



Mr. Tucker discusses school-wide initiatives

by Megan Alagna
and Gina Musso

Principal Larry Tucker met with the journalism 1 class for his annual press conference on Feb. 16 and spoke on the topics of the What Do You Stand For program, plans for campus expansion and the future of single-gender Catholic schools.

Last summer, guidance counselor Mrs. Holly Cox and social worker Ms. Cathaleen Novak developed the What Do You Stand For program to help students form values and make better decisions.

Tucker pointed out that while most programs focus on telling students what not to do, this program aims for a positive outlook toward helping students choose what they stand for.

"I think that students will gain values, particularly Catholic values, and focus on how we treat one another and how we rebound from life's difficulties, like peer pressure," Tucker said.

Tucker recalled his own experience dealing with difficult choices and consequences when he was in high school. At the Centralia basketball tournament during his junior year, Tucker admits being encouraged by his teammates to drink a beer. He gave into the peer pressure, but he and his teammates were caught by his coach and kicked off the team.

"I wanted to be a Division 1 player in college," Tucker said. "I didn't meet that goal because someone offered me beer and said 'We've never seen you drink. Why don't you drink it?' I wish I had gotten myself out of that hotel room."

Administrators and guidance counselors hope that the program will enable students

to hear more stories like this, form their core values and make good decisions based on those values.

"In one split second you can make a decision that will change your life," Tucker said. "It's my hope that students will hear stories like [mine] and make better decisions."

Queen of Peace High School announced its closing in early February, becoming the second all-girls Catholic high school to close in the past three years, after Mount Assisi's closing in 2014.

St. Laurence then announced that it would accept the current freshmen, sophomores and juniors from Queen of Peace. The boys and girls at St. Laurence will be educated separately until 2022, when the school plans to go fully coeducational as Marist did in 2004.

Tucker was principal at the time Marist went coed, and described the long and carefully thought out process he and the rest of the community took to prepare for the addition of girls.

"There's a lot of work that goes into it," Tucker said. "We had to do a great deal of inservicing for faculty members, hire more female teachers and add bathrooms and locker rooms just to start."

Tucker also pointed out that in recent years more students have been testing at coed schools than at single-gender schools in the Archdiocese.

"Coed schools offer a real world environment," Tucker said. "You will probably go to college and eventually work with members of the opposite sex. I think that the sooner boys and girls come to learn and compete together, the better."

Plans to renovate and expand the campus are also in progress. The administration is working with a consultant to put together a



photo by Stephanie Lysy

Principal Larry Tucker talks about the What Do You Stand For program, the future of Catholic school and plans for campus expansion in his annual press conference with journalism 1 students.

master plan by the end of this school year that will address the school's needs.

Three major needs have already been identified, including a performing arts center, an indoor sports practice facility and a new science wing.

Of the three, Tucker indicated that a new science wing is the priority, with a focus on science labs. Tucker hopes to create spaces that inspire students and promote hands-on learning.

"I don't want to build generic science labs," Tucker said. "I think each classroom should have its own personality, with different equipment and styles that support 21st century modes of teaching and learning."

The administration aims to build the new science wing in the near future. Additional fundraising will be necessary before plans for the performing arts center and sports facility can become a reality.



RedHawk journalists win awards

At the 25th annual Scholastic Press Association of Chicago/McCormick Foundation High School Media Conference, hosted by Roosevelt University on March 7, the *Sentinel* was awarded excellent achievement for overall layout and overall newspaper. Seniors Marina Mosquera and MiKaela Dismukes won excellent achievement for opinion writing. Junior Stephanie Kozlowski won the feature writing competition, while junior Michelle Lenz won in editorial writing and junior Gianna Miritello won in sports writing. Senior Stephanie Lysy won an excellent achievement award for sports photography.

performances tonight, tomorrow

Marist Theatre Guild presents *Once Upon a Mattress*

by Faith Laughran
editor-in-chief

The Marist Theater Guild continues its run of the *Once Upon a Mattress* tonight at 7:30 p.m, a musical comedy adapted from Hans Christian Andersen's *The Princess and the Pea*.

The play takes place in a kingdom that is very unhappy since Queen Aggravain, played by junior Cate Hynes, came to power. She has ruled that no one can marry until Prince Dauntless, played by senior Jack Golden, is married to a princess of true royalty.

Meanwhile Lady Larken, played by senior Bridget Ryan and junior Madeline Curtin, is pregnant with Sir Harry's child. Sir Harry, played by senior Jake Listowski and junior Jimmy Lynch, goes to find a princess for Prince Dauntless, and he comes back with Princess Winnifred, played by senior Becca Valek.

The Queen decides to give Princess Winnifred another test to see if she is eligible to marry the prince.

The spring musical is directed by Mrs. Erin Kelly and Mrs. Erin Vail, with

choreography by seniors Elizabeth Travnik and Dana Kelly. Band director Mr. Andrew Creagh will conduct the pit orchestra.

"People should definitely come see this show because it is a hilarious twist on a classic fairy tale that will leave the audience singing and smiling for days," Kelly said.

Additional performances will be held tomorrow in the Baer Theater at Morgan Park Academy at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

"The cast has worked so hard to put on a fabulous show," Travnik said. "There is a pun in about every other line, so people should come see it if they want a good laugh."

PERFORMANCES

Today: 7:30 p.m.

Tomorrow: 1:30 p.m.
and 7:30 p.m.

Morgan Park Academy Theater
2153 W. 111th St., Chicago

Students raise over \$55,000 during Relay for Life

by Emily Reynolds
senior reporter

On March 3 and 4, 35 teams and over 400 students gathered for this year's annual Relay for Life event. Relay for Life is a 12-hour fundraiser from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. that raises money for the American Cancer Society and helps celebrate the lives of those who have lost their lives to cancer.

Relay for Life opened with speeches from senior Mac Lim and junior Henry Keller who shared their personal experiences with cancer before taking the first lap around the gym to honor cancer survivors.

After sunset the Luminaria Ceremony takes place in honor of the Marist family members who have been affected by cancer.

"So many members of our Marist family have been affected by cancer and during the Relay for Life, we offered help for their healing," Campus Minister Colleen Pochyly said in an email to the faculty.

This year over \$55,000 was raised for the American Cancer Society by the Relay for Life committee and participants. Donations came from luminaria sales, a \$3 dress down day, ice cream sales during all lunch mods and contributions from members of the community.

Brainiacs, a team led by senior Maddie Murphy, raised over \$11,000 through donations made by family and friends.

"I do Relay for Life in honor of my mom who passed away from a brain tumor," Murphy said. "My favorite part is the survivor lap because the survivors of cancer fought so hard to get where they are and I enjoy cheering them on and showing my support."

During the night, students also participated in watching movies, listening to bands, took part in obstacle courses, laser tag and a Mr. Marist competition, which was won by senior Jack Golden.

Next year's Relay for Life is scheduled for Saturday, March 3. Students can sign up for next year's event online or through Campus Ministry beginning in February 2018.



photo by Stephanie Lysy

Students cheer on the band Paper Planes in the Red and White Gym as part of Relay for Life on March 3, the annual fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

Language dept. expands Italian program

by Marina Mosquera
senior reporter

Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, students may choose to take Italian as a freshman. This expansion comes as the result of the efforts of world language department chair Ms. Erica Nathan-Gamauf, who believes offering four years of Italian will help set Marist apart from other schools.

"Although it took a lot of hard work to make this expansion happen, it was worth the wait," Nathan-Gamauf said. "Unlike Chinese or Latin, which are offered by many other schools, Italian is an easier language to learn."

Nathan-Gamauf was interested in expanding the Italian program in part due to the country's religious identity. According to an article titled "The Religious Demographics Of Italy" on the World Atlas website, Christianity is the dominant religion in Italy, with 71.4% of the population being Christians.

"Since we have a strong Catholic identity at Marist, it makes sense to offer a language that belongs to a country of beauty and the Christian faith," Nathan-Gamauf said.

Senior Gianna Wheeler, who is currently enrolled in the Italian program, shares Nathan-Gamauf's views.

"The language is not only beautiful, but learning it also opens additional opportunities," Wheeler said. "Many employers consider being bilingual an advantage."

The Italian program offers the national Italian exam, Italian National Honor Society and exchange programs in Rome and Genoa.

Last September, students in the Italian program sold Amatriciana pasta in the cafeteria, the signature dish of Amatrice, Italy. Amatrice was devastated by an earthquake in August. The group raised nearly \$700 for the Italian Red Cross.

Nathan-Gamauf encourages students to visit tinyurl.com/ItalianMarist to learn more about the Italian program.



photo by Gianna Nemcovic

(L to R) Gianna Wheeler, Ginnai Wheeler, Gianna Nemcovic, Alexis Kolp, Neena Botthof, Christopher Murphy gather on top of the Duomo in Milan, Italy over spring break. The students are part of the Italian language program, which will be expanded to four years in 2017-2018.

Spring break missions accomplished

by Michelle Lenz
junior reporter

Campus ministry offers students the opportunity to go on mission trips to learn about hard work, faith in action and social justice as part of our mission to make Jesus known and loved.

Over spring break, 15 seniors traveled to Marion, South Carolina to assist with the relief efforts following Hurricane Matthew.

During the trip, students built a wheelchair ramp for a handicapped woman, removed and replaced a damaged roof and painted a recreational center.

The students came back with a newfound appreciation for helping people who are less fortunate.

"We are so fortunate to have the things we have," senior Desiree Garcia said. "Doing these service acts helps build us into the leaders the world needs."

Campus ministry also sponsored a junior mission trip to New Orleans, Louisiana over Presidents' Day weekend to help clear debris and repair tornado damage.

The tornado hit New Orleans on February 7 and was the worst in the city's history. The people and families affected by the tornado were already in the process of rebuilding their homes and lives after Hurricane Katrina caused widespread destruction in 2005.

Marist students were inspired by the strength and resilience of the people they met and worked with in New Orleans.

"I'd seen coverage of natural disasters on the news before, but actually seeing the destruction in person really changed my perspective," junior Abbie O'Connell said. "It was incredible and inspiring to see how spirited people can be when everything they own has been destroyed."

Students interested in participating in a mission trip next year should see coordinator Mr. Pat Meyer about either the junior fall mission trip or the senior spring mission trip.

"We may be working on only one house or one gym or one backyard, but these things make a big difference to the people who have been affected by these disasters," Garcia said.



photo by Patrick Meyer

Senior volunteers work to repair a damaged roof during a mission trip to Marion, South Carolina over spring break. The damage to the home was caused by Hurricane Matthew, which hit in October 2016. In February, juniors went on a mission trip to New Orleans to help residents repair tornado damage.

Junior class comes together to serve the hungry

by Stephanie Kozlowski
junior reporter

The junior class participated in the Marist National Day of Service this past Wednesday, along with other 14 Marist schools across the country.

Students packed over 100,000 meals for the organization Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). The packages will be delivered to children and families around the world, including 83 countries with Marist schools and ministries.

In October, Campus Minister Patrick Meyer broke a Guinness World Record swinging for 36 hours straight. His goal was to raise \$10,000 to offset the cost of the service day. Junior families were going to be asked to contribute \$50 each to the cause. Meyer completely eliminated the need for family contributions by raising \$26,000.

The service day was a way of commemorate the 200th anniversary of the foundation of Marist Brothers.

“We’re celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Marist Brothers and as a way of imitating Champagnat’s charism to take of people, all of the Marist schools in the United States are going to be engaged in some kind of service,” Deacon Andy Neu said. “So it’s a way to imitate his care for people.”

The junior homerooms were split up in to two groups, Group A and Group B. Group A packed food for FMSC first while Group B competed in games against other homerooms. At the halfway point, the groups switched.

“I’m very proud of the junior class,” Deacon Neu said. “This was a huge undertaking, and a way for them to come together as a class, and take on a leadership role in this national day of service, Marist-Chicago style.”

“I’ve done this kind of packing of food for third world countries a number of times and there is a sense of satisfaction that you have done something locally within our means here that’s going to have an impact on a country and people living in a country that we would never have a chance to go to,” Deacon Neu said.



Part of the reason Campus Ministry picked the junior class for the day of service is because juniors do not go on retreat, but also because this would be a good opportunity for juniors to prepare to be seniors.

“We selected the juniors because we thought they were a really great class,” Campus Minister Colleen Pochlyly said. “This would prepare them to stand out as leaders for next year.”

Campus Ministry had tried to find an organization that would allow all of the juniors to volunteer, however because of how many people are in the class, they decided to keep it at Marist.



photo by Maureen Mitchell

Principal Larry Tucker and members of the junior class work to pack meals on Wednesday in the Red and White Gym as part of the Marist National Day of Service. The meals will be delivered to starving people all over the world by the organization Feed My Starving Children.

“The idea was to unite people to work together as a class,” Pochlyly said. “If we sent them out to do the work the class wouldn’t all be together because most sites won’t take over 30 people so everyone would be in a different location and we wouldn’t be sharing the experience. This way we all stay at school and do the same thing, that creates a commonality and a bond among the junior class.”

This project was also aimed at helping to unite the junior class before they enter their final year of high school.

“I hope it’s a bonding experience for the junior class that will help define them as a senior class in terms of leadership,” Marist

President Brother Hank Hammer said. “I think the experience of coming together around a very significant cause. Even though it might be considered as a small gesture, it’s going to have a big impact because people are going to be able to eat.”

Junior participant Martha Kowalski agrees.

“The day of service was a great opportunity to help out in a way that will make a difference,” Kowalski said. “It’s important that we realize how fortunate we are and to realize that there are people who don’t have what we do. As Marist students, we’re doing this not out of obligation, but out of the kindness of our hearts.”

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In the event the *Sentinel* makes an error, a correction or retraction will be published in the following issue.

The *Sentinel* is published by Southwest Regional Publishing, 12247 S. Harlem Ave., Palos Heights, IL. 60463.

Standing together

Last October, the Guidance Department introduced a multifaceted program for the 2016-2017 school year meant to challenge and inspire students.

#WhatDoYouStandFor can be seen in print and web materials around the school, and will be integrated into many aspects of school life across all academic departments.

The program is a great way for students and faculty to collaborate on ideas to improve school and relationships. Part of the program's goal is to give students an opportunity to interact with other students they might not normally socialize with on a regular basis.

According to an article titled "How Racially Diverse Schools and Classrooms Can Benefit All Students" on The Century Foundation website, ninety-six percent of major employers say it is "important" that employees be "comfortable working with colleagues, customers, and/or clients from diverse cultural backgrounds."

Giving students regular opportunities to step outside their comfort zone will increase their skills needed for future job qualifications.

Teachers usually observe only what students allow them to see of themselves. This program aims to break barriers and broaden relationships and trust among students and faculty.

According to the article "A Quality Teacher Is a Caring Teacher" on the National Education Association website, showing students that teachers care about them helps create a positive, supportive relationship and helps build an environment where learning can flourish.

When teachers model this behavior, it allows students to learn and emulate that behavior.

Teachers and students should acknowledge each other's boundaries and respect them. Everyone comes to school to get an education but we all need to feel supported at the same time.

When people have the chance to express themselves freely, the door to possibility and change is opened.

This program will bring our community closer together. It will help to give each one of us insights into each other's realities and experiences. It will help us decide who we are and what we believe.

According to "The Power of Expressing Yourself," an article by Dr. Sian Beilock, a professor at the University of Chicago, verbalizing our anxieties seems to help us manage our behavior. When we label our fears, they are less likely to pop up in mind later and lead us astray.

There is plenty of conflict going on in today's society and it needs to be addressed. Students and faculty should have an outlet to spew their struggles and frustrations. When people feel like their opinion matters, it can really make a difference with the negativity going on.

To come together and appreciate the effort our school is making to bring about change, students, parents and teachers should attend the remaining workshop "Teaching Adolescents How to Successfully Navigate Life's Transitions and Become Self-Advocates" on April 4 at 7 p.m. in the RedHawk Theatre.

To work toward a better future, students should make their voices heard. As the great physicist Albert Einstein once said, "To look to the future we must first look back upon the past. That is where the seeds of the future were planted."

Grade-point averages mean more than test scores

Throughout high school, students hear about standardized tests such as the ACT and SAT. Teachers start talking about these tests freshman year. Then, suddenly, junior year comes and students start taking preparation classes in hopes of raising their scores a few points.

The ACT, which stands for American College Testing, is a test composed of four subjects and a writing portion which is optional. Math, English, reading and science abilities are tested on the ACT. The ACT is graded on a 36 point scale. These scores are then used as a significant criterion in the college admission process.

The problem is that standardized test scores are not the most accurate way to measure a student's abilities or predict a student's success.

According to a study done by researchers at Columbia University's School and Child Care Search Service, the ACT or SAT can only measure a student's performance on one particular day. Some students are simply not good test takers. With limited time and test anxiety, standardized tests can seem impossible to some students.

Standardized tests can also cause problems for teachers in the classrooms. Teachers can feel pressured to prepare students to take these tests by only teaching what is on the tests or tricks that can make testing easier.

Researchers at Columbia University also said that if teachers are just teaching to the test, their classes tend to lack creativity. Under the pressure of preparing students for these tests, teachers do not go as deep into their respective subjects.

Former Dean of Admissions at Bates College William Hiss led a study which compared students who sent test scores to colleges with students who did not.

Hiss compared the grade-point averages and graduation rates of the two groups. He discovered that there was only a .05 percent difference in GPA and .6 percent difference in graduation rates.

In short, the difference is not significant.

This study suggests that GPAs should carry more weight than standardized test scores when it comes to college admissions. A student's GPA more accurately measures four years of education and better reflects

the amount of work put into learning throughout high school.

Hiss' study also concludes that students who do not have a high GPA but do score well on the ACT or SAT will not do as well in college as someone with a high GPA and an average test score.

In 2015, Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts did not accept standardized test scores from applicants. In an article written for the college's website, Hampshire President Jonathan Lash argues that if university admissions rely solely on test scores, then student learning tends to be limited to test content.

The Washington Post reports that more colleges are beginning to focus on GPA over test scores. In the U.S. there are presently about 805 test-optional colleges and this number is slowly growing.

Beginning on the first day of freshman year, students should focus on building and maintaining a high GPA.

In the coming years as students apply to colleges and universities, high school GPAs are likely to play a more significant role than standardized test scores.

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Reflections on the 2017 March for Life in Washington

by David O’Neil
guest columnist

Why did I attend the 2017 March for Life? Before addressing this question, another must be answered: Why am I Pro-Life?

I like to explain being pro-life in one phrase: respecting and appreciating each and every form of life. This is a mind set that I believe anyone can support.

Despite the on-going debate over abortion, the pro-life agenda also includes a fight against the death penalty, euthanasia, and poverty.

Each and every one of these topics is important, but the debate over abortion holds prominence in today’s society.

I turn to one Bible quote in terms of why I believe every child has the right to life. It is written in Jeremiah 1:5 that “*before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.*”

This is why I attended the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Those of us who attended were the voice for those who cannot stand up for themselves. When babies form inside their mother’s womb, they develop at a rapid rate.

But at this state, the unborn infant is not able to stand up for itself. A baby’s heart begins to beat at just 5 weeks old, and when an abortion is performed, the infant’s heart is not the only heart that breaks.

One of the most empowering things about the March for Life were all the signs carried by the participants. One that stood out read, “In the 1800’s, an African American was not considered a human. In the 1900’s, a Jew was not considered a human. In 2017, a baby is not considered a human.”

I believe everyone should have the ability to experience a trip that is truly life-changing and even more eye opening. Participating in the March for Life is the perfect opportunity.

Marching beside hundreds of thousands of people, praying together as one nation, and standing up for those who do not yet

have a voice made this trip an experience that I will never forget.

On the positive side, abortion rates have actually gone down throughout the county and in Illinois. After the ruling in the Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bulton cases in 1973, the number of abortions in America quickly skyrocketed to over 1.4 million a year.

Thankfully, due to a greater understanding of what abortion can mean to both a man and a woman, and the many

outreach programs, this number has dropped to just over 600,000.

We in a state that performs about one in every eight abortions in the United States, according to a statistic at data.illinois.gov.

The battle against abortion has not yet been won. The Guttmacher Institute reports that Americans abort nearly 20% of all pregnancies. This was another message at the March that truly stuck with me.

Not only has the United States aborted over 50 million lives, according to the World Health Organization, the same number of lives were aborted last year alone throughout the world.

Another sign I saw in Washington read, “Maybe God has sent us the person to cure cancer or be the next peace maker, but maybe we did not give them the opportunity to change the world.”

If your views differ from mine, I still love and respect you.

But I ask each and every one of you to do one thing.

Before you go to bed tonight, thank your mom for choosing life.

...everyone should have the ability to experience a trip that is truly life-changing.... Participating in the March for Life is the perfect opportunity.

photo opinion

What do you stand for and why?

by Cara Donegan
senior reporter

				
Lee Zepeda freshman	Amaya Knoll sophomore	Brian Burton junior	Liam O’Connell senior	Cathaleen Novak social worker
EQUALITY	HARD WORK	PARTICIPATION	DOING THE RIGHT THING	DETERMINATION
<i>I believe everyone should be treated equally. No one should be segregated against due to race, religion, orientation or financial status.</i>	<i>I stand for hard work because not everything in life will be given to you. In order to get what you want, you need to give it your all.</i>	<i>In a community, we are all building blocks that make up a whole. We should be active in people’s lives and endorse acceptance of everyone.</i>	<i>Doing the right thing shows that you stand for honesty, loyalty, justice and being brave, especially if you are the only person doing it.</i>	<i>I believe in hard work, dedication and continuously setting goals to improve myself. Determination is the difference between success and failure.</i>
				
Gretchen Wilkison freshman	Miles Griffin sophomore	Katie Pappas junior	Leah Hood senior	Victor Trevino math teacher
BRAVERY	HUMOR	LOYALTY	KINDNESS and COMPASSION	SERVING OTHERS
<i>I’ve gone through a lot of things in my childhood and I always felt as if I had to act brave.</i>	<i>I stand for making people happy and making them laugh. I like to cheer people up. I just like to see a smile on everyone’s face.</i>	<i>I stand for loyalty because I have amazing friends and family who always have my back. They have inspired me to do the same.</i>	<i>Showing others kindness and compassion helps them to feel respected and that they are not alone.</i>	<i>When we serve others, we fulfill our most important role in life, to make the world a better place for each other.</i>

Ruzevich and Connelly honored by ESCC as season ends at sectionals

by Cara Donegan
senior reporter

The girls’ varsity basketball team ended its season with a 28-5 record on February 23 at the sectional final game against Homewood-Flossmoor.

Although the girls felt it ended too early, this was a season marked by many accomplishments.

Senior captain Caily Landers is one of many players who are proud of the team’s season.

“This year was really special and it’s something I will never forget,” Landers said. “The whole team had such a good work ethic but we also had fun on and off the court and that’s all you want for your senior year.”

Head coach Mary Pat Connelly was named the 2016-2017 ESCC Coach of the Year. This is the third time in her 15-year coaching career at Marist that Connelly has received this honor.

Connelly has also received the coach of the year award from the Daily Southtown.

“It was a good feeling because my coaching peers voted on it at the ESCC conference meeting,” Connolly said. “But I could not have had the season we did without the great group of girls we had on this year’s squad. They were easy to coach because they’re very skilled, competitive and tough.”

Senior Julia Ruzevich received the 2016-2017 ESCC Player of the Year award. Ruzevich, who scored her 1,000th career point this season, has been working toward this goal ever since her high school basketball career started.

“Getting player of the year was an awesome accomplishment for me,” Ruzevich said. “My teammates and family showed so much support by pushing me beyond my limits and believing in me.”

Coach Connelly is confident that the high standards set this year will be met by next year’s team.

“This year’s team was one of the best defensive teams I have coached,” Connolly said. “We created a lot of offense through our tough defense, and I believe the defense will be even better next year.”



photo by Claire Kelly

Girls head basketball coach Mary Pat Connelly and senior Julia Ruzevich stand under the hoop in the Red and White Gym on Ash Wednesday. Both have been honored by the East Suburban Catholic Conference this year.



photo by Cameree Braun

Senior center Justin Brown (2) blocks a shot in the regional semifinal against T.F. South on Feb. 28. The RedHawks won 57-48, followed by a loss to Simeon at sectionals on March 7.

Boys’ basketball team leaves memorable record as legacy

by Sheila O’Keeffe
senior reporter

The boys’ basketball team ended its season with a 36-56 loss to Simeon at sectionals on March 7.

Despite the loss, this season was one to remember with the RedHawks coming out on top as ESCC Conference Champions for the first time in 20 years. The team’s season record ended 27-5.

“People saw the great success we had this year,” senior Bobby Hawkinson said. “But they didn’t see us working out three times a week before school and four times after.”

Key players included Hawkinson, senior Justin Brown, and junior Morgan Taylor, who was sidelined for four weeks due to a broken wrist. In his second game back, Taylor led the team with 21 points.

The team led the league in defense and did well limiting their opponents to one shot. Brown and Taylor were named All-Conference, and junior Maurice Commander was ESCC Player of the Year.

Players credit head coach Gene Nolan, named ESCC Coach of the Year, with teaching them how to be better basketball players as well as better people.

“I don’t know anyone who holds himself to a higher standard,” Hawkinson said. “His intensity and energy took us to a higher level.”

The team also won the Centralia Tournament this season for the first time in 25 years.

Now that their time at Marist is over, the seniors hope their presence on the team was memorable.

“I hope that as the younger players take their turn to lead, they take pages out of our book,” Brown said

Farewell to senior wrestlers

by Hillary Jones
senior reporter

The Redhawk varsity wrestling team ended the regular season with a record of 9-16 before advancing to regionals on Saturday, February 4 at Andrew High School.

Senior Diata Drayton and sophomore Michael Leveille emerged as regional champions in their weight classes.

The team competed next at Downers Grove North in the IHSA Individual Sectional on Saturday, February 11, with Drayton and sophomore Jacob Dado winning and advancing to the state finals.

On February 16-18, the wrestling team competed at IHSA Individual State Finals at the University of Illinois-Urbana. Drayton finished his Marist wrestling career placing 2nd in state, while Dado ended his sophomore season placing 4th.

“I enjoyed competing at state, because I was able to achieve my dream of wrestling at U of I,” Dado said. “It was

difficult not wrestling with my old practice partner, Andy O’Brien, because he graduated last year. But I was able to practice this year with senior Matt Davidson, and he got me prepared for the state series.”

Drayton finished 43-1 this season, the best record of any varsity wrestler in head coach Brendan Heffernan’s nine-year career. As his Marist wrestling career ended, Drayton reflected on all of the things he will miss the most.

“I am going to miss the brotherhood and friendships I’ve had with the team,” Drayton said. “I will also miss the coaches because I’ve known them since 6th or 7th grade and they have always been there for me.”

Heffernan also expressed his thoughts about the graduating wrestlers.

“The seniors were a coachable group who continued improving through the final week of the season,” Heffernan said. “It was a pleasure coaching them and I look forward to seeing their accomplishments in their next phase of life.”



photo by Ken Dado

Senior Diata Drayton stands with head coach Brendan Heffernan before competing in the IHSA Class 3A Individual State Finals at State Farm Center in Champaign on Feb. 18. Drayton ended his Marist wrestling career with a record of 43-1 and took 2nd in state.

Boys’ varsity track team running with perspective

by MiKaela Dismukes
senior reporter

After bad weather forced the cancellation of the team’s first meet on Feb. 18, the RedHawk varsity boys’ track team placed fourth overall at the Lewis University ICOPS Invitational. ICOPS is a highly competitive meet because it is made up of all the Catholic high schools in the area.

The RedHawks continued the season with a win at the Lincoln-Way Central Invitational on March 4.

At the University of Illinois on March 18, the team finished with three individual medal winners. Seniors Lenell Navarre, took first place in the 60-meter jump, Matt Wagner placed fourth in the 3200-meter jump and Trae Thompson placed third in the triple jump.

“My main goal is to repeat winning conference,” Thompson said. “I also want to reach 43 feet in the triple jump. Our season has been pretty great so far, but there is always room for improvement. Each person on the team contributes greatly.”

On March 25, the boys competed at the Bolingbrook Fast Times meet at Lewis University.

Wagner took second place in the two-mile, freshman Brian Ferguson took fourth place in the 400-meter and junior David Daniels took fourth place in the 200-meter.

The team is coached by Stephen Davidson, assisted by Matthew Battaglia, Nicholas Billone, Thomas Gouterman, Ed Slack and Robert Topps.

Last season, the team won the ESCC Conference for the first time since 2014, and the runners hope to make it again this year.

The RedHawks will host an ESCC Conference meet against Marian, Nazareth and Joliet Catholic on Tues., April 25.

The ESCC Conference Championship meet is at Notre Dame High School on Wednesday, May 10.

“Our goal is to go to conference and then to state,” senior Fred Jackson said. “The team wants to get faster and better, so we can reach our highest potential.”

The team’s next meet is Saturday, April 8 at Stagg beginning at 1:30 p.m.



photo by Stephen Davidson

RedHawk varsity track members (L to R) Trae Thompson, Lenell Navarre and Matt Wagner stand together after taking medals at the University of Illinois on March 18. The team’s next meet is at Stagg next Saturday beginning at 1:30 p.m.



photo by Craig Lenz

The RedHawk varsity soccer defense prepares to fight off a goal attempt by Reavis on March 25. The RedHawks lost 0-1 in overtime and were 3-2 at press time. The team plays tonight at Hinsdale South. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Girls soccer taking season one game at a time

by Maureen Mitchell
senior reporter

The girls’ varsity soccer team is motivated by last year’s success and is looking forward to a great season.

This year’s roster includes sophomores Megan Kirkwood, Anne Callahan, Sofia Perez, Victoria Collins, and Amaya Knoll, juniors Katherine Pappas, Serenity Rosa, Michelle Lenz, Amanda Rizzo, Allesa Corcoran, and Cassandra Eraci, and seniors Sheila O’Keeffe, Mackenzie Mishka, Cara Donegan, Sara Grace Eisha, Victoria Lara, Victoria Carreon, Jillian Zwiertz, Mia Hayes, Emma Brennan and Delaney Mulcahy.

The season opened on March 16 with a 0-3 loss against Lincoln-Way West followed by three wins against Joliet West, Romeoville, and Lincoln-Way Central.

The most notable of the team’s games was played on March 25 at Reavis, where

head coach Chris Roe’s message to the team was clear.

“[Coach Roe] told us to play our hardest and be smart,” said varsity sophomore Annie Callahan.

And indeed they did, holding off Reavis until the last minute, though the game ended in a 0-1 overtime loss. However, the girls are very determined to make this season great.

“The biggest motivation [we have] is the successful season we had last year,” Callahan said.

Since the team won sectionals last year, the girls’ biggest concern is not being able to deliver again this year.

“We lost a lot of seniors last year so we are still trying to adjust to the new team,” Callahan said. “We are all still learning how to play with each other.”

The RedHawks play at Hinsdale South tonight at Hinsdale South at 6:30 p.m., followed by a game next Thursday at St. Viator.

Girls’ varsity track team looks forward to getting outdoors

by Faith Laughran
editor-in-chief

While the outdoor season for the girls’ varsity track team does not open officially until April 8 at Andrew, the team has been working hard at indoor meets and practices.

“To have a good season, we are all running a lot more mileage,” said senior runner Carlin McNulty. “We are hitting faster times earlier in the season and trying to overcome getting tired during races and mentally checking out.”

The team’s goal is to qualify as many events for state this year as they can.

“Our goal is definitely to win conference and qualify in as many events as possible for state,” said senior Maryclare Leonard. “We were only one point off our program’s first conference championship in cross country, so I am confident we can do it.”

“That would be the perfect ending to the seniors’ last season. We are challenging ourselves and pushing each other in practice every day focused on our conference championship and state series races,” Leonard said.

On March 23, freshmen Brigid Englehart and Amanda Tracy and sophomores Annie Stinites and Fiona Murphy ran a distance medley relay for the first time at the Batavia and set a school record time of 13:53:4.

At the Charleston Invitational on March 10, sophomore Colleen Murphy medaled in the mile and Yasmine Evans in the high jump.

“We are getting better during the indoor season,” head coach Rich Karnia said. “A lot of young runners are learning the sport, which will hopefully lead to a better outdoor season. The goal is to keep practicing sprints and relays and get stronger as a team.

In addition to the rising talent from the underclassmen, many veteran runners have been scoring higher than in years past, making state a very possible reality.

“The distance team is hoping to return to state this year,” Karnia said. “This year’s relay team is ahead of last year’s state qualifying team, so that looks good so far.”

The team will compete in an ESCC Conference meet on April 5 at Marian Catholic against Marian, Nazareth and Joliet Catholic beginning at 4:30 p.m.



photo by Patrick Quinn

Varsity runners freshman Kaylin Strahan and sophomore Whitney Melancon run in the 55-dash finals on February 25 at Lockport. Both girls have won multiple medals and are the team’s top two sprinters this season, according to head coach Rich Karnia.

Weather delays start of RedHawk baseball season

by Raini Eldorado
junior reporter

The RedHawk varsity baseball team is ready to play ball.

Unfortunately, bad weather has forced the rescheduling of four of the team’s games so far, including the season opener on March 17 at Lincoln-Way Central.

“The games being cancelled definitely affect our team,” senior catcher Nate Stiegel said. “It prevents us from getting that full outdoor experience and takes away another chance for us to get prepared for conference.”

The team’s first game on March 20 ended in a 4-8 loss to Lincoln-Way Central, followed by a 0-6 loss to Lincoln-Way West on March 22.

“The cancellations definitely affected us coming into these games, but we got the first game jitters out of the way and we’re excited and ready for the rest of the season,” junior pitcher Bobby Roeper said.

Returning seniors to this season’s team include Stiegel, pitcher and infielder Colin

Pfotenhauer, pitcher Shane Brannigan, infielder Matt Donahue, Elijah Hynes, Colin Meehan, infielder and outfielder Bryson Lewis, pitcher Tommy Englehart, pitcher Joe Stack and outfielder Conor Evoy.

The team is preparing and looking forward to conference. Their goal is to bring home an overall win. The last time the RedHawks brought home a conference win was in 2007.

“We concentrate on putting the ball in play, moving people over and getting them in as a team,” Pfotenhauer said. “On the defensive side of the ball, our pitchers focus on executing our pitches and not giving any free passes.”

The team’s next game is tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. at Stagg High School, followed by the Stevie Bajenski Tournament at Mount Carmel on Sunday at 1 p.m. The team travels to Brother Rice on Tuesday, April 4 for a 4:30 p.m. game against the Crusaders.

The RedHawks will host Marmion Academy on Thursday, April 6 for the make-up game from March 25.



photo by Raini Eldorado

Sophomore second baseman/shortstop Max Malley retrieves a ground ball at practice on Monday, March 27. The RedHawks beat Evergreen Park on Tuesday, 8-1, and play at Stagg tomorrow at 11 a.m.



photo by Jillian Okelman

Senior Grace Rodriquez goes up against her Lincoln-Way Central opponent on Thursday, March 23. The RedHawks lost 1-11. The girls’ team will play St. Ignatius tonight at 6:30 p.m. at St. Ignatius. The boys play in Lake Zurich tomorrow at noon at Lake Zurich.

Lacrosse season gets underway

by Emily Reynolds
senior reporter

The RedHawk girls’ lacrosse team began its season on March 16 against the Eagles Co-Op team at Sandburg High School after the first game of the season was delayed on March 14.

The team was led by junior Courtney Dahl, who had a hat trick, but the game ended in a 4-17 loss.

The lacrosse program has been running for five years and senior Leah Hood has been a part of the team for the past four years.

“This season our goal is to keep building the program,” Hood said. “We have a lot of work to do, but I have seen so much growth over my four years on the team.”

Last year the team worked on building their record along with the program. After losing a number of seniors last year the team plans to work to keep the program going strong.

“I am so happy to have been a part of the team’s growth and to see our team start winning more games,” Hood said.

The girls’ team will play St. Ignatius tonight at 6:30 at St. Ignatius.

The boys’ team opened on Thursday, March 23 against St. Viator at St. Viator. The game ended in a 6-18 loss.

“We have been focusing on offense and building our defense to put us in a place to win,” freshman Nikolai Auskarnis said.

The boys’ team is the current holder of the Touhy Cup. This is an annual tradition with Brother Rice and the winner of the game holds the cup for an entire year.

The RedHawks have held the Touhy Cup three times in the past four years. This highly anticipated game will take place on April 29 at the Red and White Stadium.

Results from the game on March 30 against Nazareth Academy were unavailable at press time. The boys will play Lake Zurich tomorrow at Lake Zurich at noon.

Softball players set sights on state playoffs

by Meagan Loranger
junior reporter

The RedHawk softball team is preparing for another successful season, with the goal of making it as far as possible in the IHSA state playoffs.

“Ultimately our goal as always is to win state,” junior catcher Abby Rosynek said. “But to get there we have to work together, have heart and energy for each individual game.”

So far this season, the team is 2-0 with wins over Victor J. Andrew High School and Amos Alonzo Stagg High School.

Results of Wednesday’s game against Plainfield were unavailable at press time.

Team members are working hard as individuals to improve themselves and contribute to the team’s overall goals for the season.

“As for myself, I have goals of being a positive leader for this team, and helping in all ways I can offensively and defensively,” junior outfielder Kara Apato said.

But, as team members prepare for games, they also like to have fun. Just before games, they sing and dance to loosen up.

RedHawks v. Crown Point

4:30 p.m. today

varsity softball field

“This team is something special,” Apato said. “We have a strong chemistry, which shows on and off the field and helps lead us to win games.”

The team’s last state title was in 2015.

“We have two main goals every year and that is to win our conference and a state title, but our little goals are to improve in every practice and game,” senior third baseman Alexis Rogers said.

Head coach Colleen Biebel credits the diversity of talent on the team as a major strength this season.

“We have a pretty wide variety of girls on our team,” Biebel said. “We have freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors on our team who each play a big role.”

Following this afternoon’s game, the team will host Lyons Township on April 3 and Hinsdale Central on April 12.



photo by Raini Eldorado

Junior Abby Rosynek defends the outfield against Andrew on March 23, helping the RedHawks to win a close game, 6-5. The RedHawks play Crown Point this afternoon at home starting at 4:30 p.m.