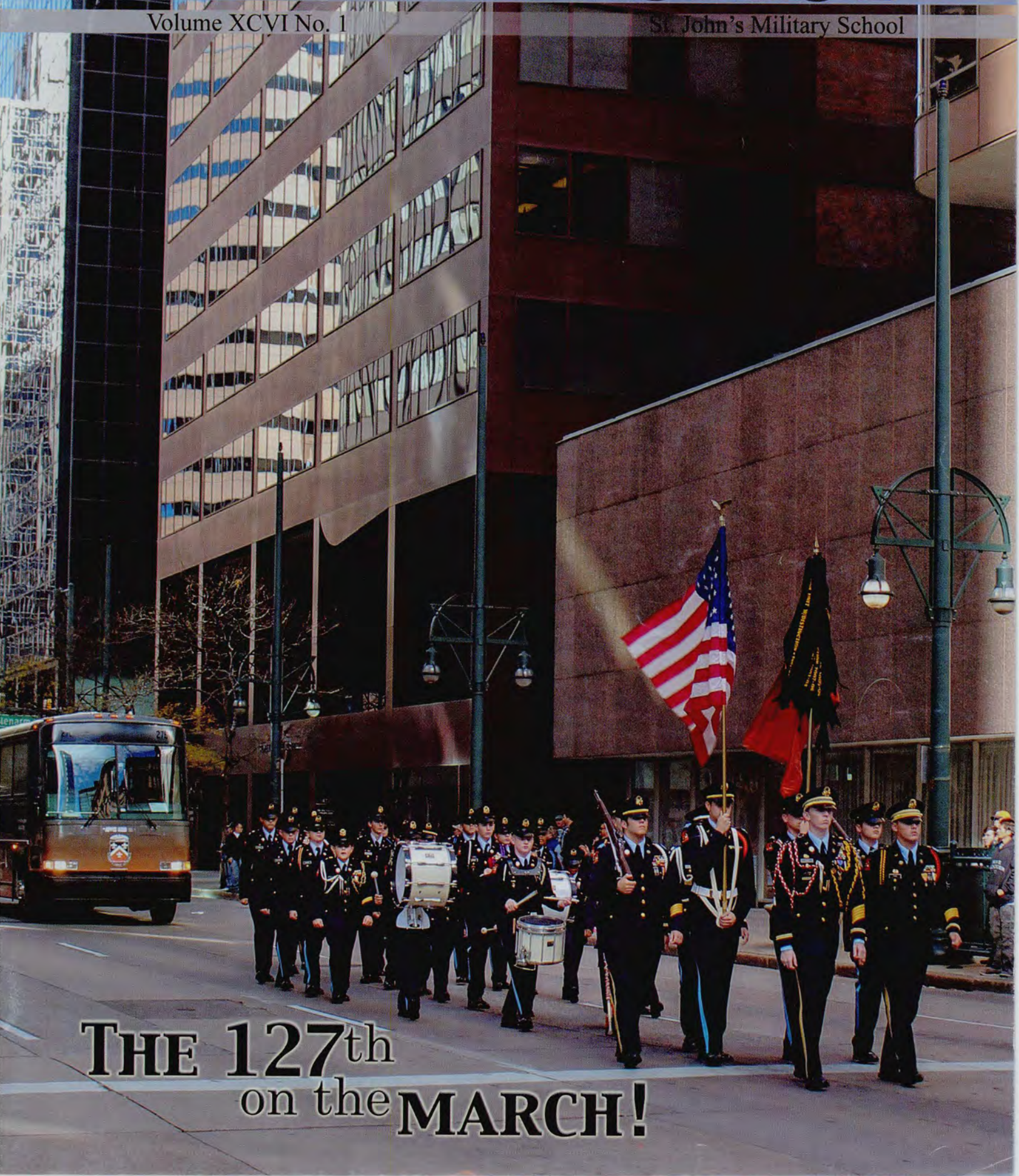


The Skirmisher

Fall 2014

Volume XCVI No. 1

St. John's Military School



THE 127th
on the **MARCH!**

A Gift of Appreciation



“The school’s kind gift of the replica of the chapel window (which I gave to the school in memory of my father many years ago) was very touching and deeply appreciated. It brings back some wonderful memories, memories I will forever cherish and memories of people whom I will never forget.”

– D. DALE BROWNING

E. Andrew England, SJMS president, wanted to give D. Dale Browning a token of appreciation for the abundant generosity and support Dale has showered on his alma mater for nearly sixty years. England explains, “I wanted to find a way to show Mr. Browning how much the staff and faculty appreciate the many ways he has improved St. John’s.”

Browning donated his time and talent as a teacher and coach after graduating from Kansas Wesleyan University. During a career as an innovative and forward-thinking leader in the banking industry, Dale remained closely associated with St. John’s as a trusted member of the Board of Trustees. Following his retirement

from banking, he returned to St. John’s as president, and then was named Headmaster.

In discussing ideas with Terry Plumberg and Wendy Stein, England settled on the idea of commissioning a smaller scale model of the stained glass window Dale donated. Ms. Plumberg contacted a company in Hutchinson, Kansas, and the window went into production. “The finished product far exceeded my expectations,” said Ms. Plumberg.

The window was presented to Dale during the annual Denver recruiting reception he hosts annually.

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Lester Ostertag displays his skills as drill team commander during Parents' Weekend! Page 4.

Front Cover

Members of the 127th march in the Denver Veterans Day parade.

Back Cover

Sixth grade Cadets get their passports!

Visiting our Capital



“These Cadets, members of the 127th Battalion Staff, were chosen because of their positions, outstanding work in class, and outstanding service to the JROTC Program.”

– MAJ IVY WILLIAMS

Battalion staff members Executive Officer Luis Garcia, S3 Caelon Tautz, and S5 Logan Murtha accompanied MAJ Ivy Williams on a trip to our nation’s capital October 10-13, 2014. The purpose of the trip was for the Cadets to escort WWII Veterans at the WWII Memorial. MAJ Williams has been involved with the Honor Flight program for three years and wanted to offer some of his best Cadets the chance to experience this event.



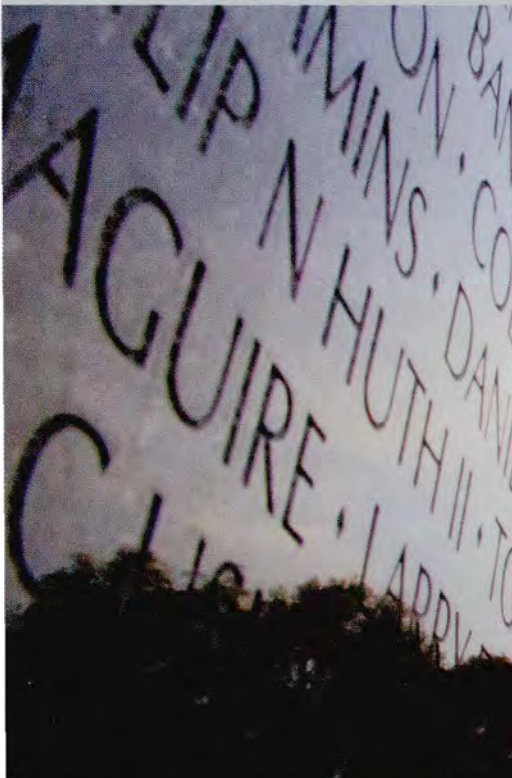
“This trip was awesome because I met WW II Veterans who served in the US Air Force and fought in the Philippines.”

One of the highlights of the trip was meeting CSM Raymond Chandler III, the CSM of the US Army.”

– LUIS GARCIA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE 127th CORPS OF CADETS



The SJMS contingent visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and witnessed the changing of the guard; watched The US Army Golden Knights Parachute Team perform an early morning dive; had the opportunity to work the controls of a robotic bomb defuser; and met a member of the US Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) specialist in his full weapons gear!



Mrs. Shroeder, wife of Scott Shroeder, CSM of the United States Armed Forces Command, states, "While I have had the privilege of meeting Cadets from military schools around the country, I have never been more impressed and pleased than with the Cadets of St. John's. We fought this war to ensure our children and grandchildren would be taken care of and have a legacy. We would pass the torch to young men to carry on. To see these young men in uniform, young enough to be our grandchildren, escorting us and thanking us, tells me the legacy was fulfilled."



MAJ Williams is a native of Miami, Florida. He has 24 years of military service and three combat tours. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice and a Masters Degree in Science with an emphasis in Leadership. He comes to St. John's from Fort Riley, where he served as the Executive Officer for Directorate of Morale Family Welfare and Recreation. MAJ Williams also coached and participated in the AUSA ten-mile run team while at Fort Riley. The team placed third overall two years in a row, and second this past year. Williams is very active in the community, serving as chairperson for many community service projects. MAJ Williams and his his wife Linda have two children, Taylor and Tara.



St. John's JROTC Senior Army Instructor, MAJ Ivy Williams, stands with CSM Raymond Chandler III, Command Sergeant Major of the United States Army, while in DC for his third trip to participate in the Honor Flight.

MAJ Williams explained, "The young men of St. John's had a wonderful experience with the Veterans and were motivated to learn more. They developed an overwhelming sense of pride and loyalty not only to the Veterans, but to St. John's as well."

Parents' Weekend

1. Logan Murtha and his folks Lynn and Paul Murtha celebrate his promotion. 2. President E. Andrew England congratulates Hayden Schjolberg, from Bloomington, Illinois, on meeting the requirements of becoming an Old Boy. 3. Gian Falossi, Chase Rose, Luis Garcia, William Johnson, and Jake Whitting share a lighter moment together!



Cadets doing what they do best...making every moment count and displaying pride when families come to visit!





1. Tyler Yanda salutes after posting the colors.
2. Lester Ostertag, drill team commander, gives Justin Gilbert the floor during the performance on the impact area in front of Jack Vanier Hall.
3. Blake Masso celebrates being promoted with his mom, Nanci Masso. 4. Jack Glasgow is surrounded by his parents, Angela and Michael Glasgow, following the promotion ceremony.

Chandler Latteman meets his parents Jennifer and William in the Vanier Academic Center for parent-teacher conferences. His little sister, Charlee, joined in the fun!

Gabriel and Mayra help pin new rank on their son, Luis Garcia, Executive Officer of the 127th Corps of Cadets.



Commandant's List

"Cadets earn their way onto the Commandant's List by being on the Honor Roll for the quarter and not getting any conduct reports. They also earn ten Honor Company points for their company. These Cadets help build a Corps of Cadets who make the faculty and staff proud!"

- GEORGE STELLJES, COMMANDANT

**Special Order # 103-15A
Friday October 24, 2014**
The following cadets are participating members of the 127th corps of cadets and are authorized to procure and wear the Commandant's list ribbon SJ 5313



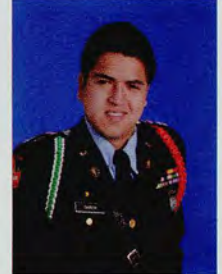
Brandon Burrage
Bravo CO
Seventh Grade



YiMing Chen
Alpha CO
Junior



Robert Conde-Reed
Bravo CO
Eighth Grade



Luis Quintanar Garcia
Executive Officer
Senior



Qionglin Huang
Alpha CO
Senior



KeYu Li
Alpha CO
Freshman



Osahon Mike-Irabor
Bravo CO
Seventh Grade



Miles Pappas
Alpha CO
Junior



Carver Patterson
HHQ
Freshman



Chase Rose
BN S3
Senior



Brandon Swain
Alpha CO
Senior



Sean Udofia
Bravo CO CMDR
Junior



Daniel Wei
Alpha CO
Junior



YiFan Xu
Alpha CO
Senior



ZiYue Zeng
Alpha CO
Junior



HaoRan Zhang
Bravo CO
Sophomore



Blue Beret



Brandon Burrage
Osahon Mike-Irabor
Isaiah Saya



Bryan Udofia

Middle School Dean's Honor Roll

Middle School Honor Roll



Cameron Ojennes
Oluwatimi Osunkoya
Jackson Brinn
Robert Conde-Reed
Mark Pearsall

Blue Beret



Brandon Swain
Xinyang Du
Jack Glasgow

High School Dean's Honor Roll



Carver Patterson
Caelon Tautz
YiXiu Li
Logan Murtha
ZiYue Zeng
YiFan Xu
Isaac Nagel



YiMing Chen
Jake Whitting
Blase Whitting
Luis Garcia Quintanar
Miles Pappas

High School Honor Roll



Matthew Stern
Gian Falossi
Sean Udofia
Alexander Weber
Daniel Wei
Caleb Moscati
Geoffrey Houchens



QiongLin Huang
Richard Reynolds
Chase Rose
HaoRan Zhang
Thomas Sinclair
Tyler Smith
KeYu Li



Edmund Sykes
Duncan Farrell
Zachary Cooper
Tyler Sullivan
Hongyu Wu

Brandon Swain

It is often difficult for people to understand the need to send a child to a boarding school. Mr. and Mrs. Brian Swain have agreed to share their story. The answers given to the questions raised may tug at your heart strings. One thing is for sure...the decision to send their son, Brandon, to St. John's has already paid great dividends!

Brandon offered his own version of the journey! Even though there are two sides to every story, you will see that sometimes the stories share the same sentiments.



Swain is the Executive Officer of Alpha CO & a member of the Blue Beret Club

there are
TWO
SIDES
to every story



Brandon goes up and makes a spectacular catch.



Brian and Mrs. Pam Kraus at prom.



Brandon and Mom at the ring ceremony.



Brian and Brandon watch the game.

Brian & Jovie Swain

Why did you feel the need to enroll Brandon at SJMS?

During Brandon's 10th grade year, he began high school in a large public school where we lived in Fayetteville, Arkansas. As the year progressed, Brandon's grades began to plummet. We sought help from teachers and school officials but were unable to get the assistance we needed. Seemingly, Brandon was getting lost in a crowd of many students. He was not very self-disciplined, especially when it came to school work. Brandon was losing self-confidence and self-esteem. He became increasingly argumentative toward us and those around him. All this, combined with his ADHD diagnosis early in life, created a very difficult environment. Our friends, the Gottspomers, had sent their son, Levi, to SJMS and his turnaround was amazing. We sought their counsel and prayed for direction from God. It became increasingly certain that we were being led to enroll Brandon at SJMS.

What surprised you about the experience? Brandon was generally a very solid student until his 10th grade year when he began to believe that he was not capable of making A's. We constantly urged him to do his best and told him how much we believed in his abilities. Once Brandon got

into the structured environment at SJMS, the low teacher/student ratios coupled with some of the best teachers on earth, empowered him to thrive academically. The St. John's faculty and staff is of the highest caliber, and they really care about our son. He even shared with us that he never thought he could be the good student he was becoming. The truth be known, we were not sure Brandon could make it through college on the path he was traveling prior to his arrival at St. John's. We are very confident he will not only be prepared for college, but also for life afterwards. St. John's professes to turn boys into men. Brandon is proof that happens.

Did the difficulty of saying good-bye to your son balance with the way he has accomplished so much while a Cadet at St. John's? Sending our child to a boarding school was no doubt an agonizing decision, but we felt a much worse decision would have been to let him continue on the path of struggle and failure. During his New Boy period at SJMS, we had limited contact with Brandon by design, and we understood that. We were able to write him letters. He was initially very angry with us for

sending him to SJMS. However, as he progressed through his first year, he began to increasingly buy into it. In fact, he not only told us he wanted to go back for his senior year, he would defend the honor of St. John's against any naysayer. There is no doubt in our mind that SJMS saved our son. As much as we miss seeing him on a daily basis, we know that he is being well prepared for college and life. It is a trade-off worth making for us. Of course, we get to see Brandon on fall and spring parents' weekends and on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and spring breaks. We communicate with him throughout the school year on a regular basis. Our relationship with Brandon prior to St. John's was very strained, but since his arrival there he has gained new respect and appreciation for his parents; our relationship with him has never been better.

Brandon

Why did your parents send you to St. John's?

My parents sent me to St. John's because of my poor effort in my schoolwork, mainly my sophomore year. I also didn't get along with my parents as well as I should have. I would fight with them frequently and was disrespectful.

What surprised you about St. John's?

New Boy, was harder than I thought it would be. It taught me, though, that you can't do everything by yourself. During New Boy period, you need teamwork and friends to help you get through it. Guys like Jack Glasgow, who was a New Boy with me, helped motivate me and Xinyang Du, who was my senior drill instructor, broke me down then built me back up into a better person. They are like my two brothers. The teachers at St. John's all have a unique personality and truly care about you as a person and care about your grades.

How is this school different than the school you left?

At my old school, it was hard to get the attention you do at St. John's. The teachers at St. John's will come in early or stay after school to help you with whatever you need. The teachers at my former school hardly ever did that. One thing about St. John's that's obviously different is the fact that after school is over we go back to the barracks and we still can see each other.

As for sports, there are fewer players on the teams versus the schools back home. I had quit football during the summer before my junior year because it was taking up so much time, and I wasn't getting anything out of it. It wasn't fun anymore. When I came to St. John's, I decided to play football. Only a few people know that I considered quitting after less than two weeks, but I didn't. I stuck with it and am so glad I did. Playing football my junior year was the most fun I have ever had playing a sport, and it felt so good to know I was a part of the first playoff win in school history.

How has the school helped you cope with your leg injury?

I broke my leg during a football game that initially led to me having a cast on my leg and being in a wheelchair for a few weeks. Later, I needed for surgery to insert a rod and pins in my leg.

I am not saying people wouldn't have cared for me if I was back home and this injury had happened there, but the people at St.

In closing, Brandon broke his leg playing football this year, and although we were not able to be there initially, the teachers and staff did everything possible to make sure he was cared for and to ensure he maintained his studies. Nurse Lori Faerber and his SJMS mom, Pam Kraus, probably took better care of him than we would have. We



owe them and other faculty and staff a debt of gratitude we can never repay. They have treated him like their own son. St. John's is now a part of our family forever. We are grateful beyond words for how much our family has received from this fine school.

Sincerely, Brian and Jovie Swain

John's are special and have helped me so much. I am forever grateful for what everybody did to help me.

What do you attribute your successes to now?

Before St. John's, I had very bad study habits. I attribute my good grades to the fact I had teachers who cared so much about me and wanted me to succeed, including Mrs. Kraus, Coach Alvarado, Mrs. Werth, MAJ Polzella, Mrs. Rickman, and more. They had my attention and made class fun for me. Getting ribbons, medals, and certificates for my achievements gave me a feeling of accomplishment. Being recognized for doing well in school or outside of school made me feel like I wasn't just another student. It made me feel important and successful. Because of hard work and motivation by friends, family, and teachers, I made straight A's for the first time and began to believe in myself.

What are your plans after you graduate from St. John's?

I plan to attend Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, and major in chemistry/pre-pharmacy. I also plan to minor in Spanish and possibly study abroad for a semester. After college, I hope to attend the University of Arkansas Medical School and obtain a Doctorate of Pharmacy.

The staff helped me in so many ways through my surgery:

Lt. Risher, my military advisor, arranged for a bed I could get into.
Mrs. Kraus, my St. John's Mom brought homework assignments to the infirmary.
Coach Alvarado made sure I stayed current with Spanish homework.
Mrs. Stein checked up on me and brought me milkshakes.
Nurse Lori and Kathy helped me in more ways than I could possibly list!
The president and the commandant checked on me daily.
Friends would wheel me to and from places, get me food from the mess hall, and sit and talk with me.



Nurse Lori with Brandon.

"Everybody showed me so much care and support, it meant so much."

Kraus

At the beginning of the original Star Trek series, the crew of the Star Ship Enterprise goes “Boldly where no man—where no one—has gone...before.” In today’s, terms this quote would have to be changed to: “Boldly go where men and women and teachers have gone before. To reach the outer limits of space without fear or dread.”

St. John’s Military School is fortunate enough to have among its ranks two space explorers, Anna Robles and Pam Kraus. These two spend their summer vacations broadening their knowledge base and gaining ideas to help motivate their students to get excited about science.

The summer of 2014, Mrs. Kraus attended the Honeywell Educators at Space Academy at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Honeywell pays the expenses for 200 selected teachers each summer to provide these teachers

tools to motivate students to be interested in STEM (science, engineering and technology).

During the workshop, Kraus was teamed with teachers from Scotland, Vietnam, China, and a Britisher who teaches in Dubai. Kraus explains, “I plan to collaborate with the teacher from China and one from Florida on a student-designed laboratory that SJMS students can do in our lab. We will Skype and email data back and forth and talk to the other classes about how our experiences went. One of the contacts I made at the workshop helped me apply for and receive a grant that provided ten kits to make robotic submarines. I attend these workshops to gain new knowledge about cutting-edge science experiments and to network with teachers around the world. Space exploration is the final frontier, and the Cadets at St. John’s have a chance to participate in and experience firsthand what STEM has to offer.”



Anna Robles spent a week in Columbus, Georgia, with 15 other teachers from around the country as part of the annual Teachers in Space conference. Over the past four years Robles has attended three different Teachers in Space conferences. The first workshop was focused on Suborbital Space Flight. Two summers ago, Robles attended a workshop for Human Factors and Space. Robles explains, "We spent the first few days learning some basics involved in launching a balloon to near space. We learned about different sensors that could be put on the balloon as part of the payload, such as light sensors, temperature sensors, and even radiation sensors.

The program strives to get the teachers excited and send them home with new knowledge and ideas that they can incorporate into the classroom. For me, the greatest takeaway has been the networking with other teachers. I have met 15 new people with ideas on how

to teach something. Bobby Russell was one of those people I met. He is CEO and founder of Quest for Stars, which is a non-profit that works with school and colleges to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.) Bobby has agreed to do a Skype session with our boys in November. He will talk about what he does and show them some of his projects. Being the science nerd that I am, I decided to detour to Orlando, Florida, prior to returning to Kansas. I was able to visit Cape Canaveral for the first time and watch the launch of a Delta IV rocket. And to top it all off, I had the opportunity to meet the first Brazilian Astronaut, Marcos Cesar Pontes. Overall, it was a great learning opportunity! I returned to Kansas even more excited for the upcoming school year!"

Pam and Anna met some famous men of science; Pam met Homer Hickman Jr., made famous in the movie October Sky, and Anna met, the first Brazilian astronaut, Marcos Cesar Pontes.





Conde



Skyes



Yu



Moscati

***“There is no time
to think about how
much you hurt; there
is only time
to run”***

Ben Logsdon



“After State Cross Country in Wamego, Kansas, our season has come to an official end. Josh Bardsley earned a medal, finishing 9th place in the individual class 1A at state.

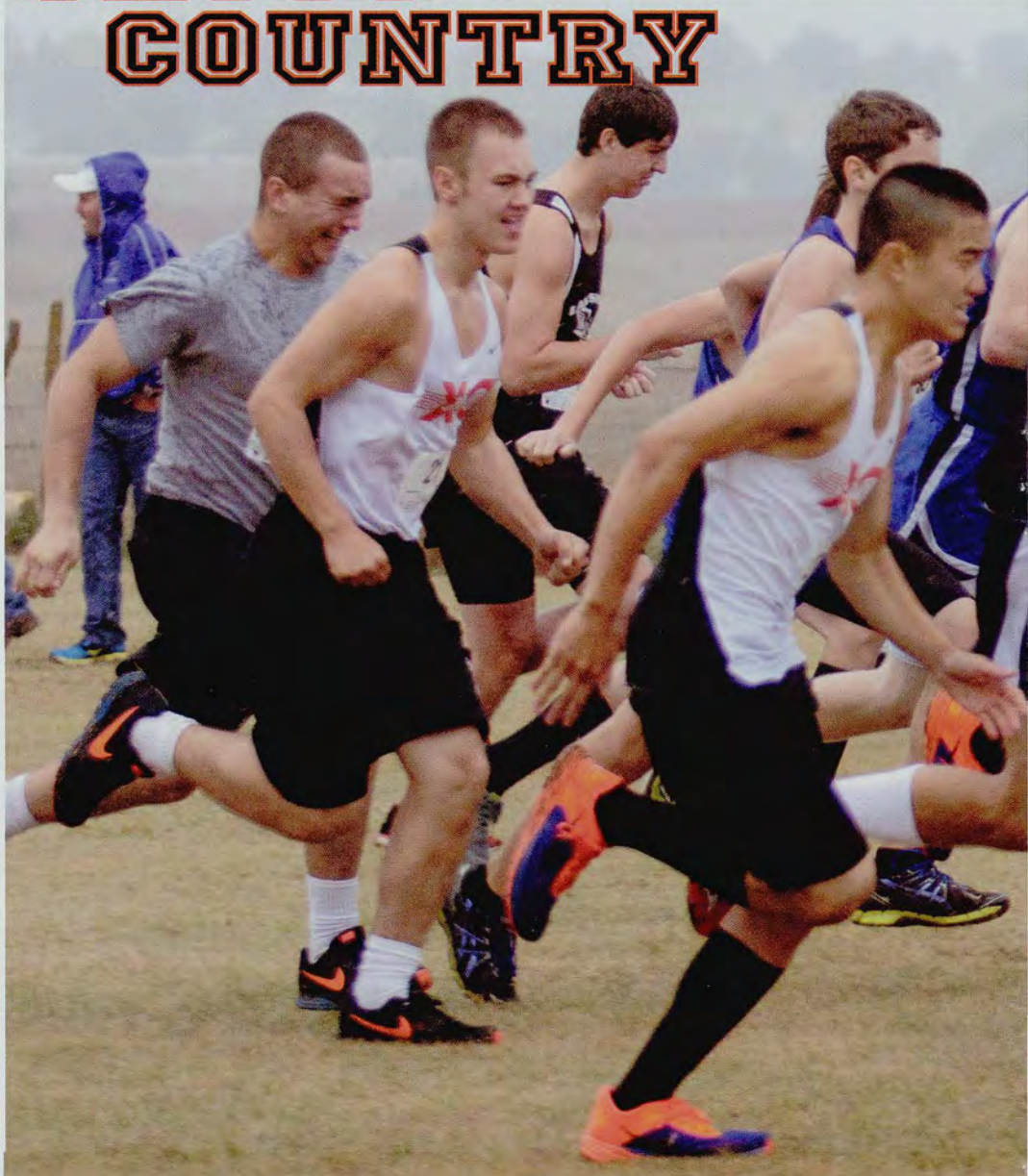
We will be sponsoring a running club three days a week to keep the boys and ourselves in shape.

It has been a great season. We’ve enjoyed the great support shown by the faculty, staff, and parents.”

—DARIN BERHARDT

AND ROBERT GLENN

CROSS COUNTRY



Robert Conde finishes 5th overall M.S. Boys

Daniel Ritchie placed 14th and received a varsity medal with a time of 20:53 5k. (Thomas Moore Prep). Ritchie set this years team record at 20:05 at Hesston on 9/11.



Wei



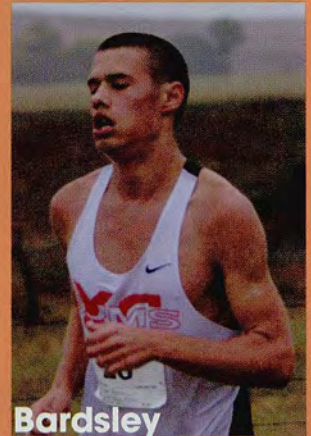
Stern



Ritchie



Sullivan



Bardsley

Josh Bardsley qualified for state after placing 5th overall at the Riley county regional. At state, Josh earned a 9th place medal in individual class 1A! Congratulations, Josh!

Bardsley wins Varsity 5k FIRST place with a time of 18:11.

Daniel Wei placed 20th and received a varsity medal with a time of 20:43 5k. (Hesston Invitational)

Edward sykes personal best 21:37 5k.
Caleb Moscati personal best 22:33 5k
Chenxi Yu with a time of 21:43 5k.

Coaches, Curtis Pickering, David Leonard, and Roy Lawrence encouraged the team to give their best efforts at every turn. When going against teams bringing in bigger players and deeper rosters, the coaches reminded the Cadets that winning is about playing with heart!

FOOTBALL

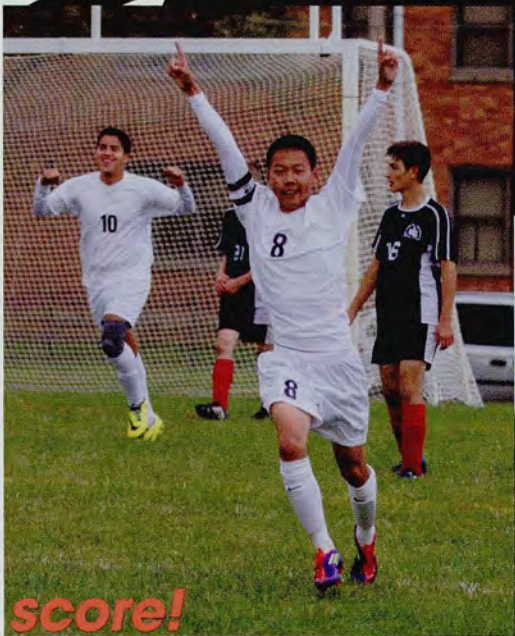
Friday night lights!



Plagued by injuries during the season and few returning letterman, the team had a tough task ahead for the 2014 season. With usual Cadet resolve, the members of this year's squad managed to have some fun and light up the field with exciting pass plays and some grueling ground work!



Team Roster : #22 Jacob Gengler, #63 Justin Gilbert, #34 David Gross, #28 Calvin Guardiola, #80 Bryce Kisner, #1 Chandler Latteman, #99 John Matte, #98 Antonio Miranda, #82 Isaac Nagel, #6 Marshall Otter, #85 James Peterson, #24 Chase Rose, #90 Hayden Schjolberg, #52 Thomas Sinclair, #4 Tyler Smith, #5 Brandon Swain, # 25, Alex Weber, #21 Bryce Weidner, and #12 Jake Whitting. Casey Darroll, Zach Cooper, Ethan Pizzi, and A.J. Ricketts, managers. Head Coach Roy Lawrence. Assistant Coaches, David Leonard, and Curtis Pickering.



score!

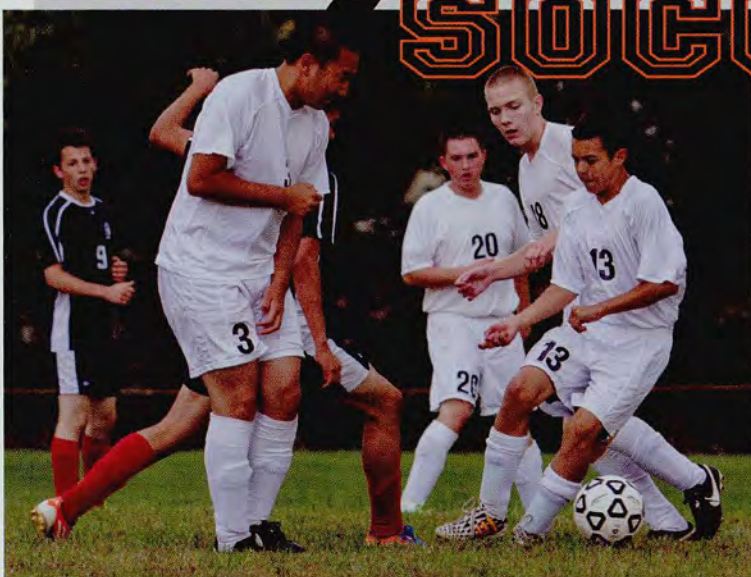


Coaches Leo Alvarado and Geronimo Rivera had no problem firing up the soccer team to meet their foes. Each week brought greater success than the last, and each week the Cadets became more cohesive as a team. Several players scored goals and Blase Whitting kept the opponents shots out of the goal box. All in all...it was a very good year!

**Olé,
Olé, Olé, Olé**



S O C C E R



The soccer team put together some exciting moments for the home crowd. They won on the road in a season that brought together returning lettermen with several New Boys. The result was a rewarding season for all. Freshmen, Blase Whitting, stepped in as goalie and found something new he was good at!

Team Roster : (manager) Michael Barron, #2 YiMing Chen, #8 XiYang Du, #14 Gian Falossi, #20 Duncan Farrell, #10 Luis Garcia, #11 Jack Glasgow, #19 Benjamin Hahn, #9 KeYu Li, #5 JiaJi Liu, Haiden Murray, (manager) Dawson Odegard, #16 Yuehai Pan, #6 Miles Pappas, #4 Carver Patterson, #13 Chris Reilly, #15 Carlos Rodriguez, #21 Sean Udofia, #7 John Yoder, #12 Blase Whitting, #18 Roan Winter, #3 ZiYue Zeng. Head Coach-Leo Alvarado, Assistant Coach-SFC Geronimo Rivera.

Middle School SOCCER



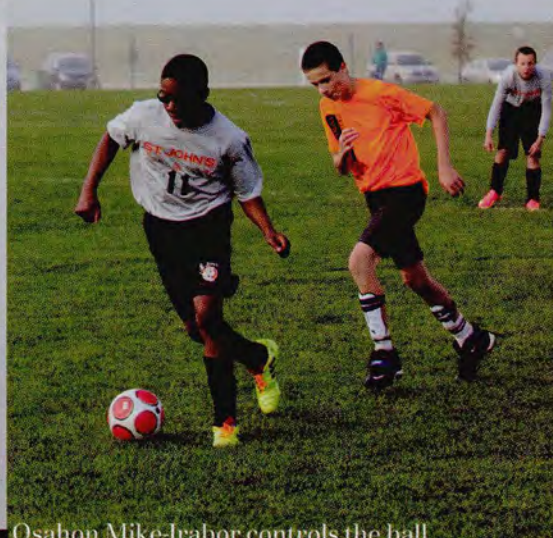
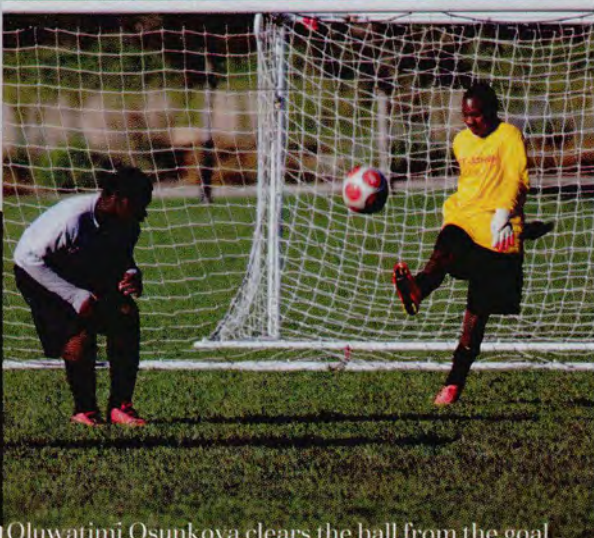
Team Roster

Jackson Brinn
Brandon Burrage
Tanner Conaway
Osahon Mike-Irabor
Alexander Neroni
Oluwatimi Osunkoya
Mark Pearsall
Isaiah Saya
Levin Truitt
James Vanwinkle
Bryan Udofia
Cameron Ojennes,
Manager

The Middle School Soccer Team had a record of two wins one loss and three ties. The team placed third in the youth soccer league. Not bad for the first season!



1. Mark Pearsall works the defense. 2. Isaiah Saya helps guard the goal box as goalie Tanner Conaway catches the inbound ball. 3. James Vanwinkle charges his opponent. 4. Levin Truitt goes for the ball. 5. Jackson Brinn displays fleet feet.



Oluwatimi Osunkoya clears the ball from the goal

Osahon Mike-Irabor controls the ball.



Dawson Odegard, Isaiah Saya, Micah Nestor, and James Vanwinkle display their "passports" to Mars. Their names will be aboard the Delta IV rocket that will be heading to Mars sometime between December 4 - 6, 2014.

One of Ms. Robles' students asked if they were actually going to Mars. She replied, "Um no...that would be a very interesting OPD (Off Post Detail) to fill out."

For those of you interested in obtaining your own boarding pass, put the link below in your internet browser and join the estimated 1,160,000 others already holding a passport to Mars!

<http://mars.nasa.gov/participate/send-your-name/orion-first-flight/index.cfm>

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