Two Dynamic Teachers Join Marian Division Faculty

Mrs. Shannon Georges, science teacher, is a returning Spartan. Since her own children are all in school, she decided to come back to St. Mary’s. When she was in school, Mrs. Georges said that she only had a few teachers that she loved; and for that reason, she wanted to be the teacher whom students loved. She is still in touch with her high school math teacher.

Mrs. Georges received her major in education and minor in biology at Salem State University. She has taught in Salem, Beverly and Marblehead. She loves to run, golf, and travel.

Mr. Thomas Grassa, mathematics, is a retired Lynn Public Schools teacher. After retiring and then substituting, he decided to join the St. Mary’s Marian Division faculty. Inspired by his father to be a teacher, Mr. Grassa also loves to coach and play basketball and to run. In his free time, he enjoys carpentry.

Having taught at both the Pickering Middle School and Lynn Classical, he is able to bring a lot of teaching experience to St. Mary’s.

He has received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Salem State University and the University of Massachusetts.

by Stephanie Aucello

Mr. Thomas Grassa, Marian Division mathematics teacher
Most people think a dress code is not a good idea, but I think it is because everyday you know what you are going to wear and how it will look. At St. Mary’s, we can wear sports gear and St. Mary’s fan clothing every Friday which adds a lot of comfort to our dress code. I also think that having a dress code is good because sometimes people get bullied for certain things they like to wear; with everyone dressed the same, there is less chance of that happening.

Having a dress code can save a lot of time in the morning getting ready for school and then not being late for school or classes. And when everyone is on time for classes that makes all the faculty happy!

by Bobby Alcock

On the other hand, we should not have a dress code; we should be able to wear what we like and what is comfortable. I think the Nike DRI-FIT shirts are really cool and would look better with shorts for the boys or capris for the girls.

The khakis are comfortable for the first few hours; then they become irritating. We should have more dress down days - every Wednesday or Friday.

One good thing about the dress code is that we can wear any type of shoes; but it should not just be shoes, it should be any type of clothes.

by Nico Alex
Some people use music and sports to get rid of their problems or stresses. I do something different; I ride horses. A lot of people think it’s easy to ride a horse - just jump on and go. Well, it’s not. Try to imagine working with a 1,000 pound animal that doesn’t even speak your language.

I started riding in Texas when I was about seven years old. After about a year of riding, my sister had a bad riding accident and stopped for a while. When I turned twelve, I began riding again. Then when we moved back to Massachusetts last January, I had to stop riding again because of the difficulty and stress of a new state, a new house, a new school, and new friends.

After everything had finally settled down, my mom decided to lease a horse. Her name is Ellie; she is a retired racehorse. She was left on her own, partially. She couldn’t be trusted because of her lack of interaction with humans, was overweight from lack of exercise, and developed terrible back and leg problems.

When she finally arrived, I was extremely nervous because she didn’t trust humans. After a month of working together, we now have an unbreakable bond.

My hope is to continue working with her and one day, to become a show jumping team so that I can prove to everyone who gave up on her that she was worth it after all.

by Kiera Clark
There was never a specific moment when I decided that I really wanted to fly planes. There wasn’t “that” moment when the aviation bug bit me. Airplanes, speed, and adrenalin rushes have been my passion. I have always loved planes. To be honest, flying in a commercial airbus is my favorite part of going away with my family on vacation.

The Air Force has really been a love of mine, as well. To see these honored men and women bravely strap their aviation helmets and oxygen masks and shoot off from the runway is real eye candy to me. One day, I was talking to my grandfather about the military; he convinced me to join the Air Force. He said that’s where I belong if airplanes, speed, and rushes of adrenaline interest me. I looked into it, did tons of research, begged my parents for flying lessons, and now I’m taking them once a month at Beverly Airport; I have an ambition to join the Air Force. It sounds extreme for a fourteen year old to say, but I love flying.

My cousin was a First Captain in the Air Force. He flew F-4’s for about ten years. He’s the one who set me up with the lessons. Not only that, he taught me everything I know about airplanes, models, g-velocity, and Air Force training experience. He taught me everything I need to know except how to fly the plane. He left that to the instructors.

He set me up with Bill, an instructor who has worked at Beverly Airport for thirty-seven years. Bill took me for my first lesson which was a scenic flight, an incredible experience. I will never forget when the plane took off, seeing the big runway turn into a little line, the bright blue sky getting closer and closer, and hearing the propeller roar was an incredible experience.

The plane I’m flying now is a Piper Warrior II, a 1990 model. It is a typical single engine plane with one propeller on the front, wings on the belly, and the fuel tanks on the wings.

I’m currently learning how to stall, to land, and to turn to specific headings. It is an amazing experience. It’s well worth waiting a whole month to fly. I am waiting for my first solo at age sixteen and getting my license when I am seventeen. My plan is then to join the Air Force, serve eight years, and continue with my life flying commercially.

by C. J. Fusco
**St. Mary’s First Lego League Succeeds in Competition**

The First Lego League is a combination of robotics and Legos. Students built a Lego structured robot that will be able to overcome many obstacles. Ms. Lipscomb is running the First Lego League for St. Mary’s and is helping those who are in the program by teaching them teamwork and using imagination.

Ms. Lipscomb says, “The reason why building Legos should be fun is because it is all about using your endless imagination and using infinite possibilities to create a world.”

Sixth graders Eric Arsenault, Owen Guarino, and Ioannis Parisis successfully maneuvered their vehicle through the obstacle course.

*by Kevin Foley*

*Pictures show the vehicle and obstacle course.*

**Students Honor Veterans at Annual Veterans’ Day Ceremony**

“United We Stand” was the theme of this year’s Veteran’s Day ceremony. St. Mary’s celebrated veterans that had served in different wars. The ceremony began with the veterans and their guests walking into the gymnasium, welcomed with applause from the faculty and students.

The dance team and choir entertained the guests.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of a diploma to Francis Jamieson ’36 who left St. Mary’s as a junior in order to help support his family during the Great Depression.

Members of Lynn English High School’s ROTC performed a drill exercise.

*by Juliet Anctil and Kyle Ouellette*
Carli DiMeo ’14 Returns to St. Mary’s To Coach

When JV Volleyball was in need of a coach, Carli DiMeo, graduate of St. Mary’s and college freshman, accepted the challenge.

“Volleyball was a big part of my experience at St. Mary’s,” said DiMeo. Being part of a team built a lot of DiMeo’s character and kept her on track as a student.

She has been playing volleyball since sixth grade. “Being in college and coaching don’t collide.” She says that she can get everything done, but sleep is sometimes sacrificed.

Thinking back on her years at St. Mary’s, Coach DiMeo said that St. Mary’s prepared her for college.

When asked about her favorite things about being a volleyball player, she replied that it is the unique bond you develop with your team.”

St. Mary’s Swim Team: Sink or Swim?

With the help of swim team captain, Eric Whitcomb, and swimmer Eve Smith, the team hopes to improve this year. Whitcomb was the first swimmer to win the 50 yard free event from St. Mary’s, and Smith went to State’s Finals.

The team practices and has its home meets at the Lynn WMCA. Since there is no diving they can spend all practice time working on different strokes. The team practices from 7:00-9:00P.M. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Marian Division students on the swim team are Kati Whitcomb, Lauren Savia, Katia DiCostanzo, and Kayla Landry.

by Kyle Ouelette

St. Mary’s Mascot Chosen

by Isabel Duncan

Carli DiMeo ’14 and Coach Erin Menard

Mrs. Joanne Williams and Sportacus, St. Mary’s Mascot