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The Phoenix

*A Catholic
High School
in the
Marianist
Tradition*

Kellenberg Opens the Year of Faith



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Kellenberg Triumphantly Praises the Cross

Amanda Duncklee '14

On Friday, September 14, members of the Marianist community came together under a cloudless sky to celebrate the Triumph of the Cross ceremony.

The Triumph of the Cross is the annual opening prayer service at Kellenberg, to which parents and St. Martin's students are also invited. Since 1992, the Triumph of the Cross has become a Kellenberg tradition. This year's Triumph of the Cross was a fantastic opening prayer service. "The prayer service is great at the beginning of the year because it really kicks off the spiritual experience at Kellenberg," said Colleen Dunn '14, as she excitedly filed into the parking lot with the rest of her classmates to await the beginning of the ceremony.

Fr. Thomas Cardone, S.M., chaplain at Kellenberg, led the ceremony and delivered an inspiring homily, the theme of which revolved around the acronym L.I.F.T., which stands for "Live In Faith Together."

"Every time we come together in mass, morning prayer or with our families, we live in faith together. Because of the suffering and death of Jesus, we live in



The Gregorian Consortium jubilantly sings praise.

of the ceremony was, St. Martin's 5th grader Kaydee Urena said, "I liked the singing." The music was provided by the Gregorian Consortium, a select group of Kellenberg's most talented musicians and vocalists, and served a key role in the ceremony.

The St. Martin's children, present because they too are a part of the Marianist community, jubilantly sang songs of joy and exaltation with Kellenberg students and parents. "The parents were invited to share in the spiritual nurturing of the students' family spirit," said principal Bro. Kenneth, S.M. Maryellen Cantanno, mother of a Kellenberg student, commented "Kellenberg is one big family and the ceremony was a positive start to my day."

faith together," were the words Fr. Tom proclaimed to the crowd.

When asked what her favorite part

of the ceremony was, St. Martin's 5th grader Kaydee Urena said, "I liked the singing."



Fr. Tom leads the congregation in prayer.

Following the ceremony, parents and other members of the Kellenberg family were invited to a breakfast social in the courtyard. Alumna Christine Carroll returned to Kellenberg for the ceremony because of her strong connection to the school, proving just how lasting the bonds of the Marianist community are.

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Marianist Martyrs Are Remembered

Sarah Massoni '14

Last October, Pope Benedict XVI declared in his Apostolic Letter, *Porta Fidei*, that a Year of Faith will begin on October 11, 2012. In acknowledgement of the statement from the letter, "The door of faith is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into His Church," the theme of Kellenberg's annual mass celebrating the Marianist Martyrs was "Open the Door of Faith."

Each year, the Kellenberg family gathers to celebrate the Marianist Martyrs. Brothers Carlos, Jesus and Fidel were killed during the Spanish Civil War of 1936, and Father Jakob Gapp was killed by the Nazis during World War II. This year, the freshmen and some

sophomore homerooms convened in the gym to be led by Fr. Philip Eichner, S.M., while the remainder of the sophomores, juniors and seniors were in the auditorium with Fr. Albert Bertoni, S.M., and the Latin school in the cafeteria with Fr.

Thomas Cardone, S.M. Mass is a wonderful opportunity not only to celebrate the sacrifice of the martyrs but also to celebrate the Eucharist. "The

Year of Faith is Benedict's call for a more ac-

tive part in the Eucharist. Mass is sharing together in the Eucharist in the most

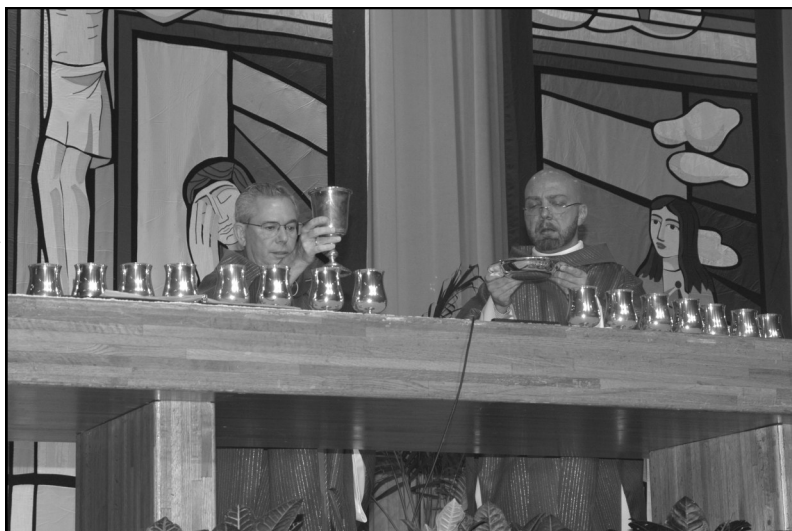
anist Martyrs and that martyrs do not have a specific age. Anyone can be a witness to the faith. Fr. Albert concluded his sermon with the story of Sgt. Dennis Weichel, who saved a little boy in Afghanistan, but sacrificed his own life in the process.

Fr. Philip's homily was a special message for the freshman. He told them that this is the year of new beginnings and that they are entering into a new stage of their life. There will be plenty of opportunities this year to "open the door of faith."

"Every mass is an opportunity for an opening to greater faith for each

Christian," said Fr. Tom. "In September we reflect on how the Marianist Martyrs grew in faith to the point of death. We as Kellenberg family members need

to also grow in faith, not that we will be martyred by blood, but so we can be martyrs and witnesses to the people of our day." The opening mass of the school year allowed the Kellenberg community to reflect on those who have died for their faith. It also allowed all in attendance to plan for the upcoming year of faith.

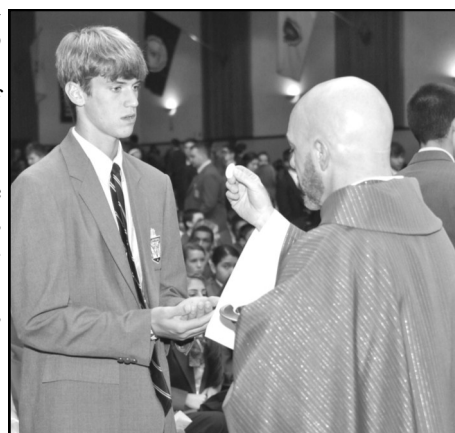


Fr. Albert, along with Fr. Todd, celebrates the Mass of the Marianist Martyrs, the opening mass of the new school year.

beautiful way we can," said Mr. Finn, director of Apostolic Activities.

The mass began with a reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians. The Gospel was from the Book of Matthew, in which James and John were to be seated at the right and left hands of Jesus, who responds that those positions are not his to give, but His Heavenly Father's. When His Apostles become annoyed at the audacity of the two men, Jesus says, "just so, the Son of Man is not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

In the auditorium, Fr. Albert began his homily by speaking about 9/11 and how we as Americans refused to be victimized. We rose from the ashes, just as the phoenix does, to live again. Fr. Albert then went on to speak about the Mari-



Ryan Durney '14 reverently receives the Body of Christ from Fr. Todd.



Seniors Kieran Maelia and Shannon Enderle serve the congregation as Eucharistic Ministers.

KMHS Closes 25 Year Anniversary with BBQ

Caroline Barrick '14

The Kellenberg family came together on Sunday, July 1, at the 25th Anniversary Closing Mass and Barbeque to end the year that celebrated Kellenberg's twenty five years of success in the Marianist tradition. Opening its doors in 1987 as Kellenberg Memorial, the school has grown immensely throughout these twenty five years.

There have been cosmetic changes and improvements, such as turf fields and beautiful courtyards; at the same time, there has been a vast growth of the student body, faculty and the Kellenberg family. The past year was filled with various events dedicated to celebrating Kellenberg's twenty five years as a school. The twenty fifth year concluded with a mass and barbeque open to the entire Kellenberg family.

Throughout the years, thousands of students have walked through the halls of Kellenberg, eager to succeed. Twenty five years ago, when the current President of Kellenberg, Fr. Philip Eichner, S.M., and a small group of Marianist brothers arrived at the failing Maria Regina High School, they hoped for a moderate success. As the years went on and the class sizes grew larger, it became obvious that Kellenberg was becoming a roaring success. One of the mottos of Kellenberg has always been "a beautiful place to grow," but along with being a beautiful place for young freshman to grow into mature seniors, Kellenberg itself has "beautifully" grown over the past twenty five years.

The hot, summer day of the 25th Anniversary Closing Mass and Barbeque began with mass celebrated by Fr. Philip. Once every seat was filled with past, present and future students as well as parents and faculty, the mass began. Former and current singers of Kellenberg's Gregorian Consortium harmonized beautifully to create a sound that filled the auditorium. Since Kellenberg has grown in many ways throughout the years, Fr. Philip based his homily on this theme. In his homily, he remarked that the small group who came over from Chaminade High School twenty five years ago could nev-

er have imagined what Kellenberg would have been like today. He also added in his homily one of the quotes



Fr. Philip and Bro. Ken say cheese as they cut the 25th anniversary cake.

that he continually shared with the 2012 graduating class, "Change is inevitable; growth is optional." Over the next twenty five years, he expects that all aspects of Kellenberg will continue to



Noelle and Gabrielle Harvey smile together with Bro. David.

change and grow.

Bro. Kenneth Hoagland, S.M., Principal of Kellenberg Memorial, concluded the Mass by reading a letter from the Society of Mary Superior General, which was written in congratulations to Kellenberg for its 25th Anniversary. The letter expressed an upbeat feeling about the growth and success Kellenberg has had. Kellenberg has "blossomed over these years into something wonderful" and has "spread light in all directions," remarked the Superior General. He also mentioned that in no way was this success an accident. It took many years of hard work and the

dedication of many people. He also reminded everyone that the Kellenberg community has always been united under the Blessed Mother and her Son, Jesus.

Following mass, those in attendance were invited to the turf athletic fields for the barbeque. It was at this barbeque that the various changes and growth of Kellenberg could be seen. There were students eating with their families as well as students working as members of S.A.L.T. Also present were teachers with their children, who at one time had been students of Kellenberg themselves. The improvements made over the years, such as the turf fields and the new landscaping, were visible for everyone at the barbeque to see.

The barbeque was filled with great friends, laughter and food. There were hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken and various side dishes, such as potato salad and baked beans. Everyone conversed and ate under the large tents set up on the field. Young children played in the bouncy houses while the adults and students walked around talking to old friends and faculty members. While there was ice cream and watermelon, the main attraction for dessert was the massive sheet cake. This cake had "before" and "after" pictures of many places in Kellenberg which have been drastically improved over the past twenty five years. Some of these places include the courtyards, cafeteria and chapel. The cake was cut by Bro. Kenneth and Fr. Philip. After the cake cutting, there were raffles called and speeches made.

When asked about the twenty fifth anniversary of Kellenberg Memorial High School, Bro. Michael Gillen, S.M., remarked, "During the 25th Anniversary, the growth of the Kellenberg family had an opportunity to celebrate faith, family and friends." This past year was spent reminiscing about all the successes Kellenberg has made as well looking towards a bright future with more positive change and growth. The 25th Anniversary Closing Mass and Barbeque was a perfect end to this year of celebration.

The First Annual KMHS Food and Wine Expo

Marc Lee '13

Last year in honor of the 25th anniversary, Kellenberg Memorial hosted First Annual Food and Wine Expo, where restaurants from Long Island, Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan all brought various samples of their cuisine and fine wines.

On April 21 at 6 p.m., as the first few guests began to arrive, the sight they saw as they stepped in was magical. Instead of the plain interior of the Kellenberg lobby, 20 small round tables lined the floor, streamers stretched from the sides of the ceiling, balloons were tied in bunches around the room and lively tunes provided by the piano of Andrew Foertsch '12 filled the room.

"For a second, I thought I had stepped into the wrong building. It all looked so different and wonderful," said Rina Capicotto, Kellenberg parent and Expo guest.

As the visitors slowly made their way into the cafeteria and courtyard, they were met with even greater sights. The cafeteria was transformed from a place for students to chat and eat lunch into a dining area fit to host a president's gala, and the courtyards, only a day before filled with students doing homework and lazing away the afternoon until their late bus arrived, was adorned with shimmering streams of lights and two large tents where an ongoing cocktail hour had the diners engaged in pleasant conversation with other members of the Kellenberg family.

Natalia Rincon '13, one of the many student volunteer workers who helped make the Expo into the dazzling night it was commented, "The night was amazing; the people were happy, the decorations were beautiful, and the food was fantastic!" Natalia, along with over a hundred other volunteers, were responsible for setting up the decorations, tables, tents and all the other parts of the grand scale event. "Of all the different parts of the event, the gym was definitely the place where the most work was done," S.A.L.T. volunteer senior Billy Benke. "The tables needed to be arranged and re-arranged several times, and all the different restaurants had to

be set up around the perimeter of the room, but, when it was all done, everything looked fantastic."

The KMHS gymnasium, the central hub of the event, was where the various vendors displayed their victuals. From pastas and poultry to fish and beef to



Annemarie Marconi '13 and Catherine Edwards '13, help to serve the hungry guests.

veggies and varietals, all of the provisions looked as good as they tasted.

By the end of the night, most of the restaurant representatives had run out of food after the overwhelming demand from the guests. In the center of the gym, the main wine tasting area, a constantly changing group of people stood sampling wine from France, Italy, Australia, Spain, South America and America.

As the end of the night approached, the surfeited new patrons of several of Long Island's best restaurants were directed towards the lobby again. There, S.A.L.T. members stationed behind tables distributed blue and gold gift bags filled with party favors to the guests. Inside the bag was a wine glass with the Kellenberg school crest and the year printed on it, a small coaster for the glass and several messages reminding the guests to come back next year for another lovely night.

Director of Communications for Alumni Development, Mrs. Milles told the Phoenix, "Over 1700 guests visited Kellenberg Memorial for the Expo. We were completely happy. This was a big event and the turnout made it well worth the while of preparation. It was good for the neighborhood businesses

as well as Kellenberg's alumni community."

Mrs. Riiska, Chairperson of the History department at Kellenberg and an attendee of the Food and Wine Expo commented, "The night was even better than I had expected it to be. The food was delicious, the conversation was excellent, and I am very much looking forward to attending the next one."

When asked about her experience at the Food and Wine Expo, Jen Riesterer, manager of Riesterer's Bakery exclaimed, "It was a great turnout. Whoever decorated the gym and cafeteria made it look so gorgeous. Everyone did a great job. All of the vendors were pleasant to work with and there was a nice variety. The event was outstanding and very impressive."

Similarly, Michael Clara, who along with his brother Frank Clara, owns *Ciro's Pizzeria and Restaurant* on Merrick Avenue in East Meadow, said, "My brother and I are both parents of students at Marianist high schools, so we were excited to participate in a Kellenberg event. They always do such a great job, but the Food and wine Expo was a step above." Mr. Clara continued to say that an extra nice touch was the cigar rolling station in the Queen of Peace courtyard. Mr. Clara's son is a sophomore at Kellenberg Memorial while his nephew is a junior at Chaminade.

Mr. Clara also added that the Expo was a great opportunity for him and his brother as vendors and proprietors. "We are a neighborhood business and we do a lot of business with the students, parents, and faculty at Kellenberg, but we were able to meet a lot of people who had never come to our restaurant. The Expo was a great opportunity to introduce people to our product."

This year, Kellenberg will be hosting its 2013 Food and Wine Expo on May 18. It is guaranteed to be as fun-filled an experience as last year.

Driving while In“text”icated

Sierra Hajdu '13

Within the last decade, a new epidemic has been emerging on the roadways all across America: distracted driving, due to texting.

Per year, around 6,000 people die, and 500,000 are injured because of distracted driving. For the sake of all drivers, it's imperative to clarify what exactly distracted driving is. New York State defines it as "text messaging and any related uses of handheld electronic devices." Under New York State law, distracted driving is illegal, and punishable by a \$150 fine and two points on a license. The AAA Foundation also explains it as a major contributor of up to 8,000 crashes per day in the United States alone. In a Healthday poll taken in November 2011, over one-third of drivers admitted to texting while driving, and eighteen percent of people polled said they did it regularly.

Due to the widespread awareness of drunk driving, passengers tend to refrain from getting in the car with drivers who are under the influence of alcohol, but most passengers seem to be okay with a driver who texts and uses his or her cell phone. In reality, talking on the phone or texting is just as dangerous as drunk driving. In fact, the effect on the brain caused by cell phone use while driving is equivalent to having consumed four alcoholic beverages.

In January 2010, the Oprah Show aired "America's New Deadly Obsession," about the dangers of texting and driving, and it revealed shocking information from a study conducted by the University of Utah: a blood alcohol content of .08% makes a driver four times more likely to get into an accident, but talking on the cell phone does the same thing. This risk is also elevated for those who text and drive; he or she is eight times more likely to get into an accident. However, these statistics are miniscule compared to those determined by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute of Research. In 2009, the Institute concluded that those who send texts while driving are twenty-three times more

likely to crash. The Pew Internet and American Life Project calls texting the most dangerous of all cell phone related tasks.

Other threatening effects of distracted driving include a slowed reac-

... most passengers seem to be okay with a driver who texts and uses his or her cell phone.

tion time and tunnel vision, this means that although someone is looking at the road while on the phone, half of the

texting while driving are skyrocketing and the practice of distracted driving will only continue to foster, unless society works together to oppose it.

Companies like AT&T have realized this and have made advancements to-

wards eliminating texting while driving from the roadways. In an effort to stop it, AT&T

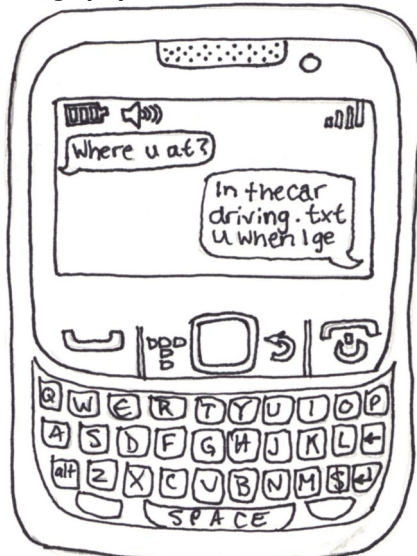
has conducted polls, created a new movement called "It Can Wait," and has even developed a new phone application called AT&T Drive Mode for Androids and Blackberrys.

In a survey from 1,200 teens, AT&T found out that at a red light 73% of teens glance at their phones, and 60% actually text. While driving on the other hand, 61% of the teens look at their phones, and 43% text. Of the same 1,200, 93% also agree that texting while driving is dangerous. Yet, most of them still do it. According to a recent Phoenix survey of 371 seniors who drive, a whopping 55% text while at the wheel of a car, with the large majority of these admitting that they do so only at the perceived "safety" of a red light while a small, but still dangerous 8% are texting frequently or in light traffic.

Much like the AT&T findings, these texters are doing so in spite of a tremendous majority, 94%, who believe that texting while driving is dangerous. By means of It Can Wait, AT&T partners with teens to educate people about the serious effects texting and driving can have on their family, friends, and loved ones. They urge that, "No message is so urgent that it is worth diverting attention from the road and risking lives in the process. It Can Wait." This movement also instilled a pledge to never text and drive, and devoted a day to the pledge. It's also released multiple heart wrenching videos, which have been aired on public television.

Take a pledge to stop texting and driving and encourage other people to do the same. You wouldn't get into a car with a drunk driver, so why would you get in a car with an "inTEXTicated" one? It's your turn to make a difference on the road: stop texting and driving.

Drawing by Tyler Tamulinas



If you want to finish this message, don't text it while driving.

information the driver should see is removed. The brain limits what the driver sees as a sort of bodily precaution, otherwise there would be a mental overload. Not only will the brain neglect the surroundings outside of what is straight ahead, but it will also fail to perceive certain objects in front of the person too.

The inhibition of a driver due to talking on a cell phone is extraordinary, but the inhibition due to texting far surpasses it. Texting while driving disables the driver from seeing the road at all. The texter literally has no view of the roadway. Instead, he or she can only see a few square inches of a phone screen.

Devastating accidents caused by

Parents Join New Alum for Yearbook Social

Mark Campmier '14

On the first day of class, all 2011-2012 students received a yearbook. The silver cover depicts the Maria Regina statue which had been refurbished to celebrate Kellenberg's 25th Anniversary. It features the inscription, "All the Same, Totally Different" and is over four hundred pages long. The yearbook featured photos of Kellenberg throughout its 25 year history juxtaposed with recent photos of the same peoples, places and events. The yearbook also featured photos of the entire faculty and staff, the students in every homeroom, a special section of homeroom photos for seniors and photos with the rosters of various clubs, sports and activities at Kellenberg.

Be that as it may, the class of 2012 could not return to Kellenberg on the first day of school to collect their yearbook. Instead, Kellenberg hosted a very special event for the Class of 2012 to receive and enjoy their yearbooks.

On Friday, August 10 the recently graduated seniors, along with their parents arrived at Kellenberg to say their goodbyes, receive their yearbooks, and enjoy a meal together. The event had been planned as an outdoor event; how-

ever rain prevented the social from actually taking place outdoors. In past years, the Yearbook Social provided some snacks. However, this year, Kellenberg also provided the seniors with a barbeque.

Many helped set up and serve the event. Teachers and the new editors of the yearbook distributed yearbooks to the excited seniors. Also, S.P.I.C.E., one of the many senior leadership activities at Kellenberg assisted in many ways, including setup of the event and serving food to the seniors and their parents.

Yearbook Club moderator, Miss Cook, said, "The barbeque allowed the seniors to enjoy one last meal together in the cafeteria, while the parents were also able to enjoy one last Kellenberg experience with their child." This year was also different because the parents of the recently graduated seniors were also invited to the social. The parents chatted and had a meal in the gym, while the seniors collected and signed each other's yearbooks.

The 2012 Yearbook Co-Editor in Chief, Danielle St. John, said, "The Yearbook Social allowed all of us to

sign each other's yearbooks and remember all the good times we had." The event, which was formerly held at noon, took place in the evening this year from six until eight. "Changing the time also changed the mood of the event. More people wanted to linger and say goodbye to their classmates," said Mrs. Sheridan, another Yearbook Club moderator. It was these changes that led to the record turnout of seniors. Although the Yearbook Social was "totally different" this year, it still remained "all the same".

The 2012 Yearbook Social was a fun filled event that allowed the new alumni of Kellenberg to enjoy a final meal together. They have now left Kellenberg successfully prepared for college and the rest of their lives. As Father Philip Eichner, S.M., the President of Kellenberg High School, wrote in his Yearbook Address to the Seniors, "There is no growth without accepting the fact that we must leave the old forms and embrace the new, always confident that God's grace and presence will be with us."

New Faces for a New Year

William Benke '13

Kellenberg's 2012-2013 School year was kicked off with the repeatedly successful Triple A Program. For three days prior to the start of classes, over 1,000 Kellenberg students, Cadet, Tyro and Freshman, made their way down inspiration hallway to meet their classmates and adjust to their various schedules and room assignments.

Triple A, which stands for Adjustment Awareness Atmosphere, began on Wednesday, August 29, as an orientation for all the new students. One hundred thirty-eight sixth, eighty-one seventh, and a total of six hundred ten ninth graders entered the building on their own for the first time with a full year, and

for some six more, ahead. Each class



Students share fun times with one another at the opening Freshman dance.

met their Marianist Mentors and assimilated to their scattered lockers and con-

fusing combinations. The next day would add all the returning students to the mix, now doubling the number of Triple A participants, and finally on Friday each student had the opportunity to go through the motions of a mock school day, so that they could adjust to their schedules.

This year's program was unique because eighth graders, who are usually not present, were, due to the unfortunate closings of several local Catholic schools. Eighteen eighth graders came in on Friday to take part in all the action and were eased into the Marianist atmospheres by their respective Mentors. Kellenberg acted as a safety net for these students, provid-

Continued on page 8

Kellenberg Increases the Number of College Credit Courses Offered

Isabelle Caneda '13

Attention all college-bound students—thanks to Long Island University at C. W. Post, Kellenberg Memorial is proud to announce that it now offers college courses via the Secondary Collegiate Articulated Learning Experience program, otherwise known as S.C.A.L.E.. This program allows students to place themselves a step ahead in their academic careers.

College credit holds great value in the realm of academics. Beginning to collect college credit before attending an institution of higher learning provides many lasting benefits, which may include not having to retake a particular course and even graduating early. S.C.A.L.E provides a number of opportunities to obtain these advantages.

The S.C.A.L.E program consists of four courses. Three of these courses are worth 3 credits each, and include English 12, American History II, and College Writing. The fourth, Introduction to Calculus, is worth 4 credits. Therefore, there is no shortage of ways for a student to attain college credit through the S.C.A.L.E. program.

The only prerequisites to registering for S.C.A.L.E. are that students

must be seniors who must have accumulated an average of 85 or above throughout their first three years at Kellenberg. The program is open to anyone meeting these requirements. Eligible students from Honors, Academic I, and Academic II are all welcome to sign up.

Aside from S.C.A.L.E., more programs with other schools are to be announced. One that is available now, offered by St. John's University, is a 6-credit program available for all Spanish 4, Spanish 5, Kellenberg Memorial Latin 12, Latin School Latin 12 and French 4 students. Expect to see other college course programs at Kellenberg soon.

When asked about why students should consider taking advantage of these programs, Kellenberg Memorial Administrative Assistant and S.C.A.L.E. Coordinator, Mr. Christopher Cartier replied, "These college classes are a great way to accumulate college credit in the comfort of a high school setting."

The classes are taught in Kellenberg classrooms, by Kellenberg teachers, with Kellenberg curriculum. Students take on no more stress than non-participants but are assigned extra pro-

jects and homework assignments to receive credit for the course. These classes are a fine middle ground for seniors beginning to slowly transition into college-level academics.

Registering for these courses provides the added benefit of saving a bargain while obtaining college credit. Taking the same courses available at Kellenberg in a private college or university could cost as much as \$3,000. In comparison, the S.C.A.L.E. program's tuition is priced at \$135 per credit, and the St. John's University program's tuition is priced at \$500 for 6 credits. The savings earned by taking these courses at Kellenberg will surely alleviate the cost of college tuition.

The S.C.A.L.E and St. John's University programs could be exceptionally beneficial to any prospective college-bound student. Kellenberg Memorial invites all students to consider partaking in these college course programs. More college course arrangements are still underway, and so await further updates on new college credit opportunities at Kellenberg.

Continued from page 7 ing them with a Mentor, Joseph Moresky '13 noted, "I got so much coming into this school and

Catholic education, showing how, although the economy might make things tough, we as a community are still Catholic school strong.

Over the course of the program, it had been stressed that this year has been pronounced by Pope Benedict XVI as a "Year of Faith." It is an opportunity for all of us to take an initiative with our faith, applying God to our everyday lives, and when better to start than with a fresh school year.

Freshman Marianist



Marianist Mentor Melissa Walsh '13 assists a student from 6A with his new locker.

now I personally can give so much to my homeroom, taking an active role in shaping their experience here. This has brought my Kellenberg career to full circle as I can pass on my experiences in order to help them grown in faith as I did."

Eye on the Latin School

Latin School Staff



In the Latin School it has been a very busy start to the school year. Triple A was very successful and gave the new students opportunities to make new friends tour the school and meet their teachers.

Latin School Homeroom Day took place on September 21 and was a huge success. 6th and 7th grade homerooms had record attendance numbers and the weather was perfect for our annual “battle of the homerooms” Students participated in a variety of challenges, including kickball, European hand ball, relay races, and soccer. In the end 6C came in 3rd place, 7D came in 2nd place, and 7A came in 1st place.

On September 24, 7th graders traveled to Coney Island to visit the New York Aquarium. It was a beautiful day for Coney Island and the students truly enjoyed viewing all of the aquatic exhibits and the special 3D show.

On October 12, 6th grade to Wickham’s Family Farm in Cutchogue, New York. Wickham’s Farm has been in existence since the 1700s and the students got to meet Mr. Wikham, who is the 13th generation owner. Students first picked pumpkins in the pumpkin patch. Next, they got a hay ride into the apple orchards, where they were able to pick a variety of apples, tasting them along the way. After a lunch outside the students enjoyed checking out Wickham’s Farmstand and Bakery, where apple cider doughnuts were a great hit.

It’s been a busy fall, but a successful one. All the students are looking forward to upcoming events, particularly the Halloween party, the Thanksgiving food drive, and Christmas decorating day.



Kellenberg and the Church: Fighting for Faith

Kimberly Capuder '14

Remember to keep holy the Sabbath.” It is our duty as sons and daughters of God to praise Him for all the blessings He has given us by worshipping Him in His sacred house once a week on Sunday, the holy day of rest.

Fr. Thomas Cardone, S.M., the chaplain at Kellenberg, explains that going to mass is essential because it signifies that “the greatest act of God’s communion and communication is the gift of his son, Jesus, sacrificed on the cross and glorified in the Resurrection. God wants us to share in this fullness of life which can only occur in the celebration of the Eucharist.”

Recently, the Catholic faith overall has experienced a decline in weekly mass attendance numbers. Many wonder what the explanation for this decrease can be. Monsignor James McDonald, pastor of St. Aidan’s Parish in Williston Park states, “There has been a great loss of faith and of any sense of obligation. This, combined with secularism and increasingly busier schedules has militated against Mass attendance.”

“The attendance numbers for St. Joseph’s Parish in Garden City have approximately stayed the same for the past several years, but compared to ten years ago, they have diminished. However, this reflects a nationwide and European experience. It is not local to our parish” reflects the pastor, Monsignor James Swiader.

He also adds that it is imperative for Catholics to attend mass every week because our faith is a living relationship. “The Eucharist is our encounter with Jesus – in his Body and Blood, in Scripture, through the person of the celebrant and in the gathering of the community. All these are ways in which we ‘stay in touch’ with Jesus. Without that, our faith is a memory, or just a sentiment or good intention.”

Msgr. Swiader declares that this decline is part of an overall loss of val-

ues in Western society – not just religious, but ethical, moral and social values, as well. “In some ways we have become a superficial, self-centered, shallow society,” he says. “Just look at media, advertising and entertainment. We are a very self-indulgent society and are constantly asking ‘What is in it for me?’”

But is it all bad? And if it is, is there nothing we can do about it?

“At Kellenberg, we put a tremendous amount of effort in creating a faith dimension in the daily life of the school,” explained Fr. Tom, “The faith dimension, in a way, is almost contagious, where students who haven’t been involved find themselves actually becoming very involved.”

Prayer is another large part of the faith life at Kellenberg. During the course of the regular school day, students pray Morning Prayer, The Angelus at noon, and Afternoon Prayer and at the beginning of every class period. There are countless numbers of activities and experiences that allow Kellen-

55% of Kellenberg students attend mass at least once a week
49% of Kellenberg students attend mid-day prayer at least occasionally
17% of Kellenberg students attend daily mass at least occasionally
22% of Catholics in the U.S. attend mass weekly

(Gregorian Consortium, C.R.O.S.S., Catholic League, Sodality). In addition, older students may become Eucharistic Ministers, Retreat Staff Moderators or Marianist Mentors.

Monthly liturgies at Kellenberg are planned “because we want to stress the importance of mass, and we hope that it makes attending mass a habit,” reveals Mr. Basile, Assistant Chaplain and Religion Department Chairperson at Kellenberg.

Kellenberg also has Daily Mass held at 7:20 every morning, which is an invitation to the Holy Eucharist before school begins. According to Fr. Tom, there is always a core of students that attend; certain seniors have been coming since freshman year, while at the same time there are always a handful of new students that join each day. In fact, up to three dozen students attend daily mass throughout the week.

More popular, however, is the daily midday prayer, which is attended by upwards of 50 percent of the student body according to a recent Phoenix survey.

Mr. Basile remarked, “The biggest reason why people don’t attend mass is because they allow life to get in the way of something very important.” This is why one of Kellenberg’s largest motives is to



Kyle Driscoll receives the Blood of Christ from Kara Cramsie.

berg students to encounter their faith, too, including monthly mass, daily mass, mid-day prayer, retreats, prayer services, various religious based clubs

encourage students to go to church and be faithful not just during school, but outside of school in their own communities, as well.

According to a Georgetown University National Survey, assisted by CARA, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, over the past decade, only 22 percent of Catholics go to mass weekly.

In the survey conducted by The Phoenix in September, 55 percent of our students attend mass at least weekly. In fact, according to the survey, 40 percent of Kellenberg students go to mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Clearly, the Kellenberg student body is above the mean.

But the object is to increase the mean not only at Kellenberg, but in the Catholic community worldwide. Pope Benedict XVI called for this year to be a “Year of Faith.” This Year of Faith was launched in the hopes that it would help Catholics to appreciate the gift of faith, enhance their relationship with the Father and strengthen their commitment to spreading the Good News to others.

The diocese of Rockville Centre is also beginning a process of inviting Catholics to “Belong More Deeply” to the Church to renew our faith, which coincides with the Year of Faith.

Msgr. McDonald remarked that St. Aidan’s has plenty of masses which are accommodating to people with varying schedules. For example, there is a Teen Rock Mass held once a month on Sunday evenings, which appeals to the youth of the parish. There is also a 7:30 Mass on Sunday mornings, which, without any musical accompaniment, makes the service shorter and more appealing for the exceptionally busy. Although



Jeremy Arthur lives his faith by helping Fr. Albert during the Offertory.

Monsignor McDonald is concerned about the lack of faith in Catholics today, he is pleased that St. Aidan’s mass attendance numbers have risen recently.

with Life Teen, the international youth group, which meets on every Sunday evening. He was also chosen to be a Eucharistic Minister at Kellenberg Memorial last year, which he considers

“I go to mass simply because I want to. No one ever made me go in the first place.”

“an amazing opportunity and blessing.”

“Going to mass is a Christian duty. I’ve been

going every Sunday since I was baptized,” says junior Kristina Cabello. She says that Kellenberg brought her closer to her religion through many events she’s involved in which include attending mid-day prayer regularly, and also attending XLT and the Evenings of Recollection. Kristina also exclaims, “I am now in love with Christian music, and I sing so loud at Church. I also love a good homily.”

Kellenberg is a Catholic school, but as students, it is important to take responsibility for our own faith, especially outside of school. Attending Mass on the Lord’s Day is not optional, and no matter how busy, everyone can always find time to take an hour out of his or her week to thank the Lord for the wonderful lives he has given us. Everybody wants to know God. However, to know him fully, we must spend our own personal time with him, in His glorious home of worship and praise, Church.



Lauren Bidell processes in with the Lectionary.

Similarly, Kellenberg created the new “Faith Fridays” which promote the Year of Faith to all of its students. Its

Kellenberg Spruces Up This Summer

Timothy Landers '15

Kellenberg Memorial High School is constantly moving forward to provide the best educational environment for its students. Over the summer there have been both physical and technological upgrades made throughout the school.

The Freshman Hallway received wainscoting (made in-house) which was then coated with polyurethane and an all new vinyl sheet-rock to cover the original cinder block. This project started in the Latin School hallway and all four stairwells have been plastered with wainscoting.

In the library, the ceiling received new tile, about 80% of the books were uploaded to a computer data bank and the books themselves were re-alphabetized to ensure they were in proper place. A new mezzanine was added to Kellenberg's storage garage, which required electric work, and Bro. Roger's room was divided into four offices, some partially covered with beautiful stained glass to allow sunlight inside.

The whole campus was maintained with planting and weeding, including the new St. Charles Field donated by Charles B. Wang, owner of the New York Islanders. Also, large parts of the school were repainted. All the renovations were achieved by various crews doing a variety of jobs during different phases of the work. This systematic

approach was organized and on task. "This work is all done by students, teachers, the administration and the Marianist community," stated by Mr. Benintendi, director of summer work.

Kellenberg's technology was greatly improved over the summer. The computers throughout the school were

Office, which is vital for college students whose professors ask them to hand in assignments via said application. For Mr. Campbell, Director of Technical Services, it's very important to make sure Kellenberg's technology is used in various, new ways that adapt to changes in the technology industry.

He commented, "Our role in IT is not just to make sure there are computers on the desktop, but to make sure we stay current and find new ways to use the computers, whether it is in educating students in regular or ad-



Working together, members of the Kellenberg family add a fresh coat of paint in the summer sun.

maintained along with the projectors and their remotes. The school is on a five-year technology development program that replaces the classroom's computers. So far, the computers have been replaced in the freshman hallway and from classrooms 200 to 215 with the rest scheduled for replacement. The computers in the computer room (215) were also upgraded, and the room runs on a private cloud system that wirelessly connects all the desktops to a server. All teachers were encouraged to establish websites and upload links to www.kellenberg.org/, making it easy for students to access their homework and other important information.

The advanced computer class now is focusing on applications like Google Docs, in conjunction with Microsoft

advanced classes. We don't just put a computer on a desk...we want it to be a useful tool to both the student and the teacher."

The saying "atmosphere educates" is taken very seriously at Kellenberg Memorial. "We want students to take the atmosphere seriously," remarked Mr. Benintendi. "We believe strongly that if you're in an atmosphere of beauty, an atmosphere that shows attention to detail but also shows hard work...it sets a tone." The atmosphere at Kellenberg constantly surrounds the students, and therefore plays an important role in their education. "If you create a good atmosphere that in itself is an education for the students." Bro. Kenneth Hoagland S.M., Kellenberg's principal, said.

Drama Scheduled to Perform *Oklahoma!*

Rebecca Suydam '14

The start of the new school year leads to new and exciting things to anticipate, and one of these things is the Drama Club's production. This year, the Drama Club is excited to commence production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's award winning musical *Oklahoma!*

Opening on Broadway in 1943, *Oklahoma!* was the first time that Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II collaborated to write a musical. Inspired by the 1931 play *Green Grow the Lilacs*, written by Lynn Riggs, *Oklahoma!* takes place at the turn of the twentieth century in Oklahoma territory, near the town of Claremore. The story is one full of drama and love, focusing on the struggles of young men and women living in a small town.

The two main characters, Curly and Laurey, are desperately in love, but Laurey's hired farmhand, Jud Fry, also wants to impress Laurey and win her hand in marriage. Ado Annie, who is

Laurey's friend, is stuck in a predicament; she can't decide whom to marry. She doesn't know if she should choose Will Parker, the love struck cowboy, or Ali Hakim, a shrewd businessman whom she has just met. The musical seems to only tell the love story of these young characters, but according to Drama Club Director Mr. Murphy, "Rodgers and Hammerstein meant the play to mean something more. They wanted their audience to realize that even though there was a war going on, that America would soon wake up to a 'beautiful morning.'"

The musical features extremely talented students from all grade levels. Seniors Richard Townsend, Elizabeth Fiechter, and Mary Fitzgerald all have starring roles in the play, respectively cast in the roles as Curley, Aunt Eller, and Laurey. Two juniors featured in the play are Shannon Connolly as Ado Annie and Thomas Laskowski as Will Parker.

A successful show is further as-

sured by the assistance of Mr. DeMaria, music direction; Mrs. Tochelli and Ms. Cotty, stage crew; Mr. Narell, pit band; and Ryan Lane '10.

Ryan Lane, graduate of the Class of 2010 has been helping the Drama Club as choreographer. His expertise is particularly valuable because of his familiarity with the KMHS Drama Club presentations. Lane said, "It's an honor to contribute to a production as an alumnus after all my years on stage at Kellenberg."

Oklahoma! will be performed in Kellenberg Memorial's auditorium on November 16 and 17 at 8:15 p.m. and Sunday, November 18 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets for the play will be on sale for five dollars in the finance office starting at the end of October.

Sell-out crowds are expected on Friday and Saturday evening shows, so students should buy their tickets as soon as they go on sale.

Stay Healthy and Fit in Kellenberg's Newest Club

Kerri Beine '14

The newest edition to the extra-curricular life at Kellenberg Memorial High School is the Health and Fitness Club, instructed by Mrs. Simonelli.

The Health and Fitness Club specializes in three active areas: cardio kick-boxing, zumba, and cardio step. The club is open for all high school grades and starts its weekly sessions on October 17.

Students at Kellenberg for whom athletics plays only a small role, but for whom fitness is important, an informed and regular exercise program is now available. By participating in the Health and Fitness Club, students are provided an excellent alternative to the school sports regimen for staying active while remaining social with fellow peers and friends. When working out, the body releases endorphins which can automatically start making a person feel better. The Health and Fitness Club will be a

great asset for students to improve their mood.

The Health and Fitness Club will feature cardio kick-boxing, a cardiovascular workout that combines athletic movement with martial arts. The adrenalinized music keeps everyone going in this calorie burning activity while both the arms and legs are constantly in motion.

Zumba, a recently popular exercise fad for people of all ages, is mainly a Latin-infused dance movement workout. The music associated with zumba buoys the mood, sustains endurance and facilitates participants following along with the instructor leading the aerobic forms.

Cardio step involves step combinations on a step block. The height of the block and number of times one steps increases the number of calories burned.

All three exercise techniques combined work to build up endurance, stamina and muscle.

Junior Bridget Fasciani, says, "I'm

really excited to start this club! To me, it's a great way to get together with friends and stay active!" The club's moderator, Mrs. Simonelli, is one of Kellenberg's physical education teachers. After the sophomores finish their one and a half year taekwon do physical education program, Mrs. Simonelli will then lead the girls in classes that consist of the workouts that will be used in the Health and Fitness Club. These girls will become exposed to these types of exercises and experience what the workouts are like.

There really is no ideal member of the Health and Fitness Club. Everyone has the same motive: to exercise. There is no "experience" needed because everyone will be starting at the same level and progressing together. The Health and Fitness Club is a program that will enable students to become more active and exercise with friends.

College Night Eases Seniors' Fears

Ava Mack '13

On Wednesday September 12, the senior class of 2013 had the opportunity to discover more information about 137 different colleges during College Night.

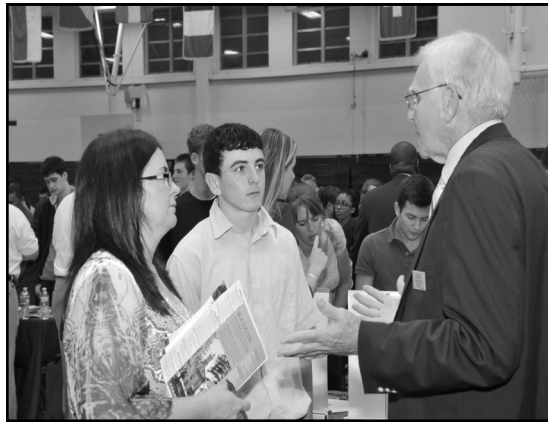
The first half of the event was hosted in the Kellenberg gym and cafeteria from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Representatives from local colleges and from colleges across the country came to speak to the seniors and answer their questions. The variety of schools present was tremendous and included private schools such as Marist and Villanova, public universities like NYU and the University of Alabama and military geared colleges such as SUNY Maritime and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Commenting on the benefit of attending College Night, Albert Donor said, "It was a convenient experience for me where I could see what a college had to offer without having to visit the campus."

College representatives were friendly and helpful, explaining their financial aid programs, scholarship opportunities and important details about specific majors and minors. After visiting with many schools at the event, Melissa Walsh noted, "It was really great to talk to the representatives from the colleges that I haven't been able to visit yet." Each college's table was piled with informational brochures, admissions contacts and complementary pens and pencils. Students and their parents were able to browse through the colleges to stop and ask questions or introduce themselves. It was an important evening for the seniors, as its focus was about the decisions they will be making soon, which will change the rest of their lives. From his experience at College Night, Alex Connors commented, "It was a great opportunity to talk to the colleges I've been thinking about."

Prior to College Night, some seniors had already visited dozens of colleges while others had visited none at all. Regardless, everyone found something new and worthwhile at the fair.

"I think that College Night was a great way for students who were still unsure or nervous about the application process to feel better about what's ahead," said Eric Lahti.

The second half of the evening, which began at 8:00 p.m., was a college presentation in the auditorium for students and their parents. Miss Ronan, Director of College Placement, walked everyone step by step through a power point explaining in detail exactly what the college application process would entail and what the students should expect. Mrs. Marconi, a freshman English teacher and College Placement counselor, also took the



Chris Santina '13 speaks with a visiting college representative.

stage to explain the Naviance program. Naviance is a website for high school seniors that allows students to look up colleges and to find out information about their acceptance rates, the scores they generally look for on average and a history of past Kellenberg applicants to the school. If students are interested in particular colleges, they can simply add those schools to a list of colleges they are interested in, and their college counselors are able to see it.

Another website that has revolutionized the college application process is the Common Application website. In the past, all applications were done on paper by hand, but now the common application website can be used to apply to any college that accepts it, which now is almost every college. Commonapp.com allows students to

fill out common applications for each school they are applying to as well as any supplementary essays and short answers required by particular schools. It also tracks progress, and the work students have done can be saved so that they can always come back to add something or fix a mistake later. This online resource has made the application process much simpler and more efficient for both the students and the college placement office, who usually process over 4,000 applications a year.

An important point that was explained during the presentation was the difference between Early Action, Early Decision, Regular Decision and Rolling Admission when applying to a school. Early Action means that a student applies earlier and gets notified earlier, sometime before Christmas, as to whether or not they have been accepted. It is non-binding, which means that a student can wait to hear from other schools before having to make a choice. Early Decision, on the other hand, is binding, and once a student is accepted, applications to all other schools must be withdrawn. Regular Decision, the most common type of application, means students apply a little later and find out in April whether they have been accepted or not. Lastly, Rolling Decision means that a school accepts applicants on a first come first serve basis. There are important "Target Dates," such as when applications and deposits are due, associated with each. These were brought to the attention of the students during the presentation. For the seniors, the application process will be done in November at the latest.

The entire process was thoroughly explained and broken down into easy to follow steps by Miss Ronan's and Mrs. Marconi's presentations. According to Alex Connors, "It eased the tension of choosing which colleges to apply to." Though the prospect of applying to colleges is initially a little scary and stressful, College Night definitely allayed all those fears.

Yearbook Ad-Drive Off to the Races!

Kristen Perrone '13

As summer jobs come to an end and the busyness of a new school year returns, students may notice a great depletion in their wallets. However, in recent years Kellenberg has presented a solution to these financial woes. "Sell a yearbook ad!" exclaims Miss Cook, the head of the Kellenberg Blue & Gold Yearbook Ad Committee.

Unlike other schools, Kellenberg enlists the help of students, parents and local businesses to supplement the cost of its elaborate yearbook. Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, when the goal was to create a fully colorized yearbook, extra measures were taken to promote the ad-selling process. Since then, the extensive ad section has become approximately 50% of the final product.

But how does a full color yearbook help students who want to earn extra cash? Miss Cook explains the correlation: "If students sell ads by November 30, they'll receive a 15% commission on every ad they sell. From December 1 to February 1, we'll give them 10%." This means that if students sell full-page advertisements by November, they would receive \$75 in return. Selling smaller-sized ads brings in a reasonable profit as well. Miss Cook continues, "Our commission system is very unique. Kellenberg has always had an ad drive to cover the yearbook's cost, and it's now essential to the book's appearance and success."

Because of this arrangement, the yearbook has prospered. Not only have two editions been published in full color with a third on the way but the book also continues to be free for the entire student body. "Chaminade is the only other school that has a free book," says Miss Cook. "Many students pay sixty or seventy dollars for their yearbooks. Our ad system attracts hundreds of people, and this gives the yearbook staff the liberty to make an amazing product with no limitations."

Mrs. Rodney, a Blue & Gold Yearbook Moderator, confirms Miss Cook's statement. "The ads fund our entire book and allow us to have colored pages, a decorative cover and many differ-

ent features. The book's excellent quality has also gotten more students interested, and this year our staff has greatly increased. Without the ad drive money, it'd be more difficult to represent the entire school."

There are various kinds of advertisements to sell. Kellenberg students often retrieve business cards from their local restaurants or family businesses. Some companies purchase full-page ads to advertise their businesses. Tom Baxter, owner of Baxter's Sport Shop in Valley Steam, loves having the chance

"Our ad system attracts hundreds of people, and this gives the yearbook staff the liberty to make an amazing product with no limitations."

to both support Kellenberg and promote his store. "We have a great relationship with the school because of all the sports shirts we print up for them. They're the best people to work with, and advertising with them has brought us great business. People learn of us through Kellenberg and then come in to order things like family reunion shirts." Joe, a manager at Cross Island Fruits in Lynbrook, echoes Mr. Baxter's sentiments. "We advertised with Kellenberg because we want to help out local schools. When students come in and ask for us to buy an ad, we don't hesitate to say yes."

The most common types of ads are congratulatory messages to graduates from their families. Often accompanied by family photos, the heartfelt words are deemed very enjoyable for parents to write. Mildred Castaneda, whose son Sean was a 2012 graduate, purchased an ad to immortalize his milestone. "I wanted to honor this event and show my son's transition from the beginning to his senior year," she says. "The ad

might seem like a frivolous expense, but years from now it'll be an invaluable memory to your child and their children."

Homerooms also contribute money to buy a page for their classmates. Last year, Mr. Marone purchased an ad with his senior homeroom, 12F, and says that this year's ad is already in the works. He comments, "I used to run the yearbook, and I know the costs involved. Buying an ad with my homeroom is a wonderful way to support both the senior class and the school."

Like all organizations at Kellenberg, the ad drive committee works tirelessly to reach their goals. This year, they hope to earn \$150,000 for 3000 books. "We've been working so hard on the fundraising," says Daniel Pupke '13, who is the business editor of the yearbook and the student leader of the ad committee. "We're bringing back the lollipop drive from last year, where we give out lollipops at lunch and tie ad drive information to the stick. You can expect to see new and improved flyers around the building. We're also offering new selling incentives that will be introduced later in the year," says Dan.

Dan also mentions a new addition to the type of ads to sell. "These ads were originally established to honor the Kellenberg colors. The \$100 Blue Family Patron is a line of one name for family scholarships, and the \$100 Gold Alumni Patron will be names and graduation years of those who have graduated to honor their legacy."

With these new fundraising methods and the growing popularity of purchasing ads, the ad committee is sure to reach its goal. The group has also begun implementing a new online ad management system. Students can see Miss Cook in Room 102 for information and tips on how to sell ads. Commission checks can also be picked up in Room 102. Costs for ads are as follow: Full Page \$500, Half Page \$300, Quarter Page \$250, Business Card \$125, and All Patrons \$100. With student contributions, this year's Blue & Gold yearbook will be an outstanding memento of the 2012-2013 for all Kellenberg students.

Girls Soccer to Score Big

Madeline Fitzpatrick '14

On September 26, 2012, the Girls Varsity Soccer Team fought hard to win an exciting game against Sacred Heart Academy. The Firebirds looked to continue their winning streak by defeating league rival the Lady Spartans. Kellenberg entered the match as the No. 7 ranked girls soccer team on Long Island and aspired to improve their record. When Christina Lampasi scored just inside the right post off of a free kick, the Spartans took an early lead. The goal put Sacred Heart ahead, however just eight minutes later senior captain Christina Akalski put one past the Spartan goaltender to even the score at 1-1. The two teams continued to fight hard with missed opportunities at both ends. Late in the second half however, the Firebirds would show their fighting spirit. Christi-



The girls varsity soccer team brings in the huddle as they plan game strategy before kick off.

na Akalski would get a step on the Spartan defender which would lead to the ball ending up in the back of the net. Akalski's second goal gave the Firebirds the lead and would be the game winning goal. This would be just one of the many exciting wins for the Girls Varsity Soccer Team, whose record is currently 6-0-1.

Akalski, along with fellow co-captains senior Bridget Westerman and junior Paige Salmon, have high expectations for the team this year. Even though the Firebirds have a tough schedule against league rivals Sacred Heart, St. Anthony's, and St. John the Baptist, Coaches Finn and Graham are confident in the teams abilities. "They have been working really hard in practice and work well together as a team," says Coach Finn "All the girls on the team are friends both on and off the field."

When asked about what the team means to her, junior Allison Rotondo said, "I feel like our team is more than just a team, it's a family."

"We win together, we lose together, and I could not have asked for a better team!" concluded Alli Rotondo '14.

Once the girls set foot *Continued on Page 17*

New ASL Club is a Good Sign

Ajani Bazile-Dutes '13

A new club has begun at Kellenberg Memorial High School this year, the American Sign Language, or ASL Club.

Kellenberg already has Latin, Spanish and French language clubs and now they've introduced a new one. For three years ASL has been taught as part of the Kellenberg curriculum. It is moderated by ASL teacher, Mr. Sellick along with two interpreters to help facilitate high school students with communication. The club involves learning Sign Language and using signs to communicate through conversations, games and music. They meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from two to four o'clock in room 109.

On the week of Monday September 10, a meeting was held for ASL club in the auditorium to inform potential

members about the club and its activities. The club moderators asked the students what they expected to get out of the club. The sign-ups were a big success with 140 students joining.

Ethan Garcia '14 stated that he joined because he always found it interesting to communicate with your hands to the deaf and hearing impaired. He said that one of the things he looked forward to about the club was learning a new language and being able to use it in daily life.

Another member, Catherine Romero '14, who has Mr. Sellick as a teacher, commented, "I expect to see how deaf people talk to each other and learn how American Sign Language all started, and how it keeps growing." One of the things she also looks forward to about the club is to take part in the games and activities.

Mr. Sellick said the club will hopefully take a trip to visit a Long Island Deaf Event and he also hopes to invite deaf students to come as guests to some club meetings. According to Mr. Sellick, after the first half year of the club they will nominate a president of the club. For the turnout of the club he quoted, "I was surprised at the number of students but I was happy there was so much interest!" Mr. Sellick decided to start the club when he noticed interested students signing in busy hallways and crowded lunch periods. This natural enthusiasm inspired him to expand ASL instruction to an extra-curricular.

Mr. Sellick hopes that students involved in the club will gain respect for American Sign Language. ASL club seems that it will be a very popular club, and many are excited to be a part of the experience.

Remembering the Olympics at Fall Pep Rally

Mary Pauline Pokoradi '13

Kellenberg Memorial High School's annual Fall Sports Pep Rally was held on September 28. Every year the fall senior athletes represent their teams and face off in various events to prove which Kellenberg team is truly supreme.

The day of the pep rally, Kellenberg school spirit was present with all the athletes donning their athletic uniforms in class in place of their blazers. The hallways were livelier with the royal blues and golds mixed in with the usual navy and grey sea of students.

After ninth period, the sophomores, juniors and seniors moved into the gymnasium where the pep rally was to take place. The gym was filled with excitement as the athletes processed in following Kellenberg's mascot, the Firebird.



Joe O'Brien '13 tries desperately to win the Pep Rally's version of an Olympic swimming event against varsity cheerleader Jenna Reade '13.



The Varsity Cheerleaders perform their thrilling routine at the Pep Rally to the amazement of the crowd.

Once the athletes finally took their seats, the Varsity Dance Team revved up the crowd with their exciting routine.

This year, A.C.E. decided that the fall pep rally's theme should be the Olympics, to celebrate the United States successes earlier this year in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. The events chosen for the Kellenberg Olympics were swimming, four by four relay races, knock out basketball, and water polo. Both swimming and water polo were done with the help of scooters rather than actual water.

Before the final performance by the Varsity Cheerleading Team, the Varsity Soccer Team successfully triumphed over the jean-short clad Varsity Football Team. Hopefully, the Varsity team will be triumphant in the Homecoming game against Monsignor Farrell this Sunday, September 30. Perk up and liven up, "Let's give the teams a big hurray."

Continued from Page 16 on the turf, their whole mindset changes. Each player has a common goal, to win the game and make it to the championship. Captain, Paige Salmon, said, "We like to prepare for games by listening to music together as a team to get pumped up. We also like to have pasta parties before big games."

Not only do the girls show commitment on the field, they also show their school spirit by wearing a team bow the day of the game. The bows are worn

throughout the day, however a special bow was made for October. The team's captains made special pink bows to be worn throughout October as a way of supporting Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The girls featured the bright pink bows for the first time at their game against St. Dominic's on October 3. The Firebirds went on to win that game 7-3.

As the season progresses, the Firebirds are faced with their toughest games yet. Make sure to get out there and support your Firebirds as they take

on St. John the Baptist on October 10, Sacred Heart on October 12, and St. Anthony's on October 13. These games are sure to be exciting as the Firebirds take on their league rivals for first place in the division.

Determination, commitment, and discipline continue to push the Girls Varsity Soccer Team as they strive to reach their goal of winning the Championship game.

Girls Gymnastics Goes for the Gold

Meghan Freeman '14

This past summer at the London 2012 Olympics, the “fab five” of the United States Girls Gymnastics team took home the gold medal. In their upcoming season, the Kellenberg Gymnastics team, coached by returning Head Coach McKasty and Assistant Coaches Carni and Proseco, hopes to do the same.

This year the team has ushered in new freshman Kelsey Occhino, Alexis Uria, Alyssa Kosubinsky and Sam Pellman, while welcoming back outstanding returning members including senior captains Emily Morello and Taylor McParland. So far, the gymnasts have made incredible tricks look effortless. Most impressively have been the tsuk performed by Vittoria Notaro on the vault, Kaylan Grau’s giant to lay out on the bars and the back-handsprings executed on the beam by both Kathryn Murray and Alyssa Kosubinsky.

The team recently had an overnight retreat in the Emmanuel Retreat House as an opportunity to strengthen the girls both individually and as a team through group discussions and team bonding

exercises. “Gymnastics is an individual sport, but without the support and help of our teammates we wouldn’t be nearly as successful,” said junior newcomer Adrian Laudani. “It’s nice to know you can depend on your teammates, and when you are so close it definitely makes hard practices and workouts easier, and the retreat helped strengthen our bond.”

With such a large team and only two coaches, the girls become coaches to one another by working together to spot and support each other and to choreograph routines.

The team, led by Emily Morello and Taylor McParland, competed in their first developmental meet on September 27 and 29, having one day of competition at St. John the Baptist and then welcoming St. John’s, St. Francis Prep and Holy Trinity to the home gym for the second day of competition.

The girls set the tone for a great season at the developmental meet with excellent routines. “We’ve all been working really hard in the gym to get our routines to come together perfectly,

and we’re working very well as a team. Right now we are laying the groundwork for an amazing season,” says Emily Morello.

St. Francis Prep proved to be the team’s greatest rival at the developmental meet, and their team kept up the intensity again on October 2 when the Kellenberg gymnasts headed to St. Francis Prep for their first league meet. The team competed well but was unable to defeat the Terriers with a final point total of 163-157. After the loss, the girls regrouped and came back strong when they traveled to St. John the Baptist on October 4, defeating the home team with a score of 155-122.

As a sophomore, Vittoria Notaro proved her experience with near perfect routines. Other excellent performances were turned in by Kim Manzi, Emily Morello, Kathryn Murray, Kirsten LoMacchio and Kaylan Grau. The Gymnastics team hopes to improve its record and advance to the championship to take the league title for the first time since 2009.

Boys Soccer Kicks the Season into Action

Ryan Bannon '13

The Boys Varsity Soccer team kicked off its season in August with two weeks of intense preseason preparation. Expectations were high, since the team finished with a promising 12-7 record last year. Even though numerous All League players graduated last year, current senior captains Joe Ferriso, Colin Homola, and All League three-time letter winner Mitchell Dull are expected to make an impact this season.

The team opened its season with a 2-0 win at home over Regis High School, followed by a 0-0 tie at Holy Trinity. The team’s second win came in the last twelve seconds of a game against non-league opponent Archbishop Molloy on a “throw in” that resulted in a goal. “Budget cuts in public

schools are making scheduling non-league games harder,” says Coach Masiulis. However, non-league games are always welcome because of the additional competition, allowing players and coaches to experience varied styles of play.

Ties against St. Dominic’s and St. John the Baptist, ranked #6 on Long Island, were coupled with a 2-0 loss to Chaminade and a 3-0 win over St. Mary’s. Coach Masiulis acknowledges a tough but winnable schedule ahead. St. Anthony’s and Chaminade are circled on all the players’ calendars indicating the greatest challenges moving forward and the most rewarding victories if they win. The team’s recent success can also be attributed to the substitution philosophy of Coach Ma-

siulis. He always tells his players, “If you need rest, don’t worry; we always have horses in the stable.”

Commenting on the team this year, senior goalie and captain Colin Homola said, “We had a good preseason, and we are looking forward to an even better regular season and a lot of wins this year.” Two additional senior leaders who have stepped up in recent weeks include central midfielder Nick Zorbo and outside defender Connor Wesch. “The incredible chemistry we have been building since freshman year has really been paying off on the field, and we expect great things in the playoffs,” added Wesch. Time will tell how the Firebirds will mold the remainder of their exciting season.

Cross Country Promises a Successful Run

Mackenzie Freeman '14

This fall, the Boys and Girls Varsity Cross Country teams opened their seasons with impressive performances at meets all over the East Coast. The Lady Firebirds, led by captains Elizabeth Magno and Mia Imbesi, are off to a powerful start with wins at Washingtonville, St. Anthony's, St. John the Baptist, Wilton, Connecticut, and at the Xavier Invitational. Strong finishes have been turned in by sophomore All-American Jazmine Fray, who as a freshman won first in the mile at Nationals last spring; seniors Mia Imbesi and Liz Magno; juniors Daniella Joyce and Stephanie Locicero; and sophomores Raquel Lopez, Emily O'Hara and Katie Elnick. Fray recently broke a six-year old record at the 3 mile Washingtonville course by two minutes, with a time of 19:27, also breaking a school record. In addition, she was one of the three runners in the meet to finish a 2.5 mile in less than 16 minutes in the CHSAA this season.

The girls have really succeeded in proper preparation and training this summer. In order to be able to compete in the competitive meets this season, training couldn't have just been worked on in the fall. "We have a fierce team this year: Mia Imbesi is the toughest competitor in the league, Liz Magno is a graceful but strong leader, and Jazmine Fray is the best runner in Firebird history," said Coach Brown. Imbesi and Magno have also broken course records at Washingtonville and Van Cortland Park and have contributed to the team with wins at Sunken Meadow and St. John the Baptist. "We have all worked really hard in practices this season as well as in camps and training over the past summer, and it's already paying off. Under the guidance of Coach Brown we're working hard both physically and mentally to run as a

team. I hope all of our hard work leads to great success when it comes time for city champs," stated Imbesi.

The team had spent the summer at multiple running camps such as Foundation Running Camp in upstate Copake, New York, and at Princeton University in New Jersey. They have also participated in organized team runs at C.W. Post, the Long Beach Boardwalk and in several state parks through-

"All the hard work we put in at practice every day along with our summer training is definitely going to help us succeed in these next upcoming meets and hopefully assist in our goal of winning champs next month."

out Long Island. "It's important for us all to come together as a team to train and practice. We've become closer as friends and as teammates, which has definitely contributed to our past wins. To be able to compete in a sport like Cross Country, you need to have a close team that is able to race with each other as a whole to win. The scoring is collective," added Fray. Coach Brown and Coach York certainly have their sights set on their girls competing and winning the Cross Country Championships, and they also hope to be able to send an elite group to Nationals in these upcoming months.

The Boys Cross Country team has also competed well this season, turning in excellent performances at the Wizard Invitational at Washingtonville and in meets at St. John the Baptist and St. Anthony's. The team is led by captain and All-American Randall Turner with a 5K time of 16:47 along with seniors James Malebranche, Marc Kalny, and fellow All-American Dylan Murphy. "So far the season is going well, and we have made good progress in our training as well as our performances at our meets. The team has been working hard this past summer, and I am impressed with the improvement of the team as a whole. I trust that we will be ready for all the big races at the end of October and November," commented Coach Bonagura. The Varsity "A" team consisting of Turner, Murphy, Malebranche, Kalny and juniors Dietrich Mosel and Kyle Mooney opened the season at Washingtonville scoring an outstanding second place by a margin of only three points to a Cornwall team. "We've really tried our hardest so far this season," said senior captain Dylan Murphy. "All the hard work we put in at practice every day along with our summer training is definitely going to help us succeed in these next upcoming meets and hopefully assist in our goal of winning champs next month." To this, Turner added, "We definitely have tough competition with teams like Chaminade and St. Anthony's, who have raced well so far this season, but I know that with all our hard work and dedication we will be able to accomplish our goals for the 2012 season."

Thanks to excellent coaching of the girls by Coach Brown and Coach York, and the diligent training of the boys by Coach Buckley, Coach Estrella and Coach Bonagura, the Cross Country teams have shown an exciting and promising start so far this fall and will continue to strive for success throughout the rest of the season.

Firebird Spirit Soars at Homecoming

James Taglienti '14

On Sunday September 30, the Homecoming game enlivened the Kellenberg family with a clear sense of spirit, pride, and unbridled ambition. This triumvirate, manifested through the students, faculty, and alumni, sought to galvanize the football team with the air of victory necessary



The Varsity Football team runs onto the field at Hofstra University eager to kick off the 2012 Homecoming game.

for a triumph over their opponents: Monsignor Farrell High School.

With a vivid sun flowing onto the field, a feeling of radiance imbued all the spectators with excitement. Beginning with the crowd, there was an undeniably joyful mood shrouding, like a mist, the expanse of the bleachers.

John Stefanowski '14 stated in that respect, "What I love most is the atmosphere. Everyone comes out and supports the school colors and creates posters for the players. It shows how the student body, as well as the parents and faculty, is really involved. It's really something nice to see."

Turning the attention to the field, the energy of the cheerleaders immediately captivated the crowd. As per the custom for a Homecoming game, all

grade-levels were represented by a cheerleading team. Despite the large diversity in age, one thing was certain: the language of optimism was uniform.

Varsity Cheerleader, Alyssa Ranieri '14, happily noted, "It was such

an incredible experience to be able to cheer alongside both my teammates and all of the girls from the other squads. It really created a strong energy, which we used to cheer on the players."

The atmosphere was once again confirmed in the center of the crowd's attention: the football players themselves. Indeed,

the combatants of our national pastime couldn't help but become caught up in the nearly tangible spirit.

Billy Meditz '14, a member of the



varsity team, stated, "The crowd's non-stop cheering and rooting really energized us. It made us feel supported and strong. Even though we ended up losing, we never gave up; and we have the crowd and the cheerleaders to thank for

that."

Unfortunately, the team was defeated. Despite a mighty and tenacious effort, the Kellenberg team was felled by Monsignor Farrell by a final score of 35 to 12. It was an unforeseen outcome,



The team exudes sheer determination as they prepare to take on Monsignor Farrell High School, their opponents for this year's Homecoming game.

but the triumvirate wasn't lowered in the least. The supporting crowd and the team's multitude of cheerleaders refused to let the loss discourage the teams

and their own energy.

Even Coach Breton offered this piece of encouragement, "My boys showed me undying determination throughout the entire game. They played their game, despite the loss, and that's all I could ever ask of them: their best. We had a great time, and judging by their constant cheering, I think everyone else did too."

Doubtlessly, everyone did. The general excitement affirmed the values installed into the Kellenberg family: that coming together, enjoying one another's grace, and cheering for your brother's cause is more important than any important "win" or "loss." One could only hope that next year's Homecoming could at least rival this year's in spirit, pride, ambition, and camaraderie.

THE PHOENIX

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