

# THE VICTORY VIEW

School's Out for Summer!

## Pura Vida!

BY CASSIDY GRAY

“All right, you beautiful people.”

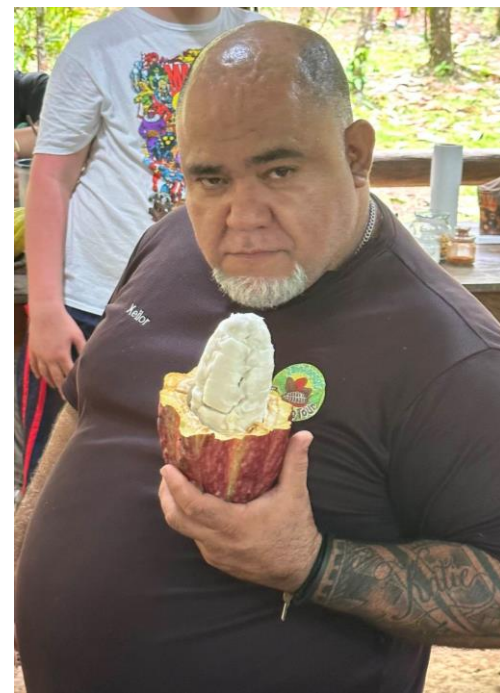
The time was 10:30 p.m. and Joliet Catholic Academy's students had just landed in San Jose's international airport. Our annual Spanish trip had begun in the beautiful country of Costa Rica, a small, peaceful country located between Nicaragua and Panama, right in the heart of Central America. While many students had doubts about being out of the country without their parents for the first time, Gilbert “Gil,” our tour guide, instantly made us feel safe and welcome with just five words. The trip of a lifetime had begun.

Costa Rica has endless things to teach us with it being the size of West Virginia, so we were able to traverse around the entire northern half of the country in a day, finding out more and more each second. Their flag, proudly displayed almost everywhere you look, consists of one red, two white, and two blue stripes. The red stands for the blood of people in the past. The blue stands for the opportunities and how the sky's the limit in Costa Rica. The white stands for their lack of army. The country disbanded their army in 1948 to push for peace and love in our world.

While we learned about Costa Rica, our group proved we can learn so much about each other, despite being 2,000 miles away from home. When JCA joined together with kids from Saskatchewan, Canada, South Carolina, and New Jersey, an instant bond formed. Together, we ziplined through a mountain range in Monteverde, tasted diverse fruits at a local stand, climbed the Arenal Volcano, explored coffee's processing at Britt Coffee Plantation, and made our own chocolate with the help of Chapo, our hilarious tour guide who made everyone have fun, regardless of whether you liked chocolate or not (pictured right). The laughs were endless and the new experiences were plentiful.

Costa Rica could not have been complete without giving back to the community. An EF tour tradition, we planted trees near Santa Maria High School, which will reforest their land after cattle ranching removed most nutrients from the soil. For our cultural immersion, we had the opportunity to visit Escuela La Guaria, a small elementary school just outside of La Fortuna, a small town where many families from Nicaragua had immigrated to in order to work and make a safer life for their families (pictured right). Each high schooler was paired up with a buddy who chose them. They taught us how to play their soccer games and took us on tours of their school. My buddy Gracie taught me handshake games, similar to our version of “Concentration,” and let me draw in her sketchbook as she told me what to draw. We also played a game where a jump rope was laid on the ground and everyone would start on the left side. If their teacher shouted, “Mar!” we would all move to the right. If he shouted, “Tierra!” we would jump back to the left. If he shouted “Gelatina!” we all had to dance like a bowl of jelly. The kids loved the game and there was laughter sounded from the group every second of our trip. Each pair of buddies formed a quick friendship with their partner and taught us more about Costa Rica than any tour could have.

Costa Rica undoubtedly has something for everyone. Whether it be *Would You Rathers* while on night walks, watching your guide slice up a pineapple while white water rafting, or drinking coconut water strolling through Manuel Antonio National Park, Costa Rica is filled with memories and opportunities for new ones. As our fantastic tour guide Gilbert said, “Everyone leaves a part of their heart in Costa Rica.” We are undoubtedly set to return.





## Let's Get Some Tea from the Class of '23

BY VIVICA BOFAH

The Class of '23 has seen many monumental moments from a pandemic that rocked our school experience, teachers coming and going, many trips down to state, and countless fun memories that will last a lifetime. As we are rounding the corner to our final days of school, I got a chance to stop some seniors and ask them some final questions about where they are as we are about to go. Congrats to the class of '23 for making it to this amazing moment and we can't wait to see where everyone goes in their futures!

Some of the questions that I asked were: Why did you pick the college you did? How did you know you wanted to attend that college? What do you feel about the fact that you are about to graduate? Do you have any advice for underclassmen or juniors? Here are their responses:

**Erin Nash:** I chose LSU because when I went to visit everyone down there was so nice. I also saw how good of a school it was and that a degree from LSU is recognized around the world.

**Izzy Tischina:** I picked Saint Louis University; it has always been my top choice but what drew me to it was the freshman direct entry program for Physical Therapy. When I toured it, I instantly knew and I felt at home. Honestly, advice for underclassmen would be: don't stress too much about it and the big-name schools aren't always the best fit, and it's always okay to go out of your comfort zone and go somewhere where all your friends aren't going. [My] favorite memory [from high school] is being a Hillzone leader.

**Marissa Corsi:** Deciding [on a school] is even worse than waiting on application results, but when I was on campus at Michigan again, I just felt at home. I could see myself there, happy, and I know I'll find that balance between living life and learning. There's a bittersweet feeling to the final leg of high school. On one hand, I want to stay forever. I've had the best four years of my life. But I also know that I'm ready to move on to bigger things, new experiences, and more opportunities.

**Kayleigh Svay:** [I picked my college because I] need my family but I also need space so Chicago is that balance I need. I'm ready to go; I need change...Some advice would be: don't force anything, take everything day by day, change is good and at the end of the day love yourself because you're all you got and you're all you need during this process. AND SURROUND YOURSELF WITH GOOD PEOPLE [because] when you leave you're going to need them

**Nathan Hernandez:** I am in between Quincy and USC, I picked Quincy right now because it is perfect for my major due to its high acceptance rate into law school after graduating, gave the best opportunity to play football right away, and they graduated four starters in my position, which gives me the chance to compete. I just fell in love with the community and the school, and it felt like the best place for me to succeed both mentally and financially.

## CHILDHOOD SHOW TIER LIST

BY SARAH RATAJZYCK

Do you ever reminisce about the great television shows when we were young? I figured that ranking a tier list would help bring back great memories!

**S:**

- Dragon Tales
- Wild Kratts
- Dinosaur Train
- Powerpuff Girls
- Wonder Pets
- Backyardigans
- Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends

**A:**

- Arthur
- Super Why
- Bob the Builder
- Winx Club
- Veggie Tales

**B:**

- Sesame Street
- Blues Clues
- Sid the Science Kid
- Curious George

**C:**

- Clifford
- Go Diego Go
- Max and Ruby
- Thomas the Tank Engine
- Barney

**D:**

- Dora the Explorer
- Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood
- Calliou

## Before You Go...

BY VIVICA BOFAH

We asked a few teachers for some words of advice for the Class of 2023, and here are their responses:

“Take advantage of all opportunities as to not have any regrets.”- Mr. Allgood

“One word: Comitatus.”- Mrs. Bush

“Study abroad, travel, meet everyone you can meet, talk to everyone you can talk to. Leave Joliet behind! Wherever you’re going to school, try the local restaurants, meet new people. Just live baby, outside this little town.”- Dr. Fischer

"Don't get to caught up in what your future is going to be, don't forget to enjoy the time you are in now."- Ms. Budz

“Go and be a part of the clubs, study abroad, keep the faith, and join student organizations, attend classes.” – Mme Austrums

Thank you for the amazing words of advice!

## SUMMER WORK PROGRAM

BY SARAH RATAJZYCK

Attention JCA students! As summer approaches us, so does JCA’s Summer Work Program. This program runs from June 5<sup>th</sup>-July 13<sup>th</sup> from 8am-12pm. Throughout the summer, you and your team are going to be around the school cleaning classrooms, lockers, or working outside of the school. It’s an excellent opportunity to build your collaboration skills, get to know your fellow JCA students, and earn some money off your tuition. I’ve been a participant of this program as long as I’ve been at JCA and it’s given me the chance to make friends, stay busy over the long summer, and have a lot of fun. If this sounds like something you’re interested in, check JCA’s website to print out an application or see Dr. Bailey Have a great summer everyone!

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LEE SVAY

BY MYA MAGADAN

Lee started drawing when she was in elementary, and she remembers 2nd or 3rd grade. When asked what inspires her to draw, she responded with her culture, emotions, and Pinterest. She hasn’t entered any art contests, but she would definitely win if she did. She knows what she is capable of and she’ll use that in her future. When she’s older, she wants to become either an art gallery manager to help small artists and BIPOC artists get more light. On the side along with being a manager, she wants to become a tattoo artist on the side.

## Boys’ Volleyball

BY VIVICA BOFAH

When I asked Zach about the season so far, he said, “Our season is going really, really well so far, we are 11-4. We just started our conference play, our goal is to win the conference championship and to be able to compete in the regional championship.” Zach is also very proud of the team’s performance so far this year since the team has taken so many steps to improve from last season. Most of the starters returned from last year, and everyone on the team has worked really hard to improve by putting in extra time and effort. Zach’s favorite memory from the season so far has been placing fourth in the Joliet West tournament and winning their pool-play bracket!

Carter echoes Zach’s sentiments about the season as he sees it as “...pretty successful, and it’s been going well so far. We have overcome a lot of difficulties that we have faced in the beginning of the season. We have become a lot stronger as a team.” Since graduation is imminent, Carter’s advice for the younger teammates would be to be consistent. Consistency is essential in volleyball along with having emotional control. His favorite memory thus far was the pink-out game against Providence since the rivalry that exists between the two schools, but also because it supports a cause that is bigger than volleyball.

We wish you the best with the end of your season!

## SUMMER BUCKET LIST

BY ALESSANDRA GARIBAY & GRACIE STRAHANOSKI

1. Watch the sun go down.
2. Go to the beach
3. Go to a waterpark.
4. Go on a picnic!
5. Play messy twister.
6. Paint tote bags.
7. Buy a plastic pool.
8. Eat ice cream.
9. Make bracelets.
10. Go to a concert.
11. Drive with all the windows down.
12. Go tubing.
13. Go to an amusement park.
14. Watch fireworks.
15. Have a cookout.
16. Have a water balloon fight with paint.
17. Sleep under the stars.
18. Watch the sun come up.
19. Make smores.
20. Have a bonfire.
21. Have a trampoline sleepover.
22. Go to a dinner in the middle of the night.
23. Build sandcastles.
24. Tan.
25. Drink slushies.
25. Dance in the rain.
26. Go for a road-trip.
27. Take a pottery class.
28. Take a class at a local college.
29. go to the movies.
30. Go for a bike ride.
31. Go to the zoo.
32. Go to a drive-in movie.
33. Swim at night.
34. Take a nap on a hammock.
35. Get a summer job.
36. Volunteer.
37. Go to Chicago.
38. Go to a museum.
39. Go bowling.
40. Go to an arcade.
41. Make your own popsicles.
42. Blast music in the car.
43. Plant a Garden.
44. Sleep all day.
45. Go thrifting.
46. Play beach volleyball.
47. Go snorkeling.
48. Go to a farmers’ market.
49. Enjoy the summer!!!



## Math Team Coverage: Math Team Takes ISU!

**BY VIVICA BOFAH**

This year, our JCA math team excelled during their excellent season! The team was able to overcome many rigorous competitions and qualified for state this year! Team members included Megan Ardaugh, Sam Kottman, Jack Oswalt, Zach Pekol, Luke Pekol, Carter Holbrook, Jason Koenings, and Marissa Corsi. We were lucky enough to catch up with one of the team captain's, Luke Pekol, and ask him some questions about their season!

**Q: How was state?**

**A: State was an unforgettable experience!! It was really cool to be able to compete at ISU! The precalc team finished 17 and the calculator team finished 16.**

**Q: What shocked you guys the most about your season?**

**A: This was our first time competing at the meet in person! It was an amazing opportunity to compete at the highest level!**

**Q: What were some of the obstacles your team overcame to get to where you guys are?**

**A: We had a smaller team this year but still were able to find success!! we placed 2nd at the JJC invite as a team! We all worked very well together and always went above and beyond!**

**Q: What are some words of encouragement you have for the team next year?**

**A: Do not be afraid to get involved! Math team is a great way to meet new people and leave behind a legacy at JCA!**



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: FRANCESCA ORNELAS

**BY LIZZY MARTINEZ & GRACIE STRAHANOSKI**

Francesca Ornelas is a senior who in the fall is going to college at the American Institute of Art in Chicago. When asked about being the focal point of the student spotlight, she said “It feels great, and I feel appreciated; my hard work and interest is paying off and being in this makes me feel included and appreciated.”

Recently, Francesca has had many successes with her art being recognized. Her art was recently displayed in the Art Show at JCA, and a powerful piece was based on Mental Health (pictured below). Her goal was to emphasize, “Mental health is not something to be ashamed of, and it is not something that people should be scared to talk about. In a way, people can gain a new perspective of the world through the topic of mental health, and when we allow ourselves to accept our own issues, only then can we move on to new beginnings.” Francesca prefers the modality of digital art and pen and pencil when creating new things. She was recognized on March 14<sup>th</sup> with five superior art awards.

When asked about her experience in the musical, *Cinderella*, Francesca had much to say! “It was a dream come true; it was fun to work with students with all different walks of life, with athletes and students experienced in doing this so many times. This was something I have wanted to do ever since 6th grade. There were the obvious struggles and scheduling issues, but it was a good experience. I made so many personal connections and friends. I am awestruck that people still come up and congratulate me, and I realize it wasn't only me but everyone who worked so hard to balance everything out and make such a beautiful production. It was truly fascinating. I appreciate the time and effort I put into the show and people were able to notice that. It feels amazing to be included and special.”

Fran started drawing in the 5th grade with hopes to pursue it professionally. Although she has been singing since she was born, she truly focused on singing in 6th grade. There were 80-100 kids in a choir but Fran's voice was still heard. She sings every day, participated in the ILMEA, and sang national anthem twice in middle school. She joined choir with Mr. Henderson and Ms. Kelstrom, freshman year here at JCA., remains still very much passionate about singing and theatre.

Francesca enjoys drawing the most as she has spent 8 years of her life focusing on it. She includes herself in her drawings, always with the hopes to demonstrate passion and focus. Francesca desires to be a 2D animator in the near future and wants to make her own television show after college. Her artwork reflects her emotions, and she wants her audience to be inspired as well. Francesca takes one day at a time in life, she observes other's struggles and experiences around her, and stands be her own morals.

We asked her about any other fun facts and Francesca said, “I love cartoons and some of my favorites include Rango, Megamind, Hunchback of Notre Dame, and Disney's Robin Hood. Disney practically raised me. I am also double jointed in the thumbs.”

