MISSION STATEMENT
Saint Joseph Academy, rooted in the spirituality of the Congregation of St. Joseph, fosters unifying relationships with God and all creation, empowers each young woman to achieve academic excellence, and inspires a life of compassionate leadership and service in a global society.

Young Alumna Discusses Potential Careers in Environmental Science to Math, Science Students

Think globally ... literally! Studying Environmental Science opens up the world of global mapping via satellites, allowing scientists to monitor invasive species such as the zebra mussels, check the rate of melting snow on ski slopes, even track bear movements in deforested mountains! These and other exciting environmental science career opportunities were shared by Ms. Donna Friedman '08 with members of the Math and Science Clubs last Friday.

Ms. Friedman is currently taking graduate classes at Cleveland State University following her graduation from Loyola University of Chicago. She plans on obtaining a Master's degree in Wildlife Biology and following her dream of working for the U.S. Park Service.

"The mapping systems you will learn with this degree are used by such businesses as utility companies, banks, insurance companies, Homeland Security and construction companies," stated Ms. Friedman. "Wildlife experts, as well as ocean scientists, land managers, museum experts and even those working in libraries all could use the mapping systems to obtain information. It really is fascinating!"

"The use of satellites for detailed mapping and tracking is incredible," shared Elora Irizarry '13. "I had no idea how close-up the images could be! Environmental Science is an interesting career possibility."

Students Embody the Spirit of Christmas Love

The Christmas season is more than just a time of parties for the young ladies of Saint Joseph Academy. They view it as an opportunity to give back to the community through Paws 4 a Cause - four weeks of giving in which each class sponsors a project. Last week, seniors sponsored a week of collecting items for Transitional Housing. This week and next, juniors urged students to bring in toys to be donated to Catholic Charities. Last but not least, sophomores and freshmen will cap the month by asking fellow students to donate peanut butter and socks, which will be given to the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph for distribution to needy families.

These efforts prove again that SJA is fostering a spirit of compassionate leadership!

~ James M. Cantwell, Ed.D.
Pediatrician Inspires Students to Donate Books for "Reach Out and Read" Program

One of the most important aspects of parenting can also be one of the most frequently neglected - instilling a love of books by reading daily to children as young as 6 months, according to Metro Health Hospital pediatrician Dr. Robert Needlman. The doctor visited SJA this week to inspire members of the Key and Calliope Clubs to collect gently used children's books for Reach Out and Read (ROAR), a program promoting childhood literacy that he started more than 20 years ago. ROAR now has 4,500 clubs nationally, and 20 in the Cleveland area. "One out of three children nationally is not reading at grade level," shared Dr. Needlham. "A lack in literacy has been linked to economic circumstances and in the United States, 12 million children are living at the poverty level." Each child who visits his office is given a ROAR-donated book. "By the time they are 5 years old, we will have given that child at least 10 books," he said.

"I am going to spread the word and ask that students go through their bookshelves and find books to donate. This is such a good program," stated Greta Burry '14. The Reach Out and Read donation box will be outside Room 137 during December.

Students Participate in Unity Club "Lock In" To Get Perspective on World Issues, Diversity

Nearly 40 students participated in a "Lock In" last Friday night sponsored by the Unity Club. The "Lock In" provides students an opportunity to have honest conversations about issues surrounding diversity in race, religion, sexual orientation and both physical and emotional challenges. Activities included listening exercises, ice breakers, small group discussions and storytelling. Students started at 7 p.m. and "worked" most of the night. They went home about 8 a.m. Saturday.

“The Unity 'Lock In' was eye-opening. It showed me how much we can support each other no matter what the life circumstances. It’s definitely an experience I won’t forget. All of the love and support was amazing!” shared Misty Mencin '14.

Holiday Concerts Feature SJA's Musicians, Singers

SJA's musicians and singers are having a busy month! There will be a concert at River’s Edge on Sunday, December 16, at 2 p.m. Admission is $10 and proceeds benefit the River's Edge Women's Outreach Center. Call for tickets at 216-688-1111 or purchase at the door.

The school's Christmas Concert is Thursday, December 20 at 7 p.m. Featured on the program will be the Concert Choir, the String Ensemble, Jazz Band and Concert Band. The evening concludes with the choir and band performing together. The concert is free.

Cecilia's Song capped off a series of TV appearances with a performance on Fox 8 News Wednesday, after having already appeared on WKYC twice this season. They are performing this Friday, December 7, at Playhouse Square's Ohio Theater at 6:45 p.m., and at the Intown Club Luncheon at Playhouse Square on Monday, December 10.
Sign Ups Continue for Key Club’s December Blood Drive

Give the gift of life this holiday season! The Key Club-sponsored blood drive is being held from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12, in the auditorium. Students who haven’t signed up yet and want to donate, please do so as soon as possible. If you are under 16, you need a permission slip, which can be found outside Room 318. Parents, friends and alumnae, please contact Mrs. Courtney Koz at ckoz@sja1890.org to register. As a thank-you, donors are invited to an after-school pizza party at 3 p.m. in the auditorium.

Ambassadors Share Holiday Spirit at Providence House

On Tuesday, December 4, 30 student ambassadors volunteered at the Providence House “Deck the House” event held at Cleveland Browns Stadium. Providence House is a crisis nursery founded by Sister Hope Greener, CSJ. Its CEO and president is alumna Mrs. Natalie Leek-Nelson ’85. Ambassadors greeted guests, sold teddy bears and packed silent auction items.

A special guest for the evening was 105.7 FM radio host Mr. Jimmy Malone, who was so impressed with the students that he purchased a teddy bear for each of them! Ambassadors continued the love by, in turn, donating the bears to the SJA toy collection for Catholic Charities.

“The Ambassadors decided that there were many other children who would love to receive a teddy bear on Christmas morning!” shared Director of Admissions Ms. Diane Kanney. "What a wonderful decision!"

Super Saturday: Explore the Sciences! Day Draws Elementary Students to SJA

Nearly 60 girls from grades 5-8 enjoyed a day of activities and workshops at SJA’s Super Saturday: Explore the Sciences! The event, held in conjunction with the Great Lakes Science Center, took place on December 1 at the Academy. Girls from around Cleveland participated in Chemistry, Pre-Engineering, and Robotics workshops that included many hands-on activities. The girls experimented with chemical and physical reactions as if they were chemists, built bridges and programmed a robot to navigate an obstacle course.

The day ended with the Big Science Show, where representatives from the Great Lakes Science Center performed experiments that were fun, interactive and even a bit explosive!

"Christmas at the Academy" Set for December 14 for Future Jaguars

Girls in grades 5-8 are invited to Christmas at the Academy on Friday, December 14, from 6:30-9 p.m. Admission is $1 or a non-perishable food item, which will be donated to a local food bank. Girls will enjoy Christmas-themed activities, including the decorating of gingerbread houses and a scavenger hunt. Please register at www.sja1890.org/admissionevents.

Academy Parents Devote Advent Night to Helping Transitional Housing

On Tuesday night, more than 50 parents, students and family members gathered at the Academy for an Advent Night event that included assembling boxes of donated items to be delivered to Transitional Housing Inc. of Cleveland. The items, donated by students and faculty, included toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, moisturizer, deodorant and body wash - essential items residents may not be able to purchase.

For nearly 25 years Transitional Housing, Inc. has worked to end the cycle of homelessness by providing women in-need with a safe environment, programs and services that promote self-sufficiency and independence. The program was started in 1984 by Sisters from the Congregation of St. Joseph.

"Many of the residents simply took a wrong turn in life," shared Jane Amata from Transitional Housing at the meeting. "We serve families as well as women.”

Thanks to our parents for modeling how to serve the dear neighbor in our own community!
Young and Old Enjoy the Annual St. Nick Mass and Party

Santa made a special stop to Saint Joseph Academy on Sunday, December 2, for the always-popular St. Nick Mass and party.

After a Mass celebrated by St. Brendan Pastor Father Tom Woost, children and grandchildren of alumnae and friends stood in line in the Arcade to greet Mr. Claus, who was ably assisted by Elves Nicole Morino ’13, Melissa Drapac ’14 and Hannah Bauer ’13.

In addition to meeting Santa, children also enjoyed the Saint Ignatius Juggling Club, the SJa Balloon Artist Club, face painting and lots of games and activities. Numerous toys and stuffed animals were included in a raffle, guaranteeing for at least some of the children an early Christmas!

Swimming & Diving

On Saturday, December 1, the Jaguars Swim Team opened its season with competitions against the Bay Village Rocket Relays at Lakewood High School. The Jaguars swam well and finished 10th of 14 teams. Freshman Mariella Harris stepped up for the Jaguars, swimming the butterfly in two relays. Also standing out were juniors Maddie Zimmerman and Sarah Sofish. Maddie anchored the 500m decrescendo relay with a time of 26.10 and Sarah anchored the 200m back relay with 29.80.

Basketball

On Wednesday, November 28, the Jaguars defeated Avon 49-32 at SJA. The Jags were led by Daija Jones ’13 and Brittany Morrison ’15, with 12 points each. Paige Heneghan ’13 added 8 points. JV lost 43-28; Freshmen won 39-34

On Saturday, December 1, Varsity defeated Culver Academy from Indiana 59-33. Jaguars were led by seniors Katie Battaglia (15 points, 4 assists and 3 steals) and Sarah Schwind (10 points and 8 steals). JV won 44-16; Freshmen won 33-20

On Wednesday, December 5, against Holy Name High School, Varsity won 49-39; JV won 28-26; Freshmen won 53-28

Basketball Players Send Holiday Greeting, Gifts to U.S. Military Personnel

Varsity, Junior Varsity and Freshmen basketball teams came together for an afternoon of service on Sunday, December 2, to make Christmas cards for Freshman Assistant Coach Patti Hageman's daughter Jackie and her U.S. Army unit, the 541st First Surgical Team, stationed in the Farah Province in Afghanistan.

The players also donated and packed eight boxes with items to be mailed to the troops.

"The SJA Basketball program gave a big 'Thank You' to all the soldiers who keep us safe," stated Mrs. Hageman.

Inaugural Building Futures Breakfast Celebrates Mission to Raise New Generation of Leaders

More than 200 female (and one or two male!) community leaders gathered at the Union Club in downtown Cleveland on Tuesday morning to celebrate Saint Joseph Academy's goal of inspiring and nurturing a new generation of women leaders. Seated at each table was an SJA current student sharing her story. The event included a performance by Cecilia's Song and a speech by student Liyanna Chandler-Nieves ’14, who recounted how she travels very early every morning via Rapid Transit and bus to get to school. "At SJA I have come to discover myself, my community, and my world," she shared. "I now believe I can do anything thanks to my education at Saint Joseph Academy."

In addition to raising funds for the Expanding Minds ~ Building Futures ~ Raising Leaders Capital Campaign, the event provided a forum for Cleveland's corporate and community leaders to learn how they could personally get involved by sharing their compassionate leadership with our students. They were invited to participate in the Women's Leadership Symposium, to be a host for the Junior Professional Shadow Experience or speak to a women's leadership class.