

# This Week at ST JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

## *Privilege & Responsibility* October 1 - 6



Pictured left are Zak Psaras, Chloe Dudzinski, Matt Immerso, Dylan Spagnuolo, Logan Horbal, and Janina Kotulich. Not pictured: Emily Rouser.

### Spooktacular Donations.

The second annual St Joseph Halloween Costume Collection will be from October 10th to October 12th. Please consider donating a new or gently used costume by bringing it to room 315 and placing it in the collection box. All costumes will be given to the children at Neighborworks New Horizons in New Haven, who are very excited and grateful to be given the opportunity to wear a costume on Halloween. For questions, please contact **Will Gallagher '15**, at will\_gallagher142@yahoo.com

**Éirinn go brách.** Education in Ireland is hosting an **Irish Universities Open House in Fairfield, on Sunday October 14th, from 2-4pm at the Fairfield Public Library.** Don't miss this chance to meet Admissions representatives from the Irish Universities. There will be an information session, followed by a mini fair. Meet Admissions Representatives & Alumni from: **Trinity College Dublin; Dublin City University; National University of Ireland, Galway; National University of Ireland, Maynooth; University College Cork; University College Dublin and University of Limerick.**

**Counselors Corner.** --Ms. Kristina Vaios MA, NCC School Counselor On Oct 17, Sophomores & Juniors will take the PSAT/NMSQT. The PSAT/NMSQT stands for the Practice Standardized Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Booklets have been provided to students with practice questions as well as information regarding the PSAT. The PSAT/NMSQT includes five sections: two 25-minute critical reading sections, two 25-minute math sections, and one 30-minute writing skills section. The PSAT/NMSQT requires 2 hours and 10 minutes to be completed. For sophomores, this is an opportunity to see what it is like taking the PSAT/NMSQT. For juniors, this will be an opportunity to hone their skills for the SAT, with six more months to prepare for the spring exams. The PSAT/NMSQT is incredibly important for juniors because this is when our students are given the opportunity to qualify for the **National Merit Scholarship.** So, make sure you remind your child on Wednesday, October 17 to bring **extra number 2 pencils and an approved calculator for the PSAT!**

**Did you know...** Approximately 3.5 million students take the PSAT/NMSQT every year.

On average, students who take the PSAT/NMSQT score 145 points higher on the SAT than those who do not. The PSAT/NMSQT and SAT measure the same skills and have the same format, directions and question types.

**Academic Avengers top the charts.** Matt, wearing the cape, is not the only one who can fly circles around the test makers. Joining the hall of academic super heroes are **Chloe Dudzinski, Matt Immerso, Dylan Spagnuolo, Logan Horbal.** All were named **Advanced Placement Scholars** for their high scores on multiple AP tests. Seniors **Zak Psaras, Matt Immerso, Dylan Spagnuolo, and Emily Rauser** flew ever higher--scoring among the top 5% in the nation--qualifying as **National Merit Scholarship Commended Students.** And rounding out the SJ hero's profile is Senior **Janina Kotulich**, who earned recognition as a **National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar. Excelsior!**



**Getting to know you.** Students in the Class of 2016 have spent the past month getting to know one another: Freshman Dance, Pep Rally, and this past weekend they enjoyed their first Class trip together. They also recently completed their first workshop with Freshman Transition Coordinator, **Mrs Sorrentino**, in learning how to organize and deliver an effective speech. Each student presented a five-minute introduction speech to classmates: three things that describe or represent that individual. Pictured is **Wendy Yu**, sharing an anecdote about her homeland, family and culture in China. Included in Wendy's items was a watch--to remind her to make the most of her time in America and at St Joe's. Good advice for all.



Ahead in  
**OCTOBER**

- 8 Columbus Day, no classes
- 9 Teachers' Institute, no classes
- 15 Junior/Senior Retreat
- 17 PSATs, ACRE, and
- Guidance workshop for seniors
- 21 OPEN HOUSE

### From My Window--

**Bill Fitzgerald, PhD**



### Throw Open the Windows

Fairfield University has launched a series of lectures celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council--may it be for a blessing. Perhaps it is just election year hysteria but the world seems increasingly wracked with violence, discord; hateful, polarizing bloggers and tweeters; war and threats of war. The Church is often beset by the stress of economic and moral scandal, by lay apostasy, by isolating clericalism, by political attacks, as well as secularism and materialism. This Year of Faith is a hopeful moment to stop and re-catch the Spirit that inspired Pope John XXIII and his efforts to reconcile the Church with the modern world. In his words, "We must disagree with those prophets of gloom, who are always forecasting disaster, as though the end of the world were at hand."

As we seek to promote global perspectives and ethnic diversity in the Catholic college preparatory program at St Joe's, I realized the Second Vatican Council, in promoting ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue, was here long before any of us. We are the world and we are called to reconcile the world with the values and virtues of a life of faith. There have been huge gains, several reverses, but the direction is irreversible: We are for the world.

**"Consult not your fears, but your hopes and your dreams." PJXXIII**



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## Quick Clicks

### Parents Association Membership



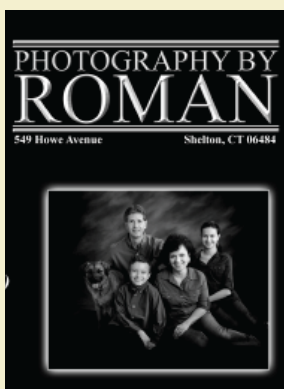
*Click through on the mug above for membership!*



### Family Fest

Join the SJ Family on October 28 for a Family Fest from 1-5p for music, dancing and entertainment. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under (4 and under are free). For more information, click on the logo below!

**Family Fest**



# Parents Corner: Upcoming Events at SJHS

*Your weekly dose of events on tap for St Joseph High School*

[www.sjcadets.org/SJPA](http://www.sjcadets.org/SJPA)

### Over 255 families and counting...but we need 100% participation!

Have you joined the Parent Association yet? The new membership campaign is underway, offering a SJHS Mug with your paid membership! If you've already joined at the \$15 level, you can upgrade your membership by \$5 to receive your mug. If you're not yet a member--don't delay! Use the quick click to the left to sign up today. More information about the IMPORTANT role that the PA plays in your student's life can be found on the SJ website, too. Please help us get to 100% participation this year!

**We are 50!** Homecoming Shirts are now in! Available in maroon and white, long and short sleeve, you'll get free admission to ALL home football games! Buy yours in the bookstore: \$14 for short sleeve, \$20 for long sleeve.

**Walk-A-Thon** With collection day two behind us now, we're moving into high gear for Walk-A-Thon. Don't forget, every Friday will feature great prizes, as well as entry into the grand draw on the day of Walk-A-Thon, the **24th of October**. Students are reminded to bring in their pledge sheets each Friday and any gift cards that can be donated as prizes.

In addition to our walkers, **volunteers** are still needed for Walk-A-Thon! For donation and business sponsorship forms as well, check our website:

[www.sjcadets.org/walk-a-thon](http://www.sjcadets.org/walk-a-thon)

**Shopping = Free Money for SJHS!** There is free money to be claimed by St Joe's simply for signing up at your favorite grocery shops. **Stop and Shops A+ school rewards program** just by registering your card number and earn money for our school on every shopping trip. Surrounding schools have earned up to \$4,000. Click through on **A+ School Rewards**

At Big Y join the **Education Express with your Big Y card** number. Click through on **Education Express**

**Target has Take Charge of Education.** Target donates a percentage of your charge card purchase and give them to your school of choice. Click through on:

**Take Charge of Education**

**Roman Photography Fundraiser** We have an exciting new fundraiser this year! Roman Photography, our school class photographer, will take your family's photo and give you and 8x10 photo for just \$29--and all proceeds go to St Joe's! You can, of course, always purchase more. This is a great way for the SJPA to increase its revenue, and for your family to have a lovely family portrait in time for Christmas. More information can be found on the quick link to the left, or on the Parent Association tab on Edline.

**Have some pie!** The Holiday Pie Fundraiser is returning for another great year! You can order your holiday pies by downloading an order form, or you can order gift certificates...Forms will be available soon--watch this space!

**College Visits next week:** Not sure when the schools are coming for a visit? Check it out on **Naviance Family Connection!** Seniors can sign up through Naviance Family Connection to attend these meetings and can come to the Office for College Counseling and Guidance to receive a pass.

