There’s no better way to kick off the school year than blasting some music, enjoying some ice-cold snowballs, and a lot of dancing.

This year’s Back-to-School Dance took on a Hawaiian flair with a luau theme, turning the Traditions Courtyard into a tropical paradise. The luau theme inspired many to don grass skirts, coconut bras, and leis as they danced the night away.

The dance, which was held on Sept. 7, was beautifully decorated. The flashing lights keeping the energy high and the music drew participants to their feet to dance. Ice-cold snowballs served as refreshments and, of course, the dance provided tons of opportunities to reunite with old friends and hang out with new ones.

“Everyone is just having a lot of fun,” said pre-freshman Christian Butler. “It’s just a great opportunity to grab some friends and hang out.”

Kristen Tholen, a student of Dominican High School, said, “I basically went because it was a social event, which I enjoy, and I like to go and have fun at dances.”

Tholen said she found the theme original and fun, and brought several friends with her to the dance. Overall, the dance served as an informal, fun and lively event for both Blue Jays and the guests from the various girl’s high schools throughout the New Orleans area. The turnout was among the highest seen in recent years.

Hawaiian shirts and leis were the look of the night as Blue Jays kicked off the school year with a luau theme for the annual Back-to-School Dance, one of the most successful in memory.

Web site gets user-friendly makeover

By Seth Schmitt
Staff Writer

The new year brings a new look to Jesuit’s Web site, giving it a more streamlined look and making it more maneuverable for the various audiences it serves.

The site, located at www.jesuitnola.org, first came online in 1999, but hadn’t undergone a major upgrade since 2002. “We wanted to make the Web site look more modern and make it search and navigate better,” said Mrs. Wendy Schneider, Alumni Events Coordinator in the Office of Institutional Advancement. She and Mrs. Meghan Weaver, Creative Director with the office, designed the new site.

Visitors to the jesuitnola.org will immediately notice that enhanced graphic appeal. The Web site now looks more up to date, both visually and in how users can approach it. The site features the latest Jesuit High School news on a blue and white background that’s more polished and clear, with the words more maximized so they’re easier to read.

Another noticeable difference is the Web site’s page length, which is shorter, limiting the information on the main home page to the top stories, rather than putting everything on one, long scrolling page. All the information is still available, however, by clicking on the various links from the home page.

The search box is more prominently featured, and also does a better job now of refining choices to reach what users are seeking more quickly.

While some students were hesitant to accept the changes, being accustomed to using the older version of the site, most users have expressed satisfaction with the upgrades to the site.

Several teachers said it is much more convenient to go directly to the information they need, including quick access to J.A.Y.S.O.N., the class scheduling and homework portal within the site.

Mrs. Schneider noted that such ease of use was one of their goals.

See WEB SITE, Page 4

Tropical island flair makes Back-to-School Dance a hit

By Alex Thomas
Staff Writer

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Leaders among the student body at Jesuit can be readily seen in many capacities, ranging from athletic teams to Student Council. One of our school’s leaders, however, exercises his leadership in a quieter way, focusing on the spirituality of the Blue Jay community.

As viceroy (the student leader) of Campus Ministry, John Guerra is involved in nearly every aspect of the spiritual formation of Jesuit students, from assisting at regular Masses to helping organize retreats and the various grade-level evenings of reflection. The devoted Blue Jay also is a member of the Blessed Bernardine de Hoyo’s Sodality.

We caught up with him recently to learn more about him, and found a genuine joy and sense of purpose in living his faith.

**The Blue Jay:** What’s it like to be the leader of Campus Ministry?

**John Guerra:** As viceroy, I’ve been so blessed and honored to see my closest friends grow more in love with Christ and with all of their families in the Jesuit community. I’ve seen so blessed to see the entire student body learn to listen, to live, and to teach themselves throughout their growth.

I have been able to grow closer to students of all grades and background and to set a tone for their Jesuit career ahead with Christ.

I also have the blessing of forming friendships with teachers, staff, and student leaders of school organizations. I’ve grown very close to the Campus Ministry board and especially Mr. Jeremy Reuther, director of Campus Ministry, who teaches me more and more every day in his class and his office with his criticism, his patience, his advice, and his work.

**TBJ:** Have you noticed any changes in students this year?

**JG:** Campus Ministry this year is awesome. Literally. What God has done with it fills me with awe. We’ve taught so well and seen so many men begin to live with Christ and take Mary as their mother.

The hard work and dedication of Mr. Reuther, the board, and all the ministers has paid off and is surely pleasing to God in that they have given so much time for the good of the Jesuit family. The eighth and ninth-grade Nights of Reflection both inspired me and led me back to Christ myself and allowed Christ to work through us and get to these young men in a new, personal, and intimate way. The renewal of faith at Jesuit is per- petually moving forward.

**TBJ:** What was your experience like at World Youth Day in Rio?

**JG:** World Youth Day reminded me of all the things I have that I don’t need, the presence of Christ everywhere, the beauty and love that comes from the sufferings of a poor life, the importance of brotherhood and legacy, the amazing and undeserved gift of the Society of Jesus, and the treasure that Jesus New Orleans is in every way. That’s that in a nutshell. I can’t tell you the story in full, but because you then you’d have to add at least five more full pages to The Blue Jay!

**TBJ:** Who is your favorite saint?

**JG:** Mary, Mother of God. But besides her, I don’t have one favorite saint. But I do have a few personal patrons: St. Therese of Lisieux, Bl. Teresa of Calcutta, Bl. John Paul the Great, and St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe, who is my Confirmation saint.

I like them the most because of their understanding of human dignity, a need for Christ in the world, their message that Christ is among us very much alive and active, and their having been so recently canonized or beatified.

I feel they understand my world and my struggle and know how to purify my intentions so God hears them and is merciful towards them. And also because those names are just really cool sounding.

**TBJ:** What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

**JG:** I play piano, classically mostly because that is all my teacher teaches me. I love Pelicans.

**TBJ:** Have you had the opportunity to meet Cardinal Dolan, the archbishop of New York, following Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral during the group’s recent pilgrimage?

**JG:** The Our Father It reminds me to praise God, to try to know Him, search for Him, and know that He wills, ask what we need to live that will, persevere through temptation, be forgiven and be fair by always forgiving and loving others, and telling the world that God is alive, awesome, most high and perfect, and triumphant against all evil.

**TBJ:** Who’s been your favorite teacher or time in class?

**JG:** Beginning class one day, Mr. Powers did the Sign of the Cross (in Latin, of course), and began praying, “Dearest Lord, friend and brother, most merciful,” when he saw someone in the back of the class talking.

He yelled out to him, “Get out in the hall!” The student asked in surprise, “But why, Mr. Powers?” And he replied, “Because you’re being a jackass!”

He walked outside and Mr. Powers sat in the chair with his eyes closed and looked up for a few seconds while not knowing what was going on since it was still the middle of the prayer.

Then Mr. Powers slowly walked to the door, opened it and said to the student in a soft and slightly British voice, “Come back in here. I’m sorry, you know I love you.”

He came in smiling and sat down and Mr. Powers asked where were we and we told him “Prayer.” So he immediately told us to pray loudly and he began: “O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you.”

**TBJ:** What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

**JG:** I pray piano, classically mostly because that is all my teacher teaches me. I love Pelicans.

### By Jason Lalonde

**Staff Writer**

Blue Jays hit the Big Apple last month for a pilgrimage that was both spiritually and culturally uplifting.

The Sodality took 10 Jesuit sophomores and juniors on the journey to New York. While not as arduous a trip as pilgrimages of old faced, modern travel does not diminish the experience.

The group arrived in New York at 1:30 a.m. subway ride into Jersey City, a Brooklyn neighborhood, followed by a walk around Manhattan. A breakfast of traditional bagels was followed by a tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, walks through some beautiful churches, and even an impromptu game of football with a shoe in Central Park. The day concluded with a more professional sporting event, a Mets game at the new Citi Field.

Following the buzz of our first day in the city, the pilgrims began the most solemn part of the trip, traveling to Our Lady of Compassion Shrine in nearby Woodbourne, N.Y. The day at the shrine was marked by prayer and celebrating Mass.

As our Blessed Mother is the patroness of Jesuit’s Sodality, the visit to the shrine was a particular highlight. In Sodality, we always pray for the interces- sion of Mary in our prayers.

Personally, learning that I can pray to Mary under the title of Our Lady of Compassion is comforting to know. While I pray to Mary every night, I never thought of asking her intercession in the form of compassion before. This new-found aspect of my own spirituality is one of the best results that I took away from this trip.

Our final day of the pilgrimage brought us back to Manhattan for Mass at one of the greatest churches in the United States, St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

The Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the archbishop of New York, who also is an excellent speaker. His homily on why we need God in our lives through all the gru- mims of old faced, modern travel does not diminish the experience. The group arrived in New York at 1:30 a.m. subway ride into Jersey City, a Brooklyn neighborhood, followed by a walk around Manhattan. A breakfast of traditional bagels was followed by a tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, walks through some beautiful churches, and even an impromptu game of football with a shoe in Central Park. The day concluded with a more professional sporting event, a Mets game at the new Citi Field.

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Some flexibility would benefit testing calendar

By Patrick Fine
Managing Editor

At Jesuit, students often hear the words “testing calendar” through the course of a day but they may not understand it. The goal of the testing calendar is to help busy students through Jesuit’s rigorous curriculum. It only allows certain subjects to administer tests on certain days. For example, the Science Department can only test on three days out of the seven-day rotation. This prevents students from being overwhelmed by having to prepare for more than three tests in one day.

The purpose is to help students keep up with their work and not get poor grades because of an overload of work at one time. However, I have often wondered if this system really works to the benefit of the students. I have to admit that the idea is well-meaning, but the practicality sometimes makes me wonder.

Staying true to the testing calendar has been rigorously enforced by the administration for the past year, some difficulty has arisen. Strictly adhering to it gives teachers and students alike little wiggle room.

“Sometimes, when I have a hard teacher,” says, “We can’t test that day because it is not a testing day.”

Even if that day is the best day for testing, following the conclusion of a part of the syllabus, the testing calendar rules.

As a result, the teacher will often move forward with new material, hoping the students will remember the older material that the test will cover. When the testing day comes around, this may require students to backtrack to study material covered as far back as five or six days.

If the teacher reviews the older material on the day before the test, the students will generally do better once they have had a chance to ask any new questions that have arisen. This option is not a perfect solution, however, as the teacher may be backtracking for some slots and not, resulting in lost instruction time. If one class is testing on its testing day is several days after the other slots, that class must move more quickly through the new material in order to catch up to the other slots.

An Analysis

The overall goal of the testing calendar is to help students properly for every subject.

In preventing a student from having more than three tests in a single day, it allows students to study properly for every subject.

A student can do better on each assessment because he has the time needed to prepare fully.

In addition, if different subjects test a few days apart, the material will be spread out giving the student an easier time picking up the material. If a test had just been administered in one course, that class will move a little more slowly in introducing brand new material.

This pace contrasts drastically with a class that is nearing a new test, cramming in new material while also reviewing old material, all to meet the test day deadline.

The subjects on the testing calendar also are paired in such a way that two subjects requiring lots of memorization are not tested on the same day.

For example, Latin requires its students to learn and be able to translate many lines on a single test. This requires lots of study time. Math, on the other hand, requires a broader understanding of a topic and an ability to do certain problem types. These tests would require less studying than a subject like Latin or history.

Whether you like the testing calendar or you hate it, it has its benefits, as well as its challenges.

Perhaps it does have room for some adjustments and flexibility, but ultimately, it is up to the individual student to take responsibility for how he does in school.

Felipe’s Taqueria is just one of the new dining options right in the neighborhood. The Taste Buds have scoped out their favorite meals here, as well as at Panera Bread and Five Guys Burgers.

Taste Buds find much to like on Carrollton’s dining row

By Brendan Besh and Jack Hebert
The Taste Buds

Felipe’s Taquería

Felipe’s takes the concept of quick Mexican food and masters it. With its wide variety of meat, beans, salsas, and other toppings, Felipe’s focuses on customizing your dish to perfection. Along with the savory refried beans and cool sour cream, the choice of a Super Burrito with fresh ingredients, refried beans, rice, salsa verde, sour cream, and guacamole (which costs extra) is the perfect burrito one craves after an exhausting day at school.

As far as other items mems the house-made gueso dip is particularly great with chorizo and pico de gallo on top.

Felipe’s is the best quick Mexican you can get anywhere in the city.

We hope you check out these new restaurants nearby and enjoy their convenience as much as we do! Tune in next time as we dive into some of the great dives of Uptown. Until then, stay hungry, Jesuit High School.

Guerra

Continued from Page 2
Runners, swimmers race to top

Senior Liam Fitzgerald, left, who took second place overall, makes a move toward the front of the pack at the Oct. 12 Country Day Classic at City Park. Photo by jesuotola.org

Cross country, swim teams are poised for strong showings in post-season

By William Fine

News Editor

Beginning a new season with a new coach and a number of new runners, the cross country team has begun its quest to win the state title.

The team finished in third place statewide last year but appear poised for an even stronger showing this year. Under the guidance of Coach Rudy Horvath, Class of 1986, the team has seven returning seniors and six returning juniors. They have preparing all summer for the season.

This year, the Jays will participate in several season meets as well as in the post-season. The team started the season strong with wins at the Wolfpack Invitational and the Country Day Classic. The team was led by Liam Fitzgerald with individual third and second-place showings in those meets. The Jays started post-season play with the NOLA championship on Oct. 31. The district championship was on Nov. 2, followed by the Catholic League championship on Nov. 7. (Results were not yet available at press time. Check jesuotola.org for current standings.)

The swim team also has begun its season strongly. Coach Bret Hanemann, Class of 1986, leads the team in its defense of its state championship title, as well as its unprecedented 31st straight Metro Championship. The Blue Jays swimmers opened the season strong with a win at the Jesuit Invitational. They had great performances by Chris Simmons, Michael Conrad, Francis Plough, Felix Rabito, and Cade Fuxan.

Jesuit’s swimmers captured the District 9-5A championship at the UNO Lakefront Arena, beating rivals Holy Cross, Brother Martin, and Archbishop Rummel on Oct. 19.

The Blue Jays took first place in the 200-yard medley relay and 400-yard freestyle relay, and took second place in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Individual swimmers taking first place were junior Chris Simmons in the 200-yard individual medley and junior Michael Conrad in the 500-yard freestyle.

Daily practices and hard work have paid off as the swimmers took strong heading into post-season meets.

Whether on land or in the water, Blue Jays are racing to the top. Come out and support their efforts. The runners and swimmers all say they get a boost in motivation when they see fellow classmates cheering them on at their meets.

Tough season has football team 4-4

By Jerry Spencer

Sports Editor

After a strong start of the year, Jesuit’s football team finds itself facing some tough losses as it reaches the peak of its season with a 4-4 record.

The Blue Jays ended September well, extending their record to 3-1 in reestablishing the historic rivalry against the Pensacola Tigers. Although almost 50 years had passed since the teams last met, the Blue Jays showed why they led the series 12-6. Jesuit gained another victory with a score of 28-7.

After a scoreless first quarter, junior quarterback Trey LaForge threw two touchdown passes to juniors Malcolm Ben and Alex Rahal, giving the Blue Jays a 14-0 lead to end the first half. During the second half, tailback Ben plowed through the Tiger defense to score two touchdowns, which gave Ben three total touchdowns on the day and doubled Jesuit’s lead to 28-0. Pensacola’s offense was shut down by the powerful “Blue Curtain.”

The Jays did not have the same success against the state championship contender East Jefferson. The Warrior defense, having only given up 17 points during the season thus far, held Jesuit from scoring a touchdown. The game resulted in a 21-0 East Jeff win.

Though all games are important, few are as highly regarded as the Jesuit-Holy Cross. This year’s contest proved to be an intense battle until its end. In the first quarter the Jesuit Blue Jays and Holy Cross Tigers traded field goals as the score was tied as a result of Crew Jacob’s trusty leg. The second quarter, however, proved to be the deciding factor as the Tigers scored 10 points to acquire a 13-3 lead.

At the second half the Jays rallied back in their shutting down the Tiger offense and scoring 10 points of their own, with another field goal and a 1-yard touchdown run for running back Michael McMahon, tying the game at 13.

With two seconds left, however, Holy Cross booted its way to a 16-13 victory, Jesuit’s first loss in six years to the historic rival.

The Jays’ record hit the 50 percent mark at 4-4, with a 24-17 win over Archbishop Shaw, followed by a heartbreaking homecoming loss to Archbishop Rummel of 24-21.

Scoreboard

vs. Rummel (Oct. 25)
LOSS 24-21

vs. Shaw (Oct. 19)
WIN 24-17

vs. Holy Cross (Oct. 11)
LOSS 16-13

vs. East Jeff (Oct. 3)
LOSS 21-0

vs. Pensacola (Sept. 27)
WIN 28-7

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News/Sports

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