



# Saint Joseph Regional School Our Lady of Mercy Academy



January 11, 2024

*Empowering students to grow as informed, inspired, compassionate souls.*

Greetings OLMA Families, Faculty, and Staff:

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and that it was a restful, rejuvenating break! The students returned last week in good spirits and happy to reconnect with their friends.

I wanted to highlight a very special event happening next week on Monday to mark Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. **Father Greg Boyle, S.J.**, will be in Keene. A few years ago, our Dean of Students, Liberty Ebright, gifted each of our Mercy staff members with Father Greg's book, *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*. It was an impactful read for all of us; so much so that we went on to assign it for the summer reading for the Mercy students in 2022. The book prompted deep, insightful conversations with the students as we began the 2022-23 school year. To understand the details about Father Greg's background and his incredible work, you may see the below flyer and view these short videos.

<https://youtu.be/68nGwNrIHBo?si=PLzrvIFssEm99IHx>

<https://youtu.be/zk--XN4ozr8?si=GavV22iHHWaUk4uW>

<https://youtu.be/ipR0kWt1Fkc?si=coUZ6o1YX8N2bZ8r>

The flyer also provides information for the events planned on Monday. Middle school and high school students are specially invited to meet with Father Greg 4:30-5:30pm in Cohen Hall at the Keene Public Library. Then there is a public event for all at 6:00pm in Heberton Hall, also at the library. It's really quite extraordinary that Father Greg will be here in Keene. I strongly encourage everyone to take advantage of this rare opportunity.

The **end of the second quarter** is just about upon us here and report cards will be out shortly. Our midterms/finals have gone smoothly this week. If you have questions or concerns about anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher(s). They are happy to have conversations anytime.

Now that we finally have some **snow** in the forecast, please keep an eye out for communications related to delays or cancellations. Alert emails and texts will go out to everyone if we have closings or delays. The local media are notified also, and it will be posted on our social media as well. If you have any questions about how we communicate weather related issues, please reach out to Allison ([amurray@mercyacademykeene.org](mailto:amurray@mercyacademykeene.org)).

I wanted to mention that **admissions have opened for the 9th grade** at Mercy Academy for the 2024-2025 school year. We only have a few space available right now. I have found over the years that word of mouth is really the most important way that we get new families both at SJRS and OLMA. Please help to spread the word if you know families with high school students.

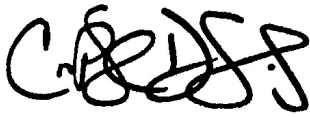
I am very sorry to share the news that **Jim Masiello** passed away a few weeks ago. Jim was a 1954 alum of SJRS, former mayor of the City of Keene, and had become a very good friend of ours over the past few years. His name is spoken daily at Mercy as the Masiello Room is a focal point in our building. He and his family have made several significant donations that propelled the opening and establishment of Our Lady of Mercy Academy. He was a true champion of our mission, having a powerful impact on both SJRS and OLMA. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. We will be offering some of our all-school Masses in the next few months in his name.

I look forward to seeing everyone this evening at our **Winter Arts Showcase!** I know that the

students have put in a tremendous amount of work throughout this semester. I'm excited to see and hear their progress.

A reminder that there is **NO SCHOOL on Monday** next week in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

May Your Spirit Be Lifted,



Christopher Smith  
Principal

We are all invited into this exquisite mutuality where there is no us and them. Once we know that we are unshakably good and that we belong to each other, we can roll up our sleeves...and create anew this place of love and belonging that God would recognize.

*--Father Greg Boyle, S.J.*

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Thursday 1/11** – Winter Arts Showcase – 6-8pm  
– Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery at KSC

**Friday 1/12** – End of the first semester

**Monday 1/15** – **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** –  
**NO SCHOOL**

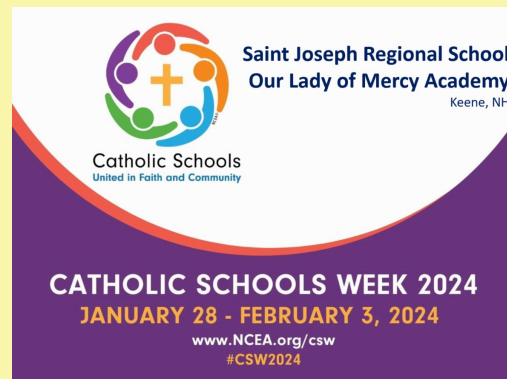
**Wednesday 1/17** – All-school Mass – 9:30am

**Mon-Fri 1/29-2/2** – Catholic Schools Week

**Fri 2/2** – All-School Ski Trip (see details below)

**Mon-Fri 2/19-2/23** – Winter Break – **NO SCHOOL**

**CLICK HERE** for the **2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR**



### 4TH ANNUAL ALL-SCHOOL SKI TRIP

We are planning our 4th Annual All-School Ski Trip to Pat's Peak on **Friday, February 2nd**. This will be a great way to close out Catholic Schools Week (which starts on January 29th) and celebrate together!

We will be departing from the Mercy Academy parking lot promptly at 8am and returning by 4pm. This year, students will be transported by bus. For students who choose not to attend, there will be no classes held on 2/2 (it is also a 1/2 day for SJRS).



Unfortunately, there are no lessons available this year.

Student/Family Contribution:  
Lift ticket only: \$39  
Lift ticket and ski/snowboard rentals: \$74  
Helmet rental: \$10 (all students must wear a helmet)

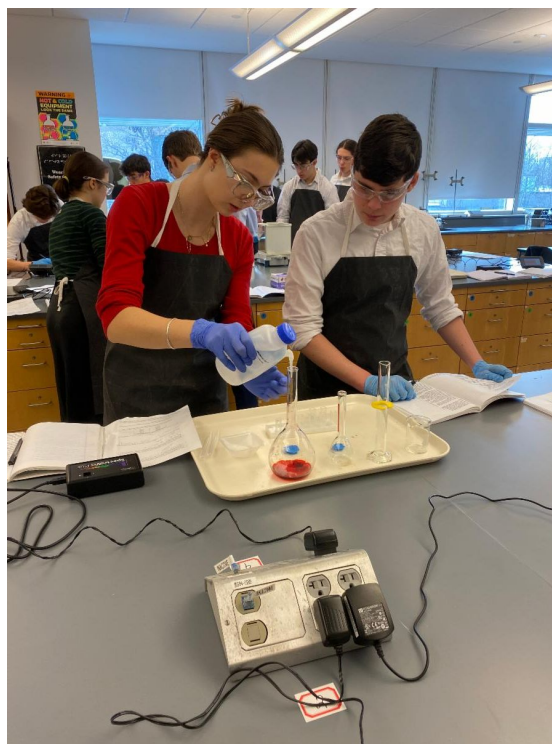
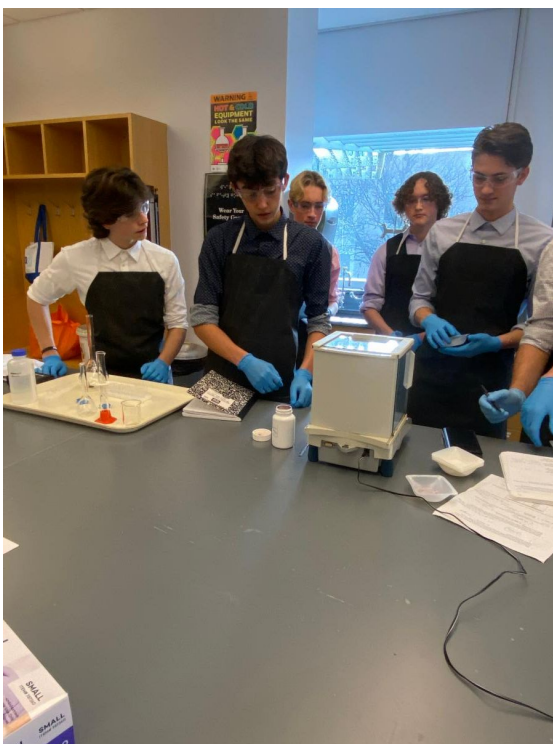
For students who don't ski, snow shoeing at no charge is available. Please reach out to Liberty Ebright directly if you are interested in snow shoeing. She has 4 pairs of snowshoes she can lend.

**Payment is due to Allison Murray no later than Monday, January 29th. If you pay by check (payable to Our Lady of Mercy Academy) or Venmo (@stjosephregionalschool), please include Mercy Ski Trip on the tagline.**

We want all students to join us on this amazing trip! If it presents a financial hardship for your family, please reach out to Liberty to make arrangements.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to sophomores Harmony Brown and Lily Fitzpatrick on their awesome performance in *Radium Girls* at MoCo Arts recently!





Mrs. Hoye's **Honors Chemistry** class headed over to the General Chemistry Lab in the Putnam Science Center at Keene State College to do some lab work yesterday. The students were welcomed by KSC Professor Jim Kraly, and then proceeded to complete a lab about Beer's Law and the most consumed food color additive, Allura Red (Red No. 40).



### **TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS WITH CONANT HIGH SCHOOL**

OLMA parent and Conant High School World Language teacher Kira Kangas is organizing a trip to New Orleans June 17-20 with Conant students. They currently have space for at least another 15 students, and have invited Mercy students to join them if they would like.

The itinerary and price information can be found here:

<https://www.explorica.com/Kangas-208> For additional information, please contact Kira directly at [kirakangas5@gmail.com](mailto:kirakangas5@gmail.com).

## HOUSE MERCH

We have lots of great OLMA gear available!

### Zeiger & Ollie Stores

These online stores are created by our own Miss Wilson and include fun merchandise specific to all of the Houses!



### AQUINAS

### DROGO

### JOSEPHINE

### URSULA



**Zeiger & Ollie OLMA  
Alpine store**



## Father Greg Boyle

Bestselling author and founder of Homeboy Industries, the nation's largest gang intervention program, providing hope, training, and support to formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated persons.



### *Cherished Belonging: Love in Divided Times*

**Monday, January 15, 6pm**  
Heberton Hall, Keene Public Library  
60 Winter St., Keene, NH 03431

Students from Middle School through College are invited to a special conversation with Fr. Boyle at 4:30pm at Cohen Hall in the Keene Public Library.

**Free and open to all.**  
**Library is fully accessible.**  
**ASL interpretation provided.**

For information, contact:  
Alyssa Bender at (603) 357-9829

A native of Los Angeles and a Jesuit priest, **Father Greg Boyle** served as pastor of Dolores Mission Church in the poorest Catholic parish in Los Angeles during the so-called "decade of death" of gang violence that began in the late 1980s and peaked at 1,000 gang-related killings in 1992. Father Boyle, the parish, and community members adopted a radical approach to the crisis that emphasized the humanity of gang members. Their efforts led to the founding of Homeboy Industries.

Father Boyle is the author of numerous books, including the 2010 *New York Times*-bestseller *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* and the 2017 *Los Angeles Times*-bestseller *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship*. In 2014, the White House honored him as a *Champion of Change*, and in 2017, the University of Notre Dame bestowed upon him the *Laetare Medal*, the oldest honor given to American Catholics. Father Boyle has also served as a member of the Governor of California's *Economic and Job Recovery Task Force* and the *National Gang Center Advisory Board*.

Father Boyle will be accompanied by two former gang members whose lives were transformed by Father Boyle and Homeboy Industries.

In lieu of a speaker's fee, Father Boyle gratefully accepts any and all contributions to Homeboy Industries. Learn more about this not-for-profit organization and make your own generous donation at <https://homeboyindustries.org/donate/donate-online/> or scan the QR code. All proceeds from public appearances and books sales benefit Homeboy Industries.



Presented by The Human Rights Committee of the City of Keene with support from (as of 1.3.24):



# FAFSA Open House

at River Valley  
Community College -  
Keene Campus

What:

In person support with the  
2024-25 FAFSA, open to everyone!

When:

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 *from* 2:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Where:

River Valley Community College - Keene  
88 Winchester Street, Keene, NH 03431



**Register Now**

Scan the QR code to register!

or

Call us: (603) 225-6612

Email us:

findyourdirection@graniteedvance.org



GraniteEdvance.org + (603) 225-6612 + 3 Barrell Court, Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Newsletters from previous weeks can be found on our website here:  
<https://www.mercyacademykeene.org/news>



Our Lady of Mercy Academy | 161 Main Street, Keene, NH 03431

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