

**ST. MARIA**  
**GORETTI**  
HIGH SCHOOL  
*Tradition Faith Excellence*



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011
**THE GAEL PILOT**
VOL. 6, ISSUE 1



**This edition of the Gael Pilot covers all activities and events from now through the Christmas break. There will continue to be Principal's Weekly Reminder emails as well as updated information on the school website to help you stay current as we move into and through the holiday season.**

### **From the Principal**

*Mr. Richard E. Fairley*

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, it is important to remember that, when we return to school, there are only 11 days before we begin exams. Please note that the 1<sup>st</sup> semester does not end with exams. The end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester falls on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. We began this structure a couple of years ago. By having exams before Christmas, we hope to ensure that students have retained the greatest amount of information in anticipation of the exams. Secondly, it allows teachers the opportunity to re-teach materials where students did not show mastery, based on exam scores. Thirdly, it removes some of the "make or break" anxiety that some students feel when taking exams. They have additional time after exams and before the end of the semester to overcome a low exam grade. Lastly, students can enjoy the Christmas holiday without the specter of returning to school and, shortly afterwards, facing exams. This is a schedule that more and more college-prep schools are using and, I believe, is the most educationally sound approach for us at St. Maria Goretti High School.

I am pleased to introduce this year's PTO Executive Officers. They are:

President:	Gianna Sullivan
Vice President:	Pam McIntyre
Treasurer:	Mary Hyde
Secretary:	Lee Anne Phalen

The PTO has been a great help in organizing the Welcome Coffee for new parents, the Welcome Picnic, and hospitality for the Open House. Plans are already underway for Catholic Schools Week as well. Pam McIntyre has agreed to head up this effort, and there will be a planning meeting on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM in Room 107.

We have been thrilled by the level of volunteerism for events such as those mentioned above but also for the Michael McCollum Golf Tournament, Board of Trustees committees, MAIT, team parents, etc. This level of commitment and involvement is what makes this such a great community and makes The Gorette Family what it is.

### **From the Vice-Principal**

*Mrs. Bridget Bartholomew*

We have enjoyed having alumni visit throughout the Fall and look forward to seeing many of them at the MAIT next week. A comment that we have heard repeatedly from our alumni is how well prepared they feel for their collegiate studies. While our current students might not realize it, their upcoming midterm exams are part of the college preparation that these alumni describe. Taking midterms is an excellent preparation for the schedules they are likely to encounter in college, where it also is typical to take multiple, cumulative semester examinations over the course of a few days. Our midterm exams will be given on December 16, 19, 20, and 21, and students will have 90 minutes for each exam. Midterms do comprise 20% of the semester grade for a course and, as a result, some students find midterms a stressful undertaking.

Parents, you can help your students be at their best at exam time in several ways. Of course, ensuring that they have a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast prior to their tests is very important. On our part, we ask teachers to provide students with study guides for exams, and we schedule no more than two exams per day. This allows students a reasonable amount of time to prepare for each test. We do ask parents to keep in mind the exam schedule when planning family travel at the holidays, as numerous logistical challenges arise in rescheduling exams if a student is absent. Beyond the logistical challenges, though, rescheduled exams can cause additional stress for students who may need to take more than two midterms in one day as a result. Of course, there are times when absences cannot be anticipated, but we do ask parents to avoid planning absences during exam days as these can impact student performance. As always, we want to maximize our students' potential to succeed.

We are very blessed to have such dedicated students, committed faculty, and supportive families. Thank you, parents, for all you do to support our future successful graduates!

Best wishes for a blessed and happy holiday season to all of the Gorette Family.

**From the Admissions Office***Mrs. Holly Katrina, Director*

The faculty, staff, and students officially welcomed the newest members into the Goretti family at the Freshman Mass in August. The first quarter brought many opportunities for our returning students to get to know the ninth graders. This friendly and supportive attitude on campus continues to be acknowledged by fellow classmates, faculty, staff, and parents.

The return of our seniors from the Kairos retreat in October brought another wave of positive energy among the student body. The warm feeling in the hallways is always apparent. As I give tours during the school day to families considering applying to Goretti they often comment on the unique feeling that exists here. Our Shadow day Program continues to be one of the most beneficial ways to spread the news about the Goretti Family. A number of the freshmen students have had the opportunity to share their experiences and reasons for choosing SMGHS with our "shadow" guests. We currently have had 53 prospective students spend the school day with us.

Many freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors volunteered at the Open House in October. The willingness of our student body to spend a Sunday afternoon on campus, assisting faculty and staff with promoting Goretti, is a true testimony to the pride and school spirit that exists here.

The Admissions Office is busy preparing for the 2012-2013 school year. Application packets will be sent out around the Thanksgiving vacation and there are currently 32 eighth graders registered for the High School Placement Exam to be given on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The exam is required for all incoming freshman, so if you know of any students interested in attending SMGHS next year please encourage them to sign up for the test.

As we approach this holiday season may we remember to give thanks to God for all his many blessings- especially one of his greatest gifts - our children.

Peace and God Bless,



We are Generations. We are Growing. We are Goretti.

**From the Communications, Development, & Alumni Relations Office***Mrs. Kerri Corderman, Director, Class of '98***Sharing Our Students' Stories & Engaging the Community**

St. Maria Goretti is a unique, close-knit high school that has been a part of the local community for over 55 years. This is why we set a goal at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year to engage the community at-large, increase visibility of Goretti, and help others see how our students improve the community day-in and day-out. Our office works closely with students and faculty to promote school activities and share our students' achievements through our school website, Alumni Facebook page, nearby parishes, and local news outlets.

As part of our new marketing efforts, we are also giving a consistent look to all school materials and sharing our new slogan that captures where we came from and where we are going. Join us in sharing our message: **"We are Generations. We are Growing. We are Goretti."**

**2011-2012 Annual Fund – Goretti Giving Campaign**

The Goretti Giving Campaign is underway! Our goal for this year's Goretti Giving Campaign (Annual Fund) is to raise \$85,000. The amount we raise each year through the Annual Fund is critical to maintaining and improving our educational programs and technology. In addition, meeting this goal will enable us to increase available financial aid and help to make a Goretti education affordable for as many families as possible.

We are grateful to have already received pledges for this year's Annual Fund, but we still need your support! We are reaching out to the entire Goretti Family including alumni, friends of the school, past parents, current families, faculty, and staff to increase awareness and seek help in reaching our campaign goal. All gifts to the Annual Fund are greatly appreciated and go a long way in helping our school to thrive. We will be sending information out later this month to our current families on different options for giving.

Please prayerfully consider a contribution to our Annual Fund this year, and, if you are willing, please reach out to others who may be interested in donating to the Goretti Giving Campaign. Thank you for all the many ways that you, as our parents, support our school every day!

Have blessed Thanksgiving!

**Campus Ministry Corner**

Mrs. Heather Nees, Campus Minister



**Liturgies**

The Campus Ministry department has kicked into full swing. We have now had four liturgies since the beginning of the school year: a Freshman Recognition Mass, a Sophomore Recognition Mass, an Adoration Liturgy, and an All Saints Day Mass.

Our next liturgy will be the Thanksgiving Prayer Service scheduled on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 1:40 p.m. It will be held in the Gael Center.

**Mission Trip**

The Mission Trip with Catholic Heart Work Camp scheduled for June 2012 is heading to Virginia Beach, Virginia. We are very excited to be teaming up with the youth groups from St. Mary's and St. Ann's.

**Retreats**

All of our students attended their respective class retreats in October. The senior Kairos Retreat was especially spiritual, and so a Spring Semester follow-up retreat has been planned for late February. Please keep our students in your prayers as they continue to work to deepen their spirituality.

**Community Service**

This is a very important reminder that students must have 10 of the 25 hours for the year turned in by the end of first semester. Please contact Mrs. Nees if your child needs help finding a service activity at [hnees@goretti.org](mailto:hnees@goretti.org).

**March for Life**

Once again SMGHS will take a bus to Washington, DC to join thousands of others from across the country in the annual March for Life on January 23, 2012. We will again attend the Rally for Life and Mass at the Verizon Center. Following lunch, we will join thousands of others in the March for Life. Registration will begin immediately upon return from Christmas Vacation.

# Seasons Greetings

**L  
A  
S  
T  
  
C  
A  
L  
L**

**Scapin**

The Fall Play is just around the corner, but tickets are still available. Please support the show by bringing your family, friends, and neighbors to see the rollicking comedy "SCAPIN," presented by the Goretti Players. The cast, crew, and volunteers are working very hard to bring you a top notch play. Please support the arts at St. Maria Goretti. Raffle items and Concessions will be available to help defray the cost of the performance. We look forward to seeing you at "SCAPIN."

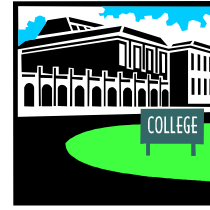
**WHO:** The Goretti Players and Director Richard Shoap, CVSM

**WHEN:** Friday, November 18 and Saturday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m.  
Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Women's Club, 31 South Prospect Street, Hagerstown, Maryland

**COST:** \$10.00. Reserve your Tickets NOW by calling the school and pick them up the night of the show.



**Goretti GUIDELINE****NOVEMBER 2011****GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT***Mrs. Deb Rosinski, Director of Guidance**Mrs. Theresa Kline, Assistant*

**Juniors, Sophomores and Freshmen:** PSAT results will be given to all underclassmen before our Christmas break.

**JUNIORS:** All juniors will begin the formal COLLEGE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS in February. A schedule will be forwarded to the juniors and their parents in January.

**An update on our seniors and their college application and acceptance process:** Thus far 26 seniors have filed over 100 college applications. It is very important for seniors to complete their college applications during the month of December unless the college application deadline at a specific school is in February. Seniors who have application **deadlines in JANUARY** need to have their applications into the Guidance Office **BY DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>!!!**

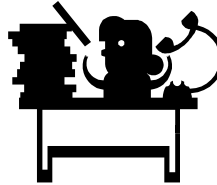
**Congratulations to the following seniors on their acceptances into the colleges listed:**

<b>Beth Eich</b>	Univ. of Pittsburgh, Pre-Med Program
<b>Rebecca Everetts</b>	West Virginia University
<b>Aaron Hawk</b>	Florida Institute of Technology
<b>Rosemary Hawkins</b>	Marymount University Shepherd University
<b>Dan Joliet</b>	The Citadel
<b>Annemarie Koogle</b>	Mount St. Mary's University
<b>Cassidy Lippert</b>	West Virginia University
<b>Patrick McDermott</b>	The University of Southern Mississippi
<b>Peter Rettig</b>	Louisiana State University Mount St. Mary's University Penn State University, Mont Alto Shippensburg University University of Southern Mississippi
<b>Ashley Robinson</b>	Auburn University University of Missouri
<b>Rodrigo Reyna</b>	West Virginia University
<b>Bronte Salgado</b>	New Mexico State University
<b>John Winalski</b>	University of Alabama West Virginia University

**Notable quote from the guidance office:**

"Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day."

**FROM THE DESK OF  
MRS. MARY GROVE  
SCHOOL SECRETARY**



**Cold & Flu season** is upon us, not to mention the threat of other serious infections such as MRSA, staph, strep, mono, meningitis... how can you help your student stay well??

Remind them to

- » WASH THEIR HANDS- after using the restroom, before eating, after using a tissue to blow their noses, when helping a sick friend, any time their hands are dirty. Soap & water are best, but hand sanitizer can be used when washing hands is not practical.
- » HAND SANITIZER DISPENSERS – are all over the hallways. Encourage your students to use them often, but especially before eating lunch.
- » TREAT OPEN WOUNDS IMMEDIATELY- clean the wounds immediately and cover with a bandage. See a doctor if you think you have an infection.
- » DO NOT SHARE PERSONAL ITEMS- such as razors, towels, clothing, uniforms, and makeup, especially chap stick & certain types of lotions that are applied in such a way that they are easily contaminated. Use your own pen or pencil!
- » DO NOT SHARE DRINKS- do not drink out of another person's cup or water bottle or use the same eating utensils. When sharing food, divide the food into portions before you start eating.
- » STAY HOME- when you are sick. We are most contagious in the first days of illness. Sick people should stay home 24 hours after the symptoms (fever/active coughing, etc) have gone away without the use of medications.



### **Statement of Policy**

#### **regarding STAND training for Volunteers**

- All Volunteers, with substantial contact with students, **MUST** be STAND trained. If a volunteer has been STAND trained at another Archdiocese of Baltimore location, they must still complete an Application for Volunteer Services and submit three references for our records.
- Each SMGHS organization/group is responsible for submitting the list of their volunteers to the Business Office (STAND Coordinator), at least one week prior to an event, for verification of STAND Training. Examples of events include, but are not limited to, sports gate or concessions, drama ticket sales or concessions, Catholic Schools Week, etc.
- Any person not verified as STAND trained is not permitted to volunteer at the event. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- SMGHS Faculty/Staff may attend events to verify that all volunteers are STAND trained. If volunteers are present who have not been STAND trained, they will be asked to stop volunteering immediately. The organization/group sponsoring the event may also lose the privilege of holding future events.

For online access to STAND documentation please visit:

<http://goretti.org/alumni-parents/stand-training>



### IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

- November 22 Thanksgiving Prayer Service/ MAIT Pep Rally  
1:40 pm in The Gael Center
- November 23 Early Dismissal- 12:15 pm
- November 24-28 NO SCHOOL/ Thanksgiving / MAIT Holiday  
**Happy Thanksgiving! Go Gaels!!**
- November 25 & 26 29<sup>th</sup> Mid-Atlantic Invitational Tournament (see page 9)
- November 27 First Sunday of Advent
- November 29 School resumes/SCRIP Orders due- 8 am
- November 30 Varsity Club/NHS Christmas Families drive begins
- December 3 SAT given
- December 4 Second Sunday of Advent
- December 5 SCRIP Orders due- 8 am
- December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass- 10:00 am  
Mass Uniforms required
- December 9 & 10 Lady Gael Classic Tournament- The Gael Center  
(see page 9)
- December 10 Archdiocese of Baltimore Entrance Exam  
Doors open at 8:30 am Test from 9am- 12 noon  
ACT given
- December 11 Third Sunday of Advent
- December 12 LAST SCRIP order before Christmas due 8 am
- December 13 Extended Homeroom  
11<sup>th</sup> Grade Level meeting
- December 14 Extended Homeroom Bell Sch. #1  
General PTO Meeting- 6 pm
- December 15 Last day of classes before exams  
Locker Clean out- 2:45 pm  
VC/NHS Christmas Families project ends
- December 16-21 Exams (complete schedule, see page 7)
- December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent
- December 22 to Jan. 2 CHRISTMAS VACATION



**December 25**  
**January 1**

**Merry Christmas**  
**Happy New Year**

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

- January 3 Return to school/SCRIP orders due- 8 am
- January 6 Feast of the Epiphany  
EDLINE posting  
Washington County Library Teen Idol Contest  
(info presented at lunchtime)
- January 10 Extended Homeroom (Bell Sch. #1)
- January 13 Junior Ring Liturgy & Brunch (Mass Uniforms)  
9:15 am St. Ann Church (Unique Bell Schedule)
- January 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day- NO SCHOOL
- January 20 End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter/ 1<sup>st</sup> Semester  
Winter Gael Pilot online
- January 23 March for Life in Washington DC (observed)
- January 24 Extended Homeroom  
EDLINE Posting
- January 27 1<sup>st</sup> Semester/2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report Cards distributed
- January 29 to Catholic School's Week
- February 4 (schedule and activities information TBA)





### INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

The inclement weather policy is on page 17 of the handbook. St. Maria Goretti will abide by the decision of the Washington County Public School system concerning delayed openings, early dismissals, and/or closures. Students & parents/guardians should listen to the local radio stations, NBC 25 TV or go to [www.goretti.org](http://www.goretti.org) and [www.Your4State.com](http://www.Your4State.com) for the announcements. A list of the radio stations that will announce Goretti's status is in the Handbook. Mrs. Grove will also update the answering machine with the current weather related information. Just dial the Main number (301-739-4266) and listen to the Voice Message.

### ATTENDANCE

Please remember to inform the school when your student will be absent or late. You can call, email, or even send a note ahead of time. The main number is 301-739-4266 and Mrs. Grove's extension is "0". You can leave a message anytime (even the night before) on the voice mail. REMEMBER that even if you have called in your student's absence, it is NOT excused until a signed written note is received by the Main Office. Please review the Handbook, beginning on page 14 for the complete attendance policy.

### SEMESTER EXAMS:

Exams are just a few weeks away...

Friday, December 16	Exam A	8:30 am
	Exam B	10:30 am
Monday, December 19	Exam C	8:30 am
	Exam D	10:30 am
Tuesday, December 20	Exam E	8:30 am
	Exam F	10:30 am
Wednesday, December 21	Exam G	8:30 am
	Make up	10:30 am

From page 24 of the Handbook:

Semester and final examinations must be taken by the student on the day and at the time scheduled by the school. **In extraordinary circumstances, students may be permitted to take an examination at another time if approved in advance by the Vice Principal.** Students who are absent from an exam will be considered excused only with a doctor's note.

# GAEL REPORT

# SPORTS SECTION

The latest news from your Athletic Department and Athletic Association.

Athletic Director: Mr. David Blenckstone

Dean of Students/Head Basketball Coach: Mr. Amrit Rayfield

Athletic Trainer: Mr. Thomas Chatfield

## FALL SPORTS FINALS AND HONORS

### BOYS' SOCCER

The boys' soccer team finished the season very strong with runner-up finishes in both the Maryland Private School B Championship and IPSL Championship. The boys finished with an overall record of 14-10, defeating many worthy opponents throughout the season. The Varsity Boys Coaches Award went to senior striker Clarence Wroblewski, and the JV Award went to sophomore defender Jordan Patterson.

#### IPSL All League Honorees:

Thomas Blake  
Mateo Pelja  
Aaron Hawk

### GIRLS' SOCCER

The girls' soccer team finished off their 8-12-1 season, their first season under new head coach Mark Barone, with an exclamation mark. They won the Maryland Private School B Championship over Bishop Walsh by a whopping 4 – 0. The shutout was posted by Jenna Katrina with plenty of help from her defense which included seniors Rebecca Everetts and Bronte Salgado. Senior Theresa Barton led the onslaught with a hat trick (3 goals) for the Gaels. The Girls Soccer Coaches Award went to senior midfielder Cassidy Lippert.

#### IPSL All League Honorees

Lauree Lorensen  
Theresa Barton  
Annie Cochran

### GORETTI BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS

The cross country team experienced major success this season and ended on a very high note with IPSL Championship and City Championship. The Gaels runners were led by Mitchell Swope (who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the City Championship), Patrick Jones (who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the City Championship) and Kevin Proctor (who placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the City Championship). The girls cross country team enjoyed success as well with newcomer Keeley Scott placing in the top 10 in the City Championship race. The Cross Country Coaches Awards went to Patrick Jones for the boys and Casey Caruso for the girls.

#### IPSL All League Honorees

Mitch Swope

Kevin Proctor

Patrick Jones

Patrick McDermott

Anne Marie Sullivan

Casey Caruso

Keeley Scott

### GOLF

The golf team finished off their third season at Goretti with a school record 8 wins. This year's Golf Coaches Award was awarded to Ryan Kinter. The Gaels are looking toward a strong season next year with all the players returning.

### VOLLEYBALL

The Gael volleyball team finished off their season on a high note with a win at St. James which allowed them to post a winning record of 11-10. The Gaels were led by seniors Jean Hogan, Ellie Burke, Mary Hackney, Beth Eich and up and coming freshman Abby Eich.

#### IPSL All League Honoree:

Jean Hogan

**GAEEL REPORT**

(Continued)

**ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION NEWS/EVENTS****29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT (MAIT)**Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LADY GAEL CLASSIC**Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**Ticket Prices**

A **STUDENT PASS** is available to Goretti students for \$15.00. This pass is good for the MAIT t-shirt, MAIT pass and the Lady Gael Classic Pass. **Student passes will not be available at the door. Students must purchase them at school the week before the event.**

**ADULT TICKETS** will be available at the door: \$8.00 per night OR \$15.00 for both nights.

**\*Volunteers are still needed for this event!!!**

Contact Lee Anne Phalen, 301-671-2927, or [leeanne543@yahoo.com](mailto:leeanne543@yahoo.com)

**Parent volunteers are always needed to help with the gate and concessions at home athletic events. We are all very busy, but in order to continue our successful programs, parents need to make time to help. Please volunteer and don't wait to be asked! Contact your team parents. We can't do it without you!**

**\*Reminder – All volunteers need to be “STAND” Trained. Information can be found online. on our school website. <http://goretti.org/alumni-parents/stand-training>**

**WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES**

JV Girls Basketball

Freshman Boys Basketball

Varsity Girls Basketball

JV Boys Basketball

Swimming (Co-Ed)

Varsity Boys Basketball

Schedules can be found online at <http://goretti.org/athletics/all-sports-schedules>



## 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic Invitational Tournament


**Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**

Game 1 – 6:30 PM St. Paul's vs. Bishop O'Connell  
Game 2 – 8:00 PM Bishop Walsh vs. St. Maria Goretti

**Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 PM- Consolation Game  
8:00 PM- Championship Game

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Lady Gael Classic****Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

Game 1—6:30 PM Bishop Walsh vs. Preston (WV) HS  
Game 2—8:00 PM Frederick Force vs. St. Maria Goretti

**Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

12:00 PM- Consolation Game  
1:30 PM- Championship Game






# VARSITY CLUB



## MAIT T-SHIRT CONTEST

The winning design, chosen by the student body, was "Amrit's Army", created by Michael Fairley '13 and Adam Blenckstone '14. You can see this design on the front and back of all the MAIT t-shirts, which are being sold as part of the \$15 student passes. Student shirts and passes are only available at school and will not be available at the door.



## CHRISTMAS PROJECT



The Varsity Club and National Honor Society will be teaming up to provide a Merry Christmas to less fortunate families in the community. They will be fundraising, buying presents and a Christmas dinner for each family. In order to provide a memorable Christmas, the Varsity Club and NHS need financial help. The NHS will be selling poinsettias to raise money, and the Varsity Club will be collecting donations in school. Contributors will receive a bell to show they helped. If you would like to help in any way, please contact the school, and they will assist you in reaching one of the student leaders of this project.



*Best wishes to our students, families, and friends from the Faculty, Staff, and Administration*



### Mission Statement

St. Maria Goretti High School, an archdiocesan high school, provides a coeducational environment committed to Catholic values and traditions.

Our college preparatory program emphasizes academic excellence and nurtures the whole person through spiritual and physical development. The uniqueness of each individual is recognized, respected, and affirmed by the school community. Guided by the spirit and example of St. Maria Goretti, our young men and women are prepared to lead lives of service working to shape a just and compassionate society.