



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Today's Young Woman. Tomorrow's Leader.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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International Day gives St. Mary's Academy students a taste of different cultures

Portland, Ore. – Dec. 14, 2011 – Earlier this month, St. Mary's Academy students made crêpes, pasta and African paper beads, learned about Peace Corps opportunities and Grecian hair-braiding and created origami works of art – and they didn't have to leave the school's downtown Portland campus to experience this wide array of world cultures.

On Dec. 7, St. Mary's Academy celebrated International Day, a fun and educational event organized by the World Languages Department every other year.

The day began with an assembly where students who participated in a trip to China last summer shared photos and reflections from their travels. The young women were among a group of 30 St. Mary's Academy students, alumnae, parents and faculty who went to China in July.

Besides the assembly, most International Day activities were hands-on. Faculty and staff members drew from their wide range of skills and cultural backgrounds to offer activities ranging from belly dancing to yoga to Korean stamp-making.

"This year's International Day classes were fun and diverse," said Dena Stock-Marquez, World Languages Department chairwoman. "It was a day that helped us all recognize the cultures of the world. "

For additional information or questions, please contact Mary Ann Albright, Director of Communications, at 503.721.7715 (direct office), 503.984.2777 (cell), or maryann.albright@stmaryspdx.org.

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About St. Mary's Academy

St. Mary's Academy is a Catholic high school for young women located in the heart of downtown Portland that provides a challenging college-preparatory education with a focus on developing the whole person. Founded in 1859 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, St. Mary's Academy is Oregon's oldest continuously operating secondary school and offers a supportive learning environment to a diverse student body from more than 30 urban, suburban and rural communities in Oregon and Southwest Washington. It is the only school in the state to have received three Blue Ribbon awards from the U.S. Department of Education. For more information about St. Mary's Academy, please visit www.stmaryspdx.org.