chances of getting into a dream school. As a student in my junior year, I know that my peers and I are beginning to look at certain colleges, prepare for taking our first round of probably many SAT tests, and to try to improve our academics. Having these extra work assignments can cause stress; for some the Leadership Academy is found to be a time consuming task, while others view it as a great opportunity.

After consulting with many other Juniors, the general view came into the picture about Leadership Academy: It wasn't that we dislike it, it was the fact that it was made mandatory for us to participate in during our Friday advisement period, which results as a conflict for many. Advisement period was originally meant to serve as a time to see teacher's, visit the guidance center, to study for a while before a big test, or to take out a book from the library. Many juniors saw it as a disruption in their routines, and found it to be a burden to the demanding work that they are constantly supplied with. Some wish that there was another way to participate in the academy.

So, in compromise to this, the following solutions were thought of.

Many juniors thought of one idea that I think is an excellent idea to improve the academy for years to follow for the many generations of Mercy Girls after us. One student in particular mentioned that there should be a sort of club or program that would happen after school, for those who would take full advantage of the Leadership Academy and really appreciate it. Having a club would perhaps make more students interested in leadership, and become more aware of their existing qualities in leadership. In regards to possibly changing the format, many juniors think that each individual assignments should involve less computer work, and more hands-on instruction, so that we actually had a better understanding of what were taking a part of, instead of blindly attempting this course on our own. Overall, the Leadership Academy is an interesting experience to many, and having on this our college resumes will be great.

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Senior Perspective
By: Karly Buntich (2011)

This school year sees the launching of a new program at Mercy, called the Leadership Academy. The basic idea of the Leadership Academy is to complete a series of tasks over the course of the year, writing reflections upon the completion of each task. The paperwork will be stored in a folder, eventually intended to serve as a sort of portfolio or resume of achievement. Although the Leadership Academy is undoubtedly a sound program, for the seniors it is a little late in the game to undertake a task that will span the course of four years. We are currently filling out college applications, and we will not be able to include any of the tasks on our applications or transcripts. While it seems like it will be beneficial for the under classmen, it may just add undue stress on the already harried seniors. There seems to be a general air of discontent about the new program, judging from the various complaints overheard on a daily basis from our illustrious senior class.
Mount Mercy offers many extracurricular activities, including sports. For the fall season, we offer volleyball, soccer, swimming, golf, and cross country. Many girls enjoy playing these sports, and we will take a look at how the teams have been doing so far this year.

The volleyball season began with new coaches for both JV and Varsity. Coaching JV this year is Katelyn Grew, a recent graduate of Buffalo State College. The Varsity volleyball coach is Amanda Spaugh. Both JV and Varsity have identical records of 5-5. Both teams hope to rebound from disappointing losses and win their last four games. Varsity’s Senior Night is October 25, 2010 against Immaculata. It’s also going to be JV and Varsity’s Dig Pink Night to support the fight against breast cancer.

The Varsity soccer team has an overall record of 7-5. They are coached by John Glose, and are led by senior co-captains Chelsea Courtade and Michaela Zawistowski. Their last home game is October 26th against Nardin Academy. The JV soccer team is a young team, made up of mostly freshmen. They have a record of 2-4 overall. Their last home game was against Mt. St. Mary’s on October 21st. They are coached by Mary Pat Overdorff.

On September 28th, the Mercy cross country team ran against Nardin. When some of the top runners from both teams took a wrong turn, they were disqualified from the race. Bridget Jackson, a senior runner and captain of the team, stayed the course and won the race. Mount Mercy won the meet by a single point. Their last home meet was October 19th against Mt. St. Mary’s. The cross country team is coached by Jeff Conrad.

There are many activities going on at Mercy, and more students should get involved with the school. In addition to sports, we also offer many clubs and organizations to join. So get out there, and get involved!

Swim and Golf at MMA!
by: Lisa Panek (2013)

Varsity swimming is a that takes place in the summer and runs until the beginning of November. It is coached by Mary Colby. It is a fun sport if you do not like hitting or kicking ball. All of the meets and practice are held at ECC city. The quality of the pool is excellent.

Golf has two teams; JV and Varsity. Mrs. Lynch coaches varsity. JV and Varsity. Each golfed eight matches this season. Varsity lost their matches but put up a tight fight. Most the matches were played at Caz Park.
This month’s Student Spotlight is being shined on a promising art student, an active environmentalist, and a fashion-savvy trendsetter, Alexandra Gugliuzza. When I sit down to speak with the subject of the interview she quickly asks to be addressed as Alex, and from there leads the conversation, talking quickly and knowledgeably, describing her plethora of activities and responsibilities without much prompting, quickly establishing herself as an excellent conversationalist, albeit a rather sarcastic one. Alex is one of the five girls in Mercy’s AP Art Program, and she intends to center her portfolio on photography, her chosen medium. Alex plans on pursuing a career in art history and is looking into attending schools like the University of Toronto, as well as the extremely prestigious Cleveland Institute of Art. Alex is also in the midst of her second internship at the Buffalo Arts Studio, a downtown studio that host a gallery as well as the studios of many prominent Buffalo artists. At the BAS, Alex performs duties as the intern to the curator of the establishment, Cori Wolf. Her responsibilities include sorting and filing information as well as setting up exhibits, a lengthy process that often carries into her weekends. Alex is also a member of the school’s Environmental Awareness Club and after attending the Environmental Youth Summit last year, she began working for Dave Bauer, the president of Sustainable Earth Solutions. She is a Youth Advisory Leader for the Summit, and she helps set up the Summit, as well as networking with past attendees in an attempt to make the future Summits more helpful to all. Despite all these activities, Alex also holds a job at Buffalo clothing landmark, Urban Threads, located on Elmwood Avenue in the heart of the Elmwood Village. (That would explain the trendy duds, but the interviewer still thinks one hundred dollars is steep for a pair of pants, designer or no.) Besides her contributions to the environmental cause, and the local arts community it is clear that counting only her quirky sense of humor and modern ideas Alex greatly adds to the diverse community here at MMA. Also, it isn’t that she just looks good on paper, she is a pleasant and interesting person to have a conversation with, and the interviewer will overlook the sarcasm, quick barbs and grammar corrections, because someone has to keep us on our toes, and clearly that person is Alex Gugliuzza.

Student Spotlight on: Alex Gugliuzza
By: Karl Bunutch (2011)

To nominate someone for student spotlight email kbunitch11@mtmercy.org

Ask Your Counselors!! Advice Column
By: Erin Bender (2013) and Desiree Desiderio (2013)

For this month we decided we would ask Mrs.LoTempio questions about what students should be doing to prepare themselves for college. She said that the seniors by now should have a list of the colleges they would like to attend next fall. They should be completing their applications, working on their essays and also getting their teacher recommendations. She also said that in a short period of time the colleges will ask for the students’ transcripts. Since the juniors are a short ways away from college they should also be looking for colleges both online and resources in the counseling center. They should also consider possibly visiting some college campuses they would like to apply too. There are also many opportunities to learn about schools from college reps that come to the school. Mrs.LoTempio also recommends taking the SAT and ACTs more than once. It is very common for students’ to get a better score the more they take the tests. However, students shouldn’t take the test more than three times.

Even though the freshmen and sophomores have a while before they have to apply to colleges, it is still useful to start looking at colleges now. They can browse college websites such as the ASVAB site and the Peterson’s Student Edge program. They should also start preparing for the PSAT’s.

Here at Mercy there are many ways to help prepare us students for our future. Whether it’s talking to the counselors or even a teacher, they provide ways to help us prepare for college and our careers.
Picture Page!!

Mercy Soccer!! Picture by Bethany Clancy (2014)

Class of 2014 attends their First Day Assembly

Fall Back Dance 2010!!

Field Trip to Griffis Sculpture Park

Cross County Team

First Day of School 2010!