



# THE SPARTAN SPEAR

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MARIST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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## Students Sing the Story of Christmas

By Karlin Andersen

Singing the entire Christmas story based on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, sophomore Ryan Helbling and junior Allie Thompson were featured on a new CD, "The Coming of Christ" written and recorded by David Phillips, a local musician.

This unique CD features a diverse cast of singers including Helbling as the Angel Gabriel and Thompson as the voice of the Virgin Mary who sings an original composition of the "The Magnificat."

"The Coming of Christ" is now available on iTunes and Amazon.

## Showing School Spirit



Junior Advanced Placement Literature and Composition students pose with history teacher Jon Nuxoll at a chess tournament. Photo courtesy of Josh Tanke

By Jordan Pickrel

Decked out in blue and gold, students in English teacher Bill Ferrari's AP Literature and Composition class collect some extra credit by cheering on the Marist Chess Team at their first match of the year at Lane Community College last Wednesday.

Despite topping the competition in the fan department, the Chess Team lost to South Eugene High School. The team's next match will be at LCC in January.

## Marist for Life Hosts Guest Speaker



Guest speaker Rebekah Barnes speaks to the Marist for Life Club during a block day lunch last week. Photo by Zac Oldham

By Natalia Zreliak

Rebekah Barnes of Student's for Life in America visited Marist last Wednesday and talked to the Marist for Life Club about Apologetics 101: In Defense of Life. Apologetics is the systematic argumentative discourse in defense or offense of a topic, such as the issue of abortion. Pizza was enjoyed while Barnes trained the students how to convince people to change their views but in a polite and well thought out argument.

# SNOW DAZE!

Students rejoice as snow covers Eugene causing a marathon seven day break

By Katie Tarrant and Ben Schepergerdes

This past week students and staff enjoyed an extended weekend as school was cancelled five consecutive school days spanning from last Friday to this Thursday due to a snow storm experienced by many in Oregon. The storm dumped roughly six inches on the Marist campus and lingered for days as temperatures stayed at or below freezing for nearly a week. The snow and ice left hazardous road conditions for many commuters as many businesses, in addition to schools, were closed across Oregon.

Unfortunately, the snow days resulted in many event cancellations for students and staff. Numerous sports practices and games were cancelled in addition to a speech and debate tournament at Marist scheduled for last weekend. A holiday performance by the strings ensemble at a local nursing home for this Friday was also cancelled. School days will also be added to make up for the missed class time.

However, perhaps the saddest cancellation was the Sophomore Girl's Journey Retreat that was to take place last Saturday and Sunday. The retreat is yet to be rescheduled.

Students and staff did not hesitate to take full advantage of the snowy winter wonderland while it lasted.

"My little sister made me be a camel and made me climb through the snow with her on my back," said sophomore Emma Thompson.

Sledding in style, seniors Gavin Doremus, J.P. Kiefer, Garret Stollar and Cam Jack. Photo courtesy of J.P. Kiefer



Surrounded by flurries of snow, seniors Taylor Anderson and Si-ena Hacker hug. Photo courtesy of Taylor Anderson



The sun shines over the Marist courtyard. Photo by Stephanie Coulombe



Walking through the courtyard on students' first day back, sophomores Matt Johns, Eden Anderson and Do Woon Yoon enjoy the last few piles of snow left on campus. Photo by Katie Tarrant



The Marist campus lies blanketed in snow on a quiet Saturday morning. Photo by Toni Cooper

## Acting as Angels for Others

By Maureen Pappin

As the Christmas season dawns upon us, it is time to start thinking about Marist's annual school-wide Christmas Angel Program that sponsors several families who have been identified by Catholic Community Services as below the poverty line.

Each theology class at Marist has taken on one family in order to give them a warm and jolly Christ-

mas holiday by supplying them with things they need and want, including toiletries, clothing items, cleaning supplies, toys for the children, and more.

Students are asked to work together to gather all of the items on the families' list and bring them into their theology classes by Wednesday, Dec. 18, so that the gifts will be ready to give to the families by Christmas.

## SPARTAN SPORTS with SCHEPERGERDES & THOMPSON

### BOYS BASKETBALL

12/7: Philomoth games canceled due to weather.

12/11: Mountain View games canceled due to weather.

12/13: Varsity will travel to Junction City to play at 8:30 p.m.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

12/6-7: Varsity and JV tournament in West Albany canceled due to weather.

12/10: Corvallis games canceled due to weather.

12/14: Varsity plays Redmond at Marist at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. JV also plays at home at noon.

### SWIMMING

12/5: To start off the Swimming season, the team competed in a relay meet against North Eugene and Cottage Grove last Thursday and placed third at River Road Pool.

12/13: The team has a meet against South Eugene at YMCA pool starting at 3:30 p.m.

## Scrimmaging Sheldon



Passing around an opponent, the Marist ultimate frisbee team plays in a scrimmage against Sheldon. Photo by Tyler Fechtel

By Jan Hart

On Tuesday, Dec. 4, the new Marist Ultimate Frisbee team, led by coach and math teacher Grant Gilchrist, had an informal scrimmage against Sheldon on a frigid evening at Cal Young Middle School. Each school had two teams that played simultaneously. Gilchrist said that both teams lost, but it was a competitive match.

"Ultimate frisbee is the most fun sport I've ever played, and Mr. Gilchrist is the coolest coach!" said junior Jacob Pitts.

## Grounds of New Science Wing Tested

By Madison Martin

On Thursday, Dec. 5, Geotech, an Environmental Equipment company, was at Marist to drill about nine holes near the current science wing to determine the stability and drainage of the ground where hopefully the new science wing will be built. The holes were drilled where the concrete foundation will be set and where the necessary fire road will be put.