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O'DEA TODAY

JANUARY 2016

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Message from the Principal

Happy New Year!

Thank you for making time to read this edition of the *O'Dea Today* and familiarize yourself with all the exciting things happing within our school community. As we reach the midpoint of our school year, I find myself reflecting on what a wonderful community we truly have. Together, we embrace the noble mission of Catholic education to challenge the intellect, creativity, and imagination of our students. We seek to stimulate their thinking, touch their hearts, and tend to their souls. We do so in a learning environment that is inclusive of many kinds of students and families. We gather each day to celebrate the brotherhood of young men from varied academic, socio-economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds. Our welcome is profound and genuine as we work each day to provide the best in Catholic education to each young man attending O'Dea High School.

It is a great joy for me as Principal to see our students learning and growing together as young men. When I see how our students respond to the invitation to be brothers to one another and take up our challenge to become leaders in an ever-changing world, I am deeply moved. These are the outcomes envisioned by Edmund Rice when he founded a small community of Brothers that has grown into an international network of schools and educators. Continuing O'Dea's tradition of educating young men in the Essential Elements of an Edmund Rice Christian Brother Education is a most worthy of endeavors.

I hope you enjoy reading about the academic achievements, campus ministry events, athletic competitions, and exciting co-curricular activities happening at O'Dea. The O'Dea Christmas Family Project proved once again to be a highlight of the Advent season. With each mentor group sponsoring the gathering of gifts for a family in need, our entire school rallied to support this most worthy of efforts.

I continue to be in awe of the collaboration and dedication demonstrated by our school community members. With the planning efforts well underway for the Freshman Retreat this February, I am excited about the opportunity for our ninth grade class members to foster a deeper appreciation for the Brotherhood of O'Dea, along with a sense of character, faith, and service. I know the new year will provide us with reason to celebrate being part of the O'Dea school community.

James Walker
Principal
Character. Faith. Service.

Monthly Calendar

January 7th: Winter Open House @ 6pm
January 8th: Winter Spirit Assembly @ 1:30pm
January 11th: Class of 2020 Admissions Application Deadline

Click here to view the full O'Dea calendar!

Spread the word! Winter Open House is here!

Winter sports are underway! Come cheer our boys on to victory! (Photo cred: Nick Sadigh)

Athletics

Winning with Honor

Congratulations to recent O'Dea graduate, **Myles Gaskin '14**, on being named to the Pro Football Focus' True Freshman All-America team. The star freshman was featured in a

Christmas Eve story on The News Tribune. To read the article click here.

Follow us on our new Twitter page @ODeaAthletics for live updates and scores of all Fighting Irish sports teams! #GoIrish

Basketball

The Irish basketball program had a busy and successful Christmas break, playing several games during the two week span. After beating Eastside Catholic 79-74 to begin the break, the Irish took on Stadium High School of Tacoma in a pre-Christmas battle and came out victorious 100-66. The boys then headed to Bothell High School where they took part in the 8 team Bothell Holiday Classic and proudly walked away as Tournament Champions. The boys started the new year the same way they finished 2015 pulling out a 78-77 overtime victory over Emerald Ridge to push their record to 9-0 on the season.

The junior varsity and freshman coaches and players are working extremely hard and we are impressed with the young talent that will be moving up in years to come.

This week begins the return to league play for the Irish with many of our tougher opponents on the schedule ahead. Please come out and cheer on our boys to victory. Go Irish!

Swim & Dive

The O'Dea Swim & Dive Team is off to a great start. After our first seven weeks, our team is developing endurance, stamina, and speed. Just before Christmas break, the team defeated Ingraham 91.5 to 87.5. Christmas training was challenging and elevated our team's fitness and strength. We are led by our state champion diver Casey Benson and team captains Ollie Depina and Will Trainer. Our team is reinforced with nine seniors who provide positive leadership and a strong work ethic. Numerous guys have qualified for Metro and Districts in multiple events. Looking ahead into January, we have an exciting Kentridge Invitational and a full slate of competitive dual meets before the Championship meets in February. Go Irish!

Wrestling

The O'Dea Wrestling Team is off to a great start. The team is currently undefeated in Metro League Dual Meet competition after recently upsetting Marysville-Pilchuck. On Thursday, January 7th, your Irish wrestlers will face off against Garfield and Ballard in a Tri-dual meet at Garfield. January 14th at 7pm will be the next home match for the Irish as they take on the Roughriders of Roosevelt High School. Please come out and support your Irish wrestlers. Thanks for your continued support.

House System

House Football Playoffs

By Race Porter '16, Dublin House Journalist

The 2015 House Football Playoffs culminated with a bang as a senior laden Waterford team battled a young but talented Dublin team. Don't worry about the parking meter, you were sure to find a *quarter*back in this one. The student body filed into the gym, met with the booming sounds of the drum line, to watch 5'8 225 pound Quin Barnard, reminiscent of his decorated Bellevue junior football career, lead his intimidating and deep bunch of receivers against an underrated Dublin group of individuals. Brendan McGonigle proved his place as Barnard's favorite target bringing home two touchdowns for the boys in the blue shirts. The Cinderella story of Dublin's Mr. Watson's mentor group, although underdogs, jumped out to a promising lead as Senior leader, and one of the team's most influential characters, Michael Carter III intercepted a would have been Quinnerton B touchdown pass and returned it all the way back for the score. From then on out, a sea of blue overwhelmed the yellow shirts of Dublin as the Waterford receivers never seemed to be covered, completing pass after pass. Senior receiver Jack Fox, known for his big gains, made arguably the biggest catch of the season launching his team into the lead with a late touchdown. Carter III did everything he could as Dublin's quarterback, but Waterford's double team on the Gronkowski-like Van De Tuerk stumped the golden boys of Dublin, holding them to only two touchdowns. All eyes were on Quin B as the boys in blue possessed the ball with two minutes on the clock and a 6-5 lead. Unfortunately, all eyes stayed on the senior QB as he sat back in the pocket with no intention of throwing the football, and no plans on leaving the gym that day without a trophy. With 20 seconds left, Quin snapped the ball on the final play of the game scrambling his way to a Waterford victory. Waterford members stormed the court congratulating their brothers, and this year's House Bowl had been decided.

Labor of Love for Limerick

By Daniel P. Mullen, Limerick House Dean

Whenever my daughters give me a handmade gift, those gifts are special not because of the artistic ability, but what they represent: thoughtfulness and love. This year, Limerick House is blessed to receive a handcrafted gift from Mentor Teacher Mr. Alex Lara that not only shows impressive craftsmanship, but his true House spirit and dedication to Limerick.

Each year to show House unity, Limerick House students sign their names on small wooden blocks that are then shaped into an “L” for Limerick and framed. Over Thanksgiving break, Mr. Lara literally worked hours to transform a raw cedar plank (from a tree knocked over in a storm) into an exquisite, hand-crafted cedar frame for this year’s Limerick “L”. And with each step of the process – cutting, planing, sanding, mitering, gluing – Mr. Lara put his love for Limerick into action. Please look for it in Mr. Lara’s Rm. 204 next time you’re at O’Dea. Thank you, Mr. Lara!

Inside the Classroom

A Humanities Approach to the Research Paper Process

Education is full of buzzwords to improve student learning. Differentiated instruction. Cooperative learning. For four weeks during second quarter, teachers in our Humanities Department recently put another buzzword into action: interdisciplinary teaching. By joining forces through "team teaching" - Mr. Mullen coaching the process of writing a research paper, and Mr. Doyle and Mr. Kohler teaching historical content - the junior class crafted expository research papers before the Christmas break.

Topics ranged from evaluating the impact of railroads on the Civil War, to analyzing the social changes that gave rise to mass democracy in the U.S. between 1820 and 1840. Students appreciated the opportunity to work on this writing project through both their English and History courses.

"Our teachers in both areas set us up for success each step of the process," commented Shea Carstens, a junior whose paper focused on the Battle of Antietam. "I felt proud of my work after all the hours of research and editing. It was fun to write because the skills we learned will carry through into college and beyond."

Photography

Throughout the months of November and December photography students focused on line and how lines in their images guide the viewer's eye through their compositions. Students learned to use line to control the viewer's experience of their compositions.

Photo by Jacob Stein '16

Faith & Service

Encounter 90

Encounter 90 was a success! Despite some flooding that made getting to Camp Don Bosco an adventure, everyone got there in good spirits and ready to participate. We had some phenomenal senior leaders this year who set the tone for the retreat right off the bat with their engaging talks and willingness to share. Through group sharing, game time, good food, and multiple opportunities to partake in the sacraments, the feeling of brotherhood grew and students and adults alike bonded in friendship, a feeling that we brought home with us. Encounter is truly the spirit of the O'Dea Brotherhood.

Christmas Family Project

As a community O'Dea always participates in Providence Regina House's Adopt-a-Family program and on December 18th we came together once again to wrap and deliver Christmas cheer to 12 families in need. The energy in the school was humbling, warm and authentic! Leading up to this special day the O'Dea community prepared by bringing in gifts/donations for the family members that their mentor group was assigned and participated in relaxed dress day on 12/4 that supported the purchase of Safeway gift cards for each family. 20 mentor groups, over 50 volunteers in total and 17 drivers made for a fun and rewarding day for all! We received this touching story from one of the drivers which really speaks to the impact we have on these families:

“My son Jack and I drove to an area south of Boeing Field off of East Marginal Way to drop off presents for Family 9, along with the Gregoire’s. The family was split between Mr. Reyes and another teacher. We arrived at an old apartment building on a very busy street and unfortunately no one was home. I called the Mother who was very apologetic and through broken English she communicated that she was 10 minutes away. Once she arrived with an adorable 4 year old, Scarlett, she let us into a very sparse apartment with a small table top tree and a large manger scene. We started piling all the gifts around the tree while the four sat on the couch and beamed. The presents took up much of the room and totally dwarfed the tree. The Mom was so overjoyed, she insisted we take waters and got very teary-eyed and hugged us multiple times. She was very emotional and what she said to us as we left was very profound "Navidad es salud, trabajo, viento todos de la familia". Jack said it meant, "Christmas is about health, work and bringing together the whole family.”

A heartfelt thank you to the O’Dea Gentlemen and Staff, all the amazing volunteers and Mr. OIinger for leading yet another successful Christmas Family Project!

Homeless Dinner

The Christmas season is a time of giving, and this is no more evident than at the annual Dinner with the Homeless, hosted by St. Anne's Parish and School community. Although the event is hosted by the wonderful community on Queen Anne, O'Dea has had an integral and unique opportutnity to participate in this event since it moved up from the homeless shelters to St. Anne's in the late 1980's. Through the leadership of legendary O'Dea Soccer Coach and St. Anne's Parish member Pat Raney, O'Dea began providing the homeless with transportation from various shelters up to the top of Queen Anne for dinner, music and gifts. Using the recognizable maroon and gold buses, O'Dea has been able to help serve a population that needs to be shown compassion during this cold and challenging time; it's a service we are grateful to provide and hope to continue for years to come.

Misa de la Madre de las Americas

By Johnny Swan '17

On Saturday, December 5th, hundreds, perhaps a thousand, people processed through Seattle to St. James Cathedral to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas. At the Cathedral, the people processed down the center aisle in their native clothing, playing drums, playing music and chanting.

The Feast Of Our Lady of Guadalupe, known as “Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Madre de las Américas” in Spanish, is an important celebration to the Hispanic community. It commemorates the time when the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego.

Archbishop Sartain celebrated the Mass in Spanish and the Cathedral was packed, standing room only, for this special mass.

O'Dea students attended to volunteer and help hand out flyers to incoming guests of the Mass. Many were able to practice their Spanish because almost everyone attending the Mass spoke Spanish. It was a great service opportunity and a great way to see, and celebrate, another culture.

Student Life

O'Dea Holiday Broadcast

By Michelle Traverso, Director of Drama

On December 7th the O'Dea Holiday Broadcast filled the Knights of Columbus Hall with holiday cheer. O'Dea's Jazz band played such standards as *A Big Band Christmas, A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and *Auld Lang Sine*, led by Director of Music Mr. Dan Ruiter. *The Abbott and Costello Christmas Radio Show of 1943* was performed by 11 O'Dea and Holy Names Academy actors. On a somber note, *A Soldier's Night Before Christmas* was recited; which told the traditional poem from Santa's point of view as he observed a lone American Soldier on Christmas Eve. That was followed by Fredrick Cooper singing *I'll Be Home for Christmas*. The evening ended with carol singing and refreshments. It was a festive evening enjoyed by all in attendance!

Cultural Club Potluck

By Clarence Leung '16

On the first day of December, the cultural clubs of O'Dea High School gathered across the street at St. James' cafeteria for a united Cultural Club Potluck. Each club brought delicious foods to share which represented their unique heritage. Cheers and laughter resonated throughout the cafeteria as lines formed around the tables serving food. It was a great opportunity for the cultural clubs to join together and embrace each other's diversity.

Counseling Office

The Road to College Admissions!

This has been a very exciting couple of months for the O'Dea High School Counseling Department. Since the start of the school year we have seen at least 100 colleges visit our campus. These colleges have come from as close as Seattle University, to as far as Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. The desire for so many colleges to visit O'Dea speaks volumes about the young men at O'Dea High School. The hard work our students put into not only their work in the classroom, but also in the community and the sports fields, show the strong character our young men embody. Their future is bright! Nearly every senior has applied to college and we look forward to updating you all on their acceptances in the spring.

SAT and ACT Prep Courses

SAT Prep Courses begin January 23rd and ACT Courses begin February 20th:

Mazor Test Prep Co. is pleased to offer its highly regarded SAT and ACT preparation course at a discount to O'Dea students once again this year. They have an excellent 28-year reputation for helping thousands of students in the greater Seattle area get the college entrance exam scores they need. The SAT and ACT courses offer:

• Expert, effective, and caring instruction
• Small classes
• Up-to-date course materials
• Plenty of practice, exposure, and feedback

• Significantly discounted tuition for O'Dea students

You'll find registration, schedules, and information to help you decide whether to take the SAT or the ACT at www.mazortestprep.com. Please use the Schools Program code ODEA to get your $100 O'Dea Schools Program discount. Contact Lisa Mazor at 206.632.TEST (8378) or lisa@mazortestprep.com for more information.

Admissions

Winter Open House

Prospective students and families, please join us for our Winter Open House on Thursday, January 7th, from 6-8 PM at O'Dea High School. Learn about our Catholic Education, College-Preparatory Academics, Brotherhood, Student Life, and rich tradition of Winning, with Honor. O'Dea will validate parking at the Cabrini Center Garage located across the street from the O'Dea parking lot on Marion Street.

Looking Ahead
Class of 2020 Application Deadline: January 11, 2016

For further information, please contact Kristian Patterson, Director of Admissions, at kpatterson@odea.org or (206) 622-1308.

Alumni

30th Annual O'Dea Golf Tournament

Golfers, please mark your calendars for the 30th Annual O'Dea Golf Tournament.

When: Monday, June 20, 2016
Where: Golf Club at Newcastle
Time: 1:30PM Shotgun Start

Registration information will be available during Spring 2016. The O'Dea Golf Tournament is open to everyone, 21+, not just O'Dea Alumni! To help sponsor our tournament, please contact David Mazzeo in the Development Office at 206-622-0722, or dmazzeo@odea.org. Go Irish!

Alumni Class Notes

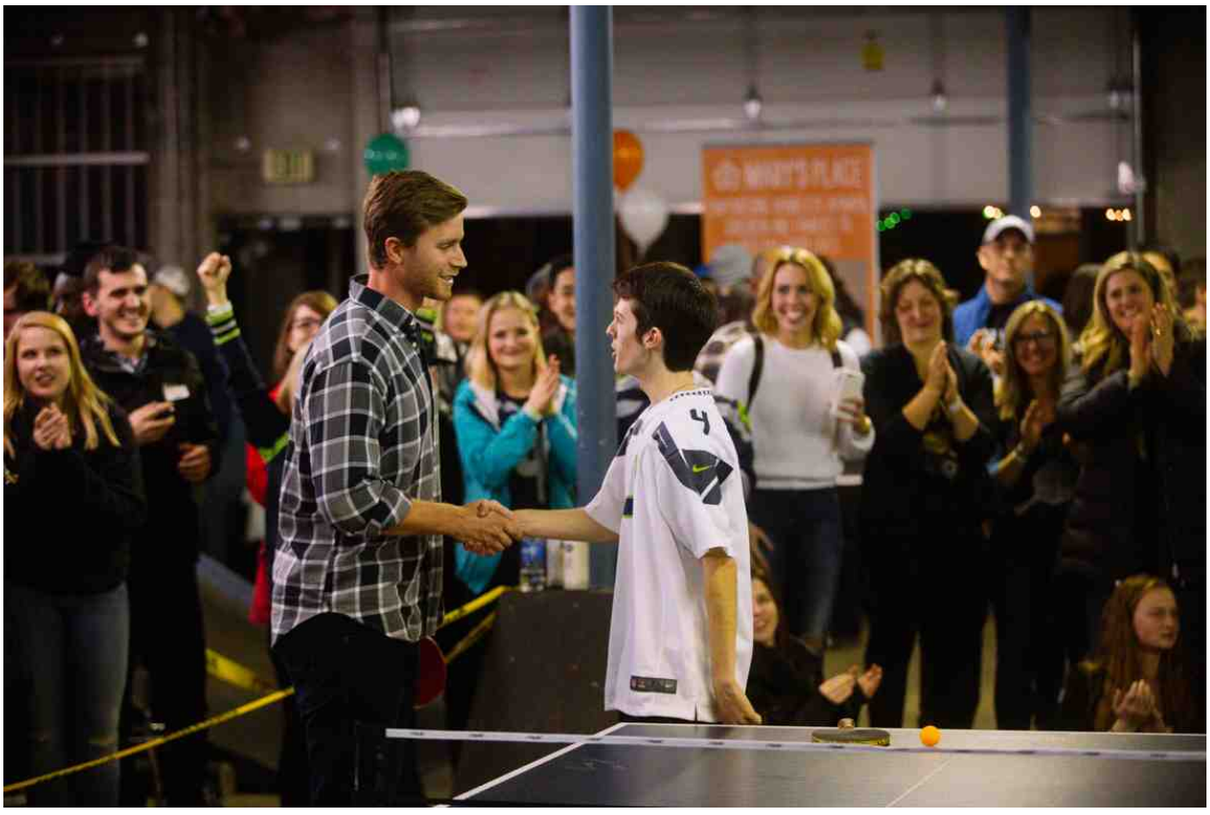
O'Dea Alumni everywhere are celebrating milestones and making positive impacts in their communities. Here are just a few of the more recent accomplishments or momentous occasions to be celebrated:

C Allen Greene IV '95 was recently promoted to Athletic Director at University of Buffalo. Greene has spent the past two years serving as deputy athletic director, overseeing the Mid-American Conference school's most high-profile programs: football, and men's and women's basketball.

Congratulations are in order to **Bryan Benn 2000,** who recently got engaged to long-time girlfriend, Marie Olmstead.

Former O'Dea teacher and alum, **Tim Moriarty '04,** starred as Sam Sheppard, on the TV series "A Crime to Remember" during December on ID Discovery. The true-crime cable series examined the 1954 murder of Marilyn Reese Sheppard.

Johnny Ochsner '15 competed in the Steven Hauschka Celebrity Ping Pong Tournament last December. Ochsner finished second overall, losing a close battle to the Seahawks kicker. Being the true O'Dea gentleman that he is, we think he may have purposely given the crowd a good show, letting Hauschka grab the victory.



Fathers' Club

Italian Dinner

Happy 2016! We hope that you and your family experienced the joy and peace of Christmas and that this new year will be the best yet.

Here at the Fathers' Club, we're getting ready to host the annual Italian Dinner on January 30,2016 at 6pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall in downtown Seattle. This event is an old tradition at O'Dea and gives the entire O'Dea community an opportunity to see old friends and make new ones. The food is delicious and you'll have the opportunity to hear from the O'Dea staff, alumni and current students. The funds raised by the Italian Dinner go a long way toward helping the Fathers' Club meet its annual fundraising goal, benefitting the school and the community in many ways.

We are looking for additional items to offer during the Italian Dinner raffle, so please consider donating wine, weekends away, or any other high-value items that will help us to raise funds for the school. For more information, please contact us at Fathers-Club@odea.org.

Finally, don't forget that our meetings are the first Wednesday of the month (6:30pm in the Biology Lab). Please consider attending and meeting some of the greatest dads we know!

All the best,
Travis & Marcel

Mothers' Club

The Mother's Club would like to send a very special thank you to all the parents who supported Santa's Helper for the staff this year. As always our community is incredibly generous and it is very much appreciated by all!

Thank you also to those of you who supported our SCRIP program during the holidays! All proceeds help to support O'Dea gentlemen in need. Please continue to purchase gift cards from O'Dea via SCRIP – it's a win-win for all of us! You can visit the O'Dea website http://www.odea.org/parents/mothers-club/ to access the Great Lakes website and enrollment details. You can also download and print an order form that can be completed and sent in with a check to the main office "Attention: Mothers Club". Thanks so much for your support!

Please join us in the Library for the next Mother's club meeting, Thursday, January 21st in the O'Dea Library. Mr. Lazarek will be speaking about the Gurian teaching model and how boy's both learn and benefit from this teaching method. Social at 6:30 meeting begins promptly at 7:00 PM. If the parking lot is full you can part in the Cabrini garage (validated).

Development

Posh Auction

Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, March 12th, 2016 for our annual POSH Auction – We Create Great!

Money raised at this year's POSH Auction will enable us in two significant ways. First, it will allow for us to continue providing financial aid to families in need. Diversity is a fundamental aspect of who we are at O'Dea High School. Not only is socio-economic diversity essential to the O'Dea experience, it is a signature strength of our student body. Your donation will also help to enrich our students' educational experiences by further integrating technology into learning and developing our classrooms into models that reflect our Gurian teaching style. These updated classrooms will create the best environment for our students to learn, grow, and thrive.

We look forward to seeing you! GO IRISH!

For further information, please contact Dianne Irwin, Director of Development, at dirwin@odea.org or (206) 622-7151.

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