

The

# Skirmisher

Fall 2015

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St. John's Military School



# The Skirmisher

At 211° degrees, water is hot. At 212° degrees, it boils. With boiling water, you get steam and steam can power a locomotive. The 212° award was created for staff and faculty to be able to nominate colleagues for their dedication to SJMS.



The award reads: The following individuals are hereby recognized for their outstanding dedication and service to the Cadets, staff, and faculty of SJMS. Their efforts have truly made a positive difference in the lives of those who live or work on campus. They have given that extra degree of service that is the lifeblood of any organization. People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care and these people care a great deal. They helped make SJMS a very special place for a boy to mature into a young man.

## JUDI CASSTEVENS

Judi loves the Cadets and shows them great affection as well as the occasional and needed correction in behavior. She is constant and fair in her treatment of Cadets. She rewards Cadets with snacks for good deeds, such as helping her and others around the Quartermaster store. She is diligent in making sure the boys have well-fitting garments and look presentable. Judi has maintained many close relationships with former Cadets who keep in touch with her. They share their lives, their hopes, disappointments, and accomplishments with her, and occasionally ask her advice. Cadets visiting campus always ask if she is available to visit.

## CPT MIKE REID

His Cadets typically put in the most community service man-hours helping the people of Salina and surrounding communities year in and year out. He was the driving force behind the groups of SJMS staff and Cadets who participated in the clean-up of Hoisington and Harveyville, Kansas, after tornadoes devastated these two communities. He freely gives up his off-duty time to help his Cadets whenever needed. He truly loves the Cadets of HHC and many of them see him as their second father. Quite often, he can be found on campus during his time off, mentoring a Cadet or planning an upcoming activity. He has gone above and beyond many times, working very hard to make St. John's a special place for the Cadets under his care.

## DEBBY EDGERTON

Debby is an extremely devoted employee of St. John's who deals with thousands of Cadet paper forms per year. These various forms are forwarded to the nursing, academic, military, and business office for each applying family. She works long hours and sometimes weekends to accomplish her goals. In doing her job, Debby supports others who rely heavily on her for completing parts of their jobs. Debby is a devoted St. John's Mom. She spends a lot of time with her St. John's sons, going above and beyond what is normally expected. She remains in contact with her former SJMS sons and offers encouragement, support, and congratulations when appropriate.

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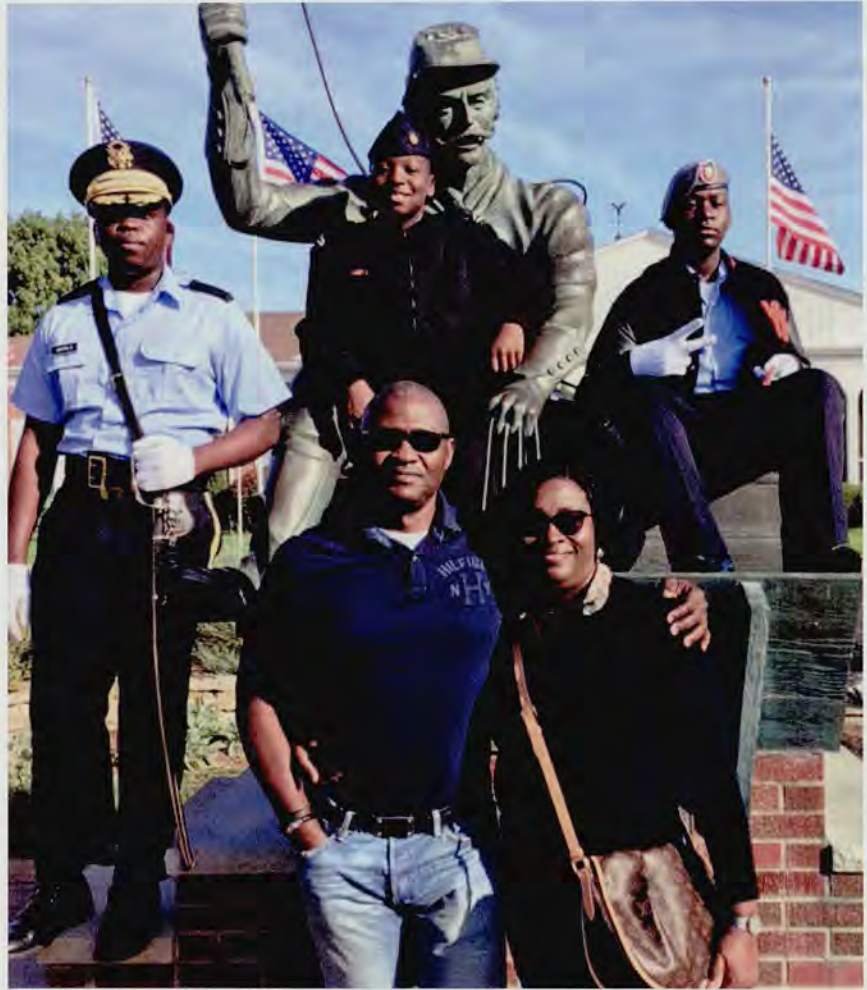
Where's my 2015 yearbook?

### **ON THE COVER**

Caleb Kirpatrick and the 128th in formation.  
Photo by Terry Plumberg.

# OUR THREE SONS

*Ann and IB Udofia have done what no family has done before... they enrolled all their sons at St. John's, to provide a quality education and to experience the many opportunities St. John's offers. They explain, "We had a strong belief that the Christian principles and military background of the school was just the ticket. Our initial discussions with the admissions team at St. John's provided the assurance and confidence that St. John's could very well be the school!" Ann and IB answer some questions about their decision to send the boys to St. John's.*



## ***Why do you believe St. John's is the place for your sons?***

We moved from the Netherlands to the United States in 2011. We enrolled the boys first in public schools, but later moved them to a private Christian school in Houston. Hitherto the boys had been schooling under the British system. The transition to the American system was therefore not easy, but was made even more difficult by the lack of attention from teachers in the previous schools during the period of transition. We also were not satisfied with the level of self-discipline and personal organization of the older boys at home regarding their studies and use of time. We therefore started looking for alternatives and St. John's was on the shortlist. We also reviewed information about the school via the internet, academic records, of course, and then decided to enroll the first boy (our second son). His dramatic transformation in academics, self-organization, and leadership responsibility convinced us we made the right decision. We were impressed with what we saw and we realized we wanted the same values for our older boy, Sean. That led to enrolling him as well, and we are gratified the results were replicated in him. The third one, (our last son) After a couple of visits, our youngest son Jason witnessed the swagger in his brothers and longed to join them. Given our experience with the first two, we did not hesitate. Glad to say, so far, so good, with him too.

## ***Bryan was the first of your sons to attend St. John's. What circumstances led to your decision to enroll Bryan at St. John's?***



As I mentioned before, we were keen to see an improvement in self-organization, academics, and a sense of maturity in Bryan. We believed St. John's could provide those values in him. Bryan seemed to come out of his shell a bit after being at St. John's for a year.

## ***To what do you attribute this change in Bryan?***

SJMS is a family-oriented school. The teachers, staff, and St. John's moms provide an atmosphere of balanced attention, care, and genuine interest in the students; therefore, it is difficult for a child to fall between the cracks and powerful enough to melt any reserves. We believe the class size and close attention the students receive from the teachers is a key part of the academics. The reward and recognition system for excellence also pushed Bryan to perform and aspire to do better. Also, having Capt. Brian Bell and Sgt. Micah Stahl as mentors when our son Bryan first arrived was key to drawing him out of his shell. He believes so much in both of them.

## ***What other changes did you see in Bryan?***

Bryan was very proud of his attendance at the school. He became more self-confident and for the first time in a long while made friends with whom he was in communication during the holidays. He also became more considerate and appreciative of the sacrifice we made to send him to the school. He made up his mind to excel and do his best.



### ***Sean was your second son to enroll at St. John's. What circumstances led to your decision to enroll Sean at St. John's?***

Basically, his academic performance in his previous school and again, personal discipline and self-organization. When we saw the transformation in Bryan, we had no doubt Sean needed St. John's.

### ***How did Sean handle the transition to St. John's?***

Ah, well, he hated it. He begged and prayed not to go. We discussed it over time and pointed out the advantages. He grudgingly accepted and promised to give it a good try. He arrived with our voices clear in his head as to the reason he was there and what he needed to do. He may have handled the transition well, probably initially to make us happy, but we believe later it became what he believed in when he saw the benefits.

### ***Sean has accomplished a great deal while at St. John's.***

#### ***What accomplishments make you the most proud?***

Leadership and responsibility. We knew he had it in him, but St. John's exposed and helped him develop it. Beyond academics, this will help him greatly in life.

### ***When did you decide to send Jason to join his brothers at St. John's?***

We didn't decide. Jason did. While Sean prayed and begged not to go, Jason prayed and begged to go. He just had to be with his brothers as they are quite a tight bunch at home. He was tired of all the reminiscences and pride the brothers showed in St. John's during the holidays and just had to be part of it. He had visited a couple of times and even made friends with Cadets. He started practicing marching and saluting at home. We think he arrived at St. John's already a half-old New Boy!



### ***What do you hope Jason will gain from his experience at St. John's?***

Same as his brothers. Excel in his academics and acquire lots of self-discipline and leadership skills.

## ***How do you cope with the empty nest?***

It's a tough one. The house is quiet and parts of it are no longer lived in until the boys return for holidays. Not sure who it was tougher for when Jason left - him or us? We do travel quite a bit so that helps a great deal.

### ***Share with us the emotions you experience when on campus for Parents' Weekend.***

The first Parents' Weekend was memorable. This was our first experience: glimpsing what a military school really looks and feels like. It was also good to see Bryan and hear how much he had changed and improved academically. What struck us personally was the change in the way and manner he carried himself - with pride and purpose.

The most recent Parents' Weekend was good and a first for IB. It was an amazing time meeting with the teachers and hearing the progress of the boys and agreeing on any course corrections. It was also wonderful meeting with other parents. And, of course, we were happy seeing Jason for the first time after his New Boy period ... which he didn't think would be as hard as it was leaving the comfort of home. Talking with other New Boy parents and sharing our experiences and belief in SJMS was also good. We get lots of questions about why we trust SJMS with ALL our kids.

### ***What advice could you offer parents considering sending their sons to St. John's?***

We are constantly reaching out to people and talking about SJMS. From an experience standpoint, we would not hesitate at all to recommend St. John's to potential parents, especially if they are faced with similar wishes for their boys - a place that can provide a protected environment for boys to become leaders and gentlemen who are confident in their abilities to hold their heads high with dignity, respect, and integrity. The fact that all our kids are going to SJMS demonstrates our unconditional belief in the school.

### ***Ann and IB offer some final thoughts.***

From what we have said, it may sound like it was an easy decision to send the boys to St. John's. It wasn't. Especially taking the first step with Bryan. We researched St. John's and read through both the positive and negative reviews. Even when we travelled to Salina (middle of nowhere for us), we still had doubts and fears. But we had prayed about it and were convinced that we were doing the right thing. Worst case, we felt we would try for one year and then withdraw him if we weren't satisfied. This is four years after and three kids. We are still convinced it was the right move to make and we made it despite the financial and emotional impact of sending our young sons to a boarding school. Our Bryan and Jason both joined SJMS at age 10!

It probably helped that we are both products of boarding schools and appreciate the positive impact it made on our lives.

# The Man at The Top

*"I want our SJMS Cadets to gain the same things I gained at Virginia Military Institute: confidence, competence, a real sense of belonging to something so much larger than you are, a true sense of personal honor, and leadership abilities that are inherent, not classroom taught."*

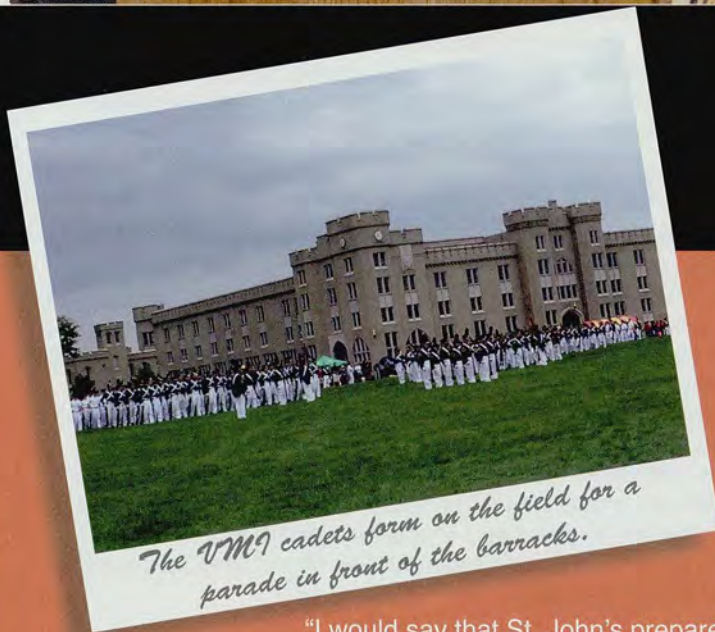
*E. Andrew England*



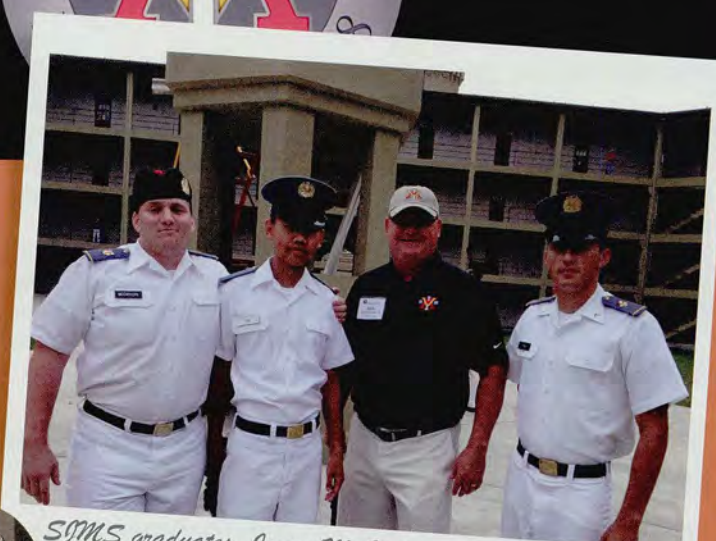
The man at the top, E. Andrew England, president of St. John's Military School, shares a common thread with the Cadets he leads. When approaching his college years, he considered the Virginia Military Institute (VMI). Four of his classmates were heading to VMI, and England's father graduated from VMI with the class of 1965. When asking young men to meet the standards of New Boy at St. John's, Mr. England knows exactly what he is asking the Cadets to face. The RAT program at VMI is intimidating. England relates, "I don't remember much about registration day. It was very civil until you said goodbye to your parents.

Then...not so much. The rest of the day was a mind-numbing pace of getting uniforms issued and setting up rooms. One clear memory was of my drill instructor. He asked where I was from. I responded 'Mechanicsville, VA.' He then asked if I would like to call my mother, and I said, 'yes.' 'Well, go ahead', he said, so I stood at the rail on the fourth stoop of barracks and called for my mother.

Didn't work." St. John's New Boys often face feelings of loneliness and



*The VMI cadets form on the field for a parade in front of the barracks.*



*SJMS graduates, James McCaffery, Xingyang Du, and Levi Harmon stand with E. Andrew England.*

"I would say that St. John's prepared me for VMI by instilling the idea of pride. Be proud of who you are, where you came from, and what you want to achieve. Be proud of your appearance, your work, and anything and everything you represent, or that represents you." James McCaffery



become homesick...and when they do Mr. England has the perfect response. Following the forming of the corps, the Cadets move into Armstrong Chapel for the blessing of the corps. England encourages the New Boys to lean on fellow New Boys. He states, "It's difficult to face the challenges of New Boy alone, but together you can face anything." Once the Cadets understand that the man they follow has survived a similar fate, they begin to feel like they too can survive. During the RAT year at VMI, England had second thoughts about his decision and called home. He explains, "I called my mother to let her know that I had made a terrible decision and asked to go home. No, was her reply. There were a lot of nights with tears on the pillow. After a few weeks, I settled in pretty well."

When asked about his favorite part of the VMI experience, he acknowledges, "It's hard to distill my cadetship down to a favorite part. So many facets blended into the whole experience. I loved, and still do, the guys. My classmates, the guys on the rugby team, and other Cadets with whom I shared the experience all contributed to making the voyage a positive experience. I was also very caught up in the history and romance of the place. The buildings and the campus, still had a very 1800s feel in many ways."

Many of the cadets attending VMI commission as officers upon graduation. Following commencement, "I accepted a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army, went to Field Artillery Officer Basic School, and was then assigned to the First Infantry Division,

Ft. Riley, Kansas."

Like many SJMS Old Boys, England attends reunions at his alma mater. This past fall his visit to the VMI campus offered a special bonus. Three SJMS Old Boys, Xinyang Du, James McCaffery, and Levi Harmon wear the VMI uniform. England says about these young men, "I am very proud of the SJMS boys who are attending VMI, and I live somewhat vicariously through them. I know, full well, the pride and connectedness they will feel at the end of their journey, and I'm so happy for them. They have set the major foundation stones for their future success. I did meet with our Old Boys. They filled me in on their experiences, and we compared our journeys. I asked them if they felt the VMI experience was as difficult as I had described. United, they said much harder.

"I know what our Old Boys will gain from VMI. That is what brings me such joy as I watch their journey. They will have the confidence that comes from having completed something so very difficult. Extraordinary people are born from extraordinary experiences, and that is what they are receiving."

"I want our SJMS Cadets to share the same pride I share with my fellow Cadets. We will forever be bound to the Corps of Cadets. When life gets tough, we will always have our Cadet experiences to look back on for guidance and strength. It's an amazing thing."



*from left: Ethan Cole, Charles England, Mr. England's father, Turner Cole, Carter Cole, Andy England, Barbara England, Mr. England's mother, Mandy Cole, Mr. England's sister and Katy England gather during reunion weekend at VMI.*



*The VMI cadets form on the field for a parade in front of the barracks.*

"SJMS prepared me physically and academically, teaching me military skills, moral development, and how to be a leader and good listener. I have learned the most important lesson is that the place you hate the most, will be the place which gave you the most.

So I just have to tough it up, and finish the 'RAT Line.'" Xinyang Du



Pam Kraus and Anna Befort (Robles) never tire of finding ways to make the study of science exciting and innovative. Both teachers participate in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), a program developed to inspire interest in these four areas of study. Cadets studying under Kraus and Befort are given opportunities to witness first hand the power of science. During the 2014-2015 school year, Mrs. Kraus' advanced chemistry students entered a contest to design a patch to be flown in space. Their design won and the patch is now part of ongoing space experiments (see below). Mrs. Befort coordinated the participation of SJMS Cadets in a high altitude balloon launch (next page). Kraus and Befort spend much of their summer vacation attending workshops to enhance the science curriculum.



Eli Harmon



Levi Harmon



David Schmaus



Adam Walther



Jacob Weise



Pam Kraus

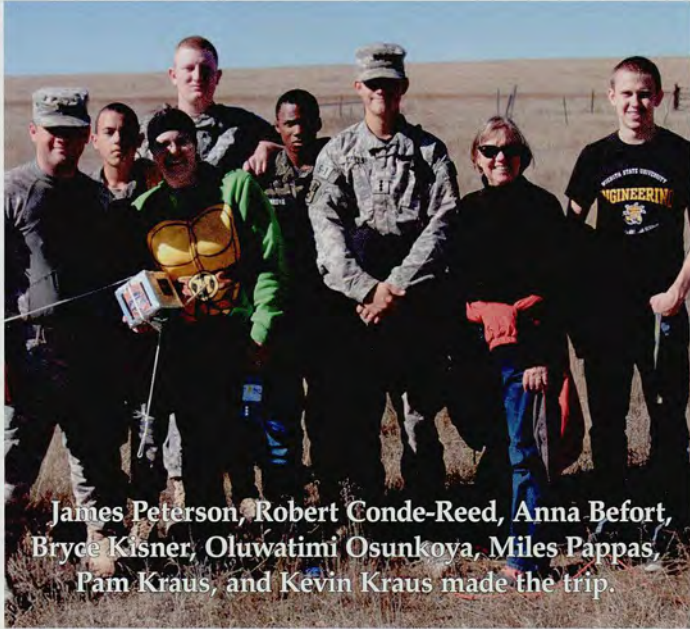
On October 16, 2015, Teachers in Space, Inc. (TIS) and Pathfinder and Commercial Astronaut Trainee, James Kuhl, lifted off at Ottawa, Canada's Macdonald - Cartier Airport on a mission to test a spacesuit in simulated microgravity. The goal of the mission was preliminary testing for FAA certification of a spacesuit recently being manufactured by Final Frontier Design of Brooklyn, NY. Attached to the spacesuit was the patch developed by students of Pam Kraus, a teacher at St. John's Military School. The flight opportunity was provided by TIS, a non-profit educational organization which seeks to stimulate student interest in STEM by providing teachers with extraordinary space science experiences and industry connections. TIS supports the transfer of the passion for space science and exploration from teachers to their students, preparing and encouraging those students to pursue further education and exciting, rewarding careers in the emerging space industry. As an alumnus of TIS training, Pam Kraus and her students developed a mission patch that flew to the International Space Station. In support of this achievement, TIS included the patch on the spacesuit being tested in Canada. Both the suit and the patch successfully completed ten parabolas, about five minutes total of simulated micro gravity on the Falcon 20 corporate jet of the Canadian Research Council. TIS will continue to support teachers like Pam Kraus with flight opportunities and training in STEM. *James Kuhl*

James Kuhl is a 6th grade teacher at Central Square Middle School. He has published several articles about STEM instruction in middle school. He was the recipient at the secondary level of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) awarded by the President Clinton in 1999. He served on the Master Teacher Board for Pearson Publishing during the development of their Interactive Science textbook series. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Science Teachers Association of New York State (STANYS).





# ***SJMS Cadet designed payload soars to lofty heights***



James Peterson, Robert Conde-Reed, Anna Befort, Bryce Kisner, Oluwatimi Osunkoya, Miles Pappas, Pam Kraus, and Kevin Kraus made the trip.



At the beginning of the year, Mr. Pappas approached Mrs. Kraus and Mrs. Befort with the idea of putting a payload together for a high altitude balloon launch.

The students would have to put something together and keep it under two pounds. With this being their first flight, they chose to keep it simple. The team decided to use a cardboard box with a hole for a GoPro camera. As part of the experiment, a marshmallow was attached to the outside of the box. Because of complications during the launch, the marshmallow fell off and hit the ground.

Students from the Science Explorations class traveled to Aurora, Colorado, on the 30th of October in preparation for the launch. They departed campus at 6 a.m. for Deer Trail, Colorado. The hydrogen-filled balloon was set to launch at 7:50 a.m. It would carry the SJMS payload, along with about nine other payloads.

Immediately after the balloon was released, the groups followed in chase. The groups headed to Hugo, Colorado, which is south of Limon, Colorado. It was here they were able to clearly see the balloon at an altitude of 97,000 feet. Once the balloon burst, the groups loaded up to retrieve their payloads.

It took about 30 minutes to determine the location of the payload. It was another hour before permission was granted from the landowners to retrieve the balloon. The SJMS boys, along with 50 others, walked two miles into a pasture to retrieve the payload. The walk was made difficult by the large amount of cacti.

On the ride home, the students began to process the video from the GoPro. The memory card had not been cleared prior to the launch and the boys did not get video from the balloon as they had hoped they would.

Overall, it was a great experience. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Pappas for their hospitality and making this opportunity available for our kids. Also, thanks to Mrs. Kraus and Kevin Kraus for making the trip with us.

*Anna Befort*

# PARENTS' WEEKEND!

*The 128th puts on a show for thier families.*



Jackson Forbes, Dawson Odegard, and Michael Winters stand ready to fire the cannon when the Muleskinners score.



Adrian Cabildo-Arias becomes an Old Boy, while his mother, Edna Arias Velasco, and his father, Rodolfo Cabildo Garrido, stand behind in support.

Alexander Weber shows his drilling skills.



Oluwatimi Osunkoya spends some time with his mom, Adesola Awomolo.



Jake Whitting is about to catch a pass for a touchdown during the Friday night football game.



Christian McQueen, guest soloist, Caden Lohrenz, pianist, Judy Weber, guest pianist, and Caleb Kirpatrick, soloist, start the promotion ceremony with the Star Spangled Banner.



Blase Whitting, soccer team goalie, blocks a shot saving a score for the opposition.



# Honoring Heroes

The 128th Corps of Cadets took part in several events focusing on Veterans Day. One group of cadets traveled to Denver, Colorado, to march in the Veterans Day parade. Several Cadets from the state of Colorado were able to see their families while in the state for the parade. Parents stood along the parade route holding signs in support of the SJMS cadets.

The St. John's band celebrated

the Marine Corps Birthday with neighbor Dan Pestinger, continuing a long-standing band tradition. Each year on the morning of November 10, the band marches to the Pestinger home. The band plays the Star Spangled Banner followed the Marine Corps hymn. Mr. Pestinger then reads a letter from the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The event ends with

a hearty breakfast at the Pestinger table.

The Veterans Day ceremony in Sunset Park gave the Cadets the chance to stand in solidarity with the Salina community to recognize the sacrifice of Salina's own and honor all who served and are still in harm's way.



1. Christopher Reilly-Reed leads the parade, followed by the battalion drummers Jackson Brinn, Bryan Udofia, James Ushman, Oluwatimi Osunkoya, Brandon Burrage, and Caden Lohrenz. The rest of the corps marches in front of the SJMS bus.  
 2. Cameron Ojennes had a cheering squad on the parade route.  
 3. Xavier Ryan, Keith Pierce, Connor Ebert, Akinwumi Ricketts, and Ethan Pizzi carry the colors.

4. The 128th makes a turn during the parade.  
 5. The SJMS color guard gets ready to present the colors. Guard, Mark Pearsall; Commander, Alex Weber; the American flag, Caleb Kirkpatrick; the Kansas flag, Caleb Moscati; John Cerato, guard; Chandler Latteman, Army; Reece Turner, Navy; Robert Hinze, Air Force; Easton Ryser, Marine Corps; and Robert Conde-Reed, Coast Guard.

6. The SJMS band at the Marine Corps Birthday celebration. James Ushman, Brandon Burrage, Caden Lohrenz, Jackson Brinn, Bryan Udofia, Mason Clanton-Brown, Wendy Stein, Dan Pestinger, Gabby, Jacque, Bryce Kisner, Ethan Pizzi, Oluwatimi Osunkoya, James Peterson, and Osahon Mike-Irabor.  
 7. Alexander Neroni holds the HHQ guide-on.

# Middle School Soccer



This season was an incredibly exciting one for the middle school soccer program. Although it may not have ended the way we wanted, this was still our best season by far! With a final record of 4-2, the boys did a fantastic job of staying motivated, playing with heart, and exhibiting good sportsmanship. I am very proud of the way they held it together until the end and look forward to next year! Go St. John's! Capt. Brian Bell



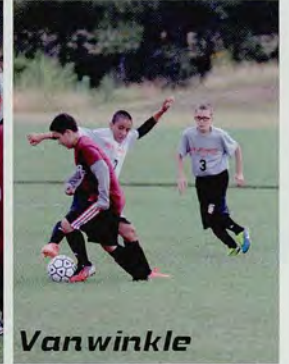
**Mike Irabor**



**Cabildo**



**Clanton**



**Vanwinkle**



**Hill**



**Odegard**



**Rutz**



**Saya**



**Sudol**

**Tamblyn**

## ***The Letdown!***

Today we lost our game 2-1 in a hard fought battle in the first round of the tournament. Unfortunately, that ends our season, but it leaves us 4-2 overall. *Capt. Brian Bell*



# Jake Whitting and Willie Johnson have a banner season!

*Mrs. Stein interviewed Jake Whitting for his take on the season.*

**Stein:** How did you set up plays when you were on the field? **Jake:** I set up plays with my sixth sense and my football brain because football is like second nature to me. **Stein:** How did you decide if you were catching, or throwing, or running? **Jake:** I made my decisions based on what the team needed and how I felt about each individual position. If I didn't feel like I could effectively throw the ball because my shoulder felt a little weird, I just wouldn't throw. **Stein:** Who on the team was most supportive of your playing? **Jake:** Tyler Adams was very supportive of the way I played, although, the whole team made me feel like my contribution was always appreciated, even the coaches. **Stein:** What was your favorite play? **Jake:** I didn't have a favorite play. The coaches did a great job with our playbook to keep things fresh and always looking for new ways to work a play or a simpler way to get that first down. **Stein:** Who is your favorite pro player and why? **Jake:** My favorite pro player is Mark Sanchez because he gets a lot of stick for how he plays, but that doesn't stop him. He perseveres through immense criticism and disappointing injuries; he is a real inspiration. **Stein:** Describe the feeling you get when you run your route, catch the ball, and take the ball in for a score. **Jake:** When I catch a ball on a well-executed play, it is the greatest feeling ever. It shows me that things are going my way and that I am in great sync with my quarterback.



*Jake Whitting*  
**23**

86 catches for 1,332 yards  
9 receiving touchdowns  
336 yards rushing on 38 carries  
Completed 6 of 8 passes for 121 yards

## FOOTBALL

I just finished my senior year of football. It was a great and long season. I would like to thank all my coaches and all my teammates and everybody else along the way, including my girlfriend, my mom, and dad. I would like to say that this was by far my most fun year of football and my best year playing football. I also earned defensive player of the year and a plaque with my name and record on it. I also set the record for most tackles in St. John's history. In the picture above, Jake Whitting, my best friend since 6th grade, and I display our awards. Jake was named best offensive player of the year. Good job, Jake.



*Willie Johnson*



*Willie Johnson*  
**52**

79 tackles in regular season  
28 in the play off game  
107 tackles this season



# MAKING THE Student of the Month

The SJMS Student of the Month program founded by Paula Wilton, SJMS teacher, identifies students who give their maximum effort, work well with others, and display a positive attitude on a consistent basis in the classroom. Academic Dean Ginger Wooten explains, "The SJMS faculty enjoys recognizing deserving Cadets."

Cadets earning this honor receive rec bucks to spend at the quartermaster and in the snack bar. They are recognized on local radio stations, and their photos are posted in Vanier Academic Center during the month they are chosen for this honor. Congratulations to all the Student of the Month recipients!

## September

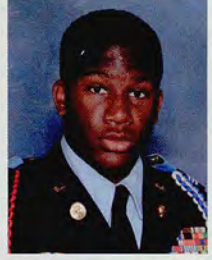


Michael Winters  
Peyton, Colorado  
Son of Anthony  
and Kimberly  
Winters  
Second Year  
Cadet

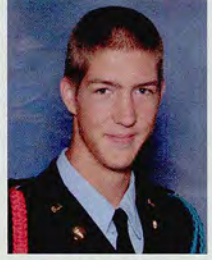


Daniel Wei  
Superior, Colorado  
Son of Zong  
Ying Wei and Hui  
Ru Ding  
Second Year  
Cadet

## October



Osahon  
Mike-Irabor  
Sugarland, Texas  
Son of Adeola and  
Michael  
Mike-Irabor  
Second Year Cadet



Caleb Kirkpatrick  
Woodland Park,  
Colorado  
Son of Richard and  
Melissa Kirkpatrick  
First Year  
Cadet

## Blue Beret

### High School



Garrett  
Burr



Hongyu  
Wu



JiaJi  
Liu

### Middle School



Kody  
Sudol



Osahon  
Mike-Irabor

Blue Beret Cadets earn the top three GPA's and are also members of the Dean's Honor Roll!



# GRADE

## Academic Honors

### High School

#### Dean's Honor Roll



Connor Ebert    Peter McCauley    Daniel Wei    Carver Patterson    Xavier Ryan    Jake Whitting    Miles Pappas    Lian Lavoignet Leon    Mason Clanton-Brown



Andres Hajj Tame    Eric Omdahl    Caden Lohrenz    Demear Thorne    Jeremy Tuck    Allen Gandy    Cameron Ojennes    Oluwatimi Osunkoya    Sean Udofia

#### Honor Roll



Akinwumi Ricketts    Tyler Adams    Marshall Otter    Alex Turner    Yuehai Pan    Jackson Brinn    James Peterson    Blase Whitting    Mark Pearsall    Rafael Abraham Aroyao



Caleb Kirkpatrick    David Gross    Alexander Neroni    James Ushman    Ethan Pizzi    Christopher Reilly-Reed    Alexander Weber    Brendan Myrick    Caleb Moscati    William Parr

### Middle School

#### Dean's Honor Roll



Brandon Burrage    Jason Udofia

#### Honor Roll



ChenHao Yu    James Thomas    Michael Winters    Jackson Forbes    Adiran Cabildo-Arias    Xander Tamblyn    Isaiah Saya

# Skirmisher Shorts

**JAMES USHMAN** *spreading cheer*

**KATY ENGLAND** *joins the faculty*



This past Veterans Day, SJMS Cadets Miles Pappas, Gavin Studebaker, Wyatt Marshall, and I visited veterans at their homes with my St. John's mom, Mrs. Katy England. This was one of the most touching things I have done for anyone in my life. While all of us here live in a military setting, we do not understand the impact of serving in the armed forces. As we were on the way to greet and thank the veterans, I was filled with anxiety. This isn't something I would have thought of doing until Mrs. England asked if I wanted to go as a part of our school's grief group. When I met the veterans and saw how emotional they became, it brought me close to tears. When we saluted them for their service, they were very touched. It's a once in a lifetime experience for someone my age and in my situation to be able to give thanks to someone who has preserved my freedom. This moving event will be remembered for years and will always bring a smile to my face and a tear in my heart. I'm very thankful to all of the special men and women who have served our country in battle. I would like to say thank you to Mrs. England for the invitation, but, most importantly, thank you to the men I had the privilege of meeting on this special day.

*James Ushman*



Katy England, SJMS first lady, is a practicing artist with a passion for teaching. Her artwork is on display in many Salina landmarks. Most recently, she completed several mural paintings at Redeemer Lutheran Church depicting several stories in the Bible.

Prior to her arrival on the SJMS campus six years ago, Katy led art therapy classes for memory care patients at the Presbyterian Manor. She also worked with young children through the auspices of the Salina Art Center, created murals with children in the Salina Public Schools, and taught in the Art Department at Kansas Wesleyan University.

Katy joined the SJMS faculty this year as a middle school art teacher. The middle school Cadets have impressed Mrs. England with their spirit and enthusiasm for the projects she has introduced. "The Cadets are a joy, and I love teaching middle school art at St. John's. Class time flies by, and we are having so much fun. I have been amazed with their creativity and enjoy watching their imaginations come to life in their artwork."

*Katy England*

## D. DALE BROWNING *opens his home*

## SPECIAL AGENTS *Forensic duo visits*



D. Dale Browning hosted his annual Denver recruiting reception at his home in Golden, Colorado, July 11, 2015. Several Old Boys who live in the surrounding area stopped by to visit Mr. Browning and help tell the St. John's story.

Gathering for a photo in the garden were: Miles Pappas, class of 2016; Mike Wagner, class of 1991; Caelon Tautz, class of 2015; Craig Roukema, class of 2013; Levi Gottsponer, class of 2013; Ian Brands, class of 2011;

D. Dale Browning, class of 1955; Jordan Covers, class of 2013; Levi Harmon, class of 2014; Jake Whitting, class of 2016; and Thomas Elliott, class of 2014.

The reception brings together SJMS staff and faculty, Old Boys, and former Cadet parents to help spread the word about the benefits of a St. John's Military School experience.

D. Dale has been graciously opening his home for many years to help with the recruiting process.

*Wendy Stein*



Our cadets were fortunate to be able to learn first hand how Special Agents Postma and Kingsbury use science to carry out their duties as criminal investigators in the Army. We appreciate the time they took to allow our students to experience actual evidence collection methods used in forensic science. They presented on their work in using science to investigate crimes. One of the main things they showed us was how they can use different chemicals to make evidence visible that is not usually visible to the naked eye (e.g. fingerprints and body fluids). My Chemistry 2 class will be doing a unit on Forensic Science (using science to help solve crimes), so the information presented was an introduction for them to that unit. For all of my chemistry classes it was an example of a career where science is used.

The gentlemen who presented were SA Aaron Postma and SA Derek Kingsbury, Special Agents assigned to Ft. Riley with the Criminal Investigation Command.

*Pam Kraus*



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# *Where's my 2015 Yearbook*

**Due to a crash of the photo server, the production of the 2015 yearbook was suspended. Once the photos were retrieved...we still were missing the pages already produced for the yearbook. Mrs. Stein is hoping to have the 2015 yearbook finished and at the plant before the end of the current school year. If the 2015 yearbook is printed by that time, the books will be handed out to members of the 127th corps of cadets. The yearbooks will be mailed to any cadet who graduated or didn't return this year. Thank you for your patience.**



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