Interactive Program Illustrates Dangers of Texting While Driving

Simple tasks such as spelling the word "school" become extremely challenging when you also are catching and instantaneously sorting blue or red beanbags. The limitations of the brain efficiently multi-tasking were made crystal clear to students last Friday as they participated in "The Science of Attention," a program sponsored by University Hospitals Rainbow & Children Hospital to scientifically illustrate that distracted driving is dangerous driving.

The interactive program with five hands-on stations ultimately showed students that even if they consider themselves "expert texters," reactions and response times are affected by the brain trying to process the many nuances of driving, as well as the mechanics of typing out a message on a cell phone. The activities showed the effects of divided attention on reaction time, understanding and accuracy. Stations included touching blinking lights as they randomly turned on and off, doing that again while also doing simple addition, saying the names of colors out loud, even if visually there was confusion (the word blue was actually colored brown), playing corn hole, and then doing it again wearing goggles that simulated brain and perception damage.

"Students learned the limitations of multitasking," shared Chrystal Gullett, safety communications director at UH. "Adding texting to the mix of needed driving skills is dangerous, no matter how good you think you are at it. The brain has to have time to process."

"This was eye-opening," shared Shannon Seaggs '14. "Some of the tasks, particularly the bean bag game when we were wearing the goggles, were hard," added junior Nicole Rave.

"Locks of Love" Helps Restore Self-esteem

I am pleased to announce that on Monday, May 20, from 9 a.m. -2 p.m., stylists from Options Salon and Spa in Fairview Park will be at SJA for the 4th Annual Wigs for Kids/ Locks of Love Event. "Locks of Love" is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to children suffering from long-term medical hair loss. Students, please check your SJA e-mail for details on how to get involved! If you have any questions, please contact sophomore Allie Hippler at ahippler@sjastudents.org. There will be more about this wonderful service opportunity in future newsletters! ~ James M. Cantwell, Ed.D.
Maltz Museum Field Trip Brings History into Sharp Focus

Students in Ms. Emmy Levine's Holocaust Studies classes visited the Maltz Museum of Heritage on Tuesday, April 16. The Maltz Museum is devoted to diversity and tolerance, and features stories of individuals and families – past and present – in state-of-the-art, interactive exhibitions, films, oral histories, photographs and artifacts. The museum also promotes an understanding of Jewish history, religion and culture and builds bridges of appreciation, tolerance and understanding with those of other religions, races, cultures and ethnic backgrounds.

"Touring its current exhibit, 'Spots of Light' on women's experiences in the Holocaust, and hearing from survivor Mrs. Erika Gold, helped students delve into the human side of this dark time in history," stated Ms. Levine.

"Hearing Mrs. Gold speak made me realize that every Jew in German-occupied Europe had an individual, unique story. Her story of what started out as a normal childhood made the Holocaust real to us," said Maureen Loftus '14.

"Visiting the Maltz Museum really opened my eyes, especially seeing real artifacts from the camps. The 'Spots of Light' exhibit made me think about if I was in the camps, because I could relate to some of the stories. One that really stood out was when the girl was upset about having her pigtails cut off," stated Alesha Vovk '14.

"Hearing Holocaust survivor Erika Gold speak was extremely interesting to me because my grandparents also lived in Hungary during World War II, so it was special to me to hear from a woman from the same country. Not only did I get a first-hand account of what it was like to live through the Holocaust, I learned about the country where my grandparents were from and what living in Hungary was like. Her story was amazing and I commend her and her family for all they had been through," shared Gabrielle Hughes '14.

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National Honor Society Induction Held Wednesday

Thirty-six juniors and seniors were welcomed to the ranks of the National Honor Society on Wednesday in a ceremony that included a stirring speech by Ms. Natalie Leek-Nelson '85, President and CEO of the Providence House crisis nursery. To be inducted, students must have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service and character. NHS Chapter President Maggie Bishop '13 welcomed the new members, while seniors Nichole Miller, Ellen Saracina, Brenna McGrath and Claire Sanfilippo lit candles for each area of excellence. The "Calling Forth" of the new inductees was handled by Maggie, Patricia Kay '13, Caroline Goodill '13 and Ashley Klimeczk '13.

"The National Honor Society standards of scholarship, leadership, service and character mimic the traits that are needed to be successful in life," shared Ms. Leek-Nelson. "God enables those he has chosen. Be a powerful force in your community!"

Special thanks go out to moderator Mr. John Lesko for organizing the event!
World Travels, Shadowing Program Result in Generous Book Donations

The Nazareth Library and SJA community unexpectedly benefited from students on a school-sponsored trip to France last month, as well as the Junior Professional Shadowing Program. Ciara McGlynn '14 received a very special gift after shadowing in Washington, D.C. with U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur and Congressional Aide Allison Jarus '05. "Right before I had to come back to Cleveland, Congresswoman Kaptur presented me with a book for our school titled Women in Congress 1917-2006 written by The Committee on House of Administration of the U.S. House of Representatives. It was such a generous and thoughtful gift," shared Ciara.

Junior Emily Pellegrino, who studies AP French, was part of the group traveling to France in March. Students met with the Deputy Mayor Bruno Bertheuil of Rouen, who presented them with the gorgeously illustrated book A City for Impressionism: Monet, Pissarro and Gauguin in Rouen by Laurent Salome as a gesture of international friendship. The meeting at Hotel de Ville (City Hall) was arranged thanks to Dr. Valarie J. McCall, Chief of Government Affairs, Office of Mayor Frank Jackson. Cleveland and the city of Rouen officially became “sister cities” in 2008. "The book is so interesting and the illustrations are gorgeous," shared Emily. "All we have to say is merci beaucoup!"

Spring Open House Is This Sunday

Prospective students are invited to the Saint Joseph Academy Spring Open House, being held from noon to 2 p.m. this Sunday, April 21. Open House events include tours of the campus with current students, learning more about academic programs, visits to classrooms, the Nazareth Library, athletic facilities and computer labs, and meeting current students, teachers and athletic coaches.

All visitors also will receive a coupon for a free ticket to the SJA spring play, “The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940.” For more information on the Open House, visit www.sja1890.org/openhouse

Spring Classical Concert Is April 23

Mark your calendars for the annual "A Touch of Classical Concert" being held at 7 p.m. next Tuesday, April 23 here at the school. The concert/ recital will feature Concert Band, String Orchestra, Cecilia’s Song, Concert Choir and numerous student soloists.

All parents, relatives and friends are invited to attend. The concert is free.

Effective Leadership Academy Club Teaches Life Skills

Students are discovering that leadership is an acquired skill, and that sometimes collaboration with others is needed to get a job done well. This knowledge was uncovered thanks to an eight-week Effective Leadership Academy Club Lead program. Seventeen students are joining Director of Admissions Ms. Diane Kanney and other ELA representatives for this leadership training every Monday for an hour after school.

"Club Lead is a highly interactive leadership program that teaches students to take ownership of their lives, make proper decisions and manage their time, among many other personal life skills," shared Ms. Kanney. "The camp was adapted from an Executive Leadership program. This is the second year that Saint Joseph Academy has partnered with ELA and students appreciate the personal development they achieve!"

"Club Lead has really helped us all realize what it takes to be a leader. We really enjoy it!" shared Elise DeGidio '15.
Track & Field

Our track & field athletes are starting the season with a bang, going into competitions this weekend undefeated! Accomplishments so far include the Jaguars winning the Bedford Kimberly Relays for the first time ever on Saturday, April 13. Jaguar athletes won nine of 17 events. Winners were: high jump relay of Ky Williams '16, Bridget Roche '15 and Dana Sirchen '14; shot put relay, Nicole Rave '14, Brittany Morrison '15 and Molly McAfee '15; pole vault relay, Bridget McGuire '16, Alexis Bloor '15 and Sarah Reardon '15; 3200m run, Emily Bauer '13; 800m run, Brenna McGrath '13; sprint medley relay, Mackenzie Dorin '14, Sarah Stotter '15, Monica Hahn '16 and Becca Sedlak '14; distance medley relay, Helen Steve '13, Mary Kate Caja '13, Emma Stalder '16 and Jess Bresnahan '13; 4 x 800m relay, Alesha Vovk '14, Emilee Armbruster '13, Maddie Zimmerman '14 and Ky Williams '16; 1600m run: Jill Bresnahan '13.

Cecilia’s Song Performing at Progressive Field

Please join us on Tuesday, May 21, at 7:05 p.m. at Progressive Field as the Cleveland Indians take on the Detroit Tigers and Cecilia’s Song, our famed a cappella choir, sings the National Anthem.*

The event is sponsored by the parent support group STArts (Support The Arts). Lower box seat tickets are $20 (face value $34). Proceeds from the ticket sales will benefit the performing arts at Saint Joseph Academy. Tickets are limited and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. For tickets, please fill out the attached order form and return with your payment to 3470 Rocky River Drive, Cleveland, OH 44111, or call 216.906.3068, or email STArts president Matt Walsh at walshma@cox.net. Paid ticket orders must be received no later than May 3. *Same night as the Spring Sports Banquet.

Softball

The Jaguars hosted Brecksville on Tuesday, April 11, for their home opener. It was a back and forth game, but unfortunately Brecksville held on to the lead for a 7-4 victory. Shannon Scaggs '14 went 2-3 in the game with a triple. JV lost 10-8.

CSJ National Leadership Team Elected

More than 300 Sisters and Associates from the Congregation of St. Joseph recently elected a new leadership team for a five-year term. Sister Nancy Conway '65, seated bottom right was re-elected president. Also elected were (back row, from left) Sisters Marguerite O’Brian (Wheeling, W.Va.); Pat Bergen (LaGrange Park, Ill.); Rita Ann Teichman (Kalamazoo, Mich.), Jeannie Masterson (Cincinnati), and (seated from left), Sisters Christine Parks (Kalamazoo, Mich.) and Joan Kreyenbuhl (Parkersburg, W.Va.).

Sister Nancy taught Spanish at SJA from 1971-78, before earning her doctorate. She is a Distinguished Alumna and also served for six years on the SJA Board of Directors. Congratulations, Sister Nancy!

Spring Play "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" is Being Performed Next Week

Mark your calendars for the Saint Joseph Academy Spring play, “The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940,” being held next weekend. The plot involves Broadway producers holding auditions for their new show. A blizzard isolates them, characters disappear, bodies appear and accusing fingers point in all directions.

The play is Friday, April 26, and Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 28, at 2:30 p.m. Reserved seating is $12, general admission is $10 and senior/student is $5. Advanced ticket sales are for reserved seating only, which is available from April 10 through April 23.

Make checks payable to “Saint Joseph Academy.” Please call STArts president Matt Walsh at 216.906.3068, access the order form here, or email at walshma@cox.net.
Crew

Crew had a very successful trip last weekend to Marietta, Ohio, at the Lindamood Cup Regatta. All 42 athletes walked away with medals! Of the 10 competitions entered, seven teams finished in the top three. Varsity 4+ with Maggie Sudetic ’13, Hannah Smith ’14, Karen McGraw ’13, Casey Sudetic ’13 and coxswain Mackenzie Schoenherr ’15 started the day by winning gold with a commanding 9-second win over second-place Marietta.

The Novice 8+ team of Abby Brunori ’15, Jiani Koussa ’13, Becca Gentile ’15, Ashley Santora ’14, Jennifer Rymont ’16, Bridget Koehl ’16, Teresa Kelly ’16, Mary Rosepal ’16 and coxswain Sara Koussa ’16 finished in third place. For the first time in SJA Crew history, the Freshman 8+ placed in the top three, taking the silver medal. The Junior 8+ team picked up racing in the afternoon with a third-place finish and the Jaguar Navy took home its second gold medal of the day with a 6-second win by the Junior 4+ (Brooke Kahl ’14, Kerry Jamieson ’15, Audrey Rieman ’15, Kelsey O’Donnell ’14, and coxswain Morgan Clark ’15). In the day’s second-to-last event, the Second Varsity 8+ team finished third. The day’s racing concluded with the Varsity 8+ team placing second. The Jaguars finished third in overall team points behind two co-ed teams! The Jaguar Navy next travels to Zanesville, Ohio, for the Lake Dillon Invitational on Saturday, April 20.

Rugby

Due to thunderstorm warnings, only the Varsity game was played Wednesday April 10, against Lakewood High School. The Jaguars bravely fought the Rangers, but lost 25-22. However, Lakewood was forced to forfeit, which gave the Jaguars the win. Scoring for the Jaguars included tries by senior Colleen Kramer, sophomore Casi Manuszak and sophomore Jacqueline Harter.

Senior Moira McGuire also added 2 points with the only completed conversion kick of the game. Senior Chelsea Hirzel excelled at tackling and ball control, earning her “Maiden of the Match.”

Sunday, April 14, was a beautiful day for rugby and the JV squad took advantage of the weather with a victory over Brunswick High School. The final score was 37-10 and was the result of tries scored by Kerry Reddy ’16, Rachael Kean ’16, Ashley Kocian ’15, Shauna Slezak ’15, Mary Timmons ’14 and Christina Abdelshahid ’16. Mary Timmons also converted one kick for 2 points. Ashley Kocian, known to the rugby community as “Monster,” defended Jaguar Territory and scored two tries earning her “Maiden of the Match.”

Are you ready for summer, with all its outdoor activities, to begin? Well, celebrate the start of that season with the inaugural Saint Joseph Academy race/walk, being held on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27. The “Earn Your Spots Jaguar 5K Race/1 Mile Walk” is being held to support the SJA Scholarship fund. Cost is $20 for pre-registration, now through Friday, May 24 at 9 a.m.; SJA students, $15, pre-registration only; race day registration, $25. For online race registration, please go to www.hermescleveland.com. Please mail and make checks payable to: Hermes Sports & Events, 1624 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114. Mail-in forms must be received by Wednesday, May 22. Online registration closes Friday, May 24, at 9 a.m. The race/walk starts at 9 a.m. on Memorial Day at Saint Joseph Academy, 3470 Rocky River Drive, in Cleveland’s West Park neighborhood. The route includes parts of both West Park and western Lakewood. For more information, please contact Alumnae Director Ms. Mary Ann Fischer ’66 at 216.619.1653 or maf@sja1890.org.

Start a new Memorial Day tradition, and help build the scholarship fund at Saint Joseph Academy at the same time by participating in the “Earn Your Spots 5K Race/1 Mile Walk” event!