

## President's Christmas Message

When Jesus Christ came into our world he was more ordinary and human than most expected.

The Christ-Child's home in Nazareth had love as its only wealth.

We are once again struck by the energy and beauty of this "Season of Giving."

We have so much to be thankful to our students and parents, faculty and administrators, alumni and staff who have given the best of themselves and their commitment to community.

As we commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ and its role in renewing our faith and mission, I am truly grateful for this opportunity to thank all who support St. John's College and our Jesuit community of learners.

During this Christmas Season and all year through, may we find humility and simplicity, peace and holiness. May we share in the gladness of the Shepherds and the reverence of the three wise men. May your Christmas be a portrait of love and kindness.

May we live Oren Arnold's Christmas gift suggestions: "to your enemy, forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to a customer, service; to all, charity; to every child, a good example; and to yourself, respect.

On behalf of St. John's College, God bless you and your families this Christmas Season and very many best wishes for 2013.

# St. John's College Ranks #1, Again!

www.sjc.edu.bz Phone: 223-3732

"Our Jesuit ideals and pedagogy, applied by a faculty of lifetime experience and knowledge, inspire an ambitious set of students hungry for learning and excellence. Our rigorous curriculum, modern facilities and visible parents augur well for a culture that traverses teaching. Congratulations are in order to our parents and students, administrators and faculty, and our Jesuit community."

- Jorge L. Espat  
President



**Caribbean Examinations Council reports that S.J.C. Junior College students scored BEST PERFORMANCE for Belize in 2012 Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE).**

- ✓ MOST OUTSTANDING CANDIDATE for Belize: Dorien O. Villafranco
- ✓ SECOND HIGHEST SCORE for Belize: Khadija S. Usher
- ✓ THIRD HIGHEST SCORE for Belize: Vanessa Z. Ayala

## BEST PERFORMANCE IN INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT AWARDS

Pure Mathematics 1:	Dorien Villafranco	Biology 2:	Mark Wallace
Caribbean Studies:	Dorien Villafranco	Sociology 2:	Melissa Guerra
Physics 1:	Dorien Villafranco	Chemistry 2:	Yusef Flowers
Pure Mathematics 2:	Dorien Villafranco	Economics 2:	Alexia Peralta
Physics 2:	Dorien Villafranco	Environmental Science 2:	Yamira Novelo
Communication Studies:	Dorien Villafranco	History 2:	Keron Card
History 1:	Jordan Craig	Literatures in English 2:	Robin Schaffer
Sociology:	Tracy Lewis		



MOST OUTSTANDING CANDIDATE for Belize:  
Dorien O. Villafranco

## BEST PERFORMANCE IN INDIVIDUAL HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECT AWARDS

Kody S. August - French  
Aubrey D. Coc - Physical Education & Sport  
Anfernee D. Longworth - Mathematics



## Central Region Volleyball Secondary School Tournament

1st Place Volleyball Champions  
2nd Place National Champions



## Central Region Volleyball Tertiary Tournament

1st Place Volleyball Male Champions  
1st Place Volleyball Female Champions

## CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT

Dorien O. Villafranco, Khadija S. Usher, Vanessa Z. Ayala, Jordan Craig, Tracy Lewis, Mark Wallace, Melissa Guerra, Yusef Flowers, Alexia Peralta, Yamira Novelo, Keon Card, Robin Schaffer, Kody August, Rudolph Castillo, Shelby Castillo, Aubrey Coc, Inaru Enriquez, Dion Gill, Malcolm Griffith, Keith Harris, Tarun Issrani, Phillip Kwok, Anfernee Longworth, Fallen Miles, Ahmad Palacio, Nertavo Rancharan, Aaron Tillet, Roland Verde, Ismael Vasquez, Daniel Waight, Henquief Williams, Andre Alamina, Carlos Alamina, Anfernee Baizar, Kwame Bennett, Javier Castillo, Jason Chan, Johan Chan, Samir Chebat, Michael Cooper, Jay Deng, Alexander Ellis, Jalen Good, Tyler Habet, Ming He, Zhuo Huang, Andrew Hunter, Frank Lopez, Myric Marin, David McIntosh, Tariq Middleton, Fernando Perera, Jaime Perera, Wilson Poon, Henry Rivas, Floyd Robinson, Adrian Sosa, Patrick Thomas, Taryn Thompson, Leo Tonaco, Dorant Tun, Omar Varela, Immanuel Williams



# Welcoming Freshmen Students

Nearing the end of September and after all the grand planning and building of unity at the start of the new school year's orientations, the sophomores, juniors and seniors of the High School division participated in a program planned to entertain the freshmen students. The show included performances varying in drama, poetry, melodious and instrumental performances. Teachers and students, especially the new youngsters, were not only enticed by the great talent displayed on the stage, but evidently, were overjoyed by the spectacular event that manifests the unity and harmonized relationship that would only unfold more briskly in the months to come.



## BCAPSS Junior Level Volleyball Tournament

During October and November, a number of High School students from among the Catholic secondary schools took part in the Junior Level Volleyball Tournament. The tournament was held in the SJC Gym and SJC's Volleyball Team was well represented as they played diligently and displayed enviable sportsmanship with all teams.



# Celebrating 125 years of Service to Belize and Beyond

## **Uplifting Jesuit Identity: The College continues to strengthen the response to the call of service by re-connecting with our roots**

November 26th marked the Feast Day of the Patron Saint of SJC, John Berchmans, the young Jesuit seminarian from Belgium whose extraordinary life of accomplishment cum simplicity 4 centuries ago has furnished the most instructive guidepost for achieving the school's mission, begun in 1887 with the founding of SJC, charted according to Catholic Church stewardship in the mid-19th century and grew out of the world-wide works of the Order of the Society of Jesus as approved by Pope Paul III in 1540.

School-wide activities throughout the month highlighted significant elements of the school's service to society, reflecting the most remarkable spirit that has shaped the achievements over the years and at the same time created the promise of a brighter future.

Each Division undertook various projects, all designed to reach out in the service of others by visiting the needy, feeding the homeless, receiving guests to the campus, cleaning classrooms, and assisting at a number of service sites.



The Junior College faculty humbly engaged in an outreach activity as they visited and assisted the residents of Santa Martha Village. A total of twenty-five care packages were taken and distributed to the families and three shut-ins were visited in their homes where a supply of groceries was given to them as well. SJC faculty members and the villagers united as they prayed, sang and watched the children of Santa Martha Government School have fun during their sports day. Beyond focusing on academics and development of the College's best interests, SJC remains committed to others in serving the greater community and living the Jesuit Mission. Congratulations to Mrs. Mirtha Peralta, Dean of the Junior College, for the great organization and a job well done. A special thanks goes out to all students and faculty for participating and making this mission a reality and a rewarding one for the villagers of Santa Martha Village.





The Alumni Board of The St. John's College Alumni Association merged its efforts with the Junior College students on Saturday, November 24th in furthering the cause for outreach at the Sr. Cecilia's Home and the Dorothy Menzies Child Care Center. A morning full of wonder, building up and strengthening Ignatian values as broadly as possible. Thanks to all Alumni Board Members for their participation, Alumni Director, Ms. Adelaide Sabido, and students for their active participation & involvement.

The Karate Club, spearheaded by Ms. Sol Yam and Ms. Adelaide Sabido, worked in collaboration with the House of Shotokan Academy in a community outreach held on November 24th. The students visited the Battlefield Park where they distributed delicious turkey dinner to the homeless. Apart from developing healthy minds and healthy bodies, HOSKA teaches its students to have a kind heart and enables one to seek perfection of character, be faithful, endeavour to excel, respect others and refrain from violent behaviour.



## Recognizing Sports and Physical Strengths

The High School held its annual triathlon with much fanfare among the entire student body, with lower and upper classmen absorbingly connected to their newly-embraced sport. A number of students faced the music of the frigid temperatures by doing their aqua-athletic games as well as their cycling and running with heightened pace and gusto.





# The Living Rosary

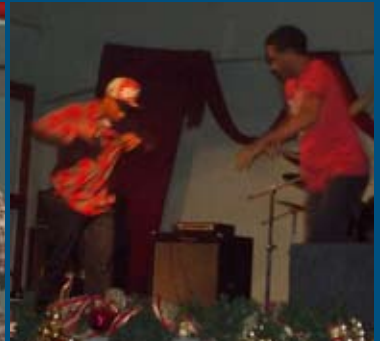
October ended with both divisions engaging in uplifting prayers and devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The High School division gathered for the Living Rosary in Fordyce Memorial Chapel where a rose was placed at the feet of Mary at the beginning of every decade. The entire high school division came together as one family fully rooted in the Jesuit traditions.



## SJC hosts Annual Dinner Theatre



The Christmas Season is surrounded with an atmosphere of love and giving like no other season of the year. Our attention is turned from our day-to-day routine and is directed toward giving and basking in the warmth of our friends and loved ones. The High School had its second Christmas Show on December 3rd, hosting parents, guardians, students and other guests. Performances stretched across the stage from drama, poetry, dances, musical, and instrumental pieces. Each class performed an item of entertainment for their special audience and displayed the significant and rich talent the students surely have. The act of lifting up our hearts has a magic in itself and a healing that can be felt in each person. May there always be love in your life, a spring in your step, and a song in your heart.



# Liturgical Convention



This year's National Liturgical Convention was held the first weekend in October on the Landivar Campus. On Friday, October 5th, Auxiliary Bishop Christopher Glancy welcomed the congregation gathered at the Fordyce Memorial Chapel and briefed them on the purpose and initiative for the celebration. Bishop Dorick Wright was also present and shared a few welcoming words. A number of workshops were then held in the classrooms at Raszkowski Hall and Weber Hall and a closing Mass was held on October 6th.

The spoken words of Auxiliary Bishop Glancy provided the context for the participants' reflections: "The Liturgy is the Work of God in which the Church participates. That work of salvation is lived in the sacramental life of the Church and the official prayer of the Church in the Liturgy of the Hours. The Eucharist and the celebration of the other sacraments is the core of our prayer life as a community. In all of the sacraments and especially in the Eucharist we celebrate the Pascal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our liturgy draws us together and forms us as a people of God to continue the ministry of announcing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our daily lives. That is why it is so important that we learn more about the liturgy."

## TAIWANESE ART COMPETITION

A freshman student from the High School, Orlando Pelayo, won the Selected Award for the 43rd World School Children's Art Exhibition submitted on May 21st, 2012 while he was a student at St. Joseph Primary School. Orlando Pelayo received an award of Distinction on Thursday, October 25th, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at a special ceremony at St. Joseph Primary School campus. The Ambassador of Taiwan made the presentation of the award to Orlando. We are proud of Orlando and offer our sincerest congratulations to him on such achievement.





# Catholic Leadership Conference



The perception of Leadership can be described as a process of social influence in which one can enlist the aid and support of others in the achievement of some just objective. The Six Biennial Catholic Leadership Conference was held in Chunox on Saturday, November 17th, 2012 under the theme "Leading in the Light of Christ." The members of the Student Council along with class officers attended the event. The event started with a Mass officiated by Bishop Christopher Glancy and was followed by presentations from students. This event gave students an insight of how leadership plays a very important role in their lives as they are faced everyday with choices and decisions. However, they must remember to emulate the way Christ leads us. Each school had booths to display and share their school memorabilia. Also, representatives were given an opportunity to share the history and accomplishments of their respective schools.

## Sharing Love at Christmas



Counting down the days of Christmas may be one thing a child finds great excitement in. At times, that excitement passes all of us as we go about the days with busy schedules and commitments. For some time now, the College's Campus Ministry Office has had a tradition of hosting a Children's Christmas Party. This year, it was once a success as Campus Ministry Director, Mrs. Lucy Zuniga, collaborated with Junior College students to collect gift items and sponsorship for the party. The Student Lounge flowed with kids as they engaged in numerous party games, face painting, coloring, dancing and cookie decorating. Towards the end, the kids were deeply gleeful as their surprise gift was given to each of them. Special thanks goes out to all those who contributed to make this event so joyful for the little ones especially at this time of the year.





# VACANCY

## St. John's College

Applications are invited to fill the following teaching position in the high school division for the period January to June 2013:

### **Literature Teacher**

#### **Qualifications:**

- ☐ minimum of an Associate's Degree in the relevant field; Bachelor's degree with Education preferred
- ☐ formal teacher-training and/or years of teaching experience in the subject area
- ☐ a full license to teach in Belize
- ☐ commitment to the mission of St. John's College as a Catholic, Jesuit Belizean institution

Successful applicants will be expected to participate in orientation programmes and in SJC's continuous in-service training in relation to the mission and the goals of the College and to Jesuit Education.

**Remuneration:** In accordance with Pay Scales approved by the Ministry of Education

Applications are due Friday, **28th December 2012**

Applications are available at the Office of the President or on line at [www.sjc.edu.bz](http://www.sjc.edu.bz).

Send or deliver completed application form along with cover letter and official sealed transcript to:

**Human Resource Office**  
**P.O. Box 548**  
**Princess Margaret Drive**  
**Belize City, Belize C.A.**  
**E-mail: [hr@sjc.edu.bz](mailto:hr@sjc.edu.bz)**

# Preparing for the world of work by catching students early on for professional placement

Examining Career Pathways in the High School: Getting students to reflect more deliberately about their future and their options as far as work and employment go enhances their personal sense of preparedness for the world beyond school life. Professionals, drawn from numerous work fields, travelled to the campus for an entire day of interaction and reflection on Friday, November 4th and provided all the specifics about career awareness to the High School seniors. Guest-speaker, Dr. Adrian Coye, addressed issues related to the humongous expectations of employers and supervisors as well as the general tenor of the workplace environment including the desire to be an achiever and more so a successful individual.



For many weeks now, the Junior College division has been engaged in their planning of internships among students in both the Natural Sciences and Business Programs. For the young adults, their charges related more specifically to their actual participation in the work at the various service sites that enable them to become better groomed. In the modern world, the demands of work-life are staggering enough to warrant closer attention by the College to the value of work-service preparation in our students' readiness in embracing opportunities with the potential of determining their future.





# Honoring and Celebrating our Diversity

Cultural Day and Masses aim at getting everyone in both the High School and Junior College divisions to set aside some time to highlight the particulars of the diverse cultures of the Belizean society. Towards the end of October, the divisions held their Spanish Mass independently and with a unique flavor. The High School Faculty wore the cultural clothing, 'huipil', with pride to honor and respect the Mestizo Culture. The Junior College continued after their Mass with a cultural exhibit having various stations showcasing food items and cultural artifacts from the various ethnicities in Belize.

Again on November 15th, 2012 another liturgy was celebrated, but this time, in honor of Garifuna Settlement Day. The High School extended an invitation to Delille Academy to visit the College and participate in a spiritual and cultural exchange with the students.

It is events like these that evoke deep pride amongst us as a community, coexisting harmoniously at an appreciable level, forging in the name of unity an exemplary cohesion. Students express an amazing interest in moments of engagement that are designed to foster a deeper awareness of the significant elements of each of Belize's racial-ethnic groups.



# S.J.C. FOURTH FORM STUDENTS VISIT CHETUMAL, QUINTANA ROO

On November 30th, 2012, the Fourth Form students, accompanied by two administrators and five faculty members, participated in an educational trip where they visited Chetumal, Quintana Roo. As they visited the Universidad de Quintana Roo, they were given a tour of the facilities and were enlightened with information concerning the various academic programs being offered.

The students then proceeded to the Planetarium and national zoo. At the zoo, they were amazed to see the different species of animals and the interesting habitats that were built for them. The zoo also had some built bridges which allowed visitors to get from one point to the other. The students ventured to cross the bridges with much valor. The day culminated with the students doing their shopping at the mall. To much surprise and fun, each purchase contained favorite snacks to be brought back home. The College thanks the Belizean Consular in Chetumal, Licenciado Jorge Valencia Gomez, for the courtesies rendered to St. John's College.



## Achieving Academic Excellence

Focusing on academics the College's Administration and High School Faculty would like to congratulate sophomore students Mark Lareto and Kurt Nunez for their academic excellence and their second-time attainment of their scholarships from Rotary Sunrise. We wish them the very best in their continued studies in the High School and in their endeavours thereafter.



## *Congratulations*

to Alumni Board Member Ms. Giselle Waight for her wedding to Mr. Francis Cadle. Blessings and best of wishes to them for the New Year.



# ALTAR OF THE DEAD CONTEST



The Embassy of Mexico extended an invitation to schools to participate in the Altar of the Dead Competition Contest. The altars were installed on the 31 of October, 2012 and the judging took place on November, 2nd 2012 at the Mexican Embassy in Belize City. St. John's College participated and dedicated the altar to the former Leader Emeritus and Prime Minister of Belize, The Rt. Honorable George Price, deceased. This decision came about because the students considered him as an exemplary male figure that should be emulated. His humility, kindness and commitment to serve the people of Belize gained him the respect of many.

On the altar, his favourite food, drinks, fruits along with the traditional Mexican sweets were placed. In addition, beautiful bouquets of flowers decorated the altar. Beside his picture laid his Bible and white Guayabera shirt. Beautiful light, candles and balloons also decorated around the altar. This signified that the deceased lived a life that illuminated the life of others.

At the event, Ricky Alegria, a First Form student, explained to the visitors about the traditional belief in setting the altar. In the end, St. John's College placed third and the students were invited to a trip to Chetumal through the courtesy of the Mexican Embassy.

## Campus Development

Improvements to the physical plant of the campus go on, with the implementation of several small capital projects. Ensuring the upkeep of facilities as well as the maintenance of the grounds moves the process along for continued campus development.







# SJC RAFFLE

## big prizes

Calling on All graduates, friends, supporters and the community

Draw Date: **Friday, 8th February 2013**  
@ the Art Centre, SJC Campus



1. Round Trip ticket for 2 to anywhere in the US (Courtesy of Delta Air Lines)

2. Round Trip ticket to anywhere in the US (Courtesy of Delta Air Lines)

3. Desktop Computer (Gift of GS-Com)



4. \$1000 Savings Account (Gift of Atlantic Bank Ltd.)



5. \$1000 Savings Account (Gift of Belize Bank Ltd.)



6. \$1000 Gift Certificate (Gift of Brothers Habet Ltd.)



7. \$1000 SJC Scholarship for Fees & Books (Gift of St. John's College)



8. Nuwave Infrared Oven (Gift of James Brodie & Co. Ltd.)

9. \$500 Savings Account (Gift of Atlantic Bank Ltd.)



10. \$500 Cash (Gift of Atlantic International Bank Ltd.)

11. \$500 Savings Account (Gift of Holy Redeemer Credit Union Ltd.)

12. \$500 Savings Account (Gift of Scotia Bank Ltd.)



13. Two Nights Room Accommodation in San Pedro (Gift of Sunbreeze Hotel)



14. Round Trip Tickets for 2 to San Pedro (Gift of Maya Island Air)



15. Round Trip Tickets for 2 to San Pedro (Gift of Tropic Air)



16. Kindle Touch (Gift of Fultec Systems)



17. \$300 Cash (Gift of FirstCaribbean International Bank Ltd.)



18. \$300 Savings Account (Gift of Heritage Bank Ltd.)



19. SHOP-VAC Vacuum (Gift of Augusto Quan Ltd.)



20. RCA Digital Camcorder (Gift of Courts Belize Ltd.)



21. Standard Double Tank Fuel Supply (Gift of Puma New Rd/ Puma Pound Yard)



22. DiBo 'Digital Boss' (Gift of Central Cable Vision)

23. Microwave (Gift of Hofius Ltd.)



24. Mega Gift Basket (Gift of Grace Kennedy (Belize) Ltd.)



25. Digicel Package (Gift of Belize Telemedia Ltd.)



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS: Delta Air Lines, GS-Com, Atlantic Bank Ltd., Belize Bank Ltd., Brothers Habet Ltd., James Brodie & Co. Ltd., Atlantic International Bank Ltd., Holy Redeemer Credit Union Ltd., Scotia Bank Ltd., Sunbreeze Hotel, Maya Island Air, Tropic Air, Fultec Systems, First Caribbean International, Heritage Bank, Augusto Quan Ltd., Courts (Belize) Ltd., Puma New Road/ Pound Yard, Central Cable Vision, Hofius Ltd., Grace Kennedy, Belize Telemedia Ltd., LOVE FM & Angelus Press

SJC reminds graduates, friends and supporters to turn in raffles to any of the College's offices. Prizes will be drawn Friday, February 8th, 2013 @ Noon on the Campus & all are invited to join in the entertainment for the big Valentine's.



# Family Mass: Seeking God's blessings for those we serve



In complementing academics, the Liturgy celebrated among students and parents on Sunday, October 28th ended in a spectacular event that exemplified the strong unity present at St. John's College. The congregation was outstanding as parents and guardians turned out in large numbers and participated vigorously in the celebration of the Mass. Students' mid-semester reports were subsequently distributed, with the Faculty fully engaged.

## SJC Karate Club Partakes in Karate Tournament

Two members of the Karate Club, Daniel Cocom and Ms. Adelaide Sabido, participated in an in House Karate Tournament held at the House of Shotokan Academy during the month of November. The two white black belts brought back silver and bronze medals as they placed in both Kata and Kumite competitions. The Members of the High School Karate Club also completed their belt tests On December 15th, 2012 and will be recognized at HOSKA Annual Award Ceremony on January 11th, 2013.

We continue to support the students in an effort to develop discipline and team spirit.



# St. John's College Celebrates the True Meaning of Christmas



At the end of the first semester, the divisions kept the meaning of Christmas alive as they celebrated their liturgies for the Christmas season. With all the decorations, gifts, ribbons, and trappings, it is important that we, as a school, as a community, and as a country remember the true meaning of Christmas--the Birth of Baby Jesus. Let us keep Christmas beautiful without a thought of greed, that it may remain a miracle that brings us closer and strengthens our relationship with God the Almighty Father.