

The Excalibur

The Online Nazareth RHS Student Newspaper



Xaverian Brothers
Sponsored Schools

XBSS Retreat a Huge Success

By: Tyra Andrus and Gloryjah Robinson

From March 6th to the 10th six Nazareth students went to the Holy Retreat Center in Connecticut for the XBSS Retreat. During this retreat we learned about our place as a Catholic school, and as individuals in our community. One of the best parts about the retreat was getting to network with kids from other Xaverian sponsored schools from different states. We were separated from our schools, and put into small groups with six juniors, one senior leader, and one teacher from another school. At first we were hesitant to open up to a group of people that we didn't know, and came from very different backgrounds, but we soon realized that we were all the same in some sort of fashion. In small group we were able to talk to each other about things

that we usually wouldn't tell people we've known for years. In just four days, we believe that we made friendships that could last a lifetime.

On one day of the retreat, we left the center and went to a soup kitchen called The House Of Bread. We were able to interact with the people when serving them food. It was opportunity that we will always cherish.

The best thing about the retreat was the fact that we were able to create a much closer relationship with God. We wrote prayers thanking Him for everything that He has blessed us with. Not only that, but we were also able to hear how God affected the lives of the friends we made in our small group.

May 2016, Issue 2

Happy spring from the
Excalibur staff!



- Upcoming 2016 Events -

- 5/7 SAT Exam @ Nazareth
- 5/12 Fine Arts Presentation
- 5/19 Sports Awards Night
- 5/20 Last Day of Classes for Seniors
- 5/26 Memorial Day - School Closed
- 6/4 Eugene McCarthy Memorial Run @ Marine Park
- 6/8 Last Day of Classes for Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors

Spirit Week by Keira Matos

During School Spirit Week, students celebrate their school pride by participating in activities given each day, wearing school colors and dressing according to a different theme each day. Spirit Week is usually held only for the seniors', but this year was introduced to the whole school.

For Nazareth Regional High School's 2016 Spirit Week, each day was a different theme. On Monday April 11th, students dressed in Pajamas, Tuesday was tacky Tuesday, Wednesday being twin day, Thursday was throw back Thursday, and Friday wearing all Nazareth gear proudly. Spirit Week is designed for students to have a good time and dress up in a fun way.

Spirit week is a very fun way to keep students busy through out the school day while having fun. It is a very bittersweet week, because although we have to be focused on our schoolwork, teachers and staff make it very entertaining. Nazareth really brings out the best in students by including fun weeks like this. No student wants to go to school and be stressed out all the time, so by teachers and staff creating such a fun environment at times really relaxes a student and makes them want to come to school to participate in these fun activities. It is also very fun seeing staff and teachers participate as well.

Along with a very fun and entertaining week, Nazareth has always had to end the week with a bang. The week ended with a pep-rally for all the teams participating in the spring. Most of the school came out to celebrate with our very improved marching band, softball and baseball teams, track team, as well as the dance team and the cheerleaders. With times like these, you really do notice how involved staff is with the students and how much they do to make us as students happy being in school.



<http://www.facebook.com/NazarethRHS>



<http://www.facebook.com/NazarethRHS>



PlusPortals
Your School's Online Connection.

<http://www.plusportals.com/nazarethrhs>

<http://www.plusportals.com/nazarethrhs>



Kingsmen and Lady Kingsmen Ready to Hit a Home Run

By: Tyhira Houston

At this time last year, Nazareth's softball season needed some improvements. There either weren't enough girls or the team just couldn't pull out a win. This year, things are changing within the softball team. With a lot of returning players including pitcher Keira Matos, Short stop Arianna Rentas, first base Nia Phillips, second base Nicole Sacks, and catcher Victoria Brown, these girls have come back stronger than ever.

Hungry for a successful season, the softball team would ensure a victory over Christ the King. Powerful Pitcher Keira Matos had 11 strike outs! She was unstoppable! Not to mention the Nazareth defense was impeccable. From the start of the game, Keira Matos was in her zone striking out two people in the first inning.

With center fielder Erykah Russell sticking her glove out there to catch a ball that had the potential to be a HOMERUN.

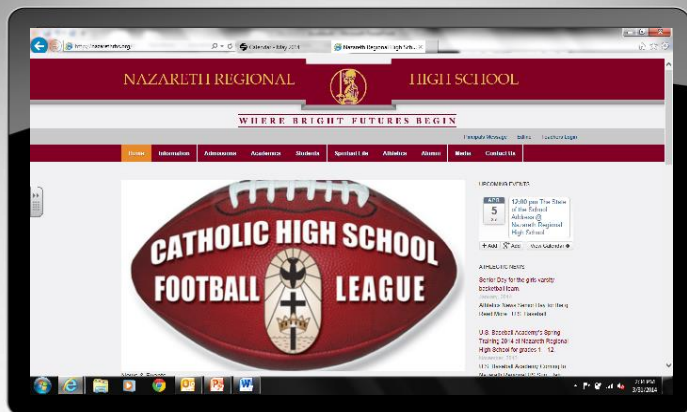


Instead, it was her catch that ended the game. This win for Nazareth's softball team was much needed. An 11-1 mercy to start the season off.

On to the Kingsmen baseball team. With a team full of veterans returning, the baseball team is looking to make another return to the CHSAA championship game. Pitcher Rolando Alvarez would open up the season with a bang, pitching 16 strikeouts

With this early victory, the Nazareth Kingsmen Baseball team are looking to ensure their spot in this years championship.

It's clear that this years baseball and softball team came to play. Both teams are looking to improve from last season and things have started off on a good note. Most often heard when playing the Kingsmen, "STRIKE ONE, STRIKE TWO, STRIKE THREE!" So beware to the other teams, these Kingsmen came to dominate.



Visit our website at:

<http://www.nazarethrhs.org>

Kingsmen Music - The Resurgence

By: Isaiah Griffin

Nazareth Regional High School's music program has made a big resurgence this year. Along with 5 music classes, the school's marching band is becoming a cornerstone of Nazareth culture. Kingsmen Band has come a long way since its predecessor last year. Its director, Mr. Gundy, is a graduate from Grambling State and was an infamous Marching Tiger. He drilled these young men and women on the principles that can make a *good* band *great*. The musicians practiced music, horn angles, sounding off, playing as one, and of course marching.

Before, the band has only played at school assemblies and pep rallies. However, after Nazareth's Boys Varsity coach, Todd Jamison, heard them play, he invited them to perform at all their home games during the season. Excited for this opportunity, Kingsmen Band went into the "woodshed" and continued to work. They worked on classic band melodies, while incorporating current pop tunes. Varsity senior, Jermain Braithwaite, once said, "I love the band. They give the games a college-feel." Various parents, faculty, and staff have complimented the improving Kingsmen



Band. They have even made impromptu performances at New Hope faculty meetings and have been asked to work with some of their students in the future.

The marching band's biggest performance came on January 9th, Nazareth's Homecoming. The band practiced their halftime routine continuously in order to perfect it. The day came, and they delivered an amazing performance, culminating their music, dances, and marching to rouse the crowd.

Aside from music, these young musicians are being taught quality life lessons. They are learning about discipline, having faith, and most of all, trusting the process. They are learning leadership skills and how to work as a sound unit, working in unison to achieve a goal.

The Kingsmen Band is resting in the off season, dialing down their practices from three times a week, to one. Although the band will be losing its senior Drum Major, David Megafu, they hope to continue to grow their numbers and become a perennial band program in New York. The Kingsmen Band is looking to continue its progress into next school year and beyond. We are excited to see where they go in the future!



Freshmen On Track

By: Tiana Whyte

This year the Nazareth Track team has begun to make noise, especially the freshman relay team. This team consists of Ryan Brathwaite, Andre Morgan, Emanuel Johnson, and Elijah Jordan. During the indoor season, they won first place and were often first in their heat. This led them to winning first place in a championship. Now that we've entered outdoor season, they've kept their winning streak alive. Only a few meets into the season and they've already collected a handful of medals. As a team, they have collected a total of nine medals.

The Freshmen A team has won first place in four 4x200 races. In the CHSAA Frosh/Soph Boys Championships, they won first place for the preliminaries and finals. They received second place in the Hispanic Games and the CHSAA Relay Carnival. During 4x100 race at the Kings Relay the boys won second place and fourth place for a 4x400. For all of their races they received numerous medals and continue to make their team, school, friends, and families proud of their success and development within their sport.



Race For the White House



By: Ojee Voltaire

The race for the white house is only just getting started but it is already this intense. On both sides, Republicans and Democrats are campaigning across the country for enough votes to become their party's nominee. At the end of all this, there will only be one nominee from each party to run for the seat in the White House. On the Republican side, there is the front runner Donald Trump, Ted Cruz and John Kasich . On the Democratic side, there is the front runner Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. It seems that John Kasich, even with all his experience, will have to drop out the race soon, especially after super Tuesday in New York, where Donald Trump obtained 60% of the vote, Cruz 15% and Kasich with 25%. Even though Kasich beat Cruz, he has a horrible track record. Kasich only has 54 delegates and a candidate needs 1,183 to win the nomination.

Cruz might have a chance, if he wins Florida, and makes it to the Convention. On the Democratic side, Hillary seems to be the next Democratic nominee, but Bernie Sanders doesn't give up that easily. Bernie is still pushing, even after his loss in New York, with 42% of the vote and Hillary with 58%. Bernie is attacking Hillary on the fact that she is getting her campaign money from big businesses like Citi group INC and how she wont release her tax statements. Bernie gets his money from the people, regular people who donate to him. Bernie is hoping to take Florida and beat Hilary at the Convention.

Music History Lesson: The Harmonica

By: Aaron Orjiugo

The harmonica is an instrument of many names. Others being the French harp and mouth organ. The harmonica, while small, is capable of making incredibly loud shrieking noises. Some even call this noise music. The harmonica is most used in American Folk music, blues, jazz, country, and rock and roll if you can notice it. The harmonica, while simple to play for some, has also been regarded as the hardest to adapt to for others. While on one hand you can go on YouTube or your nearest music teacher for 7 minute lessons and 3 week practicing techniques, others can just play.

The Harmonica is a free wind instrument. Meaning that in order to play, for the most part, it's a matter of inhaling and exhaling. A harmonica is played by using the players strong and hearty lungs to direct air into and out of one or more holes along the mouthpiece. Sometimes all along the watchtower as well. Behind the holes are chambers containing a reed. A reed serves as an airway and is a flat elongated spring typically made of brass, stainless steel, or bronze, which is secured at one end over a slot.

Harmonica notes at first sight seem complex. I've been playing for several months now and I still can't read them. They basically letter the number of the blowholes twice. One set for inhaling the other for exhaling. Then those letters get reassigned for other steps that eventually lead into different playing positions.

Ex. 2

	Whole Step Bend (°) — B [♯]										
	½ Step Bend (°) — E [♯] G [♯] B										
BLOW	C	E	G	C	E	G	C	E	G	C	
	C	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
DRAW	D	G	B	D	F	A	B	D	F	A	
	½ Step Bend (°) — D [♯] G [♯] B [♯] D [♯] A [♯]										
	Whole Step Bend (°) — F A										
	1-½ Step Bend (°) — A [♯]										





Usually if someone is a dedicated harmonica player, you won't just see them with one harmonica. Usually its about three or more. Where as on a guitar you can make a huge range of noises, on a basic ten-holed harmonica you can only make 20. This is because you can't tune a harmonica to play in a different note then it was made for. So if it was tuned in C, you can probably only play Piano Man. Anything else would sound incredibly off key.

Reeds are pre-tuned to individual pitches. Tuning may involve changing a reed's length, the weight near its free end, or the stiffness near its fixed end. Longer, heavier and springier reeds produce deeper, lower sounds; shorter, lighter and stiffer reeds make higher-pitched sounds. There are plenty of Keys for harmonicas to be tuned in. You have the basic keys such as A, Bb, C, E, D, F and G. After that you have a bunch of weird keys that are not as much variations but subsets such as E flat and C flat.

Video Game Review: Street Fighter V



By: Kai Wilson

Capcom's new addition to the street fighter series takes place years after the events of Street Fighter 3rd Strike. Street Fighter V brings 4 new characters to the roster; Necalli, Rashido, Laura and F.A.N.G. New gameplay also is introduced; The V Trigger system that allows a player to enhance their moves to turn the tables on their opponent, as well as the crush counter that if performed at the right moment, acts as a mini stun to punish an opponent.

As good as the gameplay is, Capcom failed to bring a good meal to the table and gave us bread crumbs instead. The "story" is nowhere near completed yet and is supposed to arrive in the June update, which is dumb. Instead Capcom gives you the easiest 2-3 fights in video game history for each character. They've updated the game to a decent level so that online is actually enjoyable, but shipped the game all over the world without adding the basic essentials of a fighting game. For example, a "proper" tutorial, an actual story mode, a challenge mode, and last but not least, AN ARCADE MODE!

The game isn't an utter disappointment, Capcom just felt the need to release the game early enough to put it in fighting game tournaments. It's a good game, once it gets all the things that makes Street Fighter recognizable, it should be fun for all.

Street Fighter V gets a 7.5/10



The Excalibur congratulates the following student athletes on their signings:



-Niya Johnson



-Tahriq Gordon



-Erykah Russell

The Excalibur Staff



Writers:

Isaiah Griffin

Keira Matos

Tyhira Houston

Gloryjah Robinson

Tyra Andrus

Kai Wilson

Aaron Orjiugo

Ojee Voltaire

Tiana Whyte

Advisor:

Mr. Bryer