

THE VICTORY VIEW

FALL, FUN, AND FAMILY SPIRIT



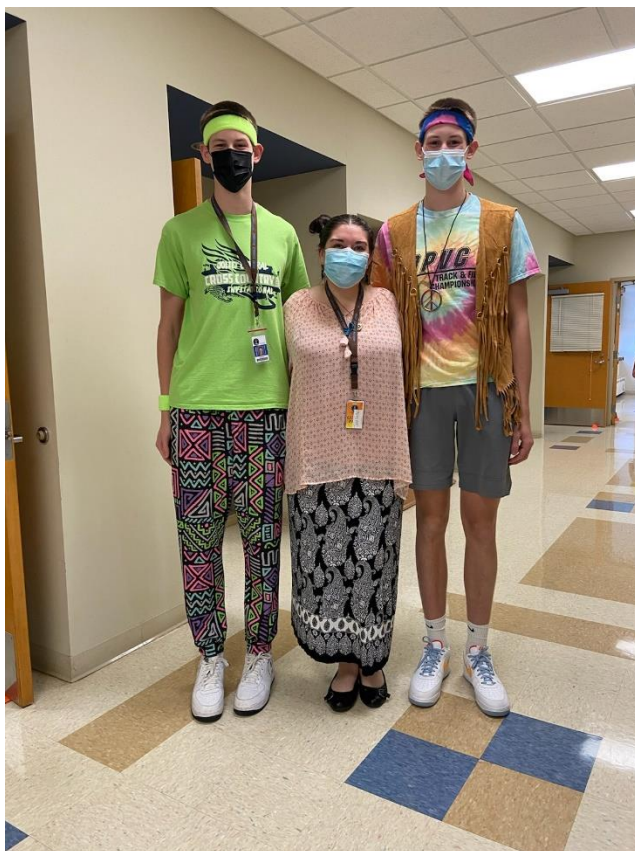
Homecoming Week Happens

BY LEILANY PERALTA

The 2021-2022 homecoming had many JCA students and staff members excited for the different styles of the week. Monday became a funky dress day with “Mismatch Day.” JCA students dressed in funny ways to represent their excitement for homecoming. Many students also enjoyed this week in comfy spirt wear. Tuesday was “Tightrope” which was cowboy style kind of clothes. Through the whole day, Cowboy hats could be seen miles away from teachers and students. Students enjoyed dressing up while testing their skills with ring toss during the lunchroom games. During these lunch games, students were able to win big prizes such as discounts for the spirt wear shop. Wednesday brought “Time stops.” Students wore their parents’ old clothes and danced through the day with 80’s and 90’s clothes. “The Greatest Show” took over Thursday with JCA students wearing a clown or ring tamer outfits. Friday brought “Cotton Candy” and the JCA family wore pink to showcase the fight against breast cancer.

The homecoming games brought much laughter from the Freshmen to the Seniors. First event in this pep assembly included the beautiful performances from the dance team and cheerleading. Then the senior boys and dance teams’ collaboration had all grade levels cheering loudly during the second pep assembly. After all the dances, the JCA staff gifted the students with a surprise dance. It was lovely to watch and see how much the effort the teachers put into to make their students smile. As a whole, JCA students hope this can become a traditional activity in future years.

During the homecoming court games, the participants fought gallantly. The games started with stacking cups, then they had to hoop a standing participant, run under a table, pop a balloon by sitting on it, and get their basketball into the hoop. After much surprise, an unexpected announcement was made that the homecoming queen and kings would be crowned in front of the assembly. The queen and king were Sam Horn and Michel Rouse, wrapping up a great homecoming week!



SPOOKY SCARY STYLE

BY REGAN WILLIE

It is finally that time of the year that every little kid (or adult!) adores. Halloween! Halloween, where spooky scary skeletons send shivers down your spine, and where you always feel like someone’s watching you, is finally here. This year, there are some new, hot trends going on that you should hear all about.

As far as costumes go, there are multiple recurring outfits jumping from convicted prisoners, bloody Purge characters, and a classical Harley Quinn. A couple trendy and current costume ideas vary between the infamous Cruella Deville to Among Us characters! There are also many viral videos on Tiktok featuring costumes worth a laugh. Hocus Pocus trio’s, M&M’s, SpongeBob characters, a blow-up alien, and many more! What are you dressing up as?

Halloween décor tends to stay the same. A newly discovered decoration are 12 foot tall skeletons you can purchase at Home Depot. This was first seen on Tiktok and as many of you may know, Tiktok made them buy it. A couple returning decorations are big fuzzy spiders, sticky spider webs, metal cauldrons filled with candy or punch, and fog machines. Skeletons are definitely a huge come back this year. Some simple ideas to spice up the scary in your house could be caution tape—a simple yet spooky element of the Halloween spirit!

As far as COVID goes, there has not been any restrictions on neighborhoods we are aware of. I will definitely recommend wearing a mask if your costume allows one. During times like these, make sure to stay safe and have fun!



Service Day Success

BY MRS. SAMANTHA BUSH

Service Day this year seems to be a success! Last year due to COVID, service day could not take place, so it was a welcome sight to be able to gather in retreats as underclassmen and to be able to help the community as seniors.

Senior students were able to visit many locations in the community. Some groups went to Ready Set Ride Stables, Hopeful Tails Animal Shelter, The Willows, Habitat Restore and other Habitat home sites, Easter Seals, Hands of Hope, the Forest Preserve, and the Illinois Foodbank. Whether it was packaging bundles of food, cleaning out horse stables, giving dogs walks, helping build homes, or helping pull weeds, seniors and faculty and staff from JCA were able to be a presence in the community and help.

These organizations are vital to the success of the community. Life inevitably throws obstacles in our paths, especially when we least expect it. For these organizations to exist means that many families do not have less to worry about when facing these obstacles. For example, Ready Sit Ride Stables is a nonprofit organization that gives therapy services to young children or adults. No family pays anything for their services, and some children who struggle to speak begin communicating better through riding horses. The Northern Illinois Foodbank distributes over 72,000,000 meals to people that hunger. Anyone can donate on their website as well: Just \$1 will help produce 10 meals to those that need it.

We are thankful for Heritage Week at JCA, because it helps give us the opportunity to not simply be a community as a school, but for the ability to let us connect to other men, women, and children in our local communities. *When we walk in another’s shoes, it opens our eyes to the world around us.*



Fall Food Review

BY ANDREA D’AMICO

Starbucks Pumpkin Loaf 5/5

versus

Starbucks Pumpkin Scone 3/5

The loaf took the win with a 5/5 for its moist, well-seasoned flavor making it a great fall snack. The scone fell flat for it’s too sweet and crumbly texture which didn’t taste like a scone at all.

Starbucks Pumpkin spice latte 3/5

versus

Dunkin Pumpkin spice latte 4/5

Starbucks was very disappointing due to its weak pumpkin flavor labeling it just “okay.” However, Dunkin could have had a stronger pumpkin spice, but it was just enough pumpkin to quench my fall appetite. We could say Dunkin was “juuuuuuusssst right.”

Starbucks Pumpkin cream cold brew 3/5

versus

Starbucks- Iced chai, 2 pumps of vanilla and pumpkin cold foam 5/5

Starbucks versus Starbucks here. The cold brew was just too sweet with overwhelming pumpkin flavor. It gets the title of “not very good.” The Iced Chai felt festive and autumnal for its perfectly sweet taste, making it a great choice for non-coffee drinkers.

Starbucks Apple Crisp Macchiato 3/5

versus

Dunkin Apple Cranberry refresher 5/5

Dunkin reigns SUPREME for its tart and perfectly balanced Apple-Cranberry brew. Starbucks lost in this battle for its overpowering apple flavor that drowned the coffee, deeming it an acquired taste.

Small Business Spotlight

By SOPHIE AIELLO

Kafa de Kasa is locally owned coffee shop, featuring a large menu of coffee, fraps, smoothies, pastries, and much more. Upon my visit, I tried the Dragon Lava refresher, the Abuelita Iced latte, Mango Pineapple smoothie, and a slice of chocolate cake. The dragon lava refresher was a sweet and sour mixture of dragon fruit and lime, perfect for a hot day. The Abuelita iced latte was full of flavor with a rich chocolate taste mixed with cinnamon and other spices. This was the star of the show, and what intrigued to come in and give Kafe de Kasa a try. The mango pineapple was smoothie was clearly made with fresh fruit. It was perfect for a caffeine free and fruity treat. Lastly the chocolate cake which was one of many pastry options which featured rich, chocolatey, and decadent layers. The ambiance of the Kafe was decent and lively. Overall, Kafe de Kasa features a large menu with tons of variety and flavor, and a unique experience that cannot be found elsewhere.

Be sure to visit Kafe de Kasa!

2446 Plainfield Rd, Crest Hill, IL 60403
Hours: Monday-Friday: 7am-7pm, Saturday-Sunday: 8am-7pm.

* no food/drink was wasted. All was either shared and given away to family/friends.

Club Spotlight: ASL Club

JCA Staff Mash Bash

BY JUSTIN BUDZ

Learn a New Language With ASL

BY MATTHEW ARDAUGH

Joliet Catholic Academy is proud to feature an ASL club. ASL stands for American Sign Language, and this club focuses on teaching the fundamentals of ASL to help make students more aware of American Sign Language and to be able to have simple conversations with those in our world who may not be able to hear. The club also does fun holiday activities, and they learn seasonal words in sign language. Keeping with school tradition, a service project will be held this year to help those who have disabilities.

Having clubs such as ASL at JCA is important to continuing our community outreach and our quest to help educate students on skills used both inside of the classroom as well as outside of the classroom. Club President, Abigail Weiss said, "I think it's important for JCA to have this club because since we are a smaller school, we don't have the means like larger schools to take an ASL class as our language, so getting this opportunity to learn another way of communicating with others is a super special experience that I'm so glad was started a few years ago. In the past few years, I know, I, as well as other members of the club, have been able to use what we've learned in the meetings to communicate or understand others who use ASL." Just because JCA doesn't have ASL included in the curriculum, it doesn't mean that it isn't important to learn. That is why years ago ASL club was founded. This club ensures that the language of ASL is taught and provided as an option for students who wish to study a new language.

This club meets every other Wednesday before school at 7:20. They are always looking for new members, so please join them and see if ASL is for you. Whether it will be a secondary language, a third language, or even just a hobby, ASL club is a great learning experience. For any questions regarding this excellent club, please reach out to Dr. Fischer or Abby Weiss.

From Covid to online school to mask protocols, we have had a very chaotic year full of anxiety and stress. We have all earned to have a little bit of fun and light heartedness to return back to our lives. We indeed have a graveyard smash of personalities within our family at JCA. So, we decided to poll our JCA student body to figure out who in the JCA staff is what famous Halloween character! *And the results are in...*

- Frankenstein
 - o Mr. Morrisette
- Dracula
 - o Mr. Cranmer
- The Mummy
 - o Mr. Clarke
- The Witch
 - o Mrs. Bush
- The Wizard
 - o Señor DeBartolo
- The Werewolf
 - o Mr. McDermott



SELF CARE CORNER

SIT BACK AND RELAX

BY VIVICA BOFAH

When school began, I made a strict schedule for myself. With AP classes, clubs and sports, and other parts of school, I knew that it would be a stressful time period. But what was the one thing I forgot to add to my schedule? *Time for self-care.*

We all here those words given as part of advice when we reach for help. Like many others, I chose to ignore them, because I thought it would take up useless part of my time. This was until, only two weeks into the new school year, I found myself feeling burned out. Unmotivated and lacking energy, I realized it was becoming impossible to follow the schedule that I created for myself. I was upset with the lackluster work I was turning in due to my low energy, but I also slowly found myself becoming tired mentally. If this applies to you, just know that you are not alone and have many people behind you enduring the same thing.

So, what's the complicated solution to this problem? *Self-care.* Some may roll their eyes when they hear this piece of advice, but I now have realized the true importance of taking care of yourself. Self-care can come in many different forms, which I was able to experience over the past couple months. To begin my attempt at self-care, I bought myself a diffuser to just help me cleanse my room and enjoy the soothing scents of calming essential oils. Diffusers can be bought at a variety of stores and range in prices, which makes them very accessible. I was able to get mine from Kohls at an inexpensive price! In smaller ways, I started practicing self-care through taking more time out of my day for meditation. Meditation has now become a beautiful way for me to destress after stressful school days. Another part of my self-care routine has been trying to say more positive affirmations to myself. In a world where so much negative is spread, it's hard to destress when unlocking your phone unleashes so much chaos onto you. I have now changed my morning routine to be unlocking my phone to look at my affirmations for the day and repeat them to myself, rather than hopping on social media. Saying simple phrases like, "I don't need to put so much pressure on myself, it's ok to take a break," are a form of self-care through the love that those words bring you.

Being a junior has not been easy. I think that being an overall student during this time period has not been easy for many of us. But instead of giving into the burned-out feelings, we should switch that energy to more constructive behavior. Instead of burying yourself under assignments as a form of motivation, try taking a moment out of your day to practice some self-care. Self-care can open so much creativity that your mind is blocking and help you escape the dangers of being burned out. So, no matter who you are, I challenge everyone in JCA to take a moment for self-care. It can be 10 minutes or an hour, but just remember to take a moment to take care of yourself!

New Teacher Spotlight

BY SARAH RATAJCZYK, LEILANY PERALTA & VIVICA BOFAH,

In this edition of the newspaper, we will be focusing on three new faces at JCA this school year. We decided to ask them about JCA, the autumn season, and how their school years are going. Keep your eyes open to see more new faculty and staff in future papers this school year!

Ms. Karlyn Budz

- She teaches Chemistry and Physics
- What do you love about JCA the most so far?
 - o Students
 - o Family and community
- What is your favorite thing about FALL?
 - o Cozy sweaters
 - o Books and blankets
- If you could describe your experience this school year so far, what HASHTAG would it be?
 - o #sciencemania (crazy so far)



Mrs. Jelenik

- She teaches Government and Economics
- What do you love about JCA the most so far?
 - o Her students
 - o How the administration treats the teachers
- What is your favorite thing about FALL?
 - o Pumpkin spice latte
- If you could describe your experience this school year so far, what HASHTAG would it be?
 - o #literallylivingthedream



Ms. Julie Nettles

- She is student teaching for Mrs. Bush and teaching English IV.
- What do you love about JCA the most so far?
 - o The welcoming atmosphere! Every single person that I meet asks me how things are going and offers me advice for how things are going with my student teaching.
- What is your favorite thing about FALL?
 - o Halloween! Halloween is my all-time favorite Holiday. We have a tradition where we make chili the night before, put it in a crock pot, and let it simmer. Once we get home for trick or treating, we eat the chili.
- If you could describe your experience this school year so far, what HASHTAG would it be?
 - o #Engagement



WHAT'S TRENDING

BY SARAH RATAJCZYK

The devious lick trend is an activity students perform when they have nothing better to do. As a trend that is full of vandalism, theft, and risk, it's hilarious right? Maybe not. The devious lick is an inconvenience to students, teachers, and other staff members. JCA is fortunate to not have been hit too hard by the trend, but there were still consequences for the few noticeable acts of vandalism. The boys' bathroom was closed and unable to be used for some time. It's inconvenient to all male staff and students, along with the staff that must fix what was broken. Also, students signing out before leaving the classroom became mandatory, even when just going to a locker. This tedious act gets on everyone's nerves.

Thankfully, the trend has mostly died down by now because TikTok banned it for violating guidelines and no one actually found it hilarious in the first place. Hopefully, the lesson of not stealing or vandalizing from schools has been learned, and we can avoid these silly consequences and use our funding toward something for the students, and not to fix something the students broke.

Wouldn't it be great if a TikTok trend started that focused on something positive? Hopefully people can rise up against the face of social media and peer pressure and *do what's right*.