Catholic Schools Week Was Time of Giving Thanks

This past week was very special, as the community of Saint Joseph Academy gave thanks during Catholic Schools Week to the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph, parents, faculty and staff for the gift of a Catholic education. Our focus for this annual, national celebration was "Giving Back to God in Gratitude."

Activities included students writing 665 Thank You cards filled with messages of gratitude to our sponsoring Sisters for their dedication, love and daily personification of a Christ-filled life. In addition, Interim Principal Dr. James Cantwell, Assistant Principal Ms. Emily Hanson '99, Dean of Women Ms. Marie Ciolek, and numerous faculty members greeted parents with gifts of donut holes on Tuesday morning and thanks for enabling their daughters to attend Saint Joseph Academy.

On Wednesday, we celebrated as a community with a special Mass. We were honored by the presence of many Sisters joining us in a celebration of the continued blessing of a Catholic education. Thursday proved to be a sweet day for students, as they were treated to free ice cream sundaes served to them by faculty and staff.

Finally, on Friday, the teachers and students enjoyed a snow day! The adults at Saint Joseph Academy will be honored with breakfast and lunch provided by the students on Monday instead of Friday!

"Our school is a special place blessed by the dedication of our sponsors, the Congregation of St. Joseph, our outstanding parents, students, faculty, staff, alumnae and many special friends. Catholic Schools Weeks is a perfect opportunity to express our gratitude," stated President Mary Ann Corrigan-Davis ’71. "Thank you!"

~ James M. Cantwell, Ed.D.

Cutting-Edge Technology in Classrooms

This Sunday, Instructional Technology Educator Mr. Ryan MacRaild will be featured on the radio to discuss technology in the classroom. Mr. MacRaild will be joined by his technology counterparts from Saint Ignatius High School and the University of Akron. The show will air on Q104.1, WNCX 98.5 and 92.3 The Fan from 6-7 a.m. and on the New 102 (WDOK) from 7-8 a.m. Let's make sure we all tune in!

Also, please take note that there will no early release next week. Have a good weekend!
College Corner

Location: Columbus, OH (2 hours from Cleveland). Metropolitan.
Enrollment: 42,000 undergraduates.
Strongest Programs: A Top 25 public university and a top 10 research school; known for Business, Pre-Med, Engineering, Education.
Fun Fact: OSU has more square feet dedicated to fitness than any college or university in the nation.

www.osu.edu

Speaker Stresses Ways to Make a Difference in World

History, economic stresses and societal restrictions all work against the poor and marginalized people living in what is now being called the “Global South,” or countries in Central America, South America and Africa, stressed Mr. Brian Stefan-Szittai, a speaker this week in World Languages teacher Mrs. Alison Morgan’s Spanish III class. Mr. Stefan-Szittai is the program coordinator for the InterReligious Task Force on Central America. Many of the countries needing the most assistance are Spanish-speaking, one of the reasons he was speaking to Mrs. Morgan's class.

“Life is consumed by daily survival for 60 percent of the world’s population,” stated Mr. Stefan-Szittai, who illustrated with 10 students how 20 percent of people control 80 percent of global wealth. Another 20 percent of the population has 10 percent of that wealth, leading 60 percent with only 10 percent of the resources. “This is not a sustainable situation,” he shared with the students. “We as Christians are called to make a special effort to see the faces of the poor and try to make a difference.” Mr. Stefan-Szittai and Mrs. Morgan are working with the students to create a semester-long service project to address some of the poverty and fair trade issues discussed during the class.

“The presentation was very eye-opening about continuing problems in El Salvador and other ‘Global South’ countries. I do think there is something we will be able to do as students to help those struggling just for daily survival,” shared Jenna Kohut ’15.

Freshman Receives Knights of Columbus Scholarship

Bridget Koehl '16 was awarded a scholarship by the Ohio State Council of the Knights of Columbus. She was one of 10 students in Northeast Ohio selected for the honor from a pool of 500 applicants statewide.

"Bridget is a bright student and we happy to be able to award her this scholarship," stated Mr. Robert F. Collins, State Treasurer of the Knights of Columbus.

"I am so grateful for this honor," shared Bridget. She was joined by her parents Kathy and Kevin Koehl as Mr. Collins presented the award.

Catholic School Education Scholarship Applications Available

From January 27- February 9, families may apply for a Catholic School Education Scholarship at the Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union. You do not have to be an Ohio Catholic FCU member to apply. Applications are at all Ohio Catholic branch locations and on the Ohio Catholic website, www.ohiocatholicfcu.com. Deadline is February 9, 2013 via email, mail, website, or dropped off at a branch office. For more information, call 216.663.6800 or email marketing@ohiocatholicfcu.com. The mailing address is OCFCU, 13623 Rockside Road, Garfield Heights, OH 44125.
Junior Danced in Winning Ensemble at Prestigious Dance Competition

Last weekend, junior Ciara McGlynn was part of an eight-person Beck Center for the Arts Dance Company that traveled to Chicago for the Youth America Grand Prix, the world's largest international ballet competition. The group competed with some of the best dancers in the country and was able to take master classes taught by professional dancers at the prestigious Joffrey Academy of Dance, the official school of America's premier ballet company, The Joffrey Ballet.

The competition took place Saturday. Ciara and her fellow dancers in a Classical Ensemble Piece placed in the top 10 for group dances!

“It was so exciting to see that all of our hard work and countless hours of rehearsals had paid off! It was also a great learning experience and a wonderful opportunity to have been able to dance with many of our generation's most talented dancers and be under the instruction of some of America's best professional ballet dancers, all while visiting the Windy City,” shared Ciara. The group has already begun practice for a spring performance of the ballet Coppelia for a March competition called the Ohio Dance Moving Works Showcase, as well as the All Ohio Dance Festival in April, and an end-of-the-year recital in June.

Junior Attends Presidential Inauguration Ceremony

The crowds were intense and the weather frigid, but the sense of camaraderie and love of country at the Inaugural Ceremony of President Barack Obama last week were the foremost memories of the experience for junior Caroline Mills.

Caroline attended the inaugural ceremony as part of LeadAmerica’s President Inaugural Leadership Summit. She participated in a weekend of activities culminating with the public ceremony on the Capitol steps on Monday, January 21. The LeadAmerica organization offers college immersion programs designed to better prepare high school students academically and emotionally for the transition to college life and beyond. Last summer, Caroline was chosen to participate in the program’s 10-day Medicine and Health Care Conference at Johns Hopkins University. LeadAmerica invited a group of its program alumni, including Caroline, to its Presidential Inaugural Leadership Summit.

“I was beyond excited to meet hundreds of other young leaders dedicated to our great country.

We learned and grew together through lectures on diverse topics and group workshops.

Highlights included hearing from Retired Gen. Colin Powell and, of course, attending the 2013 Presidential Inauguration!” shared Caroline.

Caroline blogged about her adventures (you can still read it at http://presidentialinauguration2013.blogspot.com/).

On inauguration day, just getting from the hotel room - normally a 10-minute drive - to near where they were to watch the ceremony, took the LeadAmerica group an hour. “And then it took us two hours to walk just a few blocks to The National Mall, where we gathered with hundreds of thousands of others to watch the swearing in ceremony,” said Caroline. “I have never seen so many people in one spot.”

“Everyone was so unified, at least for one day,” she added. “It didn’t matter what candidate you supported, there was such a feeling of love and patriotism I was on the verge of crying the whole day.”
Women's Leadership Symposium Is Next Wednesday, February 6

Students, don't forget to sign up for career sessions for the sixth annual Women's Leadership Symposium being held on Wednesday, February 6. Groundbreaking lawyer and family activist the Honorable Yvette McGee Brown, the first African-American woman to serve as an Ohio Supreme Court justice, will be the keynote speaker at the event, which is a daylong symposium providing students with "real world" career advice.

In addition to Justice Brown’s keynote address, dozens of professional women are scheduled to speak with students in “Career Breakout Sessions.” They represent careers as varied as doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, accountants, attorneys, entrepreneurs, educators, engineers, judges, bankers, scientists, law enforcement officers, marketing experts and professional artists.

Justice Brown is a first-generation college graduate. She was the first African-American woman to serve as a justice on the Ohio Supreme Court. Justice Brown, who was Gov. Ted Strickland’s running mate in 2010, has a particular interest in family issues and in 2002 created the Center for Child and Family Advocacy at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus. She recently joined the Columbus office of the law firm Jones Day as a partner in the business and tort litigation group. Jones Day represents more than half of the nation’s Fortune 500 companies.

Along with the keynote address and career breakout sessions, the Women's Leadership Symposium will feature a panel discussion titled “Advocacy for Women and Children.” Distinguished panelists will be: Ms. Megan O’Bryan, President and CEO of the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, which provides free intervention and prevention services to 15,000 women, children and men each year; Mrs. Natalie Leek-Nelson ’85, President and CEO of Providence House, a crisis nursery founded by Hope Greener, CSJ; Ms. Linda Johanek, CEO of the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center; and Felicia Petruzillo, CSJ ’56, co-founder of the River's Edge Women's Outreach Center.

For more information on the symposium, contact Guidance Counselor Ms. Maryann Marek at 216.251.6788 x211.

Unity Club Members Attend Leadership Luncheon at John Carroll University

Students pictured with President/CEO of The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio, Mrs. Peggy Zone Fisher.

Last Friday, five students from the Unity Leadership Team attended a Leadership Luncheon at John Carroll University. The luncheon was held to recognize student leaders who have excelled in volunteer work that encourages diversity and addresses the multifaceted issues connected to diversity. The event was sponsored by The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio, of which Unity has been an affiliate since 1994.

The luncheon was attended by Unity Club moderator Mrs. Suzanne Smiley-Rozic, and students Rain Doskocil ’14, Molly Mertus ’16, Melissa Johnson ’14, Alyssa Zieleniewski ’14 and Misty Mencin ’14.

“The Unity Club is vital to helping people embrace and understand diversity,” shared Molly.

Students Attend “Right to Life” Rally in Washington, D.C. to Protest Roe v. Wade

SJA students at the March for Life rally in Washington, D.C., pose with the Capitol Building in the background.

Thirty-one students and two chaperones braved a long bus ride and a bitter cold day last week to join an estimated half-million other marchers participating in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The rally continues a 40-year tradition of protest against the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Roe v. Wade legalizing abortion.

The SJA group was part of 150 Northeast Ohio students from such schools as Beaumont and Saint Ignatius High School. “To see so many gathered to worship at the Mass held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception showed how our young people are dedicated to following Jesus Christ,” shared chaperone and CORE Ministry theology teacher Mr. Dan Guion. College Counselor Mrs. Maria Mueller also accompanied the group. "The Right to Life experience was amazing! It made me realize that the unborn don't have voices, so we have to step in and do what we can to protect them," shared Grayson Szczepaniak ’13
Join Us for the *Celebrate the Academy* Gala on Saturday, February 23

Invitations have been sent and plans are being finalized for another year of fun, prizes and camaraderie at the annual *Celebrate the Academy* gala for Saint Joseph Academy. The elegant, memorable evening for our students benefit critical scholarship and academic initiatives! The gala is on Saturday, February 23, at LaCentre Conference Center in Westlake. If you haven’t yet, please make make plans now to join this fun evening!

A bonus this year is a "wine pull." We hope that you will be able to purchase a bottle of wine for $15 or more at Minotti’s in Westlake.

Contact Geoff Powers, Development Director at 216.251.6788 x229 with any questions. The RSVP form for *Celebrate the Academy* is here.

Rugby Team Fundraiser

The Rugby team is holding a fundraiser on Saturday, February 16, from 6-9 p.m. at Paddy Rock, 16700 Lorain Ave. Cost is $15 per person. There is a cash bar. Please note, only for ages 21 and over.

A 50-50 raffle will also be available at the event. If you have questions, or want to make a reservation, please contact parent volunteer Ms. Brenda Basalla at bbasalla@ameritech.net, or 216.228.3959. RSVP deadline is Friday, February 11.

Swimming & Diving

On Thursday, January 24, the Jaguars celebrated Senior Night with a dual meet against Beaumont. The Jaguars fought extremely hard after being down 11 points going into the diving event. Senior Kaleigh Macalla took first in diving and sophomore Autumn Bragg took fourth. Katrin Kugler-Blayney ’15 took second in the 100m free and Gabriella Koussa ’14 took third.

Maddie Zimmerman ’14 posted her fastest 50m free split in the relay, but came up three-hundredths of a second short of first place. The Jaguars went into the last event trying to send the seniors out with a win. The 400m freestyle relay teams jumped in and swam with everything they had, and took first with a great swim from Kiera Grady ’15 Gabriella Koussa ’14, Sarah Sofish ’14 and Maddie Zimmerman ’14. The Jaguars came up just one point short and lost 93-92.

Congratulations to our four seniors Mikayla Liston, Kaleigh Macalla, Nichole Miller and Julianna Spinazze.

On Saturday, January 26, the Jaguars swam in the Blazer Invitational at Hathaway Brown. They finished fourth out of seven teams. The Jaguars earned two top-five finishes from Captain Maddie Zimmerman ’14, and another top-five finish from Sarah Sofish ‘14.

The Jaguars begin tournament competition on Saturday, February 9.

Basketball

On Wednesday, January 23, the Jaguars defeated Cleveland Central Catholic 81-34. The Jaguars were led by the spirited play of senior Layla Leon with 9 points and a very solid floor game. Freshman Natasha Martinez added 13 points, including two 3-pointers, and senior Paige Heneghan added 9 points, including a 3 pointer. Junior Grace Mullen added 6 points, and displayed smart, fundamental basketball.

**JV beat Cleveland Central Catholic 37-9**

**Freshman beat Holy Name 38-25**

On Saturday, January 26, the Magnificat Blue Streaks defeated the Jaguars 43-39 in front of a standing-room-only crowd. The Jaguars were led by seniors Katie Battaglia and Daija Jones with 15 and 9 points, respectively. Seniors Ann Conroy and Sarah Schwind contributed a solid floor game to help in the effort. The Jaguars record is now 16-2.

**JV lost 42-21** | **Freshman lost 39-19**

New Paw Prints Bookstore Manager Named

We are pleased to announce that Colleen Welsh DeVenney, a 1994 graduate, is the new manager of the Paw Prints Bookstore. She started her new duties last week. She replaced Diane Whitaker Dersi ’66, who retired after more than a dozen years of dedicated service.

“We will miss Diane Dersi. She was an able and innovative manager who took the bookstore from a small operation to one that services the whole community of SJA. We wish her good luck and congratulations on her retirement!” said Communications Director Susan Love ’76.

Mrs. DeVenney, a graduate of Wheeling Jesuit University, worked for more than 20 years at Malley’s Chocolates. Her husband, Edmund, is Campus Minister at Saint Ignatius High School.

“I am thrilled to be back at SJA!” shared Colleen.

Parents interested in volunteering for the bookstore may contact Mrs. DeVenney at cdevenney@sja1890.org.