



WINTER 2012

We hope you enjoyed the Christmas Season and your winter break. It's hard to believe that the first semester is finished. At O'Hara the beginning of the year was full of many exciting moments. Take time to read through these pages and see all of the fun we have been having. We now are in the process of enrolling a great group of 8th graders. We can't wait until they are official Celtics.

Football – WOW!!

This was a great season! The O'Hara Celtics Football Team finished with a 9-3 record. The Celtics are District and Conference Champs and reached the Quarterfinals in State Competition. Led by senior quarterback Jake Fortin (Presentation) this team broke all time records for tackling. Jorge Belcher (Martin City Middle) made the



All Simone team and was nominated for the Bobby Bell award, metro area outstanding linebacker. Jake Fortin now holds the single season record for passing and was the *Kansas City Star* Athlete of the Week. All State honors go to 1st Team Jorge Belcher, 2nd Team Brett Coatney (St. Regis), and 3rd Team Josh Snow (St. Regis) and Julian Gidley (St. Regis). What an amazing year that was so fun to watch!

Fall Play



Look Who's Laughing took the term "anger management" to a whole new level. This was a funny story of a family living with a father who could not hold his temper. An old friend comes to visit and a wager takes place with the plot unfolding while the main character tries to control his over-the-top anger. This play was

hilarious with everything from a sophisticated older daughter, Sara Downs (Presentation), a music loving teen, Mary Kate Williams (Presentation) both veterans to O'Hara productions as well as another veteran, Alex Stockard (*Our Lady of Lourdes*) who played the father, Henry. An arrogant boyfriend, played by Michael Wulff (Martin City Middle) and, his kind friend, Collin McKinney (St. John LaLande) were superbly cast. Newcomers Claire Banderas (Presentation) as the calming mother, Mame and Cydnee Reese (Blue Ridge Christian) as the wacky, hard of hearing grandma rounded out the cast and gave us a performance to remember. Andy Vernon (St. Regis) and Christie Wise (*Our Lady of Peace*) also gave stellar performances. Congratulations, thespians! Well done!

Sport Shorts

Volleyball – Volleyball had another great season culminating with a District Championship. All Conference and All District honors go to McKenzie Roberts (St. Regis), Katie Tyler (Presentation), Annie Mahlberg (St. John LaLande), Amanda Hull (St. Regis), and Madison Clark (St. John LaLande). These girls were nominated for the prestigious 2011 Evelyn Gates Award: Madison Clark, Amanda Hull, Annie Mahlberg and Gabriella Rizzi (Presentation).



Softball – Kellie Bachkora (St. Regis) and Andi Davis (St. John LaLande) received All District and All Conference honors. These girls are taking their softball to the next level with Kellie signing to play for Benedictine College in Atchison and Andi Davis signing with Missouri Science and Technology in Rolla. Congratulations, girls, on your fine academics and your sports talent.

Golf - Girls Golf is just in its second year at O'Hara and already we have had a State Qualifier. Olivia Wright (Raytown South Middle) medaled with Kylee Bosworth (St. Regis) at the Ray-Pec Scramble Invitational. Olivia was All Conference and All District. She was a Sectional Qualifier in 2010 and 2011 and was a State Qualifier this year. Olivia was named the Hy-Vee Athlete of the Week and holds the school record for the lowest score on 10 of the 12 courses O'Hara has played over the past two years. Way to go Olivia!



Cross Country - Blake Hudon (St. Regis) was an All-State qualifier. He placed 45th in State competition. He received an honorable mention in the 1A-3A class by the Greater Kansas City Cross Country Coaches Association. Blake was also 2nd team All Conference, and 1st team All District. Congratulations, Blake! Blake and Claire Becker (Our Lady of Peace) were enrolled in the O'Hara Cross Country Hall of Fame. They were also selected the number #1 runners of their team by the O'Hara coaches. The number two runner for the boys was Corbett McKinney (St. John LaLande). An interesting factoid: The boys' team did something never before accomplished by an O'Hara Cross Country team. Every runner hit a personal best on the district course at Swope Park. Those other runners are Dakota DeFreece (Martin City Middle), Ronald Clark (St. Stephens Academy), Jeremy Ambrose (St. Thomas More) and Thaddeus Green (Nativity). Next year should be better yet!

Swimming - This year the Boys' Swim team grew in numbers, as well as talent. Twelve boys made up one of the largest teams in recent history. This year's swimmers were Captain and Senior, A.J. McCracken (Nativity of Mary); Juniors, Tanner McDermott (St. John LaLande), Jacob Kamradt (St. Thomas More), Jacob Lillig (St. Regis), and Nathan Bertrand (Our Lady of Peace); Sophomores, J.D. Myers (St. Regis) and Chris Scott (Nativity of Mary); and Freshmen Nick McCracken (Nativity of Mary), Sam Bogart, (Presentation), Jacob Spence (St. Elizabeth), Brian Mahan (Our Lady of Lourdes) and Tyler Elliott (St. Regis). Coach Tyler Calvert was excited about improvement in times with each new meet. They are looking for even more talent from incoming freshmen next year. There's plenty of room in the pool!



Beans for Jeans Week - is our annual food drive that takes place in November. This is not a one-time bring in a can of beans. This is a week-long opportunity to become aware of hunger in our community and to do something about it. The O'Hara community is so generous with 5,000 cans collected this year and \$1500 that was matched for a total of \$3,000 in cash collected. The food and funds go to the Bishop Sullivan Center in Northeast Kansas City, a well deserving charity we have partnered with for many years.

Forensics – Not the CSI kind, but competitive acting. Congratulations to these Forensics students for advancing to semi-finals in their events: North Kansas City tournament: Audrey Burdett (St. Elizabeth), Kayla McDowell (Raytown South Middle) storytelling, Jayel Gant (St. Regis) poetry, and Jayel Gant and Amanda Hart (St. Regis) duo improvisation. Truman novice tournament: Amanda Hart, poetry, Audrey Burdett, storytelling and Zach Snoddy (Our Lady of Lourdes), humorous interpretation.

Archbishop O'Hara High School is one of the four diocesan high schools in the Diocese of Kansas City St. Joseph. We are also a Lasallian school which means we are affiliated with the Christian Brothers and have four Brothers who live and work in our building. There are Lasallian schools all over the world. There are one million students in 83 countries that make up the Lasallian family. These schools are built on the philosophy of St. John Baptist De la Salle, the founder of the Christian Brothers. He believed that every person deserves a quality education and that service to others should be an important part of our lives. The picture below of O'Hara students in the shape of a star is symbolic of our Lasallian tradition. We hope that someday you too will be a part of the Lasallian family.



OPEN HOUSE – Took place on Sunday, October 30. Over 300 students with their parents toured the building, learned about our curriculum through department displays, enjoyed musical performances, visited with coaches and learned about the 30 plus clubs and activities available at Archbishop O'Hara High School. Tours were led by teachers, parents and Student Ambassadors, all giving their own personal perspective of life as a Celtic.

New High School – Exciting times are coming as the plans for the new Catholic High School in Eastern Jackson County will be announced soon. Archbishop O'Hara and St. Mary's will bring together two outstanding traditions. We are excited to hear about the plans, the location and the details on the naming of the school. Watch for news in the *Catholic Key* and on the diocesan website.

Winter Blast - Over 400 7th and 8th graders danced the night away on Friday, December 2nd in the O'Hara Commons. The 4th annual Winter Blast was awesome with students from nine diocesan grade schools south of the river attending. This is a great opportunity to meet students from other schools and socialize with the people you compete with in sports. Best of all, you might be meeting your future O'Hara Celtic classmates!!



Melissa Wiehn, Social Studies Teacher

Who is this ball of energy who can be seen inspiring her students in American History and Psychology? Who is coaching cheerleaders after school and attending a multitude of sporting events in support of cheer and soon to be yell leaders (boys) at O'Hara? And who spends time moderating the Kairos retreats at O'Hara? None other than Melissa Wiehn, small in stature but mighty when it comes to her passions. She is also the Junior Class Moderator who plans amazing proms and oversees the Junior Class Mass each year.

Mrs. Wiehn has been teaching at O'Hara for the last 10 years. She graduated from Concordia University in Nebraska. She is married to Justin and they have two children Allison, 3 and Jack, 6 months. She is a favorite teacher at O'Hara because of her sense of humor and her creative classes. One favorite lesson is to make up a song relevant to a Revolutionary War event. This is always fun and informative. Mrs. Wiehn is often asked if she attended O'Hara. No, but she attended a small parochial school near St. Louis that has the same type of family, community atmosphere and even has the same school colors of green and gold. She is pleased that people see her as an alum and she enthusiastically shows her Celtic Pride. Thanks, Mrs. Wiehn, for all of your efforts that make O'Hara a spirit-filled, fun place to learn.

Don't Forget!
8th Graders, don't forget enrollment for the 2012-2013 school year will take place on Sunday, February 12, 2012. Please call 763.4800, ext. 206 to set up an interview or get more information about our registration process.

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 1650

Archbishop O'Hara High School
Catholic Education in the Lasallian Tradition
9001 James A. Reed Road
Kansas City, MO 64138