



Where young women prepare to make a difference in the world.

# Mercy Notes

Mercy High School San Francisco Parent Newsletter  
October 2007

## WELCOME BACK !!

Dear Mercy Community:

As we begin a new school year, I would like to remind parents and friends that our commitment to educating your daughters in the Mercy tradition is as strong and vibrant as ever. We have a healthy class of 140 ninth graders and extend a warm welcome to our new students and parents. Our goal is to infuse Mercy values into each student's educational experience, so that our graduates become "strong independent women who will make a difference in the world."

In January, the Mercy community will launch a major capital campaign for the endowment fund. Our goal is to focus all efforts towards raising substantial funds to increase Mercy's endowment. Joanne Hayes-White '82, Fire Chief of the City of San Francisco, has agreed to co-chair this campaign. Based on the recommendation of Mercy's Board of Directors, we will ramp up our development, public relations and marketing efforts for the school. I will be actively involved in these activities and look forward to the exciting opportunities ahead. Please welcome the following new staff members to our development offices, Lisa Lacey, Director of Advancement, Tanya Spishak, Director of Communications, and Teresa Lucchese, Community Relations Associate.

Mercy will sponsor our fabulous Intersession program during the week of February 25, 2008. Please work with your daughter to select the program which is the right fit, both educationally and financially, for you and your family. Our program is designed to meet the needs of all our students and families. We have some exciting things planned. The Mercy website has a valuable link so that you can explore the courses we are offering. I look forward to an exciting year.

Sincerely,

Dorothy J. McCrea, Ed.D

Dorothy J. McCrea, Ed.D  
Principal

### Inside this issue

- Dean's Corner
- Honor Roll
- Intersession 2008
- Laila Lalami Visits Mercy
- Catherine's Corner
- Calendar of Events
- Volunteer of the Month



# Campus News

## LAILA LALAMI VISITS MERCY

Moroccan author Laila Lalami visited Mercy High School September 14<sup>th</sup>. In preparation for her visit, each Mercy student, faculty and staff member read Laila's novel, *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits*, a fascinating story about four Moroccans who attempt to illegally immigrate to Europe by crossing the Straits of Gibraltar.

Born and raised in Morocco, Laila Lalami earned her B.A. in English from Universite Mohammed V in Rabat, her M.A. from University College, London, and her Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Southern California. Laila's work has appeared in *The Boston Globe*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Nation*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*. She is the recipient of an Oregon Literary Arts grant and a Fulbright Fellowship. Laila's novel, *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits*, was published in the fall of 2005 and has since been translated into five languages. Laila was short listed for the Caine Prize for African Writing in 2006. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of California Riverside.

Laila began her presentation to the Mercy community with a brief overview of her life and a short reading. Mercy students then posed questions about many topics including; the underlying theme of education in her novel; the literacy rate in Morocco; health care; what she felt when writing; if any of the characters were inspired by real life people; and the Moroccan government's recent ban of YouTube. Mercy students Marielle Bautista and Jessica Fisher gave a farewell in French to Laila, presenting her with a "got Mercy?" sweatshirt. Mercy students Mariam Torosyan, Marta Kristi Pold and Mary Walker surprised Laila with a Moroccan dance. Laila then enjoyed a traditional Moroccan lunch and tea service prepared by Madame McLaughlin's advanced French students. Laila also toured Mercy, interacting with teachers and students, viewed Moroccan plates, containers, cut linoleum prints, and clay representations of scenes from Laila's novel created by Mercy students. She was very impressed with Mercy's English and Foreign Language students' literary analysis of her novel. Laila has recounted her experience at Mercy on her website. Please visit her September 15 entry at <http://www.lailalalami.com/blog>.

Mercy's tradition of bringing authors to campus proudly continued with Laila's visit. Over the past five years, Mercy High School has hosted a variety of guest writers including, Melba Beals, *Warriors Don't Cry*, Helena Viramontes, *Under the Feet of Jesus*, Gail Tsukiyama, *Dreaming Water*, and Naomi Shihab Nye, *Habibi*.



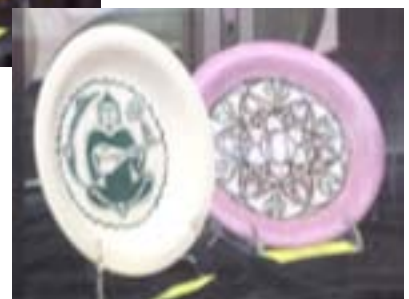
Laila Lalami's Visit

## Calendar of Events

|             |                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| October 6   | Class of 1977 Reunion          |
| October 8   | Columbus Day Holiday           |
| October 10  | Booster Club Meeting - 6:30pm  |
| October 17  | Testing Day                    |
| October 20  | Class of 1967 Reunion          |
| October 20  | Class of 1982 Reunion          |
| October 24  | Sophomore Class Retreat        |
| October 28  | OPEN HOUSE                     |
| November 5  | Frosh Class Retreat 1/2 class  |
| November 7  | Frost Class Retreat 1/2 class  |
| November 14 | Booster Club Meeting - 6:30pm  |
| November 15 | Parent Guild Meeting -- 7:00pm |
| November 17 | Holiday Boutique -- 10:00am    |
| Nov. 21-23  | Thanksgiving Holidays          |
| November 20 | ASB Benefit Dance              |



Student Artwork



# All Business

## DEAN'S CORNER - PARKING

We ask all parents and those people that you send to pick up your daughter, not to double park on lower Junipero Serra, which is very dangerous and illegal. If you can not find a parking spot in back on lower Junipero Serra, we ask that you drive further down the street and park on the next block or one of the surrounding blocks. Also, there is absolutely no parking on the corners of Junipero Serra. In order to maintain good public relations for Mercy, please do not block the driveway of any of our neighbors. Parents dropping off daughters may only drive onto campus if they have a parking pass from the Dean. Please do not drive into the front entrance, drop off and turn around, as this provides a hazard to our faculty and staff who are entering campus. Lastly, please be respectful of our security guards who are working at the request of the Administration for the safety of each and every one of our students.



## INTERSESSION 2008

Twenty-two innovative courses appealing to all kinds of interests will be offered during the last week in February when Mercy students experience "school outside the walls." Course moderators have designed courses in the Bay Area and beyond – Oregon, Arizona, Texas, Boston, Seattle, Quebec, and Costa Rica – highlighting such interests as crafts, hiking, physical fitness, drama, ballroom dancing, language, food and art, science, skiing, points of interest, history, and community service. Following an Intersession Faire and the distribution of the course catalog in October, students confer with parents and prioritize their choices for courses. **It is essential that parents confirm the possibility and requisites of all three choices. By signing off on the registration form, parents agree to the cost and to the expectations and requirements of the course.**

## New Direction in Community Service Senior Culminating Project

The "100 hours of community service" requirement is in the midst of revision. While freshmen and sophomores will be expected to complete 25 hours of service per year, juniors will complete a "senior culminating project" in the summer between their junior and senior years, or during the fall semester of their senior year. With guidance and support from the community service department, incoming seniors will design and implement a service project with the population, issue and non-profit organization of their choice. Members of the class of 2009 will have the option of completing the full 100 hours, or doing a culminating project. 2010 and 2011 class members will be expected to do the project. We express gratitude and thanks to the following class of 2008 members who piloted the senior culminating project: **Veronica Granucci, Alison Hornback and Eleni Sagredos** who offered a cooking class for senior citizens at the Institute on Aging. In addition to preparing meals with the seniors, these students helped the elderly clients create a cookbook featuring their recipes, and shared their stories in a video documentary. **Ashley Oropeza** (with the help of her sophomore cousin, Raquel Oropeza), designed and offered a recreation camp for children living in Mercy Family Housing. **Marielle Bautista** did art projects and held listening sessions with the patients at the Veterans Hospital, and then interviewed a group of them about their hopes for the youth of today. **Bonnie and Rosanne Chan** taught ESL to children of incarcerated parents in China, and are now spearheading a benefit drive for "Get on the Bus," a program which organizes Mothers Day visits for children with their mothers imprisoned in Chowchilla.

## "Hair For Care"

The Mercy Community will gather on November 15, 2007 from 3:30-6:30pm in the Theater Lobby to recognize and give back to those who have been affected by cancer. We will be having the "Hair for Care" styling party which will include the following: a series of guest speakers ranging from the survivors themselves to those who have been touched by the illness, a haircut or styling from a professional hair stylist and a reception. The proceeds will be given to Koret Family House which provides housing to those families whose children are being treated for cancer and other serious illnesses. To make this event possible, we are seeking the assistance of any professional hairstylist who is willing to volunteer his or her time and services. We are hoping that together, we can make a difference! "Hair for Care" is **Natalie Wolfrom** and **Nicole Tavarovsky's** senior culminating project.

# Announcements

## **EDLINE**

Please use EDLINE to access Mercy's daily homework site and your daughter's personalized grading profile. The next calendar grade posting is 12pm, Wednesday, September 26, 2007. **If you have not activated your edline account, please do so today.**

## **ASBESTOS**

**Asbestos Notifications were distributed to students during homeroom on Tuesday, September 25, 2007. Please ask your daughter for the notification if you have not received it.**

**THANK YOU!**

## **FINANCIAL AID FORMS**

The Private School Aid Service (PSAS) Forms will be available on line on Mercy's website ([www.mercyhs.org](http://www.mercyhs.org)) after October 29. Click on the Tuition Information link and scroll down to the Financial Aid section to download the form.

If you do not have access to the website, please have your daughter ask for the form at Mercy's Business Office.

The deadline for completing the form is Monday, January 14, 2008.

## **FRESHMEN PARENTS**

**This issue of Mercy Notes will be the only issue you will receive in the mail. In keeping with Mercy "GOING GREEN." Future newsletters will only be posted on Mercy's website, [www.mercyhs.org](http://www.mercyhs.org). You will receive a reminder postcard in the mail to check out upcoming newsletters.**

## **PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Throughout the year Mercy hosts a number of events which require the assistance of parent volunteers. Volunteering to assist with these events not only help us, but enable you to build a closer relationship with the Mercy community. We have many opportunities for you to get involved. To learn more about these volunteer opportunities and upcoming events please contact Teresa Lucchese in the Development Office at 415-334-0525 x242 or [tlucchese@mercyhs.org](mailto:tlucchese@mercyhs.org).

Each family who completes 30 hours for the 2007 - 2008 school year will be invited to a Parent Volunteer Reception at the end of the year.

## **RECYCLE**

Remember to recycle your toner, inkjet cartridges and cell phones. Contact Mr. Murphy at 415-334-0525 x236 or [mmurphy@mercyhs.org](mailto:mmurphy@mercyhs.org)

## **Volunteer of the Month**

Last year, Mercy launched a new student recognition program: the "Volunteer of the Month." Organizational supervisors, students and faculty members nominate students for this honor based on the type of community service provided and evidence of the student's dedication, learning and leadership. Nominees are interviewed and selected monthly by a student-led committee. They are honored with a bulletin board display, public announcement, award certificate and gift certificate.

Congratulations to Junior **Kaitlyn "Pepper" Kuo**, Mercy's first "Volunteer of the Month" for 2007-2008. For her community service, Pepper volunteered at the Homeless Prenatal Program (HPP) in the Mission District. She cared for infants and children, while their homeless and low-income mothers met with their caseworkers. This is the first time a Mercy student has volunteered with HPP, and she represented our student body incredibly well.



## **SINGLE GENDER EDUCATION FACTS**

Researchers at the University of Michigan compared graduates of Catholic single-sex high schools with graduates of Catholic coeducational private schools. Boys in the single-sex high schools scored better in reading, writing, and math than did boys at coed high schools. Girls at the single-sex schools did better in science and reading than girls in coed schools. In fact, these researchers found that students at single-sex schools had not only superior academic achievement, but also had higher educational aspirations, more confidence in their abilities, and a more positive attitude toward academics, than did students at coed high schools. And, girls at the single-sex schools had less stereotyped ideas about what women can and cannot do.

**Source:** Valerie Lee and Anthony Bryk. Effects of single-sex secondary schools on student achievement and attitudes. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 78:381-395, 1986.

# Announcements

## Fall Play

Mercy's Visual & Performing Arts Department announces its fall production, Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, set in the Wild West of the 1870's.

Mark your calendar for the Red Carpet Reception after the Friday, November 2nd show. Bring your ten-gallon hats and dancing shoes to this fiesta! Additional performances are slotted for November 3, 9 and 10. Show time is 7:30 p.m.

Opening night tickets are \$15. Tickets for other performances are \$8 pre-sale and \$10 at the door. Call Teresa Lucchese at 415-334-0525 x242 to purchase your tickets.

This delightful comedy features two of Shakespeare's most memorable characters: Kate and Petruchio. They spend most of the play verbally and physically sparring, but "all's well that ends well" as Petruchio succeeds in taming his shrew by the final curtain. *The Taming of the Shrew* abounds in farcical elements such as mistaken identity, disguises, pratfalls and fast-paced dialogue.

Mercy students are joined in this hilarious romp by young men from Washington and Balboa High Schools as well as St. Gabriel Elementary School. Liz McAninch directs the talented cast while Tim Mahoney designs and supervises the Mercy crew who constructs the set. Tim, a veteran of S.I. Drama productions in the 1980's, starred in Mercy's 1981 production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. In addition, he is also a parent of Kayla Mahoney, Mercy '06 and Tyler Mahoney, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at St. Gabriel.

Ads will be sold in all theatrical productions. If you would like to purchase an ad, please contact, Tanya Spishak, Director of Communications and Community Relations at 415-334-0525 x244 [tspishak@mercyhs.org](mailto:tspishak@mercyhs.org).



## Catherine's Corner

On September 24, Mercy High School celebrated Mercy Day, the founding of the House of Mercy on Baggott Street in Dublin, Ireland by Catherine McAuley. Catherine's pioneering vision to educate women has expanded worldwide through the Sisters of Mercy. Mercy High School is one of 42 secondary schools in 18 states, Guam, Jamaica, Philippines, Honduras, Belize and Argentina sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy.

## Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18 percent of the more than 1.4 million high school students in more than 16,000 secondary schools worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar.

### Congratulations to our 2007 AP (Advanced Placement) Scholars.

**AP Scholars:** Students received passing grades of 3 or higher on 3 or more AP Exams

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Vanessa Castaing</b>  | Freshman, Dominican University           |
| <b>Casara Clark</b>      | Freshman, Northwestern University        |
| <b>Katherine Collaco</b> | Freshman, Univ. of California, Berkeley  |
| <b>Angel Hu</b>          | Freshman, Univ. of California, San Diego |
| <b>Sabeen Kazmi</b>      | Mercy High School Senior, Class of 2008  |
| <b>Kristen Nordberg</b>  | Freshman, Univ. of California, San Diego |
| <b>Jennifer Rusher</b>   | Freshman, Univ. of California, Berkeley  |
| <b>Audrey-Jo Santo</b>   | Mercy High School Senior, Class of 2008  |

**AP Scholars with Honor:** Students received passing grades of 3 or higher on four or more AP Exams

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Summer Li</b>      | Freshman, Univ. of California, Berkeley |
| <b>Lindsey Pappas</b> | Freshman, University of San Francisco   |

**AP Scholars with Distinction:** Students received passing grades of 3 or higher on five or more AP Exams

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Christine Fu</b> | Freshman, University of Pacific         |
| <b>Olivia Lam</b>   | Freshman, Univ. of California, Berkeley |

# Mercy Day

September 24, 2007



Members of the Class of 1957 joined the entire student body celebrating Mercy Day Mass. The Class of 1957 continued their 50th year reunion with a reception in Rist Hall.

## *Dolce Performs at the Marriott*

Mercy's chorale group, Dolce, performed at the Marriott in San Mateo on Sunday, September 9th. The girls had a wonderful time and were truly inspired after meeting Brendon Burchard, the author of *Life's Golden Ticket*, a highly-acclaimed life coach, leadership speaker, and business consultant. Dolce sang the inspirational song "Will You Be There" for Burchard's "Life's Golden Ticket" Seminar. Burchard was so impressed with Dolce that he extended an invitation for them to sing again in Los Angeles. Dolce will be producing a Holiday CD which will be on sale the first week of November. With the profits of their CD, Dolce hopes to raise enough money for a trip to perform at the "Disney Magic Music Days." For more information regarding Dolce's Christmas CD, please contact Laura Flaviani at [lflaviani@mercyhs.org](mailto:lflaviani@mercyhs.org).



## Happenings in the Counseling Center

**Freshmen:** Freshmen Orientation to the Counseling Center will take place October 1 or 9. Freshmen will participate in a scavenger hunt, along with registering on Naviance and becoming familiar with the program. On October 18, freshmen will be given the EXPLORE assessment to help them determine pathways for future success in high school and college.

**Sophomores:** All sophomores will take the PLAN, a career preference assessment test and good preparation tool for the ACT exam. Sophomores should be updating their *Resume* and completing the *Personality Profile* on Naviance.

**Juniors:** Junior year is a busy and critical time-academics are all important as students begin their college search in earnest. We encourage parents to take their daughters to visit college campuses during vacations. On October 18, Juniors will be administered the PSAT, a practice test for the SAT. SAT test dates are in March and May. Juniors may also opt to take the ACT in April or June. (Colleges accept both tests.)

**Seniors:** College representative visits, essay-writing workshops and college applications are in full swing. Organization is key, but, seniors and parents – stay calm and focused! Parents, enjoy and applaud your daughters' progress and accomplishments during this hectic period.

*All parents may register and establish their own account on Naviance. Access Naviance on the Mercy website and log in as a Guest to review the program. If you would like to register, please call Ms. Ryken for your account number. Be sure to visit the Counseling page on the Mercy website to see the resources we have to offer.*

# Honor Roll

## HONOR ROLL SECOND SEMESTER 2006-2007

### High Honors with Distinction

(4.0 + gpa)

Jonina Aminah C. Alonto  
Natalie B. Aquino  
Cristina Araujo  
Marielle Ann M. Bautista  
Bonnie G. Chan  
Lindsay A. Chan  
Rosanne S. Chan  
Roshelle K. Chan  
Marilyn S. Duran  
Cassandra F. Farrar  
Joanna E. Haight  
Chloe Y. Hu  
Sabeen A. Kazmi  
Krystal V. Lee  
Rachelle C. Leung  
Sheri A. Loo  
Victoria C. Ng  
Vicky V. Pramana  
Audrey-Jo S. Santo  
Darshana I. Solanki  
Claire M. Swarthout  
Kristine R. Wong  
Tammy Zeng

### High Honors

(3.5 – 3.99 gpa)

Elena C. Acevedo  
Emilia B. Calderon  
Angela M. Dignadice  
Catherine R. Everett  
Natasha M. Ferreira  
Jessica V. Fisher  
Antonia M. Gherga  
Veronica J. Granucci  
Erica K. He  
Alison M. Hornback  
Eileen R. Ing  
Jessica C. Lee  
Shirley Li  
Ingrid G. Liggayu  
Kimberly M. Lui  
Muriel Macaire  
Nichole J. Marcelino  
Rachelle M. Mendoza  
Kristina E. Ong  
Nikita B. Patel  
Ada Tam  
Sharon M. Tam  
Mariam Torosyan  
Sindy C. Vasquez-Vela  
Elizabeth R. Weidner  
Lauren M. Wong  
Amy Xu

### Honors

(3.25 – 3.49 gpa)

Kimberly Au-Yeung  
Kayla JC Benton  
Giovanna C. Giusti  
April P. Gubatina  
Natalie M. Lee  
Carolina Lopez  
Pauline Moyes  
Anna S. Restani  
Christine S. Woo

### High Honors with Distinction

(4.0 + gpa)

Celina A. Al Asfour  
Fatima A. Avellan  
Katherine A. Bojorquez  
Edith W. Chow  
Samantha A. Chow  
Maryanne M. Connell  
Angela V. Dahiya  
Rosetta U. Dowling  
Atheana E. Fulgencio  
Virginia L. Garrett  
Cholomi Jung  
Shereen J. Kajouee  
Kailin H. Kuo  
Michelle J. Lee  
Jessica L. Meyer  
Jasmine G. Ramos  
Elena P. Santos  
Cassandra C. Turgman  
Georgia Wasley  
Christina E. Zawaideh

### High Honors

(3.5 – 3.99 gpa)

Arieanna C. Anies  
Maria F. Collazos  
Lesia I. Colon  
Janine M. De Jesus  
Daija S. Foster  
Jennifer S. Francisco  
Alexea D. Jimenez  
Jennifer Lima  
Kristina Aurea P. Morillo  
Maya B. Nieto  
Stacey E. Nordman  
Natalie E. Pang  
Abigail S. Poblete  
Camille G. Restua  
Krista M. Suizo  
Caitlin C. Tom  
Stephanie M. Valencerina  
Carmen Yeung

### Honors

(3.25 – 3.49 gpa)

Kirsten R. Avilla  
Carolina Maria G. Cayetano  
Claire M. Costello  
Claire M. DeLiso  
Cathryn L. Howell  
Cara A. Keegan  
Bernadette Lim  
Margaret Lu  
Alexandra M. Mandapat  
Tatiana T. Montenegro  
Jenny Rafikova  
Allison M. Re  
Katey S. Simons  
Olivia C. Tieu  
Alejandra C. Vega  
Danielle Yip

### High Honors with Distinction

(4.0 + gpa)

Aleyda Y. Borja  
Nancy Chan  
Celine L. Chen  
Chika C. Chuku  
Aisha Hameed  
Tiffany A. Hang  
Rachelle L. Hidalgo  
Marie Alexis D. Ingo  
Jessica Y. Leung  
Claire Lim  
Jacqueline A. Loo  
Monica M. Mandapat  
Jennifer K. Montoya  
Jennifer L. Ng  
Caitlin R. Nordberg  
Rachelle Ann Ramirez  
Daniella I. Rivera  
Selby E. Souza  
Monica M. Tabora  
Olivia P. Warren

### High Honors

(3.5 – 3.99 gpa)

Ria B. Aquino  
Naomi-Jean M. Bautista  
Michaela Byrne  
Elizabeth E. Calder  
Julie Chariz R. Everett  
Zi Zhu Fan  
Karen M. Garcia  
Victoria A. Gutierrez  
Christina G. Leung  
Millicent Lu  
Victoria Luu  
Sarah M. Manzano  
Gladys M. Martinez  
Nicole R. Seastres  
Jasmine C. Sims  
Krupa I. Solanki  
Suzanne L. Souva

### Honors

(3.25 – 3.49 gpa)

Natalie M. Ayala  
Adrienne Camille C. Carmona  
Diana Q. Chiu  
Michelle A. Dizon  
Siobhan M. Formoso  
Shelby C. Getsla  
Jennifer Hinojosa  
Reanne Alyson L. Matic  
Ariel McAllister  
Rosette O. Rael  
Amelie C. Sutsakhan  
Katherine J. Tatlonghari  
Stephanie L. Webster



# Save the Dates

Mercy High School Presents



**November 2, 3, 9, 10**

For tickets and times contact:

Teresa Lucchese  
415-334-0525 x 242  
tlucchese@mercyhs.org



## Open House

October 28

Program begins - 9:00am

Single and gendered parking  
RESERVED FOR VISITORS



WOMEN IN MEDICINE PROGRAM

WOMEN IN THE ARTS PROGRAM

### Mercy High School

3250 Nineteenth Avenue • San Francisco  
A College-Preparatory High School for Young Women



Mercy High School  
3250 Nineteenth Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94132

*"Where young women prepare to  
make a difference in the world."*