

The Skirmisher

Fall 2016

Volume XCVIII No. 1

St. John's Military School

The 129th  
*...sets the bar high*





# SJMSPA

*St. John's Military School Parents' Association*

**The St. John's Military School Parents' Association, SJMSPA, works behind the scenes to fund projects that support SJMS Cadets.**

**Monies raised through the association have been used to fund special projects especially designed to benefit the Cadets. Paula Wilton and Father Randy McIntosh applied to the SJMSPA for funding which would make it possible to bring in guest speakers. (See stories below)**

**The SJMSPA is planning a silent auction during the winter parents' weekend. If you are planning to donate items to the auction or would like to help, please contact Melissa Odegard through email, [melissa@bebebelladesigns.com](mailto:melissa@bebebelladesigns.com). Items suggested for donation include gift baskets, gift cards to local Salina businesses, and any sentimental items associated with SJMS.**



Last spring Fabian Ramirez presented an anti-bullying message to the St. John's Military School corps of cadets. Fabian's message highlighted his experiences with bullying in his early years. Because of the bullying that Fabian experienced he became involved in a gang, and began abusing drugs, and alcohol. His grades began to suffer and he did not turn his life around until a teacher at his school took him under her wing. Fabian began to realize that he should have talked to someone about his experiences with bullying. He eventually learned that people who suffered because of the actions of others often continue the trend by becoming bullies themselves. He became determined to change his life and not continue the hurt he'd experienced. Fabian encouraged his audience to talk to someone if they have problems in their life and that everyone matters. This program was brought to the school by a grant from the State of Kansas and the St. John's Military School Parent's Association.

*Paula Wilton*



In September of 2016 I brought in a guest speaker, Mr. Joe White CEO/Owner of Camp Kanakuk in Branson, MO. His fee to come here was \$1650.00. The SJMSPA covered half of the expense, which was greatly appreciated.

He spoke on the value of nailing your problems to the tree and letting go of them, and asked the Cadets to list on note cards their problems and or troubles. He brought with him a fifteen-foot high cross, and near the end of his talk he asked the boys to nail their cards on the cross. To my surprise and delight, about 95% of the cadets complied. Most of them had tears in their eyes or running down their faces. You can imagine the joy I felt at seeing this reaction from the cadets.

It was one of the GREATEST nights of my life.

Thank you to the SJMSPA and all their support of the Chapel.

*Fr. Randy McIntosh*



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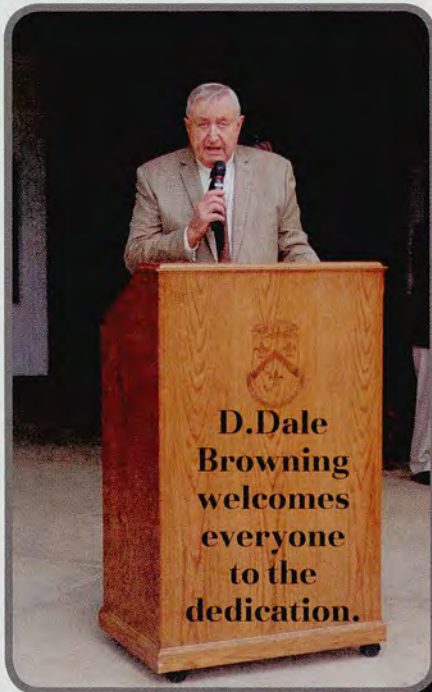
**Front Cover**

Members of the 129<sup>th</sup> form in front of the Vanier Academic Center for the Vanier History Mural dedication.

**Back Cover**

Halloween on the teardrop

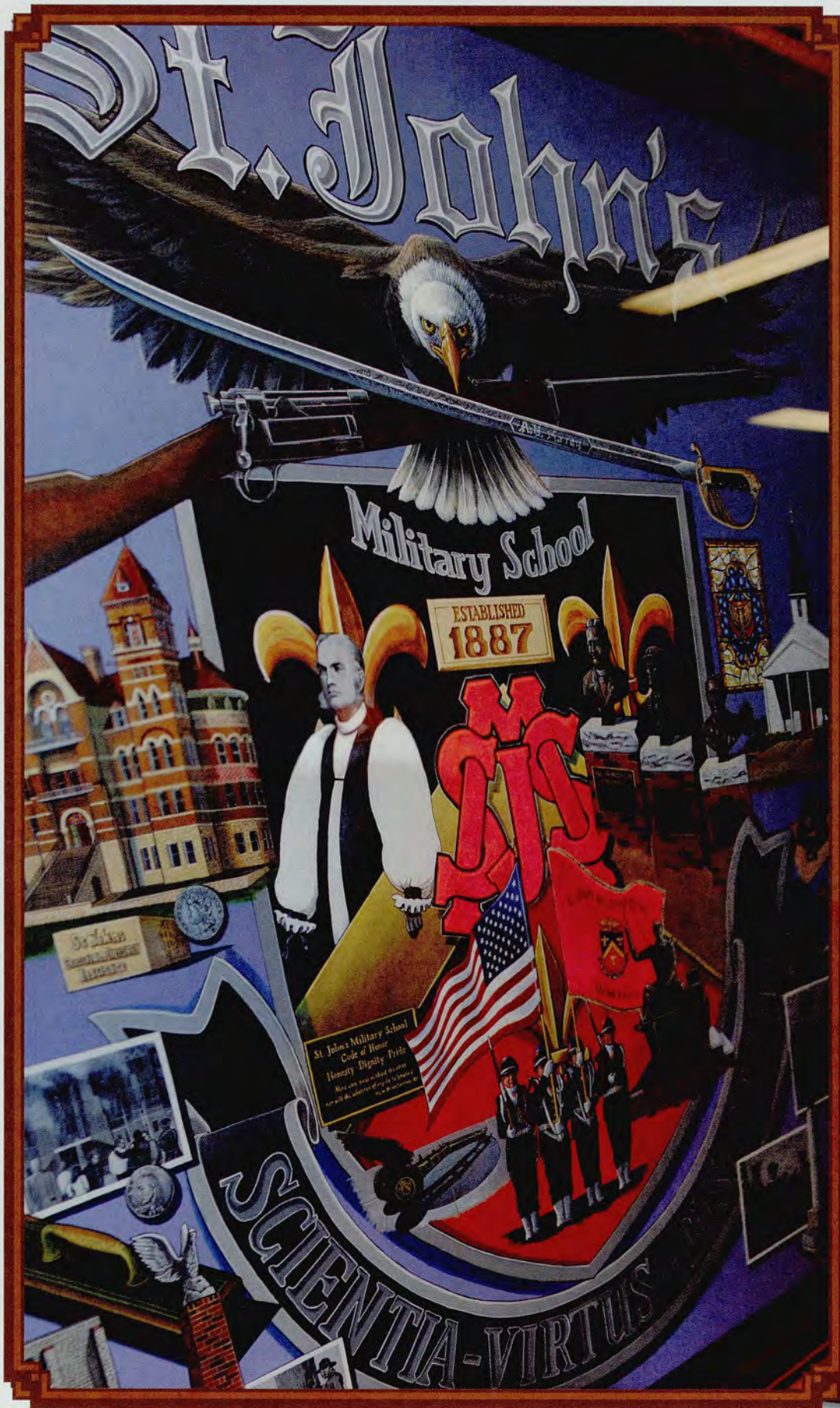
# Jack & Donna *Vanier*



*Once again the Vaniers give to the SFS family. This time by commissioning the painting of a mural depicting the colored history of St. John's. The mural was dedicated Parents' Weekend with Donna, Jack, and their son John in attendance.*



**Donna Vanier, D. Dale Browning, and Jack Vanier visit on the porch of the Vanier Academic Center prior to the dedication.**



The center panel of the mural seen here depicts the men and boys who helped build traditions and contributed to the steadfast continuum of the history of St. John's.

Founded in 1887, the school's history is rich with tradition and has endured by the dedication of men and women joined together in a common cause; to help shape the future of young men and to lead them on the path of success.

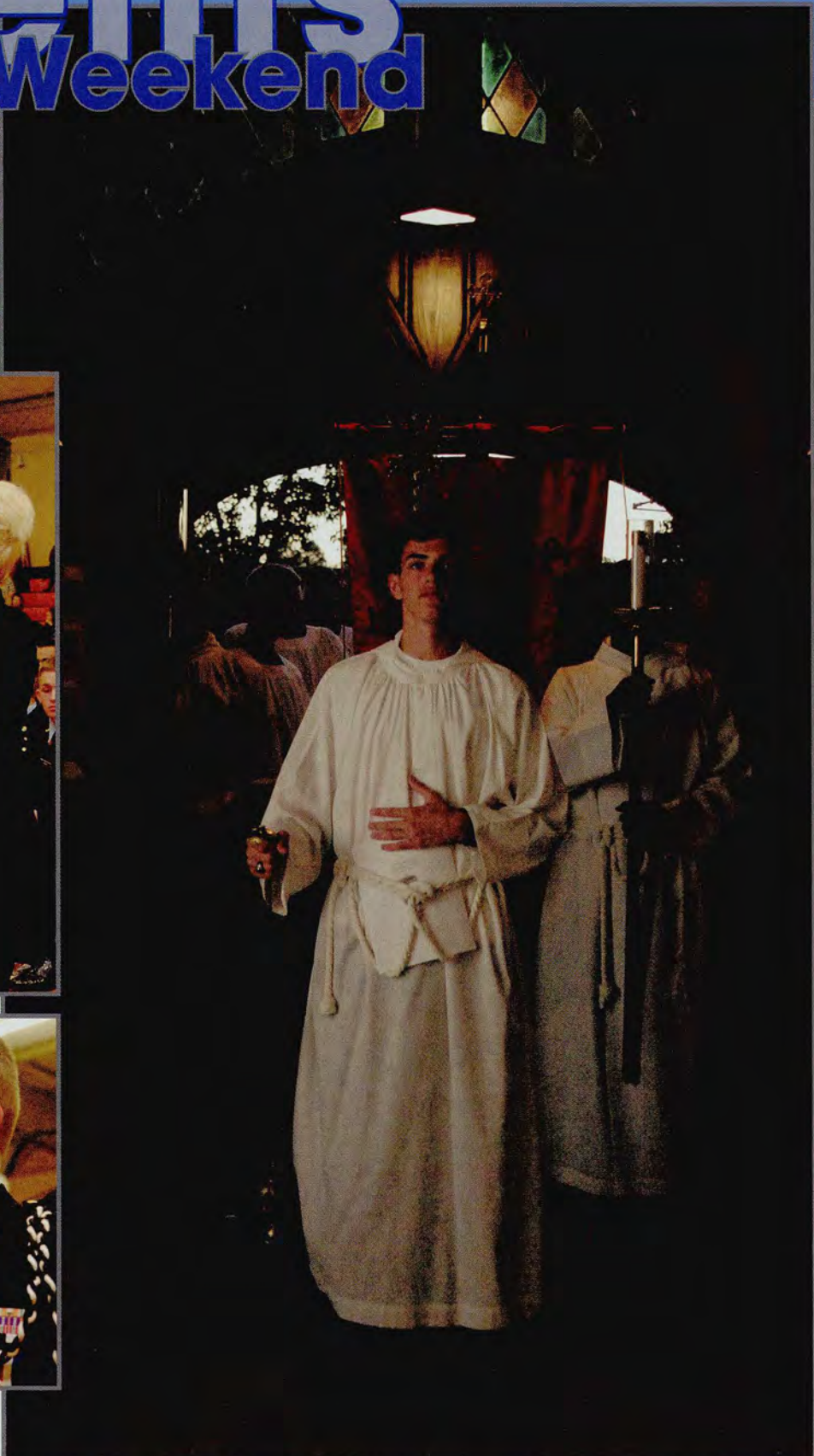


# Parents' Weekend

*Church bells rang, promotions occurred, awards were given, the drill teams performed, sports teams competed, and families gathered to celebrate the successes of the 129th Corps of Cadets*



Above: Susan and Don Gilbert, Battalion Commander Justin Gilbert's parents help attach his new rank to his Alpha coat. Bottom: S5 Bryce Kisner receives his new rank from Justin Gilbert.



Blase Whitting leads the altar party into Christ Episcopal Cathedral for the Parents' Weekend mass. The SJMS family enjoyed the wonderful acoustics of the cathedral and the opportunity to worship together.



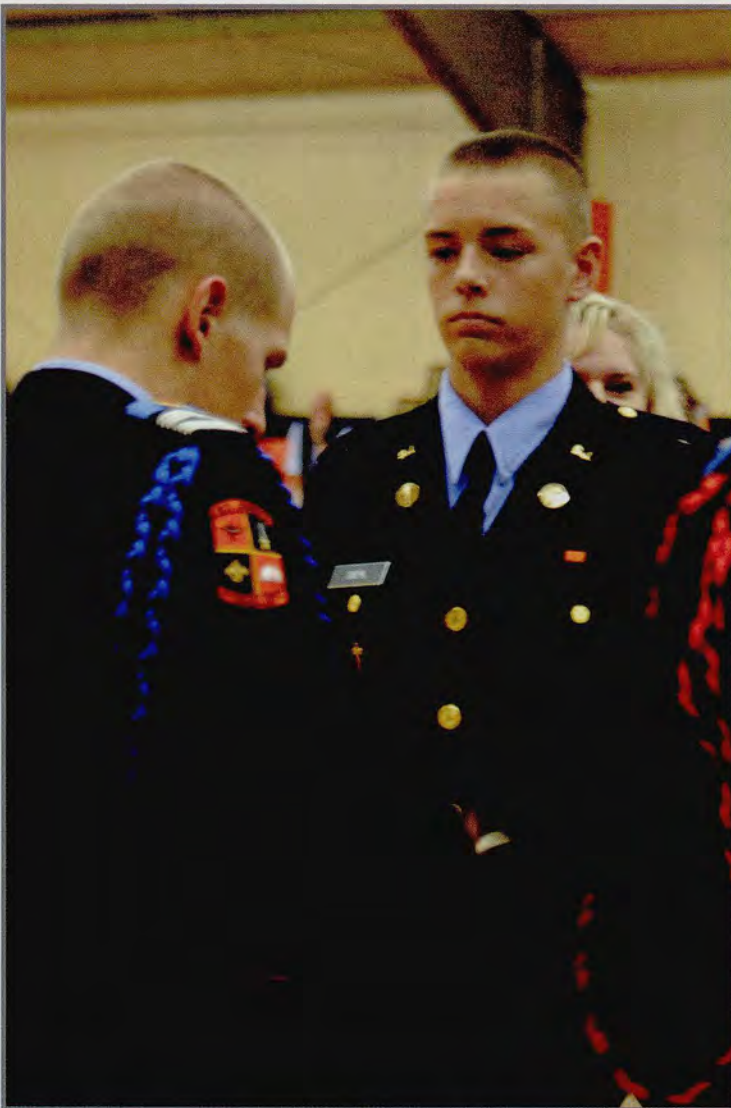
Megan Haden and Brenda McCoy were honored by being named 212<sup>o</sup> winners for 2016. The 212<sup>o</sup> award recognizes employees who go above and beyond.



Middle School drill team members, Brogan Rutz, Cole Rautanen, Kayden Ashby, Xander Tamblyn, and commander Dawson Odegard.



Justin Wilhelm stands with his mom, Nancy Donoghue, and dad, Mark Wilhelm during senior recognition night.



Parker Deihl receives his uniform items from Caleb Moscati during the “New Boy” graduation ceremony in Banes gymnasium.



Blake Masso, drill team commander, Brice Shao, Harley Reno, Elijah Blackmon, Michael Winters, Chandler Latteman, Jesse Haugen, Kody Sudol, and Robert Hinze.



Battalion drummers, Jackson Brinn, Brogan Rutz, and Jackson Forbes prepare to play the cadence. Bandmaster Oluwatimi Osunkoya and drum major James Ushman stand in formation.



*Membership in the elite Blue Beret club represents the top grade earners in the corps. The first quarter of the 2016-2017 school year finds a collection of “New Boys” among its ranks. These four Cadets arrived at St. John’s in August of 2016 and quickly distinguished themselves as worthy members of the 129th Corps of Cadets.*

## Blue Beret High School



Daniel  
Summer



Elton 'Max'  
Duncan



Nathaniel  
Stepaniak



Kenneth  
Golden

## Blue Beret Middle School



Jackson  
Forbes



James  
Thomas



Xander  
Tamblyn



## High School Dean's Honor Roll



Kody Sudol



Carver Patterson



Daniel Wei



ChenHao Li



Blase Whitting



Brandon Burrage



Henry Tyson



Caleb Kirkpatrick



Iteoluwakisi  
Adekeye



Luis Carrion  
Guerra



Nicholas Michas



Reece Turner



Caleb Moscati



Scott Hoffman



Lucas Marlar



Justin Gilbert

## High School Honor Roll



Brendan Myrick



Blake Masso



Elijah Blackmon



Brice Shao



Jackson Brinn



Michael Winters



Scott Dunagan



Brody Driscoll



Eric Omdahl



Zachary Mazer



Robert  
Conde-Reed



Xulei Yang



Jonathan Terry



ChenHao Yu



Cameron  
Ojennes



Kristopher  
Schnedler



Garrett Hirsh



OluwaFeranmi  
Majekodunmi



Christian  
Spraberry



Christopher  
Reilly-Reed



Jesse Mirelez



James Peterson



Alexander  
Neroni



Parker Diehl



Michael  
Rodriguez



Robert Hinze



James Ushman

## Middle School Honor Roll



Nicholas  
Rosenthal



Dawson  
Odegard



Eliazar  
Leybas



Kayden  
Ashby



Reece  
Findley



Cole  
Rautanen



Clay  
Speaker

# ROBOTICS

The robotics team made their third and final trip to Wichita for competition on Saturday, October 22, 2016. The competition opened with Cadets Brice Shao and Michael Rodriguez presenting the colors while a group of robotics members from other teams sang the National Anthem.

SJMS was scheduled to participate in six rounds. During each round the robot would be driven by a different cadet. Prior to the start of our rounds, Christian Spraberry worked with students from other schools to work out some of the glitches in the programming. St. John's had a solid first round and even scored by picking corn and placing it in the bin. Much like past years, each round provided an opportunity for SJMS to make improvements and adjustments. By the end of our last round, we finally had all four components working together: the drive system, arm, dump, and claw. This group of Cadets chose to go into this competition with the mindset of completing every task, which can be overwhelming for a first-year team. Coaches from other teams and several judges stopped and praised the Cadets for their design and concept. This is just one of those times where the scoreboard was not an accurate reflection of how hard the team worked on their project.

We did not walk away empty handed. The boys earned a second place finish for most photogenic robot. This is the first time SJMS earned an award for robotics, but we do not believe it will be the last. Representing the team were Luis Carrion Guerra, Daniel Wei, Nicholas Walters, Carver Patterson, Michael Rodriguez, Christian Spraberry, Henry Tyson, Brice Shao, and James Peterson (members not in attendance Robert Conde-Reed, Clayton Hough and Jesse Mirelez).

Pam Kraus and I congratulate the Cadets on their hard work.

Thanks to Lance Werber for driving us. Also thanks to the Walters, Tyson, and Werber families for being our cheering section. Thanks to Wendy Stein for capturing the event for us on film.

*Anna Befort*





Members of the team watch the first round of competition with sponsors Anna Befort and Pam Kraus.



Michael Rodriguez checks the connections on the controller while a referee and Christian Spraberry stand ready to assist.



Nicholas Walters helps Christian Spraberry test the robot's claw.



Christian Spraberry inspects the lever mechanism.

# Fall

## 5% Sports

*Eighty-five percent of the 129th Corps of Cadets participated in Fall sports. Every weekday when the school bell sounds the Cadets scatter to their respective practice fields and get busy preparing for their next opponent. It takes coaches, managers, the food service, bus drivers, and the athletic director many hours to put together all the pieces of the puzzle in order to provide a positive season of sports.*

### Football Roster

1	Chandler Latteman
2	Michael Winters
4	Jesse Haugen
5	Jonathan Terry
6	Shawn Barr
7	Chase Fitzek
8	Brendan Myrick
9	James Peterson
10	Parker Diehl
11	Joshua Smith
12	Brennon Pecora
14	Jesse Miralez
16	Christian Spraberry
20	Jimmy Ushman
21	David Gross
24	Josh Hall
30	Femi Majekodunmi
33	Kris Schnedler
34	Connor Schieffer
40	Elijah Blackmon
41	Zaiden Dubbel
44	Kenneth Golden
50	Charles Gibbs
52	Caleb Moscati
63	Scott Hoffman
80	Bryce Kisner
88	Ted Cation
99	Garrett Hirsh



### Soccer Roster

12/0	Blase Whitting	GK
2	Zachary Mazer	D
3	Reece Turner	MF
4	Hank Tyson	D
5	Nicholas Walters	D
6	Clayton Hough	D
8	Bob Hinze	MF
9	Hilario Suarez	F
10	Justin Wilhelm	F
11	Jack Kramer	MF
13	Chris Reilly-Reed	MF
14	Robert Conde-Reed	MF
15	Luis Carreón Guerra	MF
16	Cody Sudol	D
17	Olwatimi Osunkoya	K/D
18	Casey Darroll	FW
19	Daniel Wei	D
20	Jackson Brinn	MF
22/00	Elton Duncan	K/D
10	Carver Patterson	MGR



### Cross Country Roster

Brayden Fisch, Nicholas Michas, Brice Shao, Cameron Ojennes, Branden Rucker, Daniel Summer, Lucas Marlar, Brandon Burrage, and Ryan Turner. Coach Bryan Cleveland



Dee Markham feels this way about driving for the soccer team, "The soccer team is always fun to be with and I enjoy spending time with the Cadets"



Ron Sondergard bus for the football squad commented, "I don't have a problem with our boys on the bus. while they are not angels they are always well behaved. I enjoy driving them to the games."



### Middle School Soccer

Deven Clanton, Dawson Odegard, Xander Tamblin, Brogan Rutz, Montgomery Galusha, Aleksei Stepanov, Hayden Surgens, James Vanwinkle, Clay Speaker, Eliazar Leybas, Reece Findley, Nicholas Rosenthal, Cole Rautanen, and James Thomas. Coach: Brian Bell

# A GOOD **Run**

George Stelljes and Marc Polzella



When you think of the voice of the Chicago Cubs, the beloved Harry Caray comes to mind. His gravelly voice will forever be etched in the minds and hearts of Cubs fans around the world. St. John's has its own version of Caray in MAJ George Stelljes, the voice of the Muleskinners for the past 17 years. Unlike Caray who trained at radio stations before

beginning his career, Stelljes found himself in the hot seat quite by accident. Stelljes explains, "I became the voice of the Muleskin-

**"I was talking with Greg Saville's family during Commencement Weekend and his grandfather commented that he never saw me at any of the football games. I replied that I was at every one. He said, 'but I never saw you,' so I shouted, 'Greg 'Cadillac' Saville!' He said, 'That was you?'"**

**George Stelljes**

ners when then football coach, Roy Lawrence called me two hours before a football game and said I had to do it because I was the only one who could. I agreed to do it even though I had no training as an announcer. When I came out of the press box after that first game, then president CPT Skip McAlexander told me I had a new job." Caray gained fame for singing during the seventh-inning stretch and George

Stelljes is famous for his s-t-r-e-t-c-h-i-n-g of the word *Muleskinners* into a pre-game spirit call.

Sitting beside Stelljes in the press box was long-time friend and co-worker, Marc Polzella. Like Stelljes, MAJ Polzella joined the SJMS family in 1996. Polzella, known as Major "P" to the Cadets, teaches upper level

math. Polzella ran the clock while Stelljes called the game. Polzella explains his time in the press box with a fondness in his tone, "We started to work the football games together during

the 1999 season. There were many funny moments, especially our press box running commentaries, but for me the funniest was when the scoreboard clock started to run backwards during a game. Still to this day we haven't been able to figure out how and why."

Time in the press box wasn't always easy. "Towards the end of the season when the weather got cold the press box was like an ice box. I remember

one game in which the game started at 7:00 and didn't get done until almost 11:00. One quarter took an hour to play," explained Polzella.

When asked about his favorite part about being in the press box, Stelljes relates, "I tried to make the games fun for everyone and I really enjoyed giving nicknames to the players. My favorite ones were Thomas 'Kodiak' Alexander, Luis 'El Diablo' Garcia and Greg 'Cadillac' Saville."

After volunteering all these years, Polzella and Stelljes will be a tough act to follow. George is retiring as the voice of the Muleskinners, while remaining as Commandant, and MAJ "P" is ending his teaching career at SJMS in May of 2017. Polzella sums up the experience by saying, "The best part of working Friday night football was spending time with a very dear friend and buddy." Stelljes adds, "I hope that I added something to the experience of attending a home soccer, football, or basketball game at SJMS over the last 17 years. I wish SJMS all the best in the future and I will always bleed orange and black.

Wendy Stein

# "OLD BOY" George Norton... gives back!

"I cannot tell you what a pleasure it was to have George here that week. He has grown into one of the finest young men I have ever known and for him to take time out of his busy schedule to come back here, on his dollar, and for the simple purpose of just wanting to help, speaks volumes about who he has become."  
*1SG Tony Blair*



Current SJMS rifle team members, Brandon Rucker, James Peterson, Caleb Kirkpatrick, and Daniel Wei gather around "Old Boy" George Norton.



This summer we were very fortunate to have two-time NRA Small-bore National Champion, SSG George Norton, spend a week with us during this year's Leadership Camp. George is a 2002 graduate and former Rifle Team Captain of St. John's Military School. During his three years at St. John's, he

twice helped represent the state of Kansas, sponsored by the KSRA at the Camp Perry NRA Nationals. He led his team to two North Central Kansas Gallery League Championship titles and won many other medals and accolades. His senior year he also served on the Battalion Staff as the Battalion S-5 (Public Affairs Officer) and graduated with the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel.

The purpose for the visit was simple. In George's words, "I'm paying it forward; here I am, you've got me for the week, put me to work." That we did! Between 22-28 August, George slept and ate with the cadets, filed papers for our school's administrative assistants, mentored and counseled cadets, gave inspired talks to this year's leaders, encouraged cadets to challenge themselves on Camp Webster's high ropes course, and last but not least, spent many quality hours on the rifle range with this year's returning Rifle Team Lettermen.

Throughout the week, he had ample opportunity to share his vast knowledge in leadership, competitive rifle shooting, and the ups and downs of life both on and off the range. Since joining the US Army in 2005 and walking onto the Army Marksmanship Unit's International

Rifle Team, he has had many experiences. He is now married to his wonderful and supportive wife Elizabeth and they are raising their daughter Madelynne and at the same time meeting the demands that are put upon today's military family.

SSG Norton has a distinguished shooting career in the Men's Three-Position Rifle event, winning a NRA National Championship in 2008 at Camp Perry and again in 2016 in Bristol, Indiana; both a team gold and an individual silver medal in 2010 at the Championship of the Americas in Brazil; an individual silver at the Czech Liberation in 2012; and a Silver in the 2015 Pan American Games. He is a multiple World Cup Team member and earned a USA quota for the 2016 Olympic games. Between 2008 and 2015, SSG Norton served as the NCOIC of the Ft. Benning Junior Rifle Club, providing the vital role as mentor and coach to our nation's youth. Many of his students have earned scholarships and are now shooting at colleges across America. In addition, SSG Norton deployed in 2010 to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Many of you may remember when the Kansas State Rifle Association honored George by awarding him the KSRA Outstanding Person in Shooting Sports Award at our annual meeting in January of 2009; more recently, St. John's Military School inducted him into the SJMS Wall of Fame in 2013.

*1SG Tony Blair*

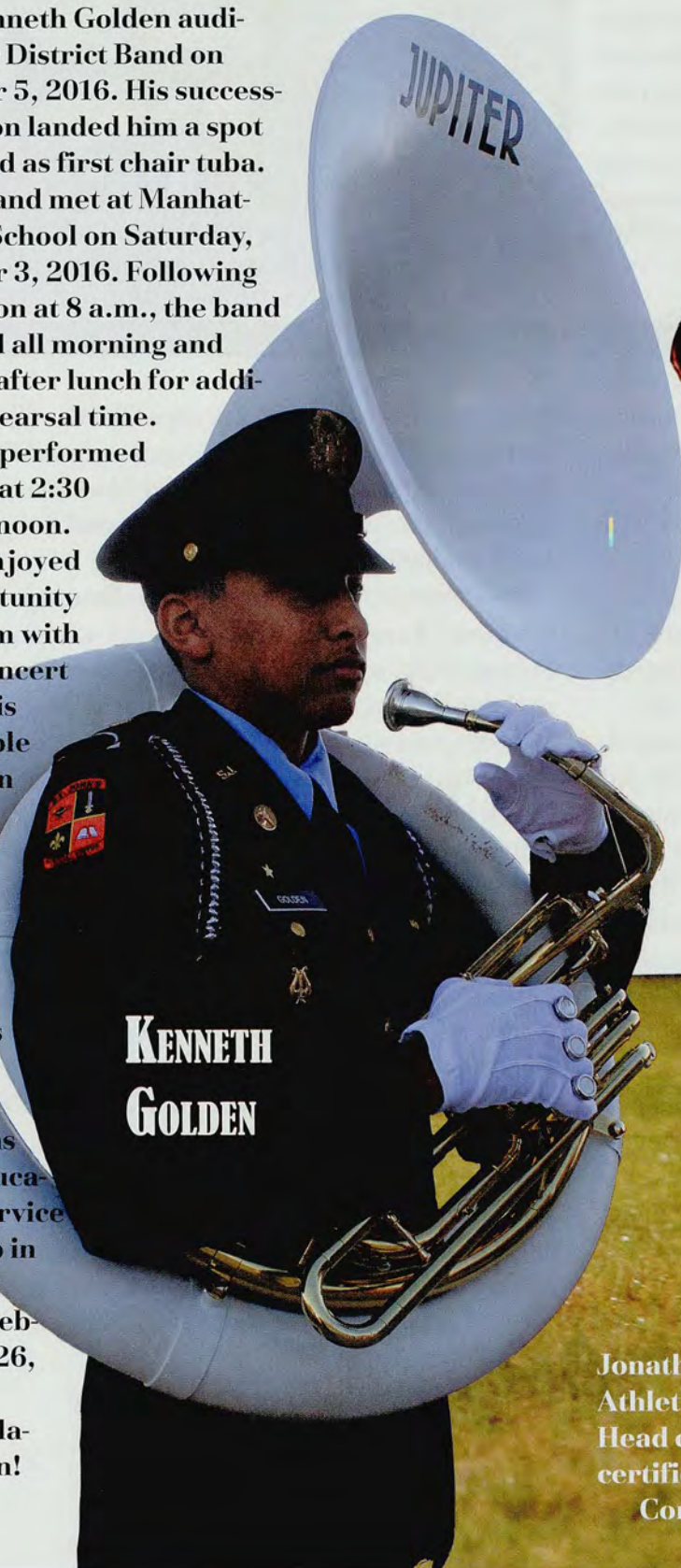
# In the Spotlight

Cadet Kenneth Golden auditioned for District Band on November 5, 2016. His successful audition landed him a spot in the band as first chair tuba. District band met at Manhattan High School on Saturday, December 3, 2016. Following registration at 8 a.m., the band rehearsed all morning and returned after lunch for additional rehearsal time.

The band performed a concert at 2:30 that afternoon. Golden enjoyed the opportunity to perform with a large concert band. He is now eligible to audition for state band on January 7, 2017.

State band rehearses and performs at the Kansas Music Educators In-Service workshop in Wichita, Kansas, February 24-26, 2017.

Congratulations, Ken!



Jonathan Terry was named to the Kansas Christian Athletic League's First Team as All League Kicker. Head coach Mike Reid presented Terry with a certificate during the football banquet.

Congratulations, Jonathan!



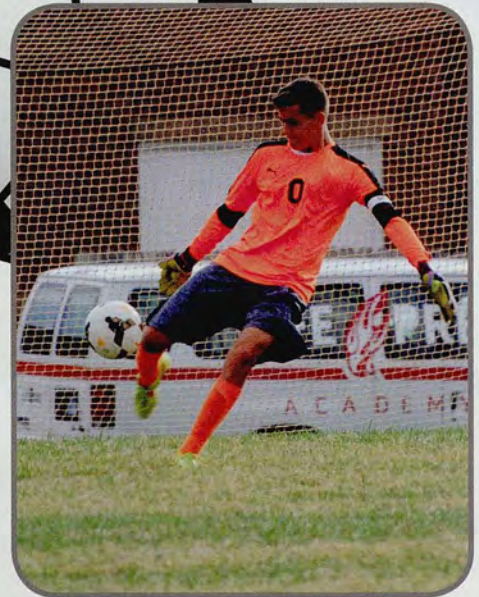
# Cadets earn KCAC soccer honors



**JACKSON BRINN**



**REECE TURNER**



**BLASE WHITTING**



**HILARIO SUAREZ**

All KCAA Team

Reece Turner

Blase Whitting

Honorable Mention

Hilario Suarez

Jackson Brinn

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

### SEPTEMBER



Eliazar Leybas  
6th Grade  
Tucson, AZ  
Son of Alisa and  
Raymond Leybas



Zachary Mazer  
11th Grade  
Littleton, CO  
Son of Renee  
Boulet

### OCTOBER



Jackson Forbes  
8th Grade  
Las Vegas, NV  
Son of Gary  
Forbes  
and Barbara  
Forbes



Daniel Wei  
12th Grade  
Superior, CO  
Son of Zongying  
Wei and HuiRu  
Ding

### NOVEMBER



Patrick Olinma  
12th Grade  
Lagos, Nigeria  
Son of  
Patricia and  
Patrick Olinma



Reece Findley  
6th Grade  
Houston, TX  
Son of Chris and  
Stephanie  
Findley

Members of the 129<sup>th</sup> Corps of Cadets made the trip to Denver, Colorado to represent St. John's in the annual Veterans Day parade. Families were able to spend time with their sons and cheer from the sidelines as the Cadets marched through the streets of downtown Denver.

in honor of

V E T

SJMS families gather on the parade route to support the 129th Corps.

**Right:** Taking photos as the Cadets pass by are Harley Reno's mom, Julie Wismann, Zaiden Dubbel's grandma, and his mom, Tisha Montesano and Deven Clanton's mom, Jacklynn Brown.

**Below:** Daniel Wei's parents, Zongying Wei and HuiRu Ding; Cameron Ojennes's mom, Candance Ojennes; Kody Sudol's mom, Kimberly Sudol; and Robert Hinze's mom, Lucy Hinze.



# GRANDS



Christopher Reilly-Reed, Battalion S2, Justin Gilbert, Battalion Commander, and Carter Newby, Battalion S4 lead the way.

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The Halloween Pass-in-Review...the highlight of the year!



**BEETLEJUICE**  
 aka Cameron  
 Ojennes



HHQ & the  
 homeboys on  
 parade



"B" Whitt  
 MD  
 True Colors  
 aka Steven  
 Linville



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