



The Montessorian

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First Annual Alumni Brunch



Photo: S. Thesing

The Class of 2016 returned to SJMS for the alumni brunch.

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Are you interested in writing and photography? We are always looking for writers and photographers for the newspaper. Stop by the art room and learn more about this exciting opportunity!

On Saturday, January 8th, we opened our doors to welcome old friends back to SJMS. On this day, we hosted the First Annual SJMS Alumni Brunch.

The group, made up of over 50 alumni, enjoyed tasty breakfast casseroles, while visiting with old friends. We had guests that represented the graduating classes from 1999 to 2019, and many in between.

To start the event, each guest introduced themselves, and shared a

favorite memory from their years at SJMS. Emerson Prond, from the Class of 2015, was honored as our first alumni spotlight. She spoke to the group about the impact SJMS has had on her life so far.

Students also enjoyed a video slideshow with images from the past and a rousing SJMS trivia game, with prizes to earn.

We look forward to many alumni events in the future.

January is Clay Month



Eli T. (LE) made a pinch pot.



Shannon C. (UE) experiments with the coil technique.



Heidi W. (MS) worked with her clay on the potter's wheel.

Photos: R. Holmitch

With each new calendar year, our Kindergarten through eighth grade students enjoy working with clay in the art room. This is the time where we focus our creative energy on the Ceramics Unit of Study.

Our Kindergarten students create pinch pots with their hands. This is a great experience to develop fine motor skills and hand strength.

Our Lower Elementary students also make pinch pots, but are then introduced to clay tools like ribs, knives, and sponges.

The artists in our Upper Elementary classes move their clay experience to the next level by using the coil technique. This method requires the safe use of sophisticated art tools.

Once our students move up to the Middle School level, they are encouraged to try our potter's wheel. This equipment requires arm strength and control.

Once the clay is formed, it visits our kiln. Students are then challenged to glaze their pottery with bold colors and textures.

At the end of the month, the projects arrive home for display. Our students are quite proud of the work they create with clay. It's lessons go well-beyond the art room.

Best in Columbus Award



Congratulations are in order! St. Joseph Montessori School has been selected for the 2019 Best of Columbus Award in the Elementary School category by the Columbus Award Program. Each year, the Columbus Award Program identifies companies that they believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Columbus area a great place to live, work, and play.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2019 Columbus Award Program focuses on quality not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the Columbus Award Program and data provided by third parties. It is an annual award program honoring the achievements and accomplishments of local businesses throughout the Columbus area. Recognition is given to those companies that have shown the ability to use their best practices and implement programs to generate competitive advantage and long-term value.

Serve Our School. Serve Our Community.



Photo: C. Corlett

Arya C. (MS) walked Austyn S. (CH1) to her classroom.

Service comes in many shapes and sizes, and makes a big impact on the people around us.

SJMS students are involved in many service projects inside SJMS.

Our Upper Elementary and Middle School students help with morning and afternoon carpool each day.

They also support the school by delivering messages, collecting our recycling bins, and serving pizza lunch on Fridays.

Service is an important part of our school's mission and vision.

Middle School Coat Drive

The Middle School Service Committee partnered with the Faith Mission this winter to organize a coat drive at school. We collected over 25 gently-used children's coats. Nora Steadman of CH3 said, "I'm bringing in my pretty pink coat to give it to the kids that are cold."



Catholic Schools Week



Photo: R. Holomitch

JJ H. (MS) offered prayers at Mass during Catholic Schools Week.

Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic schools in the United States.

At SJMS, we celebrated Catholic Schools Week with Mass and a parent education event. Our Tuesday Mass was the memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas, patron of Catholic education and our SJMS model of trustworthiness.

We hosted a parent education event called "Cosmic Education in the Atrium" on Thursday evening. The atrium was also open for visitors all week during class time.

Catholic Schools By The Numbers

1,878,824

Number of students in Catholic Schools in America

5,224

Number of Catholic Elementary Schools in America

1,309,429

Number of Students in Catholic Elementary School in America

18.4 %

Number of Non-Catholic Students Enrolled in Catholic Schools

152,883

Number of Full-Time Teaching Staff in Catholic Schools

Statistics Source: <http://www.usccb.org/about/public-affairs/backgrounders/catholic-education.cfm>

Alumni News

Class of 2005

Nick Ruggiero

In December, Nick graduated from Basic Training in the National Guard at Fort Benning in Georgia.



Class of 2005

Becca Ross

Last fall, Becca was stage manager for the show “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” at the Chicago Children’s Theater. Becca said, “It was a puppet explosion; I couldn’t have asked for a better group for my first equity show.”



Class of 2006

Dustin Williams



On September 22, 2019, Dustin Williams married Jennifer Griffith at the Franklin Park Conservatory in front of family and friends. They spent their honeymoon in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. The couple resides in Columbus, Ohio where Dustin is the co-owner of The Pump House - a national distributor and manufacturer of automotive fuel pumps.

Class of 2008

Piper Rasmussen

This fall, Piper was sworn in to volunteer with the Peace Corps in Moldova. She volunteers at the Diamond Day Center for Children, as well as teaches yoga. This experience gives her a great opportunity to practice speaking Romanian.



Class of 2009

Keiko Wilkins

Keiko Wilkins successfully defended her Master’s of Science thesis. The topic of her thesis is “The Importance of Dissolved Organic Matter Source on the Survival and Growth of Juvenile Daphnia. She graduated from Miami University on January 25, 2020.



Class of 2010

Elisabeth Spector

Elisabeth Spector now resides in Boston, Massachusetts to attend Northeastern University School of Law to earn her law degree.

