



insideWire

Assumption High School

Louisville, Kentucky

• sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy •

December 2006/January 2007 Volume 25 • No. 4



Elaine Salvo
president

The President's Letter

“Let the world sing today, a song of peace that echoes on and never goes away.”

Students see the big picture

“I’d like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony....”

This seventies song, recorded by the New Seekers after it became a popular advertisement for Coca-Cola, eventually became a classic, often heard during the holidays. Today, the song continues to speak to our hope for world peace and harmony between nations. As technology shrinks our world to an email away, the need to understand others’ cultures and differences becomes even more poignant.

Now more than ever, the Mercy value of world vision and responsibility must be taught to our young women to empower them to take their places in the world. This is an important lesson for our teens, who often cannot envision a world beyond their own personal space. The diversity in our cities and needs of new immigrants will greatly impact their careers, no matter what they choose to do.

At Assumption, we are making a concerted effort to raise the awareness and consciousness of our students through morning prayer, liturgy themes, and classes. During this season of good will, we attempt to paint a bigger picture, encouraging students to think beyond their own family and friends and reflect on how they can make a difference outside their community.

The Sisters of Mercy are dedicated to serving God’s people worldwide. This year, several students will have the opportunity to share cultures with students from Colegio Santa Ethnea in Argentina. In February 2007, six young women from St. Ethnea’s will travel to Louisville, attend Assumption High School, and live with Assumption students. In June 2007, these Assumption host students will travel to Buenos Aires, attend Colegio Santa Ethnea, and live with the students they hosted in February. This experience will certainly be an eye-opening exchange of cultures and lifestyles for our students, one that they will share with others

On behalf of the Assumption faculty and staff, I send your family a world of wishes for peace, harmony, and meaningful time together. Please remember our Mercy friends around the world, especially those in need.

Cordially,

the word on the web

Lisa Brown
webmaster

Assumption parents and students now have access to Naviance, a web-based application that assists with college planning. With Naviance, your daughter can track her college search, register for campus visits, compare application requirements, and research scholarships.

To take advantage of this new guidance tool, visit the AHS web page and click Naviance next to External Sites.

www.ahsrockets.org



*Mary Ann
Steutermann
principal*

Of
Principal
Interest

Saying 'no' needs no excuse

I am blessed to not only serve as principal at Assumption, but I also get to teach a class as well. I teach one section of Affective Skills, a freshman theology course during the first semester, and I love it. In it, students are taught how to claim their self-esteem, build healthy relationships, make responsible choices, and deal with things like anger, fear, and rejection. Quite honestly, I wish I had a class like this when I was in school!

One of the specific lessons that I wish I had learned when I was a teenager was how to say "no." During adolescence, young people are bombarded with countless challenges to their values, their faith, and their own self-discipline. And all of this comes at a time when they long to fit in and be accepted. Girls especially seem to have an aversion to refusing an earnest request of any kind because we are socialized to be compliant and aware of others' needs. Sometimes all of these factors blend together and make young women feel that saying "no" is not only impolite but downright impossible.

This year, though, I've taught my freshmen a few important things about saying "no." First and foremost, saying "no" to a request is a person's right. Just because someone asks to borrow money from us or to be included in our weekend plans or to use our homework to copy, it doesn't mean we have to do it. We have no obligation to fulfill others' requests if we don't want to.

The second thing I tried to teach my students is that since it's our right to say "no," we don't owe anyone explanations. Sometimes, we want to explain, and that's fine. If Mrs. Smith asks me to baby-sit Saturday and I say "no," I will most likely want to explain that the reason why is I already have plans to go to a movie with my family. That way, Mrs. Smith knows that she can call me again. But sometimes, we feel that we must explain our reasons, as though

in saying "no" we have done something wrong.

I heard a student the other day relate a story about being asked to a dance. The boy who asked her was a nice guy, but she wasn't interested in dating him and had hopes of going to the dance with someone else. So when he asked and she said "no," she felt compelled to give him her reasons, most of which she made up in order to spare his feelings. She ended up feeling miserable, both because he was disappointed and also because she was dishonest. A sensitive and caring young woman, she felt guilty, although she had done nothing wrong by telling him "no."

Saying "no" is our right, so we don't have to make up excuses or even explain our truthful reasons. Instead, what I have tried to teach my students to do is to simply say "no" and follow it with their "bottom line," which is simply a short, simple statement of what they will not do or a limit beyond which they will not go. For instance, a young person who is asked to try smoking a joint doesn't need to make up excuses. All she needs to do is say, "No, I don't do drugs." A young person who is asked to go out with friends when she prefers to stay home only needs to say, "No, thanks, I'm staying home tonight."

Our daughters and students have much asked of them every single day. Some requests they will embrace with great excitement, and in those cases, a "yes" is fun and joyful. But in other instances, they will be asked to do things that compromise their values or challenge their own vision for their lives. Anything we can do – at school and at home – to remind our girls that "no" is their right and that an easy way to say "no" is to follow it with a simple statement of their "bottom line" will encourage them to be the strong, self-sufficient women we know they are meant to be.



The Point A 5K

Saturday, December 2, 2006

Team Assumption will host the second annual Point A 5K race on **December 2, 2006**, at **4:30 p.m.** The race will take runners and walkers through the Highlands and benefits Nativity Academy.

Participants will receive **jingle bells** to wear on their shoes and **long-sleeved T-shirts** with the race logo. All community members are welcome to participate or support runners by decorating their neighborhood homes. The **registration fee** the day of the race is **\$18**. For more information or a brochure, contact the school office at 458-9551 or visit the AHS website at www.ahsrockets.org.

*Moving
Forward*

*Cyndi Moreno
director of
advancement*

Fill your stockings

Attention Parents and Grandparents!

Are you looking for the right time to give? Considering your end-of-year tax plan and giving strategies for next year? Achieve your goals through one of the following charitable giving options:

Retirement Planning. The IRA Charitable Rollover Provision allows individuals 70½ years old and older to designate contributions from their Individual Retirement Accounts. Normally, money withdrawn from an IRA is taxable. This new law makes it possible for people to take up to \$100,000 from their IRA in 2006 or 2007 and donate it to charity without being taxed.

Inheritance for Children/Grandchildren. A Charitable Lead Trust minimizes the percentage taken by estate and other inheritance taxes.

Gifts of Stock. If you have appreciated assets and want to take advantage of the market surge, we can help you make arrangements before the end of the year.

Selling a Business. We can discuss ways to include charitable giving benefits in the sale or transfer of your business.

Updating your Will. If Assumption is named in your will, please notify us immediately; we would love the opportunity to recognize your generosity today.

In a Hurry. Make easy donations or pledge payments with your credit card by calling the advancement office.

Assumption High School is a non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible in accordance with the law, and this is not intended to be financial or legal advice. Please consult with your independent financial, tax, or legal consultant for specific information. To learn more about giving options at AHS, please call 502-458-6258.

A Rare Treasure

Mark your calendars now and plan to join the Assumption community at the 2007

Rocket Spectacular Benefit Dinner

Saturday, February 17, 2007, at 6:30 p.m.

The following treasures await:

- ☞ Gourmet Feast
- ☞ Silent and Live Auctions
- ☞ \$20,000 Capital Prize
- ☞ Special Entertainment
- ☞ Casino Room
- ☞ and many other treasures!

All proceeds benefit financial assistance at Assumption.

Interested in volunteering?

Contact Joan Johnson, special events manager, at 502-271-2519 or joan.johnson@ahsrockets.org.

Community Spotlight

*compiled by Caroline McCoy
manager of public relations*

- ◆ **Teacher Katie Caswell** was named a 2006 SuperWoman in *Kentuckiana Healthy Woman* magazine for living a healthy lifestyle and encouraging others to do the same.
- ◆ **Rocket Cross Country Runners** won their first Regional Championship in 14 years and placed second in the State Meet.
- ◆ **The Speech Team** finished second overall in both sessions of the Bardstown/Bethlehem Swing Tournament. **Freshman Tory Cooney, juniors Martha Hellman and Amelia Reesor, and senior Jenny Villanueva** were named individual champions.
- ◆ **AHS broadcast, newspaper, and yearbook students** won several awards at the national JEA/NSPA Convention in Nashville. **Seniors Marta Cook, Julie Laemmler, Kellie Oates, Alayne Phillips, Beth Reed, Jill Seelmeyer, and Mary Beth Truby** received honorable mentions and **Senior Beth Ribar** received an excellent rating.
- ◆ **The Varsity Field Hockey Team** won the District tournament this fall.
- ◆ **Graduate Kristen Lee '06**, a field hockey player at Rhodes, was voted the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Newcomer-of-the-Year.
- ◆ **Senior Kelley Herde** was featured in *Business First's* First Honors section for her academic achievement and community involvement.
- ◆ **Varsity Volleyball Players** ended the season with the Rockets' third consecutive state title.
- ◆ **Junior Lindsey Kleyer and seniors Jillian Gottlieb, Jessica Johnson, and Anna Porter** were selected to the Kentucky Music Educators Association All-State Chorus.
- ◆ **Teacher Beth Korkin** qualified to run in the Boston Marathon after her performance in the Detroit Marathon.
- ◆ **Sophomores Jenna Brumleve, Hannah Bryant, Lauren Cherry, Ellen Daly, Abby Fieldhouse, Jessica Hines, Jessica Knopf, Jessica McKim, Sidney Noland, Layne Porta, and Sarah Reeves** were students have been selected to serve on the Jefferson County Teen Court.
- ◆ **Seniors Rebecca Bloemer and Kaitlan Harris** have signed to play collegiate athletics with Division 2 schools and **Kirstie Brangers, Kaitlin Craven, Emily Galbraith, Lindsey Harris, Sara Hayden, Eileen Kennedy, and Leah Meffert** have signed with Division 1 schools.
- ◆ **The Advanced Bell Choir** played for WAVE 3's Sounds of the Season. Check local listing to see the performance air Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Semester Review & Exam Schedule

Friday, December 8

Day 2 Review
Immaculate Conception Mass
2:55 Dismissal

Monday, December 11

7:45 – 8:05 Homeroom
8:10 – 9:35 H Block exam
9:50 – 11:15 G Block exam

Tuesday, December 12

7:45 – 8:05 Homeroom
8:10 – 9:35 F Block exam
9:50 – 11:15 E Block exam

Wednesday, December 13

Day 1 Review
Homeroom Celebrations
12:10 Dismissal

Thursday, December 14

7:45 – 8:05 Homeroom
8:10 – 9:35 D Block exam
9:50 – 11:15 C Block exam

Friday, December 15

7:45 – 8:05 Homeroom
8:10 – 9:35 B Block exam
9:50 – 11:15* A Block exam

*Students must be present to take their exams. In the case of an unavoidable medical situation, a doctor's note must be provided. Without this, exams cannot be made up. The make-up day for any such exams is Monday, December 18, a Christmas holiday, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 202. *Students with A block study may leave on Friday at 9:35.*



Gloria Thornburg
campus minister

Advent breathes hope into our hearts

Advent resounds with the words of the angel Gabriel, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

How wise the church is to set aside four weeks each year to let these words echo in our hearts...the Lord is with each one of us, seeking each one out from the moment of birth, creating a plan that cannot be completed without each one of us...life changing words for us, as they were for Mary.

"Breath of heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, breath of heaven...

Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness.

Pour over me your holiness...for you are holy, breath of heaven."

The gym is darkened, a student with a soft haunting voice enters, draped in blue, singing these words, from "Breath of Heaven" by

Amy Grant, as she portrays

Mary facing the unknown. In spite of having seen it numerous times in practice, I tear up every year. It is the moment when Advent is the most real for me...the waiting, the uncertainty, the possibility, the vulnerability. Are these not the same feelings Mary pondered in her heart as she made her physical and spiritual journey?

"Do not be afraid, Mary." There is so much to fear in our world...war, illness, loss, violence, rejection, failing. Even Advent cannot erase the anxiety, the pain, the heartache of our lives. But this God who pours holiness over us understands. "And now, you will conceive... and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus..." Mary's child was born in a place far from her home, with no family or friends to witness the birth. Was she lonely as she wrapped her baby in swaddling cloth?

We all know this feeling of being alone...faith is easy when things are going the way we expect, but when tragedy strikes or disasters occur or the totally unexpected happens, we wonder where God is. We feel the vulnerability of Mary. But we can join Mary in asking that the "breath of heaven ... be forever near..." We too can "offer all I am for the mercy of your plan." We can believe that the angels rejoice at the birth of each child as they did at the birth of that one child. And we know that if we say "yes," as Mary did, we will not fail in what we are called to do "for nothing is impossible with God."

In *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, Ann Weems writes, "There is a certainty that every person has a Bethlehem, source of a new beginning where hope is born and possibility looms large, where history is invaded by newness and memory births our faith."

This is the possibility inherent in Advent... that the joy and festivity of the Christmas season will usher in a new year, a clean slate on which to write a new beginning.

My prayer in these days of lengthening darkness is that wherever we are on life's journey, we hear the familiar words of the angel Gabriel and know they are meant for each one of us as surely as they were for Mary because each one of us has been chosen also to carry the Christ child into the world, no matter how uncertain and vulnerable we may feel. God is simply waiting for our "yes."

God is waiting for our "yes."

Editor's Note

The Inside Wire is the Assumption High School parent newsletter. It is edited by Caroline McCoy, public relations and recruitment manager, who welcomes your suggestions and comments. Please contact her at caroline.mccoy@ahsrockets.org or at 458-6258 to share your ideas for the newsletter and your daughter's accomplishments for the community spotlight.

AHS Campus Store

Visit www.absrockets.org for extended holiday hours.

Calendar Notes

December 1: Open House Holiday, No School

December 2: Point A 5K, 4:30 p.m., See page 3 for details.

December 3: Art Show, 3 p.m., Theater
Enjoy the artwork created by AHS art students and celebrate their talents at a reception held in their honor.

December 6: College Financial Information Night, 7-8:30 p.m., Cafeteria
A financial aid expert from Bellarmine University will walk senior parents through the FAFSA form, giving tips on how to complete it. Parents from other classes are welcome.

December 7: Christmas Choral Concert, 6:30 p.m., Theater
Enjoy the sounds of the holiday season as the AHS choirs perform in the Performing and Fine Arts Center.

December 8: Immaculate Conception Liturgy, 10:15 a.m., CAC
The AHS community will gather to celebrate a very special holy day Mass. All friends and family are invited.

December 9: High School Placement Test, 9 a.m., CAC

Eighth grade students interested in attending AHS next fall should bring two #2 pencils and \$12 to this exam.

December 8-15: Review Days and Semester Exams

Dismissal on exam days occurs at 11:15 a.m. The campus closes at 11:30 a.m. following exams on Dec. 11, 12, 14, and 15. On Dec. 13, a review day, the campus closes at 12:30 p.m. All students must leave at this time unless they are engaged in a supervised activity. See page 4 for details.

December 9: Junior/Senior Holiday Dance, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., CAC

All juniors and seniors are invited to attend. Dress is semi-formal and dance policies apply.

December 12: Christmas Instrumental Concert, 6:30 p.m., Theater

Get into the holiday spirit with seasonal music performed by our Instrumen-

tal Ensemble and Bell Choir.

December 18-January 2: School closed for Christmas Holidays

The school office will close for the Christmas holidays on Friday, December 15, at 11:30 a.m. and will re-open at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3. If you have an emergency, please leave a message on the general voice mail (458-9551); messages will be checked periodically over the break.

January 2: Professional Day-No School

January 12: Report Cards Mailed

If you have questions about a grade, please call the school office and ask to speak with the specific teacher or contact him/her via email.

January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday-No School

January 19: Standardized Tests, What Does It All Mean?, 7-8:00 p.m., Media Center

This hands-on workshop will help parents become familiar with college admissions tests such as the PLAN, ACT, and SAT.

January 25-28, February 2-4: Theater

The Rose Theatre Company presents *Dearly Beloved*. Performances will be held at 7 p.m. on Jan. 25, 26, and 28, and on Feb. 2 and 3. Afternoon productions on Jan. 27 and Feb. 4 will be held at 2 p.m.

January 27: Tri-M Talent Show, 7 p.m.

Students from all grades are invited to share their talents with the AHS community. All are welcome.

January 28: College Issues for Students with Learning Differences, 2-4 p.m., Cafeteria

Parents of students with diagnosed learning differences are invited to attend this workshop to learn more about planning for college.

January 29-February 2: Catholic Schools Week

The AHS community celebrates our Catholic tradition and heritage with a week full of special activities.

December Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Open House Holiday NO SCHOOL	2 4:30 PM Point A 5K
3 3-5 PM Art Show	4	5 7 PM Parent Retreat Prayer	6 7 PM College Financial Information Workshop	7 6:30 PM Christmas Choral Concert	8 Grades Available Online 1:15 PM Immaculate Conception Liturgy Day 2 Review	9 9 AM High School Placement Test 8 PM-12 AM Junior/Senior Holiday Dance
10	11	Freshman Retreat		14	15	16
	7:45-11:15 AM EXAMS H & G Blocks	7:45-11:15 AM EXAMS F & E Blocks 6:30 PM Christmas Instrumental Concert	Homeroom Activity 12:10 Dismissal Day 1 Review	7:45-11:15 AM EXAMS D & C Blocks 6 PM Major Donor Reception	7:45- 11:15 AM EXAMS B & A BLOCKS	
17	18 9 AM MAKE-UP EXAMS	CHRISTMAS		21	22	23
24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31	January 1 New Year's Day	2 Professional Day No School for Students	3 Classes Resume First Day of Second Semester	4 7 PM Parent Retreat Prayer	5	6 9 AM High School Placement Test Make-up Exam
7	8	9	10 1:40 PM Dismissal	Freshman Retreat		13
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday NO SCHOOL	16 Grades Available Online	17	18 7 PM Parent Retreat Prayer	12 REPORT CARDS MAILED 7 PM Parent Retreat Prayer	20 Rocket Invitational Speech Tournament
Senior Retreat				Sophomore Retreat		
21	22	23 Homeroom Advisement	24 1:40 PM Dismissal	25 7 PM Standardized Tests 7 PM Parent Retreat Prayer	26	27 7 PM Tri-M Talent Show
				DEARLY BELOVED Sophomore Retreat		
28 2-4 PM College Issues for Students With Learning Differences	29	30	31 1:40 PM Dismissal	February 1	2	3
				DEARLY BELOVED		
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK						



Assumption High School

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Freshman Basketball

December

4	North Bullitt @ North Bullitt	7:00
6	Notre Dame @ Notre Dame	5:00
18	Sacred Heart @ Sacred Heart	6:00
27-29	Presentation Tournament @ Presentation	TBA

January

2	Male @ Home	4:30
6	North Bullitt @ Home	11:00
9	Olham County @ Home	6:00
11	Christian Academy @ Home	4:30
12-13	Rocket Freshman Tournament @ Home	TBA
22	Mercy @ Mercy	7:00
27	Oldham County Tournament @ TBA	TBA
29	Sacred Heart @ Home	7:00

JV and Varsity Basketball

December

2	Eastern Extravaganza @ Eastern		TBA
	Holy Cross @ Home	10:30	
	Oldham County @ Home	6:00	
6	Notre Dame @ Notre Dame	6:00	7:30
8	Moore @ Moore	6:00	7:30
15	Ballard @ Home	6:00	7:30
18	Sacred Heart @ Sacred Heart	7:15	
20-23	Classic @ Lexington Catholic		TBA
28-30	Sweet South Classic @ Morgan Co., GA		TBA

January

2	Male @ Home	6:00	7:30
5	Mercy @ Bellarmine	6:00	7:30
6	Shooting for the Cure @ Bellarmine		2:00
9	Oldham County @ Home	7:15	

11	Christian Academy @ Home	6:00	7:30
14	Sacred Heart @ Home	6:00	7:30
20	Kentucky Preps Classic @ Trinity		TBA
23-27	Louisville Invitational Tournament		
31	Iroquois @ Iroquois	6:00	7:30

Bowling

December

7	Mercy @ Ken Bowl		3:20
14	Bullitt Central @ Ken Bowl		3:20

January

4	Male @ Ken Bowl		3:20
11	J-town @ King Pin		3:20
18	Mercy @ Ken Bowl		3:20
25	Bullitt Central @ Bullitt Bowl		3:20

Ice Hockey

December

9	TBA @ Iceland		12:00
10	TBA @ Iceland		9:15

January

6-7	TBA @ Cincinnati		TBA
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Swimming

December

5	Male @ UofL		4:00
16	Brother Fabious @ UofL		1:00

January

10	Collegiate @ Shawnee		4:00
13	Louisville Diving Invitational @ UofL		TBA
15	Sacred Heart @ St. X		7:00
20	Rock the Block @ Mary T. Meagher		8:00

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