



# The Blue Jay



October 2017

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## \$40,000 raised for hurricane relief

By Jonathan Morse  
Staff Writer

With the devastating flooding of Houston and the surrounding areas from Hurricane Harvey, the Blue Jay community has gone the extra mile to aid our brother Jesuit schools, Cristo Rey and Strake Jesuit.

While neither school was severely damaged in the flood, the relief drive's main goal was to raise money for the families from the two Jesuit counterparts affected by Hurricane Harvey. The schools have reported that approximately 50 families' homes have flooded.

Soon after Harvey and Irma struck Texas and Florida,

Hurricane Maria wreaked horrific damage upon Puerto Rico. Blue Jays stepped up again, raising money to support the Colegio San Ignacio, the Jesuit High School in San Juan.

Within just a few weeks, the school community – including parents, faculty, staff and alumni – raised more than \$40,000. In addition to the financial dona-

tions, homerooms collected school supplies, non-perishable food items, and toiletries that filled up three vans. The students alone raised about \$9,000, which has exceeded expectations, said Kevin Murphy, director of community services.

Our motto "men for others" has always been a staple in the Jesuit community. When the fail-

ure of the levee system after Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans, flooding Jesuit High School, the generosity of the people of Houston and Strake Jesuit accepted more than 400 of our students. That allowed the school to begin the recovery. With that same generosity, the Blue Jay community happily reaches out to those in similar need.

## HOMECOMING 2017



The members of the 2017 Homecoming Court gather on the field at Zephyr Stadium during the halftime festivities of the Sept. 22 game against St. Augustine.

Staff photo by Harrison Simeon

## Queen, court reign over game, festivities

Accompanied by pomp and pageantry, music and cheers, Jesuit's Homecoming Court brought a touch of glamour to the evening at Metairie's Zephyr Field last month.

During the Sept. 22 Homecoming Game against St. Augustine High School, the Student Council presented the Homecoming Court for 2017, and crowned this year's queen.

At halftime at the Shrine on Airline, the court was greeted by the Jayettes dance team, the MCJROTC Color Guard and the Blue Jay Marching Band.

The senior couple selected to reign over the court was Ben Brodnax and Abby Haydel.

Following the presentation of the court, Haydel was crowned by Father Christopher S. Fronk, S.J., president of Jesuit.

Brodnax is an athletic trainer and Eucharistic minister. He is also a member of Sodality, Pro-Life Club, and Campus Ministry.

Haydel is a senior at Dominican High School where she is on the track team, and is a member of the Pro-Life Club and Student Council.

This year's freshmen couple

was Jaylan Scott and Erin Marrero.

Scott is a member of the Jesuit football, basketball, and track and field teams.

Marrero is a sophomore at Dominican where she is a Student Ambassador.

The junior couple was Joshua Shanks and Marigny Hemenway.

Shanks is a member of the MCJROTC and Blue Jay Band.

Hemenway is a junior at Ridgewood Prep where she is the Key Club secretary and member of the school band.



Senior Ben Brodnax escorts Abby Haydel of Dominican High School, who was named the Homecoming Queen for 2017.

Staff photo by RayVan Bellazer

The second senior couple was Matthew Palmer and Bridget Glueck.

Palmer is on the rugby team

and is a member of Peer Support. Glueck is a senior at Dominican

See COURT, Page 2

# Nine join Blue Jay faculty

By now, students have likely seen some new faces around Carrollton and Banks, as nine new teachers have joined the faculty this year. Here's a look at who's who.

After 19 years of Catholic League head coaching duties, Coach **Scott Bairnsfather** begins his first season at Jesuit as football's offensive coordinator and tight ends coach. He arrives at Carrollton and Banks after serving as head coach at Archbishop Shaw since 2002.

His 15-year stint on the Marrero campus was highlighted with consecutive undefeated 4A state title game appearances and undefeated regular season campaigns in 2006-08. His first Catholic League head coaching position was at Holy Cross (1998-2001), leading the Tigers to the playoffs in his final three seasons there. Bairnsfather's 112-102 career head coaching record places him as one of 10 Catholic League gridiron coaches to have captured 100 or more games.

A 1985 Shaw graduate, Bairnsfather began his coaching career at his alma mater. A graduate of the University of New Orleans with a bachelor's degree in health and physical education, he will teach those subjects and serve as Athletic Department Assistant at Jesuit.

He and his wife Amy live in Gretna with their 10-year-old daughter, Sydney.

It wasn't too long ago when **Zachary Creel** sat in some of the same classrooms where he now teaches. A member of the Class of 2013, Creel is a member of this year's Alumni Service Corps.

He graduated from the University of Mississippi with a bachelor's degree in classics and art history.

Creel teaches eighth-grade English and also is an assistant varsity football coach. In addition to his teaching duties, he can be seen around campus participating in student retreats and such events as dances and gym nights.

A native of Minden, La., **Seth Fox** comes to Jesuit from Mount Carmel Academy, where he spent 10 years teaching English.

Before entering teaching, he earned his bachelor's degree in print journalism from the Manship School at Louisiana State University and spent several years as a reporter in Bossier City, Houma and Baton Rouge covering everything from minor league hockey to an active serial killer investigation.

He said he became a teacher to take a couple of years away from "real work and stress." Now, more than 10 years later, he said he cannot imagine doing anything else.

Fox earned his master's degree in English from UNO, developing along the way a special interest in African-American literature and inappropriate 18th-century British satire. At Jesuit, he's teaching English I and IV.

He can be frequently spotted



**Scott Bairnsfather**  
*Physical Education*



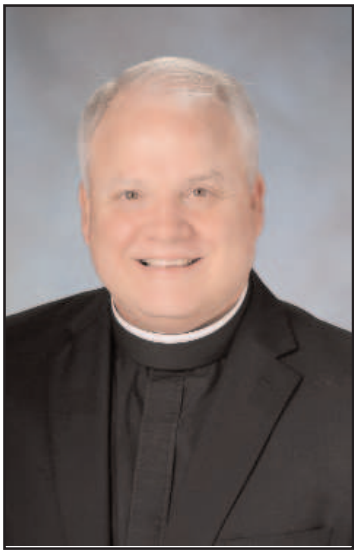
**Zachary Creel**  
*English*



**Seth Fox**  
*English*



**Karen Harper**  
*Science*



**Br. Larry Huck, S.J.**  
*Theology*



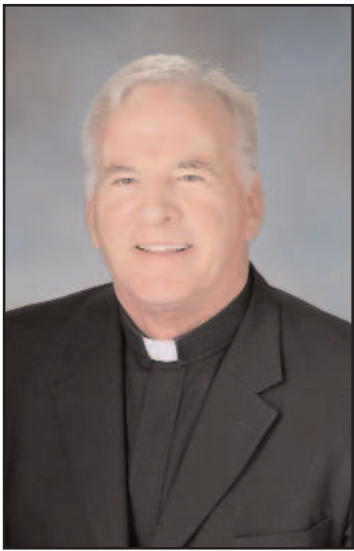
**Wess Mandella**  
*Modern Foreign Languages*



**Adam Naquin**  
*English*



**Gordon Schmidt**  
*Classics*



**Fr. Paul Shaughnessy, S.J.**  
*Social Studies*

with his wife and two sons, Braden, 6, and Logan, 2, at Jesuit sporting events and theater and musical performances.

The halls of Jesuit aren't new to **Karen Harper**, who previously taught biology here for five years. She returns to the school following a stint teaching at the Academy of Sacred Heart.

A longtime New Orleanian, Harper is a graduate of Tulane University. She has three children.

At Jesuit, she's teaching environmental science to sophomores.

In her free time, she said she can most likely be found on the tennis courts.

**Brother Larry Huck, S.J.** also is no stranger to life at Carrollton and Banks. A member of the Class of 1987, he previously taught theology here from 2004 to 2009, and served as the varsity tennis coach.

A native New Orleanian who grew up in Kenner, Br. Huck studied business administration at UNO after graduating from Jesuit. From there, he worked in his family's electrical business, achieving his rating as a master electrician in 1990.

Br. Huck entered the Society of Jesus in 1993. He earned his bachelor's degree in history from Creighton University, and an MTS degree in spirituality from the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara.

Before his first teaching assignment here, he worked at Jesuit High School in Tampa (1998-2002), teaching history and serving as director of Campus Ministry and Community Service.

Following his Tertianship in Dublin, Br. Huck fought a battle with colon cancer in 2010-11. Defeating that, he moved on to other assignments, including

overseeing the renovation of St. Charles College in Grand Coteau, which houses the Jesuit novitiate, retirement home and Spirituality Center. He also has served as president of the Good Shepherd School in New Orleans, and most recently worked as the disciplinarian at Colegio San Ignacio in Puerto Rico.

Now back home, Br. Huck is teaching Christianity to eighth graders and Sacred Scripture to freshmen.

Wess Mandella is in her 18th year of teaching Spanish, her native language, and is very pleased to teach Spanish I to eighth and ninth graders and Spanish III to juniors here at Jesuit.

She began teaching Spanish at the elementary level from Pre-K to eighth graders at St. Clement of Rome in Metairie in

# New date set for dance at Dome

No, no, Nate!

It might be a few weeks later than originally planned, but the Homecoming Dance will go on.

The annual celebration, which was to occur on Oct. 7, was postponed because of the threat of severe weather from Hurricane Nate that weekend.

The rescheduled date for the dance is Nov. 11.

It will take place in the St. Charles Club Room of the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, beginning at 8 p.m. and concluding at 11:30 p.m.

Dress is semi-formal. Tickets for the dance will be available the week beforehand. Advance tickets are \$40 per couple; \$50 at the door.

Parking at the Superdome is \$10. Attendees should park in Garage No. 6.

For more information, visit the dance information page on the school website.

## Court Continued from Page 1

where she is a member of the Student Council. She also is a member of the Jesuit Cheerleading Team.

The third senior couple was Ryan Smith and Ally Lansou.

Escorting Lansou was senior Frank Sclafani, as Smith was on the field as a Blue Jay football player. He also is a member of the National Honors Society.

Lansou is a senior at Mount Carmel Academy, where she is an officer for Teens for Life and is also a member of the National Honor Society.

This year's fourth senior couple was Aubert Waguespack and Julia Hollander.

Waguespack is a member of Peer Support and participates in intramurals.

Hollander is a senior at Mount Carmel, where she is an anchor for WMCA and a member of the National Honors Society. She is also captain of the Jesuit Cheerleaders.

The final senior couple was Alex Watermeier and Reagan Tafaro.

As captain of the football team, Watermeier was on the field for the game and Tafaro was escorted by senior Grant Saunders.

Watermeier also a member of the baseball team and National Honors Society.

Tafaro is a senior at Mount Carmel, where she is a member of Teens For Life and Mount Carmel Cubs Against Destructive Decisions. She is also co-captain of the Jesuit Jayettes.

See FACULTY, Page 3

# Serving others is way of life for cadet

*For Keller, acts of giving start right here each day*

By Peyton Toups  
Managing Editor

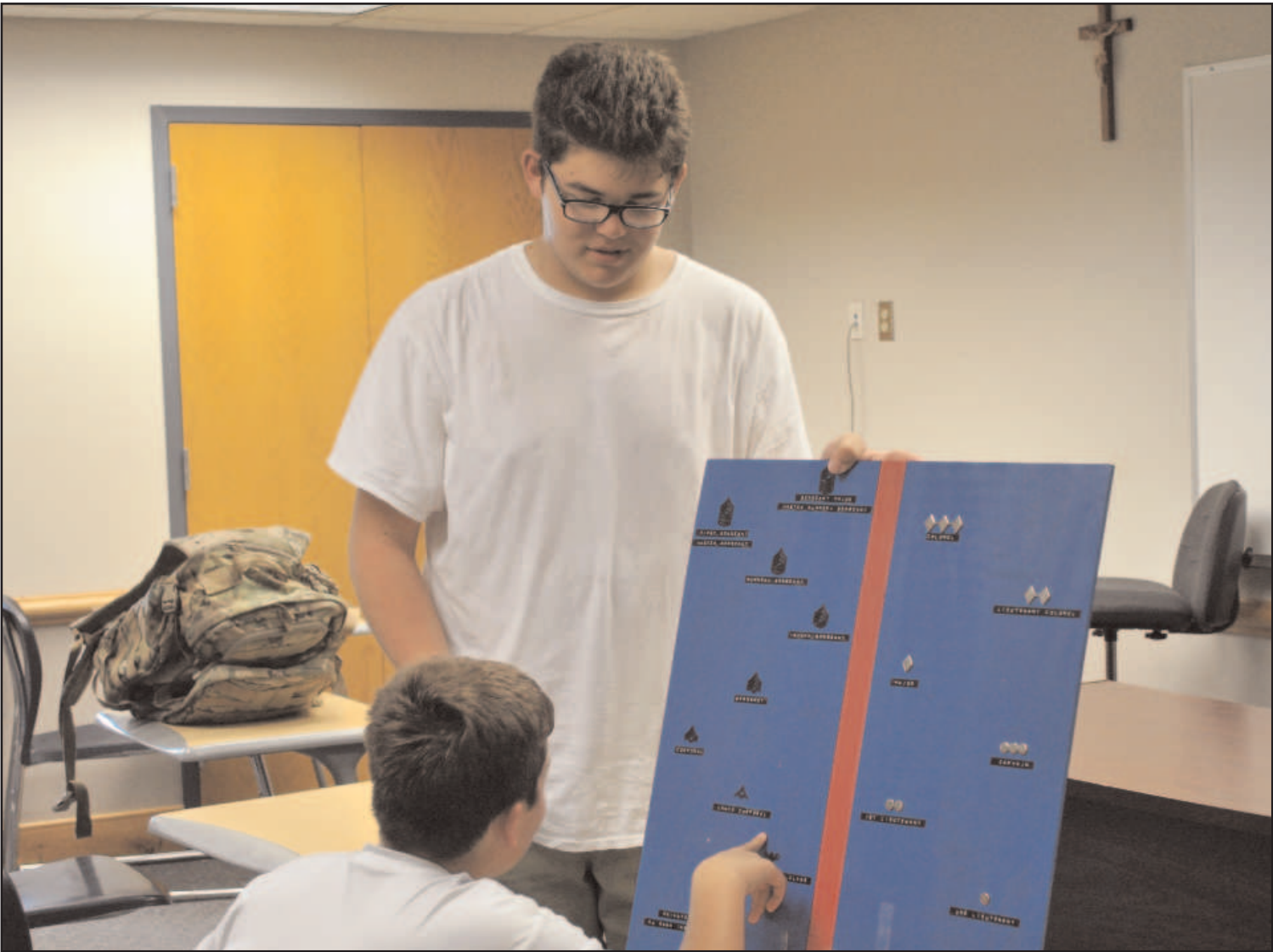
Blue Jay  
of the Month

Living up to the ideals of all Jesuit students and MCJROTC cadets, junior Carson Keller is committed to service.

Keller exercises that commitment on a daily basis. During his off periods, for example, instead of studying or relaxing, Keller helps LtCol Timothy Huete, MGySgt J.R. Pisen, and the senior cadets issue uniforms, teach drill, and physically train the eighth- and ninth-grade cadets, among other things.

“I got involved with this service from seeing how hard-working the seniors are in aiding Lieutenant Colonel Huete and Master Gunnery Sergeant Pisen,” he said. “In an effort to give my help, and obey what I believe an MCJROTC member is obligated to do, I offer my help every off period [I have].”

As an ROTC mentor, Keller takes time to meet younger students to “show them the proper ways one should act throughout one’s Jesuit career.” He emphasizes that such actions carry over



Junior Carson Keller helps a younger member of Jesuit’s MCJROTC learn the various insignia noting different ranks within the U.S. Marine Corps. Keller spends most of his free periods reaching out to help fellow cadets and other students in any way that he can.

Staff photo by Evan Younger

not only through participation in the ROTC itself, but through the friends one makes and the various clubs and co-curriculars in which a Blue Jay takes part.

Keller urges any students who might need his help to seek

him out. “If anyone ever needs me, I am openly accepting of it, and I usually offer such help through meeting up before, after, or during school.”

Even with the duties of ROTC and other co-curriculars,

Keller carves out time for his school work and his family. Together, they are planning to go to either Texas or Florida to help those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

“As a Jesuit student, I under-

stand the criticality of academics, especially during my junior year,” he said. “However, in an effort to be a better Man for Others, I try hard to help others ahead of myself as much as possible.”

Faculty  
Continued from Page 2

1999. Hurricane Katrina moved her to Houston, where she taught at a high school for a year and found her love for high school students and their activities. On returning home, she taught at Catholic high schools and an Episcopal elementary school.

Mandella was born in Caracas, where her father was a Venezuelan diplomat. He requested a posting in the United States so that his children could learn English. As a result, she grew up in New Orleans, attended local schools and earned her bachelor’s degree in mathematics, with a concentration in engineering, from UNO.

She and her husband of 35 years, George, have two daughters and a son. They are celebrating the arrival of their second grandchild, Brielle Marie, who was born to their eldest daughter on Oct. 2.

The second member of this year’s Alumni Service Corps is Adam Naquin. A member of the Class of 2013, he returns to Jesuit now as an English teacher.

While a student at Jesuit, Naquin participated in Campus Ministry, Peer Support, and the Philelectic Society.

In addition to his studies here, he also attended the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts for instruction in creative writing. He is a graduate of LSU, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in English and creative writing.

In addition to teaching freshmen English I, Naquin will be assisting at various school functions and working with the Phils.

The third member of this year’s Alumni Service Corps contingent is Gordon Schmidt. Also a fellow member of the Class of 2013, Schmidt is teaching Latin.

He recently graduated from Vassar College with a dual degree in classics and philosophy. His favorite philosophers are Plato and Soren Kierkegaard.

When not participating in events here at Jesuit, Schmidt said his big interest is as a boxing fan. He describes himself as “an even bigger music nerd.”

Father Paul Shaughnessy, S.J., comes to Jesuit from the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus. But that only begins to tell of where he’s been posted.

Fr. Shaughnessy has completed a lengthy career of service as a chaplain with the U.S. Navy, ministering to sailors and Marines from Okinawa to Pearl Harbor, with further deployments from Kuwait to Iraq to Jordan.

Attaining the rank of commander, Fr. Shaughnessy has served aboard such vessels as the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise during Operation Desert Fox, and the amphibious assault ship USS Belleau Wood during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also has reported aboard the USS Kearsarge, another amphibious assault ship.

A native of Worcester, Mass., Fr. Shaughnessy graduated from the College of Holy Cross. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1977, completing his philosophy studies at Gonzaga University. He spent a year of his formation teaching English in a refugee camp in Bataan, Philippines.

After receiving his master’s in Divinity from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology, he was ordained in 1987. Further studies in Rome led to a licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL) from the Pontifical Gregorian University.

While in the Navy, he also earned a master’s degree in national security studies from the Naval War College.

His most recent assignment before arriving at Jesuit was as a hospital chaplain in Baltimore.

His wide range of experiences will surely color his classes in Western Civilization for freshmen and sophomores.

The Blue Jay

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This year's National Merit Semifinalists gather on the Carrollton Avenue steps to celebrate their achievement. The 35 Blue Jay seniors are among the largest group of semifinalists from across the state of Louisiana.



## Blue Jays top list of scholars

By Donald Barrett  
Editor-in-Chief

Once again, Jesuit High School has shown off its academic prowess. The Class of 2018 has produced 35 National Merit Semifinalists, accounting for 12 percent of the honorees from throughout Louisiana.

With their exceptional scores on the PSAT, which was taken in their junior year, they distinguished themselves from nearly 1.6 million test-takers, earning a spot in an elite group that represents less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors.

Each year, the National Merit Scholarship Corp. identifies a select number of students from around the United States as National Merit Semifinalists.

This honor also is used by many colleges and universities

for recruitment and automatic scholarship considerations.

These Blue Jays have earned this high honor:

Nathan Alvarez, Mitchell Berry, James Busenlener, Jackson Butterbaugh, Peter Carr, Robert Cerise, Robert Christmann, Anthony Cibilich, Garrett Crumb, Matthew Cruz, Max Drury, Ethan Ehrhardt, Michael Farrugia, David Gravolet, Samuel Guillory, Davis Hatrel, John Holmes, Paul James, Matthew Latham, Patrick McManus, Graeme Mjehovich, Juan Molina, Patrick Murray, Logan Raymond, Aidan Roberts, William Rogers, Christopher Ross, Thomas Sagona, Timothy Stahel, Richard Stedman, Malcolm Sundell, Jake Theriot, Austin Tran, Tanner Tripoli, and Ryan Tucker.

Eight seniors also merited recognition as a National Hispanic Scholar. They are:

Alvarez, Donald Barrett, Berry, Carr, Cruz, Molina, Raymond, and Matthew Ward.

In addition to those honors, 19 seniors received Letters of Commendation in recognition of their achievements. This group includes Matt Alexander, William Brown, Patrick Calhoun, Thomas Curry, Benjamin Finicle, Ryan Guillot, David Hart, Andrew Hemelt, Nathan Koenig, Reese Leonard, Tucker McGuinness, Collin Miller, Luke Pertuit, Alexander Petty, Matthew Richards, Patrick Schwing, Luke Sisung, Norris Talbot, and Samuel Whitsell.

These elite Semifinalists are further eligible to apply for finalist status, narrowing the national number down to about 7,500, who will receive more than \$30 million in scholarships.

Congratulations to these Blue Jays for their exceptional academic achievements.

## Blue Jay football continues season of ups and downs

By Reed Darcey  
Sports Editor

The Blue Jay football team has been on a roller coaster this season. But it's a ride they'd like to disembark.

The Jays started the season by losing forgettable games to two talented teams, Warren Easton and St. Paul's, by a combined deficit of 51 points.

However, they did bounce back, beating Central Baton Rouge 42-10. The scoring barrage began on the opening kickoff as senior Michael Torry returned the kick for a touchdown. Running backs Willie Robinson and Matt Alexander each ran for scores while quarterback Alex Watermeier tossed two touchdowns, to junior wideout Noah Varnado and to Torry.

The defense was dominant, particularly in the trenches. Central's quarterback was never comfortable, constantly scrambling outside the pocket. In one highlight play, junior defensive end Perry Ganci sacked Central's quarterback, forced a fumble, scooped up the ball, and ran for a score. The pressure from the defensive front forced the opposing quarterback into bad throws that three times landed in the hands of a Blue Jay defender.

This team is most comfortable playing with a lead. To fit the identity of their squad, Jesuit's coaching staff clearly prefers to take a conservative offensive approach on offense, comprised of mostly quick passes and runs. Since special teams and defense helped ease the offense's scoring load, the game against Central was the first time this season the offense could play their preferred style: slowly marching down the field and building a lead, not chasing one. Credit the coaches for adjusting and creating a good game plan and the players for executing the scheme successfully.

The homecoming game opened district play against St. Augustine. The first few minutes were no different from those in the contest against Central. Special teams opened scoring when junior defensive back Cameron Helm returned a blocked field goal 80 yards for a touchdown. The Jays jumped out to a 10-0 lead.

St. Aug then scored on a pick-six and never looked back. The Purple Knights scored 30 unanswered points, holding a 20-point advantage opening the fourth quarter, and won 37-24.

The ensuing week was an opportunity to beat rival Holy Cross in the 98th meeting between the two schools. The first half was one-sided as the Jays quickly found themselves in

### SCOREBOARD

vs. W. Easton (Sept. 1)  
**LOSS 40-14**

vs. St. Paul's (Sept. 8)  
**LOSS 31-6**

vs. Central (Sept. 15)  
**WIN 42-10**

vs. St. Aug (Sept. 22)  
(Homecoming game)  
**LOSS 37-24**

vs. Holy Cross (Sept. 29)  
**LOSS 31-17**

vs. John Curtis (Oct. 6)  
**LOSS 56-28**

vs. Rummel (Oct. 13)  
**LOSS 22-21**

a big hole, down 31-7 at halftime.

To jump out to the lead, Holy Cross won at the point of attack, and Jesuit simply couldn't make tackles in the open field, allowing 275 rushing yards.

Though outside their comfort zone, the Jays fought back in the second half, turning it into a different game. The defense fought back, not allowing a single first-down and holding the Tigers under 50 total yards. Senior safety Wyatt Candies intercepted a pass that led to a drive capped by a Watermeier touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Brendan Berggren.

The defense then forced a punt on the following series, and Watermeier and the offense marched down the field, ending the drive with a field goal. At halftime, a win seemed impossible, but a second half gave Blue Jay fans hope as the team executed some of the best football they had played all year. Unfortunately, the first-half deficit was too great to overcome and the Great American Rivalry game ended in a 31-17 loss.

To make noise in the playoffs, this squad must grow up quickly. The talent is not in question, but like any other inexperienced team, they are still learning how to respond to adversity.

As the season goes on, Jesuit football fans should look for growth. However, maturation may not manifest in wins and losses, but in resiliency like the effort shown against Holy Cross.

Next year the team will be loaded with talented seniors with a year of experience on each of their resumes. Any growing pains will have subsided, and they will be ready to win.

But this year is far from over, and Blue Jay football still has significant room to boost this year's record.

## Ready for computers with power beyond your wildest dreams?

By Kaden Oqueli-White  
Staff Writer

Are you ever frustrated when your PC seems to crawl when playing *Overwatch* or some other graphics-intensive game?

Imagine using a computer with a speed 100 million times faster. That's the processing power of the D-Wave 2x Quantum Computer, jointly developed by Google and NASA. And while you can bet that the space agency and the search engine giant are doing more than playing games, the technology might be in reach before you know it.

But what is a quantum computer? To understand the shifting technology, one must go beyond the basics of classical computing, particularly in the way that computers store and process data.

As every Blue Jay learns in Computer Literacy class, a classical computer sends data through electrical signals, or bits, throughout a motherboard to their destinations. These bits can only be in one of two states, 1 (on) or 0 (off).

Quantum computers do not

### Science Corner

abide by these binary rules. Google states that a qubit, the quantum version of a bit, can exist not only in the states of 1 and 0, but in any proportion of both states simultaneously. This is called superposition.

According to superposition, as long as the qubit is not being measured, it can be in a mixture of both states, but as soon as it is measured, it collapses into either 1 or 0. Qubits also possess a characteristic called entanglement, a quality that allows two related qubits to affect one another's states. For example, if two qubits are entangled, and one collapses into one of the definite states, its twin will do the same, no matter how far away they are from each other. These properties form the basis for the quantum computer.

For a layman, what are the benefits of such technology?

"Any field needing to use supercomputers would benefit from it, such as weather and space travel," computer science teacher Jordan Holmer said.

A prominent potential use is database searching. A search on a classical computer may have to test each database entries – slow-

ing the search – in order to locate the proper one, while a quantum computer needs only the square-root of that period of time to finish the search.

Another potential application is that quantum computers could actually improve themselves. Digital simulations of the quantum realm demand vast resources and often lack accuracy. So why not utilize tools harnessing the very thing that we hope to learn more about.

The technology brings up security dangers. Everyone's banking, browsing, and email data is kept secure by an encryption system. While the math to break the encryption would take years on any ordinary computer, a quantum computer could crack the key easily.

"Some security would have to be rethought," Holmer said. "If a password is long enough, current computers would take years to do so, [though] it is a possibility." Whether it is worth the risk, as well as the focus of the immense resources required to fund such an undertaking, Holmer said, "Yes, I mean tomorrow somebody could come up with a way to crack passwords. It's definitely worth it."