



# JAGUAR JOURNAL

Volume 2, Issue 2

December 2016

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By Emma Westrup

*Kindness Matters* is a K-5 program aimed at encouraging students to be kind. Parent volunteers, Mrs. Danielle Schroeder and Mrs. Tara Stoll, created and brought this program to St. Joseph this year. It is run by *Kindness Coaches*-our mom volunteers- who are charged with challenging students to live and treat people as Jesus did.

The monthly *Kindness Matters* benefits our school by helping students understand what it means to be kind and giving them an opportunity to think about kindness more often. When students think about kindness and act on it, there will be a positive effect on their peers, and everyone around them.

## Caring for Kindness

Personalized items from *Kindness Coaches*, such as posters, makes kindness fun. “We kicked off the program by wearing our *Kindness Matters* t-shirts, chalking on blacktop near the school with positive words and symbols, offering *Kindness Mail* to other students, as well as classroom activities personalized to particular grade levels,” stated Mrs. Stoll.

The general thought behind the *Kindness Matters* program is students can become more kind even without thinking about it. “We want it to be second nature,” commented Mrs. Stoll. The hope is for students to be kind anywhere and everywhere... not just at school... and recognize that one little act of kindness can change the world.

The *Kindness Matters* program is here to help. By recognizing acts of kindness and shining a spotlight on them, students will want to be more kind. Every month, coaches will introduced a new theme related to kindness. With all this positive feedback from coaches, parents, teachers, and students, it looks like the program is here to stay.



Students are united in bringing kindness to SJS!

## Preview of Positive Direction 2016 - 2017

By Emily Juette

Positive Direction, a year-long program for 7th and 8th grade students, has been a tradition at St. Joseph School for 31 years! Positive Direction is made possible by the hard work and dedication of parent volunteers. On October 26, this year’s program kicked off with Mass, a bagel breakfast in the east campus gym, and speaker and University of Toledo Women’s Basketball Coach Tricia Cullop. Coach Cullop’s quotes will be used throughout Positive Direction!

Throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to learn from additional motivational speakers who will cover important topics such as respect for self and others, and the dangers to their well-being from drugs and alcohol. They will also learn about the importance of faith and living a life that is healthy in mind, body, and spirit.

Although Positive Direction is mainly for the 7th and 8th graders, elementary students participate by making spirit letters to cheer on the seventh and eighth grade runners. Positive Direction helps our students recognize the importance of setting goals, being positive, and having a relationship with Jesus.

On December 5th, the Culture Project addressed the topic of human dignity. The t-shirt design winner, Lauren O’Brien, was also revealed that day.

Positive Direction concludes in May with three days of main events, which includes a day of caring, a spiritual retreat, as well as the 7th and 8th grade 3K/5K challenge. The 7th and 8th graders hard work is then celebrated by an afternoon of games and other activities.

The winter speakers will soon be revealed and training for the *Best Foot Forward Challenge* will begin shortly after Christmas break. Positive Direction is something SJS students look forward to and remember long after they graduate!



The winning t-shirt design for Positive Direction 2016 - 2017 created by Lauren O'Brien

## Monsignor Metzger

By Grace Slomka and Meili Wahl

Monsignor Dennis Metzger is the Pastor at St. Joseph Parish and St. Joseph School. For Monsignor, the journey to priesthood has been a lifelong experience! In fact, he started thinking about becoming a priest when he was in grade school. He wasn't exactly sure what he wanted to do, but he knew he wanted to serve. The process of becoming a priest takes five years of school after college.

Monsignor has been pastor of St. Joseph Sylvania since 2008. He has also served as the Associate Pastor of Delphos St. John's 1974-79, Pastor of Blessed Sacrament 1981-91, Pastor of St. Patrick

of Heatherdowns 1991-2002, and Pastor of Holy Trinity 2002-2008.

He experiences Christ everyday in his life, through "celebrating and receiving the Eucharist each day, but also in the faces and lives of people I meet each day." He said that his favorite thing about being a priest is celebrating the Eucharist and preaching the word of God. In his free time, he likes to cook, garden, read mystery novels, and play bridge and tennis.

The students at St. Joseph School are lucky to have Monsignor Metzger and are thankful that his ministry has led him to SJS!



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## Our Principal, Mrs. Koppinger

By Natalie Suwinski

From a young age, Mrs. Sally Koppinger always wanted to be involved in education. She recalls wanting to know what made things work and listening to her grandmother tell stories of what her life was like. When she started school, she realized that so much more was open to her and that she loved math and the library. By the time she was in highschool she knew she wanted to teach. Her favorite subjects in school were math, English literature, and history.

Mrs. Koppinger received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mary Manse College and a Master of Science in Education degree from the University of Dayton.

She was asked to interview at SJS for the position of principal at SJS by the pastor of St. Joe's and the Superintendent of Catholic Schools. At that point, she was teaching 8th grade in a Toledo area Catholic school and knew that she wanted to become an administrator. Mrs. Koppinger says one of the things she enjoys most about being a principal is that "every day is different; every year is different; every child is unique." She believes her job is mission driven and has never regretted becoming a principal.

Outside of school she enjoys collecting antiques from the early 1800's to about 1875. She also enjoys gardening, reading, and restoring antiques.

For more than thirty years, Mrs. Koppinger has been principal of St. Joseph School! She has made a positive difference in the lives of so many students. We are grateful for her service!



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## Luna, the D.A.D.

By: Julia Ellis

Fourth grader, Addyson Tabb, was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes when she was four years old. Type 1 Diabetes is a serious disease that destroys pancreatic cells which affects their ability to produce insulin. Addy qualified for a service dog named Luna because of her condition. Luna, an 18 month old yellow lab, has been trained to bark or paw at Addy when the sugar level in her blood is too high or too low. In other words, Luna is a Diabetic Alert Dog also known as a D.A.D. She can tell when Addy's blood sugar changes because Addy's body odor changes. Luna follows Addy wherever she goes, including all of her specials classes and on the bus! Students of SJS attended an

informative assembly to introduce Luna where they learned they are to ignore Luna. She has a very important job to do and she cannot be distracted.

Addy's teacher, Mrs. Gfell said, "I was a little nervous at first as to how my class would react to having Luna in the classroom, but the kids have been great. Most of the time, I forget that Luna is even in the classroom, unless she is alerting Addy (that her blood sugar is high/low), Luna is usually asleep next to or under Addy's desk. Having Luna in the classroom has been an easy transition and it's been really neat to see how she watches out for and helps Addy."

Luna is a special addition to 4G and the St. Joseph family!



Luna, Addy's D.A.D.

## It's That Time Of Year...

By: Katie Holmes

As the winter months approach, viruses start to spread throughout our St. Joseph families. This year, parents have a new tool called the Kinza Fluency Program to help keep our student body as healthy as possible! School nurse, Mrs. Therese Hoehn will introduce the program to the SJS community in January. St. Joe's is one of 500 schools nationwide to be selected to participate at no cost. To participate, any interested SJS family will receive a special thermometer,

mailed directly to their homes. These Smart Thermometers are designed to capture and track health information. According to Mrs. Hoehn, "We will not implement the program until January, because that is when we can get the newest edition of the Kinza thermometers. I hope to be able to stop the spread of infectious diseases much earlier."

Some unique features of the Kinza thermometer are providing temperature readings in almost ten seconds and

tracking dosages of medication in order to record symptoms through photos and icons. The FLUency Program is a great family-friendly program that helps identify spreading illnesses, and how to stay healthy!



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## Spreading Christmas Cheer

By: Reagan Snyder

Each year, Saint Joseph School's third, fourth, and fifth graders participate in a school Christmas program. The Christmas program was performed at the Franciscan Center on December 20th. SJS students previewed the holiday program during the dress rehearsal, and wished the cast luck for the upcoming performance.

The elementary school music teacher, and director of the Christmas program, Mrs. Elizabeth Mass states, "The Christmas program is a long standing tradition here at St. Joseph. We do the

Christmas program to bring holiday cheer, and to give God glory! The plot of the program is finding the true meaning of Christmas. We assign speaking parts by holding several auditions to place the fifth graders in appropriate positions, and we begin practicing in September, after auditions are held." Fifth grader, Vivian Palko says, "My favorite thing about being in the Christmas program was going to the Franciscan Center to practice. My favorite song is *The Hope of All the World*, because it is very catchy and upbeat."

The third graders opened the show by singing three songs: *Sing of Joy*, *Winter Fantasy*, and *Blest are We*. The fourth graders accompanied the fifth graders throughout the program. This year's Christmas program, *The Christmas Cafe*, was fantastic, and the cast worked extremely hard to make it a success. Thank you to all students who brought Christmas cheer to SJS!

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## Fall Sports Update

By: Kaden Moore

"*Bump, Set, Spike!*" "*Touchdown!*" "*Finish Strong!*" are the sounds of St. Joe's fall sports. This includes football, cross country, and volleyball. The St. Joseph Athletic Director, Jeff Seemann, teaches the coaches how to coach the different sports. According to Mr. Seemann, his job is to "make sure our coaches are being the best they can be, being a minister for the Church, and helping make CYO participation fun, enjoyable, and awesome."

This year, football was separated into three teams, a fifth grade team (Coach Floyd), a sixth grade team (Coach Michalak), and a seventh and eighth grade team (Coach Leslie). Unlike the past years, this year there were two separate teams for fifth and sixth grade. When asked what he thought of the season, Braeden Moore said, "It was a challenging experience for all of us who haven't played tackle football but we are looking forward to next year." This season the fifth grade team had a record of 0 - 6, the sixth grade team went 4 - 3, and the seventh and eighth grade team ended the season with

a record of 4 - 2 they also were runners-up in the Toy Bowl.

This year's girls' volleyball was divided into seven different teams. Coaches Meyer and Szymanski's fourth grade team played this season without keeping score. Coach Palko's fifth grade team had an excellent season and went undefeated. Coach Palko's team successfully won their post season CYO tournament. Coach Clonch's fifth grade team finished their season 9 - 3. Unfortunately, they lost their CYO tournament.

Coach Martin's sixth grade team played also finished their season with a winning record of 10 - 2. They also were the CYO tournament runners up. The other sixth grade team, Coach Lucas' team, finished their season at 7 - 5 and they lost in their CYO tournament.

The seventh grade team coached by Coach Szymanski, ended with an 11 - 1 record. The girls were runners up in the CYO tournament. There were two eighth grade teams this year. Coach Padgett's team ended with a 9 - 3 record, and were

also the CYO Diocesan tournament runners-up. The second eighth grade team, also coached by Coach Szymanski, went 4 - 8, but lost in the tournament.

As for cross country, there were four teams. Each team was split into boys and girls teams. They all competed well at the Championship Meet at Maumee Bay State Park. The Pee Wee boys and girls both finished second. The Minor boys finished first and the minor girls finished in third. The Cadet girls finished first and the boys finished in fourth place. The Junior girls finished fifth and the junior boys finished fourth.

In all, these teams played hard, had fun, and represented St. Joseph School and Parish in a positive way.



# Ohio State vs. Michigan -- All for a Good Cause

By Grace Pizza

Students at St. Joseph School participated in a friendly rivalry raising money to benefit Central City Ministries of Toledo (CCMT). CCMT schools include Rosary Cathedral and Queen of Apostles Catholic Schools.

On Tuesday, November 22nd, students dressed to support their favorite team. The day ended with a pep rally featuring fight songs from Ohio State, Michigan, (and

Notre Dame). Mrs. Koppinger revealed a total of \$1595.09! OSU fans raised \$869.85, Michigan fans raised \$525.15, and Notre Dame fans raised \$200.09.

Our collection coincided with #GivingTuesday which enabled our gift to CCMT to receive matching funds in the amount of \$500.

In the end, Ohio State fans may have won the competition and the game, but the real winners are the students of CCMT!



## Thanksgiving Outreach for Sylvania Area Family Services

By: Lizzie Axe

This Thanksgiving St. Joseph collected items to donate to SAFS (Sylvania Area Family Services). Service is an important part of our school mission. This collection is what SJS calls Thanksgiving Outreach. Thanksgiving Outreach is SJS's response to the *Principles of Catholic Social Teaching*: **We are to serve because Jesus was the servant to all.** As students and faculty of St. Joe's, we

have been very blessed and need to share our blessings.

SJS has teamed with SAFS for Thanksgiving Outreach for about 27 years! St. Joe's first partnered with SAFS when they reached out to SJS through a letter. Each year, Assistant Principal, Mrs. Carol Lindsley, coordinates with SAFS the number of families SJS adopts. She is given a list and pairs classrooms with families.

Choosing families for the classrooms is not hard at all. Mrs. Lindsley simply

looks at the number of students in each class and ask SAFS to assign them a family they could manage...not too big, not too small...just right! Thank you to all those who donated items. The families are always very grateful!



## Book Fair

By Reina Zeitouni

The annual book fair at SJS took place from November 9 - 18 (including the online fair). The books available appealed to all ages, preschool to eighth grade. There were even some books that interested the adults! Students previewed the available items before they were able to purchase. Each class shopped for a 30 minutes. Parents of the younger students even joined their child at the book fair.

New St. Joseph School librarian, Mrs. Patty Unger, stated the reason for the book fair, "One hundred percent of our profits are used to buy new books the students can enjoy. It gets students excited about books and reading and that is always a good thing! It is like walking into a bookstore with books just for them and some students don't get to do that very often." This year, the book fair was a huge success and SJS students will be able to enjoy the new books purchased with the profits.

