

## Dominican Republic Team 2012



The semester is coming to an end at St. Joseph's Catholic High School and students have been busy finishing final culminating projects and preparing for exams. On that topic, Exams are scheduled from Friday, January 17 to Wednesday, February 1. However, as we approach the second semester, there is a very special event at SJHS that everyone should be aware of!

From February 9, to February 16, the 2012 Dominican Republic (DR) Team will be joining a group of students from Bishop Smith High School in Pembroke to visit the Dominican Republic on a humanitarian mission. Throughout the visit, students will be living with host families in the town of Yamasa, DR. Students will be participating in a number of different activities during the 10-day journey to bring aid to impoverished families in the area. Some of the things that the students will be doing include delivering friendship kits of food to poor families, doing odd jobs or visiting a local school. While the students themselves are responsible for paying for their

own travel, they have been fundraising for almost a year to pay for much needed medical supplies, which they will also bring with them. The students who have been chosen to represent our school this year are; Breigh Whalen, Greg Sawbridge, Jacey Carnegie, Kaitlyn Kargus, Heleana Varsch, Jennifer Hagerman, Rosemary Waclawik, Dean Dewar, and Brittany Rowan, and teacher Mrs. Alana Hamel. Each student is looking forward to the opportunity to help others who are less fortunate and to help make a difference in their lives. The journey is certain to be a life changing experience for those involved. The SJHS school community is proud of the efforts of the 2012 Dominican Republic Team and we will continue to support the students through prayer as they complete their mission to help the community of Yamasa, D. R. If you wish to make a donation towards this years DR mission, please contact the school at 613-432-5846.

By Victoria Slight



# Spirit Business for 2012

Speaking on behalf of myself and Christine, the past four months have run smoothly and we're happy with the amount of spirit that St. Joe's has! It's incredible to see everyone through grades 8-12 with a high level of Jag Pride!

The new year is looking good spirit wise. We've got a lot planned. In the month of January, we had our monthly Jag Day on the 13th. We dressed up in your garnet and grey and participated in a scavenger hunt at lunch, at the spirit spot! Once second semester rolls around, the Jag Days will continue!

Also in February, we have our 2nd annual black-light dance. We'll fill you in on details closer to the date. We'll hope to celebrate St. Valentine's Day in style, with our pinks, reds and whites also!

Be sure to listen to announcements and participate in all activities in the upcoming months!

Your SMinisters

## Did You Know?

Did you know: cats spend 66% of their life asleep

Did you know: Switzerland eats the most chocolate equating to 10 kilos per person per year

Did you know: the average golf ball has 336 dimples



By Sonya Bergin

2011 thank you for treating us well  
2011 thanks for keeping us safe  
The memories we made, I wouldn't sell  
I know in this new year, there are more memories to make  
Through the ups and the downs  
How far we've all been, many miles  
We look back on last year  
And look forward with a smile  
Thankful for all of what last year brought  
The people and the places that we've been to  
The future of this upcoming year will be in our thoughts  
May this year be special and new



## A word from your Prime Minister

Another year finishes and new one begins. 2011 was an excellent year for the staff and students of St. Joseph's High School. Together we raised close to \$4000 for Relay for Life with the help of student volunteers willing to cut their hair for cancer. We filled townsquare full of food for the local Food Bank with the help of Mr. Dedo, and our Spirit and Pastoral Ministers. The male staff and students participated, yet again, in Movember to raise money and awareness for Prostate Cancer. Students travelled to Germany, Austria and Switzerland as part of the Europe Trip. Eight grade eleven students were given the opportunity of a lifetime as they travelled to the Dominican Republic as part of a missionary journey to help those less fortunate. Girls at the school were invited to participate in Girls' Night, which was fun for every one. Many of our sports teams had great athletic success and represented our school well at both the County and Eastern Ontario level. Truly, we are blessed to have the opportunity to be a part of a school that not only does great things for our school, but also for our community, and the world around us. May God grant His many blessings upon us as we enter into this new year.

Julia Rowat

# Movie Review

2011 was, without a doubt, a great year for movies, and hopefully so will 2012. What is 2012 going to bring? Well, dictators, superheroes, spies, and maybe a couple of Ghostbusters for starters. Here are my picks for what I think will be the best of 2012, and some sequels I really hope happen.

1. The Dark Knight Rises- I wanted to keep this one until the end of the list, but I'm too excited for it. I loved the first two films and the trailers released prove that this is going to be not just as good, but maybe even better than the other two. Here's to hoping this will be a great conclusion!

2. The Hobbit- I'm going to go straight out and say it, I've never seen The Lord of the Rings trilogy or read the books. I have, however, read the Hobbit and I hope this movie will convince me to watch the other

3. Brave- It can't be summer without a new Pixar movie! This film looks very interesting because it is set in a fantasy world, something not yet done by any Pixar film. It will focus on the adventures of a young girl who must save her kingdom from evil forces. Sounds and looks interesting, let's just hope the actual film will be.

4. The Dictator- At least one good comedy comes out every year, and I think this might be the one good one. Starring Sacha Baron Cohen as a dictator who comes to America to stop democracy, this looks like it is going to be REALLY funny.

5. The Hunger Games- Based on the book of the same name, The Hunger Games takes place in a post-apocalyptic world in what was once North America. Ruled by the cruel and unforgiving Capitol, every year, one district must send a boy and a girl to participate in the annual Hunger Games. This film follows Katniss Everdeen, a girl chosen to be in the Hunger Games, and her fight for survival.

6. The Bourne Legacy-Yes, you heard me right, there will be a fourth Bourne movie. The bad news is, it won't star Matt Damon. The good news, it will focus on another member of the shadowy agency that Bourne was in and promises to deliver the same action-packed spy action as the first three movies.

7. The Avengers- After many Marvel superhero movies, some good and some really good, we finally get the one we have all been waiting for. The Avengers! The best part, we only have to wait 5 months for it! The other best part, all the actors are returning to reprise their roles, even Scarlett Johansson (Black Widow, anyone?). The other best part, this time, they will be saving the world together.

By Joel Beimers

## A Continuation of: The Lady of the Loach

By Rebeka Borshevsky

I longed for a place of my own – something I might call *mine*.

But I did not know if I wanted it through someone else's generosity. Though my dowry would be substantial, Father would see to it that my husband could not touch a single coin of Father's wealth. Such a notion would surely irk many of the men here, whose families were ancient and whose coffers were slowly running dry.

There was a sudden curse, and I looked down the table. A servant girl had stumbled on a crack in the stone floor and spilled her pitcher of wine into a noble's lap. I rose to my feet, but Father's hand on my wrist pinned me to the spot. I watched helplessly as the man grabbed the girl by the elbow and yanked her closer, his lips curled and his eyes raking her body, as though wondering how much of her he should ask in punishment.

"It is his right," Father said quietly. My fingers curled into fists. The girl's hair and skin was dark, the mark of a foreigner. Her wide black eyes flew to me, and I saw the same terror I'd felt when I nearly drowned as a child reflected in them.

"It is his right to take what little dignity she has?" I hissed, wrenching away from his grasp. Father met my gaze, his calm where mine was spitting.

"Think about this family," he said lowly, his words stinging like a lash to the cheek. If I made a fuss over a servant, the nobles' respect for my father would plummet. Choking back an angry sob, I returned to my seat. The man thrust the girl away from him and she staggered out of the room. His fingers dug into his food, but his eyes followed her as she hurried away. Her face was pale beneath its colour, her lips trembling. I knew not what he had said to her, but I had heard and seen enough of life to suppose. She would return to him later for her punishment or risk the noble entreating my father for justice.

He noticed my stare, and met it with eyes as grey as stormy skies. His beard was dark, streaked with grey, and his bark-brown curls tumbled across his forehead. With a swallow, his gaze dropped to his food.

"He will hurt her," I said to my father.

"Aye," he said gravely. "But I can do nothing, Kathy. There are laws one must follow in this land in order to rise to power and stay there. Stumble once and you fall." He frowned, and I knew he was considering his brother's betrayal of him in their youth. Before my father became the laird, my uncle had tried to murder him. My mother had rescued him, but more than that, I knew not. As he surveyed the room, he must have been wondering who else might one day turn against him – and who might rebel over the rescue of a clumsy servant girl.

# ART

As you already know art exists in many different forms. Sculpture is one of these forms and in the winter a window of new possibilities opens up in this field. First of all there's the well known snowman type sculpture. A relatively easy sculpture that is usually made to represent the joy that comes with snow. However with some creativity you can change a single snowman into an entire winter scene with multiple snow people and props. Snow angels are another common winter time form of art. These simple "relief sculptures" are great for photo ops and can be used to make interesting patterns in the snow when multiple snow angels are used. Those are just a few things you can do to get the creative snowball rolling this winter, just be sure to photograph your work because snowplows and younger siblings may bring bad news to your masterpieces.

By Myles Songolo



Photo Credit: Krista Mahusky



## A New Year, A Fresh Beginning

Happy New Year!! With a new year comes a fresh beginning, and a time to make positive changes in our lives - whether it be a better relationship with our families, discarding a bad habit, or simply having a change of heart. This is also a wonderful time to strengthen our relationship with God, our father. When we decide to make resolutions, they are often forgotten quickly and we continue on the path we started on. However, by allowing God to be at the centre of our lives, holding true to these resolutions becomes much simpler. How, you might ask? Through prayer - set aside time daily to thank God for everything you have, offer up intentions, and present Him with the desires of your heart. Another way is to become active in your community or parish, through youth groups, retreats, or volunteering as a children's liturgy leader, altar server, choir member, Eucharistic minister, or lector. Attending mass each Sunday is a crucial part of strengthening your faith life, but only a small portion. Allow your faith to thrive each and every day of the year through random acts of kindness, forgiveness, love, peace, and prayer. At the very least, remember that Jesus loves you and is always there to help you along your way! On January 1st, the Church celebrated the Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. Mary is a wonderful example for all of us to follow - she brought Jesus into the world as a unique part of God's plan and we all have our own place in His plan that we must fulfill.

May your new year be filled with all of God's blessings!

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)

-Haley Gale

