Parents: At a Glance

December 21, 22
Finals, 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Casual Dress Days.

January 7
*Change*
No school;
Teacher Professional
Development Day
*This is a change from the
calendar sent out in August.*

January 8
Classes Resume.

January 8
Senior field trip
to The Cleveland Orchestra.
Formal uniform mandatory.

January 9
Admission Test for
all 8th grade girls considering
Saint Joseph Academy,
9 a.m.-noon.
Register [here](#).

This will be the last newsletter
until January 15.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
January 7
No school. Faculty Professional Day. This is a change from the calendar sent out in August.

January 8
Classes resume.

January 8
Senior field trip to Severance Hall to hear The Cleveland Orchestra. Formal uniform mandatory.

January 9
Admission Test, 9 a.m.-noon, for all 8th grade girls considering Saint Joseph Academy, at SJA. Register here.

January 13
Early dismissal, 2 p.m.

January 13
Meet the Teacher Night, 7-8 p.m. Email here if questions.

January 18
No school, office closed.

January 19
College Night for Junior parents, auditorium, 7-9 p.m. Email here if questions.

January 20
STArts meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m., the Dining Hall.

January 21
Class of 2017 Parent College Counseling meeting, auditorium, 7-8 p.m.

January 27
Early dismissal, 2 p.m.

Christmas Blessing to All

Phyllis DiFuccia, SSJ, our Vice President of Mission, has this Christmas Blessing for the Saint Joseph Academy community.

Christmas is the birthing of relationships,
of our connectedness to the whole world . . .
Because we have a God who wants to be one with us
wherever we are,
this birth makes everyone
our neighbor,
and makes the neighbor "dear,"
because we are bound together
in the heart of a loving God.

May you and your families
experience this oneness
at Christmas and
throughout the New Year.

Students Win 15 Awards in National Scholastic Art & Writing Competition

Talented art students received a total of 15 awards in the prestigious and competitive 2015 Scholastic Art & Writing competition. The students' work was recognized from some 300,000 original works submitted nationally for this year's competition, now in its 92nd year of recognizing amazing artists and writers in grades 7-12. Categories included poetry, painting, architecture and short stories.
Name: Pilar Yesares Rubi '16

Accomplishment: Pilar was selected as one of only 657 students nationwide to receive a full college scholarship through QuestBridge. She was selected for this honor from 13,264 applications, of which 4,895 were finalists. Pilar will be attending Tufts University.

Fun Facts: "There were multiple steps to the QuestBridge process. QuestBridge reviews all essays and decides on the finalists. About 1/3 of applicants become finalists. They then forward the applications to up to 12 participating colleges of the student's choosing. I was shocked to even find out I was a finalist. I tried not to get my hopes up too much, because the previous year, less than 4% of applicants received the scholarship. After waiting anxiously all of November, December 1st came, and when I saw an email update on my application saying "Congratulations! You have been matched!" I was in shock. To know that I was going to Tufts University for the next four years on a full scholarship seemed way too good to be true. It still does.

The top award, a Gold Key, was awarded to two seniors: Danielle Samarin '16, for a printmaking artwork titled "Flower Child" and Molly Stofko '16, for a watercolor painting titled "No Filter." Molly also received an honorable mention for printmaking artwork. Silver Keys were awarded to: Kendra Golak '16; Emily Hanes '16; Rachael Kean '16; and Brynne Naughton '16. Honorable Mention winners were: Hannah Ali '16 (two honorable mentions); Kendra Cundiff '16; Gianna Earhart '16; Elizabeth Goodill '16; Emily Hanes '16; Anna McKenna '16; and Allexus Zielinski '19.

Students’ submissions are blindly adjudicated by some of the foremost leaders in the visual and literary arts. Gold Key winners are invited to New York City in the spring for a presentation of the awards.

Engineering Students Create Race Cars

Honors Pre-Engineering students spent the last few weeks becoming experts on wind speed, streamlined race car design and speed data, thanks to a project based on the international "F1 in Schools" competitions.

"Students were divided into three teams, each of which had to design a miniature F1 race car in Computer Aided Design, manufacture it in a Computer Numerical Control Machine, test it in a virtual wind tunnel and in a preliminary race, and then redesign it based on their data," said Math teacher John Lesko. "The project culminated in final races (powered by a C02 cartridges) in which cars approached 35 mph over the length of the Dining Hall." Full Story

Academy Chorale To Perform at Playhouse Square's Ohio Theater Stage

Enjoy a special appearance by The Academy Chorale and experience a performance of "A Christmas Carol" at Playhouse Square on Sunday, December 20. The choir will be singing from 2:30-2:50 p.m. in front of the Ohio Theater Stage.
The scholarship even includes travel allowance, meaning they pay for me to go home during vacations!"

"I want to become a dentist and maybe major in biochemistry, but I am not sure yet," added Pilar.

At SJA, Pilar's favorite subjects are all science courses and AP Spanish.

Pilar also finds time to volunteer at Fairview Hospital, and belongs to the Yearbook and Spanish Clubs.

Congratulations, Pilar!

**College Corner**

**Location:**
Indianapolis, IN (5.5 hours from Cleveland) Large city.

**Enrollment:** 4,200 undergraduates.

**Strongest Programs:**
Strong study abroad program, engineering (partnered with Purdue University), direct-admittance pharmacy, physicians assistance programs.

**Fun Facts:** The Bulldogs defied all odds and advanced to the NCAA title game in 2010, defeating perennial hoops powerhouse Duke University.

A ticket to "A Christmas Carol" is needed to enter. The SJA community can type in the promo code "Holly" and will receive "A" level seats for $27.50, a 50% discount. The play starts at 3 p.m.

**Health Sciences Honors Program Students Receive Advice From St. John Medical Center Officials for Upcoming SJA Health Fair**

More than 30 Health Sciences Honors Program students visited St. John Medical Center in Westlake on Wednesday to tour the facility and learn what it takes to put on a Health Fair. SJA alumna Mrs. Cheryl Hagan O'Malley '77, Vice President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer, along with other hospital staff, accompanied the students on the tour of several departments, including the Emergency Room and Pediatric Unit. [Full Story]

**Therapy Dogs' Visit Relieves Test Stress**

On Friday, students were treated to a visit from four patient and loving dogs, courtesy of Therapy Dogs International. The dogs visited the Academy to help ease stress about upcoming final examinations. Enjoy an album of the visit [here](#).
History Students Share Research on Life, Hardships During World War I

On Wednesday, students in the "World War I: Beyond the Battles" class presented their findings to parents, friends, and staff members. Under the guidance of Instructional Librarian Meagan Fowler and Nazareth Library Department Chairwoman Rebecca Synk, the students worked on a semester long self-directed research paper covering various topics of their own choosing related to culture from the First World War era. The topics included technology, art, fashion, poetry, propaganda films and food rationing. Full Story

Pre-Algebra Students Use Computations to Create Wooden Pyramids

Pre-Algebra students watched as their math computations came to life this week, thanks to the laser engraver in the Makerspace. Students used the laser engraver to cut pieces of wood to create a multi-tiered pyramid. Full Story

Season Celebrated With Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas Concert was held on Thursday, delighting the SJA community with performances by the Concert Choir, Show Choir, Advanced Choir, Academy Chorale, String Orchestra, Jazz Band and Concert Band.

Here is a photo album of the festivities.
'Ugly Christmas Sweater Day' Celebrated

The halls of SJA were filled on Thursday with images of shiny Christmas trees, sparkly ornaments and lots of jolly Santas, thanks to "Ugly Christmas Sweater Day." For a look at the Christmas attire in all its glory, click here.

'Unbeatable' Shirt Is Back! Holiday Bargains, Special Hours at Paw Prints Store

There's still time! The Paw Prints Store has special hours and shopping days next week for all your Jaguar needs.

Back by popular demand, the "Unbeatable Since 1890" football shirts are back. The long-sleeved shirts are $20. Get yours while supplies last.

On Saturday, December 19, everyone with a paid admission to the home basketball game will receive 10% off their purchase of regularly priced items and all Booster Members will receive 20% off their purchase of regularly priced items (food and school supplies not included).

**Christmas hours are:**
- Saturday, December 20: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Monday, December 21: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 22: 8 a.m.-noon
- Wednesday, December 23: 5-8 p.m.

SPORTS

**Basketball**

On Wednesday night, the Jaguars defeated Lake Catholic, 64-28. SJA was led by junior Gia DiMassa, who registered 14 points, 8 rebounds, and 3 assists. Junior Ellen Vichill added 12 points and 6 rebounds, while sophomore Molly Dever had 12 points, 4 rebounds, 4 steals, and 3 blocks. Sophomore Colleen Neitzel had 10 points, 10 rebounds, and 2 blocks, and freshman Molly Neitzel contributed 8 points and 5 rebounds. The Jaguars outscored the Cougars 42-13 in the second half of the game.

**Swimming**

Jaguar swimmers finished 6th out of 18 at the Hilltopper Invitational last Saturday. Senior Kelly Shantery had her best relay split in the 200m freestyle relay which helped lift the relay into 6th place. Freshman Julia Patterson took 11th in her 500-yard freestyle and 11th in the 20-yard freestyle. Sophomore Allison Sheehan also had a good meet with an 8th place finish in the 200m freestyle and an 11th place finish in the 100m backstroke. The Jaguars swim against rival Beaumont at Gilmour Academy on Saturday.