

# The TIE

Tradition - Integrity - Excellence

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## Successful mid-term strategies

by Kate Stanislaski '18

Three SJP students from multiple grades were interviewed this week about the methods they used to study for this year's mid-term exams. While each student had different approaches to their studying, all three made sure to be prepared for this year's mid-terms.

As most students at SJP know, beginning mid-terms as a freshman can be nerve-racking and intimidating; earlier this year, this was true for freshman, **Sarah Forcellati**. Sarah explained that even though she was worried about taking the mid-terms, she made sure to slow it down and moderate her studying.

"When I studied, I took it one day at a time and made sure to know when the review sessions for each of my classes were," she recalled. "After the tests were finished, I realized I had been freaking out about them for no reason. It felt great to finally have finished all of them."

Mid-term anxiety, however, is not something that just freshmen get. Most students struggle with taking tests even through college. Nonetheless, there are many ways to make sure you stay calm as well as get all your studying in.

**Julianna Parker**, a sophomore, said that not only did she attend the review sessions but she also took time at home to prepare for testing.

"I sat in my kitchen with a cup of tea and all electronics off and in the other room so they weren't a distraction. I then looked over all my past notes and highlighted the important ones so I could make flashcards," she explained.

Having a calm environment to work in and

being focused are pivotal when studying. While electronics can sometimes be a distraction, working online can also have great studying benefits.

Junior and international student at SJP, **Clara Ribeiro** said, "In order to study for my mid-terms I made sure to look over notes, take quizzes online and even watch online classes about the subjects."

As students in the modern age, technology opens up a vast number of resources that can be found right at your fingertips. In order to be a successful student, you must be able to use all of your resources.

With finals coming up in less than five months, students at SJP must be prepared to take on some of the most important tests of the year.



Midterm motivational quotes adorn the lockers and halls of SJP- encouraging students to push forward and never give up in their academic conquests. (photo by K. Faherty)

## Students busy near and far during Christmas Break

by *Nailah Khoory '18*

Despite the warm weather, students at SJP were able to get into the Christmas spirit during the December school vacation.

**Megan Bane '18**, a co-captain of the JV basketball squad, skied all through break. It didn't matter that the snow was synthetic because just the color of the snow got her into the Christmas spirit.

"I had a blast with my family and it reminded me of the old days when I was younger."

Two freshmen hockey players, **Jack O'Dea** and **Andrew Stefura**, spent their break representing SJP on the ice. They were hard at work planning to win their games, and the frigid ice rink definitely reminded them it was Christmas season in Boston.

**Makael Constance '19**, a rookie robotics member, travelled to Trinidad to spend the holidays with his family. Although it was not particularly cold in Boston, he enjoyed the Caribbean sun on Christmas.

"I was really excited to see my cousins back in Trinidad and grateful to spend Christmas with them."

Our students were busy far and near school this Christmas break.

### Class of 2015 reunites at Yearbook Night

by *Joseph Aroush '16*

On Tuesday, January 5, 2016, many members of the Saint Joseph Prep class of 2015 as well as faculty members gathered in the

Learning Commons for Yearbook Night. This is an annual tradition at Saint Joseph Prep which takes place in January due to all the students being home from college.

Approximately 40 alums reunited with each other and received their class yearbooks. The class of 2015 had a chance to chat not only with each other, but with their former teachers too. They were also shown the renovations and improvements around school, including the new STEAM lab along with the LC.

A member of the class of 2015, **Ethan Giannetti**, offered some words about the event.

"It was cool seeing my classmates, my teachers and the school again. I had lots of fun at both the event and looking at the yearbook."

Ethan was not the only one who had fun. All who attended enjoyed catching up with each other, talking with past teachers as well as seeing how their previous home of Saint Joseph Prep has changed.



*Class of '15 enjoys a trip down a newly renovated memory lane as they catch up with students and teachers while also receiving their senior yearbook. (photo by L. Walkins)*

## FEATURES

### Catching up with Ms. Bacon

by *Kelli Aquino '18*



*Ms. Bacon smiles for the press after an interview in which she chats about her teaching career and how she got to where she is today. (photo by K. Aquino)*

Ms. Bacon, one of our new Spanish teachers here at SJP, is originally from Buffalo, New York and moved to Rochester, New York to complete most of her education. Ms. Bacon graduated from Oswego State in upstate New York and got her master's degree in Secondary Education in Spanish. Originally, Ms. Bacon studied math until her sophomore year of college, until she realized that math was not the subject for her and

changed to Spanish.

According to Ms. Bacon, "I always wanted to be a teacher of some sort because I always enjoyed the idea of teaching. After I discovered that math was not the subject for me, I switched to Spanish because it was one of my favorite subjects in school and I not only loved the language, but also the culture."

Ms. Bacon did not stay in New York after she graduated college as she, "got sick of the cold" and left New York for Arizona, where she taught for 20 years. Then she had the opportunity to study and teach abroad in Spain, so she left her job in Arizona and stayed in Spain for one year as part of her master's program. She moved to Argentina to finish up her master's program, but Ms. Bacon started to miss home.

"After spending a few years abroad, I decided it was time for me to move back to the Northeast because I missed my parents. I got a job at a New Jersey middle school, which I

quickly realized was not what I liked. I then began looking at Boston for jobs, where this job came up, and the rest is history.”

When asked about her favorite aspect about SJP, Ms. Bacon commented, “SJP is simply the right size: it is not too small nor is it too big. This way, you get to know everyone and what activities they participate in.”

Finally, Ms. Bacon’s most important goal for her students here at SJP: “It is twofold; I want my students to improve their knowledge of the Spanish language. In addition, I want them to learn to be a better student as a whole and to be accepting of other cultures and essentially become global citizens.”

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

### SJP students learn valuable lessons in Camden

by Anthony Khoory '19



*Nailah Khoory '18 enjoys the basic necessities of food and shelter at the Romero Center in Camden, New Jersey. (photo by L. Hughes)*

One out of every six Americans lives under the poverty line. Two weeks ago, twelve SJP students traveled to the Romero Center in Camden, NJ to serve those in need. I expected a trip of service to those in the community who are in need, without anything else involved. Upon entering the city, I saw a couple convenience stores, many tiny restaurants, and identical two-story apartments, lined up together in groups around the neighborhood. When we got to the Romero Center, they invited us in with open arms and showed us to our rooms. I thought they were boring and small, with two puny twin beds, a dresser, and a closet with two blankets and a few

hangers. We learned about the program, and they decided to first show us a documentary on poverty in Camden, featuring three kids. One of them, Ivan, a seven-year-old, just wanted to go to school, but couldn’t because his family kept moving around the city from house to house, looking for a place to spend the night. He dreamed of becoming Superman so he could find a home for his family. It really put everything into perspective. I complain about getting out of my bed and going to school. At least I wake up in a bedroom in a heated home.

The next day, we went to a child care/adult care center in Philadelphia. On one side of the modest establishment, kids entered classrooms with miniature tables, chairs, a large carpet, and a friendly teacher. On the other side, senior citizens, some with mental slowness or disabilities, talked, watched television, and ate as much food as the kitchen had for them. We sat and attempted to begin conversations with them. Only a



*Above: Saint Joseph Prep students lend a helping hand, shoveling a path along the sidewalk in Camden, NJ. (photo by L. Hughes)*

*Below: Participants of the 2016 Camden Service Retreat. (photo by L. Hughes)*



few of them responded, while the others either wouldn’t speak, spoke non-stop about something off-topic, and/or complained about their hunger. We painted a watercolor of a vase of fake flowers with them and played some games we borrowed from the kids. Although we struggled in conversing with them, you can be sure that **Raphael Hanna '17** was talking up the Patriots with everyone!

Soon it was time to leave Camden, but I learned something important there. Don’t ever take anything in your life for granted. Often, I complain about an obligation I have to do, while there are teens living poorly all around the world who don’t even have the opportunity to have an obligation to fulfill. I’ve also discovered some ways to help out. Our team of students thought of raising awareness, voting for candidates who support ending poverty, and doing more service.

I won’t forget Camden, I won’t forget to help out, and I will never forget Ivan, the Superman who wanted to go to school.

### Chapel speakers recognized at awards assembly

Congratulations to the following students who received an award for Best Chapel Speech in their grade level at the Academic Awards Assembly on January 26, 2016.

**Grade Nine: Brendan Murphy** talked about the pilgrimage to be with Pope Francis in Philadelphia. **Jamie Scali** shared her experience with managing life with diabetes.

**Grade Ten: Julianna Parker** spoke on the difference an older sister can make and **Sam Wu** talked about the importance of authentic, positive, and real communication.

**Grade 11: Clara Ribeiro da Cunha** shared her thoughts on the rewards and challenges of moving all around the world. **Sophia SáPonte** entertained her classmates with lessons learned...and laughs remembered...working at The Prime Deli.

**Grade 12: Natalie Fitzpatrick** talked about her remarkable experience at ESOPUS camp. **Stephen Harnois** expounded on the elusive yet pressing reality of time...and on the magic of memory.

## SPORTS

### Bright spots in a tough season thus far for boys hockey

by Raphael Hanna '17

Many players on the boys varsity hockey team will admit they didn't know what to expect for the upcoming 2015-2016 season, exactly.

They knew the 2015-2016 season wouldn't be easy, but although they knew there would be difficulties, they have been able to overcome them thus far into their campaign.

The Phoenix through January 23, are a moderate 2-6-3 with many players taking on key roles thus far into the season.

The boys have been getting scoring from multiple sources. They began the season strong by going 1-0-4 in their first 5 games. In a strong statement win against O'Bryant, they punished them by a score of 9-0 in mid-December. Matt Dighton from St. Clement's led the Phoenix in that game with a whopping 5 goals, while 4 others contributed 1 goal apiece and freshman, **Andrew Stefura** (plus-3) contributed quality minutes.

However, as of late, the boys have struggled by losing 6 of their last 7 games to the likes of Bishop Fenwick, Lowell Catholic, and Cambridge, among others.

Nonetheless, a potent offense led by forwards Matt Dighton, **John Devlin '17** and **Jake Orchard '18**, mixed with stingy defense and the goal tending of **Jack O'Dea '19** and **Sean Horan '17** has helped the team stay in many close games throughout the season.

John Devlin, a forward, "makes everybody around him a better hockey player," teammate and brother **Mitchell Devlin** said. Devlin has tallied 4 goals and is responsible for 7 assists.

While things might not have gone the Phoenix way this year, one thing has remained consistent through the season, and that is effort. Their work ethic is not a reason for the team's losing record this year.

Goalie Sean Horan stated, "We give effort and hang in every game, we just don't have the experience other teams do."

The team is motivated and has a positive attitude, which hopefully will lead to a satisfying end to the so far challenging season. The freshmen and sophomores have shown strong potential and are garnering much insight about the fast-paced varsity game, paving the way for the program's bright future.

The boys have 8 remaining games slated on the schedule and will look to finish the season strong and prove their worth against quality opponents: Keefe Tech, Lowell Catholic, and St. Barnard's.



Congratulations to January's Athlete of the Month, Gianluca Gianì '16. Learn more about him on the news page of the SJP website. (photo by A. Gabriel)

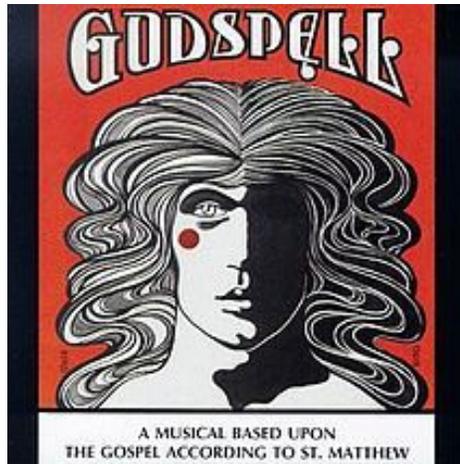
## ARTS

### New theatre director takes on spring musical

Welcome to our new Theatre Director, Ms. Sara M. Simons! Currently, Ms. Simons is an associate professor teaching Theatre at Emerson College. She is enthusiastic about SJP's upcoming spring musical, *Godspell*. Rehearsals are well underway and Ms. Simons has been working diligently with the cast and crew.

Don't miss the Phoenix Players' production of *Godspell* on March 11 and 12 at 7:00 PM in Phoenix Hall.

1970's musical *Godspell* roles have been posted and the play promises to be a success. (photo from Phoenix Players)



Luau themed semi-formal for Freshmen and Sophomores will take place on Saturday, February 6 - a great distraction to keep students' minds off of the cold.

## CLUBS

### HSQS team attends taping at WGBH



Members of SJP's High School Quiz Show Team, Seohyun Shim '16, Gabriella Ribeiro '19, and Aleksandra Christie '19 gain insight and observe a taping of High School Quiz Show which will air March 26. (photo by L. Walkins)

Three members of the High School Quiz Show team, Seohyun Shim '16, Aleksandra Christie '19, and Gabriella Ribeiro '19, along with Mrs. Walkins attended a taping of an episode of *High School Quiz Show* on Sunday, January 24. Andover High School competed against Lincoln-Sudbury in the match.

Our team enjoyed being part of the audience and watching a television show being made. The host, Billy Costa, was personable and entertaining, the competitors were impressive, and the match was exciting. Season Seven of *High School Quiz Show* will begin airing on Channel 2 (WGBH) on February 6, and the episode the SJP team attended will air on March 26. Tune in to see who won and to catch a glimpse of our team in the audience!

**The TIE**  
Tradition, Integrity, Excellence



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