

# St. Joseph's Monthly

May 2017 Edition



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## Caroline's Corner

A Letter from Ms. Latham



*"Fix your heart on God's dream. Let it guide everything."*

*Maxim 16*

Dear Parents and Guardians:

are but a few examples.

As May draws to a close we quickly find ourselves at the end of yet another academic year, and as I reflect on our school community's many accomplishments, I am reminded of St. Joseph's Maxim "Fix your heart on God's dream. Let it guide everything." It is the dream of each parent and student that is a driving force behind our community's many successes. Here

### College Acceptances:

Our school achieved a 100% graduation rate with 93% of our students attending college. Two are joining the armed forces and one student will be taking a gap year before attending college in 2018. Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

### Brand New School FabLab:

We were able to secure 3D printers, laser cutters and other state of the art technology to build a Makerspace for students to utilize. Business, science and math classes were all able to integrate the machines into their classes and we look forward to seeing what new exciting projects they will work on next year.

### Co-Curricular Successes:

Our Speech team has achieved great success St. Joseph High School this year. Six students were able to go to the National Tournament in Louisville Kentucky. Our team coached by David Risley consistently ranks in the top ten amongst schools in the Catholic Forensics League in the city and state.

Our Sports teams have enjoyed a phenomenal year. Our Varsity Basketball and STEP team were both CHSAA Tournament Champs. It was an even bigger accomplishment for the basketball team considering that we just created a varsity team.

As we celebrate the end of the year Mass we will keep you and your entire family in our prayers.

Best,  
Caroline Latham  
Principal

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## Geometric Art Gallery

To provide an opportunity for extra credit, and to challenge his students to see the beauty of mathematical forms and the role that geometric principles play in art, Geometry teacher Mr. D'Agosto proposed that students create works of art using geometrical shapes. Here you can see some of the students' creations!

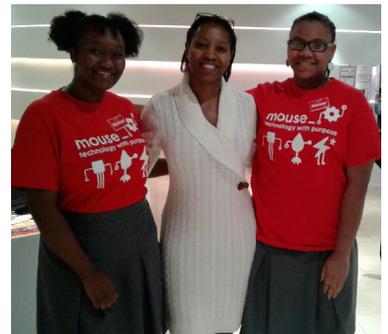


## mouse<sup>20</sup> *Technology With a Purpose*

This year marked the 20th anniversary of mouse, a youth development nonprofit that seeks to provide technological support and purposeful STEM education to students and schools.

Committed to the idea that technology can be a tool for good in the world, mouse develops courses and activities on everything from design to gaming to sustainable technology to web literacy and coding. Through engaging and fun projects, they help students build skills that correspond to their interests, and apply those skills to problem solving at a local and global level.

At SJHS, several students participate in the Mouse Squad, a co-curricular technology club. With Ms. Green, students Atta Gould, Maria Constable and Aniya Morene attended the Mouse 20th Anniversary (Mouse 20) celebration on May 9th, held at Guastavino's. They displayed some of the work they did this year, answered questions from guests, and demonstrated how they completed some of their projects.



# Club Spotlight:

# Glamour Gals!

***“It’s good for the elderly to communicate their wisdom to the young; and it is good for the young people to gather this wealth of experience and wisdom, and to carry it forward, not so as to store it in a museum, but to bring it forward addressing the challenges of life.” - Pope Francis, Feb. 2014***

Founded by a highschool student nearly 20 years ago, Glamour Gals is a national organization that seeks to facilitate intergenerational friendship and foster compassionate teen leaders, bridging the gap between young and old. Glamour Gals provide manicures and manicures to residents in senior homes across the country, taking time to get to know them, learn about their lives, and share their own questions and experiences. Our chapter at SJHS just celebrated our eighth anniversary.

Describing her Glamour Gal experience, SJHS student Maria Constable writes, “When I told [one of the residents] my name she said, ‘Wow! You have a beautiful name, and your earrings are also beautiful.’ She made me feel really good about myself, showing me that I was beautiful and intelligent...One of [the residents] was even showing off her nails. I felt so proud. She said that when her family comes to visit she will greet them with a big ‘Hi Darling,’ and show off her nails.

Maria continues, “I believe that Glamour Girls allows us to give back to our community, and it makes me feel happy to know that I brightened up someone’s day. At first I joined the club because it offered community service, but I remained part of the club because the smiles of the women showed me that what I was doing was worthwhile. I really think more people should consider joining the club to give back to the elderly and make them happy. You can also learn a lot about life in the past and you can grow as a person with the advice you get from the residents.”

Photos depict SJHS students giving manicures and visiting with elderly residents at a senior home in Brooklyn, NY. Bottom second from left, SJHS Vice Principal Mr. Touhey is shown giving a keynote address at the annual Glamour Girls Gala in May.



# Multimedia Fine Arts Show

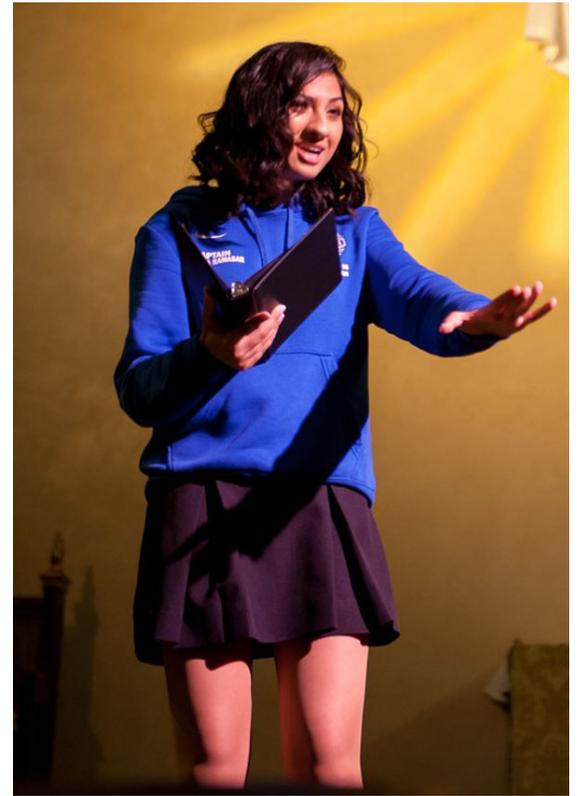




**On Thursday May 11th, SJHS hosted our annual Multimedia Fine Arts Show, featuring a gallery of student art, as well as performances from the choir and step team, dancing, speeches, a presentation of SJHS news from the Video Production class, and a live show from the SJHS band.**

Art teacher Mr. Schebania Cantave integrated social studies into his art classes this year; students studied the role of art in the French and Mexican revolutions, and discussed how art could help bring about positive changes in society. They learned that art can be a way to have a voice in the world, and considered the importance of changing and growing within as a precursor to trying to affect the rest of the world. Mr. Cantave's approach echoes the words of the early 20th century Catholic philosopher Jacques Maritain, "To wish to change the face of the earth without first changing one's heart (which no one can do of his own strength) is to undertake a work that is purely destructive. Perhaps indeed if omnipotent love did truly transform our hearts, the exterior work of reform would already be half done."

In addition to dancing, singing, stepping, and giving speeches, student displayed numerous pieces from Mr. Cantave's class. Masks have historically been understood as a way to both hide and expose one's inner self, so students created beautiful masks as a form of self-understanding and representation. They later used silk screen techniques to create a piece telling a story about their own time and place. All these and more were on display in the Fine Arts Gallery at the show.



## Culture Club Field Trip to Broadway!



On May 13th, the Culture Club had the opportunity to attend the Broadway production of Roald Dahl's iconic *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The Culture Club, moderated by Mr. Touhey and Ms. Tai, provides students with experiences of various cultural events in NYC.

The club encourages students to travel to events and participate in activities outside of school and after school hours. A special grant has allowed the cost of these trips to be affordable to students. Several trips are planned throughout the year and all are open to anyone who wants to participate. A student becomes an official "club member" by going on at least four of the trips during one school year. In the past, trips have been made to Broadway and off-Broadway theaters, picnics, ice skating and bowling.

## Spanish Class Lunch at *Coszcal De Allende*



Every year, Ms. Tchirmenu organizes a special outing for students in Spanish 3: a trip to a local restaurant, where students can practice their skills outside the classroom by ordering and conversing in Spanish. This year they went to *Coszcal De Allende* in Bayridge. No grade is attached to this activity; it is simply a fun way to get more comfortable with the language by practicing it in a real-world setting. This event is a great example of our incorporation of hands-on object and project-based learning here at SJHS, as it helps students to see learning a language (and learning in general) as a tangible, experiential process.

## Step Team Goes to Brooklyn Borough Hall

**Stepping:** an empowering and exhilarating form of dance originating in African traditions and African American university culture. And at St. Joseph's, our Step Team is unique because our stepping is understood to be a form of prayer and preaching. Our team steps with authority and precision, always seeking to spread a message of hope and God's love. So when Ms. Prime, guidance counselor and coach of the Step Team, received an invitation for our students to perform at the 6th annual Family Assessment Program (FAP) Resource Fair, she was excited to give the students an opportunity to share their talents.

The fair, organized by the NYC Administration for Children's Services, was an informational forum with opportunities for resource providers and partners to meet and interact. FAP is a diversion program that exists to help families of at-risk youth across the five boroughs through assessment, individualized advice, counseling, and referral to a range of community and home-based services. Working to strengthen families and reduce conflict, it helps families handle concerns such as a child running away, skipping school, or exhibiting disruptive behavior, without having to go to court.

Our steppers were invited to demonstrate that the theme of the fair, Staying Empowered and Encouraged – SEE Our Brooklyn Youth Rise, is not simply a distant goal. Rather, it is already occurring, particularly at schools like St. Joseph's, which offer a strong faith-based community, mentorship, excellent teaching and guidance, and connection to numerous academic and personal resources.



# Brooklyn Tablet High School Press Awards



The Tablet is a diocesan newspaper offering Catholic news and commentary for the Brooklyn-Queens Diocese. They also seek to facilitate student journalism in Catholic schools throughout the diocese through such events as the High School Press Awards, held annually in May. This year on May 19th, students from seven schools attended, including Alemtsehay Getahun, Hannah Pierre-Louis, and Khalia West from SJHS, along with their newspaper class teacher, Mr. Langford. A surprise fire alarm and evacuation during the event provided the opportunity for an

on-the-spot journalism exercise in which attendees were asked to recall details, describing what had occurred and how people had reacted. Keynote speaker Katina Paron, who has over 20 years experience in youth journalism and currently runs Teen Voice, Women's eNews, and jGirls Magazine, then addressed the students on the importance of high school journalism as a way for students to become involved in their communities and society as a whole. SJHS student Hanna Pierre-Louis was awarded first place in the op-ed category for her article about the Black Lives Matter movement.

## Co-Curricular Awards Ceremony

The Co-Curricular Awards Celebration is an opportunity to celebrate students' participation in clubs and other organizations that augment and complement SJHS's curriculum. These include sports teams, Anime Club, National Honor Society, Mouse Squad, Glamour Gals, United African Women's Society, Student Ambassadors, the Parmentier Newspaper, and many more.

Moderators presented awards students from each group spoke about what their club or organization does. This event also served as a way to share the news about all the different activities that students can get involved with during their time at SJHS! During the event the sports teams presented Mr. Touhey and Ms. Latham with plaques to thank them for all their hard work.



# WoW! Women of Work at SJHS

## Business Plan

## Competition

This year 800 students from 19 schools participated in Junior Achievement New York's Business Plan Competition. St. Joseph's had six teams compete, three of which made it to the second round.



One team, the Diamond Squad, composed of Evalina Mauro, Keiyana Michel, Aliyah Rodriguez, and Akeia Wade, went on to the Semifinals, held on May 22nd.



The Squad eloquently explained their plan for custom-made indestructible phone cases to the judges, and answered questions before heading back to school for final exams.

### THE DIAMOND SQUAD



## Mentoring 101: AT&T Job Shadow



On May 3rd, Ms. Schaeffer's Business and College Readiness students attended their final job shadow for the year at AT&T Young Women's Leadership conference. This event was unstructured, which enable students to have several meaningful conversations with mentors, a great way to close out the year.

The conference took place inside a conference room at AT&T's Water street office. Students introduced themselves and shared which college they would be attending in the fall; the mentors then introduced themselves and shared their journey to AT&T and what their present role was. After introduction, each student was paired with two mentors. The mentors and the students were given about an hour to discuss their future plans and any topic that was of interest to the student. During lunch that followed, the students were free to engage in conversation with any mentor in the room.

After lunch the mentors stressed the importance of not texting while driving; AT&T has a campaign called it can wait. After drunk-driving, texting while driving is the second leading cause of car accidents/fatalities. Students were given virtual reality cardboard viewers to experience hazardous driving conditions that could arise from texting while driving.

### What's Next for Business at SJHS?

Next year, Ms. Schaeffer plans to maintain our relationship with representatives of Royal Bank of Canada, who mentored students throughout the Business Plan Competition through monthly business breakfasts. She also plans to start a new initiative inviting professional women to come to SJHS throughout the year to talk about their work experience.

## Junior Class Retreat: "Change Me, Lord!"



*Who can find a virtuous woman?  
for her price is far above rubies.  
She seeketh wool, and flax,  
and worketh willingly with her hands.  
She layeth her hands to the spindle,  
and her hands hold the distaff.  
She stretcheth out her hand to the poor;  
yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.  
She maketh fine linen, and selleth it;  
and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.  
Strength and honour are her clothing;  
and she shall rejoice in time to come.  
She openeth her mouth with wisdom;  
and in her tongue is the law of kindness.  
She looketh well to the ways of her household,  
and eateth not the bread of idleness.  
Her children arise up, and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praiseth her.  
Many daughters have done virtuously,  
but thou excellest them all.  
Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain:  
but a woman that feareth the Lord,  
she shall be praised.*

*From Proverbs 31 (KJV)*

At the Junior Retreat on May 19th, the entire Junior class was invited to participate in a day of prayer, reflection, discussion and fun, following the theme "Change Me, Lord: Becoming Who I Already Am."

After an icebreaker activity about each of us is in relation to God, lead by Ms. Prime and based on Deuteronomy 7:6-7, students broke into small groups for a Jigsaw Bible Study. Each group had a passage from Scripture which they read, reflected on and analyzed carefully in order to understand its meaning, and then translated into a slogan, rap or commercial.

For example, students in a group with Mrs. Worrell considered Psalm 139, which begins, "You have searched me Lord, and you know me," and continues "For you created my inmost being: you knit me together in my mother's womb." They reflected on how it feels when someone really takes the time to get to know you, and what it means to believe that God knows us so intimately.

The Bible Study was followed by a session on the story of the Woman at the Well led by Mr. Diele, in which students considered how our past lives and the baggage we carry to Jesus can make it difficult for us to perceive how much he loves us. Mr. Diele shared with the students about how Jesus heals our wounds and shows us that his love, rather than our burdens, defines us.

The day concluded with an activity lead by Ms. Prime, and based on Proverbs 31, which contains the well-known description of a virtuous and righteous woman. Taking into account this description, the students wrote down who they want to be through their transformation in Christ.

# Faculty vs Students Softball Game

May 30th saw the first annual Faculty vs. Student Softball game! Mr. Schelsser came up with the idea as a chance to build community between faculty and students. Around 20 faculty members competed against the entire softball team, and many additional students came to cheer and to coach the faculty! Coach Toro reports that many students in other sports hope to do something similar next year, and as of now plans are in the works for a faculty basketball game in November!





Athletics Updates!



### What's new next year?

Next school year, for the first time in our history, SJHS will field a JV and Varsity Volleyball team! We will also start a Soccer club team, a Softball fall league, our track team will begin Cross Country, and our Basketball team will be moving to Division A. We look forward to an exciting 2017-2018 school year with the St. Joseph's Cougars!

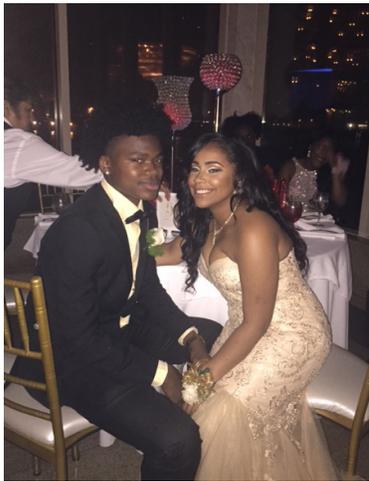


**Top Left: Howard Richter Invitational** - pictured: Genelle Sonson. Sonson and Kimora Jordan posted personal bests in their respective events.

**Top Right: CHSAA Cities** - last official track and field meet of the year, held at Randalls Island. Garcelle McKenzie placed 8th overall in the 100 meter with a time of 13.54.

# Goodbye, Seniors! Oh, the places you'll go!

Senior Prom



Last Day!