



Breaking Records at Cardboard City



By **Niademi Ogundana '24**

Staff Writer, Poet Laureate

At the Cardboard City Sleep Out Event, which took place on October 6, 2023, students slept on the gym floor in cardboard boxes to raise awareness for homelessness in New Jersey. The event usually happens outdoors, but rain was in the forecast. Although the event took place in the gym this year, it still glowed with the austere beauty it is known for. As soon as students arrived in the gym, they had to put together houses for the night, made of nothing but cardboard boxes and tape. It was truly an experience to see students using cardboard to create their homes for the night. Some of the constructions were relatively basic, while others were complex in their design, with features such as tunnels, doors, and even a sunroof! Some students also made a Colosseum for games, while others made little “cardboard communities” with their friends. By the end of the night, the gym was a sea of cardboard boxes and unforgettable memories.

Attendees were able to hear from some representatives of the New Jersey Covenant House, an organization dedicated to aiding homeless youth throughout our state. They learned about the resources that were available at Covenant House for people in need, such as financial counseling or mental health resources. They also learned that each year over 4 million people experience homelessness in the United States. The event also allowed students to reflect on how lucky they are to have a place to live and why fundraising events like this are so important.

The students spent the whole night with one another, creating new memories with teachers and friends. Many teachers stopped by through the night, including fan favorites such as Mr. Mercado, Mr. Harring, and Mr. Arva. The students didn't have any issue falling asleep in the boxes, since most were asleep by midnight. At the stroke of seven o'clock in the morning, Mrs. Coudriet, Mrs. Hutnick, and Mrs. Altobelli made sure that everyone packed up their cardboard and other belongings, ending an incredibly fun and unforgettable experience.

NHS INDUCTION HONORS SCHOLARS

By Santino Oliveti '26
Editor

On September 28, Saint Joseph High celebrated the inductions of many Juniors and Seniors into various Honor Societies. Over 50 seniors were inducted into the National Honor Society, a true honor symbolizing their hardwork and dedication towards exhibiting scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Inductions to the National Honor Society were not the only source of recognition towards these four core pillars, as many students were also inducted the into their World Languages Honor Societies (Spanish, German, and Latin), as well as the Science, History *Rho Kappa*, Technical, Thespian, Music and Art Honor Societies.

ART National Honor Society
Nick Campanella
Jake Drumm
Giancarlo Hailes Perilla
Lucas Rodriguez
Timothy Weber

German National Honor Society
Christian Concepcion
Devon Kiessling
Thomas Ogrodnik
Owen Smythe

Latin National Honor Society
Giovanni Oliveti
John Risley

Music Honor Society
Giancarlo Hailes
Perilla Tim Kou
Thomas Ogrodnik
Brandon Trivino

Science National Honor Society
Michael-Tristan Almonte
Kevin Antony
Adam Cannizzo
Christian Concepcion
Lucas Estela
Rohan John
Mihir Joseph
Andrew Kojima
Tim Kou
Zachary Kovacs
Alexander Kozak
Varun Krishnan
Yuande Liao
Bennett Magliochetti
Raymond McCraney
Nicholas Michelen
Thomas Ogrodnik
Oluwaniademi Ogundana
Devraj Patel
Terrence Quinn
John Risley
Aidan Sorge
Giuseppe Spagnuolo
Noah Stout
Brandon Trivino
Arthur Yuen



Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society
Elikem Amenuvor
Matthew Ferber
Andrew Hartong
James Hoebich II
Mihir Joseph
Marcus Justiniani
Ryan Muce
Devraj Patel
Ronan Pell
Gavin Rivera
Gurkeerat Singh
Ta-Ji Umukoro

Spanish National Honor Society
Michael-Tristan Almonte
Evan Chin
Stephen Horan
Andrew Kojima
Massimo Mansueto
Ronan Pell
Gavin Szilvasi
Brandon Trivino

National Technical Honor Society
Caeleb Chendorain
Aryan Jeena
Devon Kiessling
Zachary Kovacs
Alexander Kozak
Jason Magistre
Raymond McCraney
Thomas Ogrodnik
Oluwaniademi Ogundana
Asket Singh

International Thespian Society
Elikem Amenuvor
Giancarlo Hailes Perilla

National Honor Society
Brandon Adams
Michael-Tristan Almonte
Aidan Angeles
Kevin Antony
Andrew Azzinaro
Nazariy Bilichak
Colin Brockman
Adam Cannizzo
David Caruso
Caeleb Chendorain
Evan Chin
Christian Concepcion
Lucas Estela
John Paul Farrelly
Philip Frangie
Kyle Giuliano
Owen Griffin
Aryan Jeena
Devon Kiessling
Andrew Kojima
Zachary Kovacs
Alexander Kozak
William Kwiatkowski
Michael Lee
Jason Magistre
Georgi Manianchira
Raymond McCraney
Nicholas Michelen
Jason Nawrocki
Thomas Ogrodnik
Oluwaniademi Ogundana
Giovanni Oliveti
Shlok Patel
Adrian Perdomo
Tyler Quesnel
Terrence Quinn
John Risley
Nereo Rossi III
Andrew Sivulka
Avery Small
Owen Smythe
Aidan Sorge
Giuseppe Spagnuolo
Noah Stout
Gavin Szilvasi
Kaiden Thomas
Ryan Xavier



NEW ADDITIONS TO THE MATH DEPARTMENT

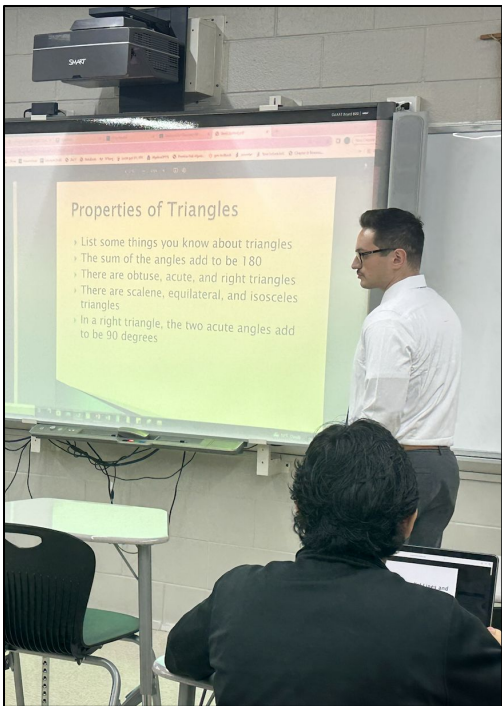
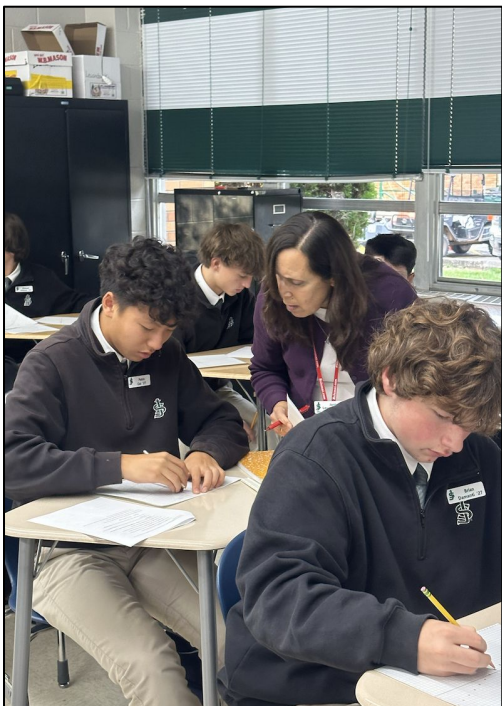
By Jacob Alexander '25
Contributing Writer

Saint Joe’s warmly welcomes Mr. David DiMasi and Mrs. Janis Lewandowski, both exceptional educators whose passion for mathematics has been a driving force throughout their academic journeys. Their love for mathematics began in their grammar school and high school years, reaching full bloom during their college experiences.

Because of their own education, both teachers recognize students' diverse learning styles, emphasizing class participation and integrating real-life scenarios into mathematical concepts. They seek to make math more accessible and engaging, ensuring that every student discovers personal relevance and meaning in their mathematical studies. Creating a positive and inclusive learning environment is important for the new teachers as they emphasize the values of respect and kindness as fundamental elements in achieving this goal.

By fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect, the teachers aim to create a space where students feel comfortable expressing themselves and embracing the challenges of learning. For students finding math challenging or intimidating, the teachers offer practical advice. Emphasizing the importance of asking questions, seeking extra help, and dedicating additional time to the subject, they encourage students to approach challenges with perseverance and a growth mindset.

Mr. DiMasi teaches Geometry, Algebra II, and Statistics & Probability, and Mrs. Lewandowski teaches Algebra I Honors and Geometry Honors. As the new math teachers embark on their journey at Saint Joe’s, their passion, commitment to innovation, and dedication to creating a positive and inclusive learning environment, promise an exciting and enriching experience for students.



NEW DEAN RYAN CARTER '91 INDUCTED INTO NJ HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

By Gavin Szilvasi '24
Managing Editor

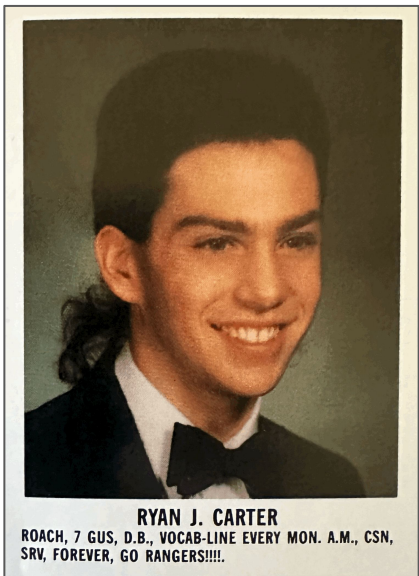
When I walked through the doors of the Woodbridge Community Center Ice Arena as a young sophomore hockey player, I was absolutely terrified. I had no idea what to expect. I was nervous about having to play high school hockey, and constantly afraid of playing horribly in front of my teammates. Fortunately, there was one voice that I always knew was in my corner - Coach Carter. Since that day, Coach Carter has been not only an exceptional coach, but also an amazing mentor to me as I grew as a Saint Joe’s man.

Just this month, Coach Carter was acknowledged for his outstanding contributions to New Jersey high school hockey by being inducted into the prestigious New Jersey High School Hockey Hall of Fame.

Being the Saint Joe’s head coach since 2003, Coach Carter has an outstanding set of accomplishments, from his incredible run of GMC championships to long state playoff appearances. Year after year, Coach Carter fosters the uplifting, unique, and powerful culture of Saint Joe’s hockey - one that highlights hard work, accountability, and service above all.

In addition to his inspiring coaching career, Coach Carter, who graduated from Saint Joe’s in 1991, remains one of the best players in the history of the program. Being one of the first ever Saint Joe’s hockey players, Coach Carter proved to be an incredible leader on and off the ice.

With the 23-24 hockey season right around the corner, Coach Carter is looking to continue his outstanding coaching career with another phenomenal season.



Club Spotlight: The Chinese Club Offers Language Study to Students

By **Ryan Abbott '26**
Staff Writer



Chinese Club President
Ming Jonas '26

The Chinese Club is a recently formed student organization at Saint Joe’s that aims to highlight the Chinese language and share appreciation of the culture among all of its members. Mr. Regan is the Partner-in-Mission moderator of the club, while Ming Jonas ‘26, the founder, teaches and organizes activities.

The Chinese club meets every Tuesday in room 102 during the second half of unstructured. It is at the club meetings that members and newcomers can learn the basics of the Chinese language, as lessons are presented in various forms, from videos to lessons prepared by Ming, which focus on the different meanings, tones, and pronunciations of words.

Ming has taken on the responsibilities of teaching the language to his peers with the excitement and enthusiasm of a traditional language teacher at Saint Joe’s.

“Seeing Ming shine in that role has been inspiring,” Mr. Regan said. “He schedules homework and tests like a regular class and clearly has a objective to help the students learn.”

Throughout the year, various cultural events are held in which traditional Chinese food will also be brought in to help spread awareness about the culture. No prior knowledge or exposure to the Chinese language or culture is required to join. The Chinese Club welcomes all students to learn, understand, experience, and enjoy Chinese culture.

Mother’s Club Pocketbook Bingo raises over \$25,000 for Scholarship Fund

By **E.J. Chin '24**
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On October 21, the Saint Joseph High School Mother’s Club put on one of its most popular events, Pocketbook Bingo. To the uninitiated, the event offers the opportunity for guests to win designer bags at a fraction of the normal cost by buying raffle tickets and placing them into designated buckets for each item. At the end of the night, each bag has a ticket pulled for some happy winner.

In total, the event raised over \$25,000, which they donated to help fund Saint Joe’s need-based financial scholarships.

There is a tremendous amount of work that must be done behind the scenes for such an event to run smoothly, which is a testament to the efforts of the entire Mother’s Club. From getting permits to do such an event to planning the decorations in the gym, everything has to be specifically organized, requiring months of work. Ms. Danielle DiVincent, the Mother’s Club Moderator, is at the center of this planning effort.

The Crown Jewel of the event was a Gucci bag that would, on its own, raise over \$10k dollars from entries. That said, it was just one of many prizes for attendees who enjoyed a night out with many other members of the Saint Joseph community.



Edison Rotary Seniors of the Month for September and October

In the months of September and October, five of the Saint Joseph High School Seniors were named *Edison Rotary Senior of the Month*. In September, Giovanni Oliveti ‘24 and Nereo Rossi III ‘24 were named and in October, Lucas Estela ‘24, Oluwaniademi Ogundana ‘24, and Giuseppe Spagnuolo ‘24 were named. Below are their biographies, highlighting their accomplishments and service throughout their four years at Saint Joe’s.

Giovanni’s Senior Biography

Giovanni Oliveti was raised in Princeton, New Jersey, and attended Saint Augustine of Canterbury School in Kendall Park before going to Saint Joseph High School. At Saint Joseph High School, he is heavily involved in many service events, clubs, and academic honor societies. This past summer, along with nine other rising seniors, Giovanni traveled to Klagetoh, Arizona to assist St. Anne’s Mission and the Brothers of the Sacred Heart on the Navajo Reservation. In addition to being a Campus Ministry Council and Kairos Leader, he is a Model United Nations Officer and leader of the Saint Joseph High School Model UN & Youth and Government Delegation. As part of the Science, Latin, and National Honor Society, Giovanni looks forward to studying Medicine in college.

Nereo’s Senior Biography

Ned Rossi is a senior at Saint Joe's and is honored to receive this award. He is a member of the Campus Ministry Council, a part of the National Honors Society and a captain on the varsity golf team. An avid film maker, Ned produced his first short film, “Strumming Alone,” last year. The film was featured at several national and international film festivals, winning “Best Mobile Short” at the Christian World Arts Festival in Washington, D.C. and was nominated for “Best Student Film” at the International Christian Film and Music Festival in Orlando, Florida. He plans to study film and media in college next year.



Lucas’s Senior Biography

Lucas Estela is a senior at Saint Joseph High School. His favorite service opportunities he's been part of are Falcon’s and Friends, and the trip to Klagetoh, AZ. In his free time, he reads, plays basketball, and goes to the gym whenever he can. He enjoys studying theology and the writings of the Saints, as well as serving on the altar at his Church. Lucas plans to study at the University of Oregon to become a marine biologist, and to eventually have his own research vessel preferably out in Alaska.

Niademi’s Senior Biography

Oluwaniademi transferred to Saint Joe's last year from Nigeria. As an advocate for equal educational opportunities, he took part in car washes, book drives, and other civic engagement programs to help the underprivileged community around him in Nigeria. He has been an active member of the Saint Joseph community, taking roles in clubs, and representing his school on a national level. He volunteers at the Franklin Food Bank and works with a non-profit to make aerospace engineering accessible to underprivileged communities. One day, he hopes to be an aerospace engineer, and contribute to the world in some empowering way.

Giuseppe’s Senior Biography

Giuseppe was raised in Woodbridge, New Jersey and now attends Saint Joseph High School, where he is part of the National Honors Society and Science National Honors Society. Giuseppe has been a varsity track and field athlete for two years and looks to complete a third year this spring and bring home more medals. At school he is one of the leaders of the computer club, specifically in the hardware and cybersecurity departments. He enjoys working with children and helping the community and has worked a full time job over the summer at Featherbed Lane Day Camp for the past two years. In his future he hopes to use his problem solving skills to pursue a career in biomedical engineering to help people around the world.

Back to School Dance a Student Council Success

By Giovanni Oliveti ‘24
Editor-and-Chief

On Friday, September 29, the Saint Joseph High Student Council held their annual Back to School Dance in the Maglio Gymnasium.

The dance was well attended by both the Saint Joe’s Falcons and many local high school girls, bringing over 300 students together. All the students enjoyed a night out full of dancing and singing to popular music hits played by the DJ. This dance is traditionally one of the best community building events for young students starting out their Saint Joe’s careers.

The admission to the dance provided great benefits for the Student Council’s Fundraiser. The purchases from the concessions in the Perch also benefited the Crew Team and their season. As a result of the amazing outcome, the SJ Student Council is planning on hosting another themed dance during Catholic Schools Week.



Falcons Receives National Merit Honors and College Board Recognition

By Wyatt Kovacs ‘26
Junior Editor

Saint Joseph High School is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievement of Aryan Jeena ‘24, who has been named as one of the Semi-finalists for the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. Out of a pool of over 1.5 million applicants, Aryan’s exceptional scores in the PSAT/NMSQT testing process have earned him this position, placing him among the elite of high school seniors across the nation.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) has revealed the names of more than 16,000 Semi-finalists in the 2024 National Merit® Scholarship Program. These talented seniors, including Aryan, will compete for approximately 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be awarded in the coming spring. About 95 percent of the Semi-finalist are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will secure a National Merit Scholarship, earning them the title of Merit Scholar.

To progress to the Finalist stage and compete for the Merit Scholarship awards, Semi-finalists must fulfill additional requirements set forth by the National Merit Scholarship Program. These include submitting a detailed application highlighting their academic records, leadership abilities, awards, and more.

The final roster of National Merit Scholarship winners for 2024 will be disclosed through nationwide news releases, commencing in April and concluding in July. Saint Joseph High School extends its utmost support and best wishes to Aryan and his participation in this esteemed competition.

Several students also received honors through the College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program and the National African American Recognition Program. These students have completed rigorous academic requirements in their classes in addition to excelling on the PSAT/NMSQT.

The following students have been named as College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars: Giovanni Oliveti ‘24, Nicholas Michelen ‘24, Michael-Tristan Almonte ‘24, Alejandro Tellez ‘25, Jeremy DeCaro ‘24, Lucas Estela ‘24, Brandon Trivino ‘25 and Mathew Robertson ‘25.

The following students earned the title of College Board National African American Recognition Program Scholar: Elikem Amenuvor ‘25, Cameron Moghaddas ‘24, Ta-Ji Umukoro ‘25, Owen Griffin ‘24, Oluwaniademi Ogundana ‘24 and Jalen Wilson ‘24.



Niademi Goes to Applebee's

By Niademi Ogundana ‘24
Staff Writer, Poet Laureate

GO

By Niademi Ogundana ‘24
Poet Laureate of
the Falcon Newspaper

I

*As fleeting as the ephemeral dawn
The warmth departs from our midst.
With every breath, I sense winter's touch,
Extracting a fragment of me.
Such a ritual hasn't been enacted in an epoch,
Does my memory hold its essence?
My articulations are rigid, and
Matching this intensity, the competition
Is poised on the precipice of commencement.
One foot precedes the next,
You've navigated this path before.*

II

*It's said that initiating the race is difficult,
Yet, maintaining momentum, a taller order.
"Quickly, you're losing ground,"
A voice echoes.
"No, this isn't a race of speed,
I question my capability to reach the finish line,
Do I even possess the strength to start?"
I relinquish my self-assuredness, like
Deciduous trees surrender their foliage,
Winter's arrival is inevitable,
And winter's bounty, unyielding.*

III

*Uncertainty invades the atmosphere,
The starting pistol reverberates, but I remain still.
They must have honed their craft when the warmth
Was yet a comforting companion.
One foot succeeds the other,
With each stride forward,
The doubt forces me in reverse.
Yet, a ring of encouragement envelops me,
I recall the method now!
I suppose we shall press onward,
Let's see how far I go.*

It was a hot afternoon on that fateful day. Our AP literature teacher made a reference I did not understand, which presented us with the challenge of completing this adventure. After a week of preparation, we were ready for the journey that awaited us. School went by quickly that day, and we met at the back of the Catanzaro, hoping to conquer the beast. I wore my crown and hoisted myself into E.J. Chin’s trusty 2002 Toyota Camry...It was time.

The car ride was threatening thanks to endless roads and blockages, children running around wildly after school, and the nervousness that felt so palpable.

After the long journey, we stared upon the building that represented our destiny in all its magnificence. A week of preparation had all come down to this one moment. From the top of my crown to the sole of my brown school shoes, I felt nervous about this new experience. My friends were around me, and we looked at each other with melodrama like the high school football players before their last game. We were ready.

We were met by the waitress. She sized us up and down, boys like us were not meant to wander alone into Applebees. We were about to become men.

“Can we get a table by the window?” Giovanni asked in a superior tone. I was not sure if we were meant to make a reservation or not. She escorted us down the hallway, before we delivered to her our orders like the soldiers ready for war. I had forgotten my practice and almost ordered a well-done burger; after all, it was my first time here.

I had ordered a medium burger, and, in my humble opinion, it was a solid meal, just like what Mr. Chris Harring ‘05 had said. He, in one of his characteristically eloquent, but seemingly out of thin air analogies, tried to help us with the pacing of our timed writing by explaining that we were trying too hard to match the specificity and verbosity of our longer term essays. He said to make our first priorities getting the job done in a way that will make the reader happy, much like the fine staff at an Applebee's. I understood the reference now; we had completed our task.

As we left the building, we lingered in the moment as we appreciated what we accomplished. We were \$100 poorer, but we had done it, we had successfully eaten at Applebee’s.



Increased Enrollment leads to Record-Breaking Open House

By Gavin Szilvasi ‘24
Managing Editor

On Sunday, October 15, Saint Joseph High School opened its doors to over 150 prospective students and their families for the annual Open House. These young men were met with the opportunity to learn about all that Saint Joe’s offers - both in and out of the classroom.

Trained by Admissions Director, Mr. Miguel Cabrita ‘91, over 40 students gave tours to these prospective families, sharing their Saint Joe’s experience. On these tours, families learned about the extensive history of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and our campus.

Towards the end of the tours, Mr. Roel Mercado ‘07 and the rest of the science department presented experiments to display the many science courses that are offered.

After the guided tours, families were invited to explore the many academic and service clubs, as well as athletic teams in the Maglio Gymnasium. Hundreds of student volunteers were stationed at each table in order to give prospective families and students a feel of all of the different academic programs, athletic teams, and over 50 clubs that are offered.

Given the recent increased enrollment in the Freshman Class at Saint Joe’s, this year’s Open House saw an immense uptick in registration. Overall, the Open House was a huge success thanks to the work of the Saint Joe’s students, Partners-in-Mission, and the Admissions team.

