

NEWS
briefs

Boogie for the Babies

The Mr Spartan dance is tonight, from 8-11 p.m. Enjoy a night of groovin' in your best beach attire, paired with great refreshments and activities. Andy Oldham will take the stage as DJ for a great night of dancin'. Admission is \$5... or more; I mean c'mon its for the babies!

Activity Night with Mr Irish

Tuesday Mar. 9 starting 7 p.m. the Mr Irish team will come to the Marist gym for a competitive evening. Come watch the Spartans take on the Irish in basketball, tug-of-war, relay races, team dances, and a dance battle. It'll be a night to remember. Admission is \$5 for parents and spectators, and \$3 for students.

"You can tell ya Momma, and she can tell her Friends"

Saturday Mar. 11 from 5 to 9 p.m. the Ladies Sip and Shop fundraiser for Mr Spartan will take place. It will be hosted at Capitello Wines: 540 Charnelton Street, where there will be fabulous vendors, a fashion show, a silent auction, and a performance by the ladies of mind the gap. Tickets for the event are \$25, which includes a glass of wine and a variety of appetizers.

Project Starfish Begins

By Jack Benda

Project Starfish, a series of fundraisers to help our community's impoverished families, began on Ash Wednesday and will continue until Marist's Homegoing Week.

Over the course of this event, money will be collected for Catholic Community Services, which, according to the organization's website, "offers immediate help by providing food and other assistance to anyone in need and seeks to instill hope by helping Lane County families take positive steps to move out of poverty."

Project Starfish is named after the story of a man who, upon seeing thousands of starfish stuck on a sandy beach, began to throw them back into the water one by one. When one onlooker questioned his ability to help all of them, the man replied that he was making a difference for the one he was holding.

SIMPLE, KIND, AND RELENTLESS

Marist community celebrates the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday Mass

By Livia Kokkino

Wednesday morning, Marist students, faculty, and parents gathered in the main gym of the school to participate in the annual Ash Wednesday Mass, celebrated by Fr. Ken Olsen.

In his homily, Olsen compared the behavior of a GPS to how God guides us in our everyday lives.

He said that, like a GPS reroutes us when we've taken a wrong turn, God doesn't chastise us when we take wrong turns, but redirects us, guiding us to the right path. Also like a GPS, Olsen called God "simple, kind, and relentless" in guiding us.

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent. As the ashes are placed on the foreheads of the participants of the Mass in the shape of a cross, the distributors of the ashes say "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," reminding everyone of their mortality and encouraging them to act out of love while they can.

In honor of Lent, Marist will hold optional Lenten Masses every Friday morning before school from next Friday morning until Friday, Apr. 7 in the cafeteria. Donuts, muffins, and hot chocolate will be served after the Mass.



Fr. Ken Olsen imitates a "soft, female" GPS voice during his Ash Wednesday homily about how God is "simple, relentless, and kind" in guiding us towards him. Photo by Toni Cooper

Sports **UPDATES**

BOYS BASKETBALL

Varsity beat Ashland 52-41 last Friday to extend their season. JV also beat Ashland. On Tuesday, Marist hosted a play-in endowment game against Silverton. Silverton ended the Spartan's up-and-down season with a convincing 74-45 win.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Last Friday varsity beat Ashland 71-21 to finish as league champions and secure the #4 OSAA state seed. JV also beat Ashland. Varsity plays this Saturday at home against Wilsonville in the first round of play-offs.

SKI TEAM

The ski team competes at the Oregon School Ski Association championship this Friday and Saturday at Mt. Bachelor.

Spring Sports Start

By Claire Hoffman

Spring sports are off and running this year with practices that began on Monday. With the weather on their side, they've been lucky to be able to practice outside much more often than usual. "It's never fun if you have to spend your time inside," athletic director Rick Gardner said.

Marist is also looking strong in their numbers, with an added JV softball team and an unexpected 14 girls out for golf this season.

Season openers will commence in the coming weeks, beginning with lacrosse and tennis on the 13th.

Do You Want to Build a Snowman?

By Austin Robbins

Met by a snowy surprise which led to snowball fights, hiking through the snow, and building both big and small snowmen, a group of 20 junior girls ventured up to St. Benedict's Lodge on the McKenzie River last weekend to encounter themselves, others, and God. The theme of the retreat was Hannah Montana.

The small groups gave the girls a chance to interact and become closer with each other. Due to the constant snowing, the girls spent the majority of their time inside the lodge creating blankets, bracelets, and memories. "It was the most chill, rejuvenating, truly eye opening experience that brought me closer to my class and what it means to be one," junior Savvy DiMercurio said.



Junior girls and senior leader Margaret Walters pose with the snowman they built, adorned with a Jerusalem Cross necklace. Photo by Toni Cooper

Giving Blood to Save Lives



Biology teacher Pat Wagner donates blood during the NHS blood drive. Photo by Haeri Park

Marist's annual blood drive took place today. Lane Blood Center set up their equipment in the Activity Center and accepted students all day. The event was headed by Senior National Honor Society Leader Maya Dotson and junior member Amanda Allender. Due to system malfunctions, Lane Blood Center was not able to take donations all morning. Fortunately systems were up and running by noon and donations were able to be made.

There is always a need for donations in the community, in fact every 33 minutes someone in Lane County needs a blood transfusion. It only takes one pint to save three lives which is one of the reasons over 50 Marist students and staff were more than happy to help!