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Upcoming Events
December 15
Key Club Blood Drive, auditorium, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

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

December 16
"Paws for a Cause" Casual Dress Day,
suggested $2 donation to benefit Jackie Goodin, CSJ, and the refugee program at Texas/Mexican border; Marie Hogan, CSJ, and her work in the Philippines/sex trafficking; and Migration Family Services. More details to come from Dean of Women Marie Ciolek.

December 17
Ugly Christmas Sweater and Christmas Sock Day. More details to come from Dean of Women Marie Ciolek.

December 17
Christmas Concert, 7-9 p.m., in auditorium.
Early dismissal, 2 p.m.

December 17
Christmas Concert, 7-9 p.m., at SJA.

December 18
Christmas at the Academy, girls in grades 2-6. Crafts, fun activities. 6:30-8 p.m., at SJA. $5 donation. Also collecting canned food for local food pantries. Register here.

December 23-January 7
No school, Christmas break.

January 7
No school. Faculty Professional Day. This is a change from the calendar sent out in August.

January 8
Classes resume.

Spotlight

Name: Mrs. Cathy Lanning Knittel ’67

Accomplishment: CORE
Ministry teacher Mrs. Knittel is a tireless teacher, volunteer and event coordinator for such events as this week's Family Advent Night.

Fun Facts: Mrs. Knittel has worked at the Academy for a total of 30 years, including 27 as a Theology teacher.

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

‘Hour of Code' Demystifies Programming

"Thousands of coding jobs go unfilled internationally because the skill set is just not that common," shared Science teacher John Lesko with his Programming and Visual Basics class.

For that reason - and because "it's just fun!" - Mr. Lesko this week had his class participate in the "Hour of Code" experience. Founded by such entrepreneurs as Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberger, "Hour of Code" is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics. "It's an international experience," added Mr. Lesko. "The grassroots campaign goal is for tens of millions of students to try an 'Hour of Code' during December 7-13, in celebration of Computer Science Education Week."

Full Story

International Baccalaureate Program Will Reinforce Saint Joseph Academy Mission

As a current candidate for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP), Saint Joseph Academy is embarking on a program that is a globally recognized gold standard of learning. In an effort to provide the Saint Joseph Academy community with continuing information as we proceed with this exciting journey, we periodically will be offering facts about IB and the IB MYP. We will be starting with a little history about the program.

Founded in 1968 in Switzerland, IB is a non-profit educational foundation originally envisioned to provide an internationally recognized diploma for the children of globetrotting diplomats and business executives. The first IB program in the United States started in 1971 and currently, IB programs are offered in 1,682 American schools, with the IB MYP found in 598 schools. Internationally, IB currently works with more than 3,000 schools in 139 countries - and is still expanding.

IB programs focus on the intellectual, personal, emotional and social
After graduating from SJA in 1967, Mrs. Knittel earned a Bachelor of Education from Ursuline College, followed by a Master of Education from Marygrove University in Detroit, Michigan.

Mrs. Knittel's involvement with Saint Joseph Academy goes far beyond teaching. She's not the only woman in her family to be an SJA graduate: her mother, three sisters, cousins, nieces and her daughter are all proud alumnae. She is one of the founders of Catholic Schools for Peace and Justice (CSPJ) and works closely on many projects with our founders, the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph.

"CSPJ and the traditions of Saint Joseph Academy mean a great deal to me," shared Mrs. Knittel. "These are living, breathing traditions shared by 16,000 women."

"My favorite aspect of teaching has to be being with the tremendously inspiring young ladies of Saint Joseph Academy. And of course, the Congregation's stamp is so life-changing."

Thank you, Mrs. Knittel, for all you do for Saint Joseph Academy!

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**Join Us Next Week for Annual Christmas Concert**

All are welcome for the annual Christmas Concert next Thursday, December 17 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Featured on the program will be the Concert Choir, Show Choir, Advanced Choir, Academy Chorale, String Orchestra, Jazz Band and Concert Band.

Highlighted music includes vocal selections "Angels’ Carol" by Rutter, Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas is You," and "It's Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas."

Once again, former Chorale members will be invited onstage to join the performance of "Joseph's Lullaby" and former Cecilia's Song members to join in "The Holly & the Ivy."

Instrumental selections include: Dance Noel (He is Born), "On This Day" (based on a song from 1582) and the "First Noel" arranged as a bossa nova. The performance will conclude with a grand finale featuring the choirs and band performing traditional Christmas carols.

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**Please 'Serve the Dear Neighbor' This Advent**

During Advent, students are sponsoring three initiatives. The first initiative, being held now through December 18, has the SJA community donating specific items for a "paper product drive" to benefit the West Side Catholic Center and Migration Services. Seniors are being asked to donate toilet tissue; juniors, facial tissue (Kleenex); sophomores, paper napkins; freshmen, paper towels; and adults, any of the above items. The items are being collected in front of the Main Office.

In addition, there will be a donation box
Buffalo, NY (4 hours from Cleveland) Large city.

**Enrollment:** 3,400 undergraduates.

**Strongest Programs:** Business, animal ecology, education, including special education/autism research.

**Fun Facts:** The campus rests atop a labyrinth of tunnels. During the bitter cold western New York winters, students are guaranteed to stay warm as they travel underground!

[www.canisius.edu](http://www.canisius.edu)

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For more information on these Advent events, please contact CORE Ministry teacher Cathy Lanning Knittel ’67 [here](#).

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### 'Monet to Matisse' Exhibit Inspirational

For the next month, juniors are experiencing the beauty and depth of artistic renderings of gardens by the masters, thanks to the Cleveland Museum of Arts current exhibit, "Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse."

"The exhibit is a perfect manifestation of this year's theme, 'Being One With Creation;" " shared Principal Jeff Sutliff. "The depth of feeling and rendering of nature from these artistic masters will provide students with a deeper understanding of nature and God's presence all around."

[Full Story](#)

Here is a link to a photo album of students' recent visit.

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### SJA Tutors Enjoy Christmas Party And Douglas MacArthur Girls

For five years, SJA volunteers have made the short bus trip to Cleveland's K-8th grade Douglas MacArthur Girls' Leadership Academy to tutor kindergarten to 4th grade students in various subjects. On Wednesday, SJA hosted a Christmas party for the young girls, helping them make crafts and enjoying lunch. [Full Story](#)

Here is a link to a photo album from the party.

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### Tips to Reduce Examination Stress

Guidance Counselor Maryann Marek has some survival tips for students (and parents!) for the upcoming examination time.

"An important student strategy is to start ahead of time," said Ms. Marek. "Students should space out studying and homework assignments so that they will not be forced to cram on the night before the test. Start several days before the exam and write out a daily to-do list. Prioritize what needs to be accomplished each day."

"Have a dedicated study space," she added. "The study space should be organized and have no distractions. For some people, this may mean almost complete silence; for others, background music may help."
Here are some other suggestions:
* Take regular breaks.
* Snack on "brain food" such as fish, nuts, seeds, yogurt and blueberries. The same applies on exam day; eat a healthy breakfast by avoiding high sugar cereals and eating high protein foods.
* Get eight hours of sleep.
* The night before an exam, lay out all school materials such as books, pencils, calculator, Chromebooks, etc.
* Maintain a good attitude.

Help Students With Shopping Rewards
Do you know that you can support today’s students by simply doing your regular shopping? By designating Saint Joseph Academy in the shopping rewards programs at Amazon Smile (this link takes you directory to SJA’s page), Target, Heinen's, Giant Eagle or GFS Marketplace, you can help the Academy at no additional cost to your purchases. Click here to learn how to enroll in the “School Rewards” programs of these stores.

Holiday Bargains, Special Hours at Paw Prints Store!
As you are making your list and checking it twice, have you included some purple and gold items for all the Jaguar fans on the list? The Paw Prints Store is stocked with many wonderful items including ornaments, jewelry, blankets, mugs, hats and hoodies.

Back by popular demand, the "Undefeated Since 1890" football shirts are back! The long sleeve shirts arrive next week and will be only $20. Get yours while supplies last!

Did your daughter make a Wish List? When you stop in be sure to ask if they have one on file. If you are in town or will be visiting our area during the holiday season, please stop in and take advantage of our Christmas specials:

12/12/15 = 25%
Stop in on Saturday, December 12 and enjoy a Christmas treat while you browse and buy. In addition, everyone who makes a purchase of $30 or more will receive 25% off their purchase of regularly priced items! Also, as the celebration year has come to a close, all 125th items are on sale!

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).

Here is a link to all the Paw Prints Store hours, as well as the online store.

SPORTS

Basketball
Varsity played a solid game against cross-town rival and highly ranked Magnificat on Wednesday. The Jaguars were within striking distance entering the fourth quarter (46-41) but couldn't get any closer. It was the first loss of
the season for Varsity, who enter Saturday’s game at 4-1 as they travel to take on St. Vincent-St. Mary. Last Saturday, the Jaguars scored a remarkable 32 points in the fourth quarter as they came back from a 2-point deficit entering the fourth quarter against Mayfield, to post a 70-49 win. Sophomore Colleen Neitzel had 19 points and 14 rebounds in the win while Ellen Vichill ’17 scored 17 points.

Swimming
Jaguar swimmers kicked off their season last Saturday in Columbus at the St. Charles Showdown. The Jaguars were among 11 girls’ teams at the meet, of which 7 teams placed at the state meet last season. Senior Kelly Shantery finished 13th in the 10-yard freestyle and 9th in the 50-yard freestyle. Freshman Paola Colon made a stellar high school debut, placing 12th in the 50-yard breaststroke and 16th in the 100-yard breaststroke. Also placing was Jadalise Pacheco ’18 in the 100-yard Individual Medley. Nora Kelley ’17 placed 17th in the 50-yard breaststroke. The team will compete this weekend at Spire at the Hilltopper Invitational in Geneva.

The Jaguar Students Need Your Support!
To help support SJA’s Crew athletes, students will be wrapping presents at Southpark Mall in Strongsville in a kiosk sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police. The students will be wrapping on Wednesday, December 23 from 1-4 p.m. All proceeds will be used for the Crew equipment fund. For more information or to volunteer to help for this fundraiser, please contact parent volunteer Mrs. Sue Prahst P’17 at patricia_prahst@yahoo.com.

STAY CONNECTED

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