Two Students Named as Finalists in 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program

Seniors Emily Rouse (left) and Sara Hurley this week were named Finalists in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program.

This honor places them among some 15,000 academically talented high school seniors representing less than one percent of U.S. high school graduating seniors. All finalists are considered for National Merit Scholarships, including a $2,500 scholarship and a corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship award. Scholarship notices will be sent in March.

Full Story

Engineering Students Advance to Semifinals in Robotics Competition

The SJA Robotics Team came out with a win this past weekend at the VEX Robotics Competition held at Cleveland State University. The team, calling themselves the Fast Cats, advanced to the semifinals with their alliance partners from Norwalk High School, after mastering the building of a robot that was able to move balls into the proper corners in a game called "Toss Up."

Full Story

AVID Students Visit College Fair, Talk Careers AND See Cavaliers Play!

Twenty-one students this week were able to attend a
parent volunteer group STArts (Support the Arts). Present this form and 15 percent of your bill will be donated to STArts for such activities as the spring play.

**March 13**

Second semester Parent/Teacher conferences, 3:30-7:30 p.m. Information about signing up for conference appointments will be sent out via email in the coming weeks.

**March 15**

Academy Parents' Annual Father/Daughter Dance, 7 p.m.-midnight, Brennan’s Party Center on Triskett Road. Registration deadline: Monday, March 10. Cost is $70 per couple, $15 for each additional daughter. Contact parent volunteer Mrs. Colleen Stanton Hecht here for more information.

**April 11, 12, 13**

Spring Play, "Little Women," 7:30 p.m. on April 11 and 12; 2:30 matinees on April 13.

**Parent Events:**

**February 17**

School, Office closed for President's Day.

**February 19**

Early Dismissal, 2 p.m.

STArts meeting, the parent booster group for SJA's performing arts, 6:30 p.m. at the school.

**February 26**

Dine at Applebee's at Westgate from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and support the parent volunteer group STArts (Support the Arts). Present this form and 15 percent of your bill will be donated to STArts for such activities as the spring play.

**March 8**

"Night at the Races," sponsored by the SJA Athletic Boosters, 6 p.m.-midnight in The Academy Center. Cost is $25 in advance, $30 at the door. Call volunteer Mrs. Patty Finau at 216.548.4485 for more information.

**March 13**

Second semester Parent/Teacher conferences, 3:30-7:30 p.m. Information about signing up for conference appointments will be sent out via email in the coming weeks.

**March 15**

Academy Parents' Annual Father/Daughter Dance, 7 p.m.-midnight, Brennan’s Party Center on

college-readiness seminar, learn about potential careers and, as a bonus, attend a Cavaliers game - all in one day! The students are part of SJA's AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program, a college-readiness system designed to increase schoolwide learning and performance. SJA is the only Catholic high school in Ohio and the first in the city of Cleveland to offer an AVID program.

**Full Story**

**Students Work to Create Teen Chapter of American Heart Association's 'Go Red for Women'**

Have you always assumed that breast cancer is the No. 1 killer among women? A group of students learned on Friday, February 14, that the assumption is untrue. Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women, causing 1 in 3 deaths each year.

**Full Story**

**Juniors Find Spiritual Renewal, Renewed Energy at Kairos XXVIII**

Spiritual renewal was key to the recent Kairos XXVIII retreat, held at the St. Leonard's Youth Retreat Center in Avon on February 6-8. The theme song was "Best Day of My Life" by the American Authors. The retreat was experienced by 42 juniors, eight senior leaders, and eight teachers.

This is the 11th year that SJA juniors have attended Kairos retreats, an experience designed to deepen their faith as they are on the cusp of adulthood.

"Kairos helped me understand that God is everywhere, especially in the people in our lives. I now understand that being a Catholic is more than just going to Church. I know that I need to live out my relationship with God. Also, I developed friendships with my classmates that I never expected. It was an awesome experience," shared Grace Hendryx '15.
Triskett Road. Registration deadline: Monday, March 10. Cost is $70 per couple, $15 for each additional daughter. Contact parent volunteer Mrs. Colleen Stanton Hecht here for more information.

April 11, 12, 13
Spring Play, "Little Women," 7:30 p.m. on April 11 and 12; 2:30 matinees on April 13.

Admissions Events:
April 11
"Easter at the Academy" for girls in grades 2-5, 6-7;30 p.m. $5 fee per girl. For more information, go to www.sja1890.org/admissionevents.

April 13
Open House, noon-2 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT
Junior Excels in Diving Competitions

Who: Diver Kayla Gartin '15
What: Kayla joined the diving team at the start of this year, and has proven to be a natural at the sport. She recently broke the school record in competition by 20 points and performed well in District Finals this week, placing 25th out of 32.

Fun facts: Kayla soon will be featured on the Channel 5 "Athlete of the Week" segment! Filming will take place on Wednesday, February 19.

"I decided to join the swim team my sophomore year, and I decided to try diving in October," she shared. "I began practicing with Tim Croy, who coincidentally ended up becoming Saint Joseph Academy's diving coach!"

Kayla is interested in pursuing a career in the FBI or in the forensic science field. "I have even been lucky enough to be given the opportunity to shadow the FBI's Violent Crimes Unit next month during Junior.

We would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to all the friends and supporters of Saint Joseph Academy for making this year's "Celebrate the Academy" a success. Thanks to the generosity of the our compassionate and giving community, a net $224,000 was raised for SJA academic and scholarship initiatives!

Full Story

Cleveland Scholarship Checks Are Available for Signature

For those families with the Cleveland Scholarship, your second Cleveland Scholarship check is available for signature. If you have not done so already, please come in during our normal business hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to sign your check. If you are unable to come in during our normal business hours, please email Blapolla@sja1890.org or call at 216.251.6788 ext 252 to set up a time to sign your check. All checks must be signed by February 20, 2014. Please also bring your signed renewal form with a current utility bill when you come to sign your check.

Scholarship Opportunities Available for Catholic School Students

Unity Federal Catholic Credit Union and the Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union both have scholarship opportunities for families to assist them in their Catholic Education costs. Unity Catholic is offering five $1,000 scholarships for students at the high school level. The scholarship deadline is April 1, 2014. For additional information, please visit www.unitycatholiccu.org.

The Ohio Catholic Credit Union (OCFCU) is offering thirty-five $1,000 scholarships for students in grades 1-12. All applications must be completed online at OCFCU's website. The deadline is February 28, 2014.

'Love to Save' Valentine's Day Sale Ends Tomorrow at Bookstore

There's still time to take advantage of the Valentine's Day sale at the Paw Prints Bookstore. The 2nd Annual "Love to Save" sale continues through tomorrow, Saturday, February 15, from noon to 2 p.m. Customers will receive 14% off one clothing or apparel item. We even have a few new arrivals from which to choose! The special is for in-store purchases only and no further discounts will apply.
Professional Shadowing!

She is interested in attending Loyola University of Chicago - her top choice right now - as well as West Virginia University, Mercyhurst University and Defiance College.

Congratulations, Kayla, on a wonderful season!

SPORTS

Basketball
On February 6, the Jaguars defeated Padua High School 57-41. The Jaguars were led by junior Brittany Morrison with 14 points, 11 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 blocks, and 3 steals. Senior Greta Burry led the defense, and also added 11 points, 4 steals, and 2 blocks.

Following that victory, the Jaguars defeated Hathaway Brown 42-33 on February 8. SJA was led by junior Brittany Morrison with 16 points and 8 rebounds. Senior Greta Burry added 7 points and 7 rebounds.

On Wednesday, February 12, the Jaguars lost to Magnificat in a hard-fought battle. Seniors Greta Burry, Nicole McManamon, Grace Mullen and Bethany Weisenseel and their parents were honored that night.

Swimming/Diving
Thirty swimmers advanced to Districts on Saturday, February 8. The Jaguars started off the meet with a new school record in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 2:00.21. Sarah Sofish '14, Bella Koussa '14, Alexis Butler '16 and Maddie Zimmerman '14 also went on to break the schools 200m Freestyle Relay record with a time of 1:45.09. The 400m free relay team of Kelly Shantery '16, Alexis Buter '16, Annmarie Russo '15 and Katrin Blayney '15 qualified for Districts. Swimming in individuals at the District meet were Sarah Sofish in the 200m Free and the 100m Backstroke, Maddie Zimmerman in the 50m Freestyle and the 100m Freestyle, Alexis Butler in the 50m Freestyle Kiera Grady in the 100m Butterfly and the 500m Freestyle.

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