

St. Basil Academy
111 Fox Chase Rd
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Basilian Pillar

Meet Your 2018 Commencement Speakers

Cara Hughes '19

As a culmination of their hard work over the past four years at Saint Basil Academy, Mary Campion and Madeline McCrea have been named Valedictorian and Salutatorian of their class, respectively. Mary and Maddie's time at SBA has been filled with rigorous course work, involvement in many sports and clubs, college level classes, and of course, school spirit. This year alone, Mary and Maddie took five advanced placement courses.

Mary attended Saint Genevieve's grade school in Flourtown. When she came into SBA, Mary joined the field hockey team and the track team. Mary is also apart of many other extra-curricular activities including Student Council, Science Olympiad, Mock Trial, and National Honor Society. Along with her busy academic schedule, Mary served as president of our school this year.

When Mary was asked about her time at SBA, she said, "I am so thankful for all the friends and for the memories I have made over the past four years!"

Similar to Mary, Maddie had a very busy and involved time at SBA. Maddie went to Saint Hilary's grade school in Rydal. At SBA, Maddie was a part of the soccer team, the lacrosse team, Science Olympiad, Reading Olympics, and National Honor Society.

Maddie, thinking about her closing days at SBA, says, "SBA has given me so many wonderful memories and experiences that I will cherish forever. I am going to miss seeing all my sisters every day, and it is sad that we must see this all go. But in the words of Khloe Kardashian, 'It's been magical, but I'm done.'"

As their time at SBA closes, Mary and Maddie are getting ready to begin the next chapters in their lives. In the fall, Maddie



Grace Comas '20

The SBA community commends the achievements of Mary Campion and Maddie McCrea.

will be attending the University of Pittsburgh studying mathematical biology. After college, Maddie aspires to attend medical school in hopes of becoming a doctor. Mary will be attending Boston University where she will be studying biology. After a year at Boston University, Mary will have the option to transfer to Cornell. She hopes to pursue a career as a veterinarian.

The SBA community could not be

prouder of these two young women for their outstanding academic achievements. Mary and Maddie will make wonderful representatives of the Class of 2018 at their graduation. All of SBA wishes Mary and Maddie the best of luck in their future endeavors, and we are eager to see all that they accomplish. Congratulations Mary and Maddie. Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

What's the Deal with the SATs?

Bridget McShane '19

To the majority of students, standardized tests are yet another bothersome bump in the road along the journey of education. Essential to getting accepted into most colleges, standardized testing has stirred controversial debate across the nation. Many believe the testing material is too narrow to evaluate a student. Despite controversy, standardized tests can demonstrate positive academic attributes in students across the nation.

Because of standardized testing, students can check their learning compared to a large student pool. Tests like the SATs are an opportunity to ensure that students have learned all that four years of high school is supposed to teach them. After acquiring the test scores, students can be alerted to knowledge gaps which allow them to study and improve. Students who work actively to improve their scores gain an overall boost in self-confidence when their diligence pays off.

SATs, although some universities do not require them, often directly correlate to financial aid packages and scholarship money. So, yes the SATs have the potential to boost chances for merit aid.

Mrs. Smith was excited to reveal a new opportunity for seniors next year; students will be able to take a real SAT during the school day at a lower cost. She is hopeful that this will encourage more participation in the testing, while leaving Saturday mornings open.

SBA THON: Dreams in Gold

Grace Majkut '18

The fourth annual SBA Mini-THON was a successful 12-hour dance marathon raising money "For The Kids" from May 18-19, 2018. SBA is pleased to be one of 265 schools and more than 90,000 student volunteers, partnering with Four Diamonds to help conquer childhood cancer.

Participating in Mini-THON is a way to come together

as a community, working diligently to make a difference. As a school, in four years of dancing we have raised over \$100,000 to develop more effective treatments and clinical trials, world-class care, and life-changing



SBA Instagram

Mini-THON leaders planned all year to make this year a success.

research for cancer stricken children around the world.

In addition to donating and raising money to find a cure, there were many fun and new activities for students participating in the overnight activities. Similar to past years, events this year consist of hours of dancing, Zumba, yoga at sunrise, and much more, along with a few other surprises. This year, with the Oscars theme in mind, we hosted a Miss Mini-THON contest where our brave students could showcase their

Oscar-worthy talents in runway walks, interview questions, and a lip-sync battle.

With the continued efforts of SBA students, we are able to "Dream in Gold," and participate in the powerful movement to conquer childhood cancer.

Midterm Mania

Siena Wanders '19

435 House, 33 Senate, and 36 gubernatorial seats are up for grabs in the 2018 midterm election. Throughout May, local primaries have been held across the United States to determine the Republican

and Democratic candidates for the elections in November. Midterm elections generate a lower voter turnout compared to presidential elections, however, they can have significant effects on the gridlock between Congress and the President.

This election season Democrats hope to ride a wave of anti-Trump sentiment to a House majority in November. Only about 48 seats are considered competitive and will determine whether or not Congress will flip from a Republican to Democratic majority. Democrats, who have been the House

minority party since 2010, must flip 24 Republican seats while keeping the 194 seats they currently hold in order to reach their goal.

The Democratic party's increased popularity in ballot polls and President Trump's relatively low approval ratings bode well for the Democrats' predicted success.

Congressional races are inherently local elections and it is the individual candidates on the ballot who truly matter.

Siena Wanders '19

Despite the fact that the current political climate plays an enormous role in the outcome of the midterm elections, congressional races are inherently local elections and it is the individual candidates on the ballot who matter.

In our home state, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has released new district boundaries after ruling a gerrymandered map unconstitutional. This ruling directly affected Montgomery County. The 13th district previously represented by Brendan Boyle is now the 4th district of Pennsylvania and will likely elect a new representative.

Looking Forward to Next Year

A Letter from the Editor
Tess White '19

As this is the final letter of my Junior year, I would like to finish not with nostalgic sentiments of this past year, but rather with a hopeful view for the future. Next year, my senior year, my final year will bring with it a last chance to capture all that high school has to offer: the dances, the traditions, the late nights, the early mornings, and everything in between that I will cherish one more time.

To my fellow Junior Class sisters, we have one more opportunity to get it right, to make it memorable, and to leave a lasting mark on our school. Composed of more than sixty intelligent, athletic, artistic, and spirited young women, our grade is teeming with potential as we stand on the precipice of our Senior year and beyond.

We should desire to create a legacy that is much more than the class that followed

tradition; we must leave something else tangible behind. Will we be the class that starts a new program, establishes a new dance, or improves our school's climate? This is up to us as a class to work cooperatively towards; our individual efforts alone will not be enough.



Tess White '19

Editor-in-Chief

As I write, I am continually reminded of one of my favorite quotes of Helen Keller's, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." Simple and yet so significant these words will always remind me of the collaborative nature of our class. These words can also serve as our challenge next year and a final testament to our sisterhood.

Leaving Saint Basil Academy will be bittersweet regardless, but if we are successful, we will know that we left our school better than we found it- the ultimate sign of a true Basil girl.



Tess White '19

The *Basilian Pillar* editors take time off for Prom.

A Starry Night at Prom

Colleen Quinn '19

On April 27, 2018, junior and senior students donned their dresses for a night they will always remember: Prom. The girls took countless pictures with their respective dates and friends at their homes. Then they headed to SBA for the tradition of picture-taking at the school.

Junior Mikhala Frankunas explained the tradition, "Everyone going to prom comes to Basils and we get to see one another in our dresses, then the freshmen and sophomores come too, and we all get pictures together. It is fun for them too because they get to see what they will be experiencing in the next couple of years."

After pictures at Basils, the girls arrived at Philmont Country Club around 7 p.m. As soon as we arrived, we were given our gift bags, which featured the beloved prom socks, a staple of prom. The gift bag also held a reusable drinking cup decorated to match the evening's theme of Starry Night.

For dinner, there was a delicious buffet, and to our great excitement, an ice cream bar. With multiple flavors and dozens of toppings, it was an ice cream lover's dream. Junior Tabby Ford said: "The ice cream bar was the best part of the food, especially the hot fudge topping!"

After dinner, we danced, not only to our beloved pop

songs, but to our favorite throwbacks as well. Junior Maddy Yevoli summed up the festivities, "I had so much fun dancing with all of my friends; everyone looked great!"

We freestyled, line danced, and jujured our way through the night. Then it was time to pick the Prom Queen. In true Basil fashion, all of the Senior names are put into a hat and the name is drawn randomly. The 2018 Prom Queen was Senior Jules Gura, and she was given a crown to show that she was Queen. She and her date then proceeded to slow dance in the middle of the floor, surrounded by their admiring peers.

Finally, it was time for the last song, and anticipation was building. Then the first piano notes of Vanessa Carlton's "White Houses" started playing, which sent screams erupting as all the Basil girls rushed to the floor to join in singing the song. At that moment, it felt like we were united as Basil sisters, coming together at the end of Prom.

All in all, Prom was an exciting and memorable experience for the juniors and seniors. We shared in the planning, feasted at a buffet, and shared music together. We marked the moment in time.

Junior Erin Sherman said, "I never felt so close to my gorgeous buds."

That comment sums up what Prom is all about. It is a bonding experience for us to go out together, get dressed up, and dance with our friends -- and maybe our dates too.

Lady Bird: An Age Old Story

Grace Comas '20

Dealing with ideas both big and small, Greta Gerwig's *Lady Bird* acts as an enduring love letter to the writer-director's hometown, to her devoted-headstrong mother, and to her younger awkward self. *Lady Bird* is a director's flashback and a relatable story for teenagers.

As a Catholic high school student, Christine McPherson, self-proclaimed "Lady Bird", dreams to escape the dullness of Sacramento by moving East to "where culture is." This constant longing for something bigger and better creates obstacles for Lady Bird throughout the film.

In this coming-of-age story, Lady Bird is a high school senior at Sacred Heart Academy for Girls. As a current Catholic school student, the rendition of an all girl's Catholic academy was exemplary. From the rolled plaid skirts to the synchronized monotone "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace", Gerwig creates a feeling of familiarity among Catholic school alumni.

As Lady Bird discusses the chance of getting into a 'Yale but not Yale,' with her favorite nun, she realizes the Sacramento she seems to hate may be a Sacramento she has always loved. After Sister Sarah reads Ladybird's college essay about her hometown, she comments on the detail and diligence Lady Bird uses to describe Sacramento. When Lady Bird tells Sister she is simply just describing the town, the astute nun answers with a question that crafts a theme for the rest of the film: "Don't you think they're maybe the same thing? Love and attention?"

This question also shapes the relationships Lady Bird has with her mom, her best friend Julie, and her boyfriend. Confused and heartbroken by her "nicer side of the tracks" boyfriend, Danny, Lady Bird begins to date

Kyle, a boy from the more popular crowd. Trying to fit in with Kyle's friends, Lady Bird does not give Julie attention, causing the two friends to distance themselves from one another. Driving around on her senior prom night with her new so-called "friends", Lady Bird has never felt more alone. She ditches her arrogant boyfriend and spends the night at prom with Julie, rekindling their friendship.

Although reunited with Julie, Lady Bird continues to wander away from her mom. Her mom, Marion, tells Lady Bird she should go to city college, then jail, and then back to city college, despite Lady Bird's desire to go across the country. This hostile attitude is Marion's way of expressing her love. Driven by their conflicting points of view, Marion's strong-willed personality and Lady Bird's ungrateful attitude create a push-pull relationship. Lady Bird and Marion constantly fight, only to dread their goodbyes when Lady Bird leaves to go to college in New York. Angered by Lady Bird's college decision, Marion refuses to speak

to her daughter before she leaves. Lady Bird gets on the plane and her mother bursts into tears, realizing what she has let go.

After arriving in New York, Lady Bird finds thoughtful letters hidden in her suitcase. Written by her mother and salvaged by her father, these letters inspire Lady Bird to use her birth name, Christine. Ironically, Christine spends her first morning at a place she intended to leave in Sacramento: church. Overwhelmed with the city, she finds solace in the familiar. Christine calls home, realizing her attentive love for her mother and Sacramento.

Reflecting on how emotional she became the first time she drove through Sacramento, Christine leaves a message: "All the bends I've known my whole life, stores, and the whole thing. I love you. Thank you. Thank you." Christine realizes by the end of the film that the things we need most are right in front of us.

"We're afraid that we will never escape our past. We're afraid of what the future will bring. We're afraid we won't be loved, we won't be liked. And we won't succeed."

Lady Bird

Challenges Gone Wrong

A Letter from the Editor
Grace Comas '20

With social media on the rise, many trends and questions surface the internet: the 'Laurel or Yanny' question, the Tide-pod challenge, and the mannequin challenge are just a few. Youtubers and rising media stars urge their fan base to accept "internet challenges." Some teenagers are excited to participate in immature and unsafe internet challenges without understanding the potential risk. Although these media proclaimed experiments may seem amusing, they can turn out to be anything but amusing.

From the Kylie Jenner lip challenge to the cinnamon chaos, internet stars have paid major consequences at the expense of their health. Just last year a fourteen-year-old boy, Skylar Fish almost died from the duct tape challenge. The duct tape did not harm Fisher, but his attempt to break free from the tape caused the damage. Fisher hit his head on a window frame, leading to a brain aneurysm.

Recently, *The New York Times* reported on how the deodorant challenge left a ninth grader with second degree burns. The deodorant challenge is an endurance test which involves spraying deodorant from an aerosol can directly on a bare skin. This challenge holds the same idea as the salt and ice challenge, which consist of holding salt and ice in

your hands until you are unable to endure the burn. As a competition to see who can spray the deodorant the longest or hold the ice cube and salt against their hands, people may need skin grafts to heal their burned skin.

Although these challenges are encouraged by paid internet stars, the likes and comments should not be more important than one's health. Remember to be smart and think of long term consequences, not just temporary likes and laughs.



Grace Comas '20

Associate Editor

Congratulations Seniors, Class of 2018!

Marissa Ryan '18

Congratulations Class of 2018! After four years of study, sports, drama, clubs, and participating in school traditions, it is finally time to leave the academy.

A few student athletes will continue playing sports in college: Lauren Baldo (soccer), Katelynn Hendricks-Coyle (volleyball), Juliana Gura (basketball), Carly Jenson (softball), Ciani Kensey (track & field), Brooke Shissler (soccer), and Paulina Storck (soccer).

Special Congratulations to Mary Campion, Valedictorian, and Maddie McCrea, Salutatorian.

Maddie McCrea describes her time at SBA, "This has been the best four years of my life. Basils will forever hold a special place in my heart and it has shaped me into the young woman I am today. It will definitely be hard to leave this place, and I may even shed a tear on graduation, but I am excited to see what new adventures college will bring me and my fellow classmates."

Kelly O'Brien adds, "From the beginning of freshmen year to the end of senior year we have matured into bright, young, confident women who are ready to conquer the world."

The Senior Class will be attending the following colleges in the fall of 2018:

Lauren Baldo- *Widener University*
 Anya Bohatiuk- *University of San Diego*
 Mary Campion- *Boston University*
 Chandler Chavarria- *The Pennsylvania State University- Abington*
 Grace Clement- *St. John's University*
 Molly Deal- *Temple University*

Megan DiDomenico- *Widener University*
 Cheyenne Edwards- *West Chester University*
 Lynsey Ems- *West Chester University*
 Abrielle Fafara- *Thomas Jefferson University*
 Emily Farina- *Johnson & Wales University*
 Madeline Farrell- *The Pennsylvania State University*
 Priya Felix- *Drexel University*

Erin Gilson- *Monmouth University*
 Taylor Grabowski- *DeSales University*
 Brionna Grimaldi- *San Diego State University*
 Juliana Gura- *University of the Sciences*
 Julia Harkins- *West Chester University*
 Katelynn Hendricks-Coyle - *Manor College*
 Julia Hirth- *Bucks County Community College*
 Amanda Hostetler- *Alvernia University*

Michelle Hostetler- *High Point University*
 Celia Hutchinson- *University of the Sciences*
 Carly Jenson- *Alvernia University*
 Ciani Kensey- *Ursuline College*
 Katie Kleinbrahm- *University of Pittsburgh*
 Lauren Kuhn- *La Salle University*
 Paige Larini- *High Point University*
 Morgan Layfield- *Clarion University*
 Jennifer Levito- *Temple University*
 Grace Majkut- *Drexel University*
 Molly McAndrew- *West Chester University*
 Emily McCarrick- *University of Pittsburgh*
 Maddie McCrea- *University of Pittsburgh*
 Molly McMonagle- *Temple University*
 Amanda O'Brien- *University of Pennsylvania*
 Kelly O'Brien- *Immaculata University*
 Teagan O'Hara- *Kutztown University*
 Brianna Particelli- *Millersville University*
 Brielle Piecyk- *University of Pittsburgh*
 Olivia Piermatteo- *Gwynedd Mercy University*
 Cheryl Remolde- *University of Pittsburgh*
 Madeline Ryan- *Western State Colorado University*
 Marissa Ryan- *Thomas Jefferson University*
 Brooke Shissler- *Immaculata University*
 Kaitlyn Stacherski- *Bloomsburg University*
 Paulina Storck- *Bryn Athyn College*
 Kayla Superville- *West Chester University*
 Nina Violi- *Arcadia University*
 Nicole Weber- *West Chester University*
 Kristina Westervelt- *West Chester University*



SBA Instagram

The SBA community is excited to see all that the Class of 2018 accomplishes. Remember to come back and visit!

The class of 2018 has definitely made their mark on St. Basil Academy, and will be missed by the students and faculty next year. Best of luck to the Seniors on beginning a new chapter in their lives!

Heading Off to College

Anya Bohatiuk '18

The time has finally come for my Senior class to wear our saddle shoes for one last time. We are graduating this month, taking our final steps through the halls of Basils, and preparing to head off to college. Last month, the Seniors declared where they would be attending college in the fall of 2018, and I enjoyed seeing different places my fellow classmates will be attending. Going to college can and will be a scary thing for many of us because we will not all be remaining in Philadelphia. Some of us are traveling to new cities and towns with a hope to experience something different than we are used to.

I am one of those people. While I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to attend college at the University San Diego, moving across the country will be an adjustment. There are times when I wonder whether I will regret moving across the country since moving to a different state made me initially hesitant. Then I remind myself how lucky I am

to be able to go to such an amazing college. A fresh start will bring exciting opportunities, which I am eager to explore.

I am not the only one that will be going out of state. I discussed with my fellow classmate and close friend Paige Larini who will be attending High Point University in North Carolina in the Fall of 2018.

When I asked Paige why she chose to go to an out of state school, she said "I chose to go out of state because I wanted a new start and outlook on life that was outside of Philadelphia."

I also asked Paige how she feels about being 7 hours away from home and she said, "I am nervous, but I am lucky enough to be going to the same school as my older brother who will be a junior next year."

College may seem daunting now, but I know that my class will be able to adjust and thrive. Whether my classmates are attending universities near or far, I know that they all will do great things and make their mark like they have done at Basils.

Isle of Dogs: Movie Review

Claire Hynes '19

After 4 years of silence, Wes Anderson once again has graced the silver screen with yet another one of his cinematic masterpieces. His films are unforgettable to the public eye due to their unique camera use, noticeable color palettes, and excellent classic/indie rock soundtracks. While most of Wes Anderson's films tend to be live action, *Isle of Dogs* is a claymation film, a choice of medium he has only made once before in his directing career. Taking his four-year hiatus and change of medium into consideration, it was interesting to see if Anderson would be able to meet the high expectations of former films. Every Anderson film contains three consistent features: a specific color palette, symmetrical shots, and Bill Murray. These factors have skyrocketed Anderson to a cult movie icon.

Isle of Dogs takes place in Megasaki, Japan, where an outbreak of the dog flu dis-

ease has wreaked havoc across the city, thus resulting in the banishment of all the dogs to Trash Island off the coast of Megasaki. The movie follows the journey of the mayor's ward, Atari, as he travels to Trash Island in search of his dog, Spot.

The most unique part of the film is that despite it being an American film, every human character in the movie speaks Japanese. All signs and opening credits are also in Japanese and there are either subtitles or an onscreen translator at all times. The only English speaking characters are the dogs. It is by incorporating small elements like this that Wes Anderson is able to captivate his audience.

As mentioned earlier, there is a specific color palette to every Wes Anderson movie. *Isle of Dogs* colors consist of reds, oranges, and tans starkly contrasted by white in certain scenes. This warm color scheme helped emphasize emotions and anger throughout the

Fund Raising Fun - For SBA

Jennifer Mayro '21

On Saturday, April 21, 2018, Saint Basil Academy hosted its annual Pawction fundraising event to benefit the school community. The event drew many parents, alumni, and gracious benefactors to support SBA through an exciting night of bidding and auctioning. All donations and funds raised had the unique ability to touch the life of a student and to guide them on their path to success.

When entering the cafeteria, guests were immediately inundated by tables and tables filled with donated auction items on display. The items on display ranged from beach bicycles to a signed poster of the Eagles Super Bowl Champion team. A popular item in the marketplace area was the new SBA winter beanie, featuring the Basils "B" and a large pom-pom ball.

The main event of the night was the fast-paced and high-stakes live auction, which was emceed by Father Joe. While the guests were enjoying their dinners, they were entertained by bidding wars on this year's hot items including Taylor Swift tickets, dinner for twelve at Moonstruck, and tickets for a football game next fall at Notre Dame University.

Not only was the Pawction a successful fundraiser, it also served as the induction of two Basil alumnae into the Pillars of Success. Most notable to students attending SBA now is Sister Carla, who currently teaches Spanish and previously served as Vice Principal and Principal for many years. In her speech, Sister spoke about her experience coming from Hon-

duras to attend SBA. As a student, Sister Carla was a stellar basketball player, and today she still attends every home game to support our current players. Her speech reminded of the powerful bond of sisterhood that is instilled in us during our time here. Dr. Maria Sicat-Fagel received the Mother Josephat Service Award.

The success of the Pawction is thanks to the diligence of Mrs. Samantha Angelone and the time our parent, teacher, and student volunteers.



Tess White '19

SBA parents and alumni celebrated a successful Pawction.

film, while the bright white contrasts made scenes bright and crisp to notice detail. With the lack of real life actors to portray emotions, the director relied highly on details and scenery to paint a picture for the audience. A claymation movie allows for the set designers to take full artistic control and literally paint the scenes for the island to exist in and to make the audience feel as if they have entered a new world and are part of the story.

However, good set design is nothing without skilled camera work. The emphasis on symmetry in Wes Anderson films gives a clean effect to a somewhat abstract work of art. The shots are thought out and precise.

There is purpose to every pose, and the audience clearly can feel it. Wes Anderson is so dedicated to his craft that when filming claymation, he records himself for reference to the movement of the characters to get the perfect shot.

The enthralling story of *Isle of Dogs* was captured using artistic design and purposeful shots. The movie did indeed live up to the hype and expectations that come with this renowned director. This is an excellent film for any viewer who is looking to experience a movie that is unlike any other and to be exposed to a new view of the world.

Cheerleading: Keeping Up The Spirit

Emily McCarrick '18

The news that the cheerleading program was no longer being funded by the athletic department was tough to hear, but in the spirit of cheerleading, we chose to not let this news deter us. As a senior and leader of the team, I felt determined to move forward.

At first, the team was worried that the sport would disappear - that would be a disappointment, since many of us invested a little bit of blood, a whole lot of sweat, quite a few tears, and countless hours practicing. At second glance, after taking a moment to compose ourselves, we realized the future of the program would remain bright regardless of funding.

First and foremost, we have a dedicated group of girls who are dedicated to the effort that will be required to overcome any barriers. With ongoing diligence, we will help the cheerleading program continue to grow, compete, and hopefully make school history, with the same energy we have demonstrated for the past four years.

In addition to team commitment, we have the complete devotion of our coach, who has selflessly agreed to keep the cheerleaders on track next year. With her leadership and teaching, the team hopefully will progress to nationals and regain status as a Saint Basil Academy sport.

Finally, we have the support of our families and the Basils community, who encourage

us to stay optimistic as we work to compete and make a name for ourselves in the cheerleading world.

Personally, this decision was difficult; for the past four years cheerleading has offered solace from the trials and tribulations of life. I cannot imagine navigating my high school

years without the escape of practice. In practices, I could immerse myself in the routine, joke around with my teammates, or better myself through skill building when things were stressful. So when I heard this would no longer be a reality for the cheerleaders, who I have come to consider my family, I was not happy.



Grace Comas '20

The SBA cheerleaders are eager to get back to work for the 2018-19 season.

After spending four years on the team, trying to build the program to a nationally competitive level, it is an added challenge to deal with the stark realities of team finances. After decorating lockers, cheering at every game, and always doing our best to support the school, it felt like our many practices and hard work might be for nothing; however, we are determined to find a way to make things work out.

After speaking with Mrs. D'Angelo, it became clear that we have a copious amount of support coming from the school, and that this decision was not one easily made, nor easily enforced. Along with of the team, the school continues to hope for our success and wants to see cheerleading reintroduced as a sport to the athletic department in the future.

With the backing of one another, our coach, our community, and the school, the SBA cheerleading team is looking towards a successful season in the 2018-19 school year and beyond.

Despite this setback, we still encourage anyone who was interested in trying out, come out and join us! We have decided to keep our spirits high and use the adversity we currently face to fuel our determination. SBA cheerleading has all of the same goals as before and will use this as an opportunity to grow, so come out and be a part of a dedicated team that is determined to make school history in Disney World once again in national competition, and prove our worthiness as an SBA sports team!

Summer Skin Safety

Ann Abraham '19

Taking a walk, enjoying a barbecue, dipping into a pool, and feeling the hot sun on your skin reminds us of summer. After staying up at night doing homework, we look forward to stress-free days under the sun; however, we may not realize the damage we could be doing to our skin.

Everyone focuses on becoming tan for the summer, but exposure to UV rays frequently without any protection can have negative effects. Therefore, you should establish a summer skin care routine that insures the safety of your skin. Sunscreen is highly recommended to defend against sunburn and skin cancer. Sunscreens can range from sprays to lotions. Using a product with a higher SPF will benefit the user and decrease the level of UV rays. A common, but often forgotten, site for sun exposure is your lips. Dry and peeling lips can be prevented by using lip balm with SPF every day.

Also, you might want to consider a wardrobe change. Different articles of clothing

have been designed to repel rays and decrease the absorbency rate of the fabric. The clothes act as a shield against damaging rays. Your "second skin of sunscreen" may even be in your own closet. Clothes made of unbleached cotton, high-luster polyesters, and thin, satiny silks can absorb or reflect UV radiation. Brighter and lighter colors dominate summer outfits, but darker colors absorb UV light, repelling the rays from your body. Also, including a hat to your summer wardrobe will protect your face, ears, and neck.

Avoiding the sun when its rays are most intense - from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - is a major way to reduce exposure to UV rays. During this time, you are more susceptible to sunburn, and chances of skin cancer rise. The task may be difficult for those trying to enjoy a summer day in the morning. Therefore, seek shade under an umbrella or a tree to minimize extreme sun exposure.

Whether you are under the blazing sun on the beach or riding your bike through the neighborhood, you should always consider protecting your skin from the harmful effects of the sun.

Fighting Summer Boredom

Jennifer Mayro '21

Summer is right around the corner. In the past, you may have found yourself with nothing to do but binge-watch Netflix shows during this long break. This summer, you may want to try some new activities!

In the proximity of our area, there many exciting options to explore. SBA is just a train ride away from many historic sites and museums in Philadelphia. While tickets to some of these places can be expensive, you can pay with any donation you wish for the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Wednesday evenings and the first Sunday of every month. For some more historical activities, you can visit the Liberty Bell, Betsy Ross's House, The Constitution Center, or Independence Hall. Science lovers might enjoy a trip to the Franklin Institute, the Museum of Natural History, or the Mütter Medical Museum. For those who enjoy literature, take a visit to the

Philadelphia Free Library on the Parkway for a seemingly endless array of books. Also, there are Shakespeare plays performed in Clarke Park in University City from July 25-29 by the Shakespeare in Clark Park Theatre Company. Just bring a blanket or a chair and enjoy the Bard outside on a Summer night! There are also plenty of music festivals at the BB&T Pavilion, including 104.5 Birthday Bash and the Summer Kick-off Music fest. If you like roller-skating, you can head to the Blue Cross River Rink for skating by the Delaware River. Outside of the city, you can visit the June Fete for some carnival fun!

Consider using your summer break, to help others and volunteer. Most local libraries have different programs for teens to either help at their many events, or read to children. There are plenty of summer camps or vacation Bible schools in the area that could use teen volunteers as well. Volunteering is also a great way to complete some of your service

SBA Track Does it Again

Sophia Mahoney '19

To make a long story short- a quaint team of eleven spirited girls put all their hard work and passion out on the track during a gut wrenching performance to snatch the first place trophy from the hands of the larger competitors. Sounds like a movie? It felt like one too.

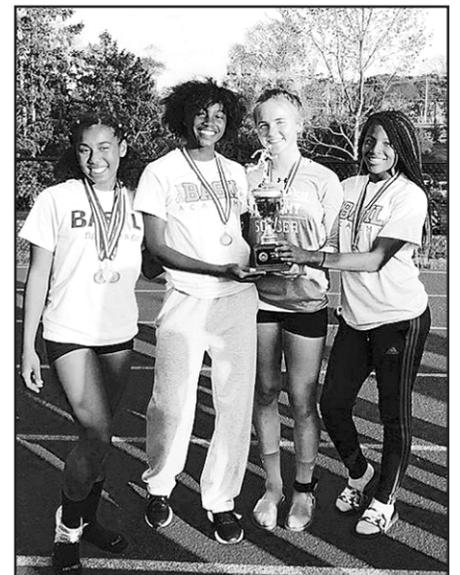
As we packed in Lloyd's infamous truck on the morning of May 9th, we knew this would be a day to remember. When we arrived at Ursinus College, we stepped onto the track with a positive attitude. Of course, the minute we headed to the league meet, we were ready to conquer. Although our team may be lacking in numbers, our spirit and ability has never fallen short. The track team has become infamous for showing off their "quirkiness" through customs like the greatly anticipated spirit week, artistically crafted snapchat videos, and other team bonding activities that may sound strange to outsiders. This pep has helped fuel the fire for victory. Also, we thank Mrs. D'Angelo and the entire the SBA community for on-going support.

The girls took up the challenge of the meet. A majority of the team participated in events the whole day and only had time to catch a break when they were walking to their next event. Coaches ran around too, encouraging their runners to work to their fullest potential. The points had been head to head all day, and no one knew how the final results would affect the team.

Finally, finished with the vigorous activities from the day, the team sat exhausted. Satisfied with the effort put forth, but nervous for

the results; Coach Lloyd told us he was proud no matter what.

What happened next was not predicted, but earned. The words "and tied for first place are Villa Joseph Marie and Saint Basil Academy" echoed through the stadium. We did it! Ice was thrown in the air and rained on the victors as the sun slowly set on a perfect day. Hugs were shared, and trophies were received. Congratulations to the 2018 ACA League Champions!



Grace Comas '20

The SBA sprint/jump crew could not be prouder after their exceptionable performance at League Champs.

hours before the school year even begins.

If you need a little cash, it might be a little too late to find a summer job. However, you could always make some spending money babysitting for neighbors or family members.

The summer is a great time to catch up not only on tv shows and movies, but also on books. Remember, reading improves brain function. If you need suggestions, check out the book reviews in past Basilian Pillar issues, ask your local librarian, or just browse through the Young Adult section of your library. The best part about books is that you can take them anywhere: on the beach, to the

pool, or anywhere you travel this summer.

Even though the school year is over, you can continue learning during the summer. Whether you take an online class to get a course out of the way, take an SAT prep class, or learn how to drive, there are many ways to keep expanding your mind and abilities. With the internet and Youtube videos, you can teach yourself new things, like how to play the ukulele, how to do a handstand, or how to do origami.

Whatever you do this summer, make sure to stay safe, get outside, and spend time with your family and friends. Most of all, have a great summer. We will see you next year!