



The TIE

Saint Joseph Prep's Student Newspaper

Tradition - Integrity - Excellence

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SJP is ready for robotics

by Gabe Hanna '20

SJP STEAM LAB — The Robotics season is off to a good start as students are guided by engineering mentors and Ms. Gipson in order to create the most efficient robot for the 2017 FIRST Robotics competition.

Students annually start off with a pre-season, discussing strategy for the upcoming competition, the details of which were not released until January 7. This fall, the team reviewed old competitions or games, came up with robot designs, and strategized for those certain competition rules. Students created drawings of the robots, learned programming, and practiced new techniques in the mechanical building of parts.

On January 7, a peaceful Saturday morning, students rushed to the STEAM Lab to watch the reveal video of this season's game with their fellow teammates and mentors. Once the game was revealed to the team, along with their competitors through a livestream broadcast, students and mentors got straight to work to come up with a strategy for the best and most efficient way to score as many points as possible.



The Robotics team is hard at work on this year's challenge. (photo by N. Gipson)

This year in Robotics, there have been some changes that could impact the team for the better. The biggest change is the creation of a Junior Varsity team. Along with the Varsity team, the Junior Varsity will play a big role by creating a prototype robot to test with. This process will limit the mistakes or errors on the Varsity's competition robot, which will be used in all matches.

All students have been doing great work, and actively contributing towards the team, according to Robotics moderator, Ms. Gipson and the mentors who guide students in coding and building the robot.

As the Robotics season got under way, Ms. Gipson was very impressed and said, "It's good to see everyone knows the plan, and that everyone has been working together positively, which has led our team to a better start than in previous years."

This promising beginning, has launched a productive season so far. The team is hopeful that their success will continue with many victories when its comes to matches in the spring.

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TIE STUDENT LIFE

SJP family gathers to skate at new arena

by *Ellen Cotton '20 and Jordyn Britton '20*

WARRIOR ICE ARENA — Saint Joseph Prep hosts a plethora of wonderful events throughout the year. One fun-filled event was held on Friday, December 30. The school community converged on the newly built Warrior Ice Arena for the first annual SJP Holiday Skating Party.

Approximately 250 people attended, including parents, faculty, students, siblings, and alumni. Everyone had plenty of time to get on the ice and have some fun. Skaters also enjoyed plenty of tasty treats and refreshing cups of hot cocoa.

Alyssa Moreira '20 said, "I've fallen so many times, but I'm having such a great time with my friends!"

Aidan Newell '19 agreed, telling *The TIE*, "It's great to spend time with friends while skating on the ice."

Alumni from the Class of 2016 gathered at the rink for a mini reunion. They had a chance to reconnect with old friends on the ice and to pick up their senior yearbooks.



Vanessa Alvarado, Sarah Murphy and Natalie FitzPatrick return to reconnect with their classmates from the Class of 2016. (photo by S. Shuman)

Alumni Director, Carol Woolston, who organized the Holiday Skating Party said, "We were thrilled to bring together so many members of the Saint Joseph Prep Family....students, siblings, parents, alumni and friends. The Holiday Skating Party will definitely become an annual tradition, and we look forward to welcoming even more folks next year!"

Thanks to Mrs. Woolston, S. Mary Theresa O'Reilly and everyone who worked to make the event such a success.

Up next is the Winter Semi-Formal in February. Roll Phoenix!



Alyssa Moreira '20 and Lindsey Freeman '20 make their way around Warrior rink at the Holiday Skating Party. (photo by S. Shuman)

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TIE SPORTS

Theresa Sandbrook named student athlete of the month

SJP ATHLETICS DEPT. — Saint Joseph Prep features a Student-Athlete of the Month. Based on the recommendations of their coaches, student-athletes are considered on a variety of criteria including performances both on and off the field/court/pitch/links/pool.



The January recipient of this honor is SJP Swimming team’s **Theresa Sandbrook `17!**

As her coach, Ms. Gabriel, stated, “When I think of a student athlete, I can think of no better candidate than Theresa Sandbrook. Theresa leads the swim team as a Senior Captain who is dedicated to the sport and to helping her teammates find success.”

Theresa is just as strong in the classroom, adeptly handling a schedule of five Advanced Placement courses along with her athletic commitments.

Read the entire article on the SJP website. (http://www.saintjosephprep.org/cf_news/view.cfm?newsid=453)



Ms. Hughes, Ms. Beach, Colleen Dooling, Sanaya Panthaki, Thomas Hanna, Armani Monteiro, Hannah Burke, Julianna Parker, Kate Nee, Caroline DiPalma, Lily Fabrizio, and Briana Hamilton set off for Camden.

TIE CAMPUS MINISTRY

Students embark on service trip to Camden

by Alyssa Moreira `20

CAMDEN, NJ — On January 24, ten students set off with Ms. Hughes and Ms. Beach on a service trip to the Romero Center in Camden, New Jersey. The group took part in the Camden Urban Challenge, a 3-day service opportunity open to all students and faculty at SJP.

Camden is one of the poorest cities in America. The SJP students were exposed to the hardships of poverty while serving at Camden’s local food bank and the Adeline Nursing Home. Traveling to a city like Camden provided a new perspective on what poverty looks like in the the U.S. and gave the students a chance to do as much as they could to assist the people in need.

Briana Hamilton `20, said, “The trip to Camden taught me there is poverty everywhere and society needs to work together to stop the economic gap.”

In Camden, there were more people than expected volunteering at food banks and working to make a difference in the community. Various people that live there strive to make the city a better place and do as much as they can to better the living conditions for their fellow citizens.

Colleen Dooling `20 said, “What amazed me most about my service was how many people were working hard and volunteering their time to improve Camden and make it a better place.”

In the evenings after a long day of helping the needy, the students reflected on their experience, and learned about poverty in not only Camden, but all of the United States through various social justice activities.

“This Camden trip is a service-learning immersion experience rooted in the Catholic faith tradition,” said Ashley Gabriel, SJP Campus Minister. “Overall, this trip gives students a glimpse into the daily life and struggle of those suffering from poverty, and will hopefully educate them about the world around us today.”

An international service immersion trip will take place during the April vacation. Faculty and students will travel to Haiti to serve those in need.



Phoenix Players prep for the bee

by Anthony Khoory `19

PHOENIX HALL — Look out! The Phoenix takes the stage again! SJP's famed Phoenix Players are back at it with their tenth production, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

Director, Ms. Griffith, feels the Tony Award-winning musical has "just the right amount of comedy." After listening to the score and reading the script, she "could visualize SJP doing the show." She has been pleased that everyone is putting "their full effort into understanding their characters."

The story follows six middle schoolers from Putnam County fighting their way through the yearly spelling bee to qualify for Nationals. It is led by past champion Rona Peretti (**Gabriella Ribeiro `19**) and doting Putnam Middle School Vice Principal Douglas Panch (**Jeff Chen `20**).

While competitiveness amongst the spellers is always in the air, each youngster has their own life problem they try to resolve throughout the bee.

For example, Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre (**Aleksandra Christie `19**) struggles with a lisp and her fighting parents at home. Christie feels the character has "a very unique development."

Meanwhile, a shy outcast Olive Ostrovsky (**JoJo Duplan `17**) has no friends and misses her mother who is on Ashram, a spiritual journey, in India (**Valerie Gao `19**). Olive imagines her mother and father with her at the bee, and together they sing "The I Love You Song" which Gao deems one of "the greatest songs in the whole musical."

In addition to all of this drama are the singing and choreography components of the show. Ms. Griffith is amazed at the cast's "beautiful singing voices" and plots choreography with Ms. Becker depending on the song and where the actor takes it. Ms. Becker has had experience with choreography and singing, from being involved in her own high school's productions.

Mr. Shiner, the music director, leads the cast in song rehearsals, perfecting harmonies, sharps, flats, and any other musical curve balls thrown at him.

Especially unique to this musical is the audience participation. Crucial to the flow of the show, audience members join in on the fun on stage, engaging in the crazy breakout dancing and

actually competing in the bee. The audience involvement and improvisation spices up the show, changing the storyline and making "each performance a completely different show each night," according to Ms. Griffith.

The Phoenix Players invite everyone to come along on this hilarious theatrical journey. Performances are March 31 and April 1 at 7pm in Phoenix Hall. More information about tickets will be available soon.

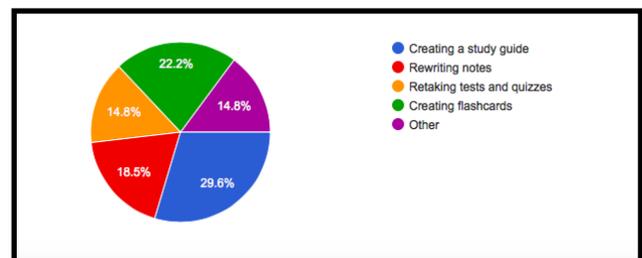


Students share study strategies in student poll

by Nailah Khoory `18

While we are all relieved for midterms to be over, it is also important to take time to reflect on them. SJP scholars prepared for exams in a variety of ways. Here are some of the study strategies that worked the best.

What are the active strategies you plan to follow in order to prepare for mid-term exams?



Survey Results: 29.6% Creating a Study Guide; 22.2% Creating Flash Cards; 18.5% Rewriting Notes; 14.8% Retaking Tests and Quizzes; 14.8% Other

The majority of those polled selected "creating a study guide" as their preferred study strategy, with "creating flashcards" coming in a close second. Some enterprising students created "quizlets to study on the go and share with my friends" or fabricated their own practice problems.

As the second semester begins, students are setting the bar high to finish the year strong. Several hope for straight As, earning them a spot in the prestigious Headmaster's Circle. Others are simply striving to do better than semester one. Best of luck to all of our scholars.

Watch your SJP email box for your invitation to participate in our February survey.