



The Campanile

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Where are meetings held?

A: Mr. Alfonsi's classroom (Room 204)

Q: When are meetings?

A: Fridays at 3:15

Q: How much are dues?

A: \$3

Q: What we will do?

A: We will plant vegetables, herbs and flowers from seed; nurture plants throughout the spring or fall; and sell plants at the end of the season at the plant bar.

Q: What are the requirements for joining the club?

A: You should have an interest in gardening and be able to spend at least one day a week after school in the greenhouse.

By Julia Schalleur '20

The Mount community walks past the greenhouse in the courtyard every day. We hardly acknowledge the structure, except to ask—why isn't it in use? This question started my journey to revitalize the greenhouse and the gardening club.

which causes other safety hazards.

But despite all these obstacles, I still believed that the possibility of the greenhouse becoming functional again was worth the hard work. I reached out to Dana Sargent '16 and Marie Frazer '15, who had been a part of the Environmental Club during their time at Mount. Both alumnae spoke about

moderator, also spoke about the benefits of gardening club.

"You can see your own results," he said. "You grow something that is useful and people are attracted to it because they can do it on their own."

I reconnected with Dr. Caviston, who said, "We're going to tear [the greenhouse] down



The first inaugural Mount Saint Joseph Academy Garden Club sold plants at the plant bar, hence the name.

First, I spoke with Mrs. Guyger and Dr. Caviston. Mrs. Guyger, who was all for the idea of revitalizing the gardening club, mentioned that she would be happy to provide a temporary space for the club with ample sunlight for growing seedlings.

Dr. Caviston also approved the gardening club, adding she would meet with Mr. Webb, head of maintenance, regarding safety issues with the greenhouse.

I then spoke to Mr. Webb, who told me about certain structural issues which do pose safety hazards in the greenhouse.

"A lot of those glass panes aren't really mounted to anything," said Mr. Webb of the glass ceiling panels in the greenhouse.

"They're actually sitting on the metal frames. The panels are loose, and if they fall on you, you can get cut," said Mr. Webb.

There is a broken glass panel as well,

hosting the club in Mr. Alfonsi's room because of their inability to use the greenhouse.

"We would've liked to use the greenhouse. We would've been able to grow more, but we weren't able to do that," said Frazer.

However, the gardening club thrived despite these circumstances.

"Every Earth Day we had a plant sale," said Frazer. "We usually sold a couple hundred plants that we grew."

"We would sell [the plants] for Mother's Day at the Plant Bar," said Sargent.

The club donated the money earned from selling their plants to a charity called Trees for the Future.

"Every dime we donated would plant a tree," said Frazer. "We ended up planting thousands of trees."

Mr. Alfonsi, the Environmental Club



Pictured above is the greenhouse in its current condition before it is demolished for renovation.

and rebuild it." The project will take place during the summer of 2019 and will hopefully be completed by the fall.

Though the greenhouse may be small, the life that it will invigorate, not only in the courtyard but in the entire school, will be more than enough to make people stop and turn their heads. This greenhouse will no longer be in the shadows and forgotten, but instead will highlight Mounties' hard work and dedication.

Although the greenhouse will not be completed until next year, the gardening club will still be running in Mr. Alfonsi's room and under the staircase. The club is planning to grow vegetables and flowers for the spring season, and hopes to sell them to Mount students before the school year ends.

