**Parents: At-A-Glance**

**Monday, December 24-Wednesday, December 26**
No School/Office Closed

**Thursday, December 27-Friday, December 28**
No School/Office Open

7th and 8th Grade Girls Volleyball Winter Clinic
Academy Center, 5-7:30 p.m.
$60/participant for two days. Click [here](#) to register.

**Monday, December 31-Tuesday, January 1**
No School/Office Closed

**Wednesday, January 2-Friday, January 4**
No School/Office Open

**Saturday, January 5**
Admission Test, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Register [here](#).

**Monday, January 7**
No School/Teacher Professional Day/Office Open

**Tuesday, January 8**
Second Semester Begins

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**Christmas Blessing**

May Pope Francis' words ring out during this Christmas season: "Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace." Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas and a happy new year! Click [here](#) to watch our video wishing you a blessed Christmas season!

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**The Academy Chorale Performs on Fox 8**

On Monday, The Academy Chorale performs on Fox 8.
The Academy Chorale performed on Fox 8 News Cleveland's Morning Show! The students had the exciting honor to sing on the Juke Box, which spotlights area singing groups, including high schools. Click here to view the performances. Brava, ladies!

The choirs and band perform together during the annual Christmas Concert

Students translate research studies conducted by Cleveland Clinic summer interns, creating artistic, literary and mathematical interpretations of the science. Over 1,700 art, language and math projects from 61 schools were submitted as a part of eXpressions™.

“The research I used as my inspiration describes how the Infant-Driven Feeding Program is able to decrease the length of stay of babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). My oil painting represents two sides of a newborn's health and two ways of feeding: breastfeeding and by bottle. The praying hands show what a parent hopes for: their child's recovery so they can be brought home and cared for in a natural, healthy way, versus their current reality, their child in an incubator, surrounded by tubes and machinery,” shared Claire.

On Tuesday evening, the annual Christmas concert was held for a standing-room only audience of parents, family members and friends of Saint Joseph Academy. It was a delight to hear the talented young women perform some Christmas classics! Bravo to Performing Arts - Vocal Music Department Chair Miss Kathleen Cooper and Performing Arts - Instrumental Music teacher Mr. David Mumford and the many students who shared their talents. Click here for photos from the Christmas Concert.

Mandatory Senior Parent/Guardian Graduation Meeting
We have been actively working to prepare the Class of 2019 graduation activities. In order to ensure we have the correct information for your daughter, please respond to the questions here by Friday, January 4.

Additionally, there will be a Mandatory Senior Parent/Guardian Meeting on Thursday, January 10, 7 p.m. in the Auditorium. At least one parent/guardian must attend this informational meeting regarding Senior events and expectations from the start of second semester through Commencement. Wine and cheese will be provided. Questions? Please contact Science Department Chair and teacher Mrs. Valerie Sanfilippo.

Therapy Dogs and Bunnies Help Relieve Final Exams Stress
On Monday, students were treated to a visit from four patient and loving dogs, courtesy of Therapy Dogs International, as well as bunnies from the organization F5RS Bunnies in Baskets. Students spent time with the dogs and bunnies to help ease stress of upcoming final examinations. Enjoy an album of the visit here.

Students enjoy a visit from Therapy Dogs International
**College Credit Plus Informational Meeting**

Through a program called College CreditPlus (CCP), the state of Ohio provides high school students an opportunity to earn college credit during their high school years. CCP classes may be taken at any Ohio public college/university or from any participating private college.

Students must apply to both the CCP program and the college where they intend to take classes. (Neither funding by the state nor acceptance by the college is guaranteed).

Students interested in learning more about CCP should visit their website by clicking [here](#). After review of the program and its policies, please attend Saint Joseph Academy's College Credit Plus Information Night on **Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 7 p.m.** in the Auditorium.

Questions? Please contact College Counselor **Ms. Maria Mueller**.

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**Save the Date for "Celebrate the Academy"**

Please join Saint Joseph Academy for a fun evening to benefit student scholarships and academic initiatives. Our annual "Celebrate the Academy" gala will take place on **Saturday, February 23, 2019, 6 p.m.** at Saint Joseph Academy. This gala's theme is "A Toast to Tinseltown."

We are pleased to honor:

- **Diane Roberto ’60** - 2019 Distinguished Alumna Award Honoree
- **Jerry and Leane Gootee P’16** - 2019 Medaille Shield Award Honorees

Click [here](#) for sponsorship and ticket information

**How You Can Help Support "Celebrate the Academy"**

- Donate your favorite bottle(s) of wine (valued at $25 or more) for the Wine Pull
- Donate gift cards to restaurants, Amazon gift cards or tickets to local Cleveland attractions/events
- Donate your vacation home for a Live Auction package
- Donate a unique experience for the Silent Auction
- Volunteer your time to help pick up donations or set-up for the event

For more information or to register for the event, please visit [www.sja1890.org](http://www.sja1890.org) or contact Mrs. **Carolyn Conway Novak ’06** at 216.251.6788 x224.

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**Athletics**

**Gymnastics Makes Full Team Debut**

The gymnastics team opened its season with a full team for the first time in school history. Last year the team was comprised of two Juniors, who competed as individuals. The now team of five opened its season on **Tuesday, December 18 at Magnificat**.
High School competing against Magnificat and North Olmsted High Schools. The team was led by Seniors Sofie Buckley and Emma Weiss. Freshmen Abby Harden, Elizabeth Quinn and Abby Synk all competed in their inaugural high school gymnastics competition. Sofie Buckley ’19 took the vault title while also placing fifth in both the all-around and on bars. Abby Synk ’22 tied for fifth place on vault. The Jaguars next meet will be on **Friday, December 28** when the team will celebrate Senior Night and honor Seniors Sofie Buckley and Emma Weiss.

Swimming Sets Two School Records at Winter Champs Meet

The swim team had two school record performances on Saturday at the 2018 Winter Championship meet held at Spire Institute.

Maddy Kelly ’20 set another school record as she posted a time of 58.22 to finish 11th overall in the 100 butterfly. She broke the previous record of 58.43 which had been set by Emma Ryan in 2012. Kelly also finished 7th overall in the 50 freestyle.

Emma Claire Lambert-Shemo ’22 broke her own school record in the 100 breaststroke as she posted a time of 1:12.24 to finish 14th.

Other highlights include:

- Julie Brown ’21 dropped .45 in the 50 freestyle & 1.56 in the 100 back to post season bests in both races
- Katie Tomko ’20 dropped 2.51 seconds in the 50 free and 2.26 seconds in the 100 free to set season bests in both races
- Lyanna Tran ’22 posted personal bests in both the 50 free and 100 freestyle
- Kassidy Gartin ’19 posted a season-best time in the 100 freestyle while Lexi Smith ’20 posted a personal best in the same race. Jillian Wilde ’22 also posted a season best in the 100 freestyle.

Basketball Wins Fourth Straight Game; Molly Neitzel ’19 and Gabbie Schafer ’21 Lead the Way

The basketball team won its fourth straight game on Monday, December 17 as the Jaguars topped visiting Strongsville High School 65-49. After dropping their first three games of the season, the Academy has put together wins over Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin, Magnificat High School, Beaumont School and Strongsville High School to move to 4-3 on the season.

In the win over the Mustangs, Molly Neitzel ’19 poured in 24 points while adding six rebounds and a block. Over her last three games, Molly Neitzel is averaging 19.7 points, 9.7 rebounds and 3.7 blocks per game. On Saturday, December 15, she posted her first career triple-double in a win over Beaumont School.

On Monday, December 17 guard Gabbie Schafer ’21 had an outstanding all-around game. The guard grabbed a team-high 16 rebounds and added 10 assists while scoring eight points. Charlotte Adler ’21 was in double figures with 12 points while Ella Neitzel ’22 had nine points, all coming in the second half. The Jaguars return to North Coast League (NCL) play on **Saturday, December 22** as they head to Villa Angela-St. Joseph.

Congratulations to all of our teams and good luck at their upcoming athletic events!

To view photos, check out scores or to see the schedules for upcoming games please visit the Athletics website.
and important meetings, click here.