

# THE WARRIOR NEWSPAPER

The Winter Issue

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## STAFF

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

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The Shoebox Project: Operation Christmas Child

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Winter 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 much-awaited *The Martian*, a reflection on Jason Evert's eye-opening chastity

## **WRITERS**

Raphael Beretta

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Ryan Foley

Michaela Fox

Deanna Jacobs

Frances Jaca

Nia Johnson

Samantha Keller

Roberto Leito

Hunter Savery

Katha Sikka

Victoria Smith

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*Movie Review of Black Mass*

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## **SPORTS**

reflection on Jason Evert's eye-opening chastity assembly, and an editorial on the divisive European refugee crisis. Whether you enjoy reading about the atrocity of wearing pajamas in public or the success of OLL's football 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 new 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.

OLL Football Defies the Odds and Succeeds in  
New Class

Hitters Will be Missed: Volleyball Senior Night

Girls Swimmers Break Records



TOP

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[katzl@ollchs.org](mailto:katzl@ollchs.org)

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## SCHOOL NEWS

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### A WINTER WONDERLAND

January 6, 2016

**BY NIA JOHNSON**

In an effort to bring about the Christmas spirit, the senior class organized Our Lady of Lourdes' first annual Kid's Day. This event occurred in the Arts and Athletics Center on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015, and the theme was a Winter Wonderland for kids, ages 4-12. The event will run from 12pm – 5pm and was filled with many activities such as a basketball toss, a Christmas piñata, a balloon pop wall, and a crafts table. There was also an opportunity for younger kids to take pictures with Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and an elf as well as for older kids to use a photo booth. Along with these activities there was face painting, balloon animals, Christmas storytelling, and one toy raffle for one boy and one girl.

In order to raise funds for Kids Day, the senior class conducted two fundraisers. Dis the



In order to raise funds for Kids Day, the senior class conducted two fundraisers, Pie the Teachers and a bake sale. OLL students participated in the Pie the Teachers fundraiser by purchasing tickets during homeroom to throw whipped cream pies at eight different teachers. The brave teachers who volunteered to be pied were Mrs. Paggi, Mr. Herles, Mr. Ficker, Mrs. Soltis, and Coach Wyler. Any money that left over from the fundraisers and the actual event will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The senior class successfully hosted a wonderful day for local community children and brought the Christmas spirit to life.

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## HUDSON VALLEY MAGAZINE PHOTOSHOOT

January 6, 2016

### BY NIA JOHNSON

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015, eighteen faculty members and students were chosen to represent Our Lady of Lourdes in a photoshoot for *Hudson Valley Magazine*. In its December 2015 issue, the *Hudson Valley Magazine* is included a section called “Faces,” which focuses on different careers and subjects in the Hudson Valley such as the faces of doctors, of dentists, and of lawyers. Our Lady of Lourdes was fortunate enough to be chosen as the “Face of Catholic Education in Dutchess County.” Eighteen faculty members and students were chosen to represent student diversity, academic possibilities, and athletic variety offered at OLL. The faculty participants were Mrs. Sefits, Mrs. Mauro, Mr. Emich, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Petruzzelli, Mr. LaRocca, and Mrs. Soltis. The student participants ranged from sophomores to seniors, including Erin White, Nathaniel Quinones, Martin Young, Aidan Wells, Billy Wagner, Sophia Williamson, Patrick Bubel, Victoria Vacca, Katha Sikka, Mariette Sargios, and Nia Johnson. Our Lady of Lourdes is grateful and excited to be featured in *Hudson Valley Magazine*.

## THE SHOEBOX PROJECT: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

January 6, 2016

### BY ISABELLA CLARK

In 1993, Operation Christmas Child was established as an international project that would bring joy, Jesus, and Christmas gifts to children in war-torn countries. Since then, Operation Christmas Child has successfully delivered more than 124 million gift-filled shoeboxes to 150 countries and territories. This year, Our Lady of Lourdes' National Honor Society has paired with Mrs. Safford to provide the students with a wonderful philanthropic opportunity. Due to the generosity of the students and staff, the National Honors Society had the pleasure of ordering 200 boxes to meet the enthusiastic response of the Lourdes community. The Christmas Shoeboxes are filled with items such as fun toys, school supplies, hygiene items, notes of encouragement, and above all else, a "wow" item that many children will cherish for years to come. After all the Christmas shoeboxes were collected during National Collection week, they were sent to one of the eight major processing centers where they were prepared for delivery. Thank you to all who participated!

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## OPEN HOUSE OFFERS OPTIONS TO FUTURE STUDENTS

January 6, 2016

A dark blue rectangular banner with white and yellow text. The text reads: "Our Lady of Lourdes High School" in white, "OPEN HOUSE" in large yellow letters, and "Sun, October 18, 2015" in white.

Our Lady of Lourdes High School  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
Sun, October 18, 2015

January 6, 2016

**Sun. October 18, 2015**

**1 – 4pm**

**Tours are scheduled at 1:15, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30 and 3:30pm**



- All interested students and their parents are invited
- Tour our campus and meet with current students
- Meet with administration & faculty to learn about academic programs
- Sports & Extracurricular Clubs – Meet coaches, moderators and students
- Information on financial aid and transportation will be provided

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!**

To apply to OLL, 8th grade students must register for the TACHS Exam at [www.tachsinfo.com](http://www.tachsinfo.com) or call 1-866-618-2247.

The test will be given on Friday, November 6, 2015



**Our Lady of Lourdes High School**

*Exceptional Academics. Extraordinary Futures.*

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845-463-0400 • [www.ollchs.org](http://www.ollchs.org)



## BY SAMANTHA KELLER

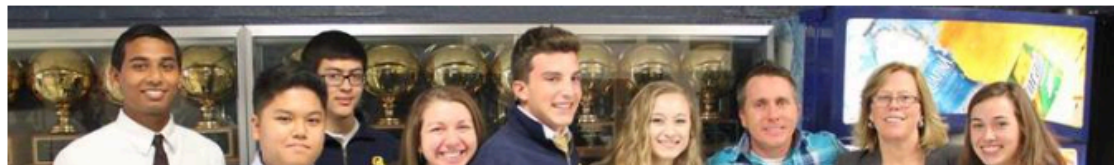
On Sunday, October 18, Our Lady of Lourdes hosted an open house for prospective students. Guests arrived in the Arts and Athletics Center where tables for each of the various clubs and varsity sports were set up. Tours were led from there to the auditorium where the select chorus gave a performance. Mrs. Merryman spoke to both parents and prospective students about what makes Lourdes unique, including its philosophy, belief in Catholic education, newly completed technology and STEM initiative (including the new Google Chromebooks now available for students to use in class), and outstanding faculty and student body. Students, mostly seniors, paired up with teachers and led groups through the school, giving commentary and insight into what makes OLL stand apart from other institutions. Guests visited the science labs, the chapel, the foreign language department, religion classrooms, the math department, the English department, the Social Studies classrooms, the art rooms, and the band room. They concluded the tours in the cafeteria where refreshments were served and admissions personnel were available to answer questions. There was a fantastic turnout; tours even ran past the anticipated end of the open house. Parents and prospective students both expressed their thanks and how impressed they were with the student tours and with all Lourdes has to offer. The 2015 Our Lady of Lourdes Open House was a great success.

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## LOVE AND LUST: JASON EVERT SPEAKS TO OLL STUDENTS





# LOVE AND LUST: JASON EVERT SPEAKS TO OLL STUDENTS

January 6, 2016



## BY FRANCES JACA

On October 2, 2015, Jason Evert, a renowned chastity speaker, came to Lourdes to present his “Love and Lust” assembly. He discussed the significant difference between love and lust and why we should strive to remain chaste. In today’s culture, many teenagers ridicule the ideas of being chaste and remaining pure until marriage because of intense societal pressures present in our music, TV shows, and magazines.

Jason Evert’s assembly was reasonable, humorous, passionate, and not directed to Catholics alone. His main argument was that *one cannot truly experience love if the relationship is built on lust*. What is love? Evert explained that love is desiring the best for your partner. Lust? The Vatican states, “Lust is a disordered desire for or inordinate enjoyment of sexual pleasure. Sexual pleasure is morally disordered when sought for itself, isolated from its procreative and unitive purposes.” In other words, love and lust are two radically different things. Love is an intimate

interaction between husband and wife. However, before marriage, lust is often mistakenly interchanged for love. Pre-marital sex is a selfish desire to satisfy one's needs.

In Evert's book, *How To Find Your Soulmate Without Losing Your Soul*, he explains why chastity is a reasonable option. He does not refer to Scripture but relatable, real-life scenarios and personal experiences. Evert suggests that if you want to know if your partner truly loves you and if his/her feelings are sincere, try to remove all sexual activity from your relationship. A person's true intentions will become evident if you try to build upon pure love. If your significant other can't accept this challenge, stop wasting your time.

While some students found Evert irrelevant and only learned that they would not like to be infected with an STD, many learned that respecting your body and waiting for the right one is the best option in the long run. You're bound to grow up with less regrets hating that guy who broke your heart, and someday enter into a marriage knowing that you have saved yourself for the person with whom you will spend the rest of your life.

After the assembly, the News and Views team interviewed Jason Evert about his personal life and passion for chastity. We asked why he started giving chastity talks. He responded, "There are two reasons: the first is I led many high school retreats during college. On these retreats, many students opened their hearts to me. Nobody explained to students the difference between love and lust, and there was so much confusion regarding relationships. The second is I used to give a crisis pregnancy counseling talk to women half an hour prior to their abortion. When you're meeting a woman for the first time thirty minutes before her abortion, you feel late. You think 'I wish I would've met her in high school; I wish I met her in junior high,' because maybe if at that time she knew what love truly was, she would've never dated that guy and would never be in this difficult situation. In order to save women from heartbreak and to save babies' lives, I realized that I needed to do something more than counseling talks half an hour before an abortion. I've been doing chastity talks for 17 years to more than 100,000 students a year."

He also explained that, "It wasn't until I was a junior or senior in high school that faith started influencing my life. Until then, I was sitting on the fence, but then, we had an excellent youth ministry program at our Church and for the first time, I was immersed into my faith."

Evert explained that he has been married for twelve years and that he and his wife now have six children named John Paul, Coby, Mary, Michael, Angelica, and Joseph.

Evert also explained that he had, “dated a girl in college for a few years, and I knew we were not going to get married. We didn’t have sex, but we did other things. We ended up breaking up, but we stayed friends. She married a friend of mine and invited me to her wedding. I was very happy for them, but when they were walking down the aisle as husband and wife, I realized she was never mine. When we were dating, I was basing my prediction on destiny, and in reality, she would never be my wife. I needed to treat her like my sister in humanity, not like a bride 10 years before a wedding. That made me take a deeper look on how I treat women and on how I should respect these women’s future husbands. Pope John Paul II’s Love and Responsibility is one of the most influential books that I have ever read on this subject matter.”

We also asked Evert about the positive effects of chastity. Evert noted that chastity, “frees you to love. If I can’t say ‘no’ to sex, then my ‘yes’ doesn’t mean anything. A woman can tell the difference between a man who’s hooked onto porn and a man who has enough self-control to make a gift of himself. Imagine if you married a man who didn’t have self-control and who only saw you as an outlet for his lust. Also, chastity allows you to know if you are being loved. Any man can say ‘Oh baby I love you; I’ll be here forever,’ and can use their words to achieve what they want. Chastity shows rather than tells that they’re willing to love you.”

Finally, we asked Jason Evert if he had any advice for those who may struggle with chastity. He responded, “Welcome to the human race. Everybody does. This isn’t a struggle for only guys or girls. All of us have temptations; all of us have difficulties, but we have to be wise because we cause many of these problems. If we make smart decisions, we can eliminate many of our temptations. I would recommend dating someone who shares your values. Girls are tempted, too. They think they need a guy to be strong and will comply with whatever he wants, but that is not a healthy relationship.” Overall, the students who heard Evert’s message were able to learn that chastity is about much more than not having sex; it’s about real love both for yourself and for your future spouse.

# SCHOLARSHIPS, ESSAY CONTESTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSY STUDENTS

January 6, 2016

## BY ONORA CRUSER

As a teenager, you have myriad opportunities at your disposal. There are many chances for enriching your summer and your life if you just put in a little effort. You may not realize this at first, but for some of these opportunities, you won't get paid monetarily; however, you will get paid in experience and knowledge. You can also ask your guidance counselors to help you find interesting and useful things to do during the summer. You should cast a wide net and think big because you never know how far a simple question will go. Ask and you shall receive.

It has been said that, "80% of success is showing up." Showing up, asking questions, talking to people, and paying attention are four key elements to living your life to the fullest and utilizing every opportunity that may not initially present itself. Most people who offer internships don't actively seek out interns. Simply asking people you know in careers that interest you may yield interesting results, such as being offered a summer internship. Also, don't wait until the first day of summer break to look for internships, chances for volunteering, or summer jobs. You should be looking for things to occupy your summer or fill your resume in January at least.

There are also numerous essay contests if writing is your strong suit. One of them is the John Stossel Essay Contest. In this contest, contestants are given a topic to write an essay about. For the winners, there are cash prizes. All you have to do is look up John Stossel Essay Contest and get writing! Another writing competition is the Patriot's Pen Essay Writing Contest. This is done through the VFW, an organization that benefits veterans of foreign wars and fosters patriotism. This contest encourages the young minds of America to use the history of America and their own experiences to express their views on a patriotic theme in 300-400 words. This competition also has cash prizes.

Many colleges have summer programs for sophomores and juniors in high school. These programs help students to figure out what kind of college they want to go to, what college is like, and if a certain college may be right for them. In addition to these programs being informational, they are filled with fun and social experiences.

The PSAT is the qualifier for the National Merit Scholarship. This means that you can get scholarships to help you pay for college if you study and score high enough. All you have to do



The PSAT is the qualifier for the National Merit Scholarship. This means that you can get scholarships to help you pay for college if you study and score high enough. All you have to do is take a test. Start practicing early, sophomores, and build those scores now!

There are also many local places where teens can volunteer. Dutchess Outreach is an organization that benefits people right here in Poughkeepsie. All you have to do is fill out a volunteer form and show up. Some of the things you can do if you volunteer is office support, lunch and evening meal service, preparation and delivery of meals to those homebound, distributing clothing items, helping at an annual event, or contributing to a board committee. Other places where you can volunteer are the Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity.

If you put in the work, you'll be astonished at the results. There are so many amazing opportunities out there; all you have to do is seek them. Google is a beautiful thing through which you can discover many options such as places you can intern, volunteer, or work. Some of these opportunities, like the essay contests, can be done from the comfort of your own home. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to better yourself and help others.

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## POLITICS AND WORLD NEWS

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### THE UNITED STATES COMBATING ISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

January 6, 2016





## BY ROBERTO LEITO

ISIS, otherwise known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, is one of the most dangerous terror groups that exist today. It specifically gained prominence in the media about a year ago for its execution of numerous hostages. Some of these hostages included American citizens. Since then, the militant group has continued to resurface in the media in regards to its pursuits for control in both Iraq and Syria. ISIS has been notorious for its aggression towards innocent minorities under their control. Such groups include Christians and Shia Muslims. As the situation in the Middle East worsens, many Americans are wondering what the United States is doing to fight the Islamic State.

For the past year, the United States, along with a coalition of 62 other nations, has been taking a role in the fighting. Since September 2014, it has conducted a total of 6,500 airstrikes against ISIS. These airstrikes, taking place near major cities, targeted important strategic objectives that inhibited the terror group's ability to grow and efficiently function. A portion of these operations were being carried out this year between late September and early October with the added presence of the Russian military. The addition of Russian forces in Syria created a tension that still exists despite declared cooperation with the United States.

The seriousness of the fight against ISIS escalated on October 22 when the first American soldier was killed in the conflict with the Islamic State. The soldier was identified as Master Sergeant Joshua Wheeler, a member of Delta Force and twenty-year veteran of the Army. Both American and Kurdish commandos worked together in a mission to free 70 hostages from a compound in Iraq. The ISIS fighters planned to execute them the following day. Although the operation was successful, the Pentagon still insisted that the mission was a "failure" and

operation was successful, the Pentagon still maintained that the troops were in an “advise and assist” status. Pentagon officials were cautious to classify Wheeler's death not as a result of a combat operation.

After a year of airstrikes and failure of an American-backed rebel program, President Obama finally sent 50 special operations troops to Syria on October 30. They are meant to act as advisers to the Arab and Kurdish forces in order to take the self-declared capital of ISIS, Raqqa. The White House clarified that this small number of troops will not engage in combat operations for the time being. This has already been done in Iraq where special forces are advising the Kurds as well. Michael Morrell is the former Deputy Director of the CIA and Senior Security Contributor for CBS News. When asked if boots on the ground will make a difference in Syria, he responded, “These special forces will be with Syrian Kurdish fighters who are right up against the heart of ISIS geographically. They're up against the center of mass of ISIS. And secondly, the special forces will, I think, just as they have in Iraq, make these fighters better strategically and better tactically, helping them make better decisions militarily.” Time will only tell if the small number of troops will be adequate enough or if more forces will be necessary.

Our role in fighting the Islamic State has proven to be very important in preventing the growth of the militant group. The United States has assumed a greater role in fighting ISIS than what it had only months ago. Although the situation in Iraq and Syria is unpredictable, we know that whatever unfolds over the next few months will prove to be quite historical. As the conditions in the Middle East progress, who knows what lies ahead?



# EUROPEAN REFUGEE CRISIS: WHY IT MATTERS

January 6, 2016



## BY RYAN FOLEY

Over 300,000 refugees have left their homes in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan with the hope of a better life in Europe. However, these migrants are beginning to push the carrying capacity of Germany, Austria, Italy, Sweden, France, and other European nations. These nations have absorbed over 200,000 people. Since each country has a different application process, there is a disparity in the number of refugees within each nation. Many flee to Germany, which expects 800,000 people this year, while some nations such as Hungary, Denmark and the Netherlands advise refugees to not come to their countries. European countries must unite to form a standard for processing these migrants.

Europeans are being unsympathetic to immigrants who are coming from heartbreaking circumstances such as civil war and terrible economic growth. *The New York Times* released an interesting article called "Europe Should See Refugees as a Boom, Not a Burden." Directed at the Europeans who fear the refugees, this article shows that bringing in immigrants can be

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the Europeans who fear the refugees, this article shows that bringing in immigrants can be better for the economy due to an increase in demand and labor force. These immigrants can help increase birthrates in countries such as Germany where birthrates are low. In addition, immigrants can help an economically unstable nation like Greece by increasing its workforce.

When Americans think of Syria and Afghanistan, they imagine their enemies in ISIS and the Taliban, not common people whose lives are constantly in danger. These people are trying to flee horrible circumstances and find a new life. America has a responsibility as a world power to help these people. The American dream is attaining the goal of freedom for all people and helping people to find their own places in the new world. America should take as many refugees as possible. America should make a great effort to aid countries in Europe through taking care of their refugees. American "Wars on Terror" can be seen as one reason for collapse of the economies of Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Americans should donate food, blankets, and money to help migrants trying to enter Europe. The current refugee situation will be a huge issue in the upcoming 2016 election. Americans should be aware of the refugee situation in Europe, and our government should take responsibility for the people hurt in the crossfire between our armies and ISIS forces.

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CULTURE

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## PAJAMAS IN PUBLIC AND THE DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

January 6, 2016





# PAJAMAS IN PUBLIC AND THE DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

January 6, 2016



## BY HUNTER SAVERY

The saying goes that “America is the only country that went from barbarism to decadence without civilization in between.” Nowhere is this more evident than in the growing phenomenon of pajamas being worn in public. By now everyone has seen them, maybe in the aisles of your local Walmart, grocery store, or airport, but almost certainly at Walmart where the style has become de rigueur. Once upon a time, pajamas were confined to the home and only saw the light of day in times of illness, or a breakdown of mental capacity. However, in our modern society, it can be hard to escape this assault on everything good and decent.

Worse still are the clothing manufacturers who condone such behavior. Many of these companies have the gall to call pajamas “loungewear,” which only gives credence to the notion that pajamas are appropriate to wear in public. This plague found its origin on America’s college campuses where tired students neglected their appearances in favor of their studies. Those students then walked off campus, exposing countless, otherwise upstanding citizens, to their

students then walked off campus, exposing countless, otherwise upstanding citizens, to their disease. Today the pajama virus has reached pandemic levels.

Modern America places too much value on comfort rather than respect for those around us. Sure you might be comfortable in your pajamas, but what about the rest of the seeing world forced to observe you? What happened to the average American's self respect? Is it so hard to pull on a pair of jeans before you head to the 7-Eleven? Pajamas should be restricted to bedtime. The day that you wake up and make the decision to walk out the door while still in your pajamas is the day that you have lost the will to live. Why give up on your day before you have even started it? The Greeks and Romans wore togas everywhere and just look at what happened to them. America's survival may be dependent on how we face this crisis. So do your part. Get dressed.

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## MOVIE REVIEW OF THE MARTIAN

January 6, 2016





## BY RAPHAEL BERETTA

4.5/5 stars

*The Martian*, which is based on the novel by Andy Weir, is directed by Ridley Scott and stars Matt Damon as a NASA astronaut named Mark Watney, a botanist who is presumed dead after a massive storm. Watney is left behind on Mars by his crew with only enough supplies to last him a month. Imagine *Cast Away*, but in space. The stranded scientist has to preserve his sanity and find a way to survive the desolate conditions of the Red Planet while the entirety of NASA works desperately to bring him home.

I saw *The Martian* during its opening weekend in a packed and nearly sold-out theater filled with inconsiderate movie goers never ceasing their conversations and with only enough seats left for me to sit painfully in the front row. Not even my strained neck could detract from this film: the perfect experience at the movies. The pacing of this film is expertly set. There is not a dull moment spent with Watney, and as the film progresses, the tension reaches an almost unbearable height. Matt Damon is phenomenal as is the rest of the cast (Jeff Daniels, Kristen Wiig, Sean Bean, Chiwetel Ejiofor), but Damon especially makes this movie enjoyable. His deadpan and cocky delivery and strong sense of humor turn a dire and bleak situation in which he could die at any moment into constant comedic potential; in fact, there was so much laughter that someone outside the theater may have mistaken the film for a comedy.

It is also a truly beautiful film to look at because it captures the tranquility and vastness of space and of the surface of Mars with such skill. The long shots of the blood-orange dunes, cliffs, and valleys of Mars made the price of admission worth it. A sci-fi with emphasis on the sci, this movie

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It is also a truly beautiful film to look at because it captures the tranquility and vastness of space and of the surface of Mars with such skill. The long shots of the blood-orange dunes, cliffs, and valleys of Mars made the price of admission worth it. A sci-fi with emphasis on the sci, this movie explained every detail so thoroughly that these events actually seemed possible. A very exciting movie filled with science, action, and many jokes, *The Martian* will keep you on the edge of your seat rooting for the impossible and craving potatoes.



# MOVIE REVIEW OF BLACK MASS

January 6, 2016





## BY RAPHAEL BERETTA

2.8/5 stars

The 1970s Boston crime story of James "Whitey" Bulger based on true events and the 2001 novel by Dick Lehr, *Black Mass* is directed by Scott Cooper and stars an ensemble cast led by Johnny Depp as Bulger, a ruthless and powerful head of an Irish-American mob syndicate. Bulger's childhood friend (Joel Edgerton) is an FBI agent who forms an alliance with Bulger's Winter Hill Gang to bring down the Italian mafia in Boston and keep Bulger and his men out of FBI hands. With Bulger's Senator brother (Benedict Cumberbatch) trying to avoid involvement and the director of the FBI (Kevin Bacon) resisting the alliance, Bulger struggles and succeeds in becoming one of the most dangerous gangsters in American history.

I was very excited for this film prior to its release, and I was sucked in right from the establishing shot of the movie. Unfortunately, the payoff never really came. I enjoyed every scene while I was watching it, but once it was over, I felt ultimately unfulfilled. The strongest part of this film is its acting. So many delivered top-tier performances, but what Johnny Depp gave us was something else entirely. I expect an Oscar nomination for him because he is eerily cold and embodies the unpredictable, always-on-the-edge, and almost satanic nature of what the real Bulger was probably like. His lifeless eyes stare right into the soul of the audience and make the whole experience very uneasy. Edgerton was an incredibly believable FBI agent who believed he was doing the right thing (but really *really* wasn't).

The direction of this movie is its weakest part due to the constant change of pace, the incessant

The direction of this movie is its weakest part due to the constant change of pace, the incessant switch of narrators, and excessive focus on Depp's character (who really should have been someone "witnessed" by others, rather than seen by the audience directly), which ruined a lot of potential mystery to the film. The gritty feel and 70's atmosphere were both positive for the film, but the gray palette of Boston's streets were visually unappealing. This is certainly not a bad movie, but it did not meet my expectations. I recommend this one for a rainy day and to be rented on Redbox as seeing it in theaters is not a requirement. For a MUCH better film on the same subject of Boston crime and the FBI, see *The Departed* (directed by Martin Scorsese, starring Leo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Jack Nicholson, Mark Walburgh, and Alec Baldwin), a film with a more cohesive and exciting plot.

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## BOOK REVIEW OF 41: A PORTRAIT OF MY FATHER BY GEORGE W. BUSH

January 6, 2016



## **BY ROBERTO LEITO**

George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush are the second and only living father-son duo who have served as presidents of the United States. The only other father-son presidents in American history were John Adams and John Quincy Adams. One distinct difference between these pairs is that John Quincy Adams never had the opportunity to write a biography about his father. George W. Bush, inspired by Adams' failed opportunity, understood the historical importance of a biography written by a president for his father. This is an excellent book that appeals to many people.

As the author, George W. Bush provides an invaluable perspective about his father's experiences that most other writers cannot supply. This is due to the special relationship that they have as father and son. George W. Bush witnessed his father's greatest triumphs and failures. Not many presidential biographers can connect with their biographee on such a personal level. Aside from the importance of the book's author, George H.W. Bush has led a life that is truly worth writing about. I found the book to be most exciting and fascinating when Bush put off college to serve his country during World War II. He enlisted in the Navy at eighteen and soon became a pilot, the youngest in the war. On a mission to destroy an objective in the Pacific, his aircraft was shot down and his crew members did not survive. Following his failed parachute jump, George H.W. narrowly escaped capture by the Japanese. This is highlighted as one of Bush's defining moments. Another defining moment was the passing of his three-year-old daughter Robin from childhood-leukemia. Aside from the dismal moments, there were many happy, suspenseful, and triumphant moments for our forty-first president.

This book was one of the best I have ever read. If you enjoy a story of success and resilience, I highly recommend it. Rather than being a critical and objective book, it is a testimony of love and honor by George W. Bush. Bush is truly a man who would not let his failures consume him. With his hard work, he eventually became the forty-first president of the United States. This book was written by George W. Bush to give a rare historical perspective on the only living father-son pair of presidents of history. The loving gestures and remarks found within the book are what make it different from other biographies that exist.



Overall, this was a fantastic book that reflected on the life of a man who is truly the model public servant to the American people. From protecting our freedoms during World War II to leading this nation as president of the United States, Bush's entire career was dedicated to helping others, and this remarkable man is still alive today as America's oldest living president. This book is truly one of the best biographies that is available today.

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:

[katzl@ollchs.org](mailto:katzl@ollchs.org)

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# SPORTS

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## OLL FOOTBALL DEFIES THE ODDS AND SUCCEEDS IN NEW CLASS

January 6, 2016





## BY RAPHAEL BERETTA

*The sun is falling rapidly. The heat of early September is long gone, and the brisk and unwelcome chill of winter is already approaching. Numerous cars already have their spots reserved two hours before kickoff. Some parents, the most loyal of fans, are already setting up blankets and pads in the bleachers. I am sitting on the trunk of one such car while two girls spray my hair blue and gold. I can see a large gathering of ladies lining up single-file, working out who will represent which letter to form a message of encouragement to the team. In the far end of the parking lot, shirtless guys are painting each other's chests and abdomens blue with wall-paint: ill-advised, but dedicated. I use a car mirror to apply the ritualistic war paint of our school colors, and adorn myself with the traditional fire-helmet that has become a fan-favorite. When I move into the stands, there is not enough room to sit, let alone stand straight. Every student-sardine in the fan section has to stand skewed to fit. Proud and triumphant chants rain and overpower the large band Nyack has brought with them. Who knew after moving up a Class and being dealt with a definitive loss to open the season, this squad would win three straight and start the homecoming game with absolute confidence and assuredness from the crowd that victory was imminent?*

The OLL Football program of the past five years has been exceptional, and after the Sectional Championship season last year, the 2015 season was expected to be no different. A few difference-makers were lost, but the core of that successful season remained intact. The move to Class A put a lot of doubt in people's minds. The first game against Yorktown suggested that teams of this new Class had star players with speed and talent that a school of our size simply could not handle. This was not a testament to the level of play of our team, but that our very best would simply not be good enough. The second week's road win against a weak Beacon

team showed promise, but it did not solidify our future.

The test would be a series of four games, starting with Somers and Nyack (homecoming) at home. The 40-3 beatdown Lourdes handed their opponent and the 32-7 homecoming follow-up proved our defense could indeed handle a “grade-A” attack. Our passing game did not need to be proven as the always electric combo of Dean Rotger and Luke Timm with the efficient supporting cast of Billy Wagner, Corey Mullaley, Joe Scaglione, and Chris Mulvey was not in question for this season. A sufficient rushing attack was also proven at home. Whether it was the dynamic Bryce Gioia of a few years ago or the clock-burning bruiser Dan Cox of last season, we have always had good running-backs to supplement the explosive air attack. We have roughly the same solid offensive line as last year, but the RBs themselves were in question as to how well they would perform. Billy Ricardi came out and established himself as an excellent runner and proved his good outing against Beacon was not a fluke. The backfield of Lourdes also involved Liam McGhee and Billy Wagner. The Warriors rushed for 200 and 154 yards in total on the ground. The Homecoming game against Nyack was slightly more challenging than the Somers game, but Lourdes was in control throughout. On the road, Lourdes experienced a tough and close 13-7 loss that would motivate them for the future weeks. The first game on a brand-new expensive sports-complex and field for John Jay Cross River was against the Warriors. Our team made a bold statement and absolutely stunned JJCR in a 56-16 blowout. Two things were apparent from this game: the offensive and defensive lines of Lourdes are dominant (see Kevin Doyle and Chris Mulvey) and have depth (the team will still be successful for a few years), and this offense is all about Luke Timm. He had 247 yards receiving plus a touchdown and a kickoff return for a touchdown in the first play of the game. Even after numerous starters were pulled out, Lourdes was still in control. Backup quarterback Paul Holze drove down the field and ran one in himself.

Another thing to mention about this organization’s future is their young talent. I can see two game-changing players on this team, a pair of sophomores, Sean McDowell and Joe Scaglione. “Joey Scags” leads the team in total tackles with an astounding 124 on the season (77 is the next closest on the team). He gets involved in the offense, the defense, and on the special teams: this kid can do anything. Sean McDowell started off last year as the team’s replacement starting fullback, and he has definitely made an impact. With a Hudson Valley-great like Chris Mulvey on the other side, Sean was a part of a dangerous defensive end squad this year. This duo



consistently stuffed the run and brought pressure against opposing quarterbacks. He and Joey have bright futures ahead of them. This JJCR game restored a lot of confidence as the team went into the playoffs, achieving back-to-back victories at home (35-14 against Pearl River, 38-22 against Somers). This is a team who believes in themselves and who has an entire school and fan base that believes in them. A season many prematurely looked into with dread has now become a season many looked to with hope for new accomplishment. This hope was realized when a revenge win against Rye in the Section Championship put us back in the state quarterfinal round (the end mark of the 2012 and 2014 seasons). The violent rain and hail conditions made for an exciting game as the block of a PAT in overtime by Nick Santacroce (who always steps up to make big plays) put Lourdes a touchdown and an extra point away from history. The game came down to the leg of Curt Jorgensen, which did its job and met excited praise from an army of fans that proceeded to storm the field. An even more impressive feat, the boys thoroughly controlled the following state semifinal game against Amsterdam and clinched the chance to become only the second team in Dutchess County history to win states. They put up a valiant effort in Syracuse against a South Park team, coming within three points of glory. Luke Timm set a state record for receptions in a game and played his body into the ground. This historic season was only possible through this kind of selfless effort that was made consistently by the entire team. They made their school and their fans very proud.

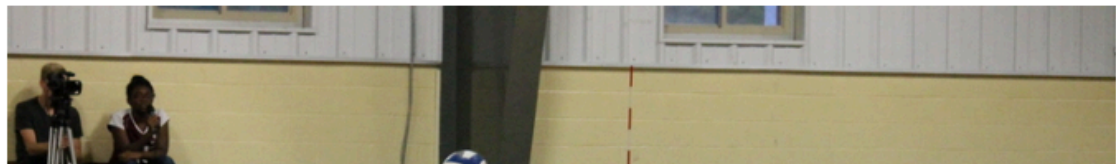
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## HITTERS WILL BE MISSED: VOLEYBALL SENIOR NIGHT



January 6, 2016



### **BY DEANNA JACOBS**

The Our Lady of Lourdes' Girls Volleyball senior night took place on Tuesday, November 27, in the Arts and Athletic Center at 6 pm. Our seniors Colleen Connaughton, Michaela Digilio, Noelle Pennacchia, and Julia Wheeler played their last home game and put up a fight on the court. The energy was high and so were the girls' spirits. The girls had an excellent game and gave it their all, but unfortunately, they eventually lost to Pauling.

"We played really tough teams, and there were some rough losses, but it was such a wonderful experience. We put up a good fight against those tough teams," commented Julia Wheeler.

Noelle Pennacchia was also asked about her experience this season. She said, "We had a rough start to our season and struggled a lot with closing out games. Our team had a really good dynamic and got along well which is what I think is really important. I'm definitely going to miss playing next year!"

The senior girls showed true sportsmanship throughout the whole season and set a good example for the younger girls on the team. Good luck in the future ladies!

# GIRLS SWIMMERS BREAK RECORDS

January 6, 2016





## **BY MICHAELA FOX**

The crowd jumps into the air and shouts cries of victory as Mary Nikolski finishes the 200-yard medley relay in first place with the help of Clare Bosse and seniors Grace Nikolski and Rachel Webb. This was not the only phenomenal race by the Our Lady of Lourdes Girls' Swim Team on the night of their last home meet - their senior meet. Grace Nikolski won the 200-yard individual medley. Clare Bosse won the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard backstroke, and Grace won the 100-yard breaststroke. Clare, Rachel, Grace, and Mary also attained first place in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Senior Michaela Fox achieved her personal best in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:23:53. The team soon went on to the Divisional Championship meet where Clare Bosse, Anne Bubel, Michaela Fox, Grace Nikolski, Mary Nikolski, Amanda Yen, and Rachel Webb all qualified for sectionals. Clare Bosse and Grace Nikolski both qualified for states in their events. Congratulations to all swimmers on an incredible meet and season!

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# 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**

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.

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