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## Mercy High School San Francisco

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

# Parent Newsletter

September 2010

**Mercy is going even **GREENER!** This year the Parent Newsletter will be sent to you via email. Please be sure to let us know if your email address changes so you do not miss out on any important information.**

### Quick Links

[Mercy Website](#)

[Open House](#)

[Honor Roll  
Spring 2010](#)

[Holiday Boutique](#)



*Skipper & Flipper enjoy the  
Welcome Assembly*

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and prayers are  
with the  
community of  
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CITY OF SAN](#)

Dear Mercy San Francisco Community,

As we begin another year at Mercy (our 58th), I want to take a moment to welcome everyone back home. Truly, there is no place like Mercy! Our students, parents, staff and board members are comprised of remarkable people. Each and every day we strive to live out the mission and charism of Mercy in this wonderful community. We are off to a good start and our hope is that we will have another banner year at school.

I particularly want to thank our current benefactors who have provided us with a great start to the Annual Fund drive. As of today we have had major gifts which have helped us raise \$116,000, over one third of our \$300,000 goal, for the Annual Fund. Much work is still ahead of us, but we believe this is a wonderful start. We hope that all of the Mercy family; parents, staff, alumnae and board members will get on board and participate (100%) in our fund drive. Please contact our Advancement Office for further information.

As I begin my 17th year at Mercy, I want to thank everyone for their generous support of this wonderful school and look forward to celebrating another great year!

Dorothy J. McCrea  
Principal

**BRUNO  
GLENVIEW  
FIRE RELIEF**

**A Few New Faces**

Welcome to our new faculty and staff~

**Ms. Sky Chandler** is excited to be joining the Mercy community as a counselor and is looking forward to getting to know all of her students and their families. Ms. Chandler received her Master's degree in Counseling Psychology at the University of San Francisco in 2010. She has a range of experience working with students, including 5 years at an educational consulting firm in San Francisco. She completed her undergraduate education at Smith College (an all-women's college) in Massachusetts, where she studied American Studies and Spanish.

Saludos! **Ms. Cynthia Ovares** is thrilled to have joined the Mercy community as the Spanish 2 teacher in the World Languages Department. She is a native of San Francisco, but received her Bachelor's degree from New York University. Señorita Ovares earned her New York teaching credential through NYU and then her California teaching credential upon returning to her home state. She has experience teaching at both the middle and high school levels as well. Being a native Spanish speaker influences Señorita Ovares' teaching methods in a way in which she can share her wealth of cultural knowledge and unique experiences with her students.

**Mr. Denver Velasquez** received his Bachelor's in Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of the Philippines- Diliman where he graduated Cum Laude. Mr Velasquez went on to earn his Master's Degree in Mathematics from the University of San Francisco. He has worked for the Oakland Unified School District with the Upward Bound Project and most recently worked for the SFUSD as a substitute teacher. He was a Jesuit Volunteer and is currently a part time Resident Ministry Intern at USF. He will be teaching Problem Solving and Honors Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus.

**Ms. Jupei Hsiao** will be teaching Algebra I, Geometry, and AP Calculus. She received her Bachelor's in Science in Mathematics and her Master's Degree in Mathematics from San Francisco from the University of California at Irvine and her Master's in Mathematics at San Francisco State University. Ms. Hsiao has taught for the San Francisco and Oakland/East Bay Math Circle, San Francisco State Summer Bridge and most recently at Washinton High School in San Francisco.

**College Night**

College application season is in full swing, beginning with our recent senior meetings with the counselors. All senior families are reminded to attend our mandatory College Night for Seniors and Parents on **Wednesday, September 22 at 6 p.m.** in the Theatre. Many college representatives, from Boston University to Oregon State to USF, will be visiting Mercy during September and October. Students from all grades are invited to attend sessions during their lunch periods.

**Other news from the Counseling Department:**

Mercy is offering a weekend Catalyst Bootcamp to learn strategies for the upcoming SAT on Saturday, October 9th. The class will be held the mornings of October 2nd and 3rd. Please visit the Mercy website/Counseling for a wealth of resources and information.

### **Important Dates**

**2010-2011 First Semester Final Exams  
December 14th, 15th, 16th  
NO student will be excused from these exam dates.  
Do NOT schedule holiday plans before  
Friday, December. 17, 2010  
or beyond the start of 2nd Semester classes on  
Monday, January 3, 2011.**

### **From the Dean's Office**

**We kindly ask our parents/guardians not to text or phone their daughter on their cell phones during school time. Cell phones must remain in their lockers. Feel free to contact the main office, if you would like to get a message to her.**

**For safety reasons, parents/guardians are not to drop off or pick up their daughter on campus. If there is a medical issue, please contact Ms. Ortiz.**

**Thank you for your cooperation.**



### **Volunteer of the Month**



September's *Outstanding Volunteer* is sophomore, **Tatiana Nori**. Tatiana volunteered with Catholic Charities Adult Day Program. Her supervisors commented that her maturity, kindness and caring helped her connect

beautifully with the seniors at the program. Tatiana is a wonderful example of Mercy's philosophy: *a young woman who is prepared to make a difference in the world*.

## Community Service

Our Mercy students volunteered thousands of hours this past summer, serving the elderly, homeless, low-income, ill, disabled and disenfranchised members of our community.

- The Mercy community serves meals to low-income people at the Martin de Porres every Thursday morning. Interested students and parents should contact the Community Service Office.
- Class of 2011 members will have their "senior service reflection session" in late September. New this year, all seniors will create displays about their service for the Community Service Fair in January.
- Class of 2012 members will develop their "senior culminating projects" during this academic year. They will implement them during their second semester junior year or during the summer before senior year.
- Class of 2013 members should begin considering what they would like to do for their senior culminating projects.
- We encourage freshmen to begin their volunteer service after they have completed their first semester of high school.

### Laredo Immersion Program

During the first week of June 2010, sophomores **Kristine Argao, Amelia Bello, Danyce Camp, Carmen Cuzma, Karla Figueroa, Christina Haight, Mercy Onyike, Jazmin Picazo, Jazmyne Ransaw, and Karin Yamazaki**, accompanied by Dr. Rita Cutarelli and Ms. Carrie Schroeder, journeyed to Laredo, Texas for Mercy's third annual Laredo Immersion Program.

This program offers Mercy students the opportunity to spend a week on the US-Mexico border engaged in an intensive educational exploration of social justice issues, including immigration, human trafficking, health care, domestic violence, and environmental stewardship. With Sisters of Mercy who live and work in the area, students witnessed and participated in the

power of Mercy, transforming injustice and violence, creating a world in which all people can live in peace and dignity.

Applications for the 2011 Laredo Immersion Program will be available soon! For more information, please contact Dr. Cutarelli at [rcutarelli@mercyhs.org](mailto:rcutarelli@mercyhs.org) or Ms. Schroeder at [cschroeder@mercyhs.org](mailto:cschroeder@mercyhs.org).

**Religious Education Opportunity: Youth Day**

The annual Youth Day conference and celebration, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2011, in Anaheim, California. Students of any grade level interested in participating in this event with Mercy High School should contact

Dr. Rita Cutarelli in the Office of Campus Ministry. Students will leave from Mercy after school on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 and return to the Bay area over the weekend. In addition to Mercy faculty/staff chaperones, parent chaperones are also needed for this event.



Catherine  
McAuley  
Foundress of the  
Sisters of Mercy

**Catherine's Corner**

*"How quietly God does His mighty works! Darkness is spread over us, and light breaks in again, and there is no noise of drawing curtains or closing shutters."*

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