

MEET SOPHOMORE DEVAN DRISCOLL-ROACH



St. Mary's Academy sophomore Devan Driscoll-Roach started her first 10 week fundraising campaign for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) in February. Devan has been helping her mother raise money for LLS since she was four years old, and is now challenging herself and her St. Mary's classmates to take part in the fight against cancer. With two weeks left in her campaign, Devan hopes to be awarded "Student of the Year," gaining the privilege of choosing which researcher the money raised would be given to. We interviewed Devan to learn more about her campaign.

Q&A

St. Mary's Academy: *Devan, why did you chose to campaign for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS)?*

Devan Driscoll-Roach: My mom has been volunteering for LLS for the past 15 years and I've helped her fundraise. My family has been touched by cancer a lot. When I was in elementary school, my aunt passed away from blood cancer. I was young but I was really close to her and I remember seeing her fight really hard to beat it. I saw the amazing work LLS does to help patients and researchers succeed. I feel like I can make a difference and give back to them with this campaign, and be another drop in the bucket of cancer research. This is my thank you to LLS for helping my family battle cancer and live longer.

SMA: *You are eight weeks in, how is your campaign going so far?*

DDR: The campaign is going very well. I am so grateful for all the help I am getting from my St. Mary's friends who are part of our Team Nancy. The team is made of all SMA girls and they are so committed! They baked 100 cookies for a bake sale, they help me with events, collaterals and fundraising. Thanks to LLS, any fundraiser who raises \$50,000 has the honor to choose which research will be financed and which researcher will be sponsored. It would be such a privilege to reach that goal.

SMA: *What has this experience taught you?*

DDR: This campaign is such a rewarding challenge. I am seeing what it takes to raise a large sum of money. It is a very eye opening experience to the world of fundraising. It takes managing a team and not being afraid to ask a lot of people for money. It is a true life skill. I am really close to my goal and I am trailing another fundraising student. As of now, we have raised about \$50,000 combined, which is amazing and is going to help research so much.

SMA: *What are the next steps of your campaign and how can people learn more about it?*

DDR: You can go to my fundraising page to see the events you can be a part of. You can find my page at www.instahopepdx.com. We are partnering with restaurants and other businesses to raise funds in a really fun way. Everyone wins when cancer loses!