



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Today's Young Woman. Tomorrow's Leader.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Mary's Academy Combines Fun and Fundraising for Three Local Charities: Doernbecher's Children Hospital, The Blanchet House and Global Student Outreach

Portland, Ore. – **February 14, 2011** – Fun and fundraising fill the halls at St. Mary's Academy this week during its annual student-organized Doernbecher Week. Slated to raise approximately \$7,000 to be split evenly among [Doernbecher's Children Hospital](#), [The Blanchet House](#) and [Global Student Outreach](#), the week further inspires school pride around service opportunities.

Centered on the theme of "Party in the U.S.A.," the week raises funds as class competition yields to class unity in the form of penny jars with each class attempting to raise the most money. Further, with donations and entrance fees to special activities including a Sock Hop, Teacher Idol and Student vs. Staff basketball game, this energized week also rewards students who participate in dress-up days centered on the week's theme.

However, senior student chairs Frannie Cameron and Erin Bergmann are stewards in educating students on the importance of educating students on the overarching importance of the week to encourage additional service to these organizations.

"The penny jars create fun class rivalry for our fundraising, but this week means so much more to St. Mary's students," said Cameron. "It helps instill a passion for service and raise awareness of our amazing Catholic spirit and service."

The dress-up days include outrageously fun themes and activities include Eskimo Alaska/Pajama Day with an Alaska Tundra Relay Race (Monday), Wild West Day with a Sock Hope dance competition (Tuesday), New York Chic Day with NYC Window Shopping Club Fair (Wednesday), Keep Portland Weird Day with a student versus staff basketball game (Thursday) and Class Color Day with Teacher Idol (Friday).

While Doernbecher Week encompasses only five days, St. Mary's dedication to service and philanthropy is integrated into students' lives with the hope of making it a lifelong commitment through annual immersion activities.

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Although St. Mary's does not require a minimum amount of service hours each year, it does provide educational and service opportunities for students to learn how they can contribute to their communities. A day-long homeless immersion for freshman, service coordinated through juniors' Social Justice class and a day appropriately called Hands Full of Heart for seniors and sophomores allow students the opportunity to make a difference to those in need and experience the ease of contributing to society.

From Doernbecher Week and class service days to the myriad of additional service opportunities available, St. Mary's young women continually embody the school's mission and the vision of Mother Marie Rose Durocher (the foundress of St. Mary's founding order, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary) with dedicated service to those in need throughout their community.

For additional information or questions, please contact Crystal Ghassemi, APR, Director of Communications, at 503-724-8589 (cell) , 503-721-7715 (direct office) or crystal.ghassemi@stmaryspdx.org.

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About St. Mary's Academy

Founded in 1859 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, St. Mary's Academy is an all-female Catholic high school and Oregon's oldest continuously operating secondary school. The student body represents a diverse background of young women from over 30 urban, suburban and rural communities in Oregon and southwest Washington. St. Mary's Academy is distinguished by its development of the whole person, and is the only school in the state to receive three U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools awards. For more information about St. Mary's Academy, please visit: www.stmaryspdx.org.