

Mount Royal Academy Bulletin

Monthly Bulletin

September 28, 2011

Letter from our Headmaster



Dear Families,

The New Face of Missionary Work

When I think of missionary work my imagination can easily conjure up the image of the lone missionary going forth, struggling through hardships, arriving overseas, and bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the inhabitants of such un-charted territory. Our Catholic Church from the beginning has been going forth to evangelize all parts of the world. It has always been awe inspiring to hear of such people called to a life of missionary work. My inspiration came not only from the work of the missionary but from the tremendous gift of faith and courage it must have taken to make such an excursion into the world. Today as a father of eight children I now realize we are all called to such missionary work in the uncharted territories of our own families, towns, and communities. In fact, I find myself equally awed observing parents striving to bring a life in Christ to their families and witnessing to their children the life of the domestic missionary.

However, as we launch our international program at Mount Royal Academy I am recognizing another new face in missionary work. Instead of going and staying in a foreign country to share the Good News we are going to another country and bringing students back to the domestic missionaries working in our homes. What a beautiful act of love to give this gift to our international students and our own children as they now have the opportunity to bring Christ to students their own age from around the world.

Please join me in praying for our international students and their host families that they have a successful school year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

David A. Thibault
Headmaster

A Word from the Teachers...

Pre-Kindergarten

I can't believe that September is almost over already. The kids have learned their daily schedule and each have a favorite time of the day. I will start sending a homework sheet home on Tuesday/Wednesday; I would like to see it back the next day. It will be good practice for the kids. We will be going on a field trip this coming month; as it gets closer I will give the information out and ask for chaperones to help. We have a busy month ahead with many different things to learn about, and we continue to learn the ABC's and numbers everyday.

Please make sure that as the weather changes, warm clothing is brought to school!
Also, that folders are coming to school each day, so I can send papers home.
Thanks, —Mrs. Lowe

Kindergarten

Grades 1 & 2

First and second grade students are in full swing with spelling now and parents can expect spelling homework each night with a test on Friday. I have also asked the kids to read for at least 15 minutes every day; practice in reading is so important in helping to improve their literacy.

The lower school has begun a new science program this year and the first and second graders seem to be enjoying the new text. The program is a bit more hands on and interactive, and we have had some very interesting discussions as a result.

In religion we have been focusing on the story of creation and that which allows us to live forever, our soul. Class participation in these discussions is great and religion class seems to fly by. Next week we will begin the process of choosing saints for the school-wide All Saints Day celebration.

Please let me know if there are any questions or concerns in regard to your child's progress thus far. Thank you all for your help and support. Mrs. Richardson

Grades 3 & 4

Dear Parents;

With the first month of school under our belts we are well established in the routines of the classroom. I was pleased with the results of the first Religion test. The boys and girls enjoyed the unit on Mary. Next, we are studying God's Family on Earth. We will learn about Pope Benedict's life, his message to us, and the history of the Papal Chair. I will send home a chapter for review in next week's homework folder. A test will shortly follow; I will keep you posted.

In language arts we are reading every Tuesday afternoon with a group of moms, if you can join us please let me know. Next week grade 3 will read Beauty and The Beast and grade 4 will read Langston Hughes: Poet of the People. In grammar we are identifying subjects, predicates, and direct objects. We are currently writing fantasies. They are a joy to read as we have very active imaginations.

Mount Royal Academy 2011-2012 Staff

Headmaster:

- David Thibault

Office Manager:

- Kathleen McDonald

Admissions Director:

- Derek Tremblay

Business Manager:

- Corina Ouellette

Faculty:

Pre-Kindergarten

- Mary Beth Lowe

Kindergarten:

- Elizabeth Heath

1st & 2nd Grades:

- Catherine Richardson

3rd & 4th Grades:

- Jacqueline Diebold

5th & 6th Grades:

- Cynthia Dabrowski

Grades 7-12:

- Derek Tremblay
- Mary Bellino
- Mitchell Kalpakgian
- Allen Ouellette
- Kelly Ouellette
- Marie-Laure Lovell
- Bonnie Akerman
- Taylor Fitzgerald
- Matthew McDonald

Foreign Languages:

- Delphine Hill

Art:

- Margaret Dwyer-Davis

Music:

- Leanne Beck-Wesoja

Please help your child develop healthy homework practices at home. Classroom work that was not completed is for homework the same evening and is expected to be handed in the next morning. I expect students to be prepared for school each day with their assignments complete (especially grade 4 math) with notebooks and textbooks at school. Homework folders are due Friday and tests will be announced in advance. If you have any concerns about homework please ask.

Reminder – Monday, October **17th** is picture day. I will try to keep the boys out of the mud before the class picture is taken. —Mrs. Diebold

Grades 5 & 6

Students are finishing their arch angels project. The 6 ft. tall painted images appear on the walls of the lower school. Come see. Our laboratory experiment manuals are in the process of being begun. Students will perform and record ongoing scientific experiments all year long. Toward the end of the school year, each student will create a cover and an individual lab book will be compiled. Stay tuned.

Soon parents will be able to access student assessments online; I am always available for parent meetings. As we approach the month of October we prepare to make personal sets of rosary beads. Please keep us in your prayers. God Bless. —Mrs. Dabrowski

Grades 7-12

Hello MRA Families!

It is good to be back teaching again and I am enjoying all your wonderful children. As much as I'd like to be teaching both physics and math, I'm happy to start off with just the two math classes and I pray that God grants me the stamina to complete them.

Algebra I: We began this year with a basic review of some of the major algebraic properties; the commutative, associative and distributive. We then moved on to factoring, collecting like terms and solving equations and formula's. Most now have a decent understanding that the distributive property of multiplication and factoring are reverse operations of each other. While we still have some work to do to “master” these area's, I feel confident that the students can now move on to the next concept. Once word problems were introduced, the usual groans were heard, but alas they were told that “math” is a part of everything in life not just some abstract set of rules. So in the spirit of showing the students that they will encounter math in all they do, we will be soon making a field trip to the bowling alley. I will have details forthcoming as to the date, time and cost of this field trip. And yes, they will have a worksheet to complete after they have had some fun bowling!

Algebra II: In like fashion to Algebra I, we have done some basic review. I was very happy with the results of our first exam, the class average was an 88! We will now move on to cover Inequalities and Functions, also somewhat of a review and then finally we will get into polynomials and systems of equations. At this time, the homework sets will become more “meaty” as practice is everything! As much as I'd like to take this class on a field trip, it is a large class and this may not prove possible. I will continue to work on avenues to provide them with connections to the world in which we live.

Peace,
Dr. Bellino

7th and 8th Grade Life Science

The past month our class has been exploring the “Scientific Method” and “Characterizing life”. We have performed experiments in which we tested the affects of road salt on germination of seeds and disproved spontaneous generation of living things using chicken broth. The students have been learning how organisms are classified and have made taxonomic keys using leaves from trees and bushes. Our first quiz is on September 29th and will be moving on

to explore the Diversity of life. During the next few weeks, we will be learning about Viruses and Bacteria. There will be several in-class assignments and homework. The second quiz will take place mid-October. Our first class project will be due October 27th. For this project, the students will choose an organism (a Virus, Bacteria, Protist or Fungi) and prepare a 5 page research paper and a 5-10 minute oral presentation. They will explain the classification, ecosystem, the relationship the organism has with humans and other interesting aspects of the organism.

7th and 8th Grade Pre-algebra

The past month we have been working on naming numbers, expanded and standard form of numbers, multiplying and dividing numbers with decimals and powers of ten, determining the missing digits of addition and subtraction problems, math word problems, and prime numbers. The class consists of a brief lecture on how to perform the math problems of the day and the students going to the board and practicing their skills. Last week we played a game of Math Jeopardy to prepare for our first quiz which was highly competitive and fun! We will continue learning new concepts of math with 10-15 math problems for homework each night. We also have weekly quizzes on Fridays. —Mrs. Akerman

United States History II: During the first month of school we examined the Reconstruction period after the Civil War, and we are now moving into the New Industrial Age. A chapter test was take over the course of two classes. Students must review material covered every day for at least 5 – 10 minutes, in addition to brief reading assignments for homework. Written homework assignments are very rarely given in order to help students strengthen their study habits.

Western Civilization: The geographic location of the origins of civilization, causes leading to the growth of cities, and several of the earliest human cultures were studied. We are now moving out of the Near Eastern region and into the rise of the Greeks near the Aegean Sea. Students were tested on the material in chapter 1. Students must review material covered in class every day for at least 5 – 10 minutes, in addition to brief reading assignments for homework. Written homework assignments are very rarely given in order to help students strengthen their study habits.

Christian Civilization II: Our introductory chapter led us deep into the causes and effects of the Scientific Revolution. Leading thinkers and scientists from the 16th and 17th century were studied, and students even learned about the true sequence of events in the Galileo controversy. We will now transition into the Enlightenment period. The class was tested on the material. Students must review material covered in class every day for at least 5 – 10 minutes in addition to brief reading assignments for homework. Written homework assignments are very rarely given in order to help students develop good study habits.

Catechesis: Students studied what theology is, and what type of knowledge it seeks to attain. We have been discussing how to explain the existence of God using our natural reason. Now that we have established the existence of God, we are now looking at His identity.

Foundations: Key topics covered include knowing God through natural revelation, reason and faith; principal errors concerning the existence of God; and, the relationship between science and reason. The role of faith in knowing God will be studied in the upcoming classes.

Scriptures: The dogmatic constitution on divine revelation (*Dei Verbum*) was read, discussed, and analyzed in order to discover the purpose of divine revelation, and also how we are to use the scriptures in a responsible manner, learning the meaning of the words and events, in communion with the Magisterial direction of the Church. Guidelines for interpretation were discussed in great detail, and students were assigned an essay to show their understanding level. We are now looking at the various peoples and lands that are a part of the Old Testament, so that we can better understand the historical context in which the events of scripture took place.

Mount Royal Athletics

Soccer Schedule: Every Facts sheet or Monthly Bulletin sent home will include an updated soccer schedule for the remainder of the season. Please be sure to look over the schedule for any changes resulting from weather, or cancellations by other schools.

Weekday Away Game Transportation: The school is responsible for arranging transportation to away games on school days. When away games fall on Saturdays, families are responsible for arranging transportation for student-athletes. Since the season schedule has already been completed and distributed, we kindly request that all parents of soccer players consider their availability to assist with transportation to away games on week-days. We have 29 student-athletes total, and it would most appreciated if parents could volunteer their time to help transport. Please look over the schedule and commit to at least 2 weekday away games. We always depart from school, and then the coach and parents typically attempt to arrange convenient routes home for drivers and players.

Game Day Uniforms: Soccer players may wear their game jerseys on game-day. However, student-athletes can never wear game-jerseys on Mondays, and they must wear the regular dress code bottoms for boys and girls. Jersey's can be worn over a white t-shirt.

GYM DAYS are on Tuesdays in the Upper School, and students may wear either the gym uniform, or any Mount Royal spirit-wear. Sneakers are required. Students who do not dress accordingly will lose the privilege to wear gym uniforms or spirit-wear on Tuesdays.

SNACKS: Thank you to every family who has already donated snacks for visiting teams when we have home games.

Campus Ministry

ST. JOSEPH'S ORATORY PILGRIMAGE: All teachers, parents, students, and family members in the entire Mount Royal community are invited to join a pilgrimage up to Saint Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, on November 11th, which is Veterans Day, a day when regular classes are suspended. Passports are required in order to pass the border. We are not taking a bus, but arranging a caravan to depart from Mount Royal at 6:00am, and hopefully return by 8:00pm that same evening. Estimated driving time to Montreal is roughly 4 and half to 5 hours. Mass and confession are available throughout the day at the Oratory. Teachers, parents, and students participating are responsible for all food and transportation costs. If anyone in the community has a special prayer request that they would like offered, or even a votive candle to be lit in honor of a specific intention, please contact Mr. Tremblay. Please contact Mr. Tremblay if a family or student is interested in travelling. We don't want to depart from Mount Royal without having everyone together for the caravan. We are once again placing the school's hands in the powerful intercession of our patron, St. Joseph.

CAMPUS MINISTRY MEETING: The date and time of the first meeting will be announced in the upcoming days. We invite all students in the Upper School to participate in Campus Ministry. The student-led Campus Ministry team directs outreach service opportunities, assists with in-school service events, and also helps other spiritual activities in the school year.

MARTIN DOMAN CONCERT: Please view attached flyer to find out more information about this upcoming spiritual event, intended for all families. We would very much appreciate if members of the community would spread the news of the Christ Music concert to families in other parts of New Hampshire. Martin Doman is an exceptional worship leader, and this is a great opportunity to help deepen the faith of our families, as well as lead others from outside our community to a real encounter with Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS: MRA will happily offer the Holy Mass that is celebrated each week for the intentions or soul of any member of our wider community. We understand that God has called us to be vehicles of grace for our busy parents, and we can't think of a better way to say 'thank you'. So please, contact Mr. Tremblay if you would like to submit a Mass intention.

SERVICE HOUR FORMS are available in Mr. Tremblay's office. Students in grades 9 – 12 are expected to complete a specific number of service hours in order to fulfill their theology requirement each year. Students were informed of how many hours they are required to complete by the end of the school year. We encourage students to keep a running log of all their volunteer activities as the year progresses, rather than try to recall how many hours were volunteered at the very end of the year. Hastily seeking service hours at the end of the year removes the meaning and damages the purpose of offering one's self to others. Please look over the service portfolio informational sheet attached with the Monthly Bulletin and Weekly Facts.

ST. JOSEPH'S ORATORY CLEANING: THANK YOU to all parents who have already stepped forward and generously offered their time to clean the chapel. We are covered until the month of January at the moment, but still need volunteers from February to June. Volunteers are needed to help keep our school chapel worthy enough for the presence of our Lord. We would like to draft a formal schedule of parents and students who clean the oratory. Please consider volunteering on a regular basis. It may only be once a month. We have had 3 responses, and therefore we still need to fill out the remainder of the calendar. Please phone or email Mr. Tremblay ASAP if you are able and willing to volunteer once a month. We are so blessed to have our Lord present on campus, and we ought to thank Him by keeping the school oratory as clean as possible.

BOOK OF INTENTIONS: Throughout the course of the year innumerable members both within and outside the Mount Royal community request that our students pray on behalf of their intentions. Our students pray several times during the school day – morning assembly, midday angelus, and closing assembly – and we also come together once a week to participate in the Holy Mass, and to recite the rosary prayer. It would be most appreciated if a member of our community is willing to offer their time, efforts, or even resources to either create or purchase a formal book of intentions. We will then mention this book and the intentions listed within it each time we pray as a school community. Anyone interested in helping may contact Derek Tremblay.

BIOLOGY:

Biology class is going well! We had our first lab in the new building yesterday, and the kids all enjoyed it. It is so nice to have a place that has all of our equipment and chemicals handy. I am still working on “unpacking” and hopefully I will be able to catch up soon. Thank you benefactors!!

Tomorrow we are presenting our group projects. The students have done a good job using class time wisely. Next week they will hand in a brief group paper on the news topic they chose. In the mean time, we are also working hard on the text book and have completed two chapters. For now, we will skip a couple chapters and come back to them later on. We will be studying chapter 7 next, to continue our study of cells.

Please remind students to turn in all work that is delinquent. They should be doing homework every night, instead of the night before it is due. I am hoping to ingrain good, independent science study skills in these young high schoolers, as in a few short years they will be completely responsible for the consequences of their good or bad study habits. Science is not the art of memorization, but rather practice, practice, practice! Some of the students are turning in sloppy homework that was clearly done the night before it was due. In general the grades reflect this, so if there is a questionable home work grade, please double check how much effort your child is putting in on a daily basis. This will ensure that they actually learn the material, which will provide a good basis for the science classes they will take in the future. —Mrs. Ouellette

The **PHYSICS** curriculum is adjusting to the capabilities of the students. That is, we have attempted a lab and corresponding report, successfully. We are now adjusting homework assignments to better align with a more thoughtful and conceptual approach to the subject at hand. Mathematics are expected to be only to the level of Algebra; no trigonometry or even geometry required, though these concepts will be introduced to better clarify concepts. Homework will generally be lighter on Tuesday and Wednesday nights than all other days, which should generally include all or a portion of a chapter, and always with corresponding written homework. Lab experiments (and associated reports) will be periodically performed during class hours, and written in a specific format.

As offered on the very first day, and which applies throughout the coursework, ***students and parents are allowed to contact me anytime via corresponding phone number and email address***, with few exceptions and within reason. Students have this contact information. We want to prepare students for college, problem-solving, and success! Responsible assignment attention is required; show all work, and neatness counts! —Mr. Ouellette

Other News:

PLANT SALE UPDATE: Thank you everyone who ordered and purchased plants. We made \$175 on the event and were able to decorate our school with some fall colors. Thank you all!

HASA NEWS: Please remember that our first meeting is Monday, October 3, at 7pm. We will change our meeting place to the kitchen of the new building so that the kids can play in the gym. Someone will be there to supervise them.

Thank you for your support of the plant sale, and please remember to order some pizza! Orders will be due by October 11 – that is just around the corner! Pizza will be delivered on October 20th. You can pick it up after school. If you have any questions, please contact me at kel.o@att.net.

You’ve probably noticed the box in the entrance to the lower school for donations to care packages that will be sent to the military. Please pick up some extra snacks and toiletries on your grocery shopping day to add to the bin! There is a list posted of suggested items, or be creative and think of your own fun things to add! Kate Coleman will be sending these for us to a US Marines squadron stationed in Afghanistan. If you have questions you may contact her at harmonygyrl@gmail.com.

Thank you!

HASA PARENT REP. To The BOARD: The parent representative to the Board this year is Allen Ouellette. If you have any questions or concerns about anything related to Mount Royal, please feel free to contact Allen as another resource. His email address is al.o@att.net, and his phone number is 938-2212.

PIZZA will be served every Friday throughout the school year at \$1.25 per slice. Please pay your teacher or Mrs. McDonald in the office by **Thursday at 3:00pm** if you would like pizza.

UPCOMING SOCCER GAMES: This afternoon vs. Jesse Remington at home, 3:30pm; Saturday, Oct. 1st at Proctor Academy 2pm; Tuesday, Oct. 4th, at RSEC at 3:30pm. Please come to the games and support our team! **Go Knights!!!**

STUDENT HANDBOOK: Please don't forget to read the student handbook with your child (link found on the front page of our schools' website, www.mountroyalacademy.com, and sign and return the parent/student agreement (that was in your parent folder from Parent's Night) to the office as soon as possible. Thank you.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY HAS BEEN CHANGED to: Monday, October 17th at 9am.

GRAND OPENING OF OUR NEW FACILITY: Wed., Oct. 5th, 1:30-6pm. Refreshments, tours, and entertainment! *All families are welcome!*

NO SCHOOL: Monday, Oct. 10th – Columbus Day

HASA LITTLE CAESAR'S PIZZA FUNDRAISER: Please return order forms with payment to the lower school office by **Tuesday, Oct. 11th**. Extra order forms are on the table in the hallway of the lower school. Pizza will be delivered to MRA on Thursday, Oct. 20th. If you have any questions please contact Kelly Ouellette at kel.o@att.net or 938-2212.

1st QTR. PROGRESS REPORTS go home on Friday, Oct. 14th.

MYSTUDENTS PROGRESS: Please let the office know if you do not yet have your user name/password set up to access your child's grades.

PARENT PRAYER GROUP: Meets the 3rd **Thursday** of each month at 8am in the Oratory. *All parents and children are welcome!* If you are unable to join our monthly meetings, please pray at home for MRA and our community. Please contact Jessica Fraioli with any questions at 526-2285.

A REMINDER TO PARENTS to please submit to the office your child's **current immunization record no later than Friday, Nov. 4th**, if you have not done so already. Documentation of this information is required by the State of New Hampshire for all students to attend school. It is especially important we receive this information, as this is the season of colds and flues, which have begun to make their rounds among the students. With the proper immunizations, these nasty but minor maladies will not turn into something more serious. Thank you.

FREE PUBLIC FLU SHOT CLINICS: at DHMC Lebanon. Sat., Oct. 1, 8am-1pm; Sun., Oct. 16, 8am-1pm; Sun., Nov. 6, 8am-1pm; Tues., Oct. 25, 5:30-7:30pm and Thurs., Nov. 10, 5:30-7:30pm. This year's vaccine covers all expected flu strains, including H1N1.

FACEBOOK: Are you, your family, or your friends on Facebook? Facebook is a great way to keep up-to-date on upcoming activities, athletic results, and share the great things happening at our school. Please visit MRA on Facebook and "like" our page: www.facebook.com/mount.royal.academy. Please don't forget to share with friends and family.