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Women's

HISTORY MONTH



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As Mercy Newsprint staff we promise to keep you entertained and informed with accurate and unbiased information. Our goal is to provide timely news while promoting diversity and representing the entirety of the Mercy community. We encourage letters to the editors and any other feedback you may have. You may reach out to us through our email (newsprint@mhsmi.org), our Instagram (@mercy.newsprint), or through any of our staff members.

“Matilda” sings its way into opening night

STORY, PHOTO AND GRAPHICS: LENA LAJOY

Are you ready for a revolt? Mercy’s very own rendition of the musical “Matilda” will be performed for the very first time tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Ultimately picking “Matilda” for the spring musical this school year was not an easy process. When faced with many choices, Mercy’s theater department knew that they had to pick a show that would not only be entertaining for viewers, but also different from past shows for the cast.

“We chose “Matilda” for a couple reasons, one because it’s a challenge for the students,” Fall Play & Spring Musical Director Mrs. Shelley Bajorek said. “A lot of the characters were different then characters they have played in the past. Also, it offered a chance to cast middle schoolers.”

This musical follows a young girl named Matilda who is not treated well or wanted by her parents. Even when she is treated awfully by her parents, she still wants to help others and uses her own gifts for good.

“Matilda is about a little girl who is neglected by her family and finds solace within books and storytelling,” senior Kathryn Byrne, who plays Matilda, said. “She faces many challenges at school and in the end her strong moral compass helps her to aid her friends in need.”

To prepare for this play the students practice most of the week to make sure that all aspects of the musical are rehearsed and strong, ensuring that everyone is confident and prepared for the performances. Without the hard work of the crews (sound, stage, makeup, costume, light, prop, house publicity) and the performers themselves being completely prepared, the musical would not run smoothly, so the hours of practice are necessary.

“We have rehearsals four days a week, for the most part Monday through Thursday,” Bajorek said. “They alternate between music, dance and blocking rehearsals (blocking is the movement on stage that is not choreographed).”

With practices being so often, junior Alexis

Rounds, who plays Miss Trunchbull, has had to find ways to manage all her work so she does not become overwhelmed. To make sure she is able to accomplish all her school work and still have time to do outside activities, she has found ways to help lighten her everyday workload.

“During rehearsals there is down time since you’re not in every single scene so doing homework during rehearsals helps a lot to lighten the load so you don’t have to do a whole lot of homework,” Rounds said.

Because of the hard work students put into the musical and all the theater productions, all students, if able to, should go see “Matilda” one of the three days it is performed.

Students should specifically come to see “Matilda” to admire all the time the cast and crew has put into the production. Supporting our community and students is necessary to bring our school together. Seeing the final product that has been put together for months is exciting and a good way to relax after a long week of school.

“The musical is really fun and I think students will love it because it’s high energy and because it’s got kinda dark and more high moments,” Bajorek said. “It’s kids in a school, so it’s something they can relate to, and seeing their friends play younger students lets them relive their own childhood.”

As a part of the cast, it is exciting to hear how everyone enjoyed the production and hearing that their efforts have been appreciated by the audience. Hearing praise for one’s work helps boost confidence for the actors and affirms that their goal was reached to make people happy.

“It feels great! It’s amazing to see how much love everyone in the cast has surrounding them and it’s honestly so rewarding to see the smiles the performance brought to peoples’ faces!” Byrne said.

This musical will be different in the best way. It will not only surprise the audience, but inspire them to change aspects of their life. “Matilda” will sweep viewers off their feet and immerse them into the story,

ultimately uplifting them to stand up for themselves the same way Matilda does in the musical.

“I would say four words to sum up “Matilda” would be energetic, surprising, magical and collaborative,” Bajorek said.

Starting tonight, “Matilda” will run until this Sunday, March 19. “Matilda” will be performed March 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m., and March 19 at 2 p.m.

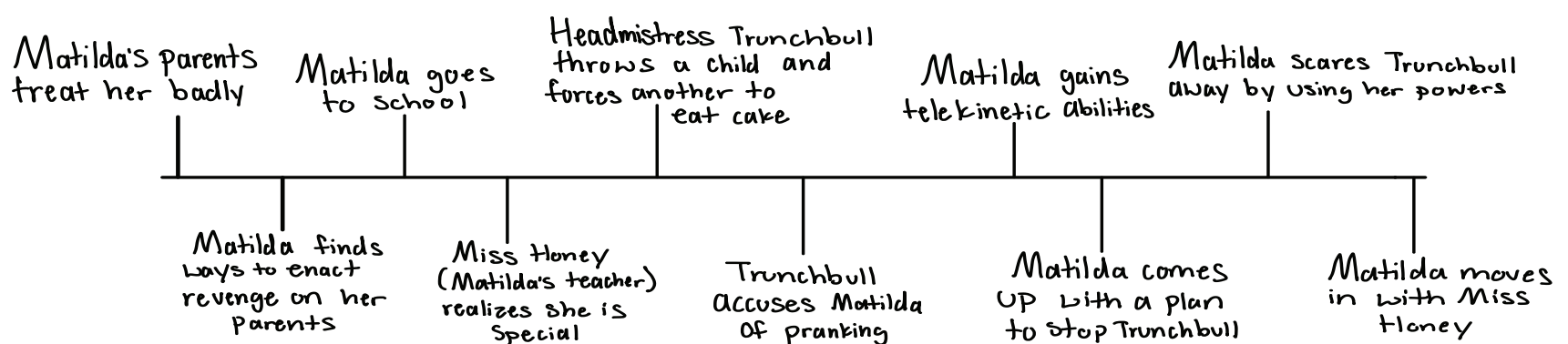


Senior Kathryn Byrne sings in “Matilda” the Musical. In rehearsal, she practiced her performance in preparation for opening night.



“Matilda” actors practice their performance. The cast worked to perfect this act to ensure the musical will be fun and entertaining for viewers.

Refresher on the plot of “Matilda”





Dive into Diversity



A look at some of the prominent traditions in Irish culture

STORY: ALYSSA TISCH, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Happy Saint Patrick’s Day! On this day, many people make sure to dress green, celebrate and think of leprechauns and shamrocks. What many people do not do, however, is take a look at the history that has led to this day. In the fourth century, St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born. By his death on March 17, 461 CE, he had made many contributions to society. He had established monasteries, churches and schools and had often been quoted as using a shamrock to explain the trinity, according to britannica.com. Ireland initially celebrated this day with religious services in his honor, but then as it spread and immigrants came to the United States, this day became about celebrating all things Irish. Now there are elaborate celebrations all over and the dying of different items green, the most famous of which being the coloring of the Chicago River.

While this holiday is a significant part of Irish culture, it is only a small portion of this rich culture, and it is important to remember that.

Another significant part of Irish culture is Irish dance. Irish dance can be performed either solo or in groups, and it is known for its intricate footwork and the lack of use of the upper body. Unlike most other forms of dance, in Irish dance one is supposed to keep their upper body stiff and non-mobile to put attention on the feet.

“There are four main dances,” sophomore Alaina Mundt said. “You do two each year and they alternate. One is always a hard shoe dance, which makes noise, and the other dance is always a soft shoe dance, which

is similar to ballet. There is a third dance that you do when you place high enough, called a set round. You do a different set every year and will most likely never do the same one more than twice.”

Irish dance is an incredibly athletic and fun sport and style of dance that one could take up. Mundt’s favorite part of Irish dance is the competitions.

“I love the competitions. Hanging out with friends the day of and waiting for awards to be announced is



Sophomore Alaina Mundt performs her Irish dance routine. Photo courtesy of Alaina Mundt.

the most fun thing for me,” Mundt said. “Usually, we’ll all practice together before we compete and then watch each other’s awards being announced. It’s super crazy and everyone is screaming and it’s definitely the most fun thing about Irish dance.”

Additionally, if looking for something to cook for Saint Patrick’s Day, there are many amazing traditional Irish meals. Many old-school Irish dishes were made from potatoes, a staple crop in Ireland in the 18th century. One example of that is the colcannon, Irish mashed potatoes mixed with cabbage or kale, according to purewow.com. Soda bread is also a common recipe and has a unique texture due to the reaction between the acidic sour milk and baking soda, which forms small bubbles of carbon dioxide in the dough. Finally, when you think of drinks in Ireland, while the main one that comes to mind is likely Guinneses, another popular drink is tea.

At her home, athletics and transportation director Kate Scalzi likes to have several of these traditional foods and drinks.

“It’s silly, but I am a tea drinker --as were my maternal grandparents on the Irish side. Sometimes when I make tea, I think about them and their lives,” Scalzi said. “I also make sure to make soda bread at least once a year.”

But as with many cultures, all of these pieces are only pieces and the main part of the culture is the people.

“I think the best part of any culture is the stories of the people,” Scalzi said. “Real people and how their lives shaped and changed our world today.”

Students begin a month of prayer and fasting for Ramadan

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MAURA MCSWEENEY

As the end of March approaches, so does the beginning of Ramadan. Ramadan is a month-long period of fasting and prayer for those who are a part of the Islamic religion and occurs during the ninth month of the twelve-month Islamic calendar. Islam is the world’s second-largest religion, behind Christianity, yet many of us still may not understand what this holiday is and what it means to the Muslim community.

According to history.com, “Ramadan is a holy month of fasting, introspection and prayer for Muslims, the followers of Islam. It is celebrated as the month during which Muhammad received the initial revelations of the Quran, the holy book for Muslims. Fasting is one of the five fundamental principles of Islam”.

“[Ramadan] is a time to strengthen your relationship with God in the form of fasting and other acts of worship,” senior Shaza Ahmed said.

Like other holidays that many of us may also be familiar with, there is a significant story behind the month, but it may look different for different people. The question of whether there are exceptions or rules for this fasting or how long they fast for has come up.

“You do not have to fast until you are considered an adult is Islam, which is after puberty,” Ahmed said.

“After that, you fast the entire month. It is more or less the same for every Muslim, regardless of the occupation. We all fast from sunrise until sunset.”

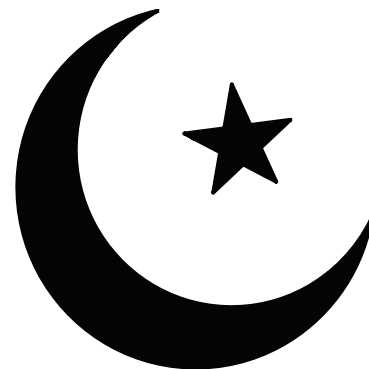
Fasting from sunrise to sunset means that there is another time to eat. Generally, Muslims eat a meal before sunrise called Suhur. The food eaten during this meal may vary depending on the culture, but it may include breakfast foods or dinner-like foods.

Ahmed also noted that while some people may think that it’s hard to go to school without having eaten, she does not think so. School can serve as a distraction from the possible hunger that an individual may experience.

“I personally like being in school during fasting because it gives me something to occupy my time with,” Ahmed said.

Ramadan serves as a time to strengthen relationships with God through forms of worship. It is extremely important to understand the significance of this tradition within the Islam religion and all traditions in other religions to grow in empathy and understanding of others’ religious experiences.

“I feel like it is important to raise awareness to all religions traditions so that we can understand other people better,” Ahmed said.



The climate crisis is getting out of hand

STORY AND PHOTOS: HELENA NAJAR

For decades, climate change has been a hot topic in politics and social media. From fierce climate change activists like Greta Thunberg to climate change deniers like former President of the United States Donald Trump, the environmental health of our earth has always been a touchy subject. But recently, with the amount of climate-related events that have occurred, the subject of climate change and its effects is more relevant than ever.

The Thwaites Glacier is in danger

One current event that is directly related to the climate crisis is the melting of the Thwaites Glacier in the Antarctic. Also called the “Doomsday Glacier,” it is the widest glacier on Earth and roughly the size of Florida. The glacier has been slowly melting and, according to the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration, has lost more than 100 billion tons of ice since the year 2000, and the amount of ice loss has doubled in the last 30 years. This ice loss accounts for roughly half of all the ice lost in Antarctica.

The glacier is extremely sensitive to climate change, and with global temperatures rising rapidly in recent years, the glacier has been melting in new ways putting it in danger of collapsing even faster than what has been predicted in previous years. The melting is primarily caused by the warming ocean. The warm ocean currents have destabilized the glacier causing cracks in its underbelly where ice is melting faster than on the rest of the ice mass.

These cracks in the bottom of the glacier are putting the entire underneath of Thwaites on the verge of collapse. The current melting from the glacier is already responsible for 4 percent of the annual global sea level rise, and if the bottom collapses, it could raise the global sea level by 25 inches, bringing devastation to coastal cities and islands worldwide.

Along with the Thwaites, ice in Antarctica has been melting exceptionally fast due to a warming ocean. According to the EPA, as greenhouse gasses trap energy from the sun, the oceans absorb more heat. This warming ocean causes changes in current and sea levels, altering climate patterns around the world, harming sea life and leaving millions of climate refugees due to natural disasters. The warming ocean can also create hurricanes by changing wind and wave patterns which in turn could lead to flooding.

Wildfires are ripping through whole communities

The rising global climate is not only harming our oceans but our land too. Wildfires have ripped through forests all around the world, leaving animal habitats in ruins and, according to the LA Times, have released about 127 metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Climate change, caused by greenhouse gas emissions, alters our climate creating warmer, drier weather conditions ultimately leading to drought and wildfires. According to the California Fire 2022 Incident Archive, there were 7,667 wildfires in California leaving about 363,939 acres of land burned and nine civilian deaths.

Wildfires are not only harming the environment in the United States but in other places around the world. Siberia, India and Australia have all seen increased numbers of wildfires in recent years, and even the places that were once immune are at risk of burning.

“Uncontrollable and devastating wildfires are becoming an expected part of the seasonal calendars in many parts of the world,” Andrew Sullivan, an author with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation in Australia, said.

A mistaken claim is that these events caused by the climate crisis do not affect humans, when it does in many ways. Wildfires especially hurt the people who live in close proximity to where the burn took place.

Poor communities specifically can be affected by climate change especially by fires. Fires can destroy crops and worsen water quality. Buildings and farms can be burnt down putting jobs at risk which can severely hurt people who are living paycheck to paycheck.

And although millions of people are hurt every year by wildfires there is still no current worldwide system of relief for victims of fires.

“It’s integral that fire be in the same category of disaster management as floods and droughts. It’s absolutely essential,” Humphrey said.

This dry climate is also causing extreme and deadly drought, which can also cause wildfires. According to Andrew Howell, a scientist at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the megadrought in the Western U.S. is a prime example of how the compound events caused by climate change are hurting our environment.

This drought in the Western U.S. has also caused the Colorado River to shrink dramatically at high-speed rates. This river is a major water source among basin states in the United States, being used for drinking water and agriculture. As the river slowly dries up 40 million people who depend on it will suffer greatly. According to Conrad Swanson at The Denver Post, experts are anticipating that as the river dries electricity rates and the price of groceries will grow. There will also be significant cuts to the agricultural and tourism industries.

Extreme weather changes is affecting daily life

Climate change causes all types of extreme weather imbalances, and rising heat levels are one of the most dangerous parts of this weather the Earth is experiencing. The Earth is currently about 2°F hotter than it was in the 1800s, and even though 2 degrees may not seem like a big deal, it is.

“Extreme heat events are more extreme than ever,” Stephanie Herring, a scientist at NOAA, said. “Research is showing they’re likely to become the new normal in the not so distant future.”

How is this connected to Mercy?

Here at Mercy, one of our major critical concerns is Earth. The Sisters of Mercy teach that one of our most important jobs is to be stewards of the Earth. Education on the environment is one of the main ways you can help curb the climate crisis. Mercy has many incredible opportunities for that, and one of them is the class AP Environmental Science, (APES).

APES is helping students to understand the importance of the environment, what is causing changes and how saving the environment is key to the prosperity of the human race.

“It is a complex puzzle,” Mrs. Kelly Muscat, an APES teacher at Mercy, said. “Increased population, urbanization, increased food needs, those things all contribute to habitat destruction, decreased biodiversity and they also contribute to greenhouse gasses.”

Humans also directly affect the environment in small ways and big ones.

“On a large scale, the processes that are needed to support people, things that provide us with higher levels of living like burning fossil fuels for energy, the computers we use, the plastics and the metals,” Muscat said.

Furthermore, climate change is not an isolated issue.



Craig Lorraine from the company Enviva talks to Mrs. Schmitt's 6th hour APES class about climate change and renewable energy sources.

Humans are negatively impacting the Earth in many ways and climate change is only one result of the harm we are causing.

“It affects all living things, not just humans,” Muscat said. “As global temperatures rise a lot of species are losing their habitats which can lead to extinction.”

As young people, it is easy to brush these things off, thinking it does not apply to us, but contrary to that popular belief, climate change is directly affecting our everyday lives.

“Think about the storms we’ve gotten,” Muscat said. “Ice storms in February are not really common around here but yet so many of our students were without power for days on end; that is one example of how it can affect you and you didn’t even realize it.”

It is our job as Mercy Students to care for the Earth and to help lessen the impact we have on the environment. In order to fulfill our task to be stewards of the Earth, Mercy has a Green Club which is helping to educate and promote sustainable practices at our school.

“One of the biggest things we’re working on right now is just education,” Dr. Kristine Daley, Green Club moderator, said. “When we meet, we watch videos and discuss the impact of our human practices on the environment.”

Along with education, the Green Club is working on reestablishing practices that were once daily routines at Mercy.

“We are going to implement recycling because we used to have that here, prior to COVID,” Daley said. “So getting recycling bins out and getting that practice back in Mercy and teaching about what to or what not to recycle.”

The Green Club is also trying to show Mercy students how they can help the environment in their daily lives outside of school.

“My husband, who’s an engineer at Ford, will say ‘you might want your car warmed up in the morning during the winter’ but having a car sitting ideally in your driveway, if you have a regular fuel engine, you’re releasing a lot of CO2,” Daley said.

“Taking a look at, when you go to the store, what kind of packaging you’re using,” Daley said. “A lot of our health and beauty products come in lots of plastics, right? So you can go to different stores in the area and you can bring your own containers in for soap or those sorts of things, so you’re not throwing away that container every single time that you are using it.”

“It’s simple things like that, if every one person can think of one thing that you can do differently, you can make a difference,” Daley said.

Highlighting successful women of Mercy

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MAURA SULLIVAN AND ALYSSA TISCH

This year for Women’s History Month, *Newsprint* wants to acknowledge a few of the many impactful alumnae from Mercy High School. These alumnae come from a wide range of careers and experiences, and offer advice and inspiration that every student can draw from today.

Danielle Canepa ‘05

One successful alumna from Mercy High School is Danielle Canepa (class of 2005). Canepa went to Sarah Lawrence College in New York for her undergraduate studies, spent five years in Europe studying human rights and then came back to the United States to attend Harvard Law School. Currently, she is a lawyer working at Pitt McGehee Palmer Bonanni & Riveres.

At this firm, Canepa practices employment and civil rights law and represents the plaintiffs or the people who bring the case to court. In this line of work she faces several challenges.

“The workload is hard,” Canepa said. “It eats into my time with my family. That’s a tradeoff that I have made and I struggle with every single day.”

Furthermore, in practicing the type of law that she does, Canepa deals with painful issues that people face that can be a challenge to cope with.

“There are times where the things that my clients experienced really are very painful and moving to me and that can take a toll,” Canepa said. “You need to take breaks. You have to make time for things like exercise and social time with your friends and family to decompress and reset just so you can keep going, doing the work and not just staying in that dark, difficult space.”

On the other hand, dealing with these difficult realities can also be rewarding. This job gives her the ability to create close connections with her clients, something that gives her purpose.

There are several people who have greatly impacted Canepa’s life and its course thus far, two of which being prior Mercy teachers, Mr. Baker and Mr. Schusterbauer.

Nadia Khoury ‘99

Another Mercy alum who continues to make a difference is 1999 graduate Dr. Nadia Khoury. After graduating from Mercy, Nadia went on to dual major in Political Science and Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of Michigan, where she graduated with High Honors and Distinction in 3.5 years. Khoury then attended Case Western Reserve University for medical school. She finished her post-graduate training at Washington University in St. Louis/Barnes-Jewish Hospital, where she specialized in Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism. Today, Khoury is a physician in Southfield, Michigan, specializing in endocrinology, which is the study of conditions related to hormones.

“I am a community practice doctor specializing in disorders of hormones (thyroid, adrenal, pituitary, parathyroid, etc) and diabetes,” explains Khoury. “I have been in private practice with my father for the past 10 years. Our office is in Southgate (Downriver) and we are affiliated with Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital and Beaumont-Trenton, Taylor, and Dearborn.”

Khoury has always understood the hard work and sacrifice required for her to accomplish her goals.

“I grew up going in the car with my dad on the weekends when he rounded in the hospitals. I worked in the office as a front desk receptionist from middle school all the way through college,” Khoury said. “I learned about sacrifice and hard work watching both my parents working full time as physicians and as parents. I keyed in on what I love (talking and helping people) and made that my career.”

Khoury believes her parents taught her the dedication and determination she needed to reach her goals.

“They are immigrants from Syria,” Khoury said. “They gave everything for my sister

“They supported me to believe in my intellectual ability and thereby one day my professional ability,” Canepa said.”They also taught hard classes and I believe that some students actually need to be challenged to be engaged. I went from being an average and not engaged student to being really energized by my studies and having teachers who held me to a high standard while still being personally supportive to me.”

These teachers, among many, played key roles in her life and Canepa encourages everyone to seek out that kind of a connection. One way she recommends reaching others and creating this connection is through something she calls the cold email, or emailing someone who’s life or career you are interested in and asking them to talk even if you don’t really know them.

“People always want to help the next generation and those who are coming up behind them and people who are interested and have initiative,” Canepa said. “So email anybody that you are curious about and often it will lead to either great advice, a job opportunity, another connection or it will help you collect information.”

Canepa also says that she would love for anyone to send her this cold email and her email address is deanepa@pittlawpc.com.

She believes that Mercy truly sets people up to succeed and that everyone has the capability to go far.

“You can do anything that you want,” Canepa said. “Mercy is so wonderful because it sets you up with such a strong foundation so that once you get into the room and are the only woman or the youngest woman by a couple of decades you feel a sense of confidence that you can handle this.”

(Laura Khoury, class of 1996) to succeed and thrive in the United States.”

In her line of work, Khoury enjoys the satisfaction of helping people and seeing them change. One of the highlights of her career was her time spent in Eastern Africa.

“In 2010, I worked for a month in a hospital in Asmara, Eritrea in Eastern Africa. I practiced and taught medicine with the most basic of resources,” Khoury said. “I learned a lot about myself and myself as a doctor and how lucky we are in the United States for what we have here.”

Khoury believes that Mercy played a pivotal role in her development and was a great stepping stone on her path to becoming a doctor.

“My Mercy education provided me with an excellent start for the rest of my life. Through the French I learned, I was able to intern in the Canadian Parliament with a French-speaking Party (Bloc Quebecois). Through my AP classes and advanced classes, I was able to complete a dual major including honors in 3.5 years. Through connections I made at Mercy, I am still involved in the Benton Harbor Readiness Center and have made friends for life through there,” Khoury said.

Khoury attributes Mercy for not only her education, but also her religious development. She said that Mr. Wright, a previous religion teacher at Mercy, was someone who helped change the course of her life.

“I was bordering on Atheist by freshman year,” Khoury said. “I was forced to learn religion as a subject matter and by learning about it, I learned to appreciate it and I was able to build a true relationship with God and establish my true faith.”

Khoury does have some advice for Mercy students.

“Experience everything you can. Don’t quit - keep trying. Don’t try to get out of things.”

Adelia Davis ‘13

Yet another impactful alumna from Mercy High School is Adelia Davis, class of 2013. Davis has been very successful in managing not just one, but two jobs.

“I am a child/parent psychotherapist for a nonprofit organization in Illinois called Children’s Home & Aid. Through that role, I work with children who are 0 to 5 years old as well as their parents or caregivers to help them heal from trauma and have a stronger bond,” Davis said. “I also have my own organization called Story Shifters which is an organization where I do youth programming, often around the two children’s books that I have written and published called ‘Nia’s Question’ and ‘Noelle’s Beats.’”

Davis has had a unique route to get to this point, and encourages others to not be afraid of things not always going according to plan. Davis had attended the University of Michigan for her undergraduate years where she studied Biopsychology, Cognition and Neuroscience before later going on to attend the University of Chicago for her Master’s in social work. However, rather than going straight from one school to the other as she initially had planned, Davis ended up taking several years off in between.

Davis had decided to apply to a self directed service project grant called the Wallenberg Fellowship that is awarded to one graduating senior each year from the University of Michigan. Davis was selected to receive this grant and opted to go to South Africa.

“I wanted to go back to South Africa because I noticed how racially polarizing the country, but especially the city of Cape Town was,” Davis said. “I wanted to look at the

Another alumna from Mercy who has had incredible success in her career is Kelly Schaefer, class of 1988, who is currently the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at Northwestern University.

“We do a lot of the stuff that is outside of a student’s classroom experience while in college,” Schaefer said. “So dorm life, dining, the help center, the counseling center and all the student activities. There are 32 departments in student affairs at Northwestern and I have a subsection of them called student engagement.”

In this subsection of student engagement, there are many components. Schaefer’s department runs freshman orientation, continual programing throughout the year focusing on transitions, campus life, which includes working with the town of Evanston, greek life and student activities, religious/spiritual life and finally graduation.

One part of her job that can be challenging at times, however, is how with her job, she oversees a lot of the negative parts of campus life.

“My work is often my life given what I do and at my level I see a lot of the hard things,” Schaefer said. “I don’t see a lot of the good things anymore. I get a lot of the problems that my team deals with that escalate. So I get to help solve problems but that is often only what I’m doing.”

Something that she does enjoy doing though is helping to adjust new students to college life.

Danielle Spiewak

Danielle Spiewak, now referred to by the title of Captain Danielle Spiewak, is another Mercy graduate (1996) who has made a major impact.

After graduating from Mercy, Danielle attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical in Daytona Beach, Florida where she studied aeronautical science and air traffic control Today, she is a pilot for FedEx Express, flying a Boeing 767. When asked about her path to a career in aviation, Spiewak explained that flying has always been a part of her life.

“Growing up in an aviation family, I always loved flying. I am a third generation pilot. My grandfather was the first in the family, and my dad followed suit,” Spiewak said. “I didn’t always know how much of a passion I would actually have for aviation, but once I found my path all the hard work and challenges have been worth every ounce of blood, sweat and tears.”

Working for an international organization, Spiewak often flies overseas transporting important packages and medical supplies, and providing humanitarian relief to areas affected by war or natural disasters. When looking back on her career, especially her last twelve years at FedEx, Spiewak explained she enjoys feeling like she is a part of something bigger than herself.

Spiewak credits Mercy for playing a major role in shaping her development. She explained that she still feels a direct connection with Mercy’s core values. Spiewak believes in particular,

curriculum the children were being taught to understand how it was impacting the way they were developing a sense of self.”

While there, Davis was able to accomplish a great deal. She created a lot of programming both inside and outside of school, hosted spelling bee competitions, went on field trips to the Modern African Art Museum and created a week long girls empowerment camp called “Yes She Can”. This was a life changing experience for her and had she stayed stuck in her initial plan, it never would have happened.

Two people that have really inspired Davis and helped her down her path are her parents.

“My mom has always talked to me about inequality in the world even from a young age and helped me to love myself from the beginning. We live in a world that does not put blackness or black features on a pedestal, but she has always taught me to love who I am,” Davis said. “Then my parents, especially my dad after my fellowship, supported me financially to be able to volunteer and start Story Shifters before I could find other avenues of funding. So to be able to support my dreams even when it wasn’t necessarily profitable, I really appreciated it.”

For Mercy girls today, Davis encourages students to be patient with themselves and to trust the process. She also suggests reading aloud everyday the affirmations she does with her students in her programming.

“I am smart. I am kind. I am beautiful. I am important. I can do anything.”

Kelly Schaefer ‘88

“I like to think about who you are coming into university and helping get you what you need to have your best experience,” Schaefer said.

Schaefer did not always want to do this as a career though and had studied education at Bowling Green State University in her undergraduate studies with an intent to become a teacher. Her friend Karen, however, pushed her to change paths. Schaefer was a student leader in college and had organized and set up many different events at her school. One day, her friend told her that she should do this for a living and pushed her to apply to graduate school and go into student affairs.

“She wanted me to apply to grad school and wanted me to go to Western [Illinois University],” Schaefer said. “I hadn’t turned in my application yet and it was due and she got really mad. She was mad because she was like I think you would be really good at this and you have to turn it in. So I did and if I had missed that deadline, that would have been really life changing.”

Schaefer also left some advice for Mercy girls today.

“My advice for Mercy girls would be to find that person that you love and trust and that loves and trusts you,” Schaefer said. “Also really think about the daily occurrences and how you make sense and meaning of the occurrences that happen in your life to develop your purpose.”

she is compelled by Mercy’s spirit and connection.

“I do my best every day to live my life and do my job following the values that were instilled in me from my first day at Mercy over 30 years ago,” Spiewak said. “To me, Mercy High School is a place for sisterhood and unity where woman empowerment helps to shape and strengthen girls into women who can rule the world. We are taught there isn’t anything we can’t do. Through Mercy’s core values we are taught to lead with our unique gifts, while maintaining our moral compass to make a positive difference in the world around us. It is those Mercy Values, more than anything, that have helped shape me into the leader that I am today.”

When asked what her advice would be to today’s Mercy students, Spiewak notes that students should appreciate the time they have at Mercy while they have the chance, because it goes by before you know it.

“The more involved you get, the more memories you will make, so make the most of every experience,” Spiewak said. “Find your passion, do what you love. And never forget, Once a Mercy Girl, always a Mercy Girl!”.

The Riveters: bringing an old icon to a new age

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MAURA SULLIVAN

Are you fascinated by the advancements in the world of robotics and artificial intelligence? If so, the Mercy robotics team may be the place for you. Mercy's Robotics Team 1481 was originally established at North Farmington High School as the RoboRaiders, however in 2007 the team disbanded. The number remained unused until 2014, when it was decided to bring the FIRST robotics team to a more underrepresented, all female student group, Mercy High School. And thus, the Riveters were born.

According to the website, 1481riveters.com, the team voted to be called the Riveters in celebration of Rosie the Riveter, an iconic WWII symbol of female empowerment and who "represents who [they] are as women in STEM and who [they] strive to be". The team has even adopted Rosie's slogan, "We Can Do It!"

Junior Jess Kohler has been a member of the robotics team since her freshman year.

"I was looking for a new club to join and my best friend (who was already in robotics) told me to join," Kohler said. "I showed up to a few meetings in the pre-season and fell in love."

Previous robotics experience is not required to become a Riveter, just an interest, creativity and problem-solving skills.

"We start by recruiting people and teaching them how to use everything in the workshop," junior and three-year robotics team member Ellery Long said. "The first whole half of the season is just trying to get people comfortable with everything and teach them how to use all the tools."

Therefore, much of the time in robotics is spent exploring and learning how to use the tools needed to create the robots for competition season. After the initial meetings, team members

join a subgroup.

"Tasks differ based on what subgroup you belong to and what time of season it is," Kohler said. "For BAD (business and development) our meetings will consist of writing proposals, emailing sponsors, and creating artwork for our merchandise. For SAD (strategy and drive) we will do drills and drive the robot around, practicing different strategies. CAD (computer aided design) will create parts of our robot using computer programming. FAD (fabrication and design) will build parts of our robot either by hand or using one of the machines in our shop. PEP (programming and pneumatics) will code the robot and wire it, which allows it to drive. We all work together to make our season a success."

All the work put in throughout the school year leads to the competition season, which is just now starting for the Riveters. At competition the team is randomly paired with two other teams to form a team of three robots. This group competes against other groups of three (called an alliance), attempting to get ranking points. The task for this year is to place cubes and cones in patterns and on a balancing platform to get points. The points of each team are calculated based on their wins and losses, and the best teams advance to the playoffs. Once in the playoffs, teams can choose their own alliances and will compete against other alliances in their bracket until the best alliance wins. On competition day, everyone plays a role.

"Our drive team (5 people) control the robot while the rest of our team scouts other teams in order to pick an alliance, as well as help repair damages to our robot and correct any errors," Kohler said.



Riveters finalize their robot on the day of first competition. Photo courtesy of Ellery Long.

Despite their experience and teamwork, the team still faces challenges, especially when it comes to design.

"This season we have faced challenges with the design of the robot. It has had to be redesigned many times, and certain elements have had to be recreated a lot," Kohler said.

However, despite the challenges, now that the team is heading closer towards competition season Long is very optimistic.

"We are really excited for this season. We really do think that we can make it to States and possibly even Worlds," Long said. "We are ahead of schedule which is almost unheard of. Our robot is working very well. We feel really good, this robot is awesome. We're really confident this season because we just have an awesome robot and everyone was able to put so much into this robot."

Art students commemorate their hardwork

STORY, PHOTO AND GRAPHICS: LENA LAJOY

Every year, Mercy puts on a Student Art Show where students, faculty and staff can come together to admire the amazing artwork made over the year.

When deciding what art will be shown in the art exhibit, time is taken to look at all the works made by students to ensure everyone is given a fair chance. The process is not taken lightly and many different pieces are looked at before the final selections are made.

"What we do is we look from April 2022 to March 2023 and we pick the best pieces that have been created in the art department through that time," Mrs. Susan Smith the Art Department Chairperson said. "Mrs. Kavanaugh and I are curating the show and we are looking for pieces that turned out very well in class and that are strong in terms of design and technique."

Senior Jaye McNeil, an art student who was one of seven Mercy students who recently was awarded a Gold key for her artwork, finds the exhibit to be a great way for students to be recognized for their hard work and talent.

"The importance of the art show is to celebrate the achievements of all the artists displayed,"

McNeil said. "I also think that the show could inspire some people to take an art class."



Students prepare art pieces for the gallery. The students worked hard to prepare their artwork for all Students to come see at the student Art show. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Susan Smith

The Student Art Show is also important due to its ability to show our community a side of some students that many may not know. Since we do not all have the same classes, we can not know some

students' passions and specialties. By going to the art show, we can learn more about our classmates and their talents.

"Sometimes I think we do not always realize what students are doing in their other classes. We may know one aspect of their personality, but we do not necessarily know all the things they are pursuing," Smith said.

The art show is additionally special because it honors students who have spent hours working on their art. The student art show can give young artists, especially freshmen who have just started at Mercy, confidence to pursue art in the future.

"Both the art program at Mercy and the gold key has raised my confidence in my art generally, and has inspired me to do more," freshman Sydney Brooks said.

The Student Art Show is a great opportunity to come out and support Mercy's art department. Since it is going on at the same time as the musical and Open House, stopping by in the lobby and taking time to look over all the incredible art pieces on display is a great way to expose yourself to new people and interests.

Ski team achieves success despite Michigan weather

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MAURA MCSWEENEY

18 years. That is how long it has been since the Mercy ski team has made it to states as a team. This streak ended this past season as the ski team managed to qualify for the state championships that took place on February 27. A roster made up of seven girls led by senior captains, Alaina Hatcher and Mikayla Williams, encountered many challenges, but managed to overcome and achieve their goals.

This winter has been hectic to say the least when it comes to the weather and snow. It seems as if it is snowing and icy out in the morning when students arrive at school and sunny and dry when they leave. This unusual weather plays a large part in outdoor high school sports because they rely on fields, tracks, and courses to practice and compete. For skiing in particular, when the snow doesn't come, they have no choice but to cancel practice. Without snow, there is nothing for them to do, leaving their practice time and them at the mercy of the weather.

"The weather was so bad this season. We would have practice canceled all the time, and there

was even one race where it was 45 degrees and there was visible dirt on the ground," Hatcher said. "We had to move every single postseason race, including regionals and divisionals, from the Thursday it was supposed to be on to the following Monday or Tuesday because of the snow, or, in some cases, lack thereof."

In addition to facing the weather, the small team of seven had one freshman, two sophomores, two juniors, and two seniors. While having some experience on the roster was good, it is always a concern when it comes to team bonding when there is such a difference in grade levels. For this team, though, it made their team bond even stronger.

"Honestly, [having a smaller team] brought us closer together and team bonding has been much stronger," Hatcher said. "[Mikayla and I] really worked hard to be inclusive and have those team activities like team sleepovers, team dinners, and just making sure everyone was close."

Skiing is a sport that, even though it is individual racing, a stronger team bond can make the team even stronger. This team bond was really

displayed throughout the seasons and especially when it came time for postseason.

"The season went really well. We got second place at almost every race and got first place in two races," Hatcher said. "And then for the end of the season races, we did really well and made it to states for the first time in 18 years. Everyone individually improved over the course of the season as well."

Hatcher also reflected on how much this accomplishment means to her after a few years of lost chances and close losses. Two years ago, the team earned 5th place and last year, the team placed 4th, falling one spot short of qualifying for the state championship. Despite these setbacks, the team came back better than ever, willing to beat the odds.

"Last year, a lot of little things went wrong and we were so close to qualifying which was really frustrating," Hatcher said. "We worked so hard this season and it was so good to see all of our accomplishments come together."

ATHLETIC EVENTS COMING UP

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| 20 Lax JV tryouts Dance team parent meeting | 21 Lax JV tryouts Soccer V + JV scrimmage at Berkley | 22 Lax JV tryouts Dance team tryouts | 23 V Lax vs. SCA Soccer game @ NDP | 24 Practices Keep an eye out for Newsprint Insta coverage of spring sports!! |
| 25 JV Softball vs. Foley V Lax @ St. Vrsula | 26 Lax vs. Marian V Softball @ DCD Lax Kick-off meeting | 27 | 28 JV Softball @ Regina V Softball @ SCA | 29 Soccer @ Regina JV Lax @ DC |



Mercy's ski team participated in many competitions this season, bringing home many wins. Photo courtesy of Amelia Lampi.

Spring sports begin as expectations for season grow

STORY: MAURA MCSWEENEY

Spring sports have officially started as of Monday, March 13, with tryouts happening over the course of this past week. The anticipation for many sports has built up over the past winter season, with athletes putting in off season training in order to achieve success this season. Lacrosse, soccer and softball have all been working the past couple months in anticipation of successful seasons.

Lacrosse has been doing conditioning at an off-campus facility since January, and it is considerably more intense than anything that they have done before. Regardless of the large number of players for lacrosse, the athletes must be in shape and prepared in order to fulfill the high expectations that have been set for this season.

"This season, our preseason training

has been a lot more intense and involved than usual," senior Olivia Gray said. "It will definitely positively impact us and show visible results on the field during this season."

Gray has played lacrosse at Mercy since freshman year and noted that she has had a phenomenal experience in the program. She also contributes to the notion that this team could achieve a successful season with hard work and dedication despite losing seniors who contributed heavily to the team's past success.

"The team is looking very strong and has lots of talent across old and new," Gray said. "We hope to make it to the state championship."

In addition to lacrosse, softball and soccer have high expectations to exceed this season. Last season, the softball team made it to the

quarterfinals of the postseason before losing to a competitive Allen Park team, who went on to the state championship. The team only graduated one senior this past year and has a solid lineup all around for pitching, hitting, and fielding heading into the season. On the other hand, soccer won districts last year in a respectable fashion.

"Last year, we worked really hard so winning districts was a big accomplishment," senior captain Allison Contat said. "Heading into this year, we have high hopes but we know that we will have to work hard to accomplish expectations."

With a lot of returning talent for both programs, it is safe to say that success is on the horizon for Mercy Athletics this upcoming spring season.

Hip-hop celebrates its 50th birthday

STORY: MIRANDA MULLIGAN

This year is going to be remarkable in the world of hip-hop as we celebrate the 50th year of hip-hop music and appreciate the genre's influence.

During the Grammys on February 5, hip-hop got a well-deserved performance tribute. Questlove, a drummer and DJ for band The Roots, was in charge of producing the celebratory tribute. The 15 minute performance included past and present hip-hop artists from female icon Missy Elliot to modern day rap star, Lil Baby.

The performance was such a success because it pleased hip-hop fans which was something

the popular award show struggled with achieving in the past. Artists including LL Cool and Salt-N-Pepa boycotted the first ever Grammys for its lack of inclusion towards hip-hop. Now, however, they were a part of this performance as a way to show their appreciation towards the Grammys efforts to include hip-hop artists and their work.

Celebrations are also going outside of the Grammys. The longest ongoing celebration is a documentary PBS released called "Fight the Power, How Hip-hop Changed the World", that focuses on the struggles and triumphs for the genre. Even the streaming service Paramount

Plus added a hip-hop section on their platform through Showtime where they highlighted a collection of different documentaries, series and movies from the past three years.

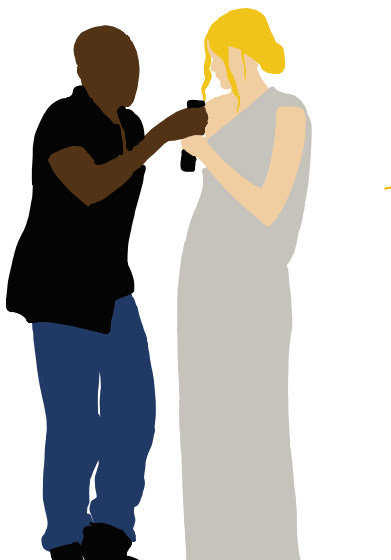
Philadelphia is also hosting some celebrations of their own as the city played a huge role in launching hip-hop to where it is today. Throughout all of 2023 Philly is hosting different events including a Juneteenth parade festival and exclusive concerts from Philly artists.

All in all these Hip-hop celebrations appreciate what hip-hop is today and celebrates all the hard work people have put into the genre to get it where it is currently.

Music award mishaps spark drama

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MIRANDA MULLIGAN

Live award shows tend to be a magnet for bizarre moments, mistakes and celebrity extremes. Whether it's a purposely planned outfit, unscripted interruption during a speech or announcing the wrong award these moments never fail to get people talking. these are some of the most memorable award show mishaps.



After Taylor swift received the award for best female video at the 2009 VMAs, Kayne West took the mic from Swift and said "Beyonce had one of the best music videos of all time." The interruption shocked the audience and started a feud between the two celebrities



The 2011 BET awards things went wrong after a guest presenter misspoke. Tiffany Green declared Chris Brown to be winner of the Viewers Choice Award to then reveal that Rihanna actually was the one to receive the award. Green later posted a tweet saying that the iPad and the teleprompter stated different names. However in the end the one to receive the award was neither Chris Brown or Rihannia but the host of that night Kevin Hart.



At the 2010 VMAs, Lady Gaga stunned paparazzi when she walked the red carpet wearing a dress made out of raw steak. Although the flank steak was properly treated to remove any bacteria, it didn't stop news outlets from gossiping about the extravagant ensemble.

Editorial: You can help stop climate change

STORY: NEWSPRINT STAFF

We live in a world where everything is changing. Some changes have been good, other changes not so much. The earth’s climate has always been changing, going through periods of cold like the Ice Age and global warming now.

Climate change has become increasingly prominent in the last 35 years, in the eyes of both the public and governments. Climate change is exactly what it sounds like, the climate is changing. While it is common for the climate to change, it is changing way faster and more intensively than it has in the past.

Global warming has an impact on almost everyone everywhere. Even if someone does not live in a spot directly affected by global warming yet, they are affected indirectly by it.

The environment is suffering the most from the rapid change in climate.

Huge melting Antarctic glaciers contribute to the rising sea levels that could wreak havoc on coastal cities. The numerous wildfires have displaced millions of people. Chopping down forests allows the Earth to warm, while also destroying the home for many animals and a food source for humans.

Another problem that the environment has to deal with is deforestation. Deforestation is one of the biggest contributors to global warming. When forests and jungles are destroyed, they can no longer hold carbon dioxide in their leaves, so it is released back into the atmosphere. They also are no longer able to convert that carbon dioxide into oxygen.

Even though carbon dioxide only makes up .04% of the atmosphere, it is the most dangerous and prevalent greenhouse gas since the Industrial Revolution when humans decided to start burning fossil fuels.

Ever since then, the amount of fossil fuels burned increased, with humans needing more of a limited source. If we keep using fossil fuels at this rate, we will run out, but by then, it could be too late to save the Earth.

Climate change also displaces 20 million people per year. According to activist Greta Thunberg, “This is a question of life and death for countless people.”

The most vulnerable people are bearing the brunt of this crisis. They are the most likely to be displaced because of flood, drought or wildfires. They do not have the resources to rebuild after a natural disaster, forcing people to move.

“That also makes it a moral crisis,” Thunberg said.

Climate change has already made millions of people suffer, but this is just the beginning. If there is not something done soon, this crisis will only get worse.

Mercy girls can help make a difference and slow down global warming. Educating yourself and then doing what you have learned is the best way to combat climate change.

Carpool, use public transport or bike instead of always driving. This way, the same amount of people get to the same area while releasing less greenhouse gasses from cars.

Another way to help fight climate change is to not start your car until you have to go. Michigan is cold in the winter, so instead of warming up your car, bring a blanket to sit on or wear pj pants and a sweatshirt.

Some more ways that Mercy girls can help combat climate change are by recycling, turning off lights when you leave a room, washing clothes with cold water, and bringing your own bag when you go shopping.

These all seem like little things, but added up, they can make a big difference and significantly help slow down global warming.

3 X 3 THREE BY THREE: LENT EDITION 3 X 3

STORY, PHOTO AND GRAPHICS: HELENA NAJAR



Claire Rogan: 2025



Maria Eichholzer: Staff



Katie Kowalyk: 2023

Did you give up anything for Lent? If so, what?

“I gave up ice cream.”

“No, not this year.”

“I didn’t give anything up.”

What else are you doing during Lent to grow in your faith?

“I’ve been praying more consistently.”

“I have been trying to do meditation every morning.”

“I’m trying to have a better attitude, be more positive and kinder and live more like Jesus did.”

Have you kept your Lenten promises so far?

“Yes, I think I have.”

“So far yes, fingers crossed.”

“I have stumbled a few times, it hasn’t been super easy but I think it’s the idea that counts.”

How to: Make a Shamrock Shake

STORY AND GRAPHICS: JULIA LORELLI, SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROMOTIONS EDITOR

A tasty treat that many consume during the month of March is the Shamrock Shake served by McDonald’s. However, not everyone wants to drive to a McDonald’s to get one and they sometimes run out or their ice cream machine is broken. It would also be a great summer time treat, but unfortunately, the Shamrock Shake is only available from McDonald’s through March. Luckily, there are ways to make one of these delicious shakes at home, anytime.

Directions:

- 1 Combine ice cream, milk, mint extract and food coloring into a blender
- 2 Mix until smooth
- 3 Divide into glasses
- 4 Pour mixture evenly between glasses
- 5 Dress it up and serve!



Check out our
March Spotify
playlist!



Open Spotify
and Scan to
Listen!

February Photo Recap



The cast of “Matilda” rehearses before play weekend. “Matilda” premieres tonight and runs through Sunday.



The French Club hosts a Valentine’s bake sale. An annual tradition, the bake sale raises money for French Honor Society.



Mercy Lore hosts the first ever Oscar night for Senior Superlatives on March 6. The night was a hit with many seniors winning awards. Photo courtesy of Mercy Lore.