An Easter Reflection

Easter is a time for Christians to remember Jesus' sacrifice and be grateful for our salvation through his resurrection. We need to feel the real blessings of God and thank him for the eternal gift he has given us as Easter. This is also a good opportunity for our students use this Easter break as a time for renewal of spirit as we begin the final sprint to the end of the 2012-13 school year.

We have many students traveling this week to France and Italy. We wish them a wonderful, educational and safe trip! We can't wait to hear about their adventures! Finally, a schedule note: There will be NO early dismissal on April 18 contrary to some calendars. It is a regular school day. Have a Blessed Easter! ~ James M. Cantwell, Ed.D.

Honors Engineering Students Talk With NASA Scientists

A dozen "Honors Introducton to Engineering" students learned first-hand Wednesday about a variety of engineering careers thanks to a video-teleconference with a panel of women engineers from NASA Glenn Research Center. The conference was part of NASA's Digital Learning Network and was held as part of Women’s History Month to interest female high school students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) careers. The video conference was coordinated through Mrs. Therese Dever Griebel ’84, Chief, Electrical Systems Division, at NASA.

Panelists were Ms. Ashlie McVetta, Research Engineer; Ms. Deb Goodenow, Electrical and Nuclear Engineer; Dr. Julie Kleinhenz, Research Engineer; Ms. Christina Pastor-Barsi, Aero Mechanical Test Engineer; and Ms. Shannon Eichorn, Wind Tunnel Mechanical Test Engineer. The students asked many questions during the session, including what classes the women took in high school and what they like the most about their careers.

“Follow your heart,” shared Ms. Pastor-Barsi. “Be determined. Don’t let anyone discourage you if you truly want to follow a course of engineering classes.”

All five women said they were inspired as children to become scientists by TV shows and movies such as “Star Wars,” “Star Trek” and even a National Geographic special on the Apollo program.

“I was fascinated by the personal reasons these scientists had for becoming engineers,” shared Nicole Jamieson ’16, at the end of the hour-long video conference. “I am now definitely interested in looking at engineering careers.”

"Honors Intro to Engineering" students listen intently as five female NASA Glenn engineers talk about their careers during a video seminar.
Lessons To be Learned from Shocking Steubenville Rape Case

The details of the recent Steubenville rape case and ensuing trial were horrendous on every level. Teenagers were partying and drinking with no adult supervision. A young girl passes out and is sexually assaulted. Pictures are taken and posted online with unspeakably nasty comments. Ultimately, the nationally publicized rape trial ended with the conviction and incarceration of two star football players.

Is that the end of the story? Absolutely not, said Ms. Kirsti Mouncey, vice president of client & clinical services at the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center. “The Steubenville case can be used as the beginning of a dialogue,” she shared with students in two sessions held in The Academy Center on Tuesday. “The psychological injuries of victims are harder to see and difficult to talk about. People may look OK, but they aren’t.”

Talking about the Steubenville case will help in understanding the dangers – and debunking the myths – of sexual assault, stated Ms. Mouncey. She also shared statistics to help students understand the severity of the problem, such as that one in four women and one in six males will suffer from some sort of sexual assault before they turn 18, and that 2/3 of victims never report the crime to authorities.

“Rape is about power and control,” stated Ms. Mouncey. “It is about the abuse of power.”

“Ms. Mouncey had some very interesting and disturbing facts,” shared Misty Mencin ’14, who had seen the news reports about the Steubenville case before Ms. Mouncey’s visit. “Changes won't happen if people are afraid to talk about sexual assault.”

Prayer & Presence Unites Students, CSJs in Fellowship

More than a dozen Sisters from the Congregation of St. Joseph joined students and adults at this year’s Easter Prayer & Presence luncheon, held in the Nazareth Library. The Prayer & Presence program pairs each grade at the Academy with two CSJ Sisters who pray for them and share the spirit of charism throughout the year in various ways. The Sisters are also partnered with faculty and staff.

Attendees included Kathleen Carey CSJ ’49, our Sister on Campus Marietta Starrie CSJ ’49, Virginia Coldren CSJ ’45, Pat Burke CSJ ’48, Toni Campanella CSJ ’44, Therese Cregan CSJ ’48, Jane Ockuly CSJ ’57, Joan Lang CSJ, Madeleine Lammermeier CSJ ’44, Juanita Shealey CSJ, Marion Hauck CSJ, Mary Ann Lavelle CSJ ’46, Pat Finn, CSJ and Phyllis DiFuccia SSJ, the school’s Vice President of Mission.
Students To Experience World Travels

This Easter break, 15 students will be experiencing the wonder of the Eiffel Tower and Paris for the discovery of the whole European history, Gothic architecture, Notre-Dame Cathedral, Chartres, Loire Valley Chateaux and the grand palace of Versailles - France's first superpower government. Students will discover French traditions and food, including croissants and crepes!

Another 25 students are traveling to Italy to take in such sites as the Constantine Arch, the Colosseum and, of course, Vatican City and all its wonders. Hopefully, they will receive a blessing from Pope Francis!

To follow the travels in Italy, you can visit the blog of chaperone Visual and Performing Arts teacher Mrs. Beth Pleban at http://sjaitaly2013.blogspot.com/.

Bon Voyage, safe travels and have fun everyone!

2013-2014 Unity Catholic Scholarship Opportunity

Apply now for the James E. Flynn Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Unity Catholic Federal Credit Union. This scholarship awards $7,000 in funds: Four $500 Scholarships to students Kindergarten through 8th grade; Five $1,000 Scholarships to students 9th – 12th grade. The student must be a member of Unity Catholic Federal Credit Union. Deadline is this Monday, April 1, 2013.

You can get applications by visiting any UCFCU office or on www.unitycatholiccu.org.

Academy Parents’ Dutch Bulb Sale Being Held Through Monday, April 8

Snow may be on the ground, but it’s technically spring and time to start thinking about gardens, flowers and warm weather! One way to create a dramatic floral display this year is to take advantage of the Saint Joseph Academy Parents Dutch Mill Bulbs Fundraiser, being held now through April 8.

This week, students received a flyer and order form listing all the available bulbs for sale. The flyer can also be downloaded here. The bulbs will be delivered by May 1 and should be planted after the danger of a hard frost has passed, usually around Memorial Day. The bulbs are guaranteed to grow starting the summer after they are planted. Should they not, Dutch Mill Bulbs will issue a replacement. An instructional sheet on the care and planting of the bulbs is also available here.

The top seller of the bulb sale will receive a $25 gift certificate to the Paw Prints Bookstore. All those selling 10 or more packages of bulbs will be put in a drawing to win two additional $20 gift certificates.

Checks, money orders, and cash will be accepted. Money needs to be turned in with the order. Please make all checks/money orders out to Saint Joseph Academy and NOT to Dutch Mill Bulbs. If you have questions, please email Mr. Joe Roberts, Saint Joseph Academy Parents’ Fundraising chair, at gambit9401@aol.com.

The Saint Joseph Academy Parents sponsor activities such as the uniform resale, the Father/Daughter Dance, the Mother/ Daughter Eucharist and Breakfast, the Annual Bonfire, Advent Night, and other educational and social activities.

Academy Parents Mother/Daughter Eucharist

The second annual Mother/Daughter Eucharist is being held Sunday, April 14 at the Academy. This Eucharist is open to ALL students and their mothers! Please see this registration form for additional details. Registration deadline is Tuesday, April 9 (no late registrations will be accepted). If you have any questions, please contact parent volunteer Mrs. Mary Pat Ellert at 216.533.1793 or mpellert13@gmail.com.

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Bon Voyage, safe travels and have fun everyone!
Easter at the Academy

Nearly 100 area girls in kindergarten through 5th grade visited the Academy on Saturday to spend an afternoon of crafts, decorating cookies and, of course, participating in an Easter egg hunt! The event was the first annual “Easter at the Academy.” After several hours of fun, each of the girls also had the opportunity to have their picture taken with Josie the Jaguar. We can assume all of the participants left "hoppy!"

Class of 2017 Registration

On Saturday, March 23, members of the Class of 2017 were welcomed to the school to complete their course registration process. The incoming freshmen class numbers nearly 200 students, making it the largest class in 10 years! The students are enrolling from nearly 60 different middle schools and nearly 50 percent have a legacy connection. Each girl brings an energetic and enthusiastic spirit to spending the next four years at SJA! We welcome each member of the Class of 2017, and look forward to the many ways that the girls will grow during their time with us.

Track & Field

Four members of the indoor track team qualified to participate in the State Meet. To qualify, athletes had to be in the top 16 in the whole state. Qualifying to the state meet were

Brenna McGrath ’13, MaryKate Caja ’13, Becca Sedlak ’14 and Gab Leon ’14.

As a group, all four qualified in the 4 x 200 meter relay and finished 14th. Individually, both Becca and Brenna qualified in the 400-meter dash. Brenna finished 8th and earned All-Ohio status. Becca finished 9th and just missed All-Ohio.

MaryKate and Gab qualified to the indoor state meet all four years of high school!

Rugby

Rugby started the season on Sunday with a bang with Varsity facing the No. 4 team in the state, Parma High School and scoring a strong 48-0 win! Scores included tries by Katie Basalla ’14, Victoria Pelagalli ’13, Lauren Brooks ’13, Colleen Kramer ’13 (2), 4 conversion kicks by Moira McGuire ’13, and an amazing 3 tries by Jackie Harter ’15. Jackie, a rookie, also earned “Maiden of the Match.”

Junior Varsity also scored a win, with a 20-15 final score against Mayfield High School. Mary Hirzel ’16 scored the winning try and earned “Maiden of the Match” in her first official Jaguar game.

Swimming & Diving, Basketball Banquet

Basketball and Swimming & Diving athletes were honored recently at a banquet held at Brennan’s Party Center in Cleveland. In addition to congratulating the young ladies on well-played seasons, seniors (pictured above) received special recognition. Nichole Miller (Swimming & Diving) and Kaleigh Macalla (Swimming & Diving) also were honored for four years of Varsity play. Congratulations to all!