Four Students Named National Merit Semifinalists

SJA is proud to announce that seniors Kelly Haller, Katherine Hutchinson, Julie Simmons and Caroline Speice were named this week as Semifinalists in the 58th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships that will be offered next spring. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, and includes the highest-scoring percentage of the national total of graduating seniors. Being named semifinalists means that Kelly, Katherine, Julie and Caroline were among the top scorers of the 1.5 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

“I feel extremely blessed to receive this recognition. I know I couldn’t have done it without the preparation I have received at SJA and I am excited about the new doors that this open for me, Katie, Kelly and Julie,” shared Caroline, who plans to study international business and is considering Georgetown, Marquette or Fordham Universities. Julie Simmons plans on studying mechanical or electrical engineering. The University of Cincinnati, Marquette or Purdue Universities are among the universities she is considering. Kelly, who plans on becoming a medical doctor, is looking at Duke, Vanderbilt or Miami Universities. Finally, Katie is undecided on her major, but hopes to attend Brown, Columbia or Ohio University. “It has been my pleasure to see Katie, Julie, Caroline and Kelly develop their abilities since arriving at SJA. Each is a wonderful representative of SJA. Bravo!” cheered President Mary Ann Corrigan-Davis.

SJA Values Creativity, Initiative

There are many areas in which the Academy’s programs align with those in a new book Creating Innovators by Tony Wagner, read this summer by our faculty. We value and foster our students’ creativity and initiative in pursuing a new interest, and possibly a developing passion as they journey through the SJA program. In future weekly newsletter articles, I will give you some examples of how our teachers are fostering true student interest and creativity in various topics.

~James M. Cantwell, Ed.D.
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Celebrates New Spaces, Friends of the Academy

Sunny skies complemented the joyous mood Sunday as more than 635 Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph, alumnae and friends of SJA celebrated the completion of a new dining hall, The Scholars’ Porch and Howley Terrace with a Donor Appreciation mass and Ribbon Cutting ceremony.

The $4 million project, started in March, doubled our cafeteria space and created a porch, terrace and rain garden. The outdoor areas – The Scholars’ Porch and The Howley Terrace – will be used for both formal and informal programs.

A special Mass in The Academy Center, officiated by Rev. Jim Collins, S.J. of John Carroll University, started the morning’s festivities. A blessing of a Tree of Thanksgiving planted in recognition of the support of the Congregation of St. Joseph preceded the cutting of the ribbon. Senior Maggie Bishop was a relaxed and eloquent Master of Ceremonies!

“It was less than six months ago, on the Feast of our patron St. Joseph, on a bright and beautiful spring morning, that we broke ground on this transformational project. The wonderful physical changes that awaited the girls as they came back to school – the new dining hall, The Howley Terrace and The Scholars’ Porch – are a testament to the dedicated group of men and women who worked so hard for the last five years to make it all happen,” shared President Mary Ann Corrigan-Davis.

For more pictures of the event, please see page 4 and the photo album on www.facebook.com/sja1890.

College Corner/Mercyhurst University

Location: Erie, PA (2 hours from Cleveland). Suburban
Enrollment: 3,000 undergraduates.
Fun Fact: The Women’s Ice Hockey team is consistently ranked 6th in the country. In 2011, they hosted the National Championship series known as the Frozen Four.

www.mercyhurst.edu

Service, Activities Fairs Provide Opportunities

Hospice of the Western Reserve, Sunrise Senior Living, Youth Challenge and Arrupe were just some of the service opportunities presented on Tuesday to students. Dozens of students visited tables set up in The Academy Center covered with brochures, pamphlets and sign-up sheets.

“This is a great chance to decide how I want to spend time doing service in our community,” shared Mikayla Liston ’13.

Other groups represented were Migration and Refugee Services (through Catholic Charities), Bountiful Basement and the West Side Catholic Center.

On Thursday, students browsed tables representing clubs and activities such as Student Council, Youth 360, Engineering, STARS (Students, Technology & Robotics), Forensics, Model United Nations, Ski & Snowboarding, Yearbook, the Fall Musical and Spring play and the Shakespeare Competition.

Weekly Lunch Menu

L-R: Seniors Emily Caja and Mikayla Liston with representatives of Arrupe, a service and community-based program in conjunction with Saint Ignatius High School.

Attention Class of 2013 Parents:

On Saturday, September 15, at 9 a.m., College Counselors Maria Mueller and Susan Jensen will hold a meeting on the college application process, including reviewing the steps needed to submit college applications. The session will be held in the auditorium.
Wednesday, September 19, 2012 is an all-school testing day at Saint Joseph Academy. Students in Grades 9, 10, and 11 will be taking the following standardized tests.

The **Freshmen** will be taking the **EXPLORE** test. The EXPLORE test is a curriculum-based assessment program developed by ACT to help students build a high school course plan that prepares students for college and work, and introduces students to career options. The test is a means of helping students understand their academic strengths and weaknesses and can be used for future educational planning both in high school and beyond. The EXPLORE test consists of four tests of educational development (English, Math, Reading, and Science) which parallel the actual ACT test and also contains a career interest inventory. The EXPLORE test scores provide early indicators of whether students are on track for college.

The **Sophomores** will take the **PLAN** test which is also a curriculum-based assessment developed by ACT. The PLAN test is designed to provide tenth grade students, parents, teachers, and counselors with information that can be used to further guide students in course selection and post-secondary planning. The PLAN test has three components: an achievement component with tests in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning; an interest inventory designed to provide further help in career planning; and a self-reported needs assessment that identifies areas in which the student indicates where she needs academic help. A student’s performance on the achievement section of the PLAN test is a very strong predictor of success on the ACT.

The **Juniors** will take a **Practice ACT (PRACT)** which is designed to help gauge a student’s achievement in their high school coursework and to provide additional assistance in preparing the student for the actual ACT. This test can also help to measure progress since taking the PLAN test. The PRACT includes the multiple-choice tests in English, Mathematics, Reading and Science. The ACT writing test is not included. **Since this test is strictly a practice test**, scores are not reported to colleges and the results are not considered in the college admission process. A personalized report will be given to each student.

In order to help you plan your daughter’s transportation, we are offering the following **approximate dismissal times** for the various grade levels: **Grade 9, 11:20 am; Grade 10, 11:35 am; Grade 11, 11:50 am.**

Counselors are meeting with all students to explain the tests and to review test formats and scoring. Each student has been given a Test Preparation Booklet and packet which includes a practice test that counselors have encouraged students to take as preparation for their respective tests.

When the test results arrive, counselors will again meet with students to interpret their individual results.

These tests are very important in measuring your daughter’s progress and potential. Saint Joseph Academy utilizes the scores of these assessments to gather data for continuous school improvement. Please encourage your daughter to come well rested and prepared to do her best on Wednesday, September 19, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact Maryann Marek, Guidance Counselor, at mmarek@sja1890.org or call 216-251-6788 Ext. 211.
Donor Appreciation Mass & Ribbon Cutting
Soccer

On Monday, September 4, Varsity played their first home game at Fairview High Warrior Stadium against the Orange High Lions. In a tough back and forth match, the Jaguars won 1-0. Niki Mikolcic ’13 scored on an assist from Jackie Harter ’15. Chelsea Hirzel ’13 had a great game in goal with 11 saves.

JV shutout the lions 4-0. Grace Reinhold ’15 scored on a hard shot from 30 yards, allie Hippler ’15 scored two goals off assists by Clare Sonby ’15 and Jessica Runyon ’15 and Clare scored with an assist by Gina Santora ’15.

On Saturday, September 8, Varsity lost to Rocky River 0-4, along with the JV losing 1-2.

Support the Students and “Celebrate the Academy”!

Calling all parents! We are looking for volunteers for our annual Celebrate the Academy benefit, being held on February 23, 2013, at La Centre in Westlake. This elegant, memorable evening with our students benefits SJA’s scholarship and academic initiatives.

The first meeting will be Wednesday, September 26, at 7 p.m. If you are interested in joining the Celebrate the Academy committee or learning about other ways you can get involved, please contact Liz Kantor, Development Associate, at 216-251-6788 ext. 224 or ekantor@sja1890.org. Hope to see you there!

Volleyball


On Saturday, September 8, Varsity played in the Magnificat Showcase. They lost the first match to Holy Name, followed by a win over Brecksville 25-17, 25-20. They lost in the third match to Norwalk. Juliana Withers ’15 lead the team in kills with 32. The leading defenders were Julie Colaianini ’13 with 43 digs and Kerry Colatruiglio ’13 with 39 digs. Sisters Allison Rogozinski ’14 and Kira Rogozinski ’16 had 35 and 32 assists respectfully.


On Saturday, September 8, JV competed in the Kenston Tournament, losing the first match to Medina, then fighting back against Solon to win in 3 sets 20-25, 25-22, 25-15 The last match was lost to rival Magnificat.

Freshmen lost to Strongsville, but defeated Lutheran West 25-5 and 12-12.
Golf

On Wednesday, September 5, and Thursday, September 6, the Jaguar Golf Team played in two very close matches. On Wednesday at Mallard Creek, the Jags scored 175 in a victory against a 183 score for Beaumont. The top score was a season best of 37 for sophomore Kaitlin Rose. Thursday, September 6’s match was against a strong Walsh team at Mud Run Golf Course in Akron. The Walsh team scored a 166 against a Jaguar score of 171. Highlights for our team included a medalist effort from junior Lindsey Keefe, shooting a season best 38 with a great chip-in on the last hole, and a low round of 44 with only 15 putts for senior Patricia Kay.

Tennis

On Saturday, September 8, Varsity Tennis team participated in the Wooster Triway Invitational. They had a great day out in Medina getting to the finals in 4 of the 5 flights and winning two of them to come away with the team championship at the Triway Invitational! Congratulations, Jaguars!

On Wednesday, September 5, and Thursday, September 6, Varsity dropped a pair of matches to Hudson (0-5) and North Canton Hoover (0-5) to fall to 5-4 on the season.

Missy Drapac ’13 finished 4th at 1st singles, beating a solid player from Elyria Catholic before losing to the eventual champ from Bay and an opponent from Wooster in the 3rd place match.

Brooke Kahl ’14 finished 2nd at 2nd singles with wins over Akron SVSM and Wooster before losing to a very strong player from Medina Highland in the final.

Ellen Saracina ’13 finished 2nd at 3rd singles with wins over Elyria Catholic and Hoban before losing a very long match to Wooster in the final 5-8.

Claire Violand ’13 and Sidney Ruebensaal ’14 won the first doubles title with an 8-0 win over Akron SVSM, a really good 8-7 win over Hoban in the semis, and an 8-6 win over Bay in the final. Emily Rouse ’14 and Grace Powers ’14 won the second doubles title with an 8-4 win over triway, a come from behind 8-7 win over Highland in the semis, and an 8-4 win over Bay in the final. Overall, the Jags came away first with 30 points, Bay finished second with 28, and Medina Highland was third with 25.

Cross Country

The cross country team competed on Saturday, September 8, at one of the largest invitationals in the country in Tiffin. The Jags had an impressive 27 PR’s. Just as impressive for SJA was all 51 girls on the team started the race, making it the single largest day of participation in the program’s history!

In the biggest/fastest division of the day, SJA was 18th place out of 33 teams. While hoping for a higher place, the team still earned many PR’s, including senior Emily Bauer’s time of 20:17, which ranks her No. 24 on SJA’s all-time list. Once again Alesha Vovk ’14 ran a very solid race to be the second Jaguar in 20:41 (PR) followed by Rachel McGuire ’14 (20:54), Mel Ward ’13 (PR 21:07), Jill Bresnahan ’13 (PR 21:10), Jess Bresnahan ’13 (PR 21:25), and Mallory Fahey ’15 (21:54).

The “B” team, running in the second biggest race against many “A” teams, earned 8th place out of 27 teams. Senior Helen Steve led the way with a time of 22:02. Bridget Egan ’13, Maddie Zimmerman ’14, and Audrianna Farris ’15 (PR) came in at 22:10, 22:10, and 22:13 respectively and rounding out the top 5 for the B team was freshman Rachel Cogar with a PR of 22:29.

The open race had its share of great performances, but none faster than cross country newcomer and junior Maeve Kroeger who was the top finisher in the race for SJA in a blazing time of 22:03. The next 4 runners to cross, Lauren Marconi ’15, Clare Fibbi ’15, Libby Pipak ’13, and Emma Stalder ’16, all contributed to the open team’s 11th place finish of 30 teams (and 530 runners!).

Lindsey Keefe ’14
Claire Voiland ’13
Helen Steve ’13