

MARIANEWS

Marian High School – Tamaqua, PA 18252

February 2016

Marian Celebrates Catholic School Week

By Alexi Zukas

At the beginning of the month, Marian celebrated Catholic Schools Week. It all started with an open house on Sunday January 31. On Monday, the students kicked things off with a “Lady Gaga” party, lip sync battles, and hamster balls. Some of the teachers even did a little lip syncing. Tuesday was celebrated with a hypnotist who got a good laugh out of the student body. Joe Jordan’s “O snap” every time the word hypnotist was said was a funny interruption in the presentation. Wednesday was our ice cream party at the lunch periods. We had a guest speaker talk about relationships to us on Thursday hopefully giving everyone some do’s and don’ts in friendships, and on Friday we ended the week with a boys volleyball tournament. I have got to say, the faculty did a pretty good job in it. All in all, the week was fun and we were all eager to get back to work the Monday after, since every day was a short schedule for classes. Think of CSW’s as a company picnic of sorts. We have fun for a time, and our productivity increases afterwards (hopefully).



Daniel Simmons shows how it's done

Mr. Smith and Mr. Heugal dance up a storm to great applause



Hypnotized nap?

Upcoming events -

Mar 1 – Failure Warnings
Mar 3-5 County Band
Mar 9 – Language Mass
Mar 10– Gold Activity

Mar 6 – Penance Service
Mar 20 – Palm Sunday
Mar 22 Blue Activity
Mar 24-28 – Easter Break

Newspapers should proofread!

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant



Why listen to a Groundhog?

By Cassie Casella

Have you ever thought that it was ridiculous that we take advice from a rodent? Well put your curiosity to rest, here's why. The first Groundhog Day was on February 2, 1887, celebrated at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. But it started long before this. If you look back a few centuries it runs though ancient Christian traditions for Candlemas day, when the clergy would bless and distribute candles to get through the winter. This day is mid-point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox, right in the middle of winter. According to an old English song:

*If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Come, Winter, have another flight;
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,
Go Winter, and come not again.*

Germans expanded on this concept by selecting an animal—the hedgehog—as a means of predicting weather by seeing his shadow. The Germans then came to America, especially here in Pennsylvania, and continued this tradition but changed the rodent to groundhogs, given the abundance of groundhogs in the area. Thank you Germany, we listen to rodents even though he has only been right 39% of the time, unless you are a fan, then it's 100%.



French Groundhog's Day

February 2 is Groundhog Day in the U.S.; however, in France they celebrate Candlemas Day ("Chandeleur"). Naturally the celebration involves food. Each person makes a crêpe. You flip the crêpe while holding a coin in the left hand. If the crêpe falls back into the pan that is a good sign- you will have money all year.

Mrs. Heffelfinger's French 2 class had a competition for the day. From the pictures you can see it's not easy.



Big Guns at Marian

February 3 brought some big political figures to Marian. Our 2015-2016 Football team was given awards from our state for District Champs. Present were the Representatives from our various counties: Doyle Heffley and Jerry Knowles – Carbon, Neil Goodman – Schuylkill, Tara Toohil - Luzerne and State Senator David Argyle. Good Job Colts!



WINTER BLUES

This winter hasn't been too bad so far with cold, although the two feet of snow Schuylkill County got at the end of January wasn't nice. Then add the one in February and I can honestly say I'm sick of winter. But things are looking up. Spring is right around the corner. The date depends on which spring you want. March 1 marks the first day of meteorological, or climatological, spring for the Northern Hemisphere. The vernal equinox occurs the evening of March 20 in the United States. This marks the start of astronomical spring. Additionally, there are solar seasons, which are categorized by the length of daylight hours. Because of this, solar spring began in February. So take your pick. I choose Solar since it means we

are in spring now and the crocus bulbs blooming in my yard are with me. But just in case you forget that God has a sense of humor, check out these pictures to remind you that we don't choose when it's spring.



The Selection series by Kiera Cass

A book review by Molly Carnish

Are you a fan of the popular television show *The Bachelor* or *The Bachelorette*? Whether you are or not, you may be a fan of *The Selection* series by Kiera Cass. This book centers around a seventeen-year-old girl named America Singer who lives in a sort of dystopian world with eight castes, depending on one's social and economic status. America happens to be a five, earning her the job of a musician. Ones are the royalty caste and it has come the time that Prince Maxon must begin his Selection, which is a competition for his heart and the crown. Thirty-five girls are chosen to compete. America is one of them, but actually does not want to compete, due to her love interest back home. However, she decides to stick it out so that her family will be provided with money. She explains to Maxon that she only exchange for slowly starts more so romance and attacking the cases of kept me on the way and highly action, and



wants to be friends and offers an insight to the other girls in her staying. He agrees and they become close friends. America to feel confused about her feelings for Maxon and becomes even when someone else enters the palace as a guard. In between the friendship aspects of the book, there is a constant fear of rebels palace, often getting through the guards, as well as multiple sabotage between the girls. This is a very interesting book that the edge of my seat while reading it. There are many twists along I couldn't wait to read each new instalment of the series! I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys aspects of romance, friendship in a book.

Curvey Scholarships

Thinking of going to Villanova for your college degree? If so, you might like to know about the Curvey Scholarship. The Curvey scholarships will provide four students each year with \$12,500 in annual scholarship assistance to support the costs of tuition at Villanova. It's easy, you don't even have to apply. Qualifications include: must be a graduating student of Mahanoy Area high school, North Schuylkill high school, Shenandoah Valley high school, Marian Catholic high school, or Nativity BVM high school; scholarship recipients must meet Villanova's application and admissions criteria and must remain in good academic standing throughout their enrollment at the university. That's it! Each student who applies to Villanova University from one of the five eligible high schools is considered for the Curvey Scholarship. Scholarship recipients are determined based upon a combination of academic merit and financial need. Recipients will be notified directly by the University and the Scholarship will appear as part of the financial aid package. So if you haven't decided on a college yet, why not try Villanova. You could get a nice scholarship from it.

Blessing of the Throat

By: Cassie Casella

Do you have a sore throat?

Why not call on Saint Blaise; he was a fourth-century bishop in Armenia, who is said to heal throats. Though not knowing much about him or his life, it is rumored he had saved a young boy from choking on a bone – a fish bone to be exact. Since the miracle was confirmed to have happened, by tradition we continue to celebrate and ask him to help us when in need.

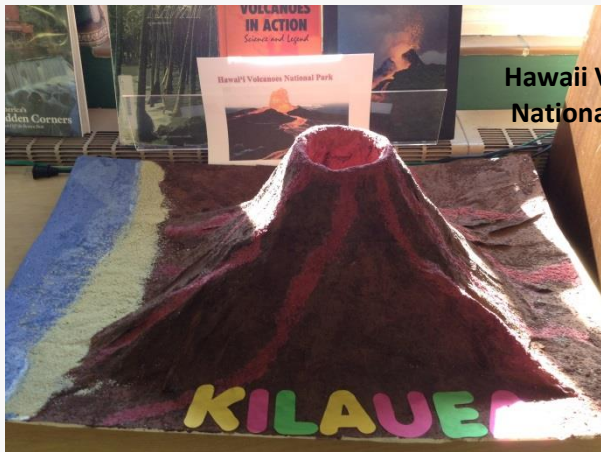
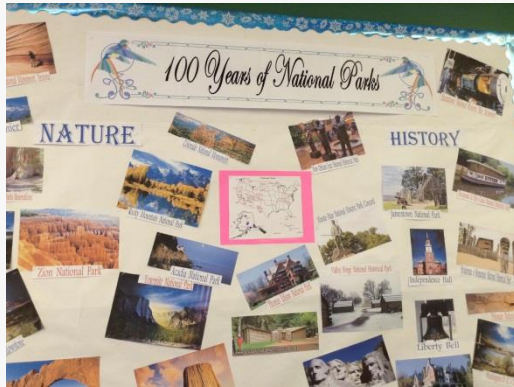
We still use it today during mass asking for healing and protection. This is done by two long candles, joined in the form of a cross and usually tied with a red ribbon (as a sign of the martyrdom of Blaise), are placed around the throat of each person asking a blessing. The person giving the blessing then prays "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat..."

Here at Marian at Mass on the feast of St. Blaise on Feb. 3, Fr. Finlan blessed the candles and all had the chance to have their throats blessed. Perhaps this is no coincidence that this day falls right in the middle of flu season. Sore throats anyone?



America's Best Idea – 100 Years of National Parks

Everyone has heard of Mount Rushmore, Old Faithful, Independence Hall, and Valley Forge. We have seen pictures of the Grand Canyon, Devil's Tower (as seen in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*), the Liberty Bell, and The Lincoln Memorial. Even if you have never left the comfort of your own home, these national parks are known to you. We take these places for granted believing that they will always be there for us to visit to do so. It is the 100th here in the United States. On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating the National Park Service, a new federal department and those yet to be established. Today there are more than 400 parks and service control. Visitors are flocking to the parks in record numbers, with more than 305 million visits during 2015, a 12 million increase over 2014, according to initial estimates. So, since we live far from many of these parks (but not all), the Marian library has created a display of some of our favorites. Come on down to the library and see for yourself. Then maybe you might like to go on a trip this summer.



Hawaii Volcano National Park



Mojave Desert National Park



**Washington Monument
In The Mall National Park**



Youth Writer's Group in Tamaqua

Are you a writer looking for a peer group to help improve your writing skills? Join the League of Literaries (LOL) Youth Writer's Group! We are based at the Tamaqua Community Art Center. In this group, you are able to make friends from other surrounding school districts and improve your writing techniques through the guidance of students your age. Fun activities, competitions, parties, and field trips are also provided throughout the year. We welcome members from grades 6-12. No professional experience is needed. All you need is a willingness to learn and a creative mind. Notebooks and writing utensils are provided. Our president/teacher is Marian senior, Molly Carnish. We meet on a weekly basis, year-round on Tuesday nights from 6PM to approximately 7:30PM. Join for a fun and educational experience! Contact Molly Carnish or look us up on Facebook for any information, questions, or concerns.



Schuylkill County Band Concert

Saturday March 5
Marian High School
1:30



Come out and support our music program and enjoy the music



SAVE THE DATE

Do you want a summer job?

Come to the

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT JOB FAIR

at the Schuylkill Training & Technology Center – North Campus, Frackville

Wednesday April 20, 2016

An event for youth and young adults *seeking* seasonal,

temporary, full-time or part-time, *paid* employment



This event is for youth and young adults (between the ages of 16 – 21 on 6/1/16) with a disability who are actively seeking employment.

Seasonal or short-term employment is a great way for young people to gain the work experience needed to be successful in adult life and in their future careers!

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) is a state agency that supports individuals with all types of disabilities to enter competitive/paid, and integrated employment.

For more information about OVR services and/or the job fair, please contact your high school transition coordinator who will connect you with an OVR representative.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND A LIST OF EMPLOYERS ATTENDING WILL FOLLOW IN EARLY MARCH!

SR. JUDY TAKES CONTROL

