



St. Joseph's Monthly

March 2017 Edition

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Caroline's Corner: A Letter from Ms. Latham

Prayer for Lent

Blessed are you, O lord our God, You have made the sun to light the day and the moon and stars to light the night. Help us walk in your light. During this season of Lent, renew us through the gift of your Holy Spirit. Help us grow in faith, hope, and love. During this special time, we remember that Jesus died and rose from the dead, so that we might be free to love. Help us grow to be the people you call us to be - letting go of the old habits of selfishness, - forgiving those who hurt us, giving quality time to our families, spending time in quiet prayer.

During the season of Lent, we are reminded that this special time provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our faith, and on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As in years past, our school community embarked upon the Liturgical season of Lent with the distribution of ashes and each individual made their own lenten promises. The promises made are a daily reminder that Lent is a time to change the things in our lives that separate us from Jesus. Some of us will choose to give up a favorite snack or TV show while others may choose to spend some extra time in prayer or volunteering in the community. Whatever the small sacrifice, we know that keeping our resolutions are difficult and that sometimes we may slip, but it is always a good lesson for our students to keep on trying and to not give up.

It is my hope that by all of us taking the time from our busy schedules to develop our relationship with God, we can use this Lenten season to develop a greater appreciation of the life that God is calling each of us to lead.

Sincerely,

Ms. Caroline Latham



Women's Professional Day!



On International Women's Day, Wednesday March 8th, SJHS held our annual Women's Professional Day Celebration. Following a networking breakfast and registration at the school, hosted by students in the Business class, the morning began at St. Boniface with a welcome given by Keiyanna Michel (Junior, 2018). Lilliana Hernandez (Junior, 2018) provided the introduction for our keynote speaker, Monique Nelson (sidebar, top right), Chairman and CEO of UniWorld Group, Inc., the longest standing multicultural advertising agency in the world, who addressed the students, faculty and staff. The keynote address was followed by a blessing for St. Joseph's Day, a presentation of awards to students for their essays on "Profiles of Empowered Women," an address from Ms. Latham, and three panel discussions with our invited guests.

While the entire faculty and staff participate in this event every year, this year they were more involved than ever: Ms. Turman, Ms. Benoit, and Ms. Peralta all invited friends who are professional women to speak on the panels and meet the girls. Many of these panelists were young and at an earlier phase of their careers and therefore, while they did not have the long term perspective that decades of work will eventually bring, their jobs and backgrounds resonated a great deal with the girls. Two young alumnae were also present, Gail M. Ballantyne, a detective, and Daniella De Jesus, an actress, which allowed for the students to meet professional women who came from a similar background as themselves and could relate to their experiences more deeply.

For this year's event, Mrs. Reilly and the other coordinators sought to allow more unstructured time for the girls to mingle with the panelists, asking questions, getting advice, having spontaneous conversation about their interests, even networking for possible internships. The unscripted, open-ended nature of these interactions allowed the invited women to speak with candor and sincerity, and to follow and guide the conversations around the interests and concerns of the students while also offering their own unique perspectives based on their experience in the professional world. These conversations, as well as the panel discussions, also provided a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn about the importance of gaining the confidence to introduce themselves, make connections, and use all the resources at their disposal to create a professional network, and also helped them begin to develop the skills needed to do this in a professional manner. Even students who did not feel ready to do this just yet were able to observe and listen, so that hopefully in future they will feel prepared to initiate such conversations when the occasion arises.





Throughout the panel discussions and personal conversations, two important themes emerged, which were particularly appropriate for an event falling on International Women's Day; first, the girls were able to understand that there are many different things that one can prioritize in her work: for some, financial success and recognition is paramount, for others the focus remains on finding a career that is intellectually and personally fulfilling, and many fall somewhere in between. In addition, it became clear that for a woman, different stages of one's work like can vary depending on her personal circumstances. Without telling the girls what approach to take to these central concerns, the diversity of perspectives offered by the speakers demonstrated that work requires making difficult choices, prioritizing some ends over others and, most fundamentally, gaining the self-awareness over time to make these decisions freely and confidently.



See more photos from the day here!



SPIRIT WEEK 2017!



Twin Day!



Culture Day Culture Day Culture Day



Culture Day Culture Day Culture Day



This year, Spirit Week kicked off a little early with 90s day, on Friday March 10th, celebrating the yearbook theme for 2016-2017. Students, staff and faculty dressed up to resemble 90s fashion, TV show characters, musicians and more. Twin day followed on Monday, but the week was temporarily cut short when our Tuesday Pi-Day celebration had to be postponed due to a snow storm! Pi Day was rescheduled for the following week, and once the streets were clear, we returned to school Wednesday for Culture day! Costumes included numerous creative uses of flags representing the many countries from which our students, their parents or their ancestors of earlier generations hail. Thursday was Sports Day, which included an athletic competition between Le Puy, Brentwood, Carondelet and Lyon. This was followed by a performance and finally a presentation of awards by Ms. Latham. Our Spirit Week wrapped up on Friday with a Blood Drive and the St. Patrick's Day Parade (see below for more on both).



Blood Drive

On Friday, March 17th, we had our annual blood-drive, a nine year tradition at SJHS. Twenty junior and senior students, faculty and staff were able to donate blood, while another seven offered to do so but were unable for various reasons. Also eleven students volunteered with the organization and coordination of the event. Each pint of blood donated can save up to three lives, a fact that motivates students to freely give a precious bodily resource receiving nothing in return, and exemplifying our theme for the year: "Be of Service to the World". The fact that this event occurred during Lent offered the opportunity to go more deeply into the meaning of service by following the example of Jesus, who shed his blood freely for us.



St Patrick's Day Parade

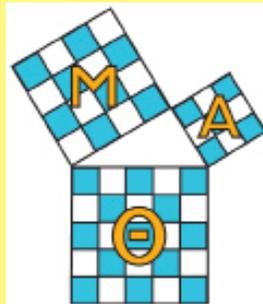


On a sunny March 17th, honors students from SJHS marched in the annual St. Patrick's day parade. They loved seeing parade watchers cheer for St. Joseph's and they showed lots of SJHS pride!



The day was planned by the founding members of Mu Alpha Theta, The National High School and Two-Year College Mathematics Honor Society (pictured below). The 9 Seniors thought of a way to celebrate mathematics and have some fun with it. The celebration involved a pi memorization contest; 10th grader Bethgeana Coq won, and the prize was a pizza party for her entire homeroom! Teachers also volunteered to get pi'd in the face. At the last minute, one of the teachers was sick, so Ms. Maldonado stepped in, and by just bad luck, she got "pi'd" the most. She was a very good sport about it. Also, Ms. Rolston at the last minute, offered 2 points to whoever could get her, so she also got pied heavily. As we were leaving a group of sophomores were planning next year's pie competition -- this may become an annual event!

Pi Day! 3.1415...



Junior Achievement Partnership: Business Plan Breakfasts and ESPN Tour!

Business Breakfasts with Royal Bank of Canada

As part of SJHS's partnership with Junior Achievement of New York, a work-readiness, financial literacy and entrepreneurship opportunity organization for NY students, Ms. Schaeffer's Business classes are participating in JANY's Business Plan competition. The theme of this year's competition is "Think Local"; all plans must be for a for-profit business focused on providing an innovative solution to an existing or potential problem facing the residents of New York. The competition provides a real world context for the material students have been gathering and presenting all year.



Recently, the Royal Bank of Canada expressed interest in getting involved in the Business Program at St. Joseph High School. Ms. Schaeffer proposed a series of Business Breakfasts, through which RBC representatives could help students with their submissions. During the first session (held in February), each team presented their idea/ideas to a mentor. In the second session (held in March), the mentors gave each team a mini-lesson on financial forecasting for their specific business/service. In April, students will be presenting their completed plans to all of the mentors and answering questions the mentors will pose.

Through the Business Breakfasts, the students were also able to practice networking. Two mentors overlapped each session;

the new mentors provided students with the opportunity to introduce themselves and then follow-up via email with a thank you (or perhaps continue a conversation that was begun over breakfast). One mentor shared an internship opportunity with St. Joseph, after a conversation he had with a student; the student had shared how difficult she found it to find a paying position for the summer in a corporate environment. Another mentor offered to convene a panel to discuss the college experience, after students shared their fears about beginning college in the fall.

Ms. Schaeffer hopes that in future the Business Program will be able to host similar breakfast sessions with more of the companies and women who attended Women's Professional Day on March 8th.

Tour of ESPN 30 for 30 Documentary Division

On March 24th, SJHS Business students were able to visit the ESPN 30 for 30 Documentary Division, through a job shadow tour arranged by Junior Achievement. This was the second job shadow the Business students attended; the first was to BNY Mellon in December. During our tour, two production assistants shared their career paths with the students. Then we watched "This is the XFL", which both women worked on. After the screening, the students were invited to ask questions regarding the film and/or careers at Disney/ESPN.

Following their questions, the students were invited to take pictures and then lunch was served. During lunch, students received flyers regarding the "Get Reel With Your Dreams" foundation and were encouraged to apply for their Public Service Announcement scholarships, which award a total of \$25,000 in scholarship money for 30 second PSAs on a relevant social issue.





The Moth StorySLAM

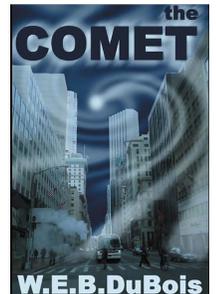
The All-City StorySLAM is an educational initiative of The Moth, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling. At the StorySLAM, students from schools across the city meet for weekend workshops for 6-8 weeks to learn and practice storytelling techniques. The workshop culminates in a performance at the famous Nuyorican Poets Cafe on the Lower East Side.

Nine freshmen and sophomores from SJHS were invited to attend one of the performances by spring workshop participants on March 25--and they loved it! A few students hope to apply for a spot in a fall workshop. Junior Alemtsehay Getahun was chosen to participate last year and said it was one of the best experiences of her life. The Moth has programs in over 25 cities around the world, The Moth Radio Hour is heard on over 400 radio stations worldwide and its podcast is downloaded over 30 million times a year.



Keisha Dutes from TK in The AM visits Pop Culture Class

Students in Ms. Turman's Senior Pop Culture class have been learning about the history of radio. During March they listened to an abridged version of Orson Welles famous "War of the Worlds" radio drama, an adaptation of the 1898 H.G. Wells novel of the same name. They then discussed the current state of radio and listened to Keisha Dutes' audio play of "The Comet" which is an adaptation of the short story by W.E.B. Du Bois that was recorded in front of a live studio audience.



Ms. Turman had participated in the recording and thought it would be great for the students to meet someone who owns their own radio station, while making links between the past, present and future of radio history, so she invited Ms. Dutes (also known as Tasty Keish from her show TK in The AM) to speak to the class. Students enjoyed hearing from someone who has extensive first hand experience in the world of radio producing and broadcasting!

Alumnae Luncheon for St. Joseph's Day!

Every year, St. Joseph High School looks forward to welcoming our beloved alumnae back through our doors for a liturgy at St. Boniface Church, followed by a luncheon on the Feast of St. Joseph. On March 18th, SJHS was thrilled to have nearly one hundred graduates of different decades and generations come together to prove that sisterly bonds forged here transcend space and time! We were grateful to celebrate reunions for the Classes of 1967, 1977, and 1987! Therese Sullivan Monaghan, class of '47, addressed the women in attendance. Because of the generosity and strength of our alumnae community, we were able to secure sponsors from our graduates, which helped us to raise a record-setting \$25,000!



1967



1987



1977



SJHS Step Team: CHSAA Champs!

The SJHS Step team competed in the Catholic High Schools Athletic Association (CHSAA) tournament at Queens College and won 1st place! Winning the CHSAA Championships this year is especially exciting because 2017 is the 10 year anniversary of the inception of the SJHS Step Team. Stepping is a sport that uses the body as a percussive instrument, creating complex beats through movements including stomping, clapping and shouting. Stepping is rooted in movement and rhythm traditions from African and Afro-Caribbean traditions. What makes the Lady Cougars so special is that their stepping is rooted in Jesus Christ, the Lord and Savior of their team and lives. They step with authority and precision, always seeking to spread a message of hope and God's love. This years themed message was: Shake off Guilt and Shame, God's love is bigger than any mistake- Repent and Believe! .



JV and Varsity Basketball win 1st place

in the Brooklyn/ Queens SJHS Championships! A major accomplishment, since this is the first year SJHS has fielded a varsity team!



Softball team wins first game of the year against Bishop Kearney!

FabLab Ribbon Cutting with Black Girls Code!

On Thursday March 30th, donors, SJHS partners and supporters came to our School FabLab's official opening ceremony. Tiana Kara from Black Girls Code cut the ribbon, and Ms. Latham gave a presentation on the value of introducing students to the kinds of tools the FabLab offers. The FabLab is St. Joseph High School's very own makerspace, a collaborative learning space for making, learning, exploring and sharing using a combination of high tech and low tech tools. Makerspaces are places for imagination to come alive and take shape in exciting and innovative creations. They are also instrumental in providing critical 21st century skills in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and math. In our FabLab, students will be introduced to 3D printing, laser cutting, computer-aided design and manufacturing machines, wood cutting and sewing. SJHS will also be hosting our first annual Makerspace Camp this summer from July 10th to 14th. If you or someone you know is interested in putting their energy and ideas into action by creating something new, get in touch with Millie Tirado by emailing mtirado@sjhsbridge.org and putting "Summer Makerspace Camp" in the subject line.



Tiana Kara of Black Girls Code cut the Ribbon of the brand new SJHS Fab Lab!

Read additional coverage of the FabLab and STEAM initiatives at SJHS in The Tablet [here!](#)



On Thursday March 23rd 2017 the Accounting and Selected Topics in Mathematics classes visited the American Museum of Finance. The museum is small, well organized and well prepared for groups. The students impressed the tour guide with their knowledge of US History when they were able to name all the participants involved in the development of the then banking system. They were also able to answer the many questions he put to the group regarding the difference between the Bull vs. Bear market; where the US currency gets its value from; inflation; etc.



By far the areas that interested students the most were the Hamilton Room, the Currency Room and the Debt-Clock. In the Hamilton room they learned of the Caribbean born (on the island of Nevis) Alexander Hamilton (of the current Broadway hit) and how he, with others spearheaded the creation of the US financial system. In the Currency Room they saw how the US currency changed through the ages. Of particular interest were the intricacies of security features. The Debt-Clock brought home to them our country's level of indebtedness to other nations in particular Japan and made them ponder how that debt would be repaid in their lifetime.

Check out great photos of exciting moments like these at SJHS on Instagram by following @sjhs_brooklyn as well as @sjhsathletics and @sjhsbkenglish!

Instagram

