



# THE Blue Jay

*Published by the Students of Jesuit High School New Orleans Since 1927*

March 2021 Third Quarter Issue

Volume 93, No. 2

## Remembering Mrs. Hewlett (1953-2020)

BY AIDAN WANG '25  
MEDIA EDITOR



The many great losses of 2020 included one of Jesuit's very own, our longtime Information Technology director and Computer teacher Mrs. Sharon Hewlett. She died on December 22, 2020. A person of deep knowledge, understanding, and compassion, she will dearly be missed.

**Knowledge:** She knew everything imaginable about technology, especially when it goes haywire. When asked in class about something, she always had an answer to it and would always explain it in depth so her students would learn more through her understanding.

**Understanding:** She understood the frustration of someone when the technology caused more trouble than good. Whether it was someone who was racing against a due date, or someone just frustrated over how the technology was bringing more pain than healing, she understood and did everything she could do to resolve the problem and the frustration.

**Compassion:** Mrs. Hewlett showed great care to her students and faculty. She went above and beyond the call of duty for both. She taught thousands of Blue Jays how to be effective citizens of the 21st century by using digital technology and taught faculty how to be effective teachers of the 21st century.

Mrs. Hewlett, you will truly be missed here at Carrollton and Banks.

## GIVING UP COVID FOR LENT

Do you test positive for hope?

Without forgetting our losses, we're giving up our Covid-19 worries to focus on hopeful news, like our new Blue Jay head football coach Ryan Manale.

*Full Coverage Inside.*



In February, Jesuit announced that Ryan Manale will join the Blue Jay faculty and serve as the new head football coach beginning in the 2021-2022 season. Here he is pictured in his new colors with school president Fr. John Brown, S.J.

## Alumni Speak at Black History Month Event

BY LOUIS BERCAW '22, NEWS EDITOR

As a part of celebrating Black History Month in February, Jesuit High School brought in two alumni to talk about the integration of black students and the stories of black alumni.

After a brief introduction by Samuel Schlafer '25, Mr. Mat Grau '68 and

Mr. Brandon Gregoire '91 gave a luncheon presentation on February 9 about Jesuit's efforts at racial integration. Mr. Grau is a former Jesuit employee, having worked as both an English teacher and an administrator. He grew up during the end of segregation and, in one instance, even encountered prejudice for being around a black friend of his.

*See BLACK HISTORY, Page 4*

## Looking Back at a Magical Soccer Year

On February 20, Jesuit fell 2-0 to St. Paul in the Louisiana boys' soccer state semifinals, ending a challenging season that included multiple thrills and highlights. In a retrospective, we look back with gratitude at a team that won with persistence.

*See Back Page*

-Established September 27, 1927-

# THE BLUE JAY

*The Voice of the Blue Jays*

New Orleans, La.

“We have chosen this day, the 27th of September to publish our first issue of the BLUE JAY in commemoration of the FIRST ANNIVERSARY of the opening of our new JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL, and of the munificent gift of five hundred thousand dollars Scholarship Fund made by Mr. Henry C. Prevost on that same day to the Jesuit High School.”

*-The Blue Jay Staff, Volume 1, No. 1, Page 2*

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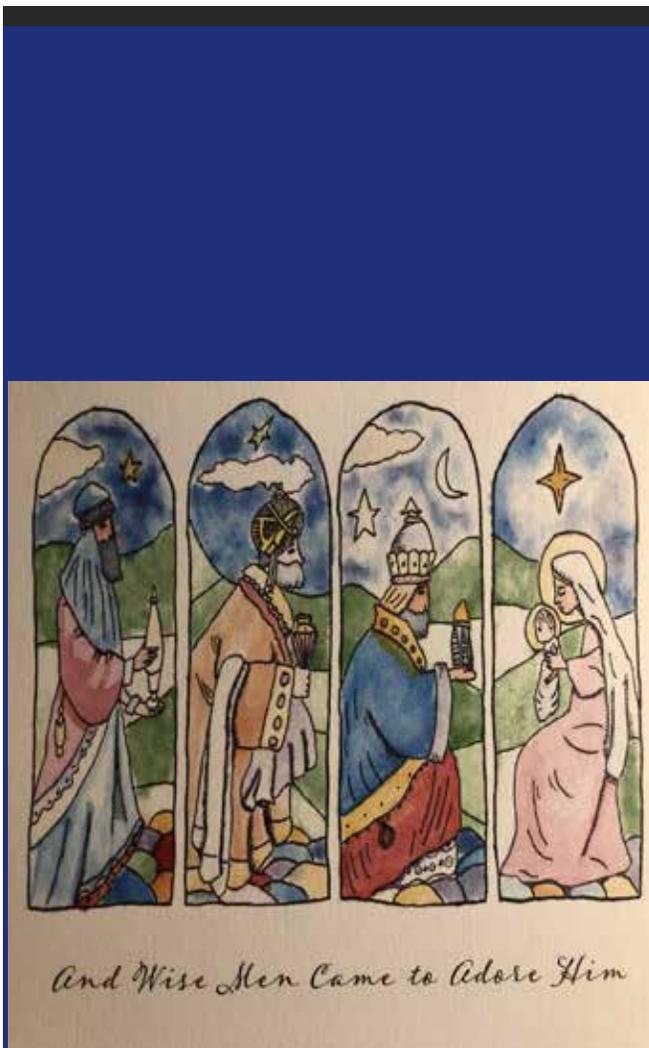
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*And Wise Men Came to Adore Him*

### King cake anyone?

*Carnival season always starts on Three Kings Day, the solemnity of the Epiphany, January 6. Senior artist Mason Wulff created this image of the Three Kings meeting baby Jesus for Jesuit's 2020 Christmas card; junior Austin Hebert wrote the poem 'Magi in Three' at right for it.*

“If there were no God, there would be no atheists.”

-G.K. Chesterton



Jesuit celebrates  
Carnival season,  
Page 12

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The Gizzard looks on in approval as Jesuit soccer steamrolls Saint Amant 4-0 in a Feb. 14 St. Valentine massacre at John Ryan Stadium. The Gizzard flocked again to games despite Covid-19.

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*The blue jay on our front page banner is an original drawing by student artist Mason Wulff '21.*

## King's Day Poem

### 'Magi in Three'

By Austin Hebert '22  
Arts Editor

Hark! The sky brightens!  
Fellow gazers come and see  
foretold majesty.

The king Melchior,  
Arabian gold with him  
shining yellow bright.

Next Gaspar green clad,  
the frankincense does he bring  
to honor the king.

Final Balthazar,  
with myrrh to scent and to smell.  
The legend says so.

They gathered to ride  
following the star most bright,  
in search of the babe.

King of kings he is,  
in inn lying in manger,  
full, others dismissed.

Delayed by Herod  
nor deceived by ill-wishes  
being warned in dream.

Nor far desir'd place  
destination having reached  
where God rests in hay.

Messiah, he is!  
The alpha and omega  
Son of God, the Christ!

Bearing gifts to thee,  
now nativity complete  
are magi in three.



### Blue Jay Beats



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## *BLACK HISTORY, Continued from Page 1*



*From Left to Right: Lt. Colonel Brandon Gregoire '91 and Mr. Mat Grau '68, who retired on July 31, 2019, after 44 years of service to Jesuit High School of New Orleans. Both men are shown here speaking about Jesuit's history of racial integration at a Black History Month luncheon event in St. Ignatius Hall on February 8.*

Mr. Gregoire is a Jesuit alumnus who served for several years in the United States Marine Corps, most notably as an Advisor of Defense to Congress.

Mr. Gregoire began the presentation with an overview of segregation in America citing both Plessy v. Ferguson and Brown v. Board of Education in a concise yet thorough explanation of the life of a black man through the fifties. Mr. Grau then followed with a summary of segregation in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, particularly Archbishop Joseph Rummel's contributions by banning segregation at all church-sponsored events.

At Jesuit, key organizations such as the Commission on

Human Rights, a group of alumni who formed to end segregation, and SERINCO, the Southeast Regional Interracial Community, raised funds for integration campaigns and raised awareness about the issue. Additionally, Sodality collaborated with others around the city to discuss issues about segregation, and The Blue Jay newspaper addressed the topic more frequently in publications.

Since Jesuit High School's integration in 1962, many black students have gone on to have great careers, such as doctors, lawyers, politicians, and many others. "Integration," as Mr.

Gräu said, "was another step in making Jesuit a greater school, for the greater glory of God."

***"Integration was another step in making Jesuit a greater school, for the greater glory of God."  
-Mr. Mat Grau '68***



**Left: Jesuit's basketball team split two games against St. Augustine in January, losing this one in the Benson Arena on Jan. 19.**

### **JHS BLACK HISTORY TRIVIA**

In 1965, when both schools still participated in segregated leagues, Jesuit played its first-ever basketball game against St. Augustine, an informal exhibition match between the white and black city champions. The TNT Original Movie "Passing Glory" (1999) is based on that game. The film's writer Harold Sylvester played in that game, and Travis Porter, the name of St. Augustine's star player in the movie's version of these events, is based on his experiences.

### **UPCOMING CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS**

On Friday, March 12, the Class of 2025 will attend their 8th Grade Retreat on campus. The retreat focuses on the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola, specifically his conversion after recovering from his injuries at the Battle of Pamplona. The retreat seeks to welcome students to life at Jesuit through the lens of the life of St. Ignatius and to help them identify their own "cannonball" moment that can spark their conversion.

On March 19-21, approximately 50 members of the junior class will attend the first Kairos retreat offered to juniors this year. Though the format is different due to COVID, the experience is the same with the goal of the retreat to create a space in which retreatants can encounter the person of Jesus Christ.

On April 2, Campus Ministry will host the Virtual Nine Churches walk on its YouTube page. Though Covid restrictions prevent the traditional Nine Churches walk, this virtual pilgrimage is a great way to do the Stations of the Cross and prepare for Easter.



**PHOTO: Brother Lázaro Leal, O.M.I., a staff member at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on Rampart Street, spoke to 55 Jesuit Spanish students and their teachers after Fr. Salai celebrated a Spanish-language Mass in the Chapel of the North American Martyrs on Feb. 11.**

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## NEWS



Senior Jack Wallace explains Jesuit cross country to prospective students at Open House in December.

# Covid-19 Open House

*More than 400 Prospective  
Students Descended on  
Carrollton and Banks*

AIDAN WANG '25  
MEDIA EDITOR

The pandemic of the 21st century has postponed many things in life. This year we had an unusually late open house in December. While this edition of open house was a little different from the ones we current students have all received, it also had a lot of continuity with the past.

I sat down with Mr. Brett Hanne- man '85, admissions director, on the 18th of December 2020. Here is what he had to say.

**How many prospective students came in this year?**

Around 420-425.

**Is that high, low, or average?**

It's actually right at average. I'm a little bit surprised with the Covid year that it was still going to be at average.

**How do you think that this "at your leisure," more personalized tour compared to the older method?**

Oh, this is the way we're going to do it from now on.

**How do you think Application Day will work this year in a pandemic?**

I think it is going to be close to what we did last year.

**What if we go back to stay-at-home?**

[Big sigh]. If we have to go back to stay-at-home, we're going to have to wait till we go back [to campus].

**Anything else you would like to add?**

I think Open House was a big hit this year.

During Open House students normally sit down in the auditorium, listen to some speeches, and wait in line for two hours. That arrangement, like so many other ways we did things before the pandemic created new restrictions, is now gone. But things may change again.

*Aidan Wang is one of two Media Editors at The Blue Jay. He is currently eighth grade class president and also serves as a Quiz Bowler.*

# What Are Students Giving Up or Taking Up For Lent?

Michael Paul Fine '22, Editor-in-Chief

As Jesuit students prepare for Mardi Gras, following closely behind is the Easter season. After a quick survey of the student body, the following are students plans during the Lenten season in preparation for Easter.

**Gabriel Schwarz '23:** I plan to give up some type of sweet candy during Lent. I try this sacrifice because I believe it helps make both myself better and my attitude towards others.

**Aidan Coullvion '23:** Speaking with members in Sodality, we are trying to incorporate three aspects into our Lenten preparation: charity, prayer, and fasting. We hope to have one charitable act as well as making it a priority to attend Mass each week.

**Andrew Cavignac '22:** I am planning on sacrificing some type of sweets as well as spending less time on social media. I would rather spend more substantial time with friends and family.

**Max Bartlett '24:** Lent has always been taught in school and at home as a time for preparation and repentance and I will try to give up sweets, especially Snickers.

**Samuel Schlaffer '25:** I would try to watch less television because I find that I often spend too much time watching TV instead of truly preparing for Easter.

**Beau Bazile '25:** Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the desert tempted by the Devil. The least I could do during the season of Lent would sacrifice social media to spend more time in prayer and fasting.

**Luke Balkhoff '25:** I am trying to be more kind and patient with my family members, especially my parents, during the time period before Easter.

**Taylor Trepagnier '22:** I plan to sacrifice soft drinks because, although I enjoy them very much, they are not a necessity. This sacrifice helps me focus on the true meaning of the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us.



*"I would rather spend more substantial time with friends and family."*

*-Andrew Cavignac '22  
Blue Jay staff writer*

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# A CANDID Q&A WITH 8 NEW TEACHERS

## *A Deeper Look at 1/4 of More than 20 New JHS Employees*

By Aidan Wang '25, Media Editor

These new teachers responded to the following questions:

1. Why did you choose to work at Jesuit?
2. Where did you previously work?
3. Where did you go to school and what degree(s) did you receive?
4. What are your passions, hobbies, interests, and things you like to do in your free time?
5. Anything else you would like to mention?



**Mr. Jeff Reuther '99:**

After working several years in private industry as an engineer, I felt that I wanted a more fulfilling career that was better aligned with my values and interests. After personal prayer and reflection, teaching and coaching at Jesuit High School are a great fit.

I have had several jobs since college. I've worked in Engineering and Operations for a start-up medical device company, a military electronics company, an oil and gas contract engineering company, and a Kombucha bottling facility.

I have a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University. [I'm also] Jesuit High School, Class of 1999.

Rugby has been a longtime hobby of mine. I started playing rugby when I was 13, and I have played ever since. I am doing more coaching these days, and my favorite team is the New Zealand All Blacks. I am also interested in spiritual development with reading and in a seminar this summer with the topic of Faith and Science.

### **Coach Jon Orillion '01**

Jesuit is the best! As a member of the class of 2001, I was excited to get the chance to be back at a school I have so many positive memories about. There are not many places one can go to be surrounded by so many people who are striving to get the absolute most out of themselves and the people

around them. When you have an opportunity like that, you always make sure to take advantage of it.



### ***"Jesuit is the best!" -Coach Orillion***

Since 2017, I have been living in Dubuque, Iowa, as an assistant coach at Loras College. Previous to that I spent several years as a social studies teacher and head wrestling coach in the Catholic League.

Jesuit High School and Holy Cross College (Bachelors in History).

As a wrestling coach, I am very much a fan of the sport of wrestling. Like many travel to attend LSU games, I travel to major wrestling events. I have attended as a spectator or a coach numerous Olympic and World Team Trials, a World Championship, the World Cup, multiple Division I NCAA championships. [I have] been lucky enough to coach a team that took 2nd at the NCAA Division three national championship. So, to say the least, most of my free time is spent with wrestling. I also very much enjoy studying history of different societies, golf, and to say it simply, WHO DAT!

Support the wrestling team by either showing up and cheering your classmates on at dual meets and tournaments or by becoming a member of the team. We do not have many at-home events this year, so help the team out by traveling! Go Blue Jays!!

### **Srta. Kendall Gibson**

When the opportunity came up to possibly teach at Jesuit, I knew that I couldn't say no. On a practical level, I knew that it would be much more stable than my most recent job, but there were two things in particular that I was most excited about. First of all, I was excited to move to New Orleans. It's a special city unlike any other,

and I was thrilled to move here instead of merely visiting. Second of all, I went to an all-girls college preparatory school back in Tennessee, and I know that going to school there changed my life. I wouldn't be where I am now without such an incredible education. I wanted to teach at a school like that and hopefully have a positive impact on my students' lives

Spring and summer of this year I taught at River Parishes Community College. Before that, I taught at LSU for four years, Wichita State University for five years, and at Florida State University for two years while I was in graduate school.



I received both my bachelor's and master's degrees from Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL. I graduated magna cum laude with a BA in Spanish with minors in theatre, biology, and religion. My MA is in Spanish with a focus in Spanish Literature.

I'm a performer at heart. I love acting and singing, and whenever I have the time to do theatre, I try to make it happen. I also currently do voice acting for an Agatha Christie-style murder mystery podcast. I love to travel and can't wait for the pandemic to end so I can get back to seeing the world. I love going to concerts (my fiancé and I met at one!) and any sort of sporting event. I also have two dogs, and one of my big dreams is to one day have a big piece of land so I can rescue animals and take care of them.

One thing I like to tell my students is that I learned Spanish at school just like they're doing right now. I don't come from a Spanish-speaking family and I never studied abroad. I started Spanish classes in 8th grade, and I simply never stopped.

### **Mr. James Linn '06**

I have always wanted to get into teaching, and I always said if I were to teach I would love to do it at Jesuit. While 2020

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has been a wild year for everyone, I feel pretty fortunate to have the opportunity to be back after graduating from here in 2006.

I previously worked in politics in Louisiana on different campaigns around the state before becoming a curator at the WWII Museum here in New Orleans. I traveled the world with the museum doing tours in Europe and the Pacific. I have been to Normandy, Iwo Jima, and Hiroshima just to name a few places.



I have a BA in History with a focus in Political Science, and an MA in Public History with a focus in Military History.

I am married with two small kids so time for hobbies right now is pretty limited. When I do have a minute to sneak off, I like to fish, attempt to play golf, video games, and reading.



**Mr. Nick Nguyen**

I chose to work at Jesuit High School because I want to empower these young students here to become men of God. Although I attended Holy Cross High School only during my freshmen year, I understood what it was like being men for others and treating others with respect, and my past experience guided me through my life journey being here at Jesuit in empowering others. I believe that God has gifted every student at Jesuit to serve and make an impact for others around them. In my position as a Health and Wellness Counselor, I seek students are who potentially at high-risk with substance abuse or alcohol. My goal is to educate young men in making healthy choices, providing them the support that they need and deserve, and ensure their safety and keep them to stay in the right track that they will graduate and succeed here and outside of Jesuit High School.

Before I worked at Jesuit, I was a substitute teacher at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School from 2018 to 2020. Currently aside working at Jesuit, I work as a part-time counselor at a small counseling practice called the Gathering at Arabi, Louisiana, where I counsel clients from ages 6-18 years either in-person or virtually.

I have received my undergraduate

degree in Psychology at the University of New Orleans and received my Master's degree in School Counseling at the University of Holy Cross.

As mentioned previously, I have a passion of empowering others to push their true potentials academically, mentally, and spiritually because I believe that every student can make a huge difference of making Jesuit a better place. Regarding hobbies, I enjoy jogging in my neighborhood and park to keep my fitness going. At home, I enjoy spending time with my family and dog. As interest and free time, I like playing video games to keep myself occupied either with my younger brother or friends. Spiritually, I do brief meditation and prayer to reflect on my day to see the blessings that God has shown me throughout the day, and I look forward to the next day to see how I can improve in being a better counselor and person.

For me coming into the first year at Jesuit High School, I am very blessed to be in this position with my fellow co-workers and students. Everyone here has been very loving to ensure that I feel supported, and I want to return the favor. I have always heard good things about Jesuit High School as long as I can remember, and I fully understand why it has consistently been an astounding and prestigious school. Lastly, I do understand that the students' academics are important, and we are in an unprecedented time with the COVID-19 pandemic, but I want to ensure that the students here are well and safe. Therefore, the well-being for everyone in the school is the priority.



**Mr. Roger Bacon '10**

I graduated from Jesuit in 2010. For undergrad, I attended Catholic University of America, where I graduated in 2014 with a B.A. in Politics and Theology and a minor in Philosophy. After that, I received a Master of Theological Studies from Boston College, graduating in 2016.

I began teaching in 2016 at St. Paul's School in Covington, where I taught senior religion for four years. For the past 3 years, I have been a lacrosse coach at St. Paul's, with two years as Head Coach, and I coached the 2019 state championship team.

From my time at Jesuit High School, because of the influence and impact my own teachers had on my formation and education (several of whom are still here), I was always open to the possibility of teaching as a vocation. After I graduated from Boston College, one of the administrators at

St. Paul's contacted me and asked if I would be interested in teaching. I quickly discovered how much I enjoyed teaching and realized that this was my vocation. Even while at St. Paul's, I only ever saw myself teaching at one other school: my alma mater, Jesuit.

In my free time, I enjoy reading. There are a few different subjects interesting me currently in terms of my reading, mostly philosophical or political. I've been golfing since the age of 5, but don't get to play as often as I'd like.



**Dr. Ken Lota '06**

I always knew I wanted to teach literature—in fact, I decided I want to teach English when I was at Jesuit myself—and so it seemed only logical to teach at the place where I first discovered my vocation. It was comforting to know I was stepping into a place with such a well-established and powerful tradition.

For the last eight years before this school year, I was earning my Ph.D at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. I taught college classes there for seven of those eight years. I taught classes in freshman writing, contemporary literature, popular genres, film history, and film analysis. I also wrote a dissertation and published a couple of scholarly articles in my time at UNC.

After I graduated from Jesuit, I attended Tulane University, where I earned a bachelor's degree in English with a focus on American literature. From there, I went on to get my master's degree in English, again with a focus on American literature, from the University of Virginia. Finally, I got my PhD from UNC Chapel Hill, specializing in contemporary American literature. (There's pretty obviously a recurring theme here.)

My interests are pretty nerdy and unsurprising given everything else I've mentioned: I really love reading literature and watching and thinking about films. I actually founded the Movie Critics Club as a 9th grader at Jesuit and am pleased to see that it is still here. I reviewed over 1,000 films on my personal movie blog, though I haven't had time for it much lately. I also quite enjoy video games, going for long-ish walks, playing with my dog, and occasionally playing Dungeons & Dragons.

It's a real honor to be able to work alongside some of my favorite teachers from my time at Jesuit, including Mr. Powers, Mr. Stafford, and Mr. Villarrubia. It's also quite an honor to work at the same institution where Fr. Raymond Fitzgerald once worked.

*See TEACHERS on Next Page.*

-Established September 27, 1927-

## TEACHERS,

*Continued from Last Page*

*“I hope that students leave here feeling loved and ready to face the challenges through their faith in Christ as well as their faith in others around their lives.”*

*-Mr. Bourgeois*



Mr. Josh Bourgeois '13

I chose to work at Jesuit because I have a passion to teach young men as I was once taught at this great institution. Seeing young men have a passion for the same subject matter as me as well as being able to apply the material to their own lives is why I wanted to work at Jesuit.

I worked at Mount Carmel Academy before coming to Jesuit

I went to Louisiana State University and became certified to teach grades 6-12 through the Geaux Teach Humanities program. I graduated with a Bachelor in Arts with a focus on English Secondary Education. I pursued my Master's after graduation at LSU, where I graduated with my degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration on English Education.

I really enjoy coaching, watching, and playing soccer in my free time. I also like to make different playlists because of my passion for music. I enjoy the occasional casual reading when I am not listening to music or doing something involved with soccer.

I look forward to what Jesuit has to offer for me as well as what Jesuit offers our student body. I hope that students leave here feeling loved and ready to face the challenges through their faith in Christ as well as their faith in others around their lives.



### WHERE IS GOD CALLING ME?

BROTHER Larry Huck, S.J., '87, brought five first-year Jesuit novices from Grand Coteau to New Orleans in January and February to live at the Immaculate Conception rectory and work at Good Shepherd School.

On Feb. 5 and 26, the novices shared their vocation stories at Jesuit. Here Mr. Beau Guedry, n.S.J., speaks to Fr. Salai's Christian Vocations class seniors on Feb. 5.

## NEWS

### March for Life Goes Virtual

GREGORY UHLICH '24, STAFF WRITER

The March for Life rally in Washington, D.C., is an annual gathering of pro-life supporters from around the country protesting abortion. This year, due to coronavirus, the trip to the Washington, D.C., was cancelled by the archdiocese, but the actual rally still happened virtually.

Shockingly enough, at the first Pro-Life Club meeting of the school year, moderators Mrs. Susan deBoisblanc and Mr. Scott Delatte '06 said the club still planned to go. Although limited capacity was required, many members signed up and were excited to go on the annual D.C. trip. Jesuit was the only school in the Archdiocese of New Orleans with plans on still going to D.C.

As COVID numbers continued to rise, the March for Life itself had to be cancelled. This was hard for many of the club members, especially those who were signed up to go. All the other Pro-Life rallies and marches were cancelled too, so the only option was to watch the virtual pro-life rally and, as always, pray.

In years past, the D.C. trip was a great opportunity for students to represent the unborn children and to pray for an end to abortion. Garret Derbes, Pro-Life Club President, described his experience on the 2020 trip as “a moment of awe and joy seeing so many young people gathered together to protect the lives of the unborn.”

Students would also visit monuments like the Holocaust Museum, the Lincoln Memorial, and even the White House itself. The March for Life has become a larger movement over the last few years. For example, last year, the U.S. president made a personal appearance for the first time, and several vice presidents have made appearances as well. Occurrences like this one created

hope that this year's trip would have still been influential, despite the pandemic.

Regardless, the Pro-Life Club and its moderators remain optimistic about future marches. Derbes, the club president, noted: “While this is a really fun trip, the goal is to overturn Roe v. Wade and not have to attend another march.”

*“While this is a really fun trip, the goal is to overturn Roe v. Wade and not have to attend another march.”*

*-Garret Derbes, Pro-Life Club*



Archive Photo from Jesuit Pro-Life Club's 2019 March for Life trip

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## Jesuit Decks the Halls with Blue Jay Spirit

**MICHAEL PAUL FINE '22**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Before students enjoyed an extended break for Christmas, members of the Student Council E-board made sure all students were in the Christmas spirit. The Student Council organized their annual week of Christmas festivities.

Although all events followed COVID-19 protocols, students were able to participate in activities throughout the week such as Christmas caroling or decorating the Christmas tree.

Starting on Tuesday, December 8th, student council members led Christmas caroling in the commons, and Santa's elves safely distributed cookies to all students. The festivities continued on Wednesday with decorating of the school's Christmas tree. Homerooms were allowed to decorate their own ornaments and place any other decorations on the tree. Moreover, students received another day of treats with the distribution of candy canes.

On Thursday, one of Santa's reindeer came to Jesuit. Students were able to



Juniors Joseph Liberto (Left) and Michael Paul Fine (Right) Distribute Candy Canes to Students

take a ride on Rudolph and hold on as long as possible.

Lastly, on Friday, all students were able to wear their ugly Christmas sweaters and participate in the annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest. Santa also came to Jesuit and took pictures with students.

Furthermore, not only were students filled with Christmas spirit, but the halls of Jesuit were also decorated for the Christmas season. The week of Christmas events was a great success, and Student Council and *The Blue Jay* newspaper wish every student and his family a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

## New Ping Pong Tables Help Pass the Time

**Louis Bercaw '22**  
News Editor



Students enjoy ping pong in the Commons.  
Photo by Aloka Fernando '23

Despite the lack of student activities available during the current pandemic, Blue Jays have found a way to keep busy whether at break, lunch, or an off period: ping-pong.

In a stroke of pure genius, Mr. Orillion '98, Jesuit's Student Activities Director and COVID Coordinator, borrowed two tables from the Table Tennis Club to place in the Commons for students to use.

Students immediately made full use of the new addition, playing before school, at break, during off periods, at lunch, and after school. "The ping-pong tables give us a nice break to just relax and have fun," says James Alvarez '22.

Recently, Student Council held a ping-pong tournament to raise funds for the Thanksgiving Drive. In competition with dozens of students, Jake Bravo '25 narrowly beat out Patrick May '21 to take first prize, while our security guard LT won the Faculty and Staff Division. Overall, the ping-pong tables have provided students with much needed activities during breaks, and we will see what happens after the pandemic.

## The Blue Jay's Media Editor Aidan Wang Elected 8th Grade Class President

*Pledges Honorable Leadership, Says Plan for World Domination 'Nearly Complete'*



### POLITICS



Photos of Mr. Wang riding in the presidential wagon by Aloka Fernando '23

-Established September 27, 1927-

## A TALE OF THE FOOD DRIVE

*Amidst the Pandemic, a Senior Looks Back at this Past Thanksgiving's Meal Delivery*

By Jackson Cheramie '21, Staff Writer

The sun barely peeking over the sign at the entrance, a blue wave, clad in masks and khaki, sweeps through Robert Fresh Market. Entering in designated shifts, the pridefully designated shoppers of each homeroom dash through the aisles, checking off lists, grabbing cans, bread, and perishables.

Fumbling cash at each register, teachers hope that their students were not overzealous in grabbing only what their donations can pay for. Soon, Mr. Prados rushes by, leading alumni as he and his philosophy club of 2020 graduates return to participate in such a beloved act of the Jesuit community.

No matter the changes in place this year, the spirit unique to that one Wednesday morning on Robert E. Lee still filled that market. Not even a pandemic could stop the impending wave, the force of charity, within the Jesuit community, and the leaders of the Jesuit community understand that.

Though we both understand that this year has to be different, Mr. Kernion offers thanks not only to the Jesuit community but to Robert, praising "how great is it that Robert continues to do this for us, creating an excellent shopping experience despite all of the COVID challenges."

Entering the courtyard, a scattered array of Blue Jays load cars and pickup trucks, a few students come running by with a few forgotten groceries, and the class of '83 has deposited its famous turkeys.

I find Father Brown among the organized chaos, rejoicing in his first Thanksgiving Drive as President. "I know that our Blue Jays are always competent, I know that they are always conscious of the needs of those out there," he tells me, "but when it comes to compassion, that sense of feeling that when someone else has a need and it in turn becomes our need to fulfill it, it makes me so happy that even at a

time like this we as Blue Jays are still able to feed our community."

Cars filled with baskets, teachers leading the way, we begin the most fulfilling, human part of the day: Handing over the baskets, the product of our hard work, to the most needy of our community, is an unrivaled experience. It bonds us together as Blue Jays and as men for others, men who have been given the opportunity of a lifetime to be a part of a community and actually serve others at a time when so many things are simply shut down.

### Opinion

*"Not even a pandemic could stop the impending wave, the force of charity, within the Jesuit community, and the leaders of the Jesuit community understand that."*

Distributing baskets with my classmates to a family of ten headed by a grandmother who wanted nothing more than to give her grandchildren a wonderful Thanksgiving feast, I see a wonderful part of humanity that no pandemic could ever defeat.

As Mr. Kernion said to me, "People are in need more now than ever and this is something so important that it was absolutely imperative that we, a proud community of men for others, deliver these baskets."



**Jackson Cheramie**

*At right: Mr. Flores and students shop at Robert on Wednesday, Nov. 25.*



-Established September 27, 1927-

## FOOD

# BLUE JAY BAKERS MAKE DOUGH

By Jacob Nguyen '21  
Staff Writer

Nine people and a dream.

The Breadwinner's Bakery, although not a physical building, lives in the hearts of these nine students, who wish to serve baked goodies to the Blue Jay community.

This is no joke. With over 200 dollars in sales and purchases from Classics teacher Mrs. Bondi and Theology teacher Mr. Delahoussaye, this bakery is a fine working machine.

Junior Joshua Burk started this Jesuit-based bakery and slowly accumulated a robust and versatile team.

Junior Anthony Guernsey joins seniors Garrison Trahant, Connor Myers, Marcelo Torres, Michael McGovern, Brett Steele, and Tyler Westfall in baking and delivering white bread, biscotti, and, soon to come, apple pie.

Junior Dylan Bracey leads the sales and distribution operations for the bakery.

You can order a loaf of white bread for five dollars (with an option of express delivery for an extra three dollars), biscotti (Italian almond biscuits) for a dollar, and apple pies for three dollars.

The white bread formula starts with essential ingredients: salt, sugar, flour, and yeast. After letting the yeast rise within the dough, the bakers make incisions into the dough and bake at around 350 degrees Fahrenheit for thirty to forty minutes, or until the crust is pale gold.

I have personally tried their loaves, and I have to say, I am rather impressed. The inside is soft, and the crust is just hard enough to have that satisfying chew. Their bread with melted butter on top, which I have eaten for breakfast, was a quick way for me to get filled up and ready for the new day.

However, I have noticed the insides can be rather heavy, since the yeast did not rise correctly. Joshua has chipped in, stating they are always revising and improving the bread formula to make it taste as best as possible.

Biscotti, composed of flour, salt, vanilla extract, pistachios, and almond extract, has recently entered the menu. It is



*“I have personally tried their loaves, and I have to say, I am rather impressed. The inside is soft, and the crust is just hard enough to have that satisfying chew.”*

more of a light snack compared to their white bread. They are currently debating on whether to add extra flavors, like chocolate-covered biscotti, to their lineup.

Finally, the bakery team is planning to release apple pie in the future. At an estimated three dollars, the pies will be available soon after testing ingredients and factoring cost into mind.

Blue Jays come and go. That is not an exception for the members of the bakery. Six seniors will be leaving next year for higher education. Although this news may seem detrimental toward the bakery, Josh has stated they will continue to serve their baked treats to the Jesuit community.



From Left To Right. Top Row: Connor Myers, Dylan Bracey, Anthony Guernsey, Marcelo Torres. Bottom Row: Garrison Trahant, Joshua Burk, and Brett Steele

## FOOD

# Maestro's Blend

*Mr. Giaccone reveals the magical secrets of coffee*

By Aidan Wang '25, Media Editor



As your tireless Blue Jay Media Editor, my eagle eyes recently noticed something strange: Maestro Jason Giaccone, Jesuit High School's assistant band director and fitness club moderator, is addicted to special blends of very strong coffee.

After sitting down with the Maestro for an interview, I am here to report to you about his coffee habits.

**Q: What kind of coffee do you like to brew?**

*A: Whole beans, darkest roast, and very finely ground.*

**Q: That sounds quite strong; how much do you drink a day?**

*A: About seven cups of coffee.*

**Q: Drinking this much strong coffee, do you have any health problems or concerns?**

*A: No, I'm actually a very healthy person.*

**Q: If coffee were banned at Jesuit, how would you survive?**

*A: I could survive with less coffee, but I could not survive the travel events without coffee. That includes but is not limited to band camp, parades, Disney, Europe.*

**Q: Is there a particular brand of coffee you like to purchase?**

*A: Gevalia Dark Gold is my favorite.*

**Q: When you don't like to brew your own coffee, what is your favorite coffee shop?**

*A: The Station at the corner of North Alexander and Bienville is my favorite. They also have house-made pastries and have multiple kinds of brew methods ranging from French-Press to Classic Drip, and it's only a five-minute drive from Jesuit.*

**Q: What do you think of coffee beverages?**

*A: Iced Coffee over ice is good but blended iced coffee drinks like Frappuccinos are not considered coffee in my opinion.*

**Q: What do you think of coffee and chicory?**

*A: I don't like it.*

Jesuit faculty can enjoy a cup of Maestro's brew in the lounge. It is in an orange carafe, but do not confuse it with other coffee, as it is extremely potent.

-Established September 27, 1927-

## Krewe of Magis?

*Photos by Aloka Fernando '23  
of Jesuit's Friday, February 12  
Carnival in the Commons  
Lunchtime Celebration*

Fr. Kevin Dyer, S.J., and Mr. Peter  
Flores '09 Assist 'King of Magis' Matt  
Orillion '98 With Balcony Throws



*King  
Orillion  
of Magis*



### ARTS

#### "Throw Me Somethin' Mister!"

By Austin Hebert '22  
Arts Editor

The Mardi Gras ain't here this year.  
'e banned parades and liquor too.  
In the quarter there ain't no one,  
Can't even wear my Muses shoe.

Can't catch that Zulu coconut  
Nor hear that funky brass band tune.  
Can't find no beads up in the trees  
Nor see no floats run down the street.

But look to ya left! What is that?  
And to the right they got 'em too!  
Is that a float or that a house?  
Don't matter cuz it's really cool.

Mardi Gras ain't lookin' so fat  
A house float! I'll have some of dat!  
That purple, green, and gold I know  
I know it's here it stay fo sho!



*Moon Pies from  
Heaven!*

-Established September 27, 1927-

## Underappreciated Movie Picks

BY HUNTER HOFFMANN '21  
FILM CRITIC



### *Treat Yo Self*

Classy  
Film  
Reviews

In this set of quick reviews, I will be talking about movies that I believe to be not talked about enough. It is not to say that some of these films are not held in high regard amongst critics and avid movie watchers, but from my personal viewpoint I have found these films to not be talked about much in the general public and specifically with people my age.

#### Clue (1985)

Based on the Hasbro board game of the same name, *Clue* is a murder mystery film in which a group of dinner guests is gathered at the mansion of their host Mr. Boddy (pun intended), who, of course, turns up dead. As our ensemble cast of characters searches the house for clues as to who potentially murdered Mr. Boddy, everyone is left as a suspect until the very end.

This film is exactly everything that it should be. Every character is hilarious, and there are zingers and jokes squeezed into the script as much as possible. As a “whodunnit” movie like this should do, the plot takes twists and turns every chance that it gets. The ending of the movie is what really puts this film on a whole new level. There is not one ending, nor are there two, but there are three different endings to this movie. When *Clue* first came out in theaters, different screenings would show different endings to the movie; however, nowadays all three endings are played out in the same showing of the film, and it works out to one of the funniest endings to a movie there could ever possibly be. To elaborate any further on this one would be giving too much away, so I will let you figure out the mastery and nonstop fun of this movie for yourself.

**(Rating: 10/10)**

#### Demolition Man (1993)

*Demolition Man* is an action film starring Sylvester Stallone and Wesley Snipes which takes place in the utopian city of San Angeles in 2032. Stallone plays the cop John Spartan, who, after viciously pursuing violent criminal Simon Phoenix for years, played by Snipes, accidentally gets innocent people caught in the crossfire of his pursuit for him and gets both of them sentenced to prison. However, this is no ordinary prison; it is a “cryoprison” in which prisoners are frozen for years until they are thawed.

As one can tell from a quick plot synopsis of *Demolition Man*, this film is not grounded in reality whatsoever, but it is the obscure plot and concepts which make this movie a must watch. The futuristic setting of this film is quite comical, including more obvious ideas such as self-driving cars, but it also includes more creative ideas such as everyone greeting each other with “Be well” and the fact that every restaurant is Taco Bell. Although the action itself is nothing to write home about and this film does not really include anything of true substance, Snipes’ tongue-in-cheek performance as the comic book-esque antagonist and the ideas in the film holding nothing back are what make it an enjoyable viewing. **(Rating: 8/10)**

#### It Could Happen to You (1994)

Starring the great Nicholas Cage and Bridget Fonda, *It Could Happen to You* follows Charlie Lang, a simple-minded and kind-hearted cop in New York city who wins the lottery after buying a ticket at the insistence of his wife. After eating lunch on the day that he bought the ticket, Lang, realizing he does not have enough money to pay the waitress a tip, tells her that, as a tip, he will split the lottery winnings with her if he wins. When Lang’s wife Muriel (Rosie Perez) learns of this arrangement after they win the lottery, she is infuriated and spends the rest of the film scheming and becoming greedy with her money. Because of this, Lang begins to despise his wife while also falling in love with the waitress, Yvonne, in the process.

Because of the extreme kindness and joy of its protagonist, this movie carries a very light-hearted and refreshing tone to it. Lang is practically a perfect human being throughout the whole film which obviously has its flaws, but I think that overall it works for a romantic comedy movie like this. Both Lang and Yvonne attempt to give away all of the winnings from the lottery to make other people happy while his wife tries to hoard it all for herself. *It Could Happen to You* carries an extremely unassuming positive view of human nature in a classic story depicting how good will always prevail, but the movie’s overall heart and the fun romance between Charlie and Yvonne make it a film to turn off one’s brain to and enjoy some positivity. **(Rating: 7/10)**

#### The Belko Experiment (2016)

*The Belko Experiment* is a horror film with a large ensemble cast and depicts the story of how a normal day at the office turns into a nightmare at the Belko Corporation when all of its workers learn via the intercom that two workers must be killed in 30 minutes or everyone will die. Trapped inside of their office building, the workers slowly learn that they are part of a deadly experiment and a battle royale of ultimatums from the mysterious voice on the intercoms and killings ensues.

This film is very tongue-in-cheek about everything that it is trying to do, but it has a self-aware attitude when it comes to these decisions throughout the movie. What was once an office space becomes a violent bloodbath of co-workers killing each other. This movie moves very quickly with nonstop action and killings once the characters find out the stakes. An added element of the kills is that everyone knows the people they are killing. *The Belko Experiment* tries a tad bit too hard to comment on human nature towards the end of the movie and bites off a bit more than a movie like this can chew, but other than that, it is a near-perfect, gory, battle royale horror film sure to provide much entertainment in its ninety-minute runtime.

**(Rating: 9/10)**

-Established September 27, 1927-

## THE WORLD OF SONGY

*Not Even Covid-19 Can Stop Prefect of Discipline Mark Songy*

Noah Leingang '21, Staff Writer

I walked into the Discipline Office on a Tuesday morning, ready for an interview. Little did I know that I was not the only student who was having an important meeting that morning. I waited for a few minutes as I got to watch a small drove of students arrive in the office. The wide range of students were ready to defend a PH, explain an absence, excuse their behavior, and so on and so forth. Needless to say, a few displeased Blue Jays walked back to class that morning with a PH in hand. After about five minutes, I felt like I had seen the rules of the Jesuit Bulletin come to life. Finally, Coach Mark Songy invited me into his office and shut the door.

“Man, you could write a whole story on that, huh? And that was only first period,” he chuckled. His demeanor had changed, just like that. Suddenly, he was all smiles as he sat down across from me at his desk.

He’s been an English and World Geography teacher, a state-championship winning head football coach, a ten-year pharmaceutical rep, and everything in between. Now, he’s the Prefect of Discipline at Jesuit High School. The new man in the Discipline Office is no other than Coach Mark Songy.

I had the privilege of sitting down with Coach Songy for a few minutes to discuss his thoughts on his first semester as disciplinarian of the whirlwind 2020-2021 school year at Jesuit.

Among his other stints, Coach Songy is most widely known around Jesuit as former head coach of the football team. He joined the Jesuit team in 1990 as offensive coordinator and was elevated to head coach in 1992. He returned in 2014 as head coach and led the Blue Jays to the Superdome to win the Division I state championship, and he’s been coaching ever since. That is, until now.

Coach Songy says his new position in the administration has been quite an adjustment. He notes, “Covid presented many interesting and unusual problems that we’ve never had to deal with until now. We’re still learning every day, but it was definitely a challenging way to start the job.” When I asked him what a good day at

school looks like, he frankly responded: “A day where I have nothing to do. Those days are rare because I always have something new to do.”

I curiously asked him, “What’s something that students do that frustrates you the most?” His answer was one certainly worth noting. Coach explained that there are two main objectives in his role: to make sure learning can take place and to get students to graduation. He explained that the most frustrating thing is when people disrupt class because it then interferes with his objectives as disciplinarian.

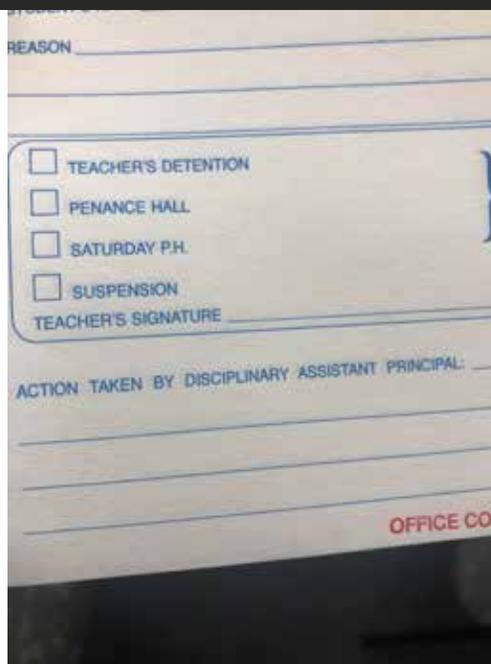
### FEATURES

*“Man, you could write a whole story on that, huh? And that was only first period.”  
-Coach Mark Songy*

On a lighter note, he said his favorite part about his new job is helping guys stay out of trouble. “I can interact now with a much larger part of the student population than I was able to with football. Being able to catch guys that are about to make a mistake that can lead to something bigger is always good for me and the student,” he said.

Coach also said he has some plans that he wants to continue working on in the future, like being more conscientious at Mass, training in manners and gentlemanly conduct, and stifling bullying and harassment.

Although Coach Songy certainly hasn’t had an easy year to start off with, he said he’s happy with the work that he’s been able to accomplish so far and hopes to connect with more students as the year goes on.



Coach Songy has the legendary Penance Hall (PH) at his disposal as a learning tool to help Jesuit students make wiser decisions in their daily lives.

-Established September 27, 1927-

## FEATURES

# Blue Jay of the Month

Congratulations to junior **Jack Larriviere** for being this issue's Blue Jay of the Month

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Louis Bercaw '22  
News Editor

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As the football season cools down at both a high school and a professional level, I decided to interview one of Jesuit's quarterbacks, Jack Larriviere '22, to see what he has to say about both football and the COVID experience. To start, I asked him some easy questions. Jack, in addition to being one of our starting quarterbacks, is an Eagle Scout in troop 230 at St. Catherine of Sienna. His favorite teacher is Coach Lavie '83, his favorite subject is Chemistry, and he plans on studying chemical engineering in college. Next, I asked him some more in-depth questions:

Q: How has COVID affected you in general?

A: "Personally, I haven't been able to see my grandparents, but I try to keep in touch as much as possible. From a school perspective, I'm just happy to be on campus; online learning was a bit of a struggle for me, but I'm definitely doing better now that we're in-person again."

Q: How did COVID alter the football team's operations?

A: "We had to make a lot of changes to our weightlifting and conditioning programs over the summer. It was tough to adjust to only practicing with ten other guys and constantly having to sanitize and distance ourselves, but once we got the hang of it and entered a new phase, we started building team chemistry, which I think helped us the most in our success this year."

Q: Despite this unconventional year, are you happy with the results of this football season?

A: "From a team perspective, I think we did very well and exceeded many expectations. On a personal level, I was disappointed towards the end of the season because I was quarantined for our last game against Brother Martin,



but I was still happy to cheer them on from home."

Q: Are there any improvements that you want to see by the start of the next football season?

A: "I'd like to see us come together as a unit. Especially with all of the young players coming on next year, I would like us act as one team."

Q: How are you preparing for the next football season?

A: "Right now, I have a full week of training: I weightlift four times a week with Coach Ursin, I have a conditioning coach on the weekends, and I study with a private quarterback coach to focus on the football side of things. On top of that, I'm trying to eat healthy

and maintain the grades I need to play football."

Q: You recently received the Coach Gernon Brown Memorial Award for Best All-Around Junior Varsity Athlete. How do you feel about the award?

A: "It was a complete surprise to me when they called my name during Mass. I can't thank my coaches and teammates enough for making it possible."

Q: Do you have any advice to the eight-graders right now?

A: "Try your hardest academically. I slipped up a bit when I was younger, and now that I'm a junior, I've realized how much effort it takes to get the grades I want."



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*"I slipped up a bit when I was younger, and now that I'm a junior, I've realized how much effort it takes to get the grades I want."*  
-Jack Larriviere '22

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## JESUIT BASKETBALL TEAM CONTINUES IMPRESSIVE RUN INTO DISTRICT PLAY

By Michael Paul Fine '22  
Editor-in-Chief

### SPORTS

Jesuit basketball is underway in the Birdcage, a.k.a. the Gayle and Tom Benson Arena, with a strong start to the season. Before district play, the Jays held a record of 12-5 with key victories over St. Paul's, East Jefferson, Terrebonne, Bonabel, and Central Lafourche.

The team plays together and as a unit. The Jays display awesome chemistry with great communication on the defensive side of the ball. The players focus on valuing the basketball and limiting turnovers as well as being extremely active and aggressive on defense.

Individually, the Jays are led offensively by Matthew Knight '22 and Patrick Lavie '21. Both Knight and Lavie have had thirty-point performances so far this season. Defensively, the Jays are led by terrific on ball defense by Christopher Gillen '21 and strong rim protection by Porter Lichtl '21. Against St. Paul's both Lichtl and Gillen had seven steals.

Furthermore, the Jays are a young team with significant minutes from sophomores Jack Lo and Josh Washington. Lo provides terrific 3-point shooting, and Washington is an athletic big man with tenacity on the boards. Lo and Washington also provide excitement for fans with buzzer-beaters and double-doubles respectively.



Jack Lo '23 at the free throw line against Hahnville



Patrick Lavie '21 shoots from deep against Hahnville

## BOWLING TEAM ROLLS TO BIG VICTORIES

By Michael Paul Fine '22  
Editor-in-Chief

### SPORTS

The Jesuit Bowling Team is back in action with a great start to its 2021 season. The bowlers earned two early victories against Kenner Discovery and Rummel, and defeating them 27-0 and 24-3, respectively.

Both matches displayed the overpowering talent by the bowlers. Individually, the team is led by Collin Pearce '22, Benjamin Hunn '21, and Gary Sims '22. Also, Will Carpenter '23, Luke Wood '23, and Tyler Westfall '21 have had great showings early.

Against Kenner Discovery, Pearce had the highest game of the match at 245. Moreover, Ben Hunn had a strong three game performance with a 662. Wood also had a steady showing posting a 616 series.

Against Rummel, the Jays kept a balanced performance across the board. Michael McGovern '21 posted a 238 score while Sims set a match high at 267 and Carpenter followed closely behind with a 257 score.

Head Coach Todd Bourgeois '88 and Assistant Coach Tom Bagwill have an impressive team this year with high aspirations. As the season continues, the bowlers will face district rivals Holy Cross and Brother Martin. All students are encouraged to follow and support the bowlers as they continue their spectacular start to 2021.



-Established September 27, 1927-

# Manale Excited to Coach Jesuit Football

*Former De La Salle Coach Can't Wait to Join 'the Jesuit family'*

BY MICHAEL PAUL FINE '22, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Jesuit football team has hired a new head football coach. Scott Bairnsfather has stepped down as interim coach, and Ryan Manale, former all-metro football team Coach of the Year, is the new coach.

Manale spent time as the De La Salle Head Coach and Director of Athletics, and Jesuit is the "next challenge in his career."

Manale coached De La Salle to three division two State Championship games in 2017, 2019, and 2020.

Coach Mark Songy took over the head coach position in 2014 and stepped down before the start of the 2020 season. Scott Bairnsfather was hired as the interim head coach and led the team to a 5-5 season with a tough loss to Brother Martin in the second round of the playoffs. Bairnsfather posted impressive victories over Holy Cross in the 101st Rivalry Game, Shaw, and Hahnville. After a very thorough search process, Manale was hired as the new coach.

In an interview with Crescent City Sports, Manale states that he "can't wait to be a part of the Jesuit family. There are many great people that have walked these halls."

Manale is a well-rounded coach with a balanced offensive and defensive side of the ball. Rising seniors Joseph Barnett '22 and Dennis Dougherty '22 along with Tyler Austin '23 and Spencer Lanosga '24 lead an experienced defense.

## SPORTS

Jack Larriviere '22 and Jace Larsen '23 lead a very impressive and talented offensive side of the ball.

With a new coach and an experienced, talented group of upperclassmen, next year should be a recipe for excitement and success.



*"There are many great people that have walked these halls."*  
-Coach Manale

## WRESTLING TEAM LOOKS TOWARD STATE

PATRICK DOWD '23  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Jesuit Wrestling Team has had a lot of recent success, mainly by beating district rival and powerhouse Brother Martin.

Senior Garrett Derbes '21 commented when asked about the victories, "A huge part of the recent success is attributed to the coaching staff. Coach Moran is great, and when you put him alongside Coach Orillion, Coach Hatty, Coach Firmin, it creates a championship environment."

However, the LHSAA (Louisiana High School Athletics Association) canceled all the remaining meets leading up to state due to Covid-19, so the team will be without outside competition leading into the biggest meet of the year.

Derbes said, "At first you might see this as a setback, but we see

it as an opportunity to focus solely on winning state."

The senior is confident going into state and replied when asked about the team's chances at state, "When we have a full lineup and everybody is wrestling at their ability, I don't think that there is a team in this state that can stop us."

Finally, he reminisced on his time wrestling at Jesuit, "This year has been very exciting for me because I recognize that this senior class, along with the rest of the team, has brought the championship mindset back to Carrollton and Banks."

The Jays look to continue their success and bring the state wrestling title back to Jesuit for the first time since 2009. The state tournament begins on February 26th and tickets are available for all students of faculty at the following link: <https://www.lhsaa.org/wrestling>.



*The Blue Jay Wrestling Team practices in the third floor of the Roussel Building for social distancing reasons. Despite a slow start marked by a Covid-19 ban on spectators at matches, the Blue Jays have surged recently as they head to state.*

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## SPORTS

# PERSEVERANCE.

### JESUIT SOCCER LOOKS BACK AT A SEASON OF DOGGED PERSISTENCE



BY HARRISON SIMEON '22  
STAFF WRITER



*Simeon  
Says....*

THE BLUE JAY soccer team is usually a winner of districts and a contender for the state championship, but something about this year felt different.

With no losses and just three draws on the season carrying into the playoffs, the varsity team was utterly dominant in every aspect of the game this year. A major result of this excellent play was being ranked nationally. Recently, the Jays sat at number one in the state and number two in the country, just behind Brandon High School in Mississippi.

"It feels awesome," said senior defender and captain Maxx Hanemann.

Adapting to all Covid-19 challenges, the team brought their hunger and higher aspirations into the playoffs, dominating Ruston in a 7-0 victory to open the bracket following their undefeated regular season and district championship-winning effort against Archbishop Rummel. The team continued their impressive

run in the playoffs with a strong 6-0 victory over West Jefferson. It then demolished Saint Amant 4-0 during the next round of the playoffs in a Sunday, Feb. 14 Saint Valentine's Day massacre.

Sadly, the magic ended with a 2-0 state semifinals loss to St. Paul on Feb. 20.

What was the Jays' secret in such an unconventional season?

Unity, compassion, and work ethic were the most common answers from those I talked to. It was a complete team effort from the Jays this season, with almost every member of the team getting significant involvement and the wealth of goals being spread around thoroughly.

Another aspect of the season that made the undefeated record so impressive was the coronavirus, which caused two games for the Jays to be cancelled. But did that stop the team?

"It hasn't affected us too much," said junior defender John Wimberly. "We've been smart to limit our social gatherings to avoid our whole team getting contact traced."

The Jays soccer team proved that even during a pandemic, state championships may be on the horizon, and they proved this with a perfect regular season and the desire to give it their all.

