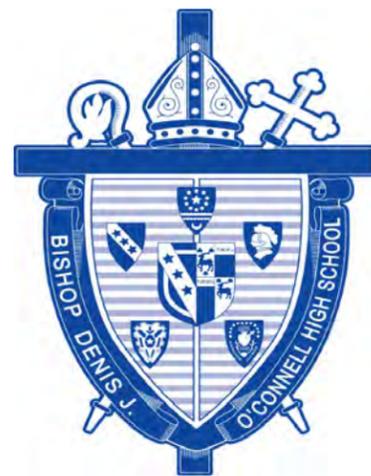


The Visor

Bishop O'Connell High School

Volume 58 Issue 3



Seniors School Teachers

By: Koorosh Malek
Staff Writer

The Senior vs Faculty basketball game took place on Thursday, April 21st as the PM assembly. The game has become a tradition at Bishop O'Connell, with teachers and students anticipating this event and looking forward to it each year. The event



is run by SCA with students being picked at random, while teachers are asked whether they want to participate. The game is a great way for students to engage in a rivalry with their teachers, more than they already do in the classroom. The seniors pulled off a remarkable victory, trailing by 8 with 7 minutes to play, and eventually winning with a final score of 37-32. The halftime show was highlighted by an ergathon (rowing competition) put on by the crew team with the Mr. Pell, Mr. Kadeli, Mr. Mahoney, and Mr. Rooney as participants. Mr. Rooney finished the 1000 meter race in just under 4 minutes while Mr. Kadeli finished second.

The seniors were led by Ted Terwilliger who scored 12 points, Christian Liljenquist with 9 points, Kevin Dannaher with 8 points, and Mike Lundquist with 6 points while the faculty were led by Coach Disch with 14 points and Mr. Creson with 8 points. The faculty started the game red hot, with a 9-5 lead at the end of the first quarter, and 19-8 lead at halftime. The



intensity of the game picked up in the third quarter, as the seniors made a significant run to cut the lead to three by the end of the third quarter. The fourth quarter was the most intense, as both teams began picking up hard fouls on one another down the stretch. The game ended with a hard fought

Countdown

Baccalaureate
2 Days

Prom
6 Days

Graduation
13 Days

Last Day of
School
21 Days

* all dates are from May 20th

win by the seniors, who had the entire senior class cheering them on. This is the first win by a senior class in this game in the four years that the current senior class has attended O'Connell.

Row, Row, Row your ERG

By: Claudia Reing
Staff Writer

This year at the senior-faculty basketball game, four teachers: Mr. Pell, Mr. Mahoney, Mr. Rooney, and Mr. Kadeli, faced off in an erg-a-thon. Before making it to

the 1000 meter competition, the teachers had to make it through a round of time trials held during the week before the senior-faculty game. These heats were held during A, B, and C lunches. The students were asked to bet on their favorite teacher to win each competition during the weeks

leading up to the trials and to the game. Whoever managed to pull the most meters on the rowing machine, or the "erg," in 15 minutes won their heat. The four teachers to pull the farthest in 10 minutes participated in a 1000 meter competition during the half time of the senior vs. faculty basketball

game game. In the 1000 meter competition, Mr. Rooney pulled in first place for the competition and raised over \$400 for the O'Connell Crew Team. In second was Mr. Kadeli, in third Mr. Mahoney, and fourth Mr. Pell. All money raised went to scholarship funds for the Crew team.



A Thoroughly Modern Musical

By: Beverly Nugent,
Staff Writer

This Spring, the DJO Drama Department put on a performance of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. In this story, Millie Dillmount is a simple farm girl from Kansas who is determined to become modern. She takes a journey to New York in order to experience the roaring twenties in the big city. In a true modern fashion, she decides to find a job somewhere and marry her boss for his money. When her new friend, Ms. Dorothy, played by Eden Hentschel, asks her about love, Millie rejects it and says she believes marriage is a business deal. As Millie makes her way through New York she finds herself in various sticky situations, including a white slavery ring, and along the way learns a thing or two about what true love is.

Maddy Collins is cast as the lead, Millie Dillmount, and Daniel Herrerias is cast as the male lead, Jimmy Smith.



Miranda Smith is cast as Mrs. Meers, the woman running the Priscilla Hotel that Millie stays at, along with running an underground white slavery ring.

The actors and actresses aren't the only people involved with this

production. The all-important tech crew is responsible for building sets, and changing the sets during the play. Thoroughly Modern Millie has many different complicated sets, such as 5 moving doors, an elevator, jail cells, and much more. Laura McLellan, tech director and senior said, "I have never been more stressed out in my life, but seeing the play run so smoothly made all the hard work worth it." Along with having responsibility for the sets, the tech crew is also in charge of costumes, lighting, microphones, and many other aspects of the show you might not stop to think about. *Thoroughly Modern Millie* is entered into the Cappies Program, which is a program designed to recognize and award high school theater productions. The DJO drama department has opportunities to win awards in many different categories, such as Best Ensemble in a Musical, Featured Actor/Actress, Female/Male Vocalist, Best Musical, and many others.

A Retreat to Serve

By: LaDan Nemati
Staff Writer

On April 12th, Bishop O'Connell sophomores had the opportunity to "retreat" from their daily, fast-paced lives and enter more closely into a world with Christ. The retreat was centered upon the importance of being "stewards" and serving others. For most of the students, the retreat started off with a simulation of how Jesus washed his disciples' feet. Students were instructed to wash their classmates' hands to replicate how Jesus served his disciples by washing their feet. Theology teacher and retreat leader, Mr. Fitzpatrick, says, "The point of the prayer service was to give not just a reflection on the scripture, but a real world experience of what it would be like to humble yourself as Jesus did." After this eye-opening activity, the Sophomores continued to the gymnasium, where there were many different team building activities set up. These activities, such as mazes, cup stacking, and partner games were meant to teach a different lesson of the different types of relationships you can have with Christ and other people. Once

these games were over, many groups proceeded to one of the fourteen different service sites, which included Christ House, Cornerstones, and Capital Area Food Bank. There were many different service opportunities that the Sophomores participated in such as meal packing, organizing, food serving, and being a ministry of presence to the elderly. All of which were beneficial to those that were served, but to themselves as well. Sophomore Kathryn Sandercock says, "It was a good experience because even though my group wasn't face to face with the people that we were helping we all still knew that what we were doing was making a difference for a lot of people." Kathryn's service group volunteered at the Capital Area Food Bank and worked on bagging potatoes and onions for the homeless. The retreat's main focus and goal was to open everyone's eyes to the outside world and help them



realize that an important aspect of living out the Holy Life that God has instilled in us is to serve others who may not be as fortunate as ourselves. With this in mind, students were able to fully retreat from the materialized society of today and insert themselves into a much different world than they had been used to previously.

Kairos II: God's Time



By: Christian Liljenquist
Staff Writer

In early April, 45 students and nine faculty members embarked on Kairos, which is a four days and three night retreat that lets students examine their relationship with Jesus and other people. Kairos is a Greek word meaning the right or opportune moment, and students found this to be the right time and place. The goal of the retreat is to help retreatants get a better perspective on their own life and their relationship with God. This retreat allowed students to

immerse themselves in the religious aspects of life, love, and happiness by participating in Mass, Confession, and the Rosary. As they arrived at Camp St. Charles, everyone was a bit skeptical as to what would happen or if it would be the "life changing experience" like everyone has said. No one knew how much of an impact Kairos would really have on them. Kiera Wainer explains, "I was skeptical at first, but as the days went on, I realized how much it opened me up to the different perspectives on my life, as well as others." All the retreatants were split up into small groups of four to six people and interacted with each other

in small activities by saying the rosary, or having group discussions for a certain period of time in order to slowly open up to one another. This retreat included talks from teachers and students who shared their stories about their growth towards faith and God. In order to take everything in, retreatants were also allowed to play basketball, volleyball, football, or just sit and talk with one another during the free time. Mass was said every day and by the end of the retreat, there was not one person who did not feel a good effect from Kairos. I was fortunate enough to attend Kairos. At the beginning, I was extremely skeptical

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Front Page
Libby Scully
Koorosh Malek
Jack Basse

Sports
Christian Lilienquest
Jonathan Gutierrez
Jack Basse

Spotlight
Libby Scully
Claudia Reing
Adela Montgomery

Outside News
Briana Broccoli
Koorosh Malek
Patrick Faga

Spreads
LaDan Lemanti

Editorial
Beverly Nugent
Briana Broccoli
Libby Scully
Claudia Reing

Staff Writers
Claudia Reing, Libby Scully, Kathryn Sandercock, LaDan Lemanti, Briana Broccoli, Beverly Nugent, Adela Montgomery, Jack Basse, Koorosh Malek, Christian Lilienquest, Patrick Faga, Jonathan Gutierrez

Faculty Moderator
Ed Fitzpatrick

Student Spotlight: Olivia Oudkirk

by: Claudia Reing, Staff Writer

Olivia Oudkirk couldn't be more excited to NOT be a freshman. "That's what I'm looking forward to; I'll know how the school works next year and I'll know my way around. If I could go back to the beginning of this year, I would tell myself which way of studying works for me." Olivia was lucky enough to have her older brother, junior Andy Oudkirk, to show her the ropes for managing high school and



sport or something! It's a really awesome and easy way to make new friends. Being on a sport is great, because it's a team, and that's a group of people you automatically know you can count on." Being a member of the Bishop O'Connell Crew team, a homeroom rep, and singing in her church choir outside of school, Olivia quickly developed studying and time management skills that allowed her to maintain her good grades while doing her activities.

She says that next year, she has plans to set higher goals in her classes. Olivia is ready to tackle this next year and continue to succeed in her high school experience.

extracurriculars. "For incoming freshman, I suggest getting involved with some type of after school activity. Join a club or a

A Fun(d) Run

By: Beverly Nugent
Staff Writer

On Saturday, April 9th at 9 AM, about 90 runners braved freezing temperatures and snow to participate in the first Bishop O'Connell 5K and Kids' Fun Run. This run was held by Mrs. Friel, and was designed to be a fundraiser for the Knight Fund. According to the O'Connell website, the Knight Fund "bridges the critical \$1,500 gap between what is charged in tuition and the actual cost of educating each student. Gifts to the Knight Fund go directly to ensure that all students receive a superior academic experience, with top-quality educators, in a lively Catholic environment." The course began at Bishop O'Connell's track, and had the runners wind around neighboring



streets and return to O'Connell for the finish line. The first three people to cross the finish line were Todd Bibb in first place at 16 minutes and 35 seconds, Keith Freeburn in second place at 16 minutes and 58 seconds, and Neil Lucas in third place at 18 minutes and 24 seconds. Neil Lucas said "I loved being able to support an excellent cause by doing something I love. It was an awesome experience." Some other participants include Dr. Vorbach, who clocked in at 23 minutes and 16 seconds, and Mr. Bernhard, who clocked in at 31 minutes and 51 seconds. When asked about the run, Mrs. Friel said it was "a huge success" and that she would "love to do it again next year."

The SADD Assembly: A Truly Eye Opening Experience

Jonathan Gutierrez
Staff Writer

Students Against Destructive Decisions or S.A.D.D club is one of the most informative clubs here at O'Connell. The mission of the S.A.D.D club, according to club President Ellie Ward, is, "to prevent students at O'Connell from falling victim to these (destructive) decisions and setting them down a clear and narrow path to success." The S.A.D.D club is able to put this mission into effect at their annual school assembly. This assembly not only shows us how destructive decisions affect us and the people around us, but also how we can ultimately prevent ourselves from succumbing to these decisions. The annual S.A.D.D assembly takes place in the auditorium. The assembly started with

a skit starring many of the club members in which we saw the effects of some destructive decisions we face. The skit incorporated both texting and driving, being distracted in a car, and drug use. The skit also had the "death" of one of the members to show the grave effects of not thinking responsibly. The assembly also included three speakers brought in by the S.A.D.D club that belong to the M.A.D.D club (Mothers Against Drunk Driving). These speakers told their story and gave first-hand accounts on how these destructive decisions forever changed their lives. These M.A.D.D speakers were followed up by student speaker Katie Boehm who talked about mental health and eating disorders. All in all the assembly was a success.

This year the S.A.D.D assembly saw a change in their name under club president

Cappie Approved!



By: Beverly Nugent,
Staff Writer

If you saw the recent performance of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" by the DJO Drama Department, you know that it was an exciting musical filled with phenomenal singing, dancing, and acting. What you might not have known is that there were 50 Cappies Critics sitting in the crowd, analysing the musical to see if it was worthy of any nominations. The Cappies program is a theatre and journalism program designed for young adults to learn

how to critique theatre shows and earn the opportunity to have written work published and earn awards. The Cappies are often referred to as the "Tony's of High School Drama". "Thoroughly Modern Millie" received two nominations, Maddy Collins as Best Female Vocalist and Liam Behan as Comic Actor in a Musical. The results of these nominations will be announced on Sunday, June 12, 2016 at the Awards Gala at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Good luck to Maddy Collins and Liam Behan, and congratulations to the cast and crew of "Thoroughly Modern Millie"!

Dodgeball 2016

By: Patrick Faga, Staff Writer

Violent thuds ring oscillate between the bleachers of the gym as fiercely competitive O'Connell do their best to win the annual dodgeball tournament. This event epitomizes the serendipitous combination of senseless violence for fun, and the virtues of Catholic education. Everyone who attended a Catholic primary school is liable to experience a rush of memories of being struck in the face by flying rubber projectiles. This is the essence of what it means to

engage in cathartic release and O'Connell made a spectator sport out of it. The 2016 dodgeball tournament will inevitably result in the crowning of a squad of champions of the universe, locking down this prestigious honor is a highly contested opportunity, and one can expect not to be disappointed. Friday the 13th, 2016 will be the fitting date of this homage to barbarism.

This year's dodgeball tournament was another success. Many teams fought hard, and poured their collective effort into throwing balls at their peers. Unfortunately for the challengers, Greg Shero decided to create his glorious team, which specializes in dodging dodgeballs. His brothers in arms were Will Keyes, Andy Denunzio, Dylan Seagrave, Devon Reed, Will Conroy, and the x-factor, John Stahlman. This unstoppable group of seniors proved to be just that. They swept the competition and claimed their place in the epochs of O'Connell dodgeball history. The members of the dream team are convinced that a combination of greater will power, and an intense training regimen allowed them to take home the gold. The other teams were incredibly impressive, but could simply not take the heat. Next year will surely hold another tremendous battle of the arms, and the wills.



Ellie Ward. Last year the club stood for Students Against Drunk Driving but this changed to Students Against Destructive Decisions. In an interview with Ellie Ward she explains the reason for the name change, "we thought as we are moving forward, our mission should become broader and we should affect students' lives in more ways than just drunk driving. You might notice that a lot of our decisions are not centered around just drinking or just doing drugs or being in a car; it kind of is supposed to encompass all of the decisions

that students can make and how they can fall victim to anything." After this we asked Ellie what she hoped the mark she left on the club would be and she responded with this, "I'd love to have my legacy be a positive one and I'd love to make S.A.D.D a bigger presence in this school."

Class of 2016



Spotlight: Ale Rodriguez

Libby Scully
Staff Writer

Ale Rodriguez is the valedictorian of the 2016 senior class, a dedicated leader, avid fan of bear jokes, and a role model for all. Each year of high school, she has joined new clubs and has contributed to them through her skills in leadership and her positive attitude. When asked whether she thinks everyone should try new clubs throughout their high school experience and never give up on their dreams she says, "for sure." She is the President of numerous clubs including: National Honors Society, Athletic Training, Spanish Honors Society, Spanish Tutoring, and Spanish Club. Besides leading them she contributes to them through tutoring at Tuckahoe Elementary School weekly, serving at St. James food distribution monthly, and

serving twice in Piura, Peru on mission trips. She hopes to continue this life of service through college by participating on more mission trips and through different types of service. Ale Rodriguez is going to miss O'Connell, but she knows that her memories will last forever. Her favorite memory from O'Connell is from her senior year when she danced with Libby Scully at SuperDance in the 12-hour dance competition. Ale Rodriguez looks forward to studying chemical engineering at Stanford and knows that O'Connell prepared her well for her hopeful future. We should all pause and think about how much Ale Rodriguez contributed to our school and the lasting impact that she left behind.



Spo(r)tlight: Abby Clukey

Libby Scully
Staff Writer

Abby Clukey is not a fan of fruits, but she is a fan of Bishop O'Connell High School. O'Connell has allowed Abby to grow into the person that she is today. The Crew Team has taught her to push herself to her limit. An example of this is during the last 350 meters of a race. In this portion of the race, each boat is vying for first place. In many races that Abby has experienced, she is tied with another boat until the ending sprint. This sprint can make or break a boat. Each person has to push themselves to and past their personal limits, and dig deep for the last little bit of strength they have, and hold onto it for 2 minutes. Even though Crew can be physically strenuous, some of her best memories come from this team. "My favorite

high school memories all lead back to the crew team. Whether it be reaching a new personal best on the erg, talking and laughing over mountains of pasta at team dinners, or experiencing the thrill of crossing the finish line first, every moment I've spent with my team has made these past four years unforgettable." Her not-too-shabby resume of being captain of the women's crew team, treasurer of French Honors Society, and participating in knight to knight mentoring, has helped her to achieve her lifelong goal of joining the UVA Wahoo family. We look forward to the great things that Abby will achieve in her future.



Art Spotlight: Stephanie Salinas

Adela Montgomery
Staff Writer

Stephanie Salinas has always loved art, but when she was younger she was too scared to take lessons. In high school, she started taking art classes at school but at first would always hide her work from the other students because she was self-conscious. Her favorite memory with the O'Connell art department happened when she was painting after school while

listening to "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." She had paint on her face and a paintbrush between her teeth, and Mr. Crivella pulled out her headphones and told her she looked like an artist. When asked why she makes art, Stephanie said, "It's my favorite outlet and I love how I can just lose track of time and spend hours so focused on something I love." She will definitely continue to make art after high school and beyond.



Spotlight: Libby Scully, Student Extraordinaire

Adela Montgomery
Staff Writer

Senior Libby Scully is a role model to us all. She excels in all aspects of her busy life, including academics, athletics, and a variety of extracurriculars. As coxswain of the crew team for all four years, Libby has learned strong leadership skills and the value of teamwork. As president of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, she has put her exceptional mathematical skills to use and tutored many young struggling mathematicians. Libby is also a mentor in the Knight to Knight program, helping

freshmen face the challenges of the transition into high school. Libby's impressive dedication and time management skills are the key to her success. On how she balances her full schedule, Libby says, "Work hard, play hard." She prioritizes her health by always striving for adequate sleep, which she believes is a very important part of staying grounded and calm with so much going on in her life. Libby Scully is the perfect example of what it means to be a Knight. Go Knights, go knowledge.





Art Spotlight: Molly Weaver

Libby Scully

Staff Writer

Molly Weaver is a senior at O'Connell and has been taking art for the past 4 years. Outside of O'Connell, she takes an extra art class. Last year, one of her pictures was the cover of the Largesse. Art is her passion and she plans on pursuing it in college.

Spo(r)tlight: Olivia Giaquinto

Claudia Reing

Staff Writer

Every athlete has a passion for their sport, no matter whether they have played for 2 weeks or for 5 years. Olivia Giaquinto has played softball since she was 6 years old. When she was not playing softball herself, she watched her sisters play softball at Cornell and Georgetown. This rooted passion led her to land an Ivy League commitment this fall. Olivia had offers to play softball at Princeton, Cornell, Georgetown, and West Point, but she chose Harvard. "I decided on Harvard because it had everything I wanted. It is not only a great school academically, but it offers me an opportunity to play the sport that I love, experience the culture of the city, and be a part of a student body where I can meet people from all over the world." Olivia was also recognized as All-State Player of the year for girls' softball. As president of the Blood Drive club, a volunteer tutor, and a girls' coach at the Nationals Youth baseball Academy, Olivia admits that

managing her academics, extra-curriculars, and sports was no easy task. She says that she is a firm believer that if you have the options of good grades, a social life, sports, or sleep, you can only choose two. Olivia obviously chose good grades and sports, and her hard work paid off.



Wisdom for the Senior Class

We asked the faculty and staff to share some bits of wisdom, advice, and notes of congratulations for the senior class as they transition to college.

Be kind and Remember the Other Fellow
First- Mrs. O'Reilly

Plan the time to do the reading before the class :) - Dr. Vorbach

"Pray as if everything depended on God and work as if everything depended on you." - Attributed to St. Ignatius of Loyola

The first two months are critical! Take advantage of any opportunities to get involved on your campus early, and give it six weeks before you visit home.- Mr. Meehan

Don't be surprised if the work is a lot harder Freshmen year, or if you find it hard to focus. Find a quiet place on campus to work, get the studies out of the way, and then have fun.- Mr. Rose

"Ants on a Log"!

My mother is a fish!

6. Except

Believe in the green light.-

Mr. Meehan

Always think two steps ahead: High School is step one. College is step two. What is step four, and what will you do to yourself there?- Mr. Meehan

You are a wonderfully talented group with so many God given gifts to share. Keep developing them and sharing them, praying for God's guidance as you go. Thank you for making Bishop O'Connell better by your presence.- Dr. Vorbach

Congratulations to Karen Macia, Jared Saunders, Chris Carr, Baylee Crouse, and Casey Shows. Having taught you in middle school, it is an honor to see how you have grown into the young men and women you are today, on fire with love and ready to transform the world.- Mr. Rose

Dear Senior Class,

I started work at Bishop O'Connell in January 2013 as you were mid way through your freshman year. You are my "first" class. I have had the privilege of helping you and watching you grow and mature. You will always have a special place in my heart.- Ms. Bernadette Berset RN

Congratulations to some incredibly talented students!
Best of luck in the future...- Mr. Isaacson

Congratulations Class of 2016! Your class as of the end of April has done 5000 hours of service as a class! #djogivesback- Ms. Hogan

"Bloom where you are planted." - attributed to St Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

Congrats, gang. If we've both done our jobs, you're ready for the hard stuff.- Mr. Meehan



My fondest memory of this year's Senior Class was working with the seniors on Superdance 2016. For the 1st time in the history of Superdance, 100% of the senior class registered for the dance. Many seniors pledged each other's efforts in raising money; many seniors used their own money to register students who could not attend SD. The senior class outdid themselves in their concerted efforts to make this year's very successful Superdance one of the most successful. #DoItForWalter - Mrs. O'Reilly



Seniors share their favorite memories from their time at DJO and have some advice for incoming freshmen

Favorite/Funniest Memory

Elizabeth Farrell:
"4 years later and I've still never been to the pool."

Ale Rocha:
"I will always remember chicken and waffles with Coach O!"

Advice for the incoming freshmen class

Isabel Fernandez:
"Do your best to get enough sleep, use time wisely."

Lula Hailesilassie:
"Don't forget to put on some deodorant!"

How you have changed since freshmen year?

Diego Garcia:
"Senior Diego is infinitely more loud and self-confident."

Elliott Kinkel:
"Facial Hair"

Claire Jarvis:
"I'm older now than I used to be"



Funniest thing that's happened since freshman year

Sarah Kelley:
"I spilled my water bottle, slipped on the water, and slid into the wall taking down two underclassmen"

Albert Ujevic:
"When I was asking a girl to homecoming and tripped and dropped everything all over the place."

Abby Clukey:
"Freshman year I sat in the stairwell by computer rooms for 20 minutes and missed lunch because I was lost."

Thank you for the Memories!

By: Diego Garcia
Senior Coorespondent

About halfway through our Senior year, just as we were about to be dismissed after an A.M. assembly, Mr. Roque commented, too much applause by the Seniors, that the members of the Class of 2016 are remarkably decent to each other, and it got me thinking. When you get down to it, our high school experiences came to be what they are at random; a mix of circumstances, situations, and individuals which come together arbitrarily to form four years' worth of memories. Entering as freshmen, those of us from the main feeder schools, myself included, often already had a few friends, but those who came from other middle schools were immediately thrown into this great random fray. The kids you sat next to in class on the first day became the kids you sat next to at lunch, which eventually became the kids you asked to send you pictures of the notes when, like every freshman, you inevitably forgot your notebook in your new-fangled locker, and before long these kids were your best friends, with whom you would spend many an afternoon walking to 7/11. However if your last name started with an "A" instead of an "M" then you would have been seated amidst an entirely different set of fresh-faced freshmen on that fateful first day, it stands to reason that you might now have an entirely different set of friends, or if you had played hockey instead of lacrosse, or joined theatre instead of serving on Student Council. All of these relatively minor differences which end up having huge ramifications on which social circles you run in. You might disagree—maybe you believe that the members of your current "squad" were absolutely



destined to be drawn together, regardless of the circumstances—but just think about how our class schedule, the most arbitrary of all the divisions in the Class of 2016, has enormous effects on who one spends one's time with. As a private school, Bishop O'Connell draws students in from across the D.C. metropolitan area, which leads to there oftentimes being significant geographic distances between classmates. It's not exactly easy for someone from Loudoun to meet up with friends from Maryland or Alexandria on a weekday night. This makes the time that we all spend together in the classroom all the more important. An acquaintance with whom one shares a lunch period and a class one year can grow to become a good friend with the addition of another couple shared classes the following year, or can become a distant memory, deserving of just a polite "hello" in the hall, if the three fates of course scheduling decide to split this pair up in the fall. Even the most trivial of connections can have a significant impact on a person's

relationships. Walking buddies between classes, pairs and trios lucky enough to have two consecutive classes together, share just five minutes together each day, half of which will inevitably be consumed by banal talk of how hard that test was ("So hard"), whether or not you had done the reading assignment ("No"), and the ever-present "I'm so tired/hungry/sleepy." These all add up, though, and by the end of each school year it can be hard to imagine life without this daily routine; but we do, and when, in August, we receive our new schedules and realize that the days of our being walking buddies are over, we do not lament the loss of a friendship, but take comfort in the fact that, having shared this experience, we now have one more face in the Class of 2016 we have called a friend, even if it was just for a moment each day.

So how then did we arrive at the delicate, complicated web of relationships we now have that makes the Bishop O'Connell Class of 2016 oh-so- special? Is it really just all random? Of course not. Individuals like you or me make our own decisions which can change our circumstances and allow us to develop relationships as we see fit. As with all schools, with time, friends clump together into groups, and these groups become more insular. What I believe makes us a little different is that, at the same time, everyone seems to retain a level of amiableness and respect to all others in the Class of

2016, as if we all recognize the fact that each and every one of us is embarked on the same journey as we are, and, while they might have chosen a different path than us—made different connections with different people in different ways—it is unreasonable to say that, had the circumstances been just a little different, any two individuals in the Class of 2016 could not now be friends, and if anybody could have been your friend, then you might as well treat everyone like your friend.

So, on that note, I will bring a close to these hopefully coherent midnight ramblings of mine. Before I go, however, I would like to leave you with one final message: When I wake up each morning to get ready for school, I am not exactly overjoyed. Often, I am exhausted; most days, I oversleep and have to miss breakfast; basically every day, I have not entirely finished my homework and have to figure out when I can cram that into my day, but I never wish that I did not have to go to school, because I know, with certainty, that there will be some interaction that day that I will have with a classmate that will make it all worthwhile. Thank you, Class of 2016, for getting up every morning and coming to school and making my day. Thank you for making every day a great day to be a Knight. I wish you all the very best of luck in college and in all your future endeavors. I cannot wait to see what the future has in store for each and every one of you.



#DoITforWalter

Marissa Luna

O'Connell Student Correspondent

In 1975, Maura O'Donnell, a student at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, came up with the idea for Superdance, a 12-hour dance marathon to raise money to help find a cure for cystic fibrosis. Maura's sister, Brenda, had passed away earlier that year from this chronic disease, and she knew the school community wanted to do something to help. Forty-one years and more than \$4 million in fundraising later, O'Connell students still carry on this tradition to raise funds and awareness to help find a cure.

Superdance took place on March 5, but earlier in February student organizers kicked off the Superdance season with an assembly that featured speakers, skits and music to educate and inspire the student body to rally behind the cause.

Among the many heartfelt presentations at this year's assembly, one hit particularly close to home for the students. Senior Walter Whitt took the stage to explain his day-to-day life growing up with cystic fibrosis. On the screen behind him were photos of him, some as a young boy and

others as the teenager he is today. The photo collection included images of him undergoing treatments at home or recovering in a hospital bed. "Having cystic fibrosis really makes me want to make the most of the time that I have and just experience as much as possible," said Whitt. "Unlike most people, I may not have 60, 70, or 80 years."

To his classmates, Whitt is a humble and disciplined young man who exhibits an intense curiosity for new experiences and knowledge. In addition to excelling in the classroom, he completed a six-week

summer internship in Germany where he led a marketing effort aimed at raising awareness of cystic fibrosis in North America. Whitt enthusiastically soaks up his spare time with several hobbies, including building computers and model cars.

Whitt thinks more about good health habits than most high school students do. "Especially senior year with college applications, managing my time hasn't been the easiest," he said. "I've had to accept that my daily treatments and inhaler sessions are things I have to do, kind of like eating dinner or eating breakfast." He wakes up each morning at 5:45 a.m. in order to complete his daily regimen, something that he accepted years ago is just a part of his routine.

In this busy schedule, what does Superdance mean to him?

"It really means hope," said Whitt. "It

means looking toward the future and knowing that all the money we are raising and all the awareness are all going towards research that will make a difference in my lifetime ... for new medications, new treatments and new ways to not have to wake up at 5:45 a.m."

"The enthusiasm for Superdance has reached levels far beyond what we've experienced in the recent past," said Cheri O'Reilly, student council association moderator. "During the assembly, the entire student body stood and applauded Walter before he even began his speech."

This year's Superdance slogan is a play on the Star Wars line: "May the CURE be with you," but the unofficial theme on social media has been #DoITforWalter.

"The times that Walter misses meetings because he is sick is especially rough on the committee, but it only fuels their enthusiasm to work harder," said O'Reilly. "It is so affirming of God's presence to witness our students come together in support of each other. They believe they will make a difference; what they do not realize, is that they already have."



Off to College!

Staff Writer

Christian Liljenquist
On April 25th, 2016, eight more seniors from O'Connell committed to college for their sports. Will DiGuiulian committed to play baseball at Patrick Henry College, Corey Burch

and Drew Bonner committed to play football at Ave Maria University. After a talk with Jared Saunders, he explained that he was "Extremely excited for the opportunity to play soccer in college. I am so thankful and grateful for the people who helped me



will play baseball at Roanoke College, Grace Fisher will play Ice-Hockey at University of Massachusetts Boston, Jared Saunders committed to Arcadia University for soccer, Alex Simonson will play Lacrosse at Shenandoah University, Alex Damjanovic committed to Colgate University for Crew, Maggie McLaughlin will play Ice-hockey at St. Lawrence University,

along the way." This raises the total number of athletes at O'Connell who will be playing collegiate sports next year to 22. These student-athletes are inspirations to underclassmen who are striving to play at the next level. They see that it is possible to make it, and with hard work and dedication, anything is possible.

Knock 'em out of the Park!

Staff Writer

Jack Basse

This year's baseball team has high hopes with a team that is experienced. The team is a coming off a good past season but are still hoping for an even more successful year. Two years ago the team lost in the WCAC championship and after losing in the semi finals last year, the team is ready to take it this season. With a majority of the team being on the team for the past two years they are hungry to win and believe that this is their year to win it. The team this year has 8 college commits on roster. One of them for football (Myles Hudzik). Senior Rafi Vasquez said "What I want out of this year from the team would be to come out on top with two championships (WCAC and VISAA). That would be the goal."

The team so far has

beaten its rivals in PVI (twice) and St. Johns. The team down the stretch has had many different

Libby Scully
Staff Writer

All eyes are on our crew team for this spring season. Our team has big shoes to fill after the boys' varsity 4+ won the national title. Keep a lookout for the women's varsity 4+. After winning 3rd place at Head of the Occoquan, we can hold high expectations for them. Unfortunately, one of the members of this V4+, Sarah Kelley, had to get surgery over the winter. Luckily with encouragement from the rest of her boat, she is having a smooth transition. The Captains, Kristina Colevas and Abby Clukey, hope the best for their boat and team. For the first time in O'Connell Crew history, we will be racing a double. Claire Stemberger and Sarah Pachon are excited for this new chapter in their lives. The girls' team will have a JV 8+ competing which is a new first for the team as well. Claudia Reing is leading

this boat and is happy to see the progress. The girls' team is growing and moving on to new levels. Back on the boys' team, they are prioritizing another V4+. In addition, they are racing a 2v4+ and JV4+. They have high hopes for this season. If you want to see any of these boats racing they will be competing in the following regattas:

- 4/2 Bladensburg Invitational Regatta (Annapolis, Maryland)
- 4/9 Baltimore Invitational Regatta (Baltimore, Maryland)
- 4/23 Scrimmage Against St. John's (Potomac-Georgetown, DC)
- 4/30 Charlie Butt Regatta (Potomac-Georgetown, DC)
- 5/7 WMIRA Novice
- 5/14 WMIRA Varsity (States and Senior Night) (Potomac-Georgetown, DC)
- 5/19-21 Statesbury Regatta (Regionals) (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
- 5/26 SRAA National Championship (Zanesville, Ohio)

complete game like he has multiple times this year against PVI, St. Johns, and Gonzaga

and does something that impacts the game, like Bennie Spaddey and Michael Hendricks getting big hits late against St. Johns on April 19th. Even though the team lost they had a 7th inning rally where they scored 2 late runs.



contributors from many different players and on any given day someone steps up and does something to help the team win. Some in big games whether it's Patrick Ryan's 7th inning triple against PVI on April 8th. Or Rafi Vasquez throwing a

and in Charleston against West Ashley or he hits a homerun that is a no doubter. Other games it's guys off the bench who can produce something whether it's on the mound, hitting, defense or running the bases. Someone always steps up

Now that the regular season is over the baseball team goes into the first round of the conference playoffs with a record 16-7 overall and a 12-4 conference record. The quarterfinals start Saturday May 7th at home for O'Connell, if they win it's a 3 game series starting May 9th through May 11th with game 1 and 3 (if needed) at O'Connell. The WCAC Championships will be May 13th through May 15th at the Nationals Youth Academy complex in Ft. DuPont. After that it's the VISAA which the Knights have home field advantage for and those are the week of May 17th, 19th and the Championship would be May 21st.

Boy's Lacrosse

By: Jonathan Gutierrez
Staff Writer

This year's Boys Lacrosse team had a lot of expectations coming into the 2016 season. They play in one of the best conferences in the country and go head to head with some of the top teams in the nation. This was O'Connell's second year under coach Ryan Beck. After a long hard fought season, at the time this article was written, the boys have a record of 7-9 overall and 1-5 in league play. This year's competition was



very intense and bettered the team's playing level as a whole. There is only room for improvement and player growth, especially since this year's team only had four seniors. The Knights are going into the playoffs fired up and ready to play St. Johns; who, Junior Midfielder Thomas Natal says, "are beatable if we play our game." For the seniors on the team they really want to finish the season strong with WCAC playoffs, and the VISAA State tournament. This means bringing their A game May 6th for their first VISAA game against Bishop Sullivan High School in Virginia Beach, VA.

Here Come the Champs!

Staff Writer
Jonathan Gutierrez

This year's Varsity Softball was crowned WCAC champs after a long fought 19 innings with St. Mary Ryken. Despite playing 18 innings on Tuesday May 10, the game was still tied at 2-2 and had to be suspended until the next day due to fading light. On Wednesday May 11 the Knights went into the match determined to bring home the WCAC trophy. That's exactly what they did when they ended the game strong with a grand slam from senior Olivia Giaquinto and a home run from Kayla Turner. Even though they won WCACs, the Lady Knights are not finished yet. "The season isn't over we still are focused on winning States," says sophomore pitcher Kathryn Sandercock. This year's team was led by Seniors Olivia Giaquinto and Jenna Spille. The team was all around highly talented and looks to continue in their success on and off the field. We interviewed two juniors on varsity, Kayla Turner and Patty Maye Ohanian. We asked how they stay motivated during the

season. Patty responded with saying "We all have personal goals, we all

All though we have many talented players, a team is only as strong as

was inducted into the Softball National Hall of Fame in 2014. We got a chance to sit down with Coach Orndorff and asked him what his goals are for this season. He responded saying, "I think our goals never change year to year. I believe that we have what I consider to be the softball program in the dc metropolitan area probably for the last 30 to 40 years. So number one is to win the WCAC, something we haven't gotten to do in the last two years, which is disappointing. And number two would simply be to win states." Coach Orndorff then went on to add, "I like my teams to be the best they can be so I think this team not only should be nationally ranked, and I think they will be nationally ranked, but I got to believe it's one of the best teams I've ever had, with the returning players we have. We were very-very good a year ago, and I think this team will be better." Coach Orndorff was able to achieve his goal of reclaiming the WCAC trophy.



have team goals, and I think a lot of us work towards personal goals and our work towards our personal goals help us achieve our team goals, so I think balancing both of those and working towards both of those kind of work together."

its coach. Lucky for us, we have the most winning high school softball coach in history. In his 31 years of coaching O'Connell Softball, Coach Orndorff has led us to 17 WCAC Titles, since beginning in 94, and 21 Catholic league titles. Orndorff

