



THE BEAGLE

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Saint Joseph School

Thanksgiving Food Drive

This year the 6th grade participated in the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive as our service project. The drive was held from November 12 through November 15. The 6th graders were responsible for making a flyer to distribute to the SJS students detailing which food would be collected, and also for reminding families to bring in their food for the needy. Each grade had a specific food to collect and everyone did their part in donating a large amount of food.

The food items included: canned green beans; stuffing; potatoes; cranberry sauce; pasta and sauce; nuts/raisins/candy; pudding and pie crust; and beverages.

Once all the food was collected, a group of 6th grade volunteers brought all the food to the Parish Center, where it was organized and sorted. After that, my mom, Mary Doheny, collected all the food and brought it to St. Peters Church in Yonkers where it could be distributed to the needy.

During the holiday season, the Thanksgiving Food Drive reminds us that it is important to remember those less fortunate than ourselves and to help those in need.

Owen Doheny '22



Advent Wreath Event

Advent comes from the Latin word "coming." It is the season where we prepare for the coming of Jesus.

The Advent wreath's round shape symbolizes a crown. There are four candles on the wreath. Three candles are purple and one is pink. On the first two Sundays of Advent we light two purple candles. Then, on the third Sunday of Advent we light the pink candle, and finally on the last Sunday of Advent, we light the last purple candle.

On Sunday, December 1, 2019, the first day of Advent, the Mothers' Club held an event where the families of SJS could make their own Advent wreath. We made these with fresh greens, holly berries and the four candles. The entire event was very hands-on because each family had to cut their greens, place them where they would like, and work together. We had refreshments and a coloring table for the little kids.

During the event, Fr. Peter came to give a blessing. Mrs. Sanchez also stopped by to say hello. It also started to snow which was a nice touch!

This event is one that many families enjoy. It's a great way to start the Christmas season.

Luca Rivera '23



The Thanksgiving Play

Every year, the Kindergarten and 4th grade book buddies put on a show about the first Thanksgiving. This year the play took place on November 20 in the Parish Center. The Kindergarten and 4th grade staged the first Thanksgiving with the 4th grade narrating the events and the Kindergarteners acting them out. They practiced hard for two weeks and the play was a wonderful production. Congratulations to the 4th grade and Kindergarten for a wonderful play. We also thank Mrs. Cassarella, Mrs. Rotante, and Mrs. Gilbride for making the production happen. We interviewed Meghan McDonagh (4th grade), Jackson Smith (4th grade), Serena Caprio (K) and Gianni Ibelli (K) for a behind-the-scenes look at what it was like to be a part of the performance.

Q: What was your favorite part of the play?

Gianni: "Being a soldier."

Q: What was your favorite song?

Jackson: "Give Thanks to the Lord."

Q: Did you like your part?

Serena: "Yes, because I got to hold up the jail sign."

Q: What was your favorite song?

Meghan: "Tommy the Turkey."

We can't wait to see what next year's production of "The First Thanksgiving" will be like!

Mary Allen, Ella Caprio, Caitlyn McDonagh and Betsy Molloy '23

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Aladdin Review

On November 24th, the 5th grade went on a class trip to see Aladdin on Broadway. It is a tradition for the 5th graders to go to a Broadway play in the fall with Mrs. Marricco, and each student brings a parent. For example, last year, the fifth grade went to see King Kong, and this year Aladdin was chosen.

Before the play, all the students met in the school cafeteria for a delicious Italian dinner from Il Bacio restaurant. Then we all boarded the bus for Manhattan. The bus ride was a lot of fun because we made it just in time for the start of the show. The Aladdin play was like no other! The show had fireworks and extraordinary dancers and singing. Our favorite part of the performance was when the genie did his song and dance. At the end, there was a gift shop with various accessories for purchase, which even included a magic lamp just like the one the genie came out of! We had a great time seeing Aladdin on Broadway, and we think it would be a great family show to go to over the Christmas break!

Timmy McQuade and Connor Van De Loo '23



The Biggest Christmas Tree in the World

It is the Christmas season and the perfect time to share a Christmas-themed fact. The biggest Christmas tree in the world is in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. It is an artificial tree. The Christmas tree rises 237 feet over the city. The tree was first put up in December 2016, and initially got much criticism from religious institutions. The Catholic Church in Sri Lanka called it a waste of money. The tree cost \$72,000, or 11 million rupees to build. Even though Christmas is a Christian holiday, the tree was funded by a group of Buddhists and Muslims. The tree was created to show peace between all religions and still stands today.

Ryan Merhi '21

Most Popular Christmas Movies

We all love watching a good Christmas movie, but which one is the most popular? I interviewed some members of the Beagle staff (including myself) on their favorite Christmas movie. The choices were Elf, Home Alone, A Christmas Story, Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas, The Polar Express, and Frosty the Snowman. These are the top 6 choices in order from most to least popular.

Elf-17 votes. This was by far the most popular movie. Due to its mix of comedy and action, this movie appeals to people of all ages.

Home Alone-5 votes. This movie is hilarious, clever, and action-packed. Although it was not as popular as Elf, it is still a Christmas classic.

A Christmas Story-3 votes. This is my personal favorite movie. It tells the holiday experiences of a boy from his perspective.

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas-3 votes. This movie is both clever and, in the end, kind. It introduces us to a holiday-hating creature who comes to love Christmas.

The Polar Express-2 votes. This movie is both creative and exciting. It is about a boy who goes on a magic train ride to the North Pole on Christmas Eve and meets Santa.

Frosty the Snowman-1 vote. This movie is creative and jolly. It tells the story of a snowman who comes to life.

Which is your favorite Christmas classic to watch with your family during the holiday season?

Thomas Giordano '22

Holiday Meal Traditions

The holidays are a time for giving and receiving, as well as spending time with family and friends. Many people have similar traditions, but others do truly unique things in their celebration of the holidays. I have asked the members of the SJS Newspaper Club about their Christmas meal traditions and here are some of the interesting ways that our fellow students break bread with family and friends.

Many students of Italian heritage eat seven different fish on Christmas Eve. Other families eat prime rib with mashed potatoes and corn. Some eat buffalo wings, turkey with mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce, and ham with potatoes and gravy. Palacinke is eaten by some students and is an Albanian crepe with anything you want inside. Some eat pastas like spaghetti and fusilli with tomato sauce with salad as an appetizer. Thai food and chicken tenders are also some unique Christmas meals.

As you can tell, most of the Christmas meals stem from traditions and cultures from all over the world, however, they are completely customizable and can include each family's own ideas and new traditions as well.

Aurora Cierro '22



Turkey Bowl 2019

On November 22, at the SJS Annual Turkey Bowl, which occurs every year on the Friday before Thanksgiving, the 3-8 grade basketball teams ran into the gym to the cheers of friends, family and fellow basketball players. This event kicks off the CYO basketball season, and is a popular activity attended by students every year. The K-2 grade players, who are in the Pee-Wee program, got to wear jerseys of their favorite basketball players, and the older kids got to show off their uniforms. This event is very fun for all the players, and gets them ready for the CYO season. Everyone was served Gino's pizza and soda after the team members were introduced. Then, after everyone was full, the 8th grade boys played their dads and the 8th grade girls played their moms in basketball for fun. This year's was one of the most exciting Turkey Bowls for all the kids that belong to the St. Joseph Parish.

Daniel McQuade and Joseph Troiano '22

Social Media: A Blessing or A Curse?

Social media apps are a part of every teen's daily life. As of 2018, about 70% of teens (ages 13 to 17) use them multiple times a day. Teens spend an average of 7 hours and 22 minutes on their phones, while tweens (ages 8 to 12) spend 4 hours and 44 minutes on their devices. Social media can become very addicting to teens. There is also another problem- cyber bullying. Social media can be hurtful and addicting, but at the same time, social media is an awesome way to connect with people. We wanted to know which social media apps were used the most by our fellow students. The choices were Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, and Tik Tok. We interviewed 23 SJS students and here are the results: The most popular app used is Tik Tok, which received 15 votes. In second place is Instagram with 4 votes. Tied for third place is Snapchat and Facebook with 3 votes. In last place with only 1 vote is Twitter.

Whether you love it or hate it, social media is an important part of preteens' and teens' lives today.

Gabriella Ibelli, Marilyn Samuelian and Kara Spillane '21

Holiday Gift Ideas

The holiday season is approaching quickly. Sometimes it's hard to find the perfect gift for friends or family. Here are some creative ideas for gifts that kids will love this holiday season:

Girls ages 5-6: Barbie dolls, Legos, cute plastic jewelry, coloring books and markers or crayons, and stuffed animals.

Boys ages 5-6: Legos, dinosaur games, sporting goods (jerseys, footballs, etc.), puzzles, toy cars/trucks, and walkie-talkies.

Girls ages 7-10: LOL Surprise dolls, art cases, books, slime kits, board games, cards, and painting/arts and crafts kits.

Boys ages 7-10: Drones, remote control cars, sporting goods, card games, Nerf guns, books, video games, and headphones.

Girls ages 11+: Bath bombs, gift cards, LED lights, Air Pods, clothes, concert tickets, and shoes.

Boys 11+: Xbox/Ps4, skateboard, gaming headphones, electronics, sporting goods, sneakers, and bikes.

We hope these ideas help you to think about the perfect gift for the kids in your life!

Ryan Spillane and Julieta Zonea '22

Ugly Christmas Sweaters-A New Holiday Tradition

An ugly Christmas sweater is any holiday-themed sweater that you wear to be festive, but the goal is also for it to look the ugliest. This year, on December 22, I am attending my first "Ugly Sweater" party with my family. We are going to my mom's cousin's house where there will be food, gifts and best of all, an ugly sweater contest! Last year, my cousin Thomas won the ugly sweater contest but we weren't able to make the party, so we didn't compete. This year, my family and I are sure to win! Some of the decorations that can be found on ugly Christmas sweaters include: snow, candy canes, elves, presents, cartoon characters and sometimes Santa Claus! Some even light up! Ugly Christmas sweaters originated in the 1980's for fashion, but then people stopped wearing them. Now, they have recently made a comeback, but are worn as a gag. Ugly Christmas sweaters are super fun, and I think they will be a huge hit this year!

Daniel McQuade '22

Preteen Boys Favorite Christmas Gifts

We can all agree that preteen boys mostly like the same presents. Some of these are: clothes, sports jerseys, sports balls, hats, basketball hoops, and video games and consoles.

I collected votes of all the pre-teen boys on our newspaper staff to see which gift they would most like to get this Christmas. There was a very surprising result, as 11 people voted for games and consoles. I was surprised that games and consoles won, because I thought most people would choose sports jerseys, since that would be my choice. If I surveyed a different age group, the answers would most likely change. I think if I surveyed teenage boys, sports jerseys would win because sports are more popular than games and consoles in older ages.

Joseph Troiano '22



Adam's Fun Facts: Holiday Edition



Other Oreos

Over the past years there have been many knock-offs of Oreo cookies, mainly because of Oreo's fame and glory. Some of these copy-cat cookies are Trader Joe's Joe-Joe's, and Newman-O's. An unknown fact, however, is that Oreos themselves are knock-offs. Sadly the truth is that our beloved Oreo cookie is a rip-off of a cookie named Hydrox that was first manufactured by Leaf Brands in 1908. The Nabisco Oreo did not make its debut until four years later in 1912. Hydrox cookies were discontinued in 1915 but made a comeback in 2015. No matter which sandwich cookie you prefer, they all hit the spot at snack time!

Adam Merhi '22

Shortest Man in the World

The shortest man that has ever walked the earth was Chandra Bahadur Dangi. He was born on November, 30, 1934 in Salyan, Nepal. He was only 1 foot 9 1/2 inches tall. It is unknown if there was a medical reason that he was so short. He died on September 3, 2015, in Pago Pago, American Samoa at the age of 81.

Adam Merhi and Paxton Reyes '22

Favorite Christmas Candy

There are so many different kinds of delicious candy available during the holiday season. Some of the candy is available all year but come in festive red and green colors at Christmas-time. Some are only around during the Christmas season. I polled some students from SJS and some of their favorite candies to find in their stockings on Christmas morning are: Candy Canes, Chocolate Santas, Hershey Kisses and Peppermint Patties.

Not surprisingly, candy canes were the top choice amongst our students. It has been a holiday tradition to eat candy canes for hundreds of years. The first candy cane was made in 1670, but it was straight and white, unlike the candy canes of today which are colorful and cane-shaped. People believe that a candy cane is shaped like a J because it represents the first letter in Jesus' name. The red and white represent the flesh and blood Jesus shed on the cross when He was crucified. The candy cane is a delicious candy, but it truly has a beautiful background story.

Scarlett Giannettino '23

Christmas Around the World

Throughout the world, people celebrate Christmas by observing different traditions. This article is about the many things that people in other countries do during the Christmas season.

Italy: "Babbo Natale," or "Father Christmas" brings presents to all the children on Christmas Eve. The main day for gift-giving in Italy, however, is the Epiphany. On the night before the Epiphany, "La Befana" searches people's houses for the newborn Christ and delivers presents to the children.

Ireland: Ireland's Christmas traditions are very similar to those of the United States, but it has some customs of its own, including putting up a tall, thick candle on the sill of the largest window after sunset on Christmas Eve. The Epiphany is known as "Nollaig na mBan," or "Women's Christmas." On the feast, the men do all the cooking and cleaning while the women meet with each other and have a day to themselves.

Germany: In Germany, many Advent calendars are created during the season of Advent. One popular type of calendar includes a wreath of a fir tree branch with 24 boxes of presents hanging from it. Christmas trees are also a big part of the Christmas celebration and were used in Germany during the Middle Ages. On Christmas Eve, Germans exchange presents with their family and sing traditional Christmas carols.

Spain: During the days before Nochebuena, or Christmas Eve, children sing carols to people around their neighborhood. On Nochebuena, people go to Midnight Mass or "La Misa Del Gallo" which means "The Mass of the Rooster." They have their Christmas meal before going to the Mass, which includes turkey stuffed with truffles and roasted young hen.

Christmas is celebrated in many different ways around the globe, but spending time with family and friends is one thing that remains constant everywhere.

Andrew Giordano '22

SJS Mystery Student

In this article, you are the detectives! It is your task to find the student on the loose. Here are the clues about the SJS Mystery Student:

This student has blonde hair, blue eyes, two siblings, a dog, plays basketball, and is in the upper grades.

Can you use the clues to figure it out? Email us at sjsbeagle@stjosephschool.net with your guess.

Brooke Lugano and Lizzie Scalzo '21

The Two Dollar Bill

Some of you might believe that the two dollar bill is rare or even valuable. Well, although you don't see them often, they are not rare at all! They are still in production today, and you can usually get them at your local bank. Even though they are not rare, they still have a pretty interesting history. The first two dollar bill was commissioned in March 1862, and it featured Alexander Hamilton, not Thomas Jefferson. It was later changed from Hamilton to Jefferson in 1869. After a while the government discontinued the printing of the two dollar bill, but production began again in 1976 in commemoration of the Bicentennial, which is the 200th anniversary of our nation. The two dollar is truly a unique bill!

Conor Cooper '21

Instagram Getting Rid of Likes?

Everyone knows about the popular social media app Instagram. You can post pictures, comment, and “like” photos. What would you do if Instagram got rid of likes? According to Business Insider, Instagram has already gotten rid of likes in seven different states. Instagram tweeted that the main reason they are removing “likes” is because they want people to focus more on the photos and not all the “likes”. This will remove the pressure of getting others’ approval and views. Are you for or against this choice? Email at sjsbeagle@stjosephschool.net.

Gabby Dileo, Colleen Flynn, Ryan Garipoli, and Kate von Hoene ‘20

Top 10 Current TV Shows

We all love television. Here are some of our favorite current TV shows ranked in order of our preference:

10. We Bare Bears
9. Larva
8. The Office
7. Amazing World of Gumball
6. SpongeBob Squarepants
5. The Garfield Show
4. Family Guy
3. The Mandalorian
2. Rick and Morty
1. The Simpsons

For our rankings, we decided to put “The Simpsons” at number one because it has been running since 1989 and is still great. It is very funny and entertaining. Bart Simpson is the main character. Bart and his dad Homer have a very funny relationship. In almost every episode, Homer somehow finds a way to get mad at Bart. This helps the show have plenty of humor.

Rick and Morty is number 2 on our list because it is also funny. This show started on December 2, 2013, by Justin Roiland and Dan Harmon. It’s still running to this day after four seasons.

The Mandalorian, our third favorite, is a fantastic new show that is part of the Star Wars series. Mandalorians are bounty hunters and fictional characters from the planet Mandalore. You can only watch this show on the new Disney+ streaming service. We do not recommend this show to younger viewers because of the violence.

Brian Flynn, Luca Rivera, Dylan Saladino and Ryan Smith ‘23

Heroes of Olympus: The Blood of Olympus Book Review

The Blood of Olympus is the last book of its series written by Rick Riordan, and I would recommend this book to people who like action or myths. In this book, the seven demigods in the warship Argo II are trying to stop Gaia, the primal Mother Earth goddess, and the Giants. Percy and his fellow demigods face many challenges while they try to get to Athens. Once there, the demigods fight the Giants, but Percy and Annabeth are wounded and the blood of Olympus rises Gaia. With Gaia risen, the demigods at Camp Half-Blood prepare for war with the Romans because they think the Greeks did something very bad. Demigod Leo Valdez, the designer of Argo II, sacrifices himself in a fiery explosion. This makes Gaia lose consciousness forever. I like the ending of the book because the gods and demigods fought the Giants and defeated Gaia. My favorite character is Percy because he is one of the most funny characters. Polybytes the Giant is my least favorite character because he almost killed Percy. The book is action-packed and I enjoyed it.

Andrei Zuk ‘23

Top Ten Favorite YouTubers

I asked 52 students to name their favorite YouTuber. The YouTubers that they chose from were: Lazarbeam, Jesser, Bucket Squad, Coop977, Mr. Beast, Dude Perfect, Jelly, SMI, Pewdiepie, and Morgz. The most voted YouTuber was Dude Perfect with 21 votes. They do trick shots. The second most popular YouTuber was Coop977, who is our own SJS seventh grader Conor Cooper, with 13 votes. He does short videos. The third most popular YouTuber was Lazarbeam with 5 votes. He is just funny. The fourth most popular YouTuber was Pewdiepie with 4 votes. Tied for fifth most popular was Jesser and Mr. Beast with 3 votes each, followed by SMI and Morgz, with 2 and 1 vote respectively. The least popular YouTubers were Jelly and Bucket Squad with 0 votes. Our favorites differ, but overall SJS students love YouTubers!

Sotir Zonea ‘21 4

The Mandalorian: A Review

WARNING: Spoilers in this article.

The Mandalorian is a hit new series from the Star Wars saga. Five episodes have come out so far, and they reveal more about this mysterious character. The series takes place five years after the events of Return of the Jedi. The story is set after the fall of the Empire and before the First Order. We follow a Mandalorian bounty hunter’s adventures in the New Republic. While the story is about the Mandalorian, the star of the first few episodes is the child known to everyone as Baby Yoda. He is the same species as the Jedi Master Yoda from episodes five and six, but he is not Yoda. We also learn during the story that Baby Yoda’s species ages very slowly. He is a toddler at age 50. The Mandalorian initially fulfilled a bounty on Baby Yoda, but he eventually became his traveling companion. We have followed the characters through five episodes so far, and I can’t wait to see the next three. You can watch the series on Disney Plus. The next three episodes are out soon, so check it out. It’s worth a watch.

Chase Duffell ‘22

Undertale - A Video Game Review

Undertale is a role-playing video game created by Toby Fox and what makes this game different is that you, the player, don’t have to kill everyone in order to win. The player controls a child named Frisk who has fallen into the Underground, a place below earth separated by a barrier. Frisk needs to escape from the Underground and return to his life, but he has to figure out how to do that. During the game, Frisk meets various monsters that try to attack him. He can choose one of the four actions during gameplay: Fight, Act, Item, and Mercy. Frisk can kill the monsters with the "Fight" option, spare the monsters with the "Act" option, heal or arm himself with a weapon with the "Item" option, and spare the monster or flee with the "Mercy" option. Depending on your choices, Frisk can follow two different paths of gameplay. The "True Pacifist" ending is a good ending in Undertale because Frisk and the monsters escape the Underground, having been changed for the better. The other ending called "Genocide" leaves all the game characters defeated or perished. What I like best about this game is the action and the drama. The storyline is based on the choices you make in the game when Frisk interacts with the other characters. Another cool thing about the game is its playlist! There are 101 songs and one of my favorites is Metal Crusher. Undertale is rated E10+ and can be played on PC and Nintendo Switch.

Evan Utano ‘23

College Football Play-off Predictions

This year’s college football playoffs will be very intense and close. Our prediction for the first semi-final game between the Number 1-ranked LSU Tigers and the Number 4-ranked Oklahoma Sooners is that we think LSU will win this game. The Quarterback Joe Burrow is having an amazing year and even won the Heisman Trophy. The Running Back Clyde Edwards-Helaire has about 1,230 rushing yards and is also having an excellent year. The Quarterback Jalen Hurts for Oklahoma is having a great year with about 3,330 passing yards and 32 passing touchdowns. The Running Back Kenedy Brooks has about 980 rushing yards. Jalen Hurts also leads the team in rushing yards. This will be a very close game. In the second semifinal game, Number 2-ranked Ohio State Buckeyes will be playing Number 3-ranked Clemson Tigers. We think Ohio State will win this game. The Quarterback for Ohio State, Justin Fields, has about 3,000 passing yards. The Running Back J. K. Dobbins has about 1,830 rushing yards. This has been a really good season for the Buckeyes. The Clemson Quarterback Trevor Lawrence has about 3,200 passing yards. The Running Back Travis Etienne has about 1,500 yards. We think Ohio State will win the College Football Championship this year. Tune in on January 13th on ESPN network to see if we are right!

Jack Cappelleri and Christian Portilla ‘23

College Basketball Round-Up

The college basketball season has just started and is underway for another crazy year. There have been a lot of upsets already. Stephen F. Austin University stunned the favorite, Duke University, with a game-winning lay-up at the buzzer. They won 87-85. Another great game was Evansville University versus University of Kentucky. This game ended at 67-64 with Evansville on top. Right now, the top team is the University of Louisville. Louisville won in 2013, but they were found guilty of violating NCAA regulations at that time. We hope the rest of this year is full of upsets and buzzer beaters, too!

J. J. Flynn and Kyle Terri ‘21