

The TIE

Tradition - Integrity - Excellence

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Saint Joseph Prep's Student Newspaper

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Upcoming Events

- Apr. 12-15 Senior Exams
- Apr. 15 SJP Talent Show
- Apr. 17-23 Appalachia Service Trip
- Apr. 18-22 Spring Break
- Apr. 25 Senior Service begins
- Apr. 27 College Road (Gr. 9)

Multicolored Cultures: students share traditions and backgrounds

by Nailah Khoory `18

The SJP community held its second annual Multicultural Day on March 18 to celebrate the different backgrounds and cultures of our students. Ms. Beach and the world language teachers organized the event. Everyone agreed that it was nice to learn about other cultures in creative ways.

This year, students and faculty toured 14 rooms on the fourth and fifth floors watching presentations, sampling food, playing games and examining souvenirs from Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Peru, China, Ireland Spain, Korea, Italy, Latin America, Puerto Rico, Norway, Brazil and the Middle East. One group chose to represent the world religion, Judaism.



Students from China showcase the many facets of their culture. (photo by L. Walkins)

Among the highlights of the fantastic day was the delicious food offered in each room., including a chicken dish called *pat te* from Haiti, Jewish challah bread, and baklava from the Middle East.

Students and faculty listened to a variety of world music like *bachata* from Latin America throughout the day. **Helen Miao, `19** brought a Chinese lute called the *pipa* from home and played for everyone, and **Joe Shi `17** presented a video of a rap song he wrote and performed about China.

The students also showcased different types of traditional clothing. **Theresa Sandbrook `17** representing Peru, wore a sweater made of alpaca wool. In Spain's beautifully decorated red and yellow room, **Carolyn Foppiano `18** wore a flamenco dress and had her hair styled just like one of the dancers.

Presenters also shared some games played in their countries. Both Brazil and Spain displayed their *futbol* pride. In Puerto Rico, visitors played dominoes, while down the hall **Rebekah Forrest `17** and **Sarah Forrest `19** taught everyone how to play the *dreidel* game.

Gianluca Gianni '16, born and raised in Italy, proudly represented his country. He said, "I love the landscape, people, atmosphere, monuments, history, and food of my country. I miss it everyday." (continued on page 2)

Multicultural Day (continued from page 1)

After taking a trip around the world, students and faculty gathered in Phoenix hall for the closing ceremonies of the inclusive and enjoyable day.

Congratulations to the group from China who won the award for the most interesting and engaging presentation.

**Grade 9 art students visit the MFA**

by Goia Guarino`

On March 4, the entire freshman class took an artistic expedition through the many galleries at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. Thanks to Ms. Chiusano and the chaperones, students had a chance to enjoy a day filled with art and history, and to use their artistic skills to recreate some of the artworks in the museum.

The students were split into groups and got to visit eight different galleries, ranging from contemporary art, to medieval art. **Makael Constance** said, "The MFA was a great experience. My favorite gallery was contemporary art because it contained art I knew I could do, and that made me happy."

With a pencil and a packet in hand, the students strove to draw the art that spoke to them the most as best as they could.

John Dooley said, "The trip allowed me to discover more about myself as an artist. It was also really fun and challenging." He added, "Although the task to recreate famous paintings was a challenge, the day allowed every student to experience new art, and even connect it to what they learn in school."

Many of the famous paintings witnessed by the students

were drawn or influenced by a time in history they have learned about in school. Whether in the Middle Ages, or the times of the mummies, art has been a major part of all cultures.

Adding on to the interrelation between the art and history, students were also able to draw the connection between the artworks and the skills they've learned in their classes.

Isabella Belarmino said, "the artwork [freshmen] were drawing was able to tie in with all the techniques we have been learning in art class with Ms. Chiusano." Putting together the knowledge learned in their classes, and the skills taught in the art class, [the students] were able to succeed and grow as not only art students, but as people.

Regarding the educational implications of the field trip, Ms. Chiusano noted, "The trip to the MFA is great because students get to use the drawing skills that they have built up in a public place where there are masterpieces of art. There are two exciting things happening at once: students are in the presence of great art, and they are at the same time contributing to the history of art by creating their own drawings as a way of responding and paying tribute to these masterpieces."

Saint Joseph Prep requires all freshmen to take two semesters of STEAM I courses, in an attempt to cultivate well-rounded scholars and young artists.

FEATURES

College process nearing a conclusion

by Erina Parker` 16

For forty-one hardworking and tired seniors, this is the final stretch of the college process. College applications have been submitted, decisions are appearing in mailboxes, and life-changing choices are going to be made. For the Class of 2016, this is the start of something very new and, in some ways, very daunting.

Students have applied to colleges across the United States, many in New England but some going as far as sunny California. While some seniors are dealing with

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College Process *(continued from page 2)*

rejection letters, an unavoidable part of the process, we are excited that so many are walking away from the college process eager to attend their dream schools in the fall. What really matters is what you make of it. You can choose to be dragged down and frustrated by bad news, or you can take another step forward in your life by reflecting on your high school experience and how you want to succeed in college. Most importantly, a student must know that a college's admission decision does not define his or her potential, and that it does not obstruct him or her from achieving post-secondary goals and dreams.

Members of the Class of 2016 have received acceptance letters from an impressive list of schools, including (but certainly not limited to): Penn State, Boston College, Roger Williams, Stonehill, Wentworth, UC San Diego, and Loyola New Orleans. We congratulate our classmates on everything they have accomplished.

St. Joseph : Man of Action

by Mr. Anthony Russo

Before I was blessed to join the Saint Joseph Prep community, St. Joseph had already become a huge part of my personal faith journey. For the past ten years I have attended a Christian Men's retreat weekend that is always scheduled around the feast day of St. Joseph (March 19th). During the retreat we partake in a triduum (i.e., three days of prayer) in which we humbly implore the intercession of St. Joseph and share how the virtues of St. Joseph provide an example and inspiration for Christian living today.

It is also noteworthy that Pope Francis chose the feast day of St. Joseph as his day of installation in 2013. The fact that St. Joseph is the patron saint of the church universal speaks volumes about his significant role in salvation history, which is somewhat ironic when one considers the fact that he does not utter one single word in all of sacred scripture. However, we have all heard the adage that actions speak louder than words, and this is certainly true in the case of St. Joseph. Only one adjective is used to describe St. Joseph by the inspired authors of sacred scripture. Just, upright, and righteous are all translations of the same Greek term used to describe the man who would ultimately care for and nurture our Lord Jesus. That being said, a close reading

of the infancy narratives reveals many more virtuous characteristics of the "silent" saint. Three key traits are Joseph's humility in the face of potential humiliation, his merciful response to that perceived humiliation, and the listening heart that he consistently displays as he strives to discern the will of God.

Pope Francis declared this year to be a jubilee year of mercy for the church. We can all learn from St. Joseph as he demonstrates humility and mercy when he finds out that his betrothed (our Blessed Mother Mary) is pregnant and he is not the father. At a time when men had the power to condemn and punish women for even the slightest offense, Joseph chooses humility and tenderness when he decides to "put Mary away quietly" rather than expose her to shame (and what could have warranted a death penalty). While we are privy to the fact that the child was of God and conceived by the Holy Spirit, Joseph did not know this until it was revealed to him in a dream later that evening. This brings to light another virtuous quality demonstrated by St. Joseph, his listening heart. It is quite evident that his openness to God's will and his listening heart prayerfully prepared him to discern and understand God's plan for his life: to protect, provide for, and nurture the son of God!

We can learn so much from this humble, merciful, and persevering saint. Joseph's example reminds us of our vocation as a people who prayerfully prepare our hearts for selfless action. In a world where sayings like "I don't get mad, I get even," seem to rule the popular mindset, St. Joseph reminds us to humble ourselves and to choose mercy over condemnation. This is something Jesus most certainly learned from Joseph as well.

Bloodied and battered and hanging from the cross, on behalf of his own executioners Jesus exclaims, "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do." In this moment, not only does Jesus demonstrate the mercy of God the Father, but that which he no doubt learned from his earthly father as well.

In this jubilee year of mercy, let us extend that healing power of forgiveness to one another (and to ourselves), and through our actions make manifest the mercy and grace of God that resides in our hearts, reflecting to the world God's unconditional love for each and every one of us.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Why I Do Journalism

by Seohyun Shim' 16



What makes every one of us so different from others, and in what ways are we the same?

Having lived a pretty nomadic life in high school, I have been haunted by this question. As an aspiring journalist, this question drives my investigating and reporting of all the varied stories that come my way. From my research and encounters so far, I firmly believe that people are more than mere facts and numbers that Wikipedia can record. They are fascinatingly complex individuals with a myriad of motives, values, and hang-ups that drive them to become who they are, and also offer puzzling contradictions that are often hard to understand.

We often try to define and measure people based on their socioeconomic backgrounds, geographic locations, time periods, or religions. In fact, that is our default method of sizing up a person, and it has been made easier with the flood of available information about people we've never met before. At certain times, our premature generalizations about people prove to be right, and they serve to prop up the stereotypes we carry with us. However, sometimes, you meet someone who defies your prejudices and humbles your assumptions. Those serendipitous encounters are thrilling, and make our society and the study of people, so intriguing.

Since I was a little kid, I moved often, and spent a lot of time with people from different backgrounds. To this day, I love meeting new people and hearing their personal stories. I've been lucky to meet many individuals who have challenged my prejudices and confounded my assumptions. Conversations with them have rubbed out stereotypes in my mind and compelled me to deeper reflection about what forms people into the unique individuals they are. Moving from Korea to Utah to Boston, I ended up at a Catholic independent school in

which, despite the uniforms and shared Catholic religion, every student is so incredibly different. I learned this firsthand as I attempted to launch our first school newspaper. Every single student I talked to had a unique background, different goals and perspectives. It was amazing to get to know everyone as I tried to mobilize the student body to produce one newspaper to represent the school. It was unbelievably difficult, but the challenges helped me grow as a student leader, journalist and thinker.

As a senior, I am thrilled at the prospect of meeting more fascinating individuals at college, and taking risks to increase my encounters with different people and learn their stories. I am convinced that when it comes to people, there are things that transcend facts, numbers, and stereotypes. As an aspiring journalist, I hope to pursue this question of similarities and differences, and prove that stereotypes are mere illusions.

So before I leave SJP, I want to challenge everyone in our school community to think about what makes them different from the people around them, and how we are all the same in the end.

ARTS

Phoenix Players' hard work pays off

by Kate Stanislaski`

Cast members of this year's spring musical, *Godspell* agree that the play has not only furthered their acting skills but also taught them endurance and hard teamwork.

For weeks, the cast met every day after school in preparation for the big nights on Friday the 11th and Saturday the 12th of March. It was a long couple months for the cast and crew of *Godspell*, but all the hard work was for good reason.

Lindsey Grier, a sophomore at SJP who played the role of John the Baptist, talked about how much time the cast had to spend rehearsing for opening night. In order to be

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Godspell (continued from page 4)

fully prepared, the cast was often called into school on many days off, including February break.

"Although practices were long and difficult, we found ways to make them fun and the time we had to spend together more interesting," she explained. "Some nights, most of the girls went out and played laser tag or we would all get together and hang out at each other's houses."

Freshman, **Kira Fernandes**, who played Jesus, agreed with Grier saying that the play was a lot of hard work, but hard work that had to be done in order to feel the satisfaction they felt when the curtain closed.

When asked about what it was like to be the lead role in the play, Fernandes answered that "it was a lot of pressure; you feel like a lot of people are depending on you and it's your job not to let them down." However she went on to explain that, "when you memorize everything and you're able to perfect your character, it's the greatest feeling in the world."

Other students like SJP sophomore **Michael Chmura** also admit that memorizing their characters' lines and getting to breathe life into them, is an amazing feeling that only actors can understand.

Chmura talked about how much fun he has learning about and perfecting the new roles he gets to play every year. He explained that each time he's involved in a play, he forgets who is and puts everything into the character he is playing.

On truly becoming the character, Chmura said, "If it's supposed to be funny, I become funny. If it's supposed to be dramatic, then I become the most serious person you'll ever know in your life." Michael always makes sure to really enhance the characters he plays.

He went on to explain that the reason he loves being involved in so many of the plays and musicals at SJP, is because it allows him to become someone he could never be in real life.

Returning sophomores, like Michael and Lindsey, who we

see repeatedly involved in the plays at SJP, as well as the freshmen, who stepped onto the SJP stage for the first time, are all looking forward to another successful play in the fall.



SPORTS

Baseball team welcomes new coach

by James Sitcawich '17

Saint Joseph Prep baseball is now under a new regime following the hiring of Head Coach Ed McDonald. At the first baseball meeting, where players were introduced to the new coach, McDonald set the path he wants the team to take as he stated, "I want to build a winning program here."

Coach McDonald has played baseball for years and has all sorts of connections. These connections can be used to help build up the program here at SJP. Each player, veteran or newcomer, will have to adjust to a new coaching style. The future looks bright for the team. However, Coach McDonald has made it clear that it is going to take maximum effort from each and every player.

The team started to prepare long before the first mandatory practice. Players were hitting at the batting cages as well as throwing and catching. Players are pumped for the new season as the team gets a fresh start. McDonald believes that there is no excuse for being out of shape on day one. With this mentality, the baseball team will hopefully have a successful season this year.

CLUBS



Scrabble Tournament

Thanks to those students who played in the LC's Scrabble Tournament. The deciding match was very close, but Schuyler pulled off the win by 3 points. All the players agreed it was a fun way to spend the afternoon in the Learning Commons.



Members of The TIE staff invite everyone to visit the SJP student newspaper's Wordpress site at <https://thetiesjp.wordpress.com/>. The new site currently features key stories from the print edition of the newspaper. Our staff members are diligently working on video and podcast projects, which will be posted soon.

Robotics

The robotics team recently competed in the annual FIRST Robotics competition at Boston University. Go Team 1965! Read more about the competition in our upcoming April issue of The TIE.



Book Club

On March 29, the Book Club hosted its annual Book Trailer Film Festival. Everyone enjoyed sharing book recommendations while watching Book Trailers created by each member using Animoto.



March Book Madness

Throughout the month of March students and teachers voted for their favorite books in our March Book Madness tournament. In the final round, **The Hunger Games** faced off against **Pride and Prejudice**. The classic novel of manners by Jane Austen was chosen as SJP's favorite book of 2016!



CAMPUS MINISTRY

Kairos Reflection

by Jeonghun Kim '17

During my sophomore year at Saint Joseph Prep, I heard about Kairos for the first time. In order to figure out what the retreat was about, I started to ask everyone who I knew. Nevertheless, the only answer I got was, "if you want to figure it out, you should go." My temptation to go to Kairos increased drastically with a wish to once again regain my faith, and find my way back to God's loving embrace. Finally I decided to apply, and luckily I got accepted.

On the first day of the retreat, I felt shocked over the unfamiliar feeling of not being able to check the time and use any electronic devices. Nevertheless, not being able to rely on my phone for entertainment, gave me the pleasure of spending time with a small group, discussing important topics. All of the activities we did, were on touchy subjects, resulting in emotional responses. However, sharing with classmates who all opened their hearts, made it easier to discuss my emotions with other people, without feeling shy or awkward.

Kairos was something beyond a religious retreat. We were on God's time. Everything that I experienced in Kairos has led to some of my most valuable, and precious memories. Kairos definitely made me feel closer to God. Learning how God's love affected individuals, inspired me to imply the same love in my own life. After Kairos, I accepted the fact that life is like a roller coaster. There will always be ups and downs, and neither last forever. However, with God's presence in my life, it is easier to get through the hard times, and enjoy the good ones.

A year later, I had a chance to become a Kairos leader. Thinking about how much I loved this retreat and how much it helped me to develop my thoughts about God in general, definitely triggered me apply as a leader. After experiencing that "Kai-high" moment, I realized how much God's embracing love has affected me and the

participants. I clearly felt like applying as a leader, my part of the story open up the hearts of others, which is a really nice thing about this retreat.

Nothing in life is granted to you for free. You constantly have to work hard in order to achieve what you want. An opportunity might never come back if you let it go. John Burroughs once said, "Do not despise your own place and hour. Every place is under the stars, every place is the center of the world."

Everything in life happens for a reason, and can lead to an incredible opportunity. Regardless of time and place, good or bad, you cannot ever give up and do nothing. You have to accept your destiny, and make the best out of every situation. And who knows, it might become the turning point of your life. All the events that happened in my life, forced me to accept my destiny, and do my best in every situation. *C'est La Vie!*



Kairos Retreat Leaders



Young artists tour Worcester Art Museum

Junior and seniors in Ms. Chiusano's Studio Art classes also went on a field trip this month. They spent a wonderful day at the Worcester Art Museum on March 17. After touring the galleries with some knowledgeable docents, the student artists tried their hands at print-making in the education studio, creating colorful monotypes. A highlight of the trip was a special exhibit of beautiful Cyanotypes. Read more about their day at the museum on the [SJP website](#).

SJP juniors attend Youth in Government

Congratulations to **John Brooks '17**, **Andrew Donabedian '17**, **Reginald Fils '17** and **Xinwenyue (Joe) Shi '17** who recently participated in an extraordinary program sponsored by the YMCA called **Youth In Government (YIG)**. At the 3-day conference students took part in mock government scenarios and learned about the actual process of legislation. Read more about their experience on the [SJP website](#).



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