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Upcoming Events

This Weekend,
April 8-10, 15-17
Spring Play,
"Little Shop of Horrors,"

Parents: At a Glance

April 8-10, 15-17
Spring Musical,
"Little Shop of Horrors,"
7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturdays,
Sunday matinees, 2:30 p.m.

April 12
National Honor Society Induction Ceremony,
1:30-3 p.m.

April 13
Early dismissal, 2 p.m.

April 17
Spring Open House
Noon-2 p.m.

April 18
No school; office closed

April 24
Annual Mother-Daughter Mass & Reception.
9:30 a.m.-Noon, at SJA.
RSVP deadline is April 20.
Form here.
Questions? Email here.

Ms. Megan Gaffney from Seton Catholic School
April 10
After Prom fundraiser, Pizza Fire in Rocky River. [Here is the flyer.]

April 12
National Honor Society Induction, 1:30-3 p.m.

April 12
Empty Bowls Project, 6-8 p.m., Dining Hall, fundraiser for Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

April 13
Early dismissal, 2 p.m.

April 17
Spring Open House Noon-2 p.m. Questions? Email [here]

April 18
No school; office closed

April 21
"A Touch of Classical" concert, 7 p.m., at SJA

April 24
Annual Mother-Daughter Mass & Reception, 10 a.m. at SJA. RSVP deadline is April 20. Form is [here]. Questions? Email [here].

April 26
Senior Panoramic picture, 11 a.m.

**Spotlight**

Is Named New Assistant Principal
Ms. Megan Gaffney, currently at Seton Catholic School in Hudson, will be the new Assistant Principal, effective July 1, 2016.

Ms. Gaffney has a Bachelor of Arts from John Carroll University and a Master in Educational Administration from Kent State University. She has served in a wide range of leadership capacities at Seton and taught social studies, reading, and religion since 2007. Active in the high school youth ministry at St. Mary Catholic Church, she was the recipient of the Hudson Community First Youth Advocate Award in 2013. In addition, Ms. Gaffney has coached high school and middle school girls lacrosse for Hudson City Schools and swimming for Redwood Swim Club. [Full Story]

Don't Miss 'Little Shop of Horrors' Opening Tonight, April 8
A humorous tale of murder, love and a talking plant is not one to be missed! SJA's Spring musical presentation of "Little Shop of Horrors will be performed this weekend (April 8, 9, 10) and again on April 15, 16 and 17. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are $10 for general admission and $5 for students and seniors. [Here] is a Facebook album of the play.

Support the 'Empty Bowls Project' and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank
Students in an independent ceramics class have been working for months creating beautiful ceramic bowls for a very good cause! The bowls are part of a fundraiser spearheaded by senior Emily Hanes.
Name: Christine Zaky ’17

Accomplishment:
Among many other service, athletic and academic activities, Christine is the president of the C.A.R.E. (Christians Accepting and Respecting Everyone) Club and was the moving force behind this week's Cultural Celebration Week.

Fun Facts: "We sometimes forget to celebrate diversity. Where we come from should be celebrated. Culture and heritage have such deep roots in who we are that sharing it with others allows us to exchange a piece of our history and tradition, create conversation in a global community, and form a mosaic of knowledge and enthusiasm of different cultures other than our own. All of these allow us to open our eyes to new perspectives and appreciate our differences."

Christine is President of C.A.R.E., a reporter for the Jaguar Beat, a member of Student Council for three years, a member of the Health Sciences Honors Program (HPAC), Spanish Club, an Ambassador, a peer tutor, part of the History Club, and a member of the Mock Trial team.

Two of the many ceramic bowls made by students

"We've chosen to hold a fundraiser with those bowls to benefit the Greater Cleveland Food Bank," shared Emily. "The event is called the Empty Bowls Project and we are hoping it becomes an annual event!

The event is next Tuesday, April 12 from 6-8 p.m. in the Dining Hall. Cost is $10 for adults and $8 for students, which includes a handmade bowl created by an SJA student and a simple meal of soup, salad, bread, and drinks. The food is being donated by: Brennan's Catering, Suzy's Soup, Sharon Wolf of the SJA Dining Hall, Bob Evans Restaurant of Lakewood, Italian Creations and Giant Eagle on Edgecliff.

"We are hoping to raise at least $1,000 to donate to such a great cause," shared Emily.

Students Receive Top Awards at International Model United Nations Competition in London

SJA students once again proved their international acumen by winning two Distinguished Delegate Awards at the Model United Nations Conference at The Haileybury School in London, England. The event was attended by more than 600 students from all over the world.

The Academy was represented by Quinn Patton ’18, Jessa Nauman ’18, Lily Silva ’18, Alexis Defreitas ’18, Lizzie Lewandowski ’18 and Abagale Bentley ’17. Alexis and Jessa both received the Distinguished Delegate Awards. This international experience is one way to further emphasize SJA's mission to promote global cultural understanding, critical thinking, collaboration, reflection, inquiry-based learning and intercultural understanding and respect. This type of experience aligns with International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme teaching methodologies. Full Story
of the "Look Up to Cleveland Class of 2016," and has recently been accepted into National Honor Society.

"My favorite subjects are AP Biology and AP Spanish. I also have a passion for traveling, learning new languages, and exploring culture, and would like to do missionary work as a doctor, serving the poor and neglected."

"I am very interested in Case Western Reserve University and Washington University in St. Louis. I would also love to study abroad in Cairo, Egypt at the American University and in Madrid, Spain.

Christine was a member of the SJA Tennis Team freshman and sophomore year. She is a Sunday School teacher, lead an all-girls faith group (5th to 8th grade) at St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church, volunteers in patient transport at St. John Medical Center, is a peer tutor, and volunteers at the Westlake Porter Public Library in the youth services department.

"I am looking at possible mission trips in Egypt, Kenya, or Ethiopia for this summer."

**Students Tour Spain - Olé!**

Forty students and six chaperones enjoyed the wonders of Northern Spain in a nine-day trip over Easter break. The cultural immersion trip included stops in Madrid, Burgos, San Sebastián and Barcelona, the Guggenheim Museum and the world famous La Sagrada Familia Cathedral. [Here](#) is a photo album of their adventures.

International trips - both service and cultural - are another way of furthering Saint Joseph Academy's mission of educating young women to understand other cultures and perspectives. On the trip, students attended an Easter Sunday Mass, had lessons on how to cook *paella* and learned about the art and culture of Spain.

"International travel eradicates prejudices by promoting understanding, or at the very least, cordial curiosity about others who may seem different," shared Spanish teacher Señor Ethan Saurwein, a chaperone on the trip.

**Pictured:** Students in front of the Frank Gehry-designed Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain

**Sister Schools 'Serve Together' In Louisiana**

A dozen students joined their counterparts at St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge during Easter Break to "serve the dear neighbor" in southern Louisiana.

The group participated in a variety of community service projects, including the H.O.P.E. (Hands-On Preservation Experience) Project in which volunteers work in historic national parks. The students spent two days cleaning, restoring and securing headstones in Chalmette National Cemetery, which includes graves of soldiers who died fighting in the Civil War and the War of 1812.

[Full Story](#)

**Great Lakes Actors Share Love of Shakespeare**
Location: Cincinnati, OH. (4 hours from Cleveland) Urban

Enrollment: 4,600 undergraduates.

Strongest Programs: Nursing, business, marketing, liberal arts, health professions.

Fun Facts: Founded in 1831, Xavier University is a Jesuit Catholic university. It has a 96 percent placement rate.

www.mountunion.edu

World Languages Students Enjoy International Film Festival

A total of 50 students studying Chinese, AP Spanish and Spanish 3 attended the Cleveland International Film Festival at the Tower City Cinemas on Thursday. Students enjoyed a series of foreign shorts ranging from five to 20 minutes in length. The shorts included documentaries and dramas. Each group saw several shorts to further their skills in listening and understanding the languages.

After the films, students were led in a short discussion about the movies they had seen. Students who attend the Spanish films also got to work on speaking as their presenter spoke both English and Spanish.

“This is an invaluable experience when it comes to understanding different cultures,” shared Spanish teacher Ethan Saurwein.

Cultural Week Celebration Enhances Appreciation of Diversity

This past week, students have celebrated the traditions of other cultures thanks to Cultural Celebration Week at SJA! Organized by the C.A.R.E. (Christians Accepting and Respecting Everyone) Club, the week included daily events that helped both students and staff experience different cultures.

Shakespeare's words came alive this week for English 9 and Honors English 9 classes, as they were treated to performances and lessons by Great Lakes Theater actors.

Students acted out scenes in costume from "Romeo and Juliet" and "Macbeth," plays the students are currently studying in class. Full Story
“Cultural Appreciation Week was meant to help us engage in a global celebration in our diversity and its beauty,” shared C.A.R.E. president Christine Zaky ’17.

Activities included showings of the movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," community prayer in the Chapel reflecting on SJA's diversity and unity in Christ, and a speaker panel about world travel and immigration. In addition, Spanish and Chinese World Languages students attended movies in those languages at the Cleveland International Film Festival (see story above), there was an international food fair, a cultural dress and a world map with daily questions.

"I have always wanted to hold a cultural celebration in my community!" shared Christine. "I love my Egyptian culture so much, and I see that my friends are always interested in it and want to experience it! Likewise, I am passionate about learning about other cultures. I want people to engage in a global conversation and immersion in culture. It is so important, especially in this time, for diversity to be explored and a global conversation to be initiated.”

We Are So Close! Help Us Reach Our Goal!

In gratitude for the opportunities being provided at the Academy for their daughter, generous benefactors have offered us $25,000 to mount the second annual Parent Participation Challenge! Like last year, parents are being asked to make a minimum gift of $25 to the Annual Fund in honor of their daughters. If at least 25 percent of our current parents make the commitment, the Academy will receive $25,000 to support our incredible students and faculty. We need 38 more parents to make a commitment to reach our goal - and receive the $25,000 challenge grant.

We know that Saint Joseph Academy parents are an amazing group of people. We see the proof in your daughters each day. We are so close to our goal! Please click here to make your commitment today

Parents: Help Us Ensure Safe Prom, Graduation Season

Administrators from six area Catholic high schools are jointly asking senior parents to help them ensure a safe and happy prom and graduation season. As part of an educational effort, the administrators have composed a letter outlining the details of the 1989 Amendment to the Ohio Revised Code, commonly known as the "Keg Law," that holds individuals responsible for underage drinking on property under their control.

Here is a copy of the letter, Parents of Seniors are urged to read it.

Girls in 6th, 7th Grade Invited to 'Leadershop'

Leaders aren't just born. Leadership qualities need to be nurtured and encouraged. Girls in grades 6th and 7th will be given tools to be future role models at our annual "Leadershop" event, being offered at SJA on Friday, May 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is a day full of fun hands-on activities, SJA student-led presentations, lunch in our Dining Hall and a campus tour. Admission is $10 per student. Lunch is included. All participants will receive a T-shirt.

For more information, email here; to sign up, go here.

SPORTS
SOFTBALL
It was a great start to the season on Tuesday, as Varsity played its first game in Northeast Ohio after opening with five games in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Mallory Ambrosio ’18 pitched a complete game shutout and only allowed three hits as the Jaguars rolled past Magnificat 12-0. Hannah Hill ’16, Mackenzie Milligan ’17 and Allison Kwan ’16, among others, had big hits for SJA. The Jaguars currently have a 4-2 record. Today’s game at Holland Springfield High School has been cancelled.

LACROSSE
The first-year Lacrosse team played a pair of games this week as they traveled to Avon Lake and Hathaway Brown. The Jaguars dropped both games against experienced teams, but continue to improve each time out. Freshman Ella Calleri scored both Jaguar goals on Tuesday at Avon Lake.

TRACK & FIELD
Track & Field hosted its annual Jaguar Invitational on Saturday and several athletes had standout days in the cold weather. Senior Kye Williams won the high jump while junior Maggie Wagner picked up a win in the 1600 meter run. Maggie also finished second in the 800 meter run while senior Monica Hahn posted a third-place finish in the 300 meter hurdles. The Jaguars competed against a strong field including teams from Austintown Fitch, Medina, Brunswick and Beaumont. Due to the weather, the Jaguar's schedule changed several times this week, but will return to the track on Tuesday at Walsh Jesuit.

RUGBY
The team will face rival Lakewood on Sunday with the Varsity game at 1 p.m. and the JV game at 2:30 p.m. at St. Edward High School. Please follow @sjaathletics on Twitter for announcements regarding cancellations/changes to the schedule.

CREW
The rowing team was set to compete in their first regatta of the season this weekend in Columbus, but the regatta was cancelled due to bad weather. The Jaguars will hopefully get on the water next weekend when they travel to Nashport, OH for the Dillon Lake Scholastic Sprints.

STAY CONNECTED

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