SJA Students Earn Impressive 46 Awards in Scholastic Art Contest

SJA art students won an astounding 46 awards in the 2014 Scholastic Art competition, including an impressive eight Gold Keys, according to an announcement this week by the Cleveland Institute of Art. More than 2,100 pieces of artwork were submitted by Cuyahoga County teenagers to this 33rd annual juried Scholastic Art and Writing Contest. The top 650 winning individual works - including the 46 pieces of art created by the SJA students - will be on view from January 14-February 2 in the George Gund Building, Reinberger Galleries, 11141 East Boulevard, Cleveland.

Gold Key winners continue to the national competition in New York City. Full Story
must be presented when dining, in order for the school to receive credit. Thank You!

**Parent Events:**

**December 20-January 6**

No school. School office will be open on Monday, December 23 and Friday, December 27. It will also be open on Monday, December 30, and again on Thursday-Friday, January 2, 3.

**January 20**

The Academy Parents’ second annual “Dining to Donate” fundraiser, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. at the Applebee’s at Westgate on Center Ridge Road. 15 percent of each bill will be donated to the school. The attached flyer must be presented when dining, in order for the school to receive credit.

**Admissions Events:**

**January 11**

Admissions Test. 9-11:30 a.m. Last test. Register here.

**January 13**

High school application process begins. Call Enrollment & Marketing office for more information, 216.251.6788.

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**SPOTLIGHT**

**Junior Part of Cleveland Leadership Center Program**

Who: Junior Clare Fibbi

What: Clare is one of 53 high school leaders currently

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**SJA Alumna Discusses Careers with Math, Science, Engineering Students**

Imagine being able to help build prosthetic hips, arms or legs - transforming people’s lives! If that isn’t awe-inspiring enough, how about creating artificial blood vessels, new tendons, devices that help with blood flow or enabling robotic surgeries? All these revolutionary, life-changing possibilities are open to women who choose to become chemical or biomedical engineers, according to Dr. Joanne Savinell Belovich ’81, a professor of Chemical & Biomedical Engineering at the Fenn College of Engineering at Cleveland State University. Full Story

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**Christmas Party for Douglas MacArthur Students, SJA Tutors Featured on TV**

For three years, more than two dozen Saint Joseph Academy students have traveled twice a week to the Douglas MacArthur Girls’ Leadership Academy, part of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, to tutor students in math, English and reading. This week, some 37 girls from that school visited SJA for a Christmas party to celebrate their hard work and dedication to learning. The Leadership Academy is a kindergarten through 8th grade school attracting students from neighborhoods stretching from W. 25th Street to Kamm’s Corners.

"We wanted to show the students how much they are appreciated and how proud we are of their efforts throughout the school year," shared CORE Ministry teacher Dan Guion, who organized the tutoring efforts. As a bonus, the SJA Christmas party for the students was covered by 19 Action News on the 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. broadcasts Thursday night. Here is a link to that coverage.

Congratulations to all the tutors and CORE Ministry for helping to "build a caring community!"

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**'Science of Attention' Activities Highlight Dangers of Inattention, Texting and Impaired Driving**

Juniors and seniors participating in the Science of Attention program, held at SJA last week, learned that even though they are quick, there are simply some tasks the brain can’t process efficiently. Why is that an important lesson? Because fatalities are rising from teen drivers texting and being otherwise distracted while driving. Full Story

This exercise had students reacting to a lighted button while at the same time answering math questions.
participating in Look Up To Cleveland 2014, a leadership program offered through the Cleveland Leadership Center.

**Fun facts:** Students in the group represent 30 Northeast Ohio cities. She is one of only five selected for the program from private schools. The highly selective program works to raise participants' awareness of Cleveland's assets as they make initial decisions about college and careers. The first portion focuses on Cleveland's economy and entrepreneurship, helping students understand the current state of the regional economy. Other sessions focus on arts, culture, government and neighborhoods. The seven-month Look Up To Cleveland Experience culminates in April with each student detailing their vision for a Cleveland neighborhood to a panel of the city's leaders.

"The program has taught me about Cleveland's diverse culture," shared Clare. "I think Look Up To Cleveland also has helped me sharpen my professional behavior. I'm learning important leadership skills."

Clare is interested in studying biology or engineering. "I am still on my college search. However, Case Western Reserve and Ohio State universities are currently at the top of my list." Congratulations, Clare!

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**Christmas Celebrations at SJA Include Concert, 'Ugly' Sweater Day**

The last few weeks have been filled with holiday cheer at SJA, including the annual Christmas Concert, held on Thursday night to a packed crowd. Here is a Facebook album, recording the Christmas cheer at the Academy. Enjoy!

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**Saint Joseph Academy Chorale To Perform Sunday at Severance Hall**

The Saint Joseph Academy Chorale will be performing from 6:15-6:45 p.m. on Sunday, December 22, at Severance Hall, 11001 Euclid Ave, Cleveland. The a cappella group will be performing prior to the Cleveland Orchestra Christmas Concert at 7:30 p.m. The performance takes place in Severance Hall's Founder's Gallery, above the Grand Foyer lobby space. There are no tickets for purchase for this event because the Cleveland Orchestra Christmas Concerts are always sold out. However, anyone who arrives around 5:45 (same time as the Chorale) can obtain a guest pass and listen to the performance. The students will be singing a mix of traditional and jazz Christmas music, including a new arrangement of Joseph's Lullaby that debuted at the school concert on Thursday night.

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**Spanish Honors Students Translate Letters, Learn El Salvadoran History**
Students in the Honors Spanish IV class last week painstakingly translated some 50 letters written by the children of COAR (Community Oscar Arnulfo Romero) Children's Village in Zaragoza, El Salvador. Founded in 1980 by Bishop Romero, who was martyred that same year, the village provides foster care for 120 children, schooling for 800 children and a clinic, pharmacy and other services for the entire community.

After translating the letter, the students were visited by the COAR Peace Mission director Ms. Mary K. Stevenson, who explained the background of how the village and the peace mission were founded in a country that still suffers from extreme poverty and violence.

Full Story

Students Participate in Pop Culture Quiz Tournament

On Saturday, the Academic Jaguars reached the quarter finals of the Trash Tournament (meaning the questions were based on pop culture) held at Olmsted Falls Middle School.

The tournament was composed of 64 teams from more than 30 northeast Ohio schools. The Jaguars lost in overtime. Junior Cari Milowicki placed second for overall high score both this year and last. Other participants were seniors Marley Yarian, Kat Coughlin and sophomore Hayley Gallo.

Senior Parents: After Prom Committe Seeks Emails

Attention Senior Class Parents: In an effort to efficiently communicate important dates and activities, the 2014 After Prom Parent Committee would like to communicate directly to each senior class parent via personal email. Because parent emails are protected by the SJA privacy policy, senior class parents wanting to share their emails may go to this link to provide the committee their name and emails. Private emails will only be used for the exclusive communication of relevant After Prom details and activities. This list will not be shared with any other school-related committee or outside organization.

Please note: Failure to sign up may result in missed updates for After Prom activities and deadlines. Thank you!

Last Chance to Visit the Bookstore before Christmas

There is only one more chance before Christmas to visit the Paw Prints Bookstore! The store will be open tomorrow, Saturday, December 21 from noon-2 p.m. New this year is the online bookstore. (Purchases made now are not guaranteed delivery by Christmas.) Let your out-of-town Jaguar fans know so they can shop! The link is www.sja1890.org/bookstore.

If didn’t have time to visit before Christmas, the bookstore will be open on Sunday, December 28 from noon-3 p.m.

SPORTS

Basketball

The Jaguars defeated the Cleveland Heights Tigers 60-46 on Wednesday, December 11. The Jaguars were led by the hustling defense of senior Nicole McManamon. Nicole also had 17 points, including four, 3-point field goals. Junior Brittany Morrison posted yet another double-double, with 15 points and 16 rebounds. Senior Greta Burry contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds, while freshman point guard Gia DiMassa had 5 assists against intense defensive pressure.

The Jaguars nearly upset the No.1 ranked team in Northeast Ohio, but lost a heartbreaker to Saint Vincent-Saint Mary, 63-60 on Saturday, December 14. Individual statistical leaders were: senior Nicole McManamon with 15 points, including five, 3-point baskets; junior Brittany Morrison with 18 points and 10 rebounds; and senior, Greta Burry with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Sophomore Natasha Martinez also contributed significantly with 6 points, 5 assists, and 5 steals.

Click here for the full 2013-14 schedule.
Swimming/Diving
On Thursday, December 12, the Jaguars took on Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy and Walsh Jesuit High School. The Jaguars were led by Sarah Sofish ’14 with two second-place finishes. Alexis Butler ’16 also had a good meet, improving her 100-yard butterfly by three seconds. As a team, the Jaguars took 2nd and continue to improve. Up next: the Viking Invitational at Cleveland State on Saturday, December 21 at 8 a.m.
Click here for the full 2013-14 schedule.