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Look for our **NEW Editorial Section!**

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A Year of Positive Direction

By Reagan Snyder

Positive Direction is a long-standing tradition at St. Joseph School that is offered to seventh and eighth graders each May. Throughout the school year, students attend various speakers, participate in a t-shirt design and essay contest, and run or walk a 3K/5K challenge. This program is designed to teach middle school students how to live a healthy life.

In September, students are asked to participate in a t-shirt design and theme contest. This year's theme was, "Be bright, be optimistic, be confident, be amazing." The designs were voted on by students and 7th grader, Lauren O'Brien's design won.

Tricia Cullop, University of Toledo Women's Basketball coach, visited SJS in October. She spoke about choosing friends and making good choices. In November, Todd Crandall, founder of Racing for Recovery, spoke about addiction and its effects on his life. Middle school students were also introduced to the Culture Project which brought a message of respect and dignity for the human body. Dr. Mike Thompson, spoke about making choices.

Eighth grader, Kelsey Leamy, enjoyed her Positive Direction experiences. She stated, "The speakers come to teach us about resisting drugs and alcohol, living out our lives as Catholics, and never forgetting how important and special we each are. I believe that everything they teach us is key information that we, as middle schoolers, need to know before we enter high school. I appreciate the speakers and the SJS faculty and Positive Direction parent moderators that arranged for them to come."

Another important aspect of the Positive Direction week is the 3K/5K Best Foot Forward Challenge. Students begin training for the challenge in February. As the training gets more intense, 7th and 8th graders run together as a class. The favorite part of the training runs for many are the popsicles at the end.

Mrs. Juli Snyder, St. Joseph School Director of Marketing, is an SJS parent, as well as a Positive Direction co-chair. She says, "The theme for the retreat this year was "Be Dressed for Eternal Success in the Armor of God." This theme was also used for decorating the school during Positive Direction week. It is based on Ephesians 6:11-18. The school was decorated with various parts of God's armor including the sword of the

Spirit, the shield of faith, shoes of peace and the helmet of salvation.

According to Snyder, "Positive Direction helps 7th and 8th grade students understand that they will face issues in high school that challenge their good judgement. It is a program that emphasizes the struggles of being a teenager, and shows that it can be easier through developing a strong relationship with God, through setting personal goals, and using the Spirit to guide good decisions. "I am so happy parent volunteers are dedicated to Positive Direction. It gives the parents and teachers a chance to work together to support students and reassure them they are never alone!"



Winning t-shirt design by seventh grader Lauren O'Brien.



Seventh and eighth graders begin the 3K/5K challenge.

Presenting the Class of 2017

By Tyler Winters

Graduation is the highlight of the year for St. Joseph's eighth graders. This year graduation is Friday, June 2. The evening brings the year to a close with a Mass and diploma distribution, and an eighth grade dance.

Before graduation, many other activities unique to eighth grade take place. On May 31, the Class of 2017 will head to Cedar Point to celebrate their final year at SJS. On Thursday, June 1, the Honors Assembly

takes place in church. This assembly recognizes the hard work of all of the eighth graders. Prior to the Honors Assembly, eighth grade students, with their parents, attend a video presentation highlighting the years the Class of 2017 has spent together at SJS.



Graduation Mass is the final time that the class of 2017 will be together as SJS students. Before the awarding of diplomas, Student Council President, Reese DiSalle, will address his fellow classmates in his final speech. Monsignor Metzger will pass out diplomas as Mrs. Sally Koppinger announces each student's name. The students process out as St. Joseph School graduates. We wish the Class of 2017 the best of luck in high school. Congratulations graduates!

Saying Farewell and Happy Retirement

By Lizzie Axe and Reina Zeitouni

This year, many of St. Joseph's faculty and staff are retiring. The teachers include: Mrs. Linda Wangler (1st grade), Mrs. Evelyn Bell (8th grade), and Mrs. Rebecca Skelton (4th grade). Also retiring from SJS are Mrs. Sandy Yeager, Teaching Assistant for Mrs. MyLien Floyd, and Speech/Language Pathologist, Mrs. Katie Nejman.

Mrs. Wangler has been teaching for 50 years and for the past 30 years, Mrs. Wangler has been teaching first grade at St. Joseph School. She recalls feeling very strongly that teaching was what she was meant to do. Before SJS, Wangler taught at the Hebrew Academy. She also taught in Minneapolis, Bowling Green, Sandusky, and Toledo. All those years, but two, were teaching 1st grade. Mrs. Wangler says, "She will miss getting to teach children how to read the most. My career as a teacher has been a wonderful experience."

Mrs. Bell has been teaching at St. Joseph for approximately 30 years, but has been teaching for 44 years overall. Mrs. Bell has taught in grades 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8 at SJS. Before beginning her career at St. Joseph, Mrs. Bell taught at a school in Arkansas. After her children were born, Bell stayed at home to care for them. When her children were in school full-time, she returned to teaching and began at St. Joseph. Mrs. Bell left SJS for one year to be principal at Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School. She returned to SJS when she realized how much she missed being in the classroom.

Mrs. Bell first wanted to become a teacher when she was around six years old and played school with the other children in her neighborhood. She was always the teacher and states, "I will miss the challenges of students' questions and the interaction with all of the people at SJS."

Mrs. Rebecca Skelton has been a fourth grade teacher for nine years. Prior to her teaching position, Mrs. Skelton served as a Teaching Assistant for four years. Her teaching inspiration came from her mom who was also a teacher, so becoming a teacher was all she ever wanted to do. Mrs. Skelton has four children, and two grandsons that she enjoys spending time with on the weekends. As her retirement approaches, Mrs. Skelton says, "I will miss the students the most! They brighten each and every day. I will also miss the wonderful faculty and staff at SJS we are blessed to have!"

Mrs. Yeager has been a Teacher Assistant for Mrs. Floyd for 15 years. Prior to that, she would often volunteer here. Mrs. Yeager first decided to work with students when she moved to Illinois. She had a friend who worked as a special education teacher so Yeager decided to be an assistant for K-3 in special education. There, she taught for four years before coming here to be an assistant in 3rd grade. Mrs. Yeager says that what she will miss most about her job is the interaction with faculty and staff, along with the daily smiles from the little ones, and some of their hilarious thoughts and questions. Teaching has really made an impact on her life and she says that it is rewarding and almost like she has a second family. She loves hearing the successes of her students and she loves working at a Catholic school. She enjoys sharing her faith with the students everyday.

Mrs. Nejman has been a Speech/Language Pathologist at St. Joseph since August 2010. She has worked with students for 47 years ...twelve of those at SJS! Mrs. Nejman feels blessed to have had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful faculty, staff, and families at St. Joe's. In retirement, she is looking forward to spending more time with grandchildren and traveling with her husband, Jim.



Mrs. Linda Wangler



Mrs. Rebecca Skelton



Mrs. Evelyn Bell



Mrs. Sandy Yeager



Mrs. Katie Nejman

All of this year's retiring teachers have made an impact on the students at St. Joseph! They have educated us, helped us, and led us a little further into adulthood and in life. We shall never forget learning from them. From all the students and staff at St. Joe's, we wish these teachers a happy and blessed retirement!

By Caroline Fawcett

On June 1, the George Bush Sportsmanship Award Banquet will be held in the Father Wurzel Family Center to honor the students grades 4 - 8 who showed great sportsmanship in their CYO sports.

"The George Bush Sportsmanship banquet has been running for 26 years, and is a great tradition that we hope to continue. The Sportsmanship Banquet recognizes athletes who uphold the CYO Code of Conduct. The banquet celebrates what it means to be a Christian student-athlete!" states Mr. Jeff Seeman, SJS Athletic Director.

Sportsmanship Award Banquet

Head coaches of various athletic teams submit one candidate for the sportsmanship award of that particular team for that particular season. Each coach is required to write an explanation stating why this candidate has gone above and beyond the code of conduct to merit this award.

The coaches' nominations are reviewed by a panel of judges. The winners receive an engraved plaque and their names are placed on the school plaque that is outside the gym.

Sixth grader, Reagan Snyder states, "I loved going to the Sportsmanship Banquet last year. It made me feel so good to be recognized in such

a special way."

Eighth graders are eligible to apply for one of four CYO scholarships that recognize outstanding leadership and sportsmanship. These include the Jeffrey Schaff, the Judy Sepanski, the Ed Konicki, and new this year, the Mark Sullivan Scholarships. One of highlights of the evening is finding out which 8th graders were selected to be recipients of these awards.

The George Bush Sportsmanship Award Banquet, a great tradition for CYO athletes at St. Joseph School, is the perfect way to end a year of CYO sports!

Getting to Know Mr. Jim Floyd

By: Julia Ellis

St. Joseph Parish Business Manager, Jim Floyd, has spent the last 29 years overseeing the business functions of the parish. Some of these functions include budgeting, finance, human resources, facility management, and more. His favorite part the job is the variety of issues that happen every day. But there's more to Mr. Floyd than meets the eye.

Mr. Floyd has four children who graduated from SJS and three of his nine grandchildren currently attend SJS. He says, "I have been married to my wife and best friend, Wendy, for 47 years." Mr.



St. Joseph Parish Business Manager, Jim Floyd.

Floyd loves a good round of golf.

Mr. Floyd is a very important part of St. Joe's. He says, "I have never thought of this as only a job; there is something special about working at St. Joseph, being part of the mission of the Church. Mr. Floyd says, "I have the sense that most of the people that work here, no matter whether they are a teacher or a custodian, secretary or cafeteria worker, recognize and appreciate this specialness." There is no doubt that Mr. Floyd is dedicated to the students of St. Joseph School!

Editorial: There are Issues with New Improved Lunch Menu

By: Emma Westrup

In March, SJS incorporated a new lunch menu into the middle school. In April, the new menu started in the elementary building. The lunch choices are either Subway or Chick-fil-A, which alternate every week on Tuesday. Students can also buy Barry Bagels, which are available everyday and regular lunches are still available for \$4. Students have to pay more for the vendor lunches and sign up one week in advance. With all these changes, there should be time to evaluate how well things are going.

The new lunch menu at SJS is a step in the right direction, but students should be able to vote for their food. Lunch orders should also be allowed to change due to the advance time needed to order, and the cost.



Student lunch buying had been declining so offering menu choices from popular fast-food restaurants is appealing to a lot of students. In fact, many students would choose Chick-fil-A or Subway over home-packed lunches anyway! Having attractive menu options is helpful to parents who may not have time to pack lunch due to busy schedules.

One major change to the new menu is cost. Some students don't buy lunch because it's too expensive. The lunch charge can be up to \$6. Even two pieces of pizza is up to \$4. Convenience is another issue with the new menu because the restaurant lunches have to be ordered a week in advance. Most people don't even know what they are going to eat for dinner that day, let alone for lunch in a week.

Students should be able to vote for what they want that week. They should also be able to vote up to five choices of what they would like to see in the cafeteria. Whether that be the school's food or catering. For example, if students wanted tacos they could vote for Taco Bell one Wednesday. The majority should win that day, but the other choices should be included the rest of the days that week.

Overall, students should be able to pick their lunches for the week and should not be expected to pay so much - not to mention ordering that far in advance.



Editorial: There Should be a Student Council Term Limit

By: Jack Daschbach

Students in grades 4 - 8 should be able to serve on Student Council for a maximum of two terms. Student Council provides a great opportunity to students of all personality-types to learn leadership skills and contribute to the success of the school. Currently, there are no restrictions as to how many times a student can be a member of Student Council. This policy should be changed.

It is true that every year anyone can run for Student Council. Each class can look at Student Council elections as a "fresh start" and consider someone new. Students who are already on Student Council are not given special treatment during elections. In other words, the process appears to be fair. In reality, students feel that running for Student Council is more

of a popularity contest. Many students wanting to run for Student Council, who have never done it before, are overlooked by their classmates or not confident enough to even run. No matter how popular a student, though, it should be known that Student Council is a great opportunity to serve the school. It is only fair to let as many students as possible benefit from this experience. Some students have been on Student Council since fourth grade and have won almost every year while others just started a few years ago and haven't won once. This can be frustrating. This could affect the self-confidence of some students - not to mention the effect it could have on the person's image. Student voters will vote for new people if the ballot is full of new candidates. It

is true that new students bring new ideas to the table while some students who have already served Student Council want to stick to the old ways.

In conclusion, students should only be elected two times to give as many students as possible a chance to be on Student Council. That way, more will feel stronger loyalty to St. Joseph and be prepared to be leaders when they get to high school. Popularity should not decide the election winners. Students may vote for the people they see fit. That is not bad. However, when the same students repeatedly get picked this is where we should draw the line!

With these improvements, students will enjoy running and gladly take part in Student Council. It

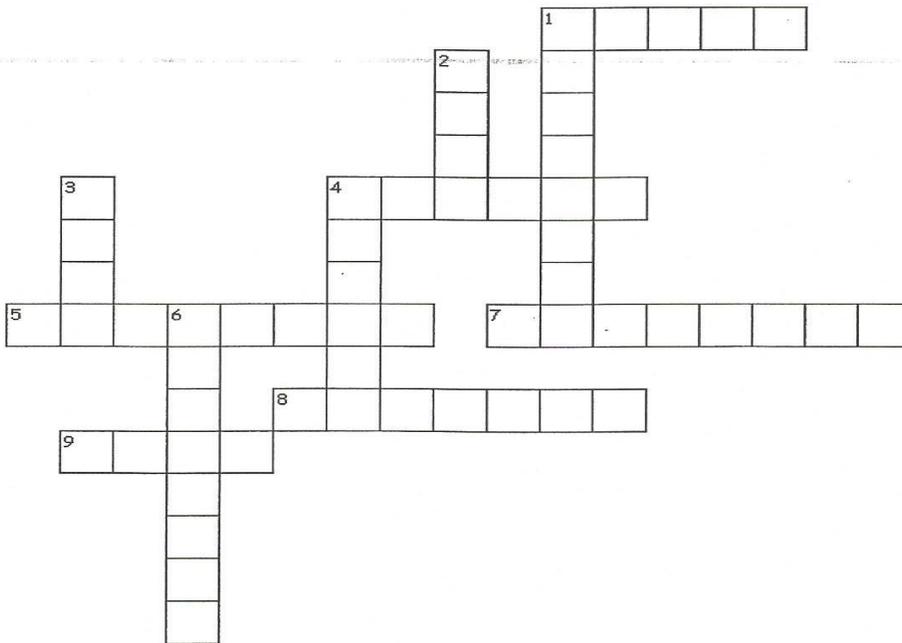
Did You Know in May is...

- May is traditionally devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary in Roman Catholic traditions.
- ALS Awareness Month
- Babies born in May are 200 grams heavier than any other month
- Barbecue Month
- May 2nd - National Teacher Day
- Bike Month
- National Blood Pressure Month
- Brain Tumor Awareness Month.
- May 15, 1492 - German Cheese and Bread Rebellion
- Cinco de Mayo
- May 29, 1848 - Wisconsin admitted as 30th US state
- Mother's Day - Second Sunday
- Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month
- Birthstone - Emerald
- Haitian Heritage Month
- Hamburger Month
- Military Appreciation Month
- Flower - Sweet Pea or Daisy
- Kentucky Derby - First Saturday
- Marvel's *Iron Man* released in theaters
- May 4th - *Star Wars* Day
- New York Stock Exchange formed in 1792
- *Shrek* was released in 2001
- Brooklyn Bridge opened in 1883
- Golden Gate Bridge opened in 1937
- Inaugural Indianapolis 500 was run in 1911


KENTUCKY
DERBY



Summer Crossword Puzzle



- Across
1. you'll find sandy toes and shells
 4. the warmest season of all
 5. a summer shoe essential
 7. a sour summer drink
 8. _____ have bloomed everywhere!
 9. live in the ocean
- Down
1. sizzle, yum!
 2. a common summer sport
 3. where you can splash and swim
 4. _____'s out!
 6. a cool summer treat