



Irish Times



Issue 6 Volume 4

February 28, 2017

The History of Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration observed in February. This month honors the achievements made by African Americans. The event grew out of “Negro History Week”, firstly created by Carter G. Woodson. This is a time where we reflect on the contributions of those before us. Even though they are gone, we still continue to thank them and let them know that their good deeds will forever live on through us.

-Ashley Clark



Taste of St. Joe

This year’s taste of St. Joe was full of good music, yummy food, and followed by fun games at winter fest! After everyone purchased their tickets, they walked in to find the cafeteria full of goodies. The drama club had a taco and guacamole bar. The newspaper and yearbook staff provided pizza. The environmental science club made their famous rotel. The chess club made chili. Mu alpha theta provided lots of sodas. To top off all the dishes, the cheer team brought tons of desserts ranging from cupcakes to Oreo balls. Everyone was able to mix and match combinations from each table to make the ultimate lunch, sit and visit with friends, listen to music, and make lots of memories!

After everyone eats, you can change into some comfortable clothing and go play games in the gym. The first game played was the hugging balloon pop and the junior class won that. The second game was the spoon game, sophomore won. Third, was the rolling and rolling which the seniors won. Fourth was furniture game, Sarah Tonos and Carsen Mansour won. Every grade played volleyball and whoever won the whole entire game played the teachers. It was teachers vs. seniors. The seniors won!! The taste of St. Joe is always fun while getting to learn how to work together in order to win makes it more fun!!

By: Mary Helen Duncan & Liz Huston



SAINT JOE VALENTINES DAY!

On February 14, 2018, St. Joe had a great time on this special day full of love! Friends and lovers sent each other candy grams and lollipops! There were many surprises at school as well! People brought each other cute gifts such as heart shaped balloons and chocolates. It was so wonderful! Valentine's Day is personally one of my favorite days of the year because everyone is so happy all day long!! Kiya Thomas and Vince Taylor were my favorite couple in the school! He brought her an adorable gift and she was so surprised! I hope everyone had a great love day! I know Saint Joe did for sure!

-Gracie McGaugh



Quiz Bowl

The quiz bowl was held in Jackson, Mississippi with a total of 32 teams competing. The sponsor of the quiz bowl team was Coach Mcgaugh. The students that competed were; Michael Mansor (the captain), Sarah Hayek, J.R. Duncan, Chris Adams, Cecilia Azar, Brittian Vridan, and Meera Patel. There is a total of 20 toss up questions asked. The first team that they played was Heritage Academy. St Joe beat them 100 to 40. The second team they played was Kirk Academy. Kirk beat them, but St Joe advanced to the next round because of the score. The first team that they played was River Oaks. After question 19 St Joe and Riveroaks was tied 70 to 70. The 20th question asked was a Math question, this question was answered by, the captain, Michael Mansor. They won this round 80 to 70, which cause them to advance to the elite 8. This round they play PCS and they lost.

-Aja Hudson





Teacher of the
Month:
Coach McGaugh

What inspires you to come to work everyday?

My love of St. Joe. The faculty, students, staff, and every member of the St. Joseph community. I feel an obligation to serve, and to teach to the best of my abilities because I want our students to be successful, and I want our families to be proud that they support this school.

What made you want to become an educator?

My mother. She has dedicated her life to this school in ways that I could not ever replicate. If you asked any alumnus from the past 57 years about their experience at St. Joe, almost all of them would have some positive experience that they remember with her. She found her place in the world, and after all these years is still making the best of it. I think that is something that we would all hope for in life.

What does it mean to work in a faith based school?

It means that I can be a small part of fulfilling the mission of Christ, which is to spread his message of love, mercy, and service to others. Hopefully, my students will learn something, and become better people because of that.

What is one of your hidden talents?

I'm very good at being better than John Baker at everything.

What was your dream job before teaching?

I was originally a criminal justice major. My plan was to go into law enforcement. But, thankfully I decided to go in a different direction. I wouldn't like working nights.

What makes a good day at school?

As a history teacher, there are certain eras that are more interesting to me than others. But, anytime I can tell that the students are interested in what is being discussed in class, and they ask a lot of questions, that's a good day. I guess, having good class discussions where the kids are learning from what we are talking about, and not just robotically writing down notes makes class more fun.

How do you connect with students and staff?

I think we have a great staff, and we do many things outside of school together. Several of us are involved in a fantasy football league that gets very competitive. We are friends. I think that a lot of places of employment have people that work together, and that is all. People on our staff actually hang out outside of work. With students, I try to be friendly when I can. Sometimes that is easier than others. I just feel that if I treat students with respect, then they will respect me too. I do like to joke around with students often. Especially if they are the middle Benavides child. But, it's all in fun.

What is the difference between "good" and "outstanding?"

7 letters

Name three words to describe you.

Fair, funny, and fat. (See what I did there? That's alliteration.)

What's the most important thing you learned from this job?

PATIENCE. Teenagers are not usually the most logical individuals on the planet. If you're not patient with them they will drive you crazy. My first year as a teacher I had this student named James Hunter, I pretty much learned how to put up with annoying 13 year olds thanks to him. I wonder whatever happened to that guy?

By: Jada Gear

Winterfest

It's the time of the year where we celebrate our 9-12th boys on the Winterfest Court. We celebrated this week by dressing up in goofy costumes and playing games with our classes competing against others. This goofy week started off with Super Hero Day. We dressed up as superheroes and we flew our way to class and showed off our educational powers. Tuesday was Safari day, where all the students dressed as tourists and took a tour through the school. We were in search for our 2018 Winterfest king. On Wednesday we had mass day and the search for our Winterfest king was over.

9th grade-Elvis Scott & Miguel Benavides



10th grade-
Devin McCray and Cliff Courtney



11th grade-
Edward Rice and Brett Hanas



12th grade-
Brice Johnson, Dylan Perry, and Chris Adams



Chris Adams was crowned Winterfest king.



Thursday was crazy/tacky day and it was definitely one crazy day. The last day of Winterfest was a day full of tasty food and games. Before we could enjoy our games we supported our clubs with the Taste of St.Joe. My favorite part of Winterfest was when we played games against other classes because it was my last Winterfest and it was a form of class bonding. Winterfest was great!

-Anya Kellum

Hamlet

For catholic schools week on Wednesday, the English Department and Drama Club went to Delta State to watch the play Hamlet by Shakespeare. This play was very enticing. The dramatization of Hamlet was portrayed on point by the actors. The ending of the play was spectacular because there was a lot of fighting and everyone died. After the play we all went to Lenny's Sub, and ate sandwiches.



SJS CHEER CLINIC AND TRY-OUT

During the week of February 12-17, we had a cheer clinic for the girls who wanted to try out. Usually if you have done cheer since you're a freshman, then you don't have to try out your senior year. An example is the upcoming captain Kiya Thomas. Day 1 we learned the cheer and the chant. The next day we learned the whole dance.

Day 3 there was an overall review of the cheer, chant, and dance. Thursday we got a couple of possible stunt groups for the upcoming season. Day 5 we had a mock try-out. A mock try-out is when you go over everything like it is the real day of tryouts. On Saturday everyone was nervous about trying out. The results were posted at 1:30.

The 2018-19 SJS Irish cheerleaders are.....

1. Kiya Thomas
2. Ashanti Brown
3. Kamiya Clark
4. Kelsey England
5. Skylar Harden
6. Cha'Koreia Holmes
7. Gracie McGaugh
8. Caroline Meyer
9. Catherine Meyer
10. Alexis Richardson
11. Jasmine Ross
12. Jalyn Thomas
13. Ann Hunter Thompson
14. Skyler Triplett
15. Annalise Vaughn



Who needs a tiara
when you have a bow?



Parent of the Month

Missi Blackstock



Missi Blackstock has been selected as “Parent of the Month” for the month of February. Ms. Blackstock is the Parent of Emily, Ethan, and Allision Blackstock who have all attended St. Joe. She has been teaching for a total of 25 years. Twenty-two of those total twenty-five years has been at St. Joe. She attended St. Joseph Catholic School in 1988 and Delta State University in 1992. In high school she participated in basketball, softball, and was also apart of the journalism club. She was inspired to teach by her chemistry at MS Delta. Missi Blackstock states “It can sometimes be difficult being a teacher and a parent because she expects more from her children than others students.” The thing Ms. Blackstock would like to accomplish in the future is being a great grandparent. She states “her love for her kids inspire her because they love each other, and even in the toughest times they cling to each other.”

Her daughter Emily Blackstock would like to share how she admires her mother.

How does your mom make you feel?

“My mom makes me feel warm and fuzzy in the inside.”

What do you love about your mom?

“I love how determined she is and how God loving she is.

She is one of the strongest people I’ve ever known.”

How has your mom inspired you?

“She has inspired me in many ways but especially by taking up a bigger role in providing so much for me and my siblings.”

Favorite thing to do with your mom?

“Watch *This is Us* on Tuesdays, *Riverdale* on Wednesdays, and *Grey’s Anatomy* on Thursdays.”

Article by Kiya Thomas & Diamond Winners

Basketball Season has Come to an End

The boys and girls basketball teams both had a wonderful year and sadly it has come to an end. So many records were made at St. Joe this year. At the beginning of February, the district tournament started. The boys won district with a clean sweep and the girls came in 3rd place, winning two games and only losing one. After district tournaments both the boys and girls team made it to North State. This was the first time for our girls to advance that far. We couldn't be more proud. The boys lost in the North State Championship game to Marshall but still made it to State Tournament. They went and handled business in the first game, winning by 30 points. In the second round of the tournament, they lost by two points in second overtime to Brookhaven. This loss prevented the boys from proceeding to the State Championship game. The boys did, however, win their 3rd place game and made it to Overall Tournament. The following week in the Overall Tournament the boys lost by 21 points to MRA. Both the boys and the girls advanced further than any other year in the school's history. We couldn't be more proud of our basketball teams and their coaches!!

-JoJo Sanders



Work Hard... Play Hard...

