

# THE WARRIOR NEWSPAPER

The Spring Issue

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## STAFF

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**Moderator** Mrs. Lauren Katz  
**Editor-in-Chief** Katha Sikka  
**Website Designer** Raphael Beretta

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## WRITERS

Raphael Beretta  
Onora Cruiser

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Spring Issue of *The Warrior*, the newspaper of Our Lady of Lourdes High School.

Written by current OLL students, these articles span many different topics, including a movie review on the critically acclaimed *The Revenant*, a summary of the exciting events that took place on Accepted Students Night, and a feature on the Pope's perceptive position on contraceptives regarding the Zika virus. Whether you enjoy reading about the steps of a college interview or the success of OLL's swim team, you will be unable to put this issue down, eyes glued to the computer screen.

There are so many accomplishments to be proud of highlighted in this issue. The talents of many Lourdeans – scholars, athletes, volunteers – are shown in every section of this issue, whether in School News or in Sports. In addition, I am grateful to present the Politics and World News section. It is truly amazing how at Lourdes, people not only have opinions on the world's most pressing issues but also present these viewpoints to this

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## WRITERS

Raphael Beretta

Onora Cruser

Michaela Digillo

Ryan Foley

Deanna Jacobs

Frances Jaca

Christina Jodry

Samantha Keller

Roberto Leite

Emily Mantaro

Hunter Savery

Katha Sikka

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There are so many accomplishments to be proud of highlighted in this issue. The talents of many Lourdeans – scholars, athletes, volunteers – are shown in every section of this issue, whether in School News or in Sports. In addition, I am grateful to present the Politics and World News section. It is truly amazing how at Lourdes, people not only have opinions on the world's most pressing issues but also present these viewpoints to this large, school-wide platform. Most of all, I am proud to be such an integral part of making this issue possible, and I would like to personally thank the contributors, the readers, and especially Mrs. Katz.

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TOP

If you are interested in writing for the newspaper, contact either the moderator, Mrs. Katz, or the editor-in-chief, Katha Sikka, at their school emails: [katz@oillchs.org](mailto:katz@oillchs.org)  
[ksikka@oillchs.org](mailto:ksikka@oillchs.org)



SCHOOL NEWS

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## ACCEPTED STUDENTS NIGHT

March 31, 2016





**BY SAMANTHA KELLER**

On Thursday, January 21st, Our Lady of Lourdes hosted an event for the accepted students of the Class of 2020. Accepted students and their parents were guided to the auditorium, where upon entering, prospective students received complimentary "Lourdes Warriors" t-shirts and the opportunity to put their names in a Lourdes' gear raffle. Mrs. Merryman welcomed these guests, who were later treated to speeches on the unique Lourdes experience given by seniors Noelle Pennacchia, Nick Santacroce, Kathryn Witherwax, Matt Sayegh, Billy Wagner, and Kelli Devlin. The OLL Theater Company performed a selection of songs from their Broadway Showcase, and alumni and OLL parent Judge Edward McLoughlin concluded the event with a speech detailing the Lourdes experience.

Accepted students and their families were directed to a pizza party in the cafeteria where the raffle winners were picked. Guests could then proceed to the boys' varsity basketball game against Mahopac, which Lourdes later won.

This Accepted Students Night had a fantastic turnout of an estimated 300 people. Parents and prospective students expressed their thanks for hosting such an informative event and their excitement for partaking in all that Lourdes has to offer. The Our Lady of Lourdes' Accepted Students Night was a great success, and we hope to see these students again in the fall as the Class of 2020.



## THE ARTS COME ALIVE AT LOURDES

March 31, 2016



BY CHRISTINA JODRY AND VICTORIA SMITH

### *BAREFOOT IN THE PARK* BY CHRISTINA JODRY

The Our Lady of Lourdes Drama Club has done it again! Neil Simon's *Barefoot In the Park* was this year's fall play, and once again, the cast and crew left audiences enthralled in a spectacular production. With 1960's New York City as the backdrop, this comedy was about the clash between old and young, responsible and fun. A young married couple, Corie and Paul Bratter, moves into a small, broken-down apartment as Paul is just starting his law career. Corie's mother, a shy, lonely woman, frequently visits and criticizes her daughter's choices. Meanwhile, Corie tries to set her mother up with their mysterious and eccentric Transylvanian upstairs neighbor, Victor Velasco. When all four clash at a dinner party, their respective philosophies about life are challenged. Raphael Beretta as Paul Bratter hypnotized audiences with his wit, sarcasm, and charisma. Sarah Von Egypt captured the role of Corie Bratter with her youthfulness, spontaneity, and zeal for life. Brandon Hoolihan's zany performance left the audience in tears of laughter, and his counterpart, played by Maggie Roach and Michaela Fox, was the perfect contrast. Mr. Junjulas even had a cameo. It was a fantastic play from beginning to end – laughter and hysterics were heard frequently throughout the show from the audience. Good luck to the cast in the upcoming musical, *Seussical the Musical*.



#### **SIT DOWN, YOU'RE ROCKIN' THE BOAT! BY VICTORIA SMITH**

On January 7th and 8th, the 3rd annual student-run Broadway showcase took place. Seniors Julia Wheeler, Victoria Vacca, and Victoria Smith directed this year's program. Friends, family, faculty, and fellow students gathered in the auditorium to watch this extravagant performance. Songs were performed from *Guys and Dolls*, *Spamalot*, *Wicked*, *The Little Mermaid*, and more. Memorable moments include Victoria Smith and Bailey Nichols' wild performance in "The Song that Goes like This", the funny sound line in "We Beseech Thee", and the beautiful harmonies in "One Day More."

The cast included students from every grade who had been rehearsing since September. Under the guidance of the three directors and Mrs. Crocco, they put together an entertaining performance that showcased every student's talents.

If you missed the Broadway Showcase and are interested in viewing some of the selections, contact Victoria Smith.

#### **SEUSSICAL BY VICTORIA SMITH**

Bring your children, younger siblings, and inner child to see *Seussical*. The musical is based on the works of Dr. Seuss. It weaves together the tales of Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, the Cat in the Hat, and more! *Seussical* incorporates elements from at least 15 of his books. Although this musical is silly and entertaining on the surface, you will see how it also deals with important issues such as the value and dignity of others, the power of friendship, and the wonders of imagination.

If you want to hear more about schlopps, the land of Who, and elephant birds, come join us on April 14-17!

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## COLLEGE INTERVIEWS FOR DUMMIES

March 31, 2016





### BY MICHAELA DIGILIO

College interviews are nothing to freak out over: they are not nearly as scary as they sound. Their main purpose is simply to give colleges a chance to get to know you better. As a matter of fact, interviews allow you to make yourself more attractive to your dream school and can definitely work in your favor. Don't go overboard trying to be impressive because your interviewer has probably interviewed many, many others, and can easily tell when someone is trying to be over-impressive. The key is to just be yourself. To make sure your college interview is perfect, follow these key steps:

#### BEFORE YOUR INTERVIEW

Check your email. Your interviewer will contact you beforehand with information on where and when you two will meet. He or she may also give you a description of what he or she looks like and what he or she will be wearing so that you will know who to look for. Your interviewer will also mention his or her name so make sure to take note of it so you can greet him or her properly when you arrive.

Don't go into your interview unprepared. Research what questions are commonly asked during interviews such as, "What is your planned major?", "What are your career plans?", "Why do you want to attend our school?", "What questions do you have for me?", and map out the general idea of your potential answers. When doing so, don't memorize your answers and recite them word-for-word to your interviewer. You'll seem robotic; instead, give an honest answer from the heart. In addition, don't assume all the questions you researched will be asked or that they will be the only questions asked. College interviewers generally ask the same questions in varying ways. Each interview will be different, but the purpose is always the same: to get to know you better.

Plan an outfit. Your outfit conveys volumes about you and your personality. Nothing could be more disastrous than attending your interview in sweatpants and a torn T-shirt! You want to look as professional as possible so make sure you wear your Sunday best!

Make sure to leave your house early just in case you run into traffic on the way to your rendezvous point.

#### DURING YOUR INTERVIEW

Once you arrive, identify who you're looking for and greet your interviewer politely. If your meeting spot is a small deli or a coffee shop, don't be surprised if your interviewer offers to buy you something. Depending on your personal preference, politely accept or decline the offer. If you do accept, make sure to order something that isn't too expensive, messy, or hard to eat.

Your interviewer may ask you some basic questions about your background before moving on to heavier subjects. Make eye contact with your interviewer; you will appear more sincere and comfortable. Talk in a casual, yet articulate tone and avoid using too many slang terms.

There is nothing to be nervous about: don't fidget in your chair or become anxious. As time goes on, you'll be more comfortable and more able to talk freely. Take note of some of the questions for they could be similar to some in later interviews. Your interviewer may also give you information about the college he or she is representing, so it's beneficial to pay attention to his or her comments. Above all, be honest with your answers; don't appear as someone you are not because this is often easily detectable. Be yourself!

#### AFTER THE INTERVIEW

Once your interview finishes, respectfully bid your interviewer farewell and leave. Consider sending your interviewer a quick thank-you note for their time and consideration of you as a candidate. Reflect upon what questions were asked and how you responded. Remember your questions and contemplate how you could have improved your answers. Doing so will allow you to perform better the next time.





## POLITICS AND WORLD NEWS

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### THE IOWA CAUCUS

March 31, 2016



## THE IOWA CAUCUS

March 31, 2016




### BY FRANCES JACA

Since the 1970s, caucuses have been vital to nominating the next President of the United States. Democratic and Republican caucuses differ from one another. At the Republican caucuses, individuals meet and take a straw poll – an unofficial ballot conducted to test the opinion of a group in a precinct. The tallied votes from the local precinct straw polls are then sent to the state party headquarters. There, the winner of the straw poll popular vote is announced. However, Democratic caucuses are slightly more complicated. At Democratic caucuses, individuals gather in separate groups, and each group represents a different candidate. This determines the popularity of each candidate, and only candidates who received 15% support will be eligible for the candidacy. Individuals supporting a candidate who received less than 15% support will be asked to join one of the other groups. The percentages of votes are reported to party headquarters. From there, the percentages are used to rank the candidates.

On February 1, churches, schools, libraries and other locations scattered within the state were venues for the Iowa Caucus. After an hour, the 2016 Iowa Caucus concluded, and the much-awaited results were revealed. Ted Cruz emerged as the winner of the Republican caucus with 27.6% of the votes, but Donald Trump and Marco Rubio closely followed Cruz with 24.3% and 23.1% of the votes, respectively. On the other hand, Hillary Clinton was the winner of the Democratic caucus with 49.9% of the votes, but she celebrated a marginal win as Bernie Sanders received 49.6% of the votes.

Although these candidates fared similarly in the Iowa caucus, all have differing stances on the nation's most pressing issues and different target audiences. For instance, the majority of Clinton supporters are the elderly community, but Bernie Sanders is a rising star among current generations. Through his speeches and plans to decrease the cost of college, Sanders fills college students with hope and promise. With a 3% margin, Ted Cruz surpassed Donald Trump. To improve the nation's economy, Ted Cruz wants to adopt a simple flat tax and desires to repeal Obamacare. Trump wants to solve the country's debt crisis and use his experiences as a businessman when interacting with other countries. In all, there is serious competition for the next nomination in each party.



CULTURE

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**THE SCOURGE OF THE  
AMERICAN ROADWAY**

April 3, 2016





## THE SCOURGE OF THE AMERICAN ROADWAY

April 3, 2016



### BY HUNTER SAVERY

Picture yourself driving down the road: it's a beautiful day and traffic is light. Now, the Buick in front of you is, for no apparent reason, braking. In fact, it's coming to a complete stop. The Buick sits in the middle of the road until traffic is clear in the opposite lane, then lethargically makes a left hand turn. What key component of driving etiquette is missing? It's the turn signal. This lapse in etiquette, safety, and the law is not limited to Buick drivers. Turn signal usage, or the general lack thereof, is wreaking havoc both on and off the highway.

The turn signal is simple in both design and function. It indicates the direction a vehicle intends to move and is operated by simply moving a lever up or down. It is, by no means, rocket science. Yet, if my morning commute to school is any evidence, about half of the drivers on the road do not understand how to use them. The turn signal does not require any special training to operate. In fact, its use is essential to passing a road test. Nor is the turn signal a new development. They have been considered standard to automobiles since dinosaurs learned to drive. Has America forgotten the blinking light on their bumpers?

The other drivers on the road are not, contrary to popular belief, mind readers. They cannot tell where you are going, so it is important to let them know with a hearty flash of your blinker. It is neither strenuous nor complex. However, overuse can open an entirely different can of worms. So, why don't people use their gosh darn blinkers? They were clearly taught how: the turn signal's location is no mystery, and the importance of this action is readily apparent. If you ask me, and why wouldn't you, the reason turn signals are vanishing from our highways is sheer laziness. The move away from turn signals reflects modern society's blatant disregard for those around us.

I suspect that those people who don't use their turn signals are in a real hurry to get to Walmart where they can roam around in their pajamas. Do you want to be like those people? Well, this is yet another symptom of the indifferent American. No turn signals one day, a pajama clad trip to the mega superstore the next. This is an issue of safety, courtesy, and legality. Turn your life around, starting with your turn signal.

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## STAR WARS EPISODE 7: THE FORCE AWAKENS REVIEW

March 31, 2016



### BY RYAN FOLEY

In 1977, with the film *Star Wars*, Director George Lucas made an epic space opera that gained a cult following and transformed modern film. Lucas then had a vision to make nine movies with the original *Star Wars* as the fourth entry. Lucas abandoned his vision when the prequel trilogy (*Star Wars Episodes 1, 2 and 3*) received lukewarm reviews. As Lucas' business endeavors didn't generate enough revenue, he made a deal to sell the rights of the series to The Walt Disney Company. Disney brought in J.J. Abrams to create the next installment in the *Star Wars* Series. Abrams did a masterful job of recreating the awe and wonder of the previous *Star Wars* films for the next generation while still making a movie that original fans of the series can love.

*Star Wars: The Force Awakens* is an amazing film made for people of all ages: I highly recommend it. First of all, the direction, cinematography, and sound design steer the movie because there are comedic moments as well as heart-breaking scenes that bring tears to the audience's eyes. The score of the movie perfectly complements every scene. In addition, each actor gave his or her best efforts to make a great film. Several actors from the original films worked with "up and coming" actors. This created a special dynamic as traits from iconic characters such as Han Solo are passed down to younger actors. The film's two leads are John Boyega as Finn and Daisy Ridley as Rey. Finn and Rey are instantly iconic characters who take the helm of the series into the future. Rey is a strong female character who will appeal to female audiences. Many new supporting characters are able to make memorable impressions on viewers. My only complaint of the film is with the villain Kylo Ren played by Adam Driver. The villains of *Star Wars* films are often menacing characters with a softer side that surfaces when they are at their weakest. Ren's motivations, however, feel forced and weak, and he comes across as an apathetic young adult. Ren's army seems weak throughout the film, and there is little to fear. The story is often predictable if you have seen the

## MOVIE REVIEW OF THE REVENANT

March 31, 2016



BY RAPHAEL BERETTA

4.8/5 stars

The term *revenant* means "one who has returned after death." *The Revenant*, the must-see film of 2015's movie season, is directed by Alejandro G. Iñárritu and is partly based by the Michael Punke novel of the same name. It is an extremely gritty yet beautiful Western-set survival tale that follows fur trapper Hugh Glass (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his experiences in 1823 Montana and South Dakota. Hostile Native Americans, French traders, traitorous members of the group, bears, disease, and other obstacles stand in Glass's path to life – and revenge. Tom Hardy, Domhnall Gleeson, and Will Poulter co-star as fellow members of Glass's party in this American epic.

If I could only choose to see one film in the theater this year, it would be *The Revenant*. Emmanuel Lubetzki captures the true awe and power of nature with his brilliant camera work. Some of the best cinematography of all time, the camera moves fluidly, and long takes are a staple of the film; traditional fast-cuts and shaky camera work that are normally used in action sequences are replaced with a smooth, unaltered view of violence and chaos. Most of the filming was done in Calgary, Canada, and all of it (except for one scene involving a fire) was filmed with natural light.

Leonardo DiCaprio puts forth some of the best work of his career, but Tom Hardy absolutely steals the show. With his grizzled accent, hungry physique, and menacing attitude, Hardy directly brings to the viewer the hardships of frontier life. It is definitely not a film for the faint of heart as the violence is in and of itself raw. The film also contains one of the single-most accurate – and terrifying – depictions of a bear attack ever filmed. The director is known for his use of Spanish-inspired surrealism so the film is sprinkled with mysticism and fantastical elements. One truly feels as if he or she is out in the wilderness with Leo, and the viewer lives vicariously through his triumphs and defeats, his emotions, his pain, and his resilience. I will boldly say this is the best survival film I have ever seen (sorry Tom Hanks: frozen Montana seems worse than the tropics), and rarely does a film deserve 12 Academy Award nominations, but this one does. If you can avoid a trailer, do – for the events of the film are best left unspoiled.





SPORTS

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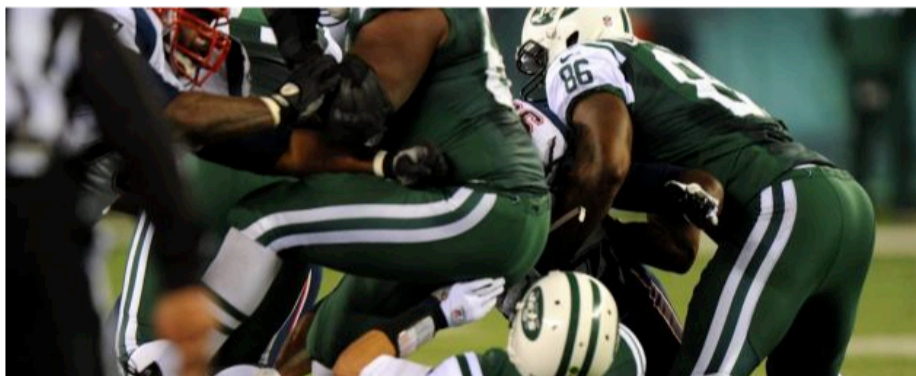
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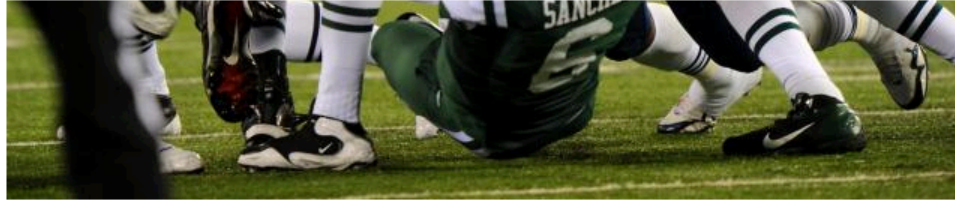
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**IT'S NOT EASY BEING  
GREEN**

March 31, 2016





#### BY RAPHAEL BERETTA

*Thanksgiving night, 2012. The frigid night could have no greater setting than MetLife stadium, a football mecca for New Yorkers in New Jersey. The smells of turkey were not absent from the parking lot, as enthusiastic fans brought grills, croc-pots, and all sorts of cooking paraphernalia to bring the special holiday meal to a special place: a Jets game against their most hated rivals, the New England Patriots. Fan hero and mascot Fireman Ed was in full attendance, leading the resounding chant, which filled the entire arena. This was an event that I could never afford yet was present for, due to the generosity of some season-ticket holders who would rather stay home than brave the cold. The anticipation was sky high: all had hope for a team that performed its best against its greatest enemy. With my belly full of an ideal Thanksgiving meal, sushi-bar eel and salmon, I prepared for dreams to be made. It was a night of firsts for me, but most importantly, it was my first game as a life-long Jets fan. The game did not go the way of Jets fans at first, but there was still hope... until one of the most infamous moments in sports history happened in front of my watering eyes. Our quarterback, a USC-alumnus by the name of Mark Sanchez took the snap and ran the football right up the hind-quarters of an offensive lineman, losing the ball to the other side in the process. The resulting game cleared the stadium: a parking lot that was once filled to the brim with eager spectators was now empty, save several packs of large, rat-like seagulls picking at the Thanksgiving remains like urban vultures. Fireman Ed would not be present for the remaining half, and his retirement would be announced the next night. This play, known as the "Butt-Fumble," cemented an already-decisive win for the team I hate more than no other and showed me first-hand what being a Jets fan would be like: hopeless.*

Cue January – my immense hope that my obsessive fanship would cease to be the laughingstock of my peers is dashed to bits. The season had everything going for it: an old and intelligent quarterback, Ryan Fitzpatrick (FitzMAGIC at first, then FitzTRAGIC), a new coaching staff, plenty of free agency acquisitions (Marshall, Revis, Skrine, etc.), and a defensive line that could rival the Fearsome Foursome of days of old. A rough patch in the middle of the year began to dim most's hopes, but a heroic streak followed. In a two-game must-win scenario, the Jets pulled off the upset against the Patriots in overtime. A playoff spot was ours to lose. We defeated our arch nemesis on the road to certain victory. All that stood in the way was a lackluster Buffalo Bills team led by our ex-coach, Rex Ryan. After all of the years under Rex, Jets fans know he is all talk and no result. Happiness is guaranteed, right? Wrong. Once again, the Titans of New York will be playing golf in Hawaii instead of football in San Francisco. It was bad enough we blew our best chance in six years to have a playoff run, but we almost came back at the end. The team revived my expectations in the final minutes when it should have let them die. A dropped pass and an interception sent me into a depression that only hardcore football watchers will know: the last football Sunday of the season is spoiled by utter disappointment and a promise for eight months of nothing. The only thing more sad than that moment, was imagining the look on the face of everyone's favorite AP US History teacher on Monday, as he may be the only more enthusiastic fan than myself that I know. Another NFL postseason came and went. The day will eventually come when a loyal fan can revel in the success of his team and watch them march their way to ultimate glory, but that day has yet to come. No one but a Jets fan truly knows what it is like, the abusive relationship that repeats itself every year. "This time I'll be different, I swear," the team says. "I've been hurt too many times, I won't fall for it again!" I always reply.

Considering all the problems in the world, this sounds like some privileged complaining. However, if you understood my surroundings, you would sympathize with my anguish. Growing up in New York when the Giants won two Superbowls certainly did not help my pride. All the buzz about the best team in New York constantly pervaded the air, friends of mine constantly imitated David Tyree's helmet catch on the playground, and wealthy parents bought their children autographed merchandise. This is one of the few benefits of supporting Gang Green: you can get all of the jerseys, hats, shirts, etc. you want, and still not break the bank. Not only is there no demand in the area for a Hess team's products but also star players only remain for a few years, long enough for the marketing team to commission a ton of merchandise and short enough to allow a surplus of unconsumed products to accrue. (My limited edition Tebow, a prized possession of a Catholic high school student, cost me only 15 dollars.)

I wear my big green albatross around my neck with pride though. Any chance I get to be in a sports environment, I deck myself out in more green than a Bostonian leprechaun on St. Patrick's Day. Why be shameful of it? Being a fan is almost similar to a heritage: there's lots of history to be studied, all of your family is a part of it, fellow members are often from the same area, and everyone thinks theirs is slightly above the others. Fandom has a culture of its own. Though my team may not have been to a Super Bowl since we landed on the moon, I still love them. I must be a sadomasochist – the pain never ceases, but I always go back for more. Perhaps one day it will pay off. Besides, it could be worse. I could have been dealing with this for thirty extra years earlier like my father, who brought me into this sadistic ritual of watching our team play football. When I'm sad, I'm never feeling blue. I'm feeling green.

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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: CAROLINE TIMM

March 31, 2016

### BY ROBERTO LEITO

Caroline Timm, a sophomore at Our Lady of Lourdes High School, has been a rising star in both track and cross country. At age seven, Caroline's passion for running first began: she had been training to run a mile-race. Her hard work paid off when she placed first in her age group in the race. This win, along with the help and motivation from her father, made her want to continue running. Since then, Caroline has participated in numerous races over the years. Each time, she has strived to improve her running times. Her great results made her realize her desire to be a part of the Lourdes' track and cross country teams. Caroline's careers on both teams have been very successful. During her freshman year at Lourdes, she made it to the state championships for cross country and spring track. This past fall season, she returned to states for the 2015 cross country season. The Poughkeepsie Journal commended her efforts by naming her Runner of the Year. This year, Caroline hopes to also go to the state championship for winter track.

During her time at Lourdes, she has set many school records in both track and cross country. In track, she holds the record for the 3,000 meter (10:45.70), 1,500 meter (4:41.83), 800 meter (2:19.26), and the 600 meter (1:42.90). Her best time and record for cross country in the 5K is 18:21.41. She has run the second fastest time in Section one. Caroline surely has a bright future ahead of her!

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## SWIMMING IN SPORTSMANSHIP

March 31, 2016





#### **BY RAPHAEL BERETTA**

The boys' swim team at Our Lady of Lourdes has often called themselves "the most successful team at Lourdes." It's hard to prove this claim, but the swim team has made several notable accomplishments over the past few years. This year, the team had another amazing season with seven wins and two losses. That record includes victories against Fox Lane, Arlington, Tappan Zee, Wappingers, and others, demonstrating Lourdes' aquatic dominance over the area. The team also faced many daunting challenges such as the Divisional Championship (or Leagues). Conference 1 is the fastest conference in the section, and Lourdes placed 4th – a great feat. Four swimmers were All-League winners and qualified for sectionals, including seniors Ryan McLoughlin and Steven Kelleher, Christian Thomas, and Jason Boyko. At the Section 1 Championships, out of 21 teams, Lourdes placed 9th. The Lourdes Medley, consisting of Christian, Ryan, Jason Boyko, and Jason Cruz, placed 6th and qualified for states. The 400-free-relay (Stephen K, Jason Boyko, Ryan M, and Christian Thomas) also placed 6th and qualified for states. Christian Thomas, a standout swimmer, continued to place 3rd in the 100-free-relay and 9th in the 100-back. Ryan McLoughlin also qualified for states in the 100-breast.

This year has been a cherry on top of an incredible high school career for the seniors. The captains, seniors Patrick Bubel, Liam McGhee, Ryan McLoughlin, and Steven Kelleher, should be extremely proud of themselves and their leadership abilities. When asked about what contributed to the success of the team, Ryan said, "I would say that we are incredibly determined for having only 18 boys on our team who usually go against teams twice the size or more. We want to show how powerful we can be in the pool to make a statement that we can be one of the top teams in the section. We never give up because our teammates are counting on us to do our jobs (and we all do) so we are able to accomplish huge things. Our bond is truly what makes us so successful." Patrick Bubel, a senior and a captain, mentioned the coach as a major part of the team's accomplishments: "Coach Billy is the man. Our small team was oftentimes pitted against teams much larger, yet we were able to defeat schools such as Fox Lane and Arlington. Yes, we have incredible talent, but there's more to swimming than finishing in first or second place. The difference between winning or losing some of these meets came down to swimmers who weren't the best but who were determined to beat "their guy" – the swimmer in the lane next to them. This difference allowed us to win many close races and ultimately many meets. Coach Billy may very well be the reason for this because his inspirational speeches prior to our races along with his "challenge sets" during practices gave our swim team that competitive advantage in those close races. His guidance created a dynamic team that no one in section one liked facing." He, like Ryan, mentioned how important a role the bond of the team played. "The swim team is my family. It's been an incredible run these four years: one that I wouldn't want to trade away for anything." This truly has been a great run for the swimmers of OLL.



## STAFF

### **KATHA SIKKA, *EDITOR-IN-CHIEF***

Katha Sikka is currently a senior at Our Lady of Lourdes High School. She is Editor-in-Chief of *The Warrior*, Lead Counsel of the Mock Trial team, President of the Jane Austen Society, and a contributor to *Et Cetera*, the literary magazine at OLL. She enjoys reading the works of other young writers, writing poetry, and watching Indian soap operas.

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### **RAPHAEL BERETTA, *WEBSITE DESIGNER***

Raphael Beretta is currently a senior at Our Lady of Lourdes High School. He is the Web Designer and a writer for the Newspaper, the Vice President of the National Honors Society, a recurring actor in the Theatre club, the Chief of Photography of the Yearbook, and a member of News and Views. He enjoys watching pretentious art films, reading books most find boring, and suffering as a Jets fan.

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## WRITERS

ISABELLA CLARK

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**DEVON CLOSE**

Devon Close is a Junior at Our Lady of Lourdes High School. She is editor of *Et Cetera*, the literary magazine at OLL, and a writer for the newspaper. She works after school at a jewelry store and enjoys gardening.

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**ONORA CRUSER**

Onora Cruser is a Junior at Our Lady of Lourdes High School. She writes for *The Warrior* and *Et Cetera*. She is a member of the Pro-Life Club and a reporter for News and Views. She plays field hockey and lacrosse and is on the varsity team for both. Onora is in the symphony where she plays the cello. Her favorite part of contributing to the newspaper is reading other people's articles.

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**RYAN FOLEY**

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**MICHAELA FOX**

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**DEANNA JACOBS**

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**FRANCES JACA**

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**NIA JOHNSON**

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### **NIA JOHNSON**

Nia Johnson is a senior at Our Lady of Lourdes High School. She is a writer for *The Warrior* and reporter in News and Views. She is a participant in the Pro-Life Club and Spanish Club. She is on the Senior Prom Committee and the Varsity Girls Basketball Team. Her hobbies include dancing, playing basketball, volunteering, and reading.

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### **SAMANTHA KELLER**

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### **ROBERTO LEITO**

Roberto Leito is currently a sophomore at Our Lady of Lourdes High School. Aside from being a contributor to *The Warrior*, he is also co-secretary of the Spanish Club. Roberto enjoys listening to a variety of music, especially on vinyl. In addition to being very patriotic, he is also thankful for both our nation's veterans and those who are currently serving.

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### **HUNTER SAVERY**

Hunter Savery is senior class president at Our Lady of Lourdes. His legendary speaking voice can be heard both as the anchor of the News and Views team and on the afternoon announcements. Hunter is also captain of the Varsity Golf team and a member of the National Honor Society. He is a bon vivant and a well-respected man about town. He lends his talents wherever they are needed.