An Editor’s Goodbye

by Molly Dedloff

I have spent the last four years on the Merciette staff, two as a staff member and two as editor. As I reflect back on my time at Mercy, and think about the activities I have been a part of, one comes to my mind as my favorite, Merciette.

Merciette is not a club that meets every day, or every month, or really ever, but it has had a huge impact on my high school experience. It has given me a medium to express my thoughts, and to share my words with the entire school. It has helped me to grow as a writer, and often times it has challenged me. Merciette has given me the opportunity to work with girls from all grades, and to learn from them and their writing skills.

To keep this short and sweet, I want to thank Mrs. Weld for her guidance and understanding, and the opportunity to be editor for the past two years. I also want to thank my amazing co-editor Hannah Luterek for her skill and eloquence. Finally, I want to thank the entire Merciette staff for taking the time out of their busy lives to be a part of something truly special.

I will miss being the editor of Merciette, but I am beyond grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of this club.

Good luck to Molly and Hannah! Thank you for your years of service to the Merciette!

Study STRESS FREE

by Kate Marabella

It’s the time of year where reviews classes start and finals are just around the corner. We often want to pull out our hair at the amount work we have to do. To try and ease some of this stress:
1. Organized your assignments and start with the one that is due either the next day or the one you know will take the least amount of time. It’s better to get small things out of the way so you can focus fully on the longer assignments.
2. Take regular breaks.
3. Make yourself comfortable. Throw on your comfy clothes or wrap yourself in a blanket.
4. DO NOT fall asleep BEFORE doing homework or studying. When you wake up, you’ll probably be less motivated to even start.

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Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Class of 2016!
**Ice Cream Around Western New York**

Summertime brings several sweet things to the Buffalo area, but nothing is sweeter than the taste of ice cream on a hot summer day. Personally, I’m an ice cream fanatic (and I also happen to work in the ice cream business), so I’ve gathered a few spots that offer some of the best ice cream in Buffalo.

1. **Kone King, 865 Center Road, West Seneca, NY** - Kone King is one of the best when it comes to soft serve ice cream. With rotating specialty flavors, a wide array of sundaes and milkshakes, and several different toppings, there’s no way you won’t find something you like. You cannot go wrong with Kone King’s ice cream; there’s a reason it has been so successful since its opening in 1976.

2. **Fran-Ceil Custard, 3411 South Park Avenue, Blasdell, NY** - Another Western New York classic, Fran-Ceil has been a popular spot for families for decades. They serve both custard and Perry’s hard ice cream, along with an extended menu of milkshakes, slushies, sundaes, and arctic swirls (like a Dairy Queen blizzard). Open until 11 pm every night, Fran-Ceil is the perfect place to satisfy any late-night ice cream craving.

3. **Route 20 Ice Cream, 2783 Southwestern Boulevard, Orchard Park, NY** - The nostalgic vibe at Route 20 accompanies their never-ending menu perfectly. With a new section of seating in a renovated caboose train, customers are welcome to stay awhile and enjoy any of their sundaes, shakes, or my personal favorite, vanilla soft serve with blue raspberry dip. Route 20 offers something for everyone, and its cute setup adds to the incredible summer atmosphere.

4. **PJ Cool’s Ice Cream Shoppe, 6160 Transit Road, Depew, NY** - PJ Cool’s is a brand new ice cream shop that offers both indoor and outdoor seating, so weather is no issue when stopping by. Since they are so new (opened in April 2016), they are constantly adding and experimenting with new soft serve flavors, dips, and sundaes. The interior decor will no doubt put you in a happy mood before you even get your ice cream; PJ Cool’s definitely lives up to its name.

Although eating healthy is still definitely important, treating yourself every now and then is equally crucial. Any of these places are perfect for indulging a little and enjoying the summer season. Make it a point to eat a cone or two this summer, you’ll be more than happy you decided to!

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**Happy Birthday, William Shakespeare!**

William Shakespeare was born and died on April 23rd, so in order to celebrate this monumental day, as well as the 400th anniversary of his death, Mrs. Weld’s AP Literature Class, in perhaps the most entertaining final project of all time, threw a birthday party with the entire school in attendance. The party began with a presentation on Shakespeare’s life, put on by the hosts of the event, Megan Miller and Emma Alvarado, who provided comic relief throughout the assembly, and the emcee, Molly Dedloff, who acted as Shakespeare. Following this, there were many literary presentations done by the English class, including a reenactment of the death scene from *Hamlet* by Tara Kennelly, Brigid Keane, McKenzie Cerone and Keri Kostek. There were also several modern interpretations of traditional Shakespeare pieces, such as a modern take on the fight scene where Tybalt dies from *Romeo and Juliet*, several modern twists on Hamlet’s “To Be or Not to Be” speech, and the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* with a southern twist.

After the literary presentations, everyone could participate in games and win prizes. There was “Pin the Feather on the Bard,” “Build a Globe Theater,” and “Take a Selfie with Shakespeare,” among others. There was also a door prize with a DVD of *Gnomeo and Juliet* and some snacks to make a nice movie night, and that was won by Arielle Brown. Most importantly for a birthday party, there was also cake in honor of Shakespeare. Overall, everyone had a great time, and Mrs. Weld and her AP Literature Class did a great job!
Staying Busy in the Summer

With summer right around the corner, and the school year coming to an end, some students may find it hard to do activities in the summer other than going to the mall or seeing a movie. In and around Buffalo, there are a lot of fun things to do, you just need to know where to find them. Every August, the Erie County Fair is held in Hamburg. From shopping to riding the carnival rides and playing games, the Erie County Fair has something fun for everyone! Although the Erie County Fair may be one of the largest in the area, there are still other fairs and festivals that are just as fun. Allentown Art festival on Delaware Avenue takes place during June for two days. People from all over the world come to sell and show their works of art and crafts to the public.

Dear Catherine

So finals are coming up and I am starting to get nervous. Tests can make me nervous, and I feel like I'm not studying the right way. Is there anything you can recommend to help alleviate the stress this time of year brings?

-Worried Student

Dear Worried Student,

Trust me, we are all feeling the pressure that the end of the year brings! You are definitely not alone. To help review for your tests, make sure to talk to your teachers. A lot of teachers have review sessions to help students during this time of year. Teachers understand how hard it can be to review and are willing to help. Also, study groups can be a good idea; reviewing with friends can make it easier. Do not forget to reward yourself! Every time you finish one subject, get yourself some food or watch one episode of a show you like. Most importantly, do not overwork yourself or procrastinate! I know Netflix is way more fun than studying, but waiting until the last minute will not work; I know from experience. Honestly, do not stress out too much! Finals time can be a lot of work but as long as you remember these tips, it can be a lot easier.

Dear Catherine,

Lately, I have had a hard time falling asleep. I usually cannot fall asleep super early, but lately it has gotten worse. Is there anything I can do to help fall asleep or get better sleep?

-Tired Girl

Dear Tired Girl,

During this time of year, the stress can get to everyone. That may be why you are having a hard time falling asleep. Make sure you don’t use your electronic devices too much before sleeping. An hour before you go to bed, make sure not to be on your phone or laptop; using electronics can actually wake you up and make it harder to fall asleep. Listening to music can also help. Sometimes, I like to play a soundtrack of rain which can calm me down. Exercising before bed could also get you tired and help you sleep. A nice hot shower can help relax you too. If your sleep problems do not go away, go see a doctor to make sure everything is okay. Sleep well!

by Megan Michalski
Recipe Corner by Nora Galley

Double Chocolate Cookies

Ingredients:
- 2 and 1/4 cups of flour
- 1/2 cup of cocoa
- 1 tsp of baking soda
- 1/2 tsp of salt
- 2 sticks of butter
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 3/4 cup of sugar
- 1 tsp of vanilla
- 2 large eggs
- 1 bag of chocolate chips

Directions:
1. Mix all ingredients together
2. Scoop onto a baking sheet.
3. Bake at 375 for 8-10 minutes
4. Enjoy!