



Ho Ho Ho... Happy Holidays

Holiday cheer in the classroom and the QM

Debbie Werber and Lilia Vetter conducted a Santa's Workshop with the 6th grade class. Using material from Debbie's grandmother, the boys cut and braided strips of material then formed pot holders to give to their Moms.





Quartermaster, Judi Casstevens and Teresa Bellerive, assitant quartermaster, hosted a holiday party prior to winter break. ChenHao Yu, Nicholas Walters, and Tyler Riley stopped by the QM to enjoy tastes of the season.











Parents'
Weekend

Academic Honors
Blue Beret
Dean's Honor Roll

The Battalion
Commander transforms
himself

10 Caleb Kirkpatrick Sings to the Heavens Front Cover
Battalion

Commander Justin
Gilbert and his proud
parents Don and
Susan Gilbert.

Back CoverCadets raise money
for a good cause.







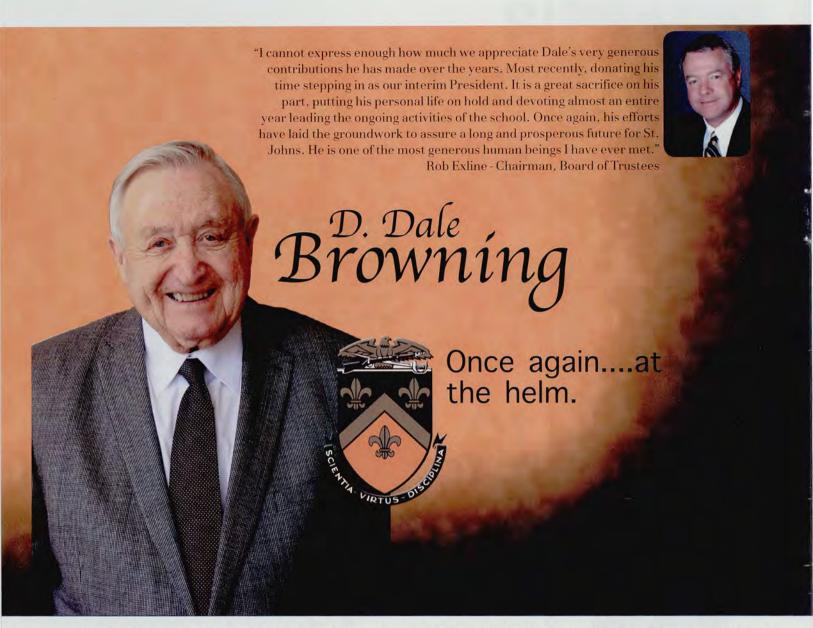
12 Honoring over 100 hundred years of combined service

14 Cadets in the Spotlight

16
Rifle team
travels to Camp Perry
Ohio for competition



The 2017 Commencement Schedule



Ask anyone connected with St. John's what D. Dale Browning has done for St. John's in his sixty-two years of association with the school and the list will be long. Graduating from St. John's with honors in 1955, Browning continued on a path of achievement. His interest in his alma mater goes way beyond the usual alumni involvement. Serving as a member of the board of trustees for many years, and now as trustee emeritus, Browning has once again stepped in to run the school during a transition year. Serving as interim president, D. Dale has at great personal sacrifice moved back to Salina guiding the school through the process of finding the next president. Often in his office before breakfast and not returning to his apartment in Jack Vanier Hall until after the evening meal, Dale fills his days with meetings and luncheons and counseling sessions with Cadets. All this is done as a service to his beloved St. John's.

Browning's vision for the physical plant has transformed the area around the tear drop to include eagles atop the Loy/Guernsey memorial columns, and new bronze plaques to be unveiled near the entrance of Armstrong Chapel at commencement this year.

Beloved by "Old Boys" and "New Boys" alike, Browning cherishes his relationships with Cadets, the heart of the school. When asked why he gave up his comfortable life in retirement to once again serve as interim president of his alma mater he replies, "I consider my service to St. John's as a chance to return a small portion of what St. John's gave to me. My time as a Cadet at St. John's served as a solid foundation for the success I enjoyed throughout my professional life."



Every summer Browning hosts a recruiting reception at his home in Golden, Colorado. "Old Boys" gather with Browning, their mentor and friend, to help tell the St. John's story. The summer of 2016 brought this group of Cadets together on the lawn in the backyard of D. Dale's Golden, Colorado home.

first row: James Peterson, Kody Sudol, Michael Winters, Cameron Ojennes, James VanWinkle, D. Dale Browning, Eli Harmon, Chandler Clark.

Second row: Bill Protz, Charlie Gibbs, Marshall Otter, Christopher Reilly-Reed, Robert Conde-Reed, Chase Rose, Blase Whitting, Allen Von, Andrew Lockhart, David Dumler, Michael Gambetta, and Tim Soule.

Third row: Deven Clanton, Caleb Kirkpatrick, Mason Clanton-Brown, Geoffrey Houchens, Thomas Elliott, Caelon Tautz, Jordan Covers, Levi Gottsponor, Tyler Schneider, Jonah Comeaux and Justin Gilbert.

Porentsi

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:Max Duncan plays the Star Spangled Banner as the audience sings. Below: Battalion Commander Justin Gilbert returns the salute from newly promoted Connor Scheiffer.



Parker Deihl and Nathanial Stepaniak prepare to serve during the chapel service at the Episcopal Cathedral.



The battalion staff rounds the turn in front of the Vanier Academic Center. Caleb Kirkpatrick, Justin Gilbert, Scott Dunagan, Carter Newby, Bryce Kisner and Reece Turner.



Joshua Smith, Bravo company commander calls eyes right as his company passes in review. Xander Tamblyn guide-on bearer lowers the guide-on flag as they pass the reviewing stand.



Eliazar Hodgdon Leybas sits in the hallway of the Vanier Academic center with his mom. Alisa Leybas while they wait for parent teacher conferences.



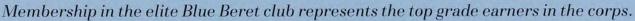
The SJMS band performs. Xufang Yan, Oluwatimi Osunkoya, and James Ushman on alto saxophone, Christian Spraberry on tenor saxophone and Ryan Turner on trumpet.



The color guard presents the colors as the "New Boys" prepare for their promotion to "Old Boy."



Elijah Blackmon member of the basketball team, extraordinary musician, chapel choir member, and drill instructor celebrates his promotion with his parents, Brenda and Darrell Blackmon.



Second Quarter

Blue Beret ~ High School

Third Quarter



Daniel Wei



Daniel Summer



Kody Sudol



Daniel Wei



Blase Whitting

Third Quarter



Daniel Summer

Blue Beret ~ Middle School

Second Quarter



Xander Tamblyn



James Thomas



Eliazar Hodgdon Leybas



Jackson **Forbes**



Nicholas Rosenthal



James Thomas



Eliazar Hodgdon Leybas

Dean's Honor Roll~ High School ~ Second Quarter



Jackson

Forbes

ChenHao Li



Blase Whitting



Brandon Burrage



Nathaniel Stepaniak



Max Duncan



Scott Hoffman



Blake Masso



Reece Turner



Iteoluwakisi Adekeye



Nicholas Michas



Justin Gilbert



Kenneth Golden



Caleb Kirkpatrick



Eric Omdahl



Zachary Mazer



Kody Sudol



Max Duncan



Justin Gilbert



Kenneth Golden



Carver Patterson



James Ushman



ChenHao

Honor Roll~ High School~Second Quarter



Christopher Bergman



ChenHao Yu



Reece Turner



CheHao 6 Yu



Henry Tyson



Lucas Marlar



Brice Shao



Patrick Olinma



Luis Carrion Guerra



Jack Kramer



Michael Winters



Kristopher Schmedler

Honor Roll ~ High School ~ Second Quarter - cont.

Honor Roll ~ High School ~ Third Quarter



OluwaFeranmi Majekodunmi



Carver Patterson



Brendan Myrick



Dalton Thibodeau



Reece Turner



Jackson Brinn



Patrick Olinma



Blake Masso



Caleb Kirkpatrick



Iteoluwakisi Adekeye



Zachary Mazer



Brendan Pecora



Eric Omdahl



Nathaniel Stepaniak



Dalton Thibodeau



Brice Shao



Elijah Blackmon



OluwaFeranmi Majekodunmi



Charles Gibbs



Brendan Myrick



Caleb Moscati



Bryce Kisner

Honor Roll~ Middle School ~ Second Quarter



Eliazar Hodgdon Leybas



Nicholas Rosenthal



Dawson Odegard



Reece Findley

Honor Roll~ Middle School ~ Third Quarter



Xander Tamblyn



Dawson Odegard



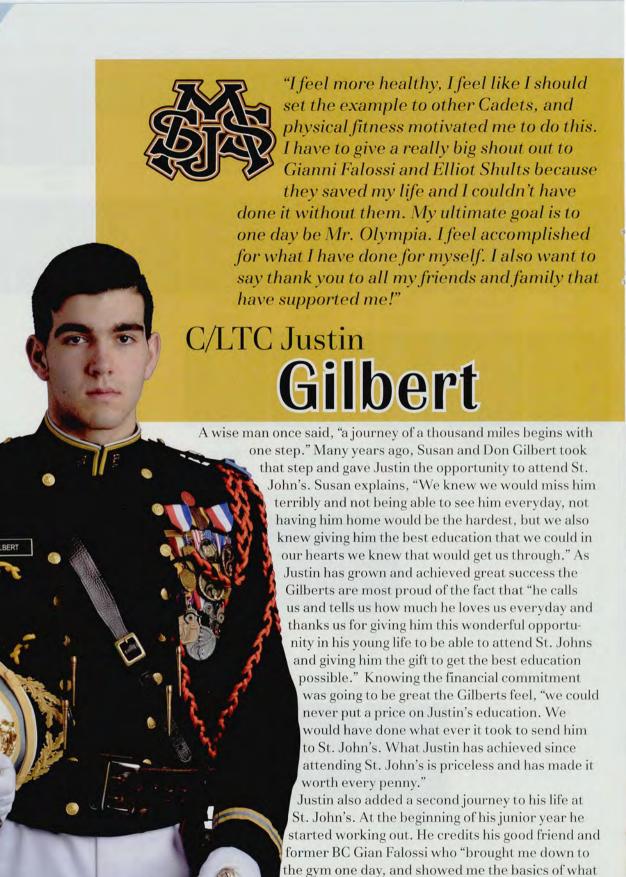
Reece Findley



Corey Roth



Jacob Delay



I should start doing. I didn't take it seriously until the next year when I realized I could be facing some serious health complications in my life if I kept going down the path I was going." Justin's folks stepped in again to provide Justin with a professional trainer, Elliot Shults, of Las Vegas, Nevada. As a result Justin's pant size went from a 46 to a 32 and his shirt size from XXL to medium. He works out 2 hours a day in the gym and eats 5 small meals throughout the day. He explains, "the gym is now a lifestyle."



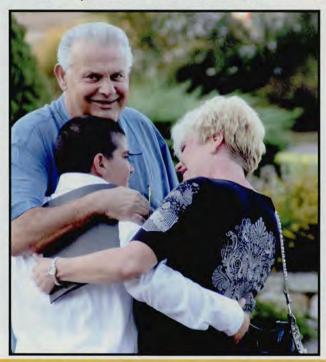
"This is a story of a eleven year old boy who left his loving home and family in Las Vegas, Nevada to attend St. John's Military School, approximately 1,180 miles away in Salina, Kansas. When he arrived at St. John's he enrolled in the 6th grade. He finished grade 5 at home and was unaware of the structure he would now encounter; however, he assimilated well, following regulations and forming relationships with students and the staff. Early on he showed interest in the drill team. He worked very hard spending after school hours practicing repeatedly and became very proficient with the rifle; therefore helping him to compete for a spot

on the team. He accomplished his goal and became a member of the drill team and eventually commander.

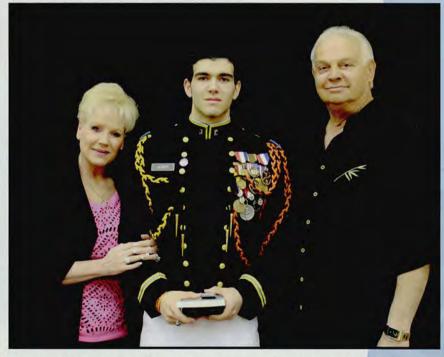
A young man, who was overweight and was determined to change, decided on his own to make it happen. He knew what he could and couldn't eat as well as the importance of a gym work out (which he still does today) and because of his discipline he lost approximately 100 lbs.

This boy is now a fine young man achieving membership on the Honor Roll. He had the desire to become a leader, a LTC and Battalion Commander of the 129th Corps at St. John's Military School, and that he did. LTC Justin M. Gilbert is our grandson, and we are so proud when we see him leading the Cadets and know the journey he has experienced to be the young man he is today. The staff of St. John's has also been responsible for his guidance and helped him achieve his dream. Our untold gratitude to: Mr. Dale Browning, CPT Mike Reid, Wendy Stein, and Terry Plumberg and the entire faculty at St. John's who helped all these young men become the pride of tomorrow."

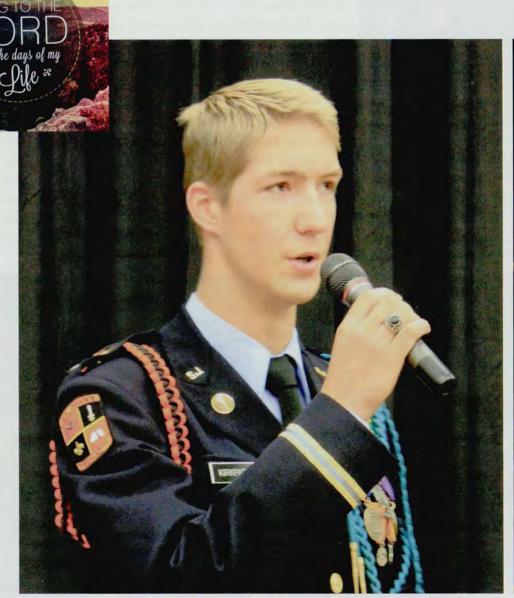
Sincerely, Pat and Jim Lundstrom (Also known as Na-Nu and Pa-Pa)



As Justin prepares to graduate the Gilbert's have a message for the SJMS staff. "Each and everyone of you makes St. Johns what it is. We want to thank everyone for taking our son and guiding him, loving him, teaching him, giving him the space to make his own decisions and being there for him. Also, for providing him with the best education he could ever have. What everyone has done for our son is beyond any words, we will be forever grateful for St. John's and most of all the family we have become and the love we have for each and everyone of you."



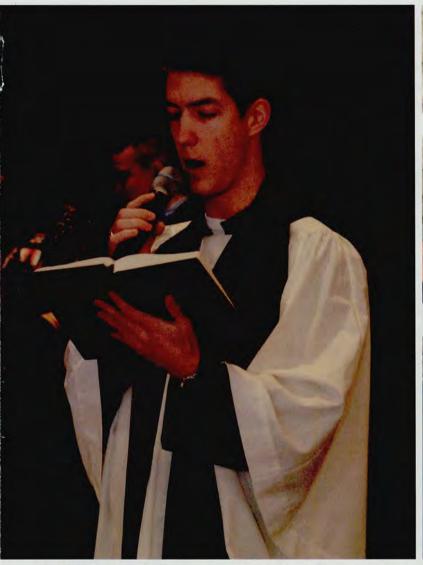
The family gathered after Justin received the coveted MacArthur Award. The annual award is presented by the General Douglas Mac Arthur Foundation. The objective of the MacArthur Award is to encourage the students of the member institutions to emulate and practice the qualities exemplified by Douglas MacArthur while he was a cadet. MacArthur was a cadet at West Texas Military Institute and the United States Military Academy. The criteria for the award consists of exhibiting the most soldierly performance by a senior class cadet considering academics, athletics, and leadership.

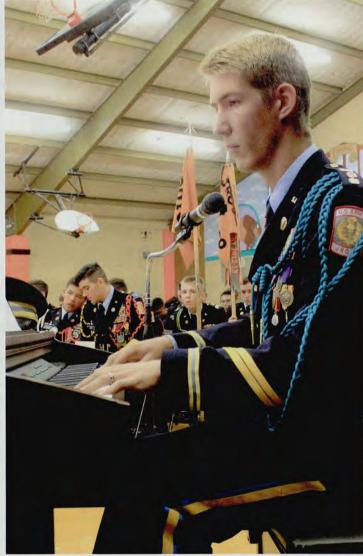




When Caleb Kirkpatrick arrived at St. John's at the beginning of his junior year he mentioned he could sing. As it turns out...he sure can sing. During our initial meeting, Kirkpatrick mentioned he would be interested in singing the Star Spangled Banner. As soon as he opened his mouth I was transformed to a place of gratitude and joy! Caleb's voice was strong, true, and full of purity and strength. What came naturally to Caleb and what made his singing most significant was that he sang from his heart. As I grew to know more about this young man it became apparent why his singing was so pure. His singing is his worship, he sings to the heavens like no other Cadet has done before. His Christian faith guides him in all things and his voice serves him well.

As president of chapel council and choir master he shares his gifts willingly and graciously every Sunday and during Wednesday evening chapel services. In addition to his singing he accompanies himself at the piano.





Each day during his study hall, Kirkpatrick spends time at the piano in the round room rehearsing songs for the praise band which provides special music during Wednesday nightchapelservices. He constantly searches for songs which will give glory to his maker and inspire the Cadets to worship in song. When the song speaks to the Cadet corps, Armstrong Chapel transforms into the Mormon Tabernacle. There have been many Sundays when Caleb's voice is drowned out by the corps and that's just fine with him. He sings to lead and inspire and that's what he's done.

Working with Father Randy McIntosh, Kirkpatrick also prepares the slide presentation for Sunday and helps choose the hymns for each service. Kirkpatrick has been a huge help during weekly choir practices. His strong voice and willingness to lead has transformed the group of Cadets who signed up to sing, into a genuine choir. Caleb is not alone in his talent for singing; several choir members join willingly and enthusiastically in song every Sunday. Iteoluwakisi Adekeye, Elijah Blackmon, Luis Carrion Guerra, Max Duncan, Jovanni Renteria, Connor Schieffer, and Nicholas Walters join Kirkpatrick and myself in the choir loft each Sunday.

In my many years of tenure at St. John's, no other Cadet has stood as confidently and proudly in front of his peers and joyfully sang to the heavens like Caleb. Thank you for sharing your music with us. Mrs. Stein

Over 100 years of combined service!

"The combined service of these treasured SJMS employees will most likely never be matched again. To say they will be missed is an understatement. They have each in their own way given selflessly and generously of their time and talents to many generations of Cadets. Their presence was felt in both their dedication to the Cadet corps and to their fellow staff members. My wish for each of you is happy trails in your retirement years."

Sincerely, D. Dale Browning













Ricky Jordan

Ricky Jordan likes to say... 'have a nice day' after he makes an announcement over the school intercom system. Often times SFC "J" is dealing with disciplinary issues. As Deputy Commandant, he holds the Cadets feet to the fire. His job demands he be on campus very early each weekday morning as he watches over RATT physical training and the Cadets with extra duty hours.

He departs campus late in the afternoon following the completion of his duties. As he drives away, he looks forward to his return.

Retiring for the second time, SFC Jordan spent twenty-one years in the United States Army, and twenty years at SJMS. SFC Jordan is ready to relish his golden years.

Enjoy your time with family and friends.

Phil Kellogg

Phil Kellogg grew up on the St. John's campus. His dad, COL Paul H. Kellogg served as Commandant of Cadets while his mom Mary spoiled and cared for the Cadets. Phil attended college and returned to SJMS as a teacher and coach. In 1991 he led the football team to the best record on file, going 8-1. Kellogg and his wife Janice left St. John's to follow their dream of owning a pizza franchise. Phil returned to the St. John's family as an admissions counselor and following a move to Colorado became the point of contact for all Colorado admissions inquiries.

Quick of wit and fun loving, Phil enjoyed many years as a member of the admissions staff.

Retirement will most likely include time with his grand kids. *Rock on, Coach!*

Mark Polzella

A rocket scientist by training, Mark Polzella attended West Point and taught advanced science and math courses over his long teaching career. To generations of Cadets he is Major "P"the administrator of quantum physics and the man who can explain mathematics in his sleep. Taking a math class from Major Polzella more than guarantees mathematical understanding. Mark Polzella takes his job seriously but insists on a relaxed learning environment. The Cadets learn to respect the mathematical process while conquering their fear of advanced math.

Mark recently became a grandpa for the first time and plans to make the most of his free time once he leaves the classroom. Happiness in this new chapter of your life.

Chris Zerger

If you can be successful in Chris Zerger's English classroom, you can make it anywhere. Attention to detail and the rules of grammar stand tall...deadlines are set to be met and late work isn't tolerated. For countless college-bound Cadets, membership in Zerger's class means being well prepared for the rigors of college life.

Zerger has a zest for life and the arts and literature are at the heart of her passion. Founder of the annual New York Trip, Chris Zerger feels passionate about how artin any form can enhance our lives.

Cadets fear and love Chris for her demanding demeanor and know she is a master of her craft.

Retirement plans include spending time with family and walks on the beach. *Enjoy your next journey*.

THURSDAY, MAY 4

Commencement Weekend ~ 129th Corps of Cadets

	May 4, 5 & 0, 201/	
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast for Cadets only	Stevens Center
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Registration for Parents Van	ier Academic Center (VAC)
	Parent-Teacher Coffee; Informal discussion with faculty	VAC Library
	Re-Enrollment desk open	VAC
10:15 a.m.	Boy Scout Court of Honor	Armstrong Chapel
11:30 a.m.	Pass-in-Review	Teardrop
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch for Cadets and Families	Stevens Center
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Academic/Military Awards Ceremony	Banes Gymnasium
	Re-Enrollment desk open in Linger following ceremony	
3:30 p.m.	Pass Gate Open	
6:00 p.m.	Reception & Dinner for SJMS Retirees	Salina Country Club
	Seniors & Dates	

FRIDAY, MAY 5

10:30 p.m.

Flag Raising Ceremony 9:00 a.m. Tear Drop

Final Roll Call

Pass Gate Closes

9:45 a.m.	Pass-in-Review	Tear Drop
7.73 a.III.	1 d55-111-ICCVICW	Tear Drop

Forming of "F" Troop

10:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast for Parents/Families	President's Backyard
10:00 a.m.	Breakfast for Cadets Only (Mandatory)	Stevens Center
10:45 a.m.	Drill Team Performance	Grinder
11:15 a.m.	Scholarships/Distinguished Awards Ceremony	Banes Gymnasium

Pass Gate Open after Ceremony

12:00 p.m.	Optional Lunch for Corps and Families	Stevens Center
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Re-Enrollment Desk Open	VAC
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Alumni Reception	LaQuinta Inn
5:00 p.m.	Dinner for Cadets w/o parents	Stevens Center
7:00 n m	President's Recognition Ceremony	Salina Bi-Centennial Center

Ring Ceremony, Class of 2018

Farewell Address of Battalion Staff, 2017 Attendance MANDATORY for all Cadets DRESS CODE: JACKET REQUIRED

12:00 a.m. Pass Gate Closes

SATURDAY, MAY 6

7:15 a.m.	Breakfast for Cadets Only	Stevens Center
	Breakfast for Seniors, Hosted by SJMS Alumni Assoc	Browning Reception Room
8:30 a.m.	Senior Eucharist	Armstrong Chapel
	Mandatory for Seniors	
	Parents welcome to attend	
10:00 a.m.	Freedom Tree Ceremony	Teardrop
10:30 a.m.	Graduation – Class of 2017	Jack Vanier Hall
	Final Pass-in-Review	Browning Parade Field
	Dismissal of the 120th Corps of Cadets	

Dismissal of the 129th Corps of Cadets

Linger Hall BBQ for Old Boys, and Staff

Following Graduation Ceremony

In the Inthe

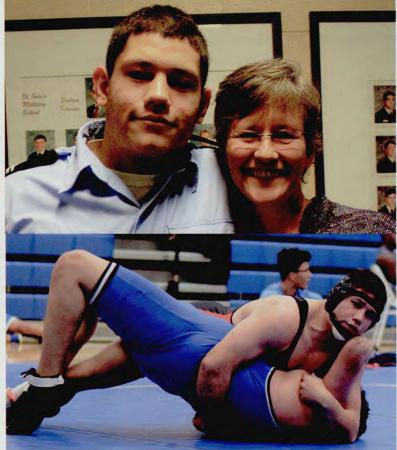
Kenneth Golden, Katy, TX, represented St. John's Military School at the Kansas Music Educators Convention as a member of the 1234A state band. Well done, Ken!

Christian Spraberry, Caleb Moscati, Kristopher Schnedler, Christopher Bergman, and Kody Sudol had stellar wrestling seasons. They repsresented St. John's at the regional wrestling meet. Kody Sudol also qualified for state.

Michael Rodriguez and his mom, Deb
Mitchum met in the Vanier Academic
Center during parent-teacher
conferences. Michael qualified for
state wrestling and his folks Deb
Mitchum & Carol Vokoun spent many
hours travelling to Michael's wrestling
meets and taking photos.
Thanks for the memories!







Cadets earn President's list honors for first semester

Cadets on the President's List were members of the Dean's Honor roll and received no conduct reports for the semester.

Congratulations to these young men.

FIRST SEMESTER



Iteoluwakisi Adekeye 11th Grade Priddis, Alberta, Canada Son of Olufomi & Omolola Adekeye



Elton "Max"
Duncan
11th Grade
Aurora, CO
Son of Edward &
Gabriele Duncan



Ken Golden 10th Grade Katy, TX Nephew of Amy Luedemann & Marco Lazar



Scott Hoffman 12th Grade Tulsa, OK Son of Amy & Chris Hoffman



Chenhao Li 11th Grade Zhenghou, Hrbah Province China Son of Hong Tao Liang



Nathaniel Stepaniak 10th Grade Brighton, CO Son of Margaret & Scott Stepaniak



Kody Sudol 9th Grade Colorado Springs, CO Son of Kimberly & Kevin Sudol



Daniel Summer 11th Grade Denver, CO Son of Kristin & Craig Summer



James Thomas 8th Grade Seneca, NE Son of Terri & John Thomas



Reece Turner 12th Grade W. Columbia, SC Son of Shirley Turner



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



Blase Whitting
11th Grade
Glen Head, NY
Son of
Janine & Dave
Whitting

The Grant The Gr



The SJMS rifle team competes at Camp Perry. Cadets James Peterson, Captain of the team, Branden Rucker, Daniel Wei and Xu Lei Yang shoot in three positions: kneeling, prone and standing.

"Four members of the St. John's Military School rifle team competed at the JROTC Regional Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio, during winter Parents' Weekend. We did not come back with any medals but the experience the boys gained by participating in this prestigious event was more than worth the trip. I would like to thank the St. John's administration for their support in making this trip possible for the team. It is also important to note that we beat many other teams just to qualify for this event and receive an invitation to participate. The SJMS team was one of only four precision air rifle teams selected to compete at Camp Perry.

The team from Stuttgart, Germany, took first place; Vilseck, Germany, earned second place; Marion Military Academy, Illinois, scored enough points to earn third place, and St. John's Military School came in fourth. The top shooter for St. John's was Branden Rucker with a score of 1099. He was only 30 points from making it into the finals. Fourteen points behind Branden Rucker was Xu Lei Yang with a score of 1085, James Peterson shot a 1079, followed by Daniel Wei with a 1064.

Three of the boys improved their score from the first day to the second. Branden showed the most improvement by bettering his first day score by eleven points. That is especially cool when you take into consideration, his first day score of 544 was his career high to date.

cont. top of next page









I am so very proud of all the Cadets. They represented St. John's as well as you would hope, both on and off the range. I have no doubt all of the boys gained invaluable experience and will be much better shooters for it. There is something to say about rubbing elbows with the best in the nation. They see what is possible and the ceiling is automatically raised." Tony Coach Blair

Xu Kei Yang, Branden Rucker, James Peterson, Daniel Wei and Coach Tony Blair gather in front of Olympic shooter and SJMS "Old Boy," George Norton featured on a poster on the wall at Camp Perry. St. John's Military School Box 5020 Salina, KS 67402-5020



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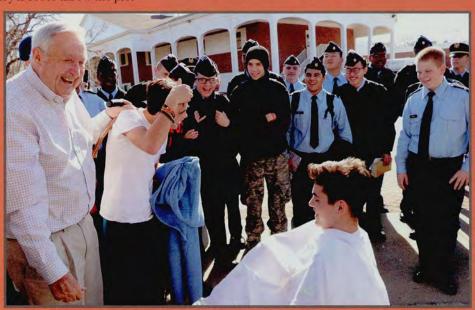
The Cadets are raising money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Kansas to help fight those diseases. As the Cadets reach certain levels, staff, faculty and Cadets volunteered to take a pie in the face for this good cause. If they raise over \$500.00, the senior class gets a lunch from Olive Garden. By March 31, they had raised \$410.00, and Mrs. Stein contributed the last \$90.00. Enjoy your lunch, seniors! Way to go, 129th!



Robert Conde takes one for the team as Reece Findlev is set to throw the pie.



Mike Reid, in his own fight against cancer, face plants MAJ George Stelljes.



D. Dale Browning prepares to do the honors for Blase Whitting. The corps gathers around to witness the fun.

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