



ST. JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
NEWS & NOTES

Striving to form the MINDS, HEARTS, and SOULS of its students in the likeness of Christ.

From the Desk of the Headmaster

Greetings from St. Joseph's Catholic School!

It's About Time to Celebrate!

By the time this issue of *News and Notes* is emailed to you, it will be a matter of days until the school's 25th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, February 3 and in the midst of Catholic Schools Week. The response to the anniversary party has been terrific, with well over 500 people telling us that they plan to be there. There's still time for your family to join in the fun, too.

The evening begins with a 5:00 PM Mass offered by Bishop Guglielmone in the SJCS St. John Paul II Center. Fr. Jay Scott Newman, Fr. Pat Tuttle, and Fr. Andrew Fryml (SJCS Class of 2008) have all told us that they will be with us for Mass, with Fr. Fryml agreeing to preach the homily. Fr. Patrick Cooper and possibly a few other priests will be joining us for the party in the gym after their parish Masses.

And what a party it promises to be! St. Joseph's librarian and critically acclaimed funny man (I know, this sounds like the beginning of a bad joke!), Rod McClendon, will be the MC for an evening that will include a history slideshow and display (with uniforms and artifacts from the first couple decades of the school), the bestowal of the school's first Alumni Awards, brief remarks by Dr. Joseph Moon (the husband of founding board chair, Margaret Ann Moon), and live music performed by St. Joseph's graduates, students, faculty, and even a couple of SJCS dads, as well as a band from Nashville, *The Winter Sounds*, whose front man was in the first-ever SJCS class back in 1993.

There is no charge for the event, but you will need money to buy dinner for your family from the four food truck vendors who will be on hand and for the beer garden (adults only, of course), and there will be a few anniversary t-shirts for sale as well. As you can tell from the description, the party is casual, so bring the family and stay as long or as short as you'd like. After the program, the bands will play late into the evening.

Taking Stock of the Long-Term Value of a SJCS Education

Throughout this 25th academic year, my thoughts have often been on our graduates. Are they living up to the hopes and expectations of our founders, famously expressed by our founding board chair who liked to say that "our graduates are destined to change the world"? With our oldest graduates still under 40 years old, it's admittedly a little premature to tell what kind of lasting impact our graduates are going to have on Greenville, the state of South Carolina, and the country, let alone the world. Yet, as I talked to many of our graduates at their annual Christmas social and read through the nominations for our first Alumni Awards to be presented at the 25th Anniversary Celebration, it's evident to me that they are already on the right track to living up to the founders' vision.

Realizing the sacrifices that many families make in order to send their kids to St. Joseph's, I think it is helpful for us to consider from time to time what is becoming of our graduates. As many of you know, I like to encourage parents to take the long-view when thinking about what's important for our kids now. So, here's a little peek at the long-view from the vantage point of what our graduates are doing, which I think is a good indication of what the St. Joseph's experience can mean for your children.

In recent months, I have talked to graduates and heard stories about others who are already changing the world for the better. For example, I recently bumped into one graduate who told me that she is Greenville Middle School's Teacher of the Year; another who is a theater teacher at Pickens High School; another who heads the Embrace Program at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School; and countless others who are teaching at diocesan and public schools throughout the region, the state, and the country. Imagine their surprise when two St. Joseph's graduates (members of the Classes of 2002 and 2011) discovered recently that they are teaching at the same Catholic school in Kentucky!

Then, there is the young lady who is watching her dream since middle school of building a home in the Upstate for unwed mothers finally come true. I am especially proud of the young man who, as a college student, donated his bone marrow to someone he didn't know because he signed up with his college baseball teammates for the Be The Match program and discovered that his marrow was the perfect match. That same pride extends to the all-conference, senior captain football player at Carnegie Mellon who would tell you that one of his greatest joys in college has been getting to know Mikey, a young boy with a serious heart condition, through his involvement with Team Impact at The Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. A member of my staff told me earlier this year that she ran into a SJCS graduate at the GHS emergency room, where our graduate is working as a doctor. This young doctor is one of countless graduates who are or are in training to be doctors, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, and physical therapists. Then there are those who are using their considerable talents to enrich the arts locally, statewide, and nationally, including the Executive Director of the SC Arts Alliance and the associate producer of the Broadway production of Anastasia.

When it comes to impacting the business community, there are a whole host of young women and men who are beginning to make their mark on Greenville. For example, I bumped into one young man with his wife and two small children recently at a sporting event who told me that he is now the Chief Operating Officer of Tribe 513, and we talked about his classmate who is rapidly developing a successful local real estate company and their mutual friends who are working with him. A few days after that I was with a friend whose cancer research center recently joined forces with GHS. He told me how impressed he was with the SJCS graduate who was responsible for publicizing the new partnership.

Finally, there is the impact that our graduates are having on the Church. Countless graduates are teaching or have taught in parish religious education programs and helped lead their parish youth ministry programs. Our graduates have also been well-represented in Lucis Via, the state's young adult ministry, as both leaders and participants. Then there are those men who have answered the call to the priesthood and religious life, including our most recent graduate to be ordained a priest of the Diocese of Charleston (Class of 2008), who is serving his first assignment which includes being the part-time Chaplain at Cardinal Newman School in Columbia. Two other SJCS graduates are currently in the seminary preparing for the diocesan priesthood, and Brother Augustine (formerly Phillip Wilmeth from the Class of 2009) is a Benedictine Monk in Norcia, Italy.

What pleases me most, however, is what I see every Sunday morning at Mass. From where I sit at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, everywhere I look I can see our graduates participating in Mass. They are there with their parents, their new spouses, and in some cases, they are juggling small children, such as the member of the Class of 2006, who often sits directly in front of me with her husband and three of the cutest young children you'll ever see.

Yes, when I think about our graduates, I do think they are beginning to fulfill our founders' vision of changing the world for the better. A few of them are doing this in what we would consider extraordinary ways, but most are finding a way to change the world through doing ordinary things with great passion and love.

So, is a St. Joseph's Catholic School education worth all the sacrifices and effort of the part of students and families?

After a fall semester when I have been inundated with these and countless other similar stories about our graduates, I can answer with a resounding YES! What do we do that helps form teenagers into adults with this kind of talent, ambition, faith, and a desire to do good for others? It's hard to say exactly. Is it the hard work, the high standards and expectations, the great community of families assembled in this school, the exceptional teachers and coaches who truly love and care about the kids, the extracurricular opportunities, the commitment to something and Someone bigger than ourselves as expressed through our weekly Masses, retreat programs, service opportunities, campus ministry, and the daily availability of the sacraments? Yes, I think it's all those things rolled into one. It's what the best Catholic schools have been doing for years and getting the same results as we are. Thank you for entrusting your sons and daughters to us. Nothing makes us more proud and happy than watching them flourish into capable mission-minded young women and men. Now, this is something to celebrate during Catholic School's Week.

In closing, please join us in praying for the following members of the SJCS family: the Bolick family (Perry '12, Connor '13, Madison '16) on the loss of their mother Sheelah; for the Wells family (Ashley '11, Amanda '13) on the loss of their father Thomas; for Ann Rose Conner and her family on the loss of her grandfather.

With Love and Prayers,
Keith F. Kiser
Headmaster

Things You Need To Know

Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, Thursday February 1

Join us as we celebrate our volunteers during our Catholic Schools Week Annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast. Breakfast will be in the cafeteria from 8:00-9:00 AM. Click [HERE](#) to RSVP by Monday, January 29.

Used Uniform Sale, February 1

The next Used Uniform Sale will take place on Thursday, February 1 from 2:30-5:30 PM in Mr. Perham (Room 404) and Mrs. DeMars (Room 403) classrooms (directly across from the Meeting Room). Please enter through the HS entrance. This is the same night as the Admissions Wine and Cheese Event and the 8th grade play. All volunteers and Mills Uniform donations are welcome. Please note: we are no longer accepting the old uniforms from Educational Outfitters as trades but if you would like to donate your old uniforms to send to schools affected by the hurricanes, we would love to have them. Please feel free to drop them off at the front desk or bring them to the sale to donate. If you would like to help or would like more information, contact [Heather Malone-Grippe](#).

Mid-Quarter Progress Update, February 1

An email will be sent to parents regarding mid-quarter grades on Thursday, February 1, as a reminder to check your child's progress through ParentsWeb. After checking grades, please contact teachers with any questions or concerns.

Parent Wine & Cheese Socials, February 1 & February 8

This is a great opportunity to hear from, socialize, and speak with school officials and other parents in a small, informal setting.

- **MS Parents, February 1:** Prior to the Eighth Grade Play, all MS parents are invited to a Wine/Cheese Social to be held at the school on Thursday night, February 1 from 5:30-7:00 PM in the Meeting Room. Socialize from 5:30-6:00 PM, and beginning at 6:00 PM, Mr. Kiser and other school administrators will share information about the school and invite your questions and participation.
- **HS Parents, February 8:** Prior to the Freshman/Sophomore College Counseling program, all HS parents are invited to a Wine/Cheese Social to be held at the school on Thursday night, February 8 from 5:30-7:00 PM in the Meeting Room. Socialize from 5:30-6:00 PM, and beginning at 6:00 PM, Mr. Kiser and other school administrators will share information about the school and invite your questions and participation.

Annual Eighth Grade Play, *Once Upon a High School*, February 1

In celebration of Catholic Schools Week, the SJCS Fine Arts Department will be presenting the tenth annual 8th grade play on Thursday, February 1. Join us for this production, starring 43 students in our 8th grade class. The performance begins at 7:00 PM with free admission. Seating will be open for Jubilate Arts Guild members from 6:30-6:45 PM; general admission will begin at 6:45 PM. Concessions will be for sale during Intermission.

Volunteers Needed for MS Model UN by February 2

Any HS student (grades 10-12) who participated in YIG and are interested in volunteering for the MS Model UN need to see Mrs. Carr by February 2. Students should have received an email from Ian Rutledge about this opportunity.

Final Priority Admissions Testing: Saturday, February 3

The final priority admissions testing date for fall 2018 enrollment is Saturday, February 3 for all grades. Please don't miss this date if you or someone you know has an applicant interested in SJCS for next year. A completed application must be on file prior to testing. Contact [Admissions](#) for more information.

SAT Practice Test, February 3

SJCS will offer a Princeton Review SAT Practice Test here at school on Saturday, February 3, from 9:15 AM-1:00 PM. This test is geared toward juniors who have not yet taken the SAT, but interested sophomores may also attend. The experience will help students learn about which areas they need to focus on to improve their scores when they take the actual SAT for college admissions purposes. Click [HERE](#) to register. Information can also be found on the school website under College Guidance/Upcoming Events.

Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration, Saturday, February 3

[RSVP](#) today for the biggest SJCS birthday party in our history! We will begin the evening at 5:00 PM with a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Gugliemone, and then head over to the gym for food trucks, live music, a beer garden, keynote speaker Dr. Joby Moon, and finally, the presentation of our first ever Alumni Awards! Bring the whole family, and be sure to remind your alumni to join us.

College Planning Night for Juniors, February 6

Brand R. Stille, Vice President for Enrollment at Wofford College, will be here on February 6 at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center. He will present on some of the following topics: College Admission Calendar, Key Terms (Early Decision, Early Action, Rolling Admission, Wait List, Common Application, etc.), Student/Parent/School Responsibilities, How to Research College Information, College Entrance Exams, and Financial Aid. At least one parent must attend with their student. We will let you know who your college counselor will be and will begin scheduling individual student/family meetings following this meeting.

Eighth Grade Day, RESCHEDULED for February 7

Due to inclement weather on January 17, the annual Eighth Grade Day will now be held on Wednesday, February 7. As a reminder, all SJCS eighth graders are not in their regular classes on this date; instead, they will take the High School Placement Test here at school, are treated to a special lunch, and participate in a panel discussion with HS students... all designed to help ready them for high school. This is considered a regular school day and all eighth graders should be in attendance. If your son/daughter is absent on February 7, he/she will need to take the High School Placement Test on Saturday, March 10, and will not be eligible for the High School Scholarship. In addition, eighth graders may have a Free Dress Day on this date, following the guidelines in the Parent/Student Handbook. Dismissal is at the regular Wednesday time of 1:15 PM.

College Counseling Night for Freshmen & Sophomores, February 8

SJCS will have our annual meeting for freshmen and sophomores and their parents to discuss general academic and college planning items on February 8 at 7:00 PM in the JP II Center. All freshmen and sophomore families must attend this meeting at least once (either during the students' freshman or sophomore year). Students are asked to sit with their parents.

MS "Agape" Morning Prayer & Worship, February 9

All MS students are invited to a morning fellowship, breakfast, and prayer with campus ministry on February 9 from 7:10-7:40 AM in the Meeting Room. Parents are invited to attend as well to share coffee with other parents and a brief morning prayer from 7:10-7:30 AM. Parents who attend should park in the overflow lot in the field in front of the school.

MS "Bring a Friend to School" Registration Closes February 9

Current families can help the school out in two ways in regards to this event: 1) Does your MS child have a friend who would like to see what St. Joseph's is like? SJCS MS students are invited to bring one friend (currently in grades 5-7) to school on Friday, February 16 for a half-day of classes and lunch. St. Joseph's will operate on a regular Friday schedule that day (Greenville County Schools have Friday, February 16 off). Please direct the parents of your child's friend to the links on our website home page. All forms are due no later than Friday, February 9 for requests to be honored. *First come, first served. As classroom space is limited, we will limit the number of participants.* 2) Would your MS child be interested in hosting a student they do not know on this day? If so, please submit your child's name to [Jenny Starks](#) in the Admissions Office by no later than February 9.

Test & Study Skills Seminar, February 10

A test-taking and study skills seminar is being offered to 9th and 10th graders on Saturday, February 10 from 9:00 AM until Noon. If the morning session fills up and a waiting list is generated, a second session will be considered for the afternoon. Parents should have received an email from Mrs. Carr with details. The cost is \$75. Click [HERE](#) to register. Questions? Contact [Meby Carr](#).

Ash Wednesday, February 14

The imposition of ashes will be offered at Mass. The time is TBD.

President's Day, February 19

The school and school offices will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of President's Day.

Family Honor Program, February 21, 28 & March 7

Parents, have you had "the talk" with your child? Do you know what you are going to say? Do you need some assistance getting the conversation started or just need opportunities to continue with success? Don't worry...help is here! Join us in the JP II Center on Wednesday nights: February 21, February 28, and March 7 from 6:45-8:45 PM for **Real Love & Real Life**. Parents, this program is designed for you and your 7th and/or 8th grader. Parents & their 9th graders are also invited. It will bring you together with other families to learn about love, life, chastity and God's gift of sexuality. **Real Love & Real Life** is a fun, unique, interactive program presented by [Family Honor, Inc.](#) The deadline for registering is February

7 and space is limited so register early online [HERE](#). There is a fee of \$45.00 for the program, which can be paid upon checking in at the first session. Scholarships may also be available. For more information, contact [Phyllis Stanton](#). This program is sponsored jointly by St. Mary's Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, and SJCS.

HS Minimester, February 26-28

Information regarding High School minimester was emailed to parents and students in January, and all HS students should be registered for a course by February 9. Course rosters will be placed in the HS commons, and instructors will email their respective groups to provide more specific information regarding their courses. Contact [Carol Curry](#) with any questions concerning course registration.

MS Minimester Day, February 28

MS minimester will be held on Wednesday, February 28 by grade level, with all students in each grade attending their planned activity or trip. Information concerning the grade level activities will be emailed to parents. If your child cannot attend their minimester or you have questions, email [Melissa Broering](#). On Monday and Tuesday, February 26 and 27 the MS will have regular school days with 3:00 PM dismissal, while the HS students will be taking part in their minimester days.

Faculty/Staff Retreat, March 1-2

There will be no school on Thursday, March 1 and Friday, March 2 so that the faculty and staff may attend a retreat.

Eighth Grade Class Retreat, March 12

The 8th grade will spend Monday, March 12 off campus for a community day-retreat with Campus Ministry. More information will be sent to parents later this month.

SJCS Spring Art Show, March 12-25

The 2018 Spring Art Show will be held in the SJCS library from March 12-25. Students in all grades are encouraged to participate. Categories include Drawing, Painting, Photography, Sculpture, Mixed Media, and Computer Graphics. Entries will be accepted in the art room from March 7-9. For entry requirements, contact [Deborah Pickard](#). The student artwork can be viewed during school hours and during the spring musical, March 22-25. The Jubilate Arts Guild will also be hosting a reception in the library on Friday, March 16 from 7:00-8:00 PM.

Annual Lenten Fish Fry, March 16

Mark your calendars for the SJCS Annual Lenten Fish Fry, Friday, March 16 at 5:00 PM. This wonderful event offers a chance for the whole family to fellowship with members of our SJCS family. A delicious fried fish meal (incredible fish prepared on site) is served at the school cafeteria. Back by popular demand... green beer to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities and meal order form.

HS Spring Musical, *Little Women*, March 22-25

Be sure to mark your calendars for the spring musical, *Little Women*. Based on the classic novel of the same name, journey into the lives of the March family. The bonds of sisterhood run deep as the wild stories and antics unfold among the four sisters. The girls struggle with maintaining a connection to their family's roots as they fight to fulfill their dreams. Performances will be March 22-25 and tickets will be available to purchase at the end of February.

ACT Practice Test, March 24

SJCS will offer the Princeton Review ACT Practice Test here at school on Saturday, March 24 from 9:15 AM-1:00 PM. This test is geared toward juniors who have not yet taken the ACT, but interested sophomores and freshman may also attend. The experience will help students become familiar with the ACT format and learn about which areas they need to focus on to improve their scores when they take the actual ACT for college admissions purposes. Click [HERE](#) to register. Information can also be found on the school website under College Guidance/Upcoming Events.

Mills Uniform On-Campus Sales Event, March 27

Mills Uniform Company will be on campus on March 27 for a mobile store event in our gym. Mills will bring a fully-stocked mobile store directly to our campus, complete with Mills staff, sizing specialists, portable fitting rooms, and a full-selection of garments for try on and purchase. The hours will be from 10:00 AM-6:00 PM for parents, and students would be able to shop with their parents during lunch or after school. Students will not be allowed to miss class to go over to the gym.

Annual Auction Gala Update: A Starry Knight: Shining Christ's Light for 25 Years. Friday, April 20

Mark your calendars for the 2018 Annual Auction Gala, *A Starry Knight: Shining Christ's Light for 25 Years*. Our Gala and Prom committee members, faculty/staff, students, and parents are working together to diligently prepare for our school's largest fundraiser. Join our community for this enjoyable evening as you mingle with friends, enjoy the tastes of Table 301's delicious cuisine, bid on silent and live auction items, and dance the night away under *A Starry Night*. If you are interested in volunteering or donating a silent or live auction item, contact [Mary Salgado](#) (Gala Chair), [Michelle Mullins](#) (Gala Co-Chair), or [Rachel Neubauer](#) in the Development Office.

Summer Exchange Students

SJCS was recently approached concerning an opportunity for our parents to host English speaking Catholic exchange students from Lycee St. Cecile (sponsored by Terre Des Langues) in France from June 12 to July 7. SJCS host families would provide room and board for the students (14 to 17 years old) to experience your family life. The students arrive at GSP with spending money, are insured, and are accompanied by an adult chaperone. If you think you might be interested, our contact is Dr. Andre Goineau. Dr. Goineau, retired from Milliken Research, lives in Spartanburg, and has been matching up exchange students with Upstate host families for 43 years. Contact him directly at mrgoineau@aol.com or call: 864-585-3945.

Cafeteria Service

Flik Dining Services provides cafeteria service during the day. Breakfast items are served from 7:30-7:45 AM, lunch is served during MS and HS lunch periods, and snacks are sold for 45 minutes at the end of each school day. In addition, à la carte items, pizza, and Stromboli are served during Household on Wednesdays. Also, trays for Household snacks, Household lunches, and/or team meals are available for purchase. To see the options available for purchase, please click on the following links: [Household Lunch Options](#) and [Household Snack Options](#).

From the Academic Dean

My kids just taught me how to create a personal playlist on Spotify. I love it...the right mix of music keeps me going on the treadmill, I think, because it keeps me from focusing on how much I hate being on the treadmill in the first place.

Distraction on the treadmill works. It is, in that context, a good thing. Distraction in the classroom, or while you're trying to increase mastery of a complicated math problem, is not so good. True, sometimes background noise is actually helpful... it forces us to concentrate our attention on the issue at hand. Likewise, many of us can point to moments when we solved some problem or gained some new insight while we are actually doing something else. Distraction can be helpful to a point, but it's only helpful after sustained periods of concentration. That is, distraction works when most of the intellectual heavy lifting is already done. It does not work when one's attention needs to be truly focused on something else, say, learning a new concept in geometry or engaging in a critical reading of a historical text.

Unfortunately, distraction, even in schooling, is the order of the day. Two years ago, I was observing a teacher at a nearby school (he had applied for a position at SJCS), and I was disappointed with how many students in the classroom had their phones out on their desk during his lecture. If it buzzed, they would look over at it, occasionally picking it up to engage, albeit briefly, in a digital interaction of whatever type. More recently, I asked several SJCS students how many of them do their homework with their phone/iPad/tablet/computer within arm's reach. Nine out of ten told me they always work with digital world literally at their fingertips and that they respond to whatever alerts come through cyberspace. Granted, some of that might be necessary, even advantageous. Students can collaborate through Google Docs, and teachers often send out updates through email, Classroom, etc. The students all swore to me that it *helped* them, but the evidence actually points the other way. Several studies have shown that homework time increases and student mastery decreases along with access to technology during studying. There are lots of factors here (volume, self-selection of the music, lyrics, etc.) and as usual, there are holes in the research, but overall, it's pretty consistent.

Aside from specific issues of homework mastery, surely there is value to promoting one's ability to concentrate in general. The cultivation of a disciplined mind is part and parcel of what we're trying to do at St. Joseph's. That's not the opposite of personal freedom or creativity. It's a necessary precondition to accomplishing anything of value, and learning is certainly on that list.

From the Athletic Department

Spring Intramurals

Intramural softball (6th-8th grade girls) and Intramural soccer (6th-8th grade boys and girls) will be offered this spring beginning in March. Watch for more information in the March *News & Notes*.

Summer Sports Camps

The 2018 Summer Sports Camps dates and sessions will be posted on the SJCS website soon.

Spring Practice/Tryout Schedule

- Boys Lacrosse: January 22 from 4:00-6:00 PM at Sunset Park
- Girls Lacrosse: January 22 from 4:00-6:00 PM at Sunset Park
- JV & Varsity Boys Soccer: January 29 from 3:30-5:00 PM on SJCS stadium field
- JV & Varsity Girls Soccer: January 29 from 5:30-7:00 PM on SJCS Stadium field
- Boys Tennis: January 29 at 3:30 PM
- Track: January 29 from 3:30-5:00 PM, meet in the front of the gym
- MS Baseball: January 29-February 1 at 3:30 PM
- JV & Varsity Baseball: January 29-February 1 at 5:00 PM
- Boys Golf: January 30 at 2:30 PM at the Preserve at Verdae and February 7 at 2:40 PM at Chanticleer
- Softball: February 12-16 from 3:45-5:15 PM
- JV Softball: February 19 from 3:45-5:15 PM
- Varsity Softball: February 19 from 4:00-6:00 PM

Please note that all required athletic forms **MUST** be turned in to the athletic office before practice begins.

Sports Participation Requirements

In order to participate on a SJCS sports team, three forms must be completed and turned in prior to tryouts. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** The required forms are: [Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form/Physical History Form](#) and [Concussion Consent Form](#). Students will not be permitted to try out unless both forms are turned in prior to the first tryout, workout, and/or practice date. All forms should be submitted to SJCS, Attention: Athletic Office. Please note: the medical form must be dated on or after April 1, 2017, in order for your son or daughter to participate through the 2017-2018 school year. Please make a copy of the completed forms for your records before submitting to the school. Also, we are required to have a copy of your child's Birth Certificate on file in the Athletic Office. We must have this form turned in before tryouts begin in order to submit the required eligibility form into the High School League Office. If you have already submitted your son's/daughter's Birth Certificate, you do not need to turn in a copy every year. Questions? Contact Athletic Director, [R.J. Beach](#).

Training Consent Form

The Greenville Hospital System will continue to provide SJCS athletes with the services of an athletic trainer. If you would like your child to be treated by our trainer in case of injury, you must also complete the form titled [Athletic Training Services Consent & Authorization Form](#). Please submit form to SJCS, Attention: [Kate Abdelnour](#).

Knights Athletic Booster Club

The Knights Athletic Booster Club is the all-sport Booster Club for SJCS. Thank you for your generous support of all SJCS athletes. Remember to use your key tags at any home game, however, home playoff games for any sport are not included in this offer. Again this year, Knight's Athletic Booster Club will cover the cost of admission for the first 20 SJCS students that arrive for all home playoff games.

From the Parents Guild

Many Thanks

The Parents Guild would like to thank Cyndi Jennings for decorating the Staff Christmas Luncheon, Karen Sheldon for creating the beautiful Christmas cookies given to all staff (with the addition of cookies made by the Murphy and Puckett families), Emina Barron for organizing the pumpkin bread and more Christmas cookies for the staff reception, and for all of the School Store volunteers. What a wonderful service to our school!

Catholic Schools Week Events Sponsored by the Parents Guild

- Wednesday, January 31: Donut Day
- Thursday, February 1: Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast hosted by the Development Office from 8:00–9:15 AM in the Cafeteria. Click [HERE](#) to RSVP by Monday, January 29.
- Friday, February 2: Faculty/Staff Appreciation Luncheon in the Meeting Room during MS & HS Lunch. To help, sign up [HERE](#).

After Prom

Believe it or not it's time to start thinking about Prom! Back by popular demand, after dancing the night away at Prom, students can head over to the Sports Club at Five Forks in Simpsonville for After Prom. This is a safe and fun way to continue the celebration. Everyone will have a chance to spin the prize wheel and we will have our popular senior raffle. We are already accepting donations for prizes, like \$10 gift cards (think food and gas cards) or larger prizes for our senior raffle (think college dorm gifts - Keurig, bluetooth speakers, TV, headphones, Yeti tumblers, Eno, etc...). We also need volunteers for set-up, check-in, and chaperones. If you would like to volunteer or make a donation (cash donations accepted too), contact [Blair Bailey](#).

Graduation Reception

We love to celebrate our graduates! Each spring, the Parents Guild hosts a simple reception following the graduation ceremony. We are in need of prep/set-up/clean-up assistance. If you are willing to help, contact [Catherine Puckett](#).

Looking Ahead to Next Year

Are you interested in getting involved at SJCS? We are now making plans for next year and would love your input. We have many opportunities: to serve on the Parents Guild Board, as committee chairs and much more. Contact [Catherine Puckett](#) for more information.

From the Development Office

Annual Fund

- Our goal this fiscal year (July 2017–June 2018) is to engage the financial support of 100% of our school families, faculty, and staff in giving to the Annual Fund. As of January, an impressive 86% of faculty and staff and over 30% of our school families have contributed. Congratulations to the 7th grade which is leading with a grade level participation of 37%! We will continue to track these participation numbers through the Gala in the Spring.
- The Annual Fund provides approximately 7% of the school's budget that is not covered by tuition. These dollars are raised every year through the generosity of our community, and provide tuition assistance, support for academic programs, athletics, fine arts, campus ministry, and enrich student life. Our Annual Fund goal for this year, which includes proceeds from the Gala, is \$450,000. Questions? Contact [Kevin Meyer](#), and download your [Annual Fund Donation Form](#) today!

Year-End Gifts, Thank You!

Thank you for remembering St. Joseph's in your year-end giving. Almost \$330,000 was donated to St. Joseph's in the month of December. For more information on giving, contact [Kevin Meyer](#).

2017 Tax Statements

Giving Statements for 2017 will be mailed by January 29. These statements are meant to assist with tax preparation. Questions regarding these statements? Contact [Kevin Meyer](#).

From the Academic Support Services & College Counseling Office

Course Scheduling

Course scheduling for the next academic year, 2018-2019, will begin in February. HS students will review their graduation requirements in group meetings. Teachers will meet with students individually to review their recommendations for courses based on academic achievements and student interests. Students will then receive scheduling information packets along with their transcripts and teacher recommendations during their grade-level meetings in early March. Additional information will be emailed to parents and students as needed.

Senior College Acceptances/Scholarships

Please continue to share your good news and advise the College Counseling Office of college acceptances and scholarship awards. With over 80% of the senior class reporting their acceptances so far, they've been offered over \$9 million in scholarships.

College Visits

- Sophomores, juniors, and seniors who would like to visit colleges should register for visits through the colleges' websites or with the admissions offices and then email Mrs. Hawkins to let her know what date(s) you will be attending the college visit. Please remember to bring back the proper documentation to Mrs. Hawkins (College Visit Record Form with required signatures and official documentation—see form for details).
- Juniors should also consider signing up for the college visit minimester. This is a great opportunity to visit a few local colleges or one to two further away colleges without having to use your college visit days or personal days.

From the Business Office

Tuition Statements

- Plan B tuition payments are due January 31, 2018. If you have not made your Plan B payment, please do so as soon as possible.
- Re-enrollment for 2018-2019 school year: In order to provide our families with a re-enrollment process that is both seamless and paperless, while maintaining options as well, SJCS has moved to continuous re-enrollment beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. Under the continuous re-enrollment process, students are continually re-enrolled from their initial admission into the school until they graduate from SJCS. In late January, when the next school year's tuition rates are published, parents will receive an email with a link instructing them to select a payment plan for the upcoming school year. In addition, students will be automatically re-enrolled, with a \$300 yearly re-enrollment fee billed to their account. Should a parent desire that their child not to return to SJCS for a subsequent year, written notice must be presented to the school's Admissions Office by the end of February.
- A Graduation fee of \$150.00 will be charged to all Senior students on March 1, 2018.
- Tuition account details can be viewed at any time via your family My Backpack portal. You can find the link [HERE](#). Please contact [Melody Thompson](#) if you need help with your user ID or password.

Tuition Assistance

- The Tuition Assistance application deadline for the 2018-2019 school year is February 15, 2018. If you have not completed your application, do so as soon as possible. Please note that you must use your 2017 tax information (actual or estimated) to complete the tuition assistance forms. To get to the FACTS application website, click [HERE](#).
- The recent Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2018 made some positive changes to qualified tuition programs (commonly known as 529 plans) that may benefit you and your family. To see the information provided by the Diocese, click [HERE](#).

From the Fine Arts Department

MS Dance Club

MS Dance Club meets on Tuesdays from 3:15-4:30 PM in the Dance Room. Any MS student interested in joining is welcome to stop by to check it out. We are beginning all new routines and would love more students. Questions/more info? Contact the Dance Teacher, [Tami Kiser](#).

Volunteers Needed

Please contact [Teresa McGrath](#) for more information on how to volunteer for either of the opportunities below:

- Any parents or students willing to donate their time and talents to the Fine Arts Department through their sewing skills
- Any parents willing to assist with supervision during after-school and Saturday crew sessions

Jubilate Knight for the Arts Talent Competition, Saturday, May 5

The Fine Arts Department's annual "Jubilate Knight for the Arts Talent Competition" is a family-friendly event highlighting our artistically-gifted school community. Patrons enjoy fabulous entertainment, vote for their favorite acts, and it all benefits our Fine Arts programs.

To Audition: Any member of the SJCS community (students, faculty, parents, siblings, grandparents, or alumni) may audition in April. Music, skits, dance, juggling, magic tricks, and so many more talents are welcome! Start preparing your act now; performances may be up to four minutes in length and points are awarded to your Household when you audition. Contact [Teresa McGrath](#) to sign up for an audition slot.

To Volunteer or Donate: If you would like to volunteer at Jubilate Knight, email [Amy Poinsette](#).

Jubilate Arts Guild Officers Needed for 2018-2019

We are looking to fill several positions for the next school year. The Jubilate Arts Guild is our Fine Arts booster organization and provides support for all the Fine Arts programming. If your child is involved in chorus, dance, visual arts, theatre, band, or strings, then you already know how enriching these programs are. Help us support these programs, become more involved, and have a rewarding experience by becoming an officer. Questions/interested? Contact [Amy Poinsette](#).

Red Door & St. John Paul II Chapel Ornaments

There are a limited number of St. John Paul II and Red Door ornaments left. Order yours before they run out. What a great way to commemorate your student's years at St. Joseph's. Order forms are available in the lobby of the school. Questions? Contact [Amy Poinsette](#).