

Covid can't stop our spirit! Spirit Week is a smashing success

BY JACOB SPROCK AND JOHN POSEY
NEWS EDITOR, REPORTER

Monday, Sept. 28 marked the kickoff of the 2020-21 Spirit Week at Saint Louis U. High, and the Student Council did their best to assure it started strong. They started planning the layout of the week in July and attended extra meetings a few weeks beforehand to work out any kinks and do some additional brainstorming. They eventually decided that the theme for the week would be "retro" and that it would consist of three main events: a tailgate on Monday and Tuesday, an open mic night on Wednesday, and a drive-in movie on Friday.

At the start of the week, as some students slept in for an extra hour in anticipation of online classes, others garbed themselves in their best sports jersey for the day's dress theme and began the trek to school. As they walked up the drive, they were met with enthusiastic STUCO representatives blasting retro-themed jams, which would also play during passing periods throughout



Students enjoy senior Nick Campbell's grilling during Spirit Week.

photo | Anthony Adem

the week. Once inside, more STUCO reps were waiting to hype up students for the week to come.

However, the students would have to wait until the end of the day for the kickoff event of Spirit Week: the tailgate. Scheduled to start at the beginning of 8th period, the tailgate was packed with activities. STUCO had set up tents and games on the field near the Danis Field House, with stations for spike ball,

wiffle ball, and bean bag toss populating the grass. Students of all grade levels participated, many standing a safe distance to watch games while they waited their turn.

For those not as interested in the physical activities, the tents offered a safe place to talk or play video games with friends. A popular activity of the tent-goers was the hit game Among Us, which added to the sense of comradery. To grillmaster and tail-

gate enthusiast senior Nick Campbell, the event served as a reminder of the brotherhood that's often associated with SLUH.

"Though (brotherhood) is hard to see in class, it's still here," said Campbell. "It's a chance to get back together and feel the love since it's so difficult recently."

Campbell and the other core members of the Tailgate Club—Connor Gunn, **continued on page 5**

Where are the missing priests? PN investigates

BY JACK FIGGE AND GEORGE HENKEN
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

As students roam the one-way hallways of St. Louis U. High, they have most likely noticed the numerous changes and additions to the school building, the new technology in each of the classrooms, the plexiglass in the commons, and the many masked faces of new faculty. But three faces they won't see around the building for the time being are the smiling faces of three of SLUH's beloved Jesuit priests.

Ever since the pandemic began, Fr. Paul Sheridan S.J., Fr. Ralph Houlihan S.J., and Fr. Michael (Marco) Marchlewski, have been under a strict lockdown because they are a part of the high risk demographic, and both Sheridan and Houlihan live in a community where there are many priests that have declining health and preexisting conditions.

"We are here (in lockdown) because we do not want to infect the 28 patients in the infirmary because they will die. So basically my brothers and I are absolutely convinced that our sacrifice is to save lives and we readily do," said Sheridan.

Sheridan and Houlihan were already living at Jesuit Hall, located on St. Louis University's campus, when the pandemic began, while Marco was still living at the Jesuit residence on SLUH's campus. During the summer, provincial Fr. Tom Greene, S.J. along with SLUH's administration, realized that it would not be a safe idea to have the older Jesuit priests return to SLUH.

"We were worried about the level of risk for them with kids coming in and out every day," said Fr. Joseph Hill, S.J.

While new accommodations were being worked out to protect Marco from the virus, in July, the director of Kenrick Glennon Seminary **continued on page 5**

3 seniors take extra step to prep for election

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL AND ALEX VAN NESS
NEWS EDITOR, REPORTER

There are 25 days until election night. Campaigns are in full swing, pollsters are collecting data, and one does not have to look far to see political ads or signs. For some St. Louis U. High students, this political season has offered them an opportunity to engage in political work, such as working in campaigns and analyzing polling data.

Senior Carter Fortman interned with Congresswoman Ann Wagner (MO-2) over the summer to help her campaign. He spent the summer making phone calls, writing postcards to voters, and delivering yard signs. During his tenure there, he won the inaugural "Volunteer of the Week" award for the Missouri Republican Party.

"In this line of work you need patience," said Fortman. "Not everyone wants to talk to you. However, it is so rewarding when you finally are able to talk to someone and they express their frustration and I am able to present them with a person that I think will work to make their lives better."

Working with Wagner's campaign was not Fortman's first experience campaigning. In 2018, during the midterms, Fortman worked with the Missouri Republican Party, contacting potential Republican voters, canvassing, and recruiting and organizing other volunteers for the program.

"In politics it is all about connections," said Fortman. "I was connected to the Missouri GOP by SLUH Alum Nick Perryman, who was serving as Deputy State Director for the party. From there I met Ann Wagner's Campaign Director who hooked me up with my 2020 internship."

Fortman is also the president of SLUH's Young Con- **continued on page 3**

School working to encourage freshman involvement and interaction amid COVID-19

BY JACK FIGGE AND NATHAN RICH
CORE STAFF

Direction Days: shortened. Freshman Fun Day: Canceled. Running of the Bills: Canceled. Activities fair: virtualized. All of these events, critical to helping freshmen adjust to the life of St. Louis U. High, have been modified in some form, making it difficult for freshmen to meet new people and make SLUH their second home.

Many unexpected trials have arisen since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March. One of the most significant consequences for SLUH has been that students, especially freshmen, have struggled with participating



photo | courtesy of SLUH Facebook

Senior Advisor Philip Hiblovic talks with his small group.

in the SLUH community and forming new relationships with their classmates.

"Certainly you have to take care of the physical health of the students, but you also have to look at the mental health," said freshman class moderator Tim Curdt. "We are wired to

connect with one another. Just because we have to be creative and more intentional doesn't ignore the fact that it is important for us to do it."

For the first weeks of school, many freshmen found it especially difficult to meet **continued on page 4**

Hiblovic creates collective for gifted local artists

BY CARTER J. FORTMAN AND JAMES SAADI
EDITOR IN CHIEF, REPORTER

Senior Philip Hiblovic found he had a lot of time on his hands last April. An avid poet, he took the opportunity to perfect his craft. However, he soon realized that his passion lacked the comradery he desired. He wanted a space for artists. From this desire came 21Artistry, a collective of artists dedicated to expanding the artistic culture of St. Louis.

It started when Hiblovic **continued on page 4**

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Faber day getting you down? How 'bout 24 hours of art instead! **Page 2**

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Where's our balloon? Air, land rescue missions fail

BY NATHAN RICH
CORE STAFF

Somewhere, dozens of miles east of St. Louis U. High, in a wooded area across the river, the SLUH weather balloon rests gracefully, at peace with the surrounding ecosystem. Somewhere. As for where that somewhere is ... the weather balloon team remains unsure.

The weather balloon made its inaugural trip of the 2020 school year a few weeks back, on Sept. 19. The balloon, which has been a member of the SLUH community for nine years now, consists of a light frame stuffed full with a flight computer, two cameras, a satellite tracker, a beacon, a parachute, and multiple sensors and probes tracking data like humidity, oxygen levels, and air temperature—not exactly something to lose.

On the Sept. 19 flight, though, it fell back to the ground somewhere around Mount Vernon, Ill., about an hour's drive from SLUH. Environmental STEM teacher Bill Anderson and director of the IT Department Jonathan

Dickmann were in hot pursuit the whole time. Following along by car, the duo was about a mile away when the balloon went down.

The search and rescue process for the balloon had previously been fairly straightforward. This year however, due to a combination of irregular wind and weather patterns, the balloon went slightly off course and landed in a very rural, wooded section of Illinois.

As a result, Dickmann and Anderson were forced to abandon the car and go trekking through the woods in search of the fallen balloon. Because it contains numerous high tech tracking devices, the balloon was in theory easy to find. On the ground though, many of the weather balloon's location sensors did not work, leaving a noise emitting beeper as the only means of finding the balloon.

A two-hour search yielded nothing, and the two teachers were forced to pack it up and head home, leaving only business cards (in case the balloon was found) behind.

"It was frustrating because we knew we were so close, and we searched the area so diligently but the tracker that we really needed to have work, failed," said Anderson. "I don't know where it is and it drives me nuts. I go back and look at pictures and I look at the maps still, and there's still nothing."

A disappointing story indeed, but it doesn't end there. In typical SLU High fashion, collaboration and community turned a disappointing situation into, quite literally, an exciting ride.

After the failed rescue attempt, Dickmann spoke to fellow faculty member and biology teacher Bradley Mueller, who recently received his pilot's license, and almost jokingly suggested a plane ride to survey the area around the fallen balloon. What started as a hypothetical muse quickly turned into reality, though, as Mueller, keen to fly, volunteered his skills for the challenge. After the initial search, the now trio of teachers set off once more to Illinois, in search of the lost payload. This time, though, they had only one

part of the balloon in their minds: its parachute.

"The parachute's not huge, but it's bright red and we were on the ground amidst a number of tall trees. Visually spotting (the parachute from the plane) would have been one possibility," said Dickmann.

Free to roam the skies, the weather balloon team actually found themselves more constricted. Over populous areas, planes like the one Mueller was flying must stay over 1,000 feet, which made it difficult to spot much of anything. Once again, the search was unsuccessful, but its failure and resulting plane ride were still very fruitful to the team, for many reasons.

"It was a lot of fun," said Dickmann. "I have my pilot's license as well and for me, it was ... being in an airplane again, that by itself was a lot of fun, even if we weren't able to spot the payload from the air."

Mueller, the now official pilot, agreed, noting his colleagues' excitement as well.

"It was awesome. Mr Dickmann was extremely excited to go, and Mr. Anderson

was hesitant but excited," said Mueller.

For his part, Mueller's flying skills received high ratings.

"Just the opportunity alone to fly with (Mueller) was great. It was amazing to see him outside of the classroom, in a totally different environment," Anderson reflected.

This year's experience also exposed the flaws in the weather balloon and encouraged a redesign of some faulty technology.

"We've been having some issues with some of the devices, and we'd always been

lucky enough to find it. Now we're looking really hard at everything that went wrong," said Dickmann. "It's kind of nice to look through the whole project again. It's a blessing in some ways."

A blessing for future launches, no doubt, but it still can't fix what might have been this year.

"I'm mostly disappointed for the guys because they worked exceptionally hard. We had a beautiful day for the launch so the pictures would have been spectacular," said Anderson. "It's a bummer."



photo | courtesy of Mr. Bradley Mueller
Mueller, Dickmann and Anderson before their search.

Students reflect on interconnectedness between God and art

BY SAM TARTER AND
ROARKE UNRAU
FEATURES EDITOR, REPORTER

For five years, St. Louis U. High has held its annual Art Retreat at the start of the fall season to give artistic members of the student body an opportunity to further their spirituality and connection with God through the arts. This year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic shortening their schedule, the Art Retreat was held once again with wide praise and mass creative inspiration.

Held at Toddhall Retreat Center in Colombia, Ill., the

art retreat began on Tuesday, Sept. 22 and ended the following day. Art teacher Sean Powers led the event and was accompanied by English teacher Chuck Hussung and choir teacher Addie Akin. The 24-hour period was spent on communal prayers, presentational talks, and workshops, which all focused on the relationship between art and the world, art and God, and art and oneself.

Due to the new block schedule, what was usually a three-day retreat was shortened to one full day and a night. To accompany the new 85-minute class periods,

the retreat started on the latter half of Tuesday and all of Wednesday, which allowed students and teachers to only miss a single Faber Day and still attend classes on Thursday.

While the change in schedule was not perfect, both the retreat leaders and students adapted and were still able to do what they intended: make great, spiritual art.

"It wasn't the most ideal thing to do, but it was either that or have the retreat be rescheduled, or possibly even cancelled, so we decided it was best to do it this way," said Powers. "That being said,

there is some precedent for having it this way: the very first art retreat was about 24 hours, only an overnight retreat, so we were prepared for the change."

"It definitely hinders a lot more completion of the art, but it was still very possible to come up with a complex piece of art in under 24 hours," said senior Alex Unseth.

Another change due to the pandemic was the social distancing. Since retreats are so centered on closeness and bonding, many expected this to be another hindrance, but ultimately, the hard work, creativity, and unity of making art and praying together brought the group together and made the students and faculty feel closer than before, even if they had to be six feet apart.

"It felt very foreign to sort of be 'around' people in this way and having to be separated from someone, but in a way we were coming together in the way we made art, which allowed us to be even closer than we were before," said Unseth. "What was really awesome were the friendships that continued to blossom there, especially now because we hadn't seen each other for months, and getting to spend time with one another was a very good bonding experience."

"You often think 'what is a

retreat if you can't be close to one another, if you can't hug and give high fives or share a meal with big groups at a table,' but honestly the good spirit and good will one everyone at the retreat brought us together, despite having to be physically apart," said Powers.

A majority of the art created this year was music and drawing, with the occasional written piece. Some standouts this year were an impressionistic ragtime composition by Unseth inspired by the flowing feelings of a river, and a song about a man in 1920's New York City who missed his train, which was written and composed by Carter Fortman and performed by Albert Harold and Rob Brooks.

At the end of the retreat is the much anticipated "talent show" where the end results of the retreat are shown off by each artist, and the incentive and explanation of each art piece is also presented.

"The most fruitful thing about the retreat is that our students have a lot of time, space, and freedom to be praying individually on their own through the process of making art, which really shows in the end where we have a 'show and tell,'" said Powers. "The kids make astounding works of art—be that music, improv, or visual art—and every year students have produced some very outstanding and very

profound artwork."

"I think art, the making of art, and encountering art—not as the artist who created it, but as someone who sees it, hears it, takes it in—it is a soulful activity, and so to take that and put it in a religious context ... there's no strain to doing that, you don't have to warp anything to get it. It fits so beautifully in that context, so the show and tell at the end, it's a sharing of gifts, offering gifts, and receiving them, and applauding them, it's quite nice," said Hussung.

Overall, the 5th annual art retreat was met with praise and joy, especially for the success amid the sudden changes it had to adapt to.

"I think it is one of the most prayerful retreats, because art is such a powerful medium, and you can transcend the spoken world into a world where you can simply express the talents that God gave you," said Unseth.

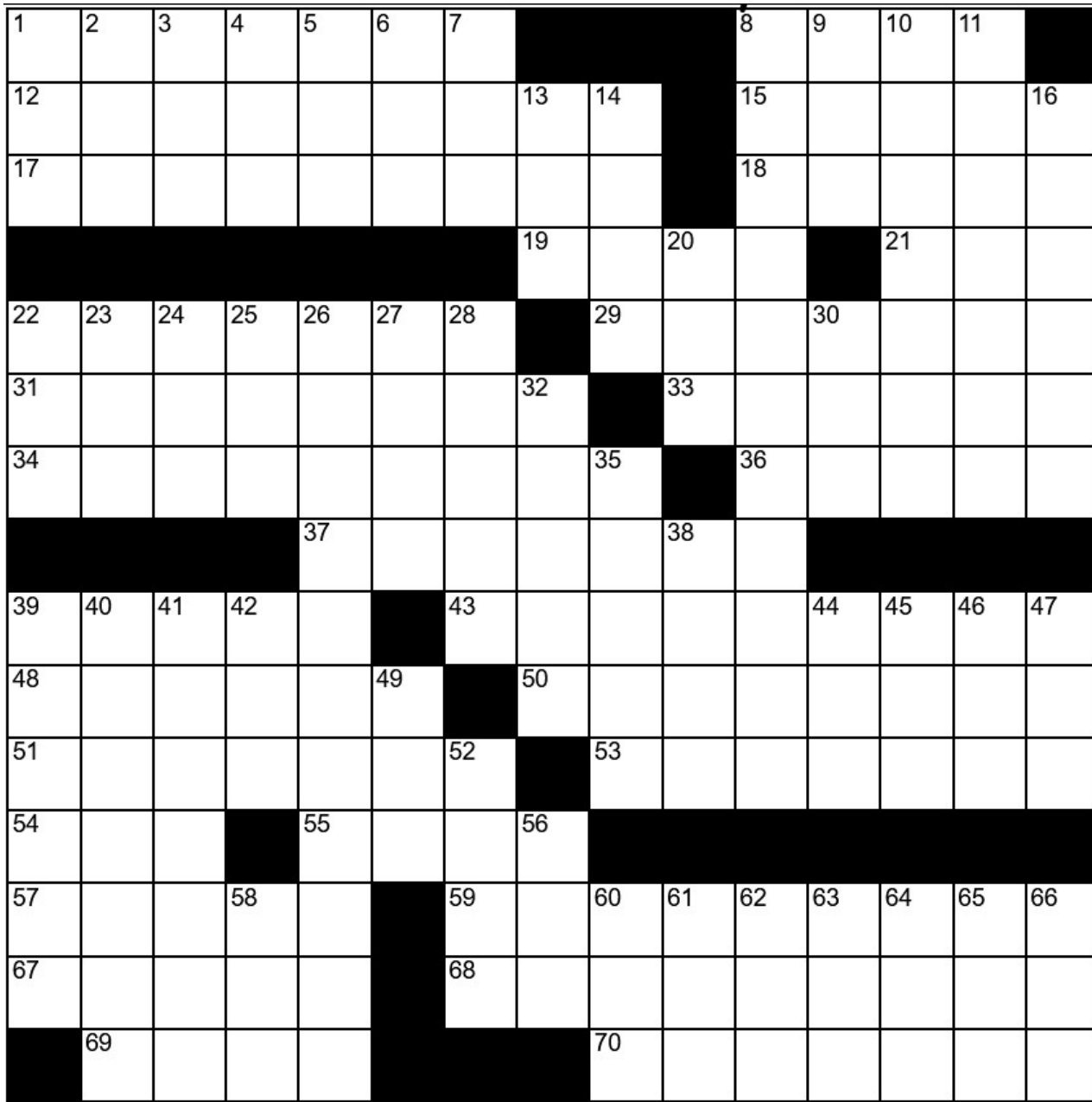
"The artist in me is overly grateful for what the students produced during the retreat. As a visual artist who has been working with visual media for so long, being able to hear musical compositions that were made in such a short amount of time was especially inspiring, as it's something I don't do. But everybody's work was great, and being able to see and experience it ... it warms my heart," said Powers.



**Interested in writing? Artistry? Photography?
Research? The Prep News is for you.**

Any writers, artists, and/or photographers who are interested in participating in the *Prep News* are encouraged to email prepnews@sluh.org

PN "Why Not?" Puzzle



crossword | Mr. Paul Baudendistel

ACROSS

- 1. *Offspring of a head louse
- 8. Ethnicity of the main character in Hotel Rwanda
- 12. *Fire and carpenter, e.g.
- 15. Tows or tokes
- 17. "You'll be _____ your father gets home."

- 18. Leaf on a nearby flag
- 19. Where Timbuktu is
- 21. The second part of each theme entry is an anagram missing this
- 22. *Well-used cleaning cloth
- 29. _____ The Aeneid
- 31. Unsweetened baking

- chocolate
- 33. Legume sometimes covered with chocolate
- 34. *Ivan the Terrible, e.g.
- 36. One brick, often stepped on and cursed
- 37. Cousin of a tonsil
- 39. Slander's written counter-

- part
- 43. *Wyatt Earp, e.g.
- 48. Repeated orders at a bar or restaurant
- 50. Pasta sauce, but also salad dressing, sandwich spread, or pizza topping
- 51. Seasonal job starting

- around April 15
- 53. *Shoe or road vehicle of a certain shade of blue
- 54. Fieri whose middle name is, interestingly, Ramsay
- 55. Type of cuisine, as for Fieri and Ramsay
- 57. Smaller map that is zoomed out or zoomed in
- 59. Description of desirable toilet paper
- 67. Cook using high heat and a little oil
- 68. *Leaf cabbage losing some of its 84% water content
- 69. It gives skiers a lift
- 70. *The older brother in the Parable of the Forgiving Father, e.g.

- 24. Obamacare acronym
- 25. He's second in MLB games played
- 26. Communication sent to Buckingham Palace ... or a hint to this puzzle's theme
- 27. First four
- 28. Stared at stars
- 30. Person with chromosomes like this puzzle's theme
- 32. Accumulated, as a bar tab
- 35. Quarterback Josh of UCLA, Arizona, and Miami
- 38. "_____ girl!" (or boy!)
- 39. _____ Casa Della Tires, store in Cars
- 40. The Kentucky Derby _____ Churchill Downs.
- 41. *Replacement teacher with six classes
- 42. Consume
- 44. Legume made into a salty sauce
- 45. S-W link
- 46. Abbreviation not used before September 9, 1776
- 47. Group of same-rank Cub Scouts
- 49. "Unbelievable," in internet speak
- 52. Bandmate of John, George, and Ringo
- 56. Text ending?
- 58. Uber calculation
- 60. Skin shade you don't get from shade
- 61. Randy Orton's finishing move
- 62. Upvotes of yore
- 63. Another shade of blue
- 64. Group that 46-Down joined about a year before NATO
- 65. Character in Cars and Finding Nemo
- 66. Pin number?

DOWN

- 1. Abbreviation for a version of Star Trek
- 2. Cord ending?
- 3. Largest intelligence organization of 46-Down
- 4. So far this annum (abbr.)
- 5. Largest independent research school in 46-Down
- 6. McKellan of X-Men and Lord of the Rings
- 7. WWII grenade filler
- 8. What a Blu-ray player requires for optimal picture quality
- 9. Base found in RNA but not DNA
- 10. Alcoholic beverage not served from bottles
- 11. *Shrek or Quasimodo, e.g.
- 13. Forward/center Duncan of Wake Forest and San Antonio
- 14. Pole or Croat, e.g.
- 16. Tends, as a task
- 20. One of two on a face
- 22. OPEC subset
- 23. Ebit beginning?

- 41. *Replacement teacher with six classes
- 42. Consume
- 44. Legume made into a salty sauce
- 45. S-W link
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Seniors show deep sense of care for nation's politics and future

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servatives Club, where he facilitates weekly conversations about a wide range of political topics. Fortman hopes to continue to be involved in politics. In college, he plans to major in finance (which he argues politicians don't know enough about today) and later run for political office.

"My overarching goal is just to leave the world better than I found it," said Fortman. "I want to be a 'Man for Others' as they say here at SLUH and I think my vocation is to fulfill that goal by running for office."

Senior Ocean Okohson-Reb has also been involved the local politics in his community, Spanish Lake. Recently, Okohson-Reb has been working with community leader Fred Johnson on a proposal to the governmental board of Spanish Lake called Operation Poll Workers. The proposal calls for better voter access and hopes to lower the amount of time it takes for the people in Spanish lakes to vote.

"There is a serious gap between how long it takes for people to vote in my neighborhood in comparison to other wealthier neighbor-

hoods," said Okohson-Reb. "In my neighborhood, people have to wait in line for about four hours, but in other neighborhoods, it only takes 15 minutes. It seems to me that is a form of voter suppression, and I think it needs to stop."

Okohson-Reb also has lobbied before through the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice gathering that happened last year in November.

Okohson-Reb views his involvement in politics as an extension of his desire to be a social justice advocate.

"I have been in Spanish Lake for 15 years. It is a good, majority-black community, but it has its problems," said Okohson-Reb. "It has violence and poverty. Over the years, at SLUH, I have learned the systematic reasons why these problems exist in my community, and I feel called to do something about it, whether through political action or with my voice, as a social justice advocate. To do nothing would be a sin of omission."

Senior Andrei Chura has been spending his time learning about statistics and their important role in this election. Using the polling

database FiveThirtyEight as his source for polling data, Chura has created a colorful US map where he interprets the polling data and then colors in where the individual states fall in the presidential and legislative elections.

"FiveThirtyEight is a really remarkable tool," said Chura. "It evaluates the pollsters for me and then gives me a wide-range of polling data from all across the country, which I map out on my map."

Chura updates his map almost every night in order to get the most accurate and up-to-date representation of the political make-up, and he interprets the polling data in a number of different ways, including known rating of the pollster, sample size, and the accuracy of the pollster in previous elections.

"I would not say that I am an expert at statistics, but I do take into account a lot of factors, which I think makes my predictions pretty accurate," said Chura. "Occasionally, I will go back to previous polls from a former election and look at their margin of error in order to base how confident I should be about a certain poll or data set."

In addition to the map

allowing him to have a good understanding of the predicted political make-up of the elections in November, the map also allows him to play around with different and wild election scenarios.

"Sometimes, I see which states need to go Democrat or Republican for it to be a tie or what would happen if Texas would swing blue," said Chura. "I know that probably none of these scenarios will happen this election, but it is always fun to see the outcomes if they happen."

For Chura, this task has taught him a lot about polling and statistics as well as politics and campaign strategy.

"This has definitely given me a lesson in a variety of things. I have never taken a statistic or polling class, so this is a new experience for me," said Chura. "I also have learned a lot about the political make-up and demographics of the United States and which states campaigns feel that they need to invest a lot into."

Like Fortman and Okohson-Reb, Chura also hopes to continue this interest in college, and he sees the importance and value of youthful engagement in politics.

Email the *Prep News* your completed crossword (in pen) to receive a shoutout in next paper!

"If you think about it, politics impact everything, so to really learn and grow in your understanding about politics is extremely important," said Chura. "There are a lot of my classmates that are apathetic towards politics because

they believe that they are too young or because they cannot vote. But, we are the children of tomorrow and eventually we will be able to vote, so why not start learning about and engaging in politics now?"

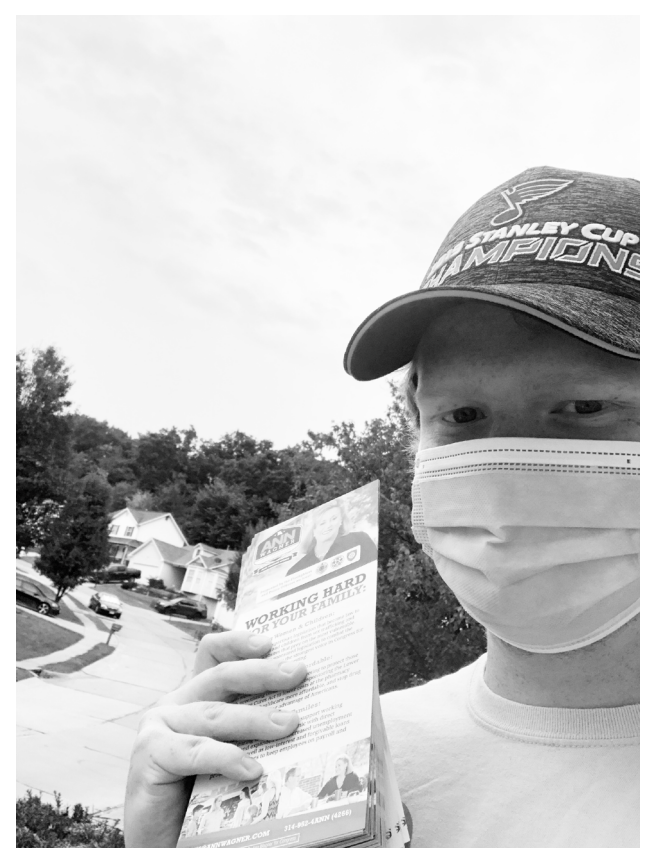


photo | Carter Fortman
Fortman when he was canvassing for Wagner.

Artistic seniors form group with fellow regional artists

(continued from page 1)

approached his friend and collaborator, senior Carter Fortman, and asked him if he wanted to join his “creative collective.”

“I found a profound connection with Serbian performance artist Marina Abramović,” said Hiblovic on his initial inspirations for the collective. “I honed in on studying her Abramović Method, exploring the presence of the artist in time and space.”

An enthusiastic Fortman joined. The duo began to recruit other artists from around St. Louis.

“I was approached by Philip in March, and he described it as sort of a channel to put forth art in the community,” said senior Alexander Unseth. “I was totally for that, stuck in quarantine with nothing to do, and I thought of this as an opportunity to actually do something with my life.”

Hiblovic then created an Instagram page to grow their

platform. They began a social media campaign with their original artists promoting the blank page via a single post saying, “Content Coming Soon.” The simplicity worked and they gained hundreds of followers before posting a thing.

Now, 1,800 follows later, 21artistry has recruited 21 artists from all over St. Louis, including SLUH seniors Albert Harrold (musician) and Robby Brooks (who joined with his band, The Scamps), Unseth (musician), Fortman (poet), Hiblovic (poet), and freshman Jack Janson (visual artist). Aside from SLUH, they bring talent from MICDS, John Burroughs, Nerinx, St. Joseph’s Academy, OTHS, and St. Louis Priory School. Former SLUH student and current Frenchman Leo Lombard also joined as a custom shoe designer and visual artist.

“We make all different types of art. Everyone has a different discipline, and every day we make sure to post at

least one piece of art on the account,” said Hiblovic.

The name has developed many different meanings over the months.

“The name came from the fact that we’re making art for the 21st century and in service of the future,” said Hiblovic.

21 ARTISTRY

art | Jack Janson

“I see it as divine intervention that the founding members are from the class of 2021, and now there are 21 of us.

Currently, the brand is just starting to monetize. They began by forming 21artistry Stu-

dios, an all inclusive photography business where the client can enjoy hair, makeup, and personal styling to make their photography session simpler and better.

“No team like this exists in the St. Louis photography space. It’s just unparalleled,

and the fact that we’re doing this as high school students makes it that much more unreal,” said Hiblovic. “The quality of our product brand and the relationships we’ve built with our clients have allowed

us to grow our client base. One weekend I’m booking my friend, and the next it’s a professional model.”

Another business under the 21artistry umbrella has been Brand Bosses, a company that provides services to aspiring social media content creators and entrepreneurs.

“I hate to say it, but social media is the future, and I was born an innovator,” said Hiblovic. “With my same foundational team from 21 Artistry, I’ve gone to the drawing board and plan to launch this service as soon as we all finish our college applications.”

Despite now making money, Hiblovic remains committed to sticking to the roots of the business: the art.

“The intention was always to be profitable. I’m an economist after all,” said Hiblovic. “However, it is only by fueling the artistic spirit and the energy of creative rebellion that any money will be made at all. The product is superior when

the art is put in the forefront. Always.”

21Artistry is looking forward to the future, where they hope to eventually publish a magazine.

“There will be a magazine for 21Artistry hopefully,” said Hiblovic. “An artistic renaissance is coming after this pandemic, and we will be pioneering that renaissance in our small corner of St. Louis through the creation of this magazine.”

The idea that Hiblovic came up with last March has finally materialized and grown to something admirable in just six months.

“I would like to congratulate Philip because if you put your mind to it you never know what’s gonna happen,” said Unseth. “He put his mind to it, and it has paid back immensely.”

“At the end of the day, we’re just a bunch of kids running around and making art together, and that’s really what it’s all about,” said Hiblovic.

Oct. 28 dedicated to freshman fun day, part of plan to engage

(continued from page 1)

new people and find their place at SLUH, with sports being the only available extracurricular activities.

“I only get to go to school on Monday and Thursday, and online you can’t really meet anybody because you’re not allowed to talk and you don’t get many breaks, so the only way I could meet new people was through soccer,” said freshman Tony Genovese.

For freshmen, sports has been one of the only opportunities that they have had to meet their new classmates and become involved within the SLUH community. However, only 42 percent of the freshmen participate in a fall sport, leaving the other 58 percent with limited options for involvement within SLUH.

Realizing the difficulties that freshmen are experiencing, Assistant Principal for Student Life Brock Kesterson and Curdt realized that they had to act quickly to help these freshmen adjust to school and feel a part of the community.

“It’s interesting,” said Kesterson. “Our primary concern starting the school year was just making sure that this place was safe to be in and that we could be here. So a lot of our focus was there. But we realized how tough it is for students in regards to socializing and interacting with others

and that we needed to address this and make it an emphasis and priority immediately because we are almost at the first quarter and if guys aren’t feeling connected, we need to make sure that they are, especially the freshmen.”

The first problem Kesterson wanted to address was how many freshmen are not interacting with one another, especially during their free periods. To encourage more interaction, the school purchased a variety of sports equipment that students can check out from receptionist Mimi Hartung’s desk during a free period.

“We bought some equipment like spikeball, footballs, and frisbees, that anybody can check out during their free period,” said Kesterson. “So rather than sitting in isolation they can get out and be together, again just to meet some more people and be in community together.”

Another way that the administration is trying to build community within the freshman class was by encouraging them to interact with their whole class more. To accomplish this task, Kesterson enlisted the help of STUCO to put on a series of activities for the freshmen during their lunch period two weeks ago. Freshmen competed alongside their classmates in a trivia

competition.

“A lot of the inspiration came from teachers at lunch with freshmen (who saw) that they needed something to get to know each other,” said STUCO moderator Bradley Mueller.

While helping the freshmen interact more with each other is important, the school also wanted to help the freshmen become more involved within the whole SLUH community and participate more in the various clubs and activities.

“We are trying to greatly expand our offerings of club activities now that we are post-Spirit Week and since we have learned some things and some protocols that will work with students on campus,” said Curdt.

Early in the school year, STUCO hosted a virtual activities fair to showcase the various clubs of SLUH, since the activities fair could not be hosted in person due to safety restrictions.

To help promote the clubs further, Kesterson decided to create a weekly Activities calendar to share with both students and parents the various activities that will take place at SLUH during the week.

“We created an activities event calendar because we felt that it was important to get the word out,” said Kesterson.

“We had the activities fair virtually but we wanted to make sure that our clubs are known so that those clubs are viable, and are engaging these guys who are looking for things to do, things to be a part of and people to meet.”

With the emphasis on student engagement outside of the classroom, many of the clubs are starting to meet once again after a long hiatus, though they are facing many challenges such as where to meet and how to create engaging meetings.

“We want clubs to be able to think through creative ways in which they can meet. STUCO did a wonderful job with Spirit Week and a wonderful job of setting the tone of the year through their summer meetings,” said Curdt.

“We are trying every way we can to meet. The hard thing is that you have to meet twice a week so that everybody can come. You have to get your leaders to split up their energy and you have to just put in the hours to be there,” said David Callon, moderator of the Men for Life Club.

Another difficulty that club moderators have realized is that the current schedule makes it difficult to keep students on campus after school, and attract students to their events.

“We just had a Men for

Life meeting but it is super challenging because the freshmen were at Mass this week and we have sophomore class next week so it is very difficult,” said Callon. “I think that we have to rethink 8th period, maybe move it between 5th or 6th period so that we have people on campus and they don’t just leave.”

Encouraging more student interaction and making it easier for students to attend clubs and extracurricular activities are all essential ways to help students—especially freshmen—feel at home at SLUH.

Curdt and Kesterson are currently planning a series of freshman fun days to help the class of 2024 build a sense of community and brotherhood, partly to make up for some of the foundational experiences that will be lost this year, such as the Freshman Fun Day / Running of the Bills combo.

“Obviously we didn’t have the massive freshman events and the constant casual gatherings that other years have had, so we have to be a lot more intentional and creative,” said Curdt.

This past week, each freshman cohort gathered together to celebrate Mass with one another and meet with their personal senior advisors for the first time.

“Class Mass and senior advisement was a really nice

day because it was one of the freshmen’s first real experiences as a class and as they start to form this brotherhood,” said Deves. “This was one of the few times they get to come together as a large group and then the advisement session with the senior advisors allowed them to get to know a few classmates a little more personally.”

There are plans being made to have both freshman cohorts on campus together on Oct. 28 for a day of team building activities and fun. Then, about a month later, the class will gather again together for the annual freshman retreat.

“We are going to have two freshman formation days. It will be the first time the entire class is on campus on one day,” said Curdt. “We will mix the senior advisor groups across the cohorts so they can interact together and have a whole day of sustained activities so that we can still be safe but they are interacting with new people.”

“We are never going to stop helping these students,” said Kesterson. “We want to make sure that our guys are having the best experience possible even in such difficult times.”

Food Review: Cheetos Crunchy Mac and Cheese?

BY BERNIE KILCULLEN
REPORTER

On my seemingly endless procrastination break on TikTok, I found a video highlighting the new Cheeto Kraft Mac-N-Cheese. Like any financially responsible person, I went straight to Amazon and ordered my five-dollar box of mac. Of the three new Cheeto flavored mac-n-cheeses, I had to go with my favorite, cheesy jalapeno. I patiently waited for my mac-n-cheese to arrive

and had a tough conversation with my lovely mother upon its arrival. No more Amazon for Bernie.

After the ten or so minutes that it took to prep and cook, it was finally time to try the coveted, Cheesy Jalapeno Cheeto Mac-n-cheese. After plating, I was taken aback. The color of the sauce that coated the rotini-style noodle looked and smelt just like the Cheesy Jalapeno Cheetos that I have become closely acquainted

with as a young man. The cheese sauce was a perfect cheddar orange. Small specks of the green of a jalapeno pepper shimmered off the noodle, both excited me and triggered my slight aerophobia.

Once I was finally able to pierce the perfectly cooked, al dente noodles, the thought of being let down was nowhere near the front of my mind. However, after the first few bites, I was extremely let down. The combination of

cheese and spice was there but it simply does not translate from a crunchy snack to a pasta dish. I took a few more bites, hoping to find something enjoyable. This dish challenged me. I simply refused to eat any more and called it a night.

These factors have led me to rate this attempt of collaboration as a 4.5/10. I have to give points for creativity and accuracy of the flavor, even if it did not suit a pasta dish well.



photo | Bernie Kilcullen

STUCO hosts Spirit Week despite restrictions

(continued from page 1)

Andrew Borroviak, and Alex Van Ness—worked in tandem with STUCO to provide food for the students in attendance. Hungry customers could pay one dollar for their choice of a hot dog, soda, or burger. Campbell explained that the Tailgate Club was at the event to emphasize that the SLUH community is alive and well.

The turnout ended up being much more than expected, leading to the Tailgate Club selling out of food and drinks for the event. Overall, 40 percent of SLUH students attended a tailgate over the two days.

“It’s a testament to the fact that the SLUH community’s alive and well that so many people showed up,” said Campbell.

Student Council president senior John Browdy felt that the event went very well and set the stage for the week to come.

“The tailgates were a smash hit,” said Browdy. “Whether or not those are for sporting events, I think that sort of thing is just super important and critical to getting off on the right foot and making sure that everyone is forming a brotherhood in spite of the Covid outbreak.”

Following the events of Monday and Tuesday, all SLUH students attended virtual classes on Wednesday, but Jr. Bills still showed off their spirit in the form of interesting hats. Ranging from more traditional hats like a flat cap from senior John Budd and ushanka from Russian teacher Robert Churra to more inventive hats in the form of a squid hat from junior Peter Guidry and a corn hat from junior Jon Neuwirth, the head accessories livened up Zoom calls for the Faber Day and effectively set the mood for the coming



photo | Andrew Munie

The Circus Club performing at Open Mic.

open mic night.

The open mic night began at six o’clock in the evening and featured 20 events. Hosted by senior Anthony Adem and junior Jared Thornberry, the night offered students enjoyment from a variety of fields. SLUH’s Coffee Club catered the event, serving hot tea, coffee, and cookies before the first performance.

The Circus Club, a dominant feature of the night, performed on three separate occasions, bringing to the stage juggling, flips, and a diablo performance by senior Drew Shelton.

Most performances, however, were in the realm of music: science teacher Bradley Mueller on drums and Browdy on guitar were the first musical act; senior Carter Fortman sang karaoke to “Big Iron” by Marty Robbins, soothing the room with a low vibrato; senior Ocean Okohson-Reb threw back to the Days of Ben E. King with an at-home, pre recorded version of “Stand By Me,” and senior Albert Harold rocked a stylish comb in his hair and white button-down as he gave life to the lyrics from The Anxiety’s song “Poolside.”

Contributing to the scene via musical instruments other than vocal chords, senior Rob Brooks drummed out a solo, offering a complex and interesting beat, and senior Alex Unseth serenaded the crowd of 16 tables with “Tarantella” by Squire, his fingers jumping along the strings of his cello as he pumped out the smooth yet striking tune. Both musicians came together for a jazzy improv piece, with Unseth on the piano as Brooks rocked the drums for a second time.

According to Unseth, the ability to perform in front of a live audience again was ex-

hilarating, if not a bit nerve-racking.

“It was great to have a human reaction to something I played,” said Unseth. “The piece I played was fast—very nervous—and I guess those were the feelings I felt going into it. It was my first performance in front of a live audience in six months, and I could feel the adrenaline.”

Senior Harry Lyons and junior Donovan Meachem both moved the room in different yet equally powerful ways, Lyons with a standup routine that had adults and students alike roaring with laughter and Meachem with an elegantly choreographed dance routine to Billie Eilish’s “Hostage,” gliding between axial and locomotor motion to the cadence of the beat.

In addition, several performers chose poetry to express themselves, including English teacher Chuck Hussung, senior Corey Lyles, and Fortman. Fortman wowed the audience first with his recitation of a poem he composed during the art retreat (see page 2) and shortly followed it up with a poem depicting New York City in the 1920’s with assistance from Unseth on keyboard and Brooks via sound effects. Hussung followed with two poems, one original poem with no meaning other than to have a good “mouth feel” and the other, “Here There Are Blueberries” by Mary Syzybist, offering a comforting tale of a picnic abundant in blueberries.

“It’s just a poem of reassurance,” said Hussung about “Here There Are Blueberries.” “I feel that there’s more art needs to do for us than reassure us, but it’s one of the things art needs to do.”

Throughout the night, an electricity filled the air, exciting the crowd and enriching performances with passion and heart while offering a reminder of the community of SLUH.

“It’s good to sort of get some normalcy again when it comes to events like this,” said Unseth. “It was really cool to get to see a new form of art that I’m used to.”

“I’d never gone to an open mic night before,” said senior class president Grant Sussman. “The whole environment was super relaxed, which I loved, and I got to see some

of my classmates and other SLUH students show off their talents. And I was really super surprised by what I saw and how talented some of (those) kids were.”

Hussung pointed out that, despite the difficulties of the times, the students were able to work around any challenges and express themselves.

“Even those who couldn’t gather could share their gifts, and that’s one of the blessings of this time—not just that we find workarounds but that we actually do things that we vaguely knew we could do but didn’t seem worth trying in the olden times. Now we know they’re worth doing,” said Hussung.

According to senior Anthony Adem, who helped to organize the event, the whole purpose was to show students that a form of normalcy is still possible.

“We can still have a normal school year, just like old times,” said Adem. “I guess that’s one of the perks of a retro (theme) because you get to pretend that we’re, like, back in the day.”

With the open mic night in the bag, only two days remained of Spirit Week. Unfortunately, the teacher gaming session that was scheduled for Thursday and Friday did not attract enough teachers, so students had no choice as they walked around in their retro outfits but to wait patiently for the closing fireworks of the week, which would take the form of a drive-in movie version of Ferris Bueller’s Day Off.

Cars filed into the Science Center parking lot starting at 6:30 p.m. in preparation for the movie, which was projected on a 25-foot screen. STUCO representatives waved them in with glowing sticks that vaguely resembled marshalling wands and directed them to parking spots that had been marked with chalk. The spots were spaced such that each car received two spaces, one for parking and one for sitting, in order to maintain social distancing guidelines.

As the night began to chill with the quotidian departure of the sun past the horizon, Jr. Bills bundled up with their friends, family, and teachers, lawn chairs and blankets populating the length of the lot. The movie started at about



Conner Gunn during the tailgate.

photo | Andrew Munie

7:20 pm following some brief technical issues that prevented the use of the FM radio broadcaster.

For the rest of the night, chortles and wheezes could be heard all across the lot, and at the movie’s end, the cars promptly exited the lot, leaving a quick and easy cleanup for STUCO. Despite the issues with technology, the night proved to be a hit among the students and a conclusive success.

“It was great to see so many freshmen come out because the whole week was kind of their first spirit event,” said Sussman. “I liked the vibe of the night, where everyone was just chilling and watching a movie.”

At the end of the week, STUCO had delivered a Spirit Week worth remembering, but they were most happy to see everyone enjoyed the event.

“That’s the whole reason we do it—so people can have fun, can have a good time with their friends and with their classmates,” said Sussman. “I feel like people need school spirit more than ever. I’m also happy—grateful—that I get to be a part of the team that plans the events because I’ve always wanted to get a behind the scenes look at how these events are planned and how they’re orchestrated.”

“Seeing everyone in their retro attire and their jerseys and hearing people talk about how much they enjoyed the music we were playing ... was really just gratifying for us as a Student Council,” said Browdy. “It was a favorite of mine because seeing our work be enjoyed and seeing what we do be appreciated was a really big step, and it was really crucial to getting us that pep in our step and the motivation for us to do it again.”

“I miss the school very much. I miss not being able to see the students and the staff and that is very difficult for me,” said Sheridan. “I enjoyed saying Mass in the chapel, hearing confessions in the chapel, and ministering to students so I can’t wait until I am able to do those things again.”

“For me, I miss the interactions I have at the U. High,” said Houlihan. “I am ready to be back, and I definitely miss not being at the U. High. I am excited to be back and be with the students and minister to them.”

In the meantime, while

Despite the setbacks to the event, STUCO was happy with the work that they did.

“I think we were all psyched to see our events worked out pretty well, especially Monday and Tuesday. We were really really happy with the turnout,” said Grimes. “We really wanted to just plan something where students can be around each other and, if possible, cohorts can mix, especially with those freshmen. We wanted to have some events where people could mingle and be together safely.”

“I think it was successful in terms of bringing the school more alive,” said Mueller. “In the classes, I think ... there’s a little bit more energy than there was before.”

To Browdy, the event went well thanks to all the help.

“All these clubs and groups came together for a really great week,” said Browdy. “We could not have done it without everyone that came and helped out—(those who) woke up early or stayed up late, all the faculty and staff who stuck their neck out for us and, really, for the student body—so I’d like to say a big thank you to everyone for both helping us get through the week and helping us make it a successful one.”

With the first big STUCO event over, the group will take a brief hiatus before delving back in. While nothing is final, representatives have hinted at doing more events like those seen during Spirit Week, especially as the holiday season approaches.

“The guys are really excited about doing something for Halloween,” said Mueller. “They usually do the 12 Days of Christmas, which will be something to plan for.”

Older SLUH priests safe in quarantine

(continued from page 1)

asked Greene if he could assign a Jesuit to be a spiritual director for seminarians. Seeing the role as a perfect fit for Marco, Greene reassigned Marco to that job, and Marco will reside there permanently.

“Since August 3 I live and work full-time at Kenrick Seminary. My title is spiritual adviser to the seminarians. This includes saying Mass and hearing confessions for them. Sundays I hear confessions at the Cathedral Basilica on Lindell,” said Fr. Marco in an email to Prep News.

While the priests are all

disappointed about being under a strict lockdown, they are still finding things to be grateful for even in the midst of such turmoil and chaos.

“I have connected a lot more with my family,” said Sheridan. “I have two sisters, one in Massachusetts and one in New York City, and I probably speak to them every other day just to see how they are doing.”

For Houlihan, he is grateful for being able to spend time with his fellow Jesuits while in quarantine.

“Getting to know my brother priests on a deeper

level, having better conversations with them, and being able to learn new skills from the other Jesuits, who were teachers here, are all great things that have come from this quarantine,” said Houlihan.

For both Sheridan and Houlihan, much of their newfound time has been spent reading and learning about new subjects and topics.

“I never had a lot of science (classes) as a younger person,” said Sheridan. “But during quarantine I have become deeply interested in the idea of fusion and how it is

potentially the future of our world.”

Sheridan has also been reading St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Theresa of Lisieux.

“(St. Theresa) is my favorite, with St. Peter. It has allowed me to prepare talks for a White House retreat where I read widely, it really allowed me to build up a deeper spirituality which I am grateful for,” said Sheridan.

While the priests have enjoyed and are grateful for the extra time the quarantine has provided, they are still anxious to return to SLUH’s campus.

“I miss the school very much. I miss not being able to see the students and the staff and that is very difficult for me,” said Sheridan. “I enjoyed saying Mass in the chapel, hearing confessions in the chapel, and ministering to students so I can’t wait until I am able to do those things again.”

In the meantime, while

Sheridan and Houlihan are kept in quarantine, many of their old priestly duties are falling on the two remaining priests on campus.

“We lost three priests, so Fr. Gibbons and I are the only priests on campus so we are shouldering the burden of Masses and confessions,” said Hill. “But at the same time it provides us with the opportunity to invite priests from outside. We’ve already done that with the seniors inviting Fr. (Matt) Stewart, S.J., a newly-ordained alum of SLUH High and we will have other outside priests come which is great.”

S P O R T S

Glad to be back: Swim and Dive shatters three school records in first quad meet

BY CARTER SPENCE AND JOSEPH DAMES
REPORTER, REPORTER

In their first meet against multiple teams, the St. Louis U. High swim and dive team shattered multiple school records and added six new state qualifying times en route to a promising first place finish against Kirkwood, MICDS, and CBC.

The meet began on the diving end, with junior Sebastian Lawrence—who qualified for state two weeks ago—and junior Tom Nguyen adding 31 points to SLUH's score.

Then, the 200-yard medley relay team of junior Cooper Scharff, junior Ned Mehmeti, junior Jonas Hostetler, and senior Eli Butters kicked the meet off with a blazing 1:35.88 time, edging the school-record set in 2017 by Barclay Dale, Joe Jellinek, Mathias Hostetler, and Nick Mattingly—all members of the Class of 2018.

"I think it shows just how excited they were to race," head coach Lindsey Ehret said. "Many of the same guys tried to get that record last year and just barely missed it."

"We work ourselves six days a week, to the best of our

ability, to train for moments like this," said Hostetler. "We still have a lot of time this season to get faster and stronger to possibly break our own record."

After opening the season with several individual state qualifying times, Butters shattered one of his school records, kicking off the 400 relay with a historic 44.91, and nearly broke another school record in the 200 freestyle, missing the record by a miniscule 0.61 seconds.

Butters was not the only swimmer to break his own record. With a 49.60 100 butterfly time, Scharff broke his own school record he set a season ago.

The swim team added six more state qualifying times in their victory. Mehmeti snagged two qualifying times in the 200 individual medley and the 500 freestyle. Sophomore Jason Cabra added a pair of qualifying times as well in the 50 and 100 freestyle.

"It feels amazing to finally get my state cuts after missing the first two meets of the season because of a cold I got," Mehmeti said. "I worked hard at practice to make sure

I would be prepared for this meet even though I was somewhat out of shape, but I just feel relieved that my work has paid off along with everyone else who swam this weekend."

"It feels great to have already gotten a few state times, especially in the strange predicament we're all in with shorter practice times and a different meet experience compared to last year," said Cabra.

Hostetler and sophomore Gavin Baldes also added state qualifying times with impressive performances in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly, respectively.

The meet featured several significant time-drops for many swimmers. The 500 freestyle team of sophomore Brendan Schroeder, senior Will Hudson, junior Alex Wentz, and Mehmeti dropped a collective 36 seconds. Senior Sam Andrews, Schroeder, Hudson, and Wentz all had serious time drops as well in the 200 freestyle.

The meet also offered several swimmers the opportunity to compete in new events. Freshman Kearney Foy and sophomore Brandon Harris



art | Alexander Deiters

debuted in the lengthy 500 freestyle, and junior Dennis McDaniel swam his inaugural 100 butterfly.

One group Ehret was particularly impressed with was the sprint specialists. Junior Zach Brugnara trimmed three seconds off his previous time, and freshmen Henry Unger, freshmen Mattie Peretz, and sophomore Freddy Laux all cut two seconds from their times.

As a team, SLUH trimmed a whopping 151 seconds from their previous races. They also placed first out of the four teams in each of their relays.

"This was the first oppor-

tunity for many of the boys to really show up in a competitive meet, so it was just one race after another race after another of time drops," Ehret said. "That's what made this meet really special."

Looking ahead, the swim and dive team will compete in a tri-meet on Oct. 6 vs. Fort Zumwalt West and Liberty High School. They will then have nearly a week off until their next competition, a dual meet vs. Parkway Central on Oct. 12.

"Even with a shortened season and a state meet still in question, my teammates and I will continue to train hard

to defend our title," Mehmeti said.

Several swim team alums have reached out to Ehret recently, voicing their enthusiasm for this year's team in the midst of the fight for their third straight state title.

"I'm pretty close with a few members of previous teams, and they've reached out to just tell me how happy they are for our team," Ehret said. "Those people really bought into this program and helped build it to where it is today, so hearing from them was neat."

Football returns tomorrow night; hastily prepares to battle Saint Mary's



photo | Jack Rybak

Junior quarterback Luke Johnston working on slant patterns.

BY JACK RYBAK
CORE STAFF

With weeks of uncertainty and speculation on the possibility of a season for the St. Louis U. High football team, the rumors have been cleared and a game with St. Mary's has been scheduled for 7:00 p.m. this Friday.

"I'm just excited to get to be back out on the field," said senior John Budd. "We've been quarantining and it's going to be nice to be able to get out and play."

Rumors and speculations on

the probability of a season have been circulating around the team for the past few months, and the schedule has changed on a week to week basis. The team has been practicing for weeks, hoping that they would have a season.

"I'm excited to finally be on the field after all the restrictions and guidelines we've had to follow," said senior wide receiver Jack McClelland. "I'll be relieved to be able to be back and playing football again."

The team has been looking

to make some changes on both sides of the ball and on Friday they will be able to test their new additions on a real opposing team.

"I'm looking forward to getting this new offense going," said senior Zack Stevenson. "We've been working really hard and we have a lot of good guys coming back; I'm excited to see how it works going against some new bodies."

While the team has a game scheduled for Friday, there are still precautions that must be taken. Only two spectators from the same household are allowed per player, and coaches are required to wear a mask while on the sideline. All the players are being COVID-tested prior to the game and should anything go wrong the game will be called off.

"Safe in the stands will be improved by the spectators wearing masks and adhering to the six-foot physical distancing guideline," said Athletic Director Chris Muskopf. "On the field, the focus for safety will be on the players occupying the sideline, who have to remain physically distanced and wear masks."

Along with the safety that is controlled by the people who are participating and attending the football games, the field policy has been modified to better suit the regulations that cover physical distancing.

"The sideline for players has been extended from the 10-yard line to the 10-yard line in order

to support the distancing," said Muskopf.

On the offensive side of the ball, the team is looking to put the ball in the air a bit more. With some key offensive playmakers taking the field this year, the team has the advantage with the ball in the air. A very important and versatile wide receiver who comes into this year after recovering from a season-ending injury last year is junior Chris Brooks. With his return to the offense, SLUH will have a tall and fast receiver (the other being junior Isaac Thompson) on each side of the field.

While the team is better suited for passing, they are prepared to run the ball should St. Mary's defense stay deep and look for the pass.

"We have a lot of good guys coming back, this offense compliments everyone and I'm excited to see it on Friday," said Stevenson. "We should be coming out in our passing offense and see how (St. Mary's) defense adjusts."

"I'm really excited about what this team is capable of this year," said McClelland. "I think we have a great chance to make a deep playoff run, and St. Mary's is the start."

The team thinks its depth with be a strength.

"We have more guys this year," said junior Kyland Watson. "We can rotate in and out a lot of good receivers to catch the ball."

As far as defense goes, the game plan is similar to last

year with the simple objective of eliminating missed tackles. The defense has been prepping with Zoom calls and live practice since June, which should speak for itself on the field. The relatively new players know the plays will and call them effectively.

"(The defense) is mostly doing the same thing," said Budd. "We definitely want to stop the run and have nobody behind us."

game.

"We learn to look at the O-line's feet and shoulders to determine which way the play is going," said Watson. "St. Mary's line is more basic and allows us to pick up on their tendency easier and see what they are doing."

With the much-anticipated season now a reality, both coaches and players are excited and ready to get back on the field.

"It feels pretty surreal to be back after five months of prepa-



photo | Jack Rybak

Freshman wide receiver Nathan Gunn attempts a leaping grab at practice Tuesday.

The D-line has been reviewing film and analyzing St. Mary's, looking for tendencies within the team that could give them an edge during the course of the

game," said senior tight end Luke Ratterman. "We have been working so hard and I am excited to see this team play together."

Soccer handles sudden start with grace against Mehlville, Saint Mary's

BY LOUIS CORNETT AND
ETHAN LEE
STAFF REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High soccer team secured its first win of the season this past Saturday. Normally, a first win coming in early October would hardly seem cause for celebration. However, in a unique season defined by delays and setbacks, the team was excited to just be on the field.

"It meant a lot to be back on the field after many weeks of training and drilling," said junior defender Benjamin Ridgway. "Just to be where we are today is great."

Until a little over a week ago, players from SLUH soccer were unsure if they were going to have a season. Then, as news came that St. Louis City was lifting restrictions on high school sports, the varsity team made the quick transition from practicing to playing. On the last night of tryouts, 25 players were named to the varsity squad. Their celebration was short-lived, as they were forced to prepare for their first game against Mehlville, which was just two days away.

"It is weird not having a full week to prepare for each game, but I enjoy having a game every two to three days," said sophomore Lucas Hammond. "I think the lack of preparation affects our chemistry and communication on the field. However, most of the players have been to optional training dur-

ing the summer, so their touch and passing are good. Also, the practices in the summer gave us time to get to know each other."

Making the speedy transition from training for fitness, shifting to tryouts, and then preparing for gameplay caused the Jr. Bills to cram what would be a month of prep to just two days preceding their first game. "Having a delayed season definitely has had an impact on us," said senior Adam Wolfe. "We haven't been able to play or even scrimmage until recently."

Their first game of the season against the Mehlville Panthers was a matchup that the SLUH soccer team had won the previous year, 1-0. However, only three of the current 11 starters—midfielder Wolfe, winger Evan Yalavarthi, and defender Tilahun Murphy—were in the starting lineup a year ago.

Still shaking off expected early-season rust, SLUH struggled to string together many scoring chances in the first half, and did not identify the weakness of Mehlville's defense till halftime. SLUH and Mehlville struggled to maintain possessions in one another's opposing half with errant passes.

"In the first half, we quickly realized that the gap between the center backs was where we needed to attack," said junior winger Tyler Van Bree. "We

struggled moving it quickly to the middle of the field and finding the right runs in between the defense."

The first half of true competition of the 2020 season came to a close, and neither team had graced the scoreboard.

Starting the second half on the attack, the Jr. Bills maintained possession and relentlessly pressured Mehlville, something they had been unable to do in the first half.

In the 47th minute of the match, frustrations at the congested play style that had dominated the game showed, as a Mehlville defender shoved Wolfe, earning him a yellow card. Since the yellow card rewarded the Jr. Bills a free kick, the team took advantage of its opportunity and got down the field quickly. Seconds after the free kick, the ball arrived at the feet of right winger Michael Heinlein, who took off down the side of the field, entered the penalty area, and slipped the ball through a small gap between the Mehlville keeper and the near post 14 minutes into the second half.

"At halftime, we knew once we got the first goal we would follow," said Van Bree. "When Heinlein scored, that was the tipping point and we followed it up with two more quick goals."

Twelve minutes after Heinlein's goal, SLUH kept its foot on the gas, and took a 2-0 lead

with 26 minutes left in the second half. Freshman Grant Locker netted the second goal for SLUH, and his first on the varsity team.

After a Mehlville deflection out of bounds, senior defender Will Coovert rushed to throw the ball in. Tossing a long throw to just above the six-yard box, Coovert found senior forward Jack Rudder, who was shielding a defender from behind. Rudder, seeing an opportunity and an opening, flicked the ball over his head to the edge of the six-yard box where Locker, with his back turned to the opponent's goal, delicately chipped it over a defender and the keeper's head for a Jr. Billiken goal.

"It felt great scoring my first goal for SLUH and as a freshman playing on varsity there are obviously a lot of nerves that come with it," said Locker. "I think my goal helped our team by making us feel a little more relaxed, and going up 2-0 allowed us to calm down and take control of the game."

Three more minutes passed, and SLUH finally appeared to have reached the groove they had been unable to establish in the first half. Junior Stephen Saladin gained possession of the ball off a shot deflection at the top of the box. Saladin, with masterful footwork, weaved his way through two Mehlville defenders, and finished with a strike from his right foot to the far post.

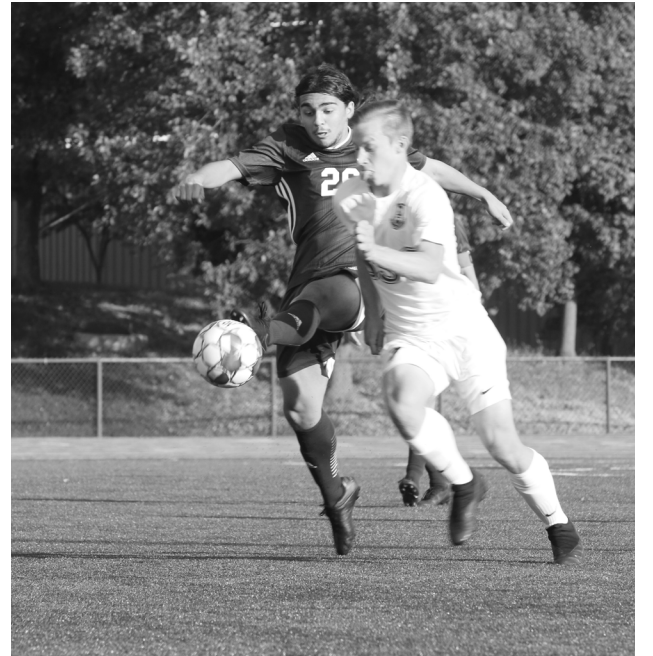


photo | Kathy Chott

Senior Casimir Magruder against Saint Mary's.

With around 23 minutes remaining in the game, SLUH's defense, led by Murphy and goalkeeper Johnny Barr, protected their lead, letting in a lone goal with a little over 22 minutes left.

The final score of the game was 3-1, and a major victory for a Jr. Bills team that had decided its final roster just two days before their first outing. "We came out with a lot of energy and controlled the ball most of the game," said Wolfe. "At times, excitement from being able to play got the better of us, causing a little sloppiness."

The team improved to 2-0 against Saint Mary's on Tuesday. SLUH defeated the Drag-

ons 3-0, led by two goals from Saladin and senior Jack Rudder.

Tonight, the team looks for its third win of the season, playing the Vianney Griffins at 7:30 p.m.

"These upcoming weeks mean a lot, mainly because we have fewer games this season," said Ridgway. "Every game we play in counts and we need to make the most of our limited opportunities."

XC program shows off depth at Chaminade and Parkway, wins four out of six races



Noah Aprill-Sokol leading the pack at Chaminade last Wednesday. photo | Coach Brian Gilmore

BY NOAH APRILL-SOKOL AND
PETER JAMES
NEWS EDITOR, REPORTER

The SLUH cross country team demonstrated its incredible depth this past week, splitting the team in half between two races—Parkway West Invitational and the Chaminade Quad meet—and still managing to have dominant performances on all levels at each meet.

At the Parkway West Invitational, SLUH cross country secured victories on the varsity and junior varsity levels, topping a number of our strong area rivals, including Festus, Lafayette, and Kirkwood.

In the varsity race, the lead pack established a fast early

tempo, with some of the runners going sub 5:00 for the first mile. Senior Daniel Hogan (7th) was right behind the leaders and clocked 5:01 at the mile with juniors Grant Brawley (11th) and Baker Pashea (17th) running a couple seconds behind him. Each ran his fastest first mile this season during the race.

"With the top runners going out that fast, the race strung out quite a bit really early on," said Hogan. "I felt good and strong still, but with me being a little bit farther back from the top runners, I really had to charge through the next two miles in order to catch them."

All of the racers moved up in position throughout the race, and while the 1 to 5 gap

was still around 50 seconds, all of SLUH's varsity racers placed ahead of the next teams' scoring runners, giving SLUH the win.

"If you scored the first mile mark, we were fourth," said head coach Joe Porter. "But, we continued to move up throughout the race, and by the second mile, we had taken the lead. I was really proud of how they competed, and I thought that they ran really well."

In the JV race, SLUH's runners also struggled to get in position early on, with many of the racers shut out of the top 20 through the first 600 meters. Yet, by the second mile, SLUH had six of their racers in the top ten with junior Sean Kellogg (4th) making a move to win the race.

"After finishing the first mile I didn't feel very fatigued and I knew we were coming up on a very steep hill. I knew in the past hills have been a specialty for me and while I was already in the lead pack I remembered Porter telling us to take risks so I decided to surge up the steep hill and the gradual hill that followed it," said Kellogg. "While I ended up losing to him and placing fourth I'm glad I went for it and I hope to make more moves like that for the rest of the season."

The SLUH JV squad was able to keep its dominance in the top ten throughout the end of the race, with all five scorers ahead of the second place team's third racer. SLUH's 31 points were a solid 41 points ahead of the next team.

"Our pack just continued to move up throughout the race," said Porter. "All six of those guys earned a varsity letter on a really tough course. They put themselves in a really good position in the middle mile and continued to work to the end."

Even the freshman squad, who placed fourth as a team, ran well and would have probably won the race if not for racing in a JV race with a mix of juniors, sophomores, and freshmen. All of the freshmen in the race broke their personal records by at least 20 seconds. Freshman Charlie Murray ran sub-19 minutes for the first time and secured the individual championship, and freshmen Anthony Zangara, Nate Boyer, and Gabe Sullivan all broke the

20-minute barrier.

At the Chaminade meet on Wednesday, the SLUH cross country team showed that even its third and fourth set of guys could compete against De Smet, Chaminade, CBC top runners. SLUH took the team and individual victory in both of the JV races and third as a team in the varsity race.

In the varsity race, SLUH raced its third string of racers against the top varsity runners of De Smet and CBC. Although placing last as a team, the runners still competed strongly. Sophomore Steffan Mayer led the SLUH contingent and placed six with a time of 18:12 for 5K, earning himself a varsity letter. Trailing behind Mayer were Tyler Barks (10th), Wyatt Seal (11th), Aidan Byrne (13th), and Cody Cox (15th).

"I think that the race last Thursday went to show how strong of a team we are as a whole. Some of our fastest top guys were at a different race, and yet we went toe to toe with some of their best guys," said Byrne. "The fact that we were able to do so well in such a setting just proves how much of a force we are to be reckoned with once we get to some of the bigger meets."

"I was really happy with how the guys responded to the challenge," said Porter. "Steffan Mayer had an incredible race, sixth place in a varsity race, as one of our third seven, and he was only behind two CBC racers and three De Smet racers."

In the Junior/Senior race,

SLUH scored a low score of 23 points with seven of SLUH's racers in the top ten. Junior Alex Mittendorf led the SLUH charge and won the individual race with one shoe. In the last mile, running up Chaminade's notorious Devil's Hill, Mittendorf tripped and lost his shoe. Despite this, however, Mittendorf continued his pace and even sped up to break 19 minutes.

"When my shoe came off I knew I couldn't go back and get it because in a race every second counts so I just kept running. It turned out to be the right move and I'm glad I did it," said Mittendorf. "Next time I'll make sure to tie my shoes tighter."

In the Sophomore/Freshman race, SLUH almost matched the performance set in the Junior/Senior race, scoring 26 points. Sophomore Bredan Jones took first, followed by Lucas Rammachers, who finished his first race this season and placed third, four seconds back from De Smet's top runner.

"It was great to see the depth of our program," said Porter. "Bredan Jones is farther down on our depth chart, but he was still able to get the individual win. I think that is just a testament to how strong our program is."

Yesterday SLUH swept all level at its annual conference meet—this time with the full force of the program—against Vianney, De Smet, Chaminade, and CBC. See next week's issue for the full story.

Around the Hallways

Freshman Class Mass

The freshmen had their first class mass in their separate cohorts on Monday and Wednesday. This was also the first time freshmen got to meet with their senior advisors. The masses took place during 8th period and were presided by Fr. Ian Gibbons, S.J. Additionally, freshmen met with senior advisors

afterwards to discuss the school year and, namely, the freshman retreat. Like virtually all other events this year, the retreat will have to be altered due to social distancing guidelines.

Junior Ring

The junior class met briefly on Monday and Wednesday during 8th period to discuss

Junior Ring orders. Jostens, the company that makes the rings, was at the meetings to provide more information. Juniors will be able to order their rings Monday, October 12 and Tuesday, October 13.

Adoration in the Chapel

Last Friday, October 2, the Mothers' Club held Eucharistic Adoration in the

school Chapel from 12:00 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. Adoration was held in honor of the first Friday devotion. Students were invited to attend during lunch periods or whenever available. After dismissal, Adoration came to a close with Benediction and reposi-

- *Compiled by Luke Duffy*

Calendar

Wednesday, October 7

Xavier 5-7

LUNCH Chick-fil-A
1:15PM Jr. Ring Orders
1:50PM Freshman Class Mass
4:00PM Cross Country (C/JV/V) MCC Championships

Thursday, October 8

Ignatius 1-4

LUNCH Papa John's
2:45PM Freshman Service
4:00PM JV Soccer vs DeSmet
4:00PM C Team Team Soccer vs Vianney (D)
5:45PM B Team Soccer vs Vianney
7:30PM Varsity Soccer vs Vianney

Friday, October 9

Xavier 1-4

LUNCH Papa John's
7:00PM Varsity Football vs St. Mary

Saturday, October 10

9:30AM Varsity Soccer vs Webster Groves
11:30A MC Team Soccer vs FZS
1:30PM JV Soccer vs Webster Groves

Monday, October 12

Ignatius 5-7

LUNCH Chicken Rings/Chicken Bites
Columbus Day
Indigenous Peoples' Day
1:50PM Jr Ring Orders
1:50PM Sophomore Class Mass
2:45PM Freshman Service
4:30PM Swimming & Diving/Parkway Central

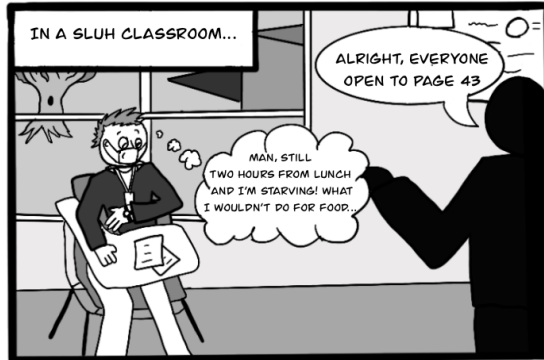
Tuesday, October 13

Xavier 1-4

LUNCH Chicken Rings/Chicken Bites
1:50PM Jr Ring Orders
1:50PM Sophomore Class Mass
4:00PM JV Soccer vs DeSmet
4:00PM C Team Soccer vs CBC
5:45PM B Team Soccer vs CBC
7:30PM Varsity Soccer vs CBC

calendar | Jack Rybak

SLUHSEERS



Students upset at lack of tails, gates at Spirit Week's tailgates

BY CARTER J. FORTMAN AND JACOB SPROCK
EDITOR IN CHIEF, NEWS EDITOR

A number of students reported being very upset when they arrived at the tailgates STUCO had scheduled for Monday and Tuesday's Spirit Week event and found that, in fact, there were neither tails nor gates anywhere to be seen.

"This is bull crap," said an anonymous freshman, unclipping a tail from the back

of his pants. "My parents pay 18,000 dollars for me to go here, and they can't even explain the event in the email. I came here expecting to show off my love of tails and gates, yet all I got were some flipping burgers."

In frustration, students turned over the grill and threw the various meats that STUCO had provided onto the upper field.

"It was rough," said senior burger flipper Nick Campbell

while removing a tail from senior Connor Gunn's behind. "I was just trying to give the guys something tasty, and this is the thanks I get."

The group that was most outraged turned out to be the SLUH Tails and Gates Club. Formed over their love of gated architecture and fluffy tails, the group felt particularly offended by STUCO's misrepresentation of a "tailgate."

"This is blatant disre-

spect. The 'Tail's Gate' is an event we've been doing for years," said moderator Stephen Deves. "Many students come to SLUH specifically for the Tails and Gates Club. The fact that they're now trying to sweep the rug out from under us ... It is just ridiculous."

At press time, the group reported that they would be spray painting over all murals that don't involve gates or tails at SLUH.

ACES/STARS

ACES and its affiliated clubs will continue to combat racism and other prejudices at and around SLUH. If you want to have deep conversations, contact English teacher Adam Cruz at acruz@sluh.org

Prep News

Volume 85, Issue 4

Credits

"What was your favorite part of Spirit Week?"

Editor In Chief

Carter "school patriotism" Fortman

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Jacob "the fanny pack" Sprock
Noah "What was different?" Apprill-Sokol

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Luke "wiffle ball" Altier

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Sam "Bueller...Bueller...Bueller" Tarter

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Nathan "making money" Rich
Jack "penny wars" Rybak

Staff

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Luke "taking photos" Duffy

Reporters

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John "being the catcher in Wiffle ball" Posey
Michael "drive-in movie" Robinson

Roarke "rocking out during passing periods" Unrau
Alex "playing Spikeball" Van Ness

Contributing Photographer

Kathleen "teaching my students the periodic table" Chott

Advisor

Mr. Giuseppe "helping with layout" Vitellaro

Moderator

Mr. Steve "virtual scavenger hunt" Missey