

From the Headmaster



When worldwide flu epidemics end up in our own backyard, as they have in recent weeks, it is certainly cause to listen with a bit more attention to all the news stories that are grabbing the headlines. If an outbreak like this were happening in Norway, for instance, we would have a tendency to overlook the seriousness of the situation and continue on our merry way. Moments like these bring us face to face with a very harsh reality, namely, there is a very fine line between health and sickness. Our well being can quickly turn the other way without warning.

The news stories about the H1N1 virus contain all sorts of common sense advice: wash your hands, cover your mouth when you cough, etc. Isn't it strange that without a global pandemic, we get careless about those things? So perhaps there is a bit of a silver lining in all of this: a reminder to be vigilant and courteous about our health. The one simple bit of advice I've heard most is a plea to "stay home when you are sick." Like me, I'll bet a lot of you have had to sit near coughing, sneezing and wheezing people in movies theaters, planes and other public places. When there is no pandemic threatening us, that moment can be annoying. However, when we face a global health concern, it makes a person think twice about it.

In a school community like ours, the need for vigilance is even greater. Thank you in advance for helping us keep your children healthy and productive. I suppose it's a good thing when our students *want* to be at school even when they aren't feeling well. However, it is a gift, to the greater well-being of the community, when we take extra caution in these uncertain times.

Baccalaureate Mass and 152nd Commencement Exercises

Saint John's Preparatory School's Class of 2009 will be honored at the 152nd Commencement Ceremony on **Saturday, May 23rd**. The event is open to families, relatives and friends of the students. The following is the schedule of events:

- 8:30 am - Continental breakfast in the Weber Center
- 9:00 am - All seniors should be present
- 9:15 am - Picture taken of senior class
- 9:30 am - Line up for procession to Abbey Church
- 10:00 am - Baccalaureate Mass and 152nd Commencement Exercises in Abbey Church
- 11:30 am - Cake/coffee/punch in Weber Center

A faculty/staff receiving line for graduates will be held outside the Abbey Church after the ceremonies. Parents are welcome to take pictures and greet their graduates. We invite everyone to a reception in the Weber Center afterwards.

The senior class has elected Ms. Loretta (Lori) Pfannenstein, Main Office Coordinator, to deliver the commencement address and Jake Alvord, Class of 2009, to deliver the senior address.

For families who may need lodging accommodations, we encourage you to stay at the Abbey Guesthouse. Located adjacent to the Prep School, the Abbey Guesthouse is convenient for visiting families. For more information about the accommodations, visit their website at <http://www.saintjohnsabbey.org/guesthouse/index.html>. Reservations can be made by calling 320-363-4010 or email Guestmaster@csbsju.edu.

Mark your Calendars

Here's a look at upcoming dates to mark on your calendars. This information can also be found at www.sjprep.net under the Calendars/Academic section.

May 2009:

- Saturday, May 2nd – Spring Formal
- Sunday, May 3rd – Upper School Band and Choir Concert at 6pm in the Weber Center
- Wednesday, May 6th - The Upper Chamber Orchestra, Alternative Strings and the Jazz Band will be performing at the Stephen B. Humphrey Theater at SJU. (See article below for more details)
- Wednesday, May 13th – Awards presented to seniors, following Senior Banquet, at 7pm in Quad 264. Parents of seniors are invited to attend the awards portion only.
- Thursday, May 14th – Middle School Spring Concert at 7pm in the Weber Center
- Friday, May 15th – Year End Party for Middle School students
- Friday, May 15th – Awards presented to underclassmen at 1:45pm in the Stephen B. Humphrey Theater at SJU. All parents are invited to this regardless if their student received an award.
- Thursday, May 21st – Middle School Finals. Last day of school for Middle School students. Middle School Recognition Event held in the Weber Center at 6pm.
- Thursday and Friday, May 21-22 – Upper School Finals
- Friday, May 22nd – End of 2nd Semester; All School Picnic at 5:30pm and Year End Party for Upper School at 7pm
- Saturday, May 23rd – Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement, 10am at Abbey Church
 - Dorms close at 1:00pm

June 2009

- Saturday, June 13, 10am - Blessing and Dedication of Stella Maris Chapel (see article below)

August 2009:

- Monday, August 24th – 1st day of classes for 2009-2010 school year

Student Food Accounts

Just a reminder that any balances remaining on student's food accounts after Friday, May 22nd will NOT carry over to next year. Food dollars must be used by Friday, May 22nd. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Ernst at 320-363-3302 or at sernst@csbsju.edu.

Year-End Picnic and Upper School Year-End Party Details

The year-end picnic will be held on **Friday, May 22**, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. This event is open to all middle school and upper school students and their families. The school will provide hamburgers, brats, veggie burgers and beverages and we are asking each family whose last name begins with A – K to bring a salad and families whose last name begins with L – Z to bring a dessert. Don't forget your lawn chairs or blanket! If you would like to volunteer to help at the picnic please contact Kelli Bergen at kelliberger@aol.com or 320-260-4126.

The year-end party is open to upper school students only. This year's year-end party features a new, simplified, more interactive format we think will increase attendance, enjoyment and participation in the party—and this year it's free for students to attend! We will have a new red sports/duffel bag with the Saint John's Prep logo available to purchase for only \$5.00. When the students register for the party they will have the opportunity to order a sports/duffel bag at that time. Please remind your student to sign up by May 15th. Contact one of the following planning area chairs to get involved in a fun community event. **If you would rather not help during the event we also need people for setup before and cleanup after, please contact Kelly Beniek to volunteer.**

We can't make these events happen without parent volunteers, we need you!

Entertainment: Kelly Beniek; email: kbeniek@csbsju.edu or call 320-271-0087

Activities: Danya Rice: ddsmrice@charter.net; 259-1835 or Dawn Yilek: yilekd@centracare.com; 260-2693

Food/Beverages: Maria Gonzalez; email: mbgonzalez@charter.net or call 320-259-1942

Prizes: Dianne Duckworth; email: dduc0127@yahoo.com or 320-230-2540

Security: David Phipps; email: dcphipps@charter.net or 320-202-1463

Registration: David Meyers; email: dmeyers@rnoon.com or 320-259-7733

From the Music Department

Prep Upper Orchestra Tours Area Elementary Schools

On Friday, April 24, the Prep Chamber Orchestra gave a concert performance at Avon Elementary School and Oak Ridge Elementary School in Sartell. This was a community service effort to help support interest in string instrument performance. In addition, it also provided an educational opportunity for young students to be introduced to each specific instrument in the string orchestra. Part of the program included time to show and demonstrate the sound of the violin, viola, cello and bass. Prep Orchestra Members Daniel Larson, Noah Kolb, Jonathan Larson and Scott Grinnell all presented these instruments respectively and performed a brief, but very impressive song on each instrument.

A wide variety of music was played from Mozart to fiddle style music. Each piece was introduced with just a brief background of history. The finale selection brought the house down at both locations. The Orchestra played, "Calypso Jam" as they did this past February at the Barrage event. This very exciting performance included 3 electric violins, 2 electric guitars, and electric bass, drum set, congas, electric piano, vocals and strings. The Prep Orchestra was received with clapping and cheering during the performance and thunderous applause and cheering following the concert.

A special thanks to Jean Weis-Clough, Avon Principal and Randy Huseman, Oak Ridge Principal for supporting this tour. Faculty, Staff and Principals extended sincere appreciation for our efforts and highly commended the Prep Orchestra Students for their outstanding performance. This effort was able to reach over 1000 elementary students from grades K – 6.

A New Event Idea for Saint John's Prep

On **Wednesday, May 6** a new annual event is slated to take place in the Music Building on the campus of Saint John's University. In conjunction with the Prep Art Department, the evening has been called, "Prep Art & Music Night". Many mediums of art by students throughout the semester will be on display. Art viewing will begin at 5:30 PM with refreshments being served. At 6:30 PM, the music portion of the evening will begin in the Stephen B. Humphrey Theater, which is in the same building. Music groups featured will be the Prep Chamber Orchestra, Alternative Strings and the Prep Jazz Band. A wide variety of music will be performed. This art and concert event is free and open to the public.

5th Annual "A Night of Jazz" a Success!

Fisher's Club in Avon was completely packed to hear the music performed by our Prep Jazz Band on Saturday, April 18. Last year was a full crowd as well, but 60 more were in attendance at this year's show. The evening of music began shortly after 5 PM with an outstanding quartet of musicians that included Prep Alums **Dylan McFarling and Cooper Lund**. Their original songs and their incredible talent were greatly appreciated. At about 6:20 PM, the Prep Jazz Band began to perform a playlist of 20 tunes. Many different standard swing tunes, ballads and popular Jazz songs were played. A highlight once again this year was a special vocal performance by Fr. Gordon Tavis. This is always a crowd favorite.

It is quite a challenge for any ensemble to prepare such a large amount of music that is expected to be performed at a professional level. Our Prep Jazz Band was able to entertain the wonderful audience at Fisher's for nearly 2 hours! With 9 brand new members this year, the ensemble deserves a big pat on the back for all their extra work, dedication and enthusiasm that was all necessary to make this evening a success. Many thanks to all those in attendance. A special note of recognition to all the Prep Students that attended the event. Over 4 times as many were at the show this year as compared to last year.

The Jazz Band also is recognized for earning a "Superior" Award at the Minnesota State High School League Contest in Sauk Centre on April 17. The Band's performance score was 38 out of 40. The ensemble performed 3 selections. Congratulations to Prep Jazz Band Members: **Elias Beretta, Vanessa Burggraff, Jack Davis, Nathan Ebaugh, Joe Griffin, Brennen Grinnell, Evan Jenkins, Gabriela Kaus, Andrew Kendall, Alex Kuehne, Jonathan Larson, Dan Merkle, J.J. Roske, Irene Sarumi, Andrew Schmanski and Mike Urbashich.**

"Prep Strings" – Title for New Program

Plans are well underway for a new and exciting program at Saint John's Prep that will help the young and old learn how to play a string instrument. The after school program will begin in the fall of 2009. This area community service will offer a wonderful opportunity for students in grades 4 and up to have the availability, access and facility to begin and excel on a string instrument of their choosing. This comprehensive program offers one on one lessons, along with group rehearsals, to take place on Saturdays. Students will be able to readily apply their new skills by performing a variety of music together from classical to fiddle style. New students will be surprised on how quickly they will be able to perform in a large group setting. As a result, concert performances will be part of the string program throughout the school year.

This program is open and available to all interested students or adults and no affiliation with Saint John's is necessary. The program is also open to any student from Prep as well. For more information, visit www.PrepsStrings.com or contact Steve Anderson at sanderson@csbsju.edu or 320-363-3165.

Be Sure to Sign-Up for your CD!

Don't forget that you will have the opportunity to sign-up to receive a CD recording featuring highlights from this year's concert season by all the Prep Ensembles (2008-2009). It will basically be the "best of the best" by both the Upper and Middle School performing groups. The CD cover will feature original artwork by **Anna Meyer**, 7th grade student, who was selected from many entries submitted by our talented students.

Look for a table with this information when you attend the scheduled concerts in May.

- May 3rd: Band & Choir – Weber Center
- May 6th: Prep Art & Music Night – SBH/SJU (see article above for details)
- May 14th: Prep Middle School Concert at 7pm in the Weber Center

You simply need to complete a short form with your name and mailing address. We are not charging for this service; however a number of costs are incurred including all the time taken to record each event, mix and produce the final recordings. In addition, we will need to have the CD's mass produced, including the cover art and CD appliqué. CD's will be incased in a hard plastic container. Since recordings still need to be included from the May concerts, your CD will be mailed to you. A donation of \$10 is suggested for each CD. However, you may donate additional dollars if you'd like. The goal is to have enough funds to support this effort, so we can continue the project year after year.

Spring Concert

The Saint John's Prep concert band and concert choir will present their annual spring concert on **Sunday, May 3rd** in the Weber Center at 6:00. Both band and choir will be performing music from contest where both ensembles received "superior" ratings. In addition Concert Choir will be singing selections from around world as well as traditional African American spirituals. The band will be performing music from George Gershwin, John Philip Sousa, and John Williams. The chamber choir will make an appearance singing "Chili Con Carne" for which they earned a superior rating at contest. The chamber choir will also perform "Java Jive" and "Love Psalm".

Solo Ensemble Contests

Congratulations to all the students who participated at MSHSL Solo/Ensemble contest. At Vocal Contest in Sauk Centre, eight students received a "Superior" rating for vocal solos; **Addison Novak, Hannah Miller, Vanessa Burggraff, Chris Sebas, Rachel Saliaries, Carolyn Brown, Hannah Ice-Cook, and Olivia Lee**. The Chamber Choir also received a superior rating for mixed ensemble. Members of Chamber choir are **Hannah Miller, Addison Novak, Rachel Saliaries, Carolyn Brown, Emily Kim, Erin Nordquist, Vanessa Burggraff, Jonathan Larson, Tony Kim, Daniel Larson, Chris Sebas, and Christian Jonas**.

Instrumental contest at Sauk Centre also went well with 7 events receiving "Superior" rating. **Vanessa Burggraff** with tenor sax solo, **Sean Zheng** with Alto Sax, **Jia-A Kim** with flute solo, **Jangwon Cho** with Clarinet solo, **Addison Novak and Sarah Kolb** with a flute duet, **Erin Rocky and Zoey Gulden** with a flute duet. All the students who participated did a great job and should be proud of their accomplishment.

Knowledge Bowl Results



Congratulations to our Knowledge Bowl Team, who took 3rd place and 11th place at the state competition in the “Class A” division, held April 22-23rd at Craguns’ Conference Center in Brainerd. The teams competed in one written and five oral rounds for a total of 285 questions that covered a wide variety of topics.

The White team, which took 3rd, consisted of **Johanna Armstrong, Kip Christianson, Daniel Larson, Alex Riner and Nathan Wichman**. The Red team, which took 11th,

consisted of **Isaac Bohart, Katie Johnson, Kyle Johnson, Jonathan Larson and Julia Franz**. The teams were lead by Mr. Charles Miller and his assistants, Kaitlin Keller, a student at CSB, and Julie McLeod.

Knowledge Bowl is coordinated by the Minnesota Services Cooperatives throughout the state. This academic challenge involves approximately 6,000 students from over 400 teams competing throughout the Knowledge Bowl season in Minnesota. **Congratulations!**

2009 National Spanish Exam Results

Congratulations to the following students, who earned outstanding scores on the 2009 National Spanish Exam. Awards are given at the following levels:

- Gold, 95th percentile
- Silver, 85th percentile
- Bronze, 75th percentile
- Award of Excellence, 50th percentile

Level 1 (Mrs. Bergmann)

- Silver Medal - **Ali Diop** (15th in state)
- Bronze Medal - **Tyler Strowbridge**
- Award of Excellence - **Hye-Ryung Jeong and Maren Betterman**

Level 2 (Mrs. Bergmann)

- Award of Excellence - **Katie Johnson**

Level 3 (Mrs. Noska)

- Silver Medal - **Emiliana Cofell** (5th in state), **Rebecca Hare** (9th in state) and **Christian Gaetz** (12th in state)
- Award of Excellence - **Jack Davis, Elias Beretta, Claire Arnold, Jamie DeMotts, Hannah Friedrich**

Level 4 (Mr. Dwyer)

- Award of Excellence - **Madeline Franz**

Level 5 (Mr. Dwyer)

- Gold Medal - **Severin Thompson** (2nd in state)

Will Steger Visit



On Wednesday, April 29th, Will Steger visited Saint John's Prep and presented the effects of global warming. He also attended science classes throughout the day.

Will Steger has spent more than 45 years traveling through the Arctic regions, advocating for the Earth's preservation and advising about permanent solutions to our climate crisis.

Science instructor, Mary Ellenbecker-Johnson said: "What impressed me most about Will is his "can do" attitude. He personally has never found an obstacle too great to overcome and he feels that the problems we face now are serious but very solvable. In the process of solving these problems we and future generations will be presented with ample opportunities to develop personal and economic security."

Pictured above are: Fr. Timothy Backous, Will Steger, Mary Ellenbecker-Johnson.

Blessing and Dedication of Stella Maris Chapel

On **Saturday, June 13th** at 10am, Abbot John Klassen, OSB '67, will bless and dedicate the refurbished Stella Maris Chapel. The chapel's facelift has taken shape over the last four years and has been a focus of philanthropy for Don Hall '55, a Prep School alum, and his friend from Northfield, MN, Ed Sovik, an internationally acclaimed architect.

The refurbished chapel includes beautiful stained glass, the reintroduction of the main door, seating, new stucco, the removal of some of the redundant architectural pieces, and a beautiful sculpture of Madonna and Child by the famed Russian sculptor, Tylevich.



Following the 10am blessing and dedication, a light lunch will be served for those in attendance. The event is free and open to the public. Those planning to attend should be aware it requires a three-mile round trip hike over relatively rugged trails to the chapel. A minimum of 30 minutes should be allowed for a one-way trip. The chapel is open to the public as a place of pilgrimage from dawn until dusk each day.

Greetings from Melk



Submitted by Brian Sullivan, junior

Perspectives change through time, wherever you are. When great times approach their end, people go through several phases. Right now, the Amis are going through the *carpe diem* phase and we are seizing the day. Right now we are in Paris, and earlier in April we were in Venice, two of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Between these we celebrated Easter, a holiday whose American traditions directly tie back to the older German and Austrian traditions.

Venice was a truly unique city, with its canals, culture, and expensive restaurants. Fortunately, it had normal water levels this year, as it often floods in the spring. There was not a car in the entire city; after driving there we had to park our Ami van outside of the city limits and walk. It struck me as feeling rather like going into a huge amusement park, parking outside and walking in. Coupled with being a lot of fun, there was also so much to learn in Venice in terms of culture. We were fortunate to have great weather while watching the sun set on the Adriatic Sea, decidedly one of the prettiest things we have seen in Europe.

Paris is old - very, very old, with lots of people and lots of history. Just today, we saw the magnificent Louvre museum and its fine works of art; from early Assyrian sculptures to Leonardo Da Vinci's world-renowned *Mona Lisa*. It was utterly impossible to see the whole museum in the short time we had, though we stayed for four hours. When we had to move on from the Louvre, our amazement had not diminished in the least, as we continued on to the world-famous gothic cathedral Notre Dame de Paris, the largest and oldest cathedral of Paris, with its towering arches and bells and its beautiful rose windows.

Breanna Meyer, Senior, Performs



On Tuesday, April 28th, **Breanna Meyer**, senior, and the Chamber Ballet of St. Paul performed at Saint John's Prep. Breanna studied and graduated from the famed Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow. She is the second American to graduate from Bolshoi since 1773!

In addition to her studies, Breanna continues to dance with the Chamber Ballet of St. Paul four days a week. She also teaches dance at the Just for Kix Dance Studio in Sartell. Breanna is planning to graduate with her SJP classmates on May 23rd.

From the Middle School

In **Science** we are completing our unit on heredity and will be moving into a brief study of evolution. Students are in the midst of raising praying mantises in small habitats constructed from 2-liter bottles. The mantises are being fed with fruit fly cultures left from our genetics experiments. Students will be encouraged to bring them home and release them in the garden at the conclusion of the school year. They are an excellent form of natural pest control and are perfectly legal to release into the wild.

In **Pre-Algebra** class, students are studying probability. They are discovering ways to find the probability of certain events happening, as well as figuring out the odds of winning a game. Another topic of interest is the manner in which the students are able to calculate the number of options for a license plate, or to choose a meal from a menu, etc.

Algebra I students have been working diligently to solve quadratic equations. They have factored and factored and factored some more, until Mrs. Martin introduced a new song to them, the Quadratic Formula song. Kids are noticed walking down the hallway singing this song, to the tune of Pop Goes the Weasel. Soon, students will become the teachers as they create review games and chapter tests for the quadratic equations.

Algebra II students are learning what several words mean: restrictions, asymptotes, and holes, to name a few. They are using what they learned in Algebra I to factor quadratic equations and decipher if the graph would have an asymptote or a hole in it.

In **Social** we are working on a new project! The Australia and Oceania speech topics have been chosen. The public folder is loaded with information. If you've ever wondered what sailors on an 18th century sailing ship ate and how they lived, students have to wait for next week to find out! We will be learning about how explorers navigated the vast oceans and how technology changed the world in the 19th century.

In **English**, we have just completed a walk through the writing process once again with the completion of the Hiroshima persuasive research paper. Students had to defend their opinion about the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan during WWII. We have now begun reading some literature from Australia, including Walkabout and Mutant Message Down Under. In **Theology**, we are learning about morality by becoming familiar with some of the keystones of it: The Ten Commandments, the beatitudes, and also the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Middle School Newsfeed:

Math contest:

On April 2nd, twenty-seven Saint John's Prep students participated in the Forty-Second Annual Saint Cloud State Mathematics Contest. The following middle school Prep students were recognized for individual accomplishments: **Alivia Tacheny**, of Cold Spring, top 5% in grade 7 (9th place), **Zachary Dehler**, of St. Joseph, top 10% in grade 8, and **Caz Novak**, of St. Cloud, top 10% in grade 8.

Congratulations to the middle school boys' baseball team and their coach, John Kendall, who won the Royalton tournament for the second year in a row!

Claire Haeg, parent of 7th grader Stephanie Haeg, spoke to the middle school on Friday, April 24th. Claire was born and raised in Australia, and she spoke to the students about a range of topics having to do with the continent: from its start as a penal colony, to the Aborigines, to the

frequency of kangaroo sightings. The students were very receptive to her open dialogue and it was clear they benefited from Claire's knowledge. Thanks, Claire, for taking the time to be with the middle school!

Track update: Many middle school students are participating on the varsity boys and girls track teams, often with very impressive results! Some examples would include **Clare Culligan** bringing home the 3rd place award in the 1600m run at the Melrose Invitational and 2nd place in the 1600m run at the Maple Lake Invitational; **Zoe Novak** placed 3rd in the 100m hurdles at the Melrose Invitational, 4th in the 100m hurdles at the Maple Lake Invitational and 3rd in the 300m IM hurdles at the Maple Lake Invitational. **Allison Wenner** placed 5th in the 300m IM hurdles at Maple Lake. Many middle school athletes are part of varsity relay teams that have placed highly at several meets as well, including **Emmanuel Fale, Ashley Boitz, Brittney Krebsbach, Alex Thorpe and Clare Culligan**. Stay tuned for more results in the weeks ahead!

Middle School Upcoming Events

Middle school music concert is set for **May 14th**.

There is one more foods day this year! Oceania Foods Day is does not have a definite date yet, but will be sometime before the school year ends.

The end of the year-party for the middle school is **May 15th**. This is an anticipated evening for the 7th and 8th graders, as it includes games, dancing, prizes, and some year-end celebrations. It will be located in the Weber Center, and a student committee has already been formed to take charge of the planning. The first order of business has already been completed: this year the theme is "Broadway." Students are encouraged to dress up as their favorite Broadway character. We are looking for parent volunteers to chaperone this event. If you are interested, please contact Laura Martin at lmartin@csbsju.edu. We are also looking for parents to volunteer fun (but inexpensive) prizes. Examples would be candy, snacks, movie passes, etc. If you have a prize to donate, please email Kelly Fitch at kfitch@csbsju.edu.

Middle school students will have finals on Thursday, May 21st. Also on **May 21st** is the Middle School Recognition Event, which takes place in the Weber Center at 6 pm. Parents and other family members are encouraged to attend. May 21st is the last day of school for Middle School.

From the Residence Halls

What's planned for May?

Students from both residence halls will be treated to ice cream over the next couple of weeks. Small groups of students, along with various staff, will go into St. Cloud for a Cold Stone Creamery or Dairy Queen treat. It's a nice time for casual conversation and relaxation from the projects and studies leading up to finals.

Saturday, May 2:

- The evening of the Spring Formal, students from both dorms may enjoy sparkling cider and chocolate outdoors at Richarda Hall. Hopefully, the weather will be as beautiful as last year for the photo shoot. A coach bus will provide the transportation to and from the event.

Saturday, May 16th:

- Mall & Movie Bus

Sunday, May 17:

- Resident Student and World Club cookout begins at 5:30 pm behind Saint Michael Hall. Shrimp and chicken fried rice cooked on an "industrial sized" outdoor griddle, dessert and games to celebrate the end of the year.

End-of-year information:

Students have begun planning for the end of the year. Please note all personal belongings, except those items students are taking home with them, must be packed and put into designated storage no later than Sunday, May 17th. If students are shipping belongings home, or elsewhere, they must have those items packed, appropriately labeled, and ready to ship no later than Monday, May 18th.

Following the graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 23rd, a coach bus will be available to take resident students and families to the Minneapolis/Saint Paul International Airport. The bus will depart from school promptly at 1:00 p.m. and arrive at the airport at approximately 2:45pm. All other ground transportation can be arranged through Executive Express (<http://www.executiveexpress.biz>).

Both Richarda and Saint Michael Hall are closed to students at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 23rd.

Looking toward next year:

For those of you planning for next school year and buying airline tickets, school will begin August 24, 2009. Students should plan to arrive on campus Friday or Saturday, August 21-22 to get settled in the dorm and reconnect with friends.

We have been busy interviewing candidates for the Residential Intern positions for next year. After completing only the first year of our Intern program, we have been delighted with the caliber of recent college graduates who are interested in working with our students.

On a more personal note, I (Reba) am sad to say that I will not be returning to SJP next year. I am returning to graduate school for a Masters in Social Work and preparing to welcome a new baby into our family in September. My three years here have been very rich and I am grateful to have worked with your sons/daughters and for all they have taught me.

From the Guidance Office

SENIOR PARENTS: As the year is winding down, it is time for seniors to choose a college and make a deposit by May 1st. They all know this and should have received explicit instructions from the colleges to which they were accepted. It has been an exciting process for them and I am always amazed at the choices they have as they transition to college. Congratulations!!

ALL PARENTS: I have received several resources lately regarding scholarship and searching for colleges with merit aid. I have passed these onto students but am not sure if they all reach your hands! Here are some great resources to explore as you begin the process with your son/daughter.

<http://www.meritaid.com/media/20InsiderStrategies.pdf>

http://www.csopportunity.org/contact/contact_info.aspx

<http://collegehunt.blogspot.com/2007/03/which-schools-meet-full-need.html>

<http://www.college-scholarships.com/>

<http://www.online-degrees-and-scholarships.com/>

JUNIOR PARENTS: Most of the students have met with me regarding the college search and application process. All students need to take either the SAT or the ACT this spring and the International students need to additionally register for the TOEFL. Alex Schleper assists them with this process. The last test dates are in June – ACT is June 13 and SAT is June 6. Registration deadlines are May 8th for the ACT and May 5th for the SAT. Students can register online at www.act.org or www.collegeboard.com

I have encouraged all of the juniors I have met with to continue their college exploration over the summer and even begin the application process. They can easily work on an activity resume. Great tips at Colleges of Distinction. Here are a few:

Don't Sell Yourself Short: 6 Tips for Presenting your Activity Résumé

Eli Clarke, Associate Director of counseling, private high school, Washington DC

The activity résumé is a great opportunity for you to explain important activities and accomplishments to admissions committees. By offering concrete information about yourself in a concise form, you seem more real and more interesting to the committees. Here are some tips to help you make the most of your résumé.

Write only about high school accomplishments

Some people get tempted to include winning the spelling bee in junior high school. As with your grades, colleges and universities are only interested in what you have been doing within the last three to four years.

Organize your thoughts and follow the pattern of the résumé

You don't want your readers to get lost in the résumé. Look at the attached example and notice how activities and interest are organized by categories. Also notice how things that are bolded or underlined are consistent throughout.

Use clear terminology that your audience will understand

Admissions committees may not automatically understand abbreviations or special terminology that your schools (or even yourself) use in everyday vocabulary. Spell out abbreviations and describe activities so that anyone can understand at first glance.

Be clear and concise

Beware: you can overdo your résumé. In some cases, people tend to ramble on about every activity or put in every accomplishment. Try to adhere to this rule of thumb when describing your activities:

- Describe the activity (in one sentence)
- Describe your personal involvement (in one sentence)
- Describe any awards or honors associated (in one sentence)

Remember that résumés do not replace activity sections on applications

Some applicants think that because they completed a résumé, they do not need to fill out the activity or employment sections on the applications. That is not true. Unless the application says that you can attach a résumé *in place of* filling out the section, then you must do both. If you do both, make a note on the bottom of the activity section and state "please see attached résumé."

Don't repeat your essay

Both your résumé and your essay give you a chance to highlight your accomplishments. Try not to repeat information. If you spend a lot of time talking about one of your activities in your essay, there is no need to go into great detail about it in your résumé, and vice versa. It's ok to mention something in both places, but there is no need to go into great detail more than once.

Click here for a [sample activities résumé](#). If you follow these simple suggestions, you will have added a strong component to your application