

If Nothing Else. Value the Truth. And Donuts, too.

Prep News

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Donuts, Cowboys, and Christmas in September highlight Spirit Week 2021



Students partipate in recess.

photo | Courtesy of SLUH Facebook



Students in line for Ted Drewes.

photo | Nick Sanders

BY ROARKE UNRAU AND MICHAEL BAUDENDISTEL
 NEWS EDITOR, REPORTER

Monday marked the beginning of the most beloved week of the school year: Spirit Week. With different themes and events everyday, the student body readily jumped at the opportunity to show school spirit.

The actual plans for Spirit Week started forming at a STUCO retreat where Student Council members and teachers met and started discussing ideas.

"We started planning for Spirit Week really over the summer," said STUCO president A.J. Thompson. "In general, we are just trying to bring a higher level of energy

back to the halls of SLUH." With the school's block schedule, STUCO struggled to find spots throughout the day where events could happen and students could participate.

"It was interesting trying to figure out how to do things with our schedule, because we have Activity Periods Monday, Wednesday

and Friday, but Tuesdays and Thursdays we just have the little 30-minute Studiums," said STUCO moderator Megan Menne. "So trying to figure that out, what big events do we want to do Monday, Wednesday, Friday was just a change up from previous years, like pre-pandemic years, when it was just, anything goes any day."

Another challenge STUCO experienced was the school spirit. Coming out of a year where a lot of students were online for part of the year, and separated for most of the year, school spirit needed some lifting.

"I'm just hoping that kids that didn't have the opportunity to get to school last year

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Presidential Scholarships offer awards for academic, co-curricular excellence

BY JACKSON COOPER AND MICAH DOHERTY
 CORE STAFF, REPORTER

This school year at St. Louis U. High is the first to feature a revamped approach to the school's Presidential Scholarship program, which now aims to reward students in need of financial aid for their excellent showings in both academics and extracurricular involvement.

Though a Presidential Scholarship program has existed at SLUH for years, this current school year features the debut of a reworked approach to the program. Typically, Presidential Scholarships are funded by do-

nors—nearly all of whom are anonymous alumni—who pledge a sum of \$1 million to SLUH, which is then used for the betterment of the school's financial aid program. The hefty sum includes paying the full tuition of at least three Jr. Bills who meet the respective scholarship's requirements and criteria. The Presidential Scholarship program is made up of four different scholarships, each awarded to three deserving students.

"When the Presidential Scholarship is established, we work with the donor to develop the criteria," said Director of Leadership Giving Linda Domeyer. "It is nor-

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Covid Numbers*

STUDENT CASES:
0

STUDENT QUARANTINES:
7

FACULTY CASES:
1

FACULTY QUARANTINES:
0

*NUMBERS AS OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

Campus Ministry announces switch from Senior Service to Grande Project

BY JACK FIGGE AND NATHAN RICH
 EDITOR IN CHIEF, EDITOR

Senior Project has been a senior tradition at St. Louis U. High for the past 50 years. Every year, seniors look forward to going out into their communities and serving the most vulnerable. However, due to complications of the Covid-19 pandemic, seniors had to switch last year to an advocacy project called the Grande Project. This year, due to the remaining risk of the pandemic, the Grande Project will once again replace traditional senior projects.

For last year's Grande Project, seniors were tasked with choosing a marginalized group

or social justice issue such as abortion, environmental justice, or human trafficking. They then would interview professionals within their field, present their findings, and advocate for said group in a creative and meaningful way.

Despite Campus Ministry's best efforts, they found that it was not feasible to provide each senior with a normal senior project experience this year. They came to this conclusion after surveying all of SLUH's partner organizations where seniors volunteered. Of the 60 traditional senior project sites that SLUH works with, only 12 replied that they would most likely be taking volunteers in January, with most

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OAC experiences Rocky Mountain highs (and lows) while biking in Rockies

BY LOUIS CORNETT AND MARK WAPPLER
 CORE STAFF, REPORTER

Ten adventurous men of the St. Louis U. High Outdoor Adventure Club piled into vans in early July and embarked on a mountain biking adventure. They biked on the San Juan Hut System from Telluride, Colo. to Moab, Utah, covering 30 to 35 miles a day. In total, the group biked around 220 miles over the course of the seven days

they were on the trail. Tired, yet filled with great memories and even better photos, the mountain bikers spent two days in Moab before returning home to St. Louis on July 19.

OAC moderator Patrick Zarrick and longtime racquetball coach Robert Hoffman stayed behind the wheel for the 1108 miles to Telluride, with the seven seniors and one junior piling in the back of the rented van.

After their overnight stay

on the road, the mountain bikers made it to Telluride the following day. The drive was part one of the acclimation process of adapting and priming their bodies to the new altitude before setting off on their journey. To finish off the acclimation process, Zarrick and Hoffman led the group on a hike to see an overview of Telluride from an elevated position and to prepare themselves mentally for the grueling

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The group at Last Dollar.

photo | courtesy of Nick LaPresta

New Faculty: Love and Stahl join SLUH faculty as ASCs for 2021-22 school year



Chris Stahl, science

photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

BY LUKE DUFFY AND
JOE SIMERI
WEB EDITOR, REPORTER

Christopher Stahl

Stahl graduated from SLUH in 2016 and began his college career at Murray State University on a football scholarship. In addition to playing football in college, he studied biology in a pre-med program and took psychology in his fifth year.

Stahl has had his eyes on the ASC program since he finished his fourth year. His overarching reason for entering this realm of teaching was that this was a vocation he felt called by God to carry out.

"My goal here is just to impact young men and share the knowledge I have gained both in the classroom and just by living life, sharing the wisdom that God has put on my heart," said Stahl.

Being devout in his faith, Stahl hopes to share with students not only his knowledge of science but also his spiritual

knowledge.

"I hope to inspire whatever encounter I can with the guys at SLUH, you know, bring them to an encounter with Jesus, because he's definitely met me where I'm at," said Stahl.

During his year at SLUH, Stahl will be teaching freshman biology and helping coach varsity football. He is approaching this year at SLUH as a year of discernment. In this new environment, he is curious to see whether he is being led to embrace the teaching vocation or to explore other opportunities.

"I feel very comfortable here at SLUH, so I could see myself coming back if the opportunity was there," said Stahl. "But I'm also contemplating and praying about going to medical school and/or going back to school for theology."

If he does decide to pursue more college education, Stahl has a scholarship in his back pocket. Last spring, he received the NCAA postgraduate scholarship for excelling

academically and athletically during his undergraduate career.

"I feel incredibly honored to receive it, and while the money will definitely help, I think putting that on college applications is incredibly valuable too," said Stahl. "They don't select very many awardees, so I know I am extremely blessed."

Chandler Love

Chandler Love is also a St. Louis native and graduated from SLUH in 2017. After high school, he studied African Studies at Claflin University, a Historically Black University in Orangeburg, South Carolina.

As Love reached the end of his undergraduate career and the Covid situation improved, he saw the ASC program as a perfect opportunity.

"I was invited to apply by Mr. Deves, who I met when he was ASC, on a Kairos. He recommended me for this and I had other things kind of lined up like law school and other job opportunities, but I really

wanted to do ASC," said Love.

At SLUH, Love is teaching sophomore English and working with English teacher Frank Kovarik in the senior African American Voices course. He will also coach baseball and wrestling and help out with Mock Trial and the Black Student Union.

A lot of Love's involvement this year will be in areas that he was interested in when he was in high school. He hopes to take from his high school experiences and help his students grow in their formation.

"If I could, you know, help one student succeed in areas that maybe I failed when I was going here, or maybe inspire them to come back into the program as well that would be amazing. I just feel like this is a way for me to pay it forward," said Love. "If I could just help somebody honestly I think that this whole thing would be a great success."

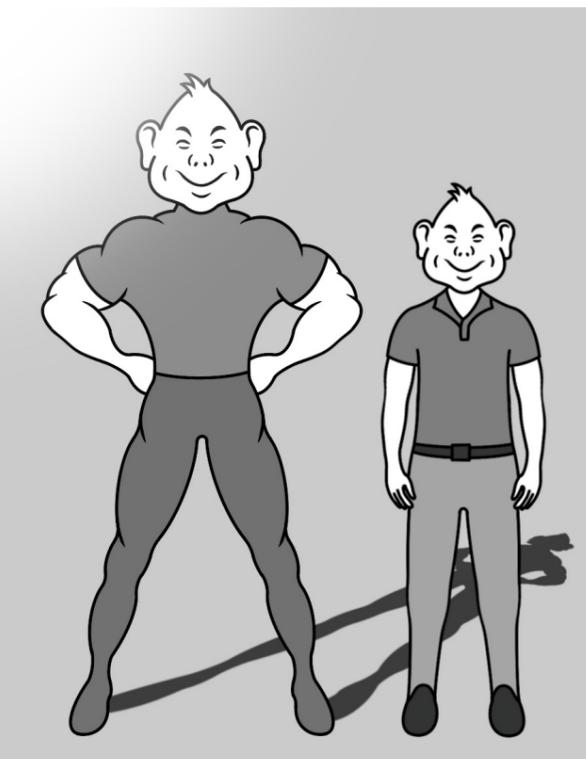
Love was also asked by his students to moderate the Kanye Club in the wake of Kanye West's new album, Donda.



Chandler Love, English

photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

New wave of freshman and sophomore shadow hosts to introduce prospective Jr. Bills to SLUH



art | Charlie Bieg

BY JOHN BYTNAR AND
BEN CROAT
REPORTERS

The SLUH Admissions Department has made some dramatic changes to the Shadow Program this year in the wake of the pandemic and in the hopes that it will introduce and help

welcome the new incoming class by fully encompassing the SLUH experience. The new program will give both Freshman and Sophomore students the opportunity to be shadow hosts.

Unlike the first year, we've expanded it so that both current freshmen and sophomores can serve as

shadow hosts for a couple of reasons," said Admissions Coordinator Jennifer Thomas. "First, because the guys that are sophomores didn't get the chance right last year. Secondly, because we're still in the midst of a pandemic, we needed to be able to spread our guests a little bit further out beyond just the freshmen classes."

Since its inception only a few years ago, the SLUH Shadow program has been an overwhelming success bringing in a larger than usual pool of applicants for the class of 2024. The Shadow program has also helped freshmen reach out of their comfort zones and become more acquainted with the school building.

"You get to learn from the students but also show them how the classes go and how they flow," said former shadow host Elijah Oden. "It's an easy way to meet a

bunch of new people and show them the pros of going to SLUH."

While adapting to an entirely new schedule that sees students in 80-minute class periods may seem difficult, the admissions office has found a way to work around this apparent road block. A campus tour during Studium will still be offered as well as a athletic facilities tour with either Athletic Director Chris Muskopf or Assistant Athletic Director Sam Glass.

The new program will also see a further inclusion of the Innovation Lab, which many shadowing students in past years have recommended visiting and getting a more hands-on feel for. While the Innovation Lab has seen inconsistent use due to the pandemic, its inclusion in the Shadow Program will hopefully lead it to become more of a staple in class procedures.

Wilson makes recovery from kidney surgery



photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

BY DREW FIGGE AND
VINCENT WEINBAUER
REPORTERS

Social Studies teacher Tom Wilson returned to class on Sept. 7 after missing the first three weeks of school due to a major kidney surgery.

Wilson discovered in early June he would need surgery to remove a kidney.

"There was a stretching pain in my left side," Wilson described. "I had it checked out and they found something. And it was something that needed to be dealt with rather quickly."

Wilson ended up waiting an entire month before his surgery date, which took place in the middle of July. His nerves overcame him during the long month of June.

"My surgery put things into perspective for me," said Wilson. "It definitely was something that I did not know what the results were going to be."

After a successful surgery, Wilson began the long process of recovery. He was in rehab for approximately a month and a half that prevented him from starting school at the beginning of the year.

Wilson finished teaching his June summer school classes, but was not able to teach any of his July courses due to his surgery.

Wilson missed the first three weeks of classes this fall. He returned after Labor Day, and is glad to be back.

"I have been here for over 30 years," said Wilson. "And it is always a good time to start the school year and get things going."

With such an unusual start to last year he had been looking forward to being back to a regular start of the school year, but his recovery phase limited him from experiencing this normalcy.

While Wilson was out, psychology teacher Tom Kickham and Assistant Principal for Student Life Brock Kesterson covered for Wilson's classes.

Wilson's students are excited to have him teaching their classes again.

"I know that (his students) were really looking forward to having him back," said Kickham. "Tom is a master teacher and he has a good feel for making the classroom comfortable."

Sisyphus is now accepting art submissions!



Interested in having your work featured in SLUH's Art and Literary Magazine? Email submissions to 2022561@sluh.org or speak to Mr. Kovarik in the English office

Follow us on Instagram!

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Followers64
Following

PN 86 Puzzle: School Pride

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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73					74						75			

- 74. Platform, or a group of flamingos
- 75. Fervor, or a group of zebras
- DOWN
- 1. Deals with groceries
- 2. Sea dried up by Soviet irrigation projects
- 3. Title for a stallion or a king
- 4. Japanese art form with characteristic masks
- 5. UNC athletes
- 6. _____ pro nobis
- 7. Home for the first nine months
- 8. Arab chieftain (var.)
- 9. Part of RAM but not ROM
- 10. What we watched o'er
- 11. Frozen drink brand
- 12. Companion of Tyrion and handmaiden of Sansa in GoT
- 13. Brown seaweed
- 21. Hamiltons
- 25. RPG character class with abilities such as telekinesis and precognition
- 27. Untrustworthy, as in Among Us
- 28. Players who start off the line of scrimmage
- 29. "Yeah."
- 30. One from Riyadh
- 31. Clean with a brush
- 33. _____ Lama
- 34. Bottled water brand
- 35. Touch a base again
- 38. Virus with a vaccine first available in the U.S. in 2019
- 41. Where the "Action!" is
- 43. Plant too much
- 46. Labor Day mo.
- 48. "Be that _____ may, ..."
- 51. Exodus pharaoh
- 53. Squirt from a nozzle
- 55. Reasonable _____
- 57. Green dip
- 58. Largest portion of a board game named in the opposite corner of this puzzle
- 59. British alphabet ends
- 61. The Who's _____ O'Riley
- 63. Actress Falco or songstress Brickell
- 64. Alan of The West Wing
- 65. Backbone of a ship
- 68. 17-digit code for an automobile (abbr.)

ACROSS

- 1. Sunbathe, or a group of crocodiles
- 5. Spire, or a group of giraffes
- 10. Uncertainty, or a group of lobsters
- 14. Opera solo
- 15. Fragrance
- 16. Tylenol target
- 17. Attire
- 18. Dorm food staple
- 19. Brunch, e.g.

- 20. Detective, or a group of bears
- 22. Garden, or a group of sloths
- 23. Squeak, or a group of chicks
- 24. Hoard
- 26. Pioneer Parks
- 28. Company, or a group of ferrets
- 32. Eliminate, or a group of crows

- 36. "Eureka!"
- 37. A drive that wrongly goes right
- 39. Avert, with off
- 40. Pal
- 42. Actor Kevin of Hercules
- 44. Paper cut, e.g.
- 45. Congratulations
- 47. New, in Naples, as in Dante's La Vita _____
- 49. One level below MLB
- 50. Shake, or a group of

- sharks
- 52. Invocation, or a group of narwhals
- 54. Over 500 million have been sold since 2010
- 56. "Give it _____!"
- 57. Stare, or a group of raccoons
- 60. Crowd, or a group of kangaroos
- 62. Smear, or a group of tigers

- 66. Puts to work
- 67. Charming and confident, like 1991's Rico
- 69. Not at work
- 70. Helper
- 71. Dunn of the Dunn-Martel Award
- 72. Maker of pods (no, not dolphins or whales)
- 73. Fling, or a group of falcons

Crossword | Paul Baudendistel

Week 1 Fantasy Football Breakdown

BY CHARLIE VONDERHEID
COLUMNIST

The long awaited Week 1 of the NFL season has finally come upon us. Now, after 10:15 Mass, sports fans have something else to look forward to on Sundays: seven hours of non-stop football action. Some fans simply follow their favorite NFL team for three hours and call it a Sunday, while others do not care about what happens in real football, only fantasy football.

Keeping up with FantasyCast for seven hours straight while watching NFL Redzone and attempting to finish homework before 11:00 is a challenge for fantasy managers and then having to set a line up for the following week and studying to figure out who to trade can be a major stress for managers. But fear not! Prep News is here to guide you through all things Fantasy football!

Let's take a look at some notable standouts from each

position in the fantasy world in Week 1:

QB: Jalen Hurts, 28.8

Jalen Hurts came out strong against the Falcons with 28.8 fantasy points. He found former college teammate Devonta Smith in the end zone, and rushed the ball for 60 yards. There is lots of optimism surrounding Hurts. He even has 2019 Lamar Jackson-type potential with his running ability. Let's hope that his high point production was not due to facing a weak Falcons defense. This week he plays a stronger 49ers defense and has an opportunity to capitalize off a strong Week 1 performance.

RB: D'Andre Swift, 24.4 / Jamaal Williams, 25.0

Combined, both Swift and Williams tallied for almost 50 points, with each of them getting an even split of almost 25 points each. Most of their points were accumulated by targets from Jared Goff. In a PPR league, with Swift and Williams being the two main pass catchers in the Lions offense behind Hockenson, keep an eye on these two to see if they can continue their production in the

following weeks.

WR: Amari Cooper, 38.9

Cooper got off to a hot start in the inaugural game of the season, striking fear into anyone who faced him on Thursday night. Scoring a whopping 38.9 points in the pass heavy Cowboys offense, Cooper looks to continue his production next week. From the wise words of senior Matt Windler, "Dak is back."

TE: Rob Gronkowski, 29.0

Gronkowski received lots of love from his career long QB Tom Brady while playing against the Cowboys. While 29 points for a tight end looks very good, I would be cautious due to how the Buccaneers offense operates. With lots of weapons on their potent offense, I would be hesitant to rely on Gronk for big points on a weekly basis.

Now for the fantasy players who did not live up to expectations this week:

QB: Aaron Rodgers, 1.3

While many fans were quick to point out Rodgers' poor outing against the Saints on Sunday, he is no doubt still a top fantasy quarterback. Continue to start

Rodgers until his poor performances become consistent. Then, it might be worth using Rodgers' name value to shop for other players. Or, Jameis Winston might be a viable option on waivers as he torched Aaron Rodgers' team for 29 fantasy points.

RB: Ezekiel Elliot, 5.9

Elliot is a much different story than Rodgers. I would be very scared to start him if he was on my fantasy team. The Cowboys showed that they are a pass first offense as Dak threw the ball 58 times and Elliot was only targeted twice. More reason for concern is that Zeke's backup, Tony Pollard, scored more fantasy points than him. Give him a couple of weeks, but I would start searching for a replacement in case his poor production continues.

WR: Mike Evans, 5.4

Mike Evans did the opposite of Gronkowski this week in fantasy for the Buccaneers offense: poor production due to Tom Brady finding his other talented targets. Do not fret, though, as Evans was Brady's top target last year. In the Buccaneers offense he is poised to see more targets.

Congratulations to juniors **Brendan Jones, Tyler Barks, and Hudson Brawley** on their crossword 3peat!

Now let's quickly run through some notable injuries:

RB Raheem Mostert

Mostert suffered a season-ending injury in the first quarter against the Lions. Mostert was bound for fantasy production in the 49ers run-heavy offense this year as a solid RB2. His backup, Elijah Mitchell, would be a fine replacement if he is still available in your league.

With lots of questions and excitement heading into the second week of the NFL season, it will be interesting to see how each of these players perform on Sunday. We hope that Aaron Rodgers can return to his MVP days of yesteryear and Dak Prescott can somehow find a way to "Feed Zeke."

Attention Crossword Connoisseurs!

The first person to finish the crossword will get to choose the theme of a future crossword. If you think you finished it first, come up to the Prep News room to let us know!

Class of 1970 is first reunion after Covid hiatus

BY JACK FIGGE AND
AUSTIN WALD
EDITOR IN CHIEF, REPORTER

SLUH welcomed the Class of 1970 to the Commons last Saturday for the school's first reunion in over a year. Covid had prevented these gatherings for several months, but now they're back and alumni as well as faculty, couldn't be more excited.

"One of the things that I've always really loved about reunions is typically we tend to see them as an opportunity for alumni to come back together and reconnect with each other," said Chris

Buerke, Alumni Relations Coordinator. "It's really less of an opportunity for alumni to connect with each other and it's more of a chance for our community to come back and really connect with what SLUH is and our mission."

As members of the celebrated class entered into the Commons for their reunion, they certainly felt that community, and recalled with nostalgia their own glory days.

"We had a lot of good memories and happy memories when we went to this place, this place is a sacred space for our class," said Matt

Sciuto, class of 1970. "Why is it sacred space? Because we invested our time into this place. We put a lot of work into this place during our time here and we made a lot of relationships while here."

On Saturday night, the group of roughly 90 alumni toured the school, attended Mass, and talked to current students. Sciuto appreciated the chance to return to the halls of the Baker Memorial and show off his intimate knowledge of the school.

"A lot of (my classmates) will say, 'Why this place hasn't changed at all since I was here.' And I will point out the

ceilings explaining that we didn't have drop ceilings. I will point out the doors that are now indented instead of flushed like when we were here," said Sciuto. "The guys just love being able to walk around the campus and notice all of the various changes."

That night was also the first showing for this year's President's Ambassadors, who normally serve at school events and reunions.

"I could just feel the excitement as the alumni made their way to the chapel, finally getting back together after over a year of waiting," said junior Alex Preusser. "It was

actually pretty inspiring."

The Class of 1970, in typical fashion, was not limited to the Saturday night celebration, though. They met several times throughout the weekend to reminisce. Their plans included a happy hour on Friday, group service at St. Matthew's Church on Saturday, and a golf outing on Sunday.

"I have 30 guys on the reunion committee doing different things which is a lot of fun," said Sciuto. "By now, it's down to a science."

The return of reunions, though seemingly distant to current students, is very significant for the SLUH com-

munity. They are the means by which alumni, including former teachers, stay connected with the school and maintain the community.

"Retired and past faculty have come back here for reunions to be able to see some of their old students," said Buerke. "I think it's a really cool way to bring people who were part of this community back to campus, but to also invite their families to do things with their spouses, their kids. To bring those faculty and staff back has been really awesome and has really helped to build and foster the SLUH community."

KINO border initiative: students advocate for immigrants at the border



Duffy and Purschke folding clothes. photo | Luke Duffy

BY ALEX PREUSSER AND
THOMAS JUERGENS
STAFF, REPORTER

Juniors Luke Duffy and Nicholas Purschke, and Spanish teacher Kate Toussaint, spent Sept. 2 through Sept. 5 on an immersion trip led by the Kino Border Initiative. This organization provides services to immigrants crossing the border from Mexico to the United States, which is exactly what Duffy, Purschke, and Toussaint worked toward while serving immigrants in Nogales, Ariz.

Split by the border, Nogales is a place where a multitude of activist and missionary groups that aid Latin American immigrants in their struggle to gain refuge in the United States.

The group slept at a Jesuit residence on the Arizona side of Nogales, and every morning they would drive to the border. There, they worked at the comedor, an aid center that provides a variety of essentials and services for the immigrants. As they served, they were able to converse with the migrants and learn their stories of survival.

"You know, you read the stories about immigrants trying to cross illegally, fleeing the violence in their countries," said Duffy. "But there's really nothing like looking them in the eye and hearing that straight from them."

"The media really de-

humanizes and demonizes these people, so getting to see how these were just normal families trying to do what's best for their families was amazing to me," said Purschke.

When asked about their favorite parts of the trip, both Duffy and Purschke named these conversations, recalling specific stories they heard and the insight they gained.

"There was a dad whose name was Jose, and his family was fleeing from gang violence," said Purschke. "The mafia demanded ten thousand dollars, and if the family didn't pay that, they would rape their daughters and kill every member of the family."

This violent brutality is faced by countless families who, like Jose and his family, are left with two options: stay and deal with the mafia or take their chances on the harrowing journey to safety within the United States.

"Once they got to Nogales, they realized they couldn't be granted asylum right now, so they were stuck there for two months, just waiting. (Jose) actually pointed out a cartel in the mountains watching them with binoculars," said Purschke. "They weren't even safe in Nogales."

In an effort toward empathy, the teenage activists at Kino hiked the route through the mountainous desert that immigrants take

to cross the border.

"They have to go really far out, where it's dangerous, and so we went out on a hike to see what the situation was like, and it was really intense," said Toussaint. "They're doing this at night, and they're doing it at nine to ten minutes a mile."

Reinforcing the concept of shared stories, Sister Maria Engracia presented her book titled: Voices of the Border, which is a compilation of stories from the ten years of the Kino Border Initiative's existence.

It was stories like these and the group's firsthand experience of the border that brought it to life.

"The whole process is so incredible. As a mother with little kids, I'm most amazed at the strength, courage, and hope of the parents that I met and talked to," said Toussaint.

"I just kept thinking about my younger siblings," said Duffy. "How they were the same age, but how different their lives and their opportunities are."

The already small number of opportunities available to immigrants seeking asylum has greatly decreased in the last year and a half due to the implementation of Title 42. This code allows the US Border Patrol to re-

fuse the guaranteed right to seek asylum if the individuals pose a health risk to the country. During the pandemic, the US government enacted Title 42 to prohibit any immigration across the border. A large part of the campaign run by the Kino Border Initiative is the call for the repeal of this code.

"The people we met were vaccinated, and you can get a negative test now, so it's my belief that we should open our asylum process to help people who are in danger," said Toussaint.

The activism and service led by the Kino Border Initiative and experienced by Duffy and Purschke are now being brought into the halls of SLUH. This dynamic duo is starting a new club to bring in students who are interested in continuing to serve the immigrants at the border.

"I just think there's a lot of ignorance at SLUH on this particular topic," said Purschke. "It's that we don't always have the opportunities to learn about what's going on. That's the best thing we can do right now: get rid of that ignorance and find ways to help and advocate for our fellow brothers and sisters down at the border."



Duffy, Purschke, and Toussaint in the kitchen photo | Luke Duffy

SLUH's annual weather balloon achieves record-breaking elevation



Students preparing to launch the weather balloon. photo | SLUH Facebook

BY CHARLES TURNELL AND
JOE SIMERI
REPORTERS

Welcome to the stratosphere, Jr. Bills! This past Friday, Sept. 9, a lot of hard work paid off for science teacher Bill Anderson's Environmental STEM class, as the students got the exciting opportunity to launch their weather balloon.

The class is made up of mostly seniors, although some juniors tag along as well. The intent behind the balloon and launch was to better understand the world around them in relation to science.

"The idea is to study the atmosphere over a longer period of time," said Anderson. "This is actually the first year we launched twice and it gave us two sets of data, but that's not enough to make any kind of intelligent, thoughtful, evidence based conclusions."

The process to design and build the weather balloon, to track the progress of it in the air, and the change in weather makes the experience a work in progress. Last year, the weather balloon got caught in some trees east of St. Louis due to strong winds and had to be tracked down in order to continue its progress. Eventually with some luck, the weather balloon was tracked down by science teacher Bradley Mueller.

"This year, the guys got the benefit from all the work everybody else had done before them. The future classes

after the current class will benefit from these guys and everybody will benefit that comes after them," said Anderson. "So we're looking at a 'structure of the structure' and composition of the atmosphere and trying to see how it changes seasonally, because we do a winter launch and a summer launch. Then throughout the course of the year we can see if there's any long term changes, for example climate change, which obviously affects the atmosphere and day to day weather."

Despite some setbacks throughout the years such as the weather, the class is constantly raising the bar. With much careful calculation and nice weather, the weather balloon this year set new records as it launched higher than ever before.

"We are reaching year 11 now, and we are just starting to see enough data to start making some conclusions and see some patterns and trends that we can trace," said Anderson. "I believe that the most recent launch was actually a record, in terms of height."

The proud record set by Anderson's class was not one made without making some practical improvements first.

"First off, we started using a larger balloon so we can put more helium in it, and then careful measurement of our payload mass, and the amount of helium that goes in," said Anderson. "It was these three components that had the biggest factor in the balloon improvements this year."

The primary purpose of the project is to educate SLUH students about the atmosphere and learning about the scientific process. But the importance of the class's work goes beyond SLUH.

"I have a friend who is a professor of Meteorology," says Anderson. "And he asked if he could use our data in his class."

Anderson is happy that special events like these are possible to bring to his students.

"I can't imagine anything more important from the project than getting the students these skills," said Anderson.

Letters To The Editor

School Counselors warn students about mental health worries

For the Prep News:

September is Suicide Prevention Month

Have you ever felt sad and had an adult say something like this to you?

"C'mon, it's not so bad... these are the best years of your life!"

Statements such as these, while likely born of a kind-spirited nostalgia, don't make things better. The truth is, teenagers feel sadness and anxiety in a very real way. The medical community once thought depression affected only adults, but according to the [Stanford Children's Health Center](#),

...“around 11 percent of young people will have experi-

enced an episode of depression by the end of his or her teenage years. Depression in children, teens, and young adults is much more than a phase. It's a real condition that can interfere with daily life, lead to suicidal thoughts and behavior, and go on to affect a person throughout life.”

September is Suicide Prevention Month. As such, the SLUH School Counselors wish to educate the SLUH community about suicide and its warning signs. Unfortunately, some suicides come completely out of the blue. Loved ones are left with an incredibly painful question: “What did I miss?”

Fortunately for us, some people — including those who are more ambivalent about suicide — consciously or unconsciously drop hints. If we are in

a position to help, it's important that we do. These are a few behaviors that are crucial to take notice of and speak out about:

Talking about suicide: Statements like “I'd be better off dead” or “sometimes I wish I had never been born” or “sometimes I wish I would just never wake up.”

Seeking the means: Trying to get access to guns, pills, or other objects that could be used in a suicide attempt.

No hope for the future: Feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, and being trapped, or believing that things will never get better.

Self-loathing: Feelings of worthlessness, guilt, shame, and self-hatred.

Getting affairs in order: Giving away prized possessions or making arrangements

for family members.

Saying goodbye: making unusual or unexpected visits or calls to family and friends; saying goodbye to people as if they won't be seen again.

People who exhibit these signs of potential suicide are often communicating their distress and hoping to get a response. This is very useful information that shouldn't be ignored. Again, while it is normal for us all to feel sad or down at times, recurring sadness or a plan of hurting yourself is very serious and needs immediate attention!

If you are ever feeling suicidal, please talk to someone. If you don't feel comfortable talking with your parents, your school counselor is always ready to help. **The bottom line is that you need to speak with an adult.** Similarly, you can

call the National Suicide Hotline at (800) 273-8255 or the Provident Crisis Hotline at (314) 647-HELP (4357). Additionally, you can text HOME to 741741. This is available 24 hours a day.

Similarly, it is important to get support if you have a friend who is considering suicide. Being a supportive friend is really wonderful, but it's even more important that you tell an adult who can help your friend. Holding on to secrets is not helpful. Through no fault of your own, you are not trained as a counselor or therapist!

Yes, it is very normal and healthy for teens to want to speak with their friends when they are feeling down. You support each other as brothers and work to lift each other up. When it comes to suicide,

though, the burden of trying to help a classmate who might be having suicidal ideation is too much to bear.

We take care of each other. One of the key ways we do so is by telling an adult.

If you have questions or would like more information on suicide prevention, please speak with your School Counselor.

If you or someone you know is in an emergency, call The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255) or call 911 immediately.

Sincerely,
Mr. Kempf
Dr. McKenna
Mrs. Michalski
Mrs. See

Perspective

Junior Luke Duffy reflects on his time at the KINO border

BY LUKE DUFFY
WEB EDITOR

My life changed the moment I stepped across the border in Nogales, Arizona. I knew I would return from the Kino Border Initiative trip with a better understanding of migrant issues, but I never could have anticipated how I would encounter God during my time there.

The Kino Leadership Days were a four-day intensive program for students who were passionate about social justice and already had a background in immigration issues. The goal was to form young men and women into advocates through exposure to the structural problems at the border. One of the central ideas of KBI is “HAC,” which stands for Humanize, Accompany, Complicate. That is, their method for educating is to humanize the situation of the migrants, to accompany them in their journey and their struggles, and to

complicate your understanding of immigration.

I was privileged enough to attend this service-learning experience and was blown away by the knowledge of the Kino staff members, the stories of the migrants, and the community I built with the other teens on the trip from Jesuit schools across the country. I felt especially inspired by Pete Neeley, SJ, a Jesuit priest who has devoted his life to immigrants and runs KBI.

During the trip, we had many opportunities to serve and be present at the Comedor, KBI's migrant shelter just across the U.S.-Mexican border in Nogales, Sonora. I served food, washed dishes, and sorted laundry, but the most impactful part for me was the opportunity to listen to the migrants' stories. One man I talked to named Juan told me how he used to live and work in the U.S., left voluntarily to return to his family in Mexico, and hasn't been allowed back in

the U.S. for over 20 years. Juan's story particularly touched me because he lived in St. Louis for six months of his time in the U.S. Why, I wondered, could I return to my fruitful life in the states while Juan couldn't? What made the two of us so different?

Juan's story was one of the luckiest. Many of the other stories I heard involved the mafia, which controls Mexico and threatens the well-being of Mexicans across the country. One woman, named Biena, told me her harrowing story that brought her to the border. The mafia was after her brother when he died of natural causes. Gang members went to her demanding her brother and refusing to believe that he was dead. When they threatened to burn down her house, Biena knew she and her toddler son, Mateo, had to leave. They made their way to Nogales mostly on foot and were waiting at the border for a legal way to cross. Biena's story was inspiring

because, even after all the hardships she had been through, she was making the most of the situation. She was co-organizing a peaceful march for asylum along the border wall that will take place later this month.

Perhaps the most moving interactions I had at the Comedor were with the migrant children. I am the oldest of four kids, and I saw my younger siblings in these young kids at the shelter. One boy, Fernando, flipped bottles with me outside the shelter, a game I play with my siblings at home. We also played soccer with some of the unaccompanied children at the Comedor. These kids are no different from American children, but they are denied the same basic human rights just because of where they happened to be born.

In addition to the personal encounters with migrants, we got to talk to the Kino staff members, who are experts on immigration. I learned that the

biggest hurdle for migrants right now is Title 42, a U.S. health provision that states people applying for asylum can be denied on the basis that they could spread a dangerous disease in the U.S. Since the beginning of the pandemic, this law has been used to prevent almost all cases of asylum. This has created a humanitarian crisis, forcing shelters like the Comedor to operate on double time, migrants to return to their dangerous homes, and, in dire cases, migrants to attempt crossing the desert into the U.S., an extremely dangerous venture.

Ending Title 42 should be the top priority of U.S. lawmakers because it violates both federal law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. While the immigration crisis is a way larger and more complex problem, saving asylum is a more manageable issue.

As I reflect on the trip, I recognize two overall takeaways from the trip. First, I

was challenged and inspired to humanize, accompany, and complicate the situations of immigrants even 1000 miles from the border in St. Louis. I learned that it is important to be on the ground working with immigrants face-to-face, but there is so much advocacy one can do regardless of where they live.

Second, I learned just how much one can find God in all things on this trip. I found God in my fellow Kino teens who shared my goals and hopes for the experience. I found God in the Jesuits and other staff working hard to serve migrants at KBI, and I found God in each and every migrant searching for a better life. As men and women for others, we should be just as concerned with our peers walking the halls of SLUH as we are with those in need. And if the migrants have hope and faith in God that their situation will improve, then so should I have faith in God.

PN 86 Editorial Policy

The Volume 86 *Prep News* opinion section serves the purpose of being the vehicle of the personal opinions of students, faculty, or other members of the St. Louis University High School community. All topics discussed in the section will be related to St. Louis University High School.

Nothing published either as an editorial, commentary or as a letter to an editor should be considered the opinion of the school, the administration, or anyone other than its author or authors.

A *Prep News* editorial is the opinion of all five editors on a particular topic.

A commentary or column is an opinion of one member of the *Prep News* staff, not of the *Prep News* itself.

A perspective or notebook, like a commentary,

is the opinion of one person, often a *Prep News* staff member.

Unlike a commentary, such a piece is often intended primarily to convey a personal experience rather than to provide a viewpoint on an issue. Unlike a letter, such pieces are usually developed at the request of, and sometimes under the guidance of, the *Prep News* editors.

Every member of the SLUH community is welcomed and encouraged to submit a letter to the editors. Every letter received by the editors will be read and given consideration. All letters must be signed, but the author's name may be withheld from publication by request and at the discretion of the editors.

The *Prep News* editors reserve the right to edit any submissions for publication in order to

meet grammatical standards, but they will not skew the author's original intent. Also, the editors reserve the right to withhold from publication any submission if it is deemed vulgar, tasteless, or otherwise inappropriate. Authors should be available for the editors to contact them before publication to address any matters of concern.

All authors wishing to have letters published must submit them by 4:00 p.m. the Wednesday before the letter is to be published.

Letters should be emailed to prepnews@sluh.org, and, if possible, a signed copy should be given to a *Prep News* editor or moderator or mailed to the *Prep News* courtesy of St. Louis University High School, 4970 Oakland, St. Louis, MO 63110.

PN 86 Editorial Platform

As the student-run newspaper of St. Louis University High School, the *Prep News* is a weekly publication that strives to inform the SLUH community about events and people, with its focus on those pertaining to the school, primarily through the written word.

The *Prep News* is neither the voice of the administration nor the students. Rather, the newspaper serves to gather and distribute information for the entire school. The *Prep News* editors and staff members make every effort to be objective in their news coverage and editing.

The members of the editorial staff are co-workers and share equally the duties of writing, copy-editing, layout, and staff management. All of the editors share responsibility and leadership of the paper. The editors are supported by a core staff of regular reporters as well as artists and photographers.

It is the role of the editors

to seek out and facilitate the reporting of all significant news at SLUH. While any faculty member or student is welcome to submit suggestions to the editors for potential articles, the *Prep News* is never obligated to publish any article idea.

Our primary emphasis as editors of the *Prep News* is upon clear and accurate writing and careful editing. We also attempt to include visual expression—photography, drawing, technical aids etc.—in every issue and on our web site. Despite our desire to make the paper visually appealing, we commit ourselves not to allow form to supersede substance.

The editorial staff will use social media to communicate with the paper's readership and to update students about SLUH events and highlight the paper's content. The editors will not allow their goal of speed and accessibility online to weaken their commitment to accuracy and depth.

The *Prep News* strongly encourages underclassman involvement, and our office on the second floor of the Jesuit Wing, room J220, is always open for involvement, criticism, praise, or suggestions. Contributed student opinions are also welcome under the *Prep News* Editorial Policy. Without student reaction and feedback, the *Prep News* could not function.

If the *Prep News* is inaccurate, we will correct any significant error in the following issue and on our web site as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the editors assume sole responsibility for the text of news and sports articles, features, and editorials. We ask faculty or students who take issue with the manner in which the news was reported or find an error to bring it to the attention of the editors, not the individual reporters.

This is the platform of the editors of Volume 86 of the *Prep News*.

Zychinski's Gateway Tea aims to revolutionize tea drinking

BY NATHAN RICH
EDITOR

If you ever find yourself stuck at St. Louis U. High and are in need of some herbal tea, senior Sam Zychinski is your man. Since this past June, Zychinski has owned and operated his very own tea-themed business. Called Gateway Tea, his brand is all about starting the tea revolution.

A quick glance at Gateway Tea's online shop, and you'd hardly know it was run by a high schooler. Featuring sleek photos and an actual online cart, the website is strikingly professional. On the site, below an invitation to "Join the Revolution," customers can shop for some of Zychinski's classic herbal concoctions, like "Mississippi Mama," "Fleur-de-Lis," and "High School Hustler." He even sells hats, towels, tumblers and tea paraphernalia bearing his logo, the St. Louis Arch dipping into a cup of tea.

In spite of the fancy website that Zychinski has today, Gateway Tea started simply, like most great ideas. An avid tea drinker himself, Zychinski noticed the need around him for a higher quality beverage.

"I've been drinking tea since the beginning of high school," he said. "I used to bring a bottle of tea to every lunch. I've noticed that my friends don't really drink the best stuff all the time, so I thought it was probably wise to promote tea to a younger generation."

Zychinski's observation was correct. As more and more bright soda bottles dot the tables in the Commons, tea isn't something most students think of when they're thirsty.

His goal was to begin correcting that, and it's been brewing for a while. The idea for Gateway Tea came to him during his sophomore year, and he's spent the past months making it a reality. Zychinski credits his work with the Ignatian Business Leaders as one of the biggest ways he grew his idea. Now, he helps inspire others to follow theirs.

"I've been thinking about how to get a business running for a while now," said Zychinski. "I actually run the entrepreneurship wing of the Business Leaders club and my job there is to help inspire other people to start their own businesses and teach them the steps that

it takes to run a business."

True to his mission, Zychinski describes his own business launching process as fairly straightforward.

"I just took two summer camps through St. Louis University and participated in a competition there to get some startup money," said Zychinski. "When it comes to my website, I just got a Square-space subscription. Luckily, nowadays modern technology really simplifies a lot of the process, you just have to put in a little bit of time."

"(Gateway Tea) is super exciting," noted IBL Moderator Kevin Foy. "Sam has been entrepreneurial since the day he walked in the building. He's always been involved in whatever entrepreneurial activities IBL has done. He's really a champion of that division and has been a great leader."

Since the launch, Zychinski has spent intensive time on social media to grow his brand. @Gatewayteastl is rapidly approaching 100 followers on Instagram. There, Sam posts about his business and keeps his followers updated about events that his tea is a part of around the St. Louis community. After all, he's

made sure to stay true to his roots throughout the process.

"I've really focused on St. Louis, I think. I use the tight community of St. Louis to do a lot of my marketing," he said.

Gateway Tea has partnered with Abigail's Boutique, LeGrand's Market and Deli, and also Southside Wine and Spirits, all of which are local businesses. He has set up shops at all locations and offered free samples to passersby. In addition, Zychinski's business promises to donate 5 percent of large orders to a St. Louis area non-profit organization of the customer's choice.

As Zychinski continues to grow his brand, those close to him continue to find Gateway Tea as a refreshing, wholesome surprise. Band director Jeff Pottinger, who has taught Zychinski since he was a freshman, couldn't believe that he was a business owner. Pottinger fondly remembers when he found out about Gateway Tea after commenting about one of Sam's mugs in his classroom.

"I said: that is a really nice mug" and he said thank you. When I asked him where he got it, he said 'that's funny you should ask, it's from my



Zychinski, the tea tycoon. photo collage | courtesy of Gateway Tea

company. I almost fell out of my chair," recalled Pottinger. "We looked it up on the website and I was flabbergasted, just super impressed. It's just such a wonderful thing when people have an idea and they actually do something with it. It's rare."

Foy agreed. "Sam's a rare guy in terms of getting to the point where he has real partnerships with businesses and he has a real,

consistent revenue stream," said Foy. "It's really cool and exciting to have a high school guy doing this in a business that isn't pure hustle. We have lots of guys that do typical high school hustles but this is not that. This is a fully planned, well executed business model. If you didn't know Sam was in high school, you'd have no reason to believe he was in high school, and that's great."

McKernan purchases donut joint in the heart of South City



photo | Kevin McKernan

BY LUKE DUFFY
WEB EDITOR

Improv teacher and modern renaissance man Kevin McKernan grew up going to a little donut shop in South City. Now, that little donut shop, the popular Donut Drive-In, is his latest business venture.

He noticed the joint was up for sale in March 2020. McKernan is also the proprietor of a comedy club and restaurant called the Improv Shop, and he was looking for a place where his kitchen staff could work during the day. Coincidentally, his favorite childhood donut shop was up for sale.

"It grew out of that as an opportunity for the employees at the Improv shop," said McKernan. "I grew up going to Donut Drive-In as a kid and have some really fun memories going there with my mom and my family. I loved how it felt like a throwback to another time. So when I heard that it became available, the previous

owners were retiring, I just jumped on it."

With so many fond memories of the Drive-In, McKernan felt his role was simply to keep it up and running.

"I guess it was an investment as well as an investment in that community and keeping things the same and that kind of thing," said McKernan.

Quite unfortunately, a global pandemic erupted within a month after McKernan purchased the donut shop. This meant he had to put his new business on hold for the safety of his employees.

"I bought it, it was open for a week, and then I closed it for two and a half months, because I happened to, for better or worse, buy it during the ramp-up last March," said McKernan.

The pandemic was challenging for the Drive-In, but the devoted staff stayed on board to keep the business afloat.

"I think I got lucky in terms of the people that work there.

They are really dedicated to the place and most of them have been there for several years, if not decades," said McKernan. "So I really got lucky that they all came back, and that wasn't a given that they would all come back, especially with a new owner, and especially with it being closed for two and a half months."

While McKernan didn't want to change too much about the Drive-In, which has been open for almost 70 years, he did introduce some innovations to increase efficiency.

"This is kind of a funny story, it's kind of SLUH-related, I was trying to think of a way to solve the problem of the line having limited capacity because of Covid," said McKernan. "I was driving to SLUH one morning and I saw the parking attendant booth on the Oakland lot, right, Mr. Walsh sits in for the faculty lot. And I thought, there's a solution, perhaps. So what I did was I bought a parking lot attendant booth to use as the pickup booth in the back."

"McKernan kept the charm and delicious recipes that drew so many to the Donut Drive-In and modernized it with a proper web design, online ordering and pre-made dozens," said dance teacher and Donut Drive-In connoisseur Simonie Anzalone. "Online ordering and the shack in the back have been clutch in these Covid times. My new Sunday go-to is the custard filled powder donut ... delicious!!!"

McKernan also updated the website to offer online ordering and installed new registers at the counter. However, on top of some of these structural changes, McKernan has also contributed to the day-to-day operations of Donut Drive-In.

"My wife runs payroll for the place; we go in and work the counter when they need help if someone, you know, was on vacation; we do deliveries to churches on Sunday mornings. So stuff like that, maintaining the website, figuring out orders and stuff, so kind of around the edges," said McKernan of his work at the Drive-In.

Donut Drive-In is no walk in the park, either. Serving customers six days a week from before dawn until after dusk, they are open for almost 100 hours a week. To handle this much work, they have a dedicated staff that is specially trained to form a sort of assembly line for donut making.

"It's like 600 square feet, but it's like a whole restaurant, you know, you usually don't see the kitchen at a restaurant," said McKernan. "Our thing is just everything, it's like the kitchen and the counter people, so it makes for, you know, they have to get along, because you're in each other's space the whole time."

"It is long hours. I work 4 to 2," said one Donut Drive-In employee who has worked there for over 20 years. "It's a lot of customer service. It's busy, you have a fast pace, but we have very enjoyable customers."

For all their hard work, Donut Drive-In produces some fantastic donuts. Their treats are well-loved in the SLUH community and all of St. Louis.

"From the perspective of a retired police officer, Donut Drive-In has the best donuts in St. Louis," said Director of Security Dan Schulte.

"I think they have a good variety of donuts. You can't go wrong there," said junior Mack Eisenbeis.

Tettamble launches "Shooting the Stuff with Gus" podcast

BY ROARKE UNRAU
NEWS EDITOR

Local senior sensation Gus Tettamble has recently begun a podcast titled Shooting the Stuff with Gus showcasing his charisma, humor, and coolness while talking to some of SLUH's heavy hitters, such as Assistant Principal for Student Life Brock Kesterson, and math teacher Tracy Lyons.

The first episode of Tettamble's podcast was on Aug. 27. But the first time he actually considered making a podcast was during the quarantine of 2020. He started listening to podcasts and quickly realized he was a fan of the art.

"It's fun for me, thinking of silly questions and all that, I think that's super fun. Even recording it and everything, it took me a couple of days to figure out how to do all of it and upload it, but it's actually the easiest thing in the world," said Tettamble. "I guess it's just something fun. And like I feel like sometimes people don't let themselves have as much fun as they should. They take themselves a little bit too seriously sometimes. I guess I was just trying to bring out the fun in some people."

The original plan was to just have fun and talk about the life of a senior, but when Kesterson expressed interest in being on the podcast, Tettamble couldn't say no.

"I just had to come into this thing open-minded, knowing that Gus is a, I hate to say it, but he's a pretty creative and funny guy. So I had to just be prepared for anything. And I tried to be, and even though I was, he still came up with some things that I was really

not expecting," said Kesterson.

After publishing Episode 1 with Kesterson, Shooting the Stuff with Gus was up and rolling, with Episode 2 coming out one week later.

"It was very fun. I don't think the audio picked up all of my laughter, but Gus was very prepared. He asked hard-hitting questions, he kept me on my toes. It was a lot of fun," said Lyons.

Behind the scenes of the podcast, Tettamble works with math teacher Stephen Deves to produce them. Deves, who dubbed himself sounding board and wise counsel of Shooting the Stuff with Gus, expects himself to be on the podcast one day instead of working behind the scenes.

"I think the arrangement is coming at some point. The only question is when is he prepared and when am I prepared, and is the world prepared to hear us together? We'll find out," said Deves.

In the future, Tettamble hopes to have a lot of fun and make some changes to the podcast. But as of right now, he is mainly focused on having fun and talking with some people at SLUH.

"My plan was that I had no plan," joked Tettamble. "The plan, going into the podcast, was to make an episode, see how people reacted to it and then go from there. I found that when I have someone on the podcast with me it's a lot easier, it takes a lot of the stress off. I don't really have to think too much, I can just write down some silly stuff and then just let them do the rest."

SENIORS



Sophomore Ryan Wingo after scoring.

photo | Kathy Chott

Rushing attack leads the way as SLUH football finally comes out on top against Chaminade

BY COBY SPRATTE
CORE STAFF

Two thousand ninety-six. That's how many days it had been since SLUH had beaten Chaminade before their 35-26 win in their MCC opener this past Friday night.

After getting torched for 42 points in Week 1 against MICDS, the defense came out of the gates looking to make a redemptive statement, led by senior linebacker DonTa-

vion Sullivan and junior linebacker Louis Kertz, who each finished with 15 total tackles and a sack.

Chaminade elected to receive the kickoff, trying to make a statement with their Oklahoma State skills player Cam Epps, but the defense for the Jr. Bills forced a quick three and out.

Despite the quickly reversed possession, SLUH went three and out as well, neither team able to find any

traction on offense during any part of the first quarter.

The Jr. Bills got the crowd into the game with 3:00 left in the first quarter when they unveiled their Loko Punt unit, which lined up sophomore Ryan Wingo at punter. Wingo took the snap and converted the fourth and 8 on their own side of the field on a designed fake run.

The Jr. Bills marched inside the Chaminade 15-yard line, but the momentum they

had gained diminished in a heartbeat when Luke Johnston threw an interception over the middle of the field, his first pick of the season.

The Jr. Bills' defense again got off the field in just three plays, and it looked like the offense would finally put the game's first points on the board, yet, with 9:36 remaining in the second quarter, for the second consecutive possession, the Bills turned it over inside the Chaminade

15, a fumble as a result of miscommunication in the backfield.

The defense, again, stood rock solid, forcing its fourth consecutive three and out.

Wingo took the punt back to the house for what the entire stadium believed to be the first score of the game, until everyone saw the referee's yellow flag lying on the turf for a block in the back against the Jr. Bills, which negated the touchdown.

SLUH started deep in Red Devil territory, but their first half trend of carelessness persisted, as the Jr. Bills fumbled once again as a result of miscommunication in the backfield.

Chaminade's fifth offensive drive of the game proved to be their most successful drive to that point as they marched into Billiken territory, but faced a fourth down on the 33. Being too long for a

continued on page 9

AMDG

Wins keep rolling for SLUH soccer, focus turns to CBC Tournament

BY NATHAN RICH AND
CHASE HATCH
SPORTS EDITOR, REPORTER

In their past six games, SLUH soccer has scored 25 goals. Their opponents have scored just three. In summary: this year's Varsity team is good, and they're off to a dangerously hot start. Four additional wins over the past week have the team at 6-0-1 on the season and poised to turn heads at the CBC tournament.

The scoring spree started last Thursday, when the Jr. Bills suited up against Webster Groves. The biggest challenge of the night proved not to be the opponent, though, but the opponent's turf. Webster's field was grass and had a slight hill, which made it uncharted territory for the Jr. Bills, who were much more familiar with the turf fields at SLUH.

After 90 minutes of play, though, SLUH's high-powered offense prevailed. Senior forward Stephen Saladin led the team with two goals, and both showcased a unique aspect of his game. Saladin's first goal, which opened the scoring, came on a blistering breakaway that left the Webster defenders in the dust. His second was a clean penalty kick that shot past the goalie's right side, emphasizing his shooting ability.

The other goal of the game, which put SLUH up 2-0, came from sophomore midfielder Grant Locker, who has been quietly having a stellar start to the season. Locker has posted 6 goals and 3 assists on the season, making him one of the team's leading scorers, behind only Saladin.

"We've gotten off to a great start, I think. Our front four has been really led by the seniors and followed up by some underclassmen and I think we're great at using our speed to go forward," said Locker.

It was Locker who shined

during last Saturday's match against Father McGivney. With 2 goals and an assist, he helped bring the team to a dominant 7-0 win.

Once again, the field dictated strategy for the Jr. Bills, though. Thick grass forced SLUH to play balls in the air as much as possible. The strategy worked well for senior defender Ben Ridgway, who opened the scoring with a shot off his knee. The goal was Ridgway's first of the season.

"We had to play a little harder to find those through balls, but the chances kept coming from them. It was great scoring, though. It was really exciting because I've had many chances but it was nice to finally capitalize on one. I want more," said Ridgway.

In addition to Ridgway, several other varsity players found the back of the net for the first time against Fr. McGivney. Juniors Joe Olascoaga and Kevin Cooney both notched their first goals in the game, while junior Sam Tieber scored his second off of Locker's assist.

Even though goals can be hard to come by in high school soccer, the Jr. Bills certainly haven't run into that problem yet this season. Senior Evan Yalavarthi credits the team's grit for their scoring proficiency.

"It's probably our players this year," he said. "In the past we haven't had that attacking mentality. Even before the season started, though, coach took us on a retreat about toughness. Over the course of the season so far we've developed that mentality that we need to score. Now, we have a tough team and that creates a desire to score and the ability to follow through."

After two statement wins, the Jr. Bills' biggest game of the past week came Wednesday night against Vianney, which was their first game of MCC conference play. SLUH was supposed to play on Tuesday, but lightning stopped the game a few minutes into the first half. Play

picked up the next night, and the Jr. Bills brought momentum. The game was only the first of the CBC Tournament, but Yalavarthi had high expectations for the match.

"We are actually very confident going into the tournament," he said. "Our goal was to win this tournament and we think that's definitely within reach. After playing against Vianney, they didn't have any chances to score but we were just pounding them and we had so many shots, so we're hoping to put up a lot of goals and win the other two games as well."

Unsurprisingly, it was Locker who opened the scoring against Vianney. A fast shot off an assist from Tyler Van Bree put the Jr. Bills on top early. The only other goal of the night was scored by Yalavarthi from outside the box, but it wasn't SLUH's only chance. Several shots bounced off the goal post and could have added to the final score had it not been for a few inches.

Overall, O'Connell was very happy with the play against Vianney.

"We passed the ball well, we passed it quick, we had a good first touch. I think a lot of it has

to do with the skill and quality of our guys," O'Connell said.

SLUH followed up the win against Vianney with a last second shocker last night against CBC. Two goals from Saladin put the Jr. Bills up early against one of the highest ranked teams in the state. O'Connell had stressed before the game, though, that the ranking did not scare him or his team. As time expired, it showed. With just under 2 seconds left in the game, Johnnie Ferrarra weaved through the box and delivered a shot that squeezed past CBC's keeper. SLUH went on to win the game 3-2 in their closest match of the season. SLUH fans went crazy as the team rushed the field to celebrate the goal.

SLUH looks to continue scoring tomorrow night against De Smet in their final match of the tournament. A win will mean first place for SLUH.

"I think (winning the tournament) would be a great first step for what we're trying to accomplish," said O'Connell. "It would be nice to win a championship and have that taste and feeling that can only make us better."



art | Nathan Rich

Varsity XC builds off solid performance at FPXC, V2 set for Sioux Passage

BY JACKSON COOPER,
JOE LABARGE,
SEAN KELLOGG
Core Staff, reporters

Anticipation soared as the SLUH cross country team prepared to face off against fierce competition from across four states including the best teams in Missouri at the Forest Park Cross Country Festival (FPXC) last Saturday. The team put up impressive performances across the board, including the first Forest Park JV victory and first individual winner in several years.

This year, the festival was held in a new location centered around Forest Park's Langenberg, Cricket, and Lindell fields. As the host of the meet, SLUH coaches devoted much of their time and energy to ensure that the first FPXC in two years would run smoothly. In just a week, the coaches were able to turn the knee-high grassy fields into a mowed, marked, and mapped 5K and 3K course to be run on by thousands of athletes.

"You know, we talked about hosting a meet and the logistics of that and having 3000 athletes from around the Midwest, having a good experience in a new location in the park for us," said head coach Joe Porter. "I thought that it went extremely well. I think it was well received."

In a very competitive race, the varsity finished in fourth place with 119 points behind some of the top competition in the state, including Class 5 defending champions Rock Bridge (Columbia) (79), the Class 4 seven-time defending champions Festus (90), and a very strong Kickapoo (Springfield, Mo.) team (106) that is currently ranked second in Class 5.

Senior Baker Pashea led the scoring with an impressive 10th place finish and a time of 16:18, with senior Justin Glass taking the role of the second finishing Jr. Bill with a 23rd place finish and a time of 16:47. Seniors Sean Kellogg and Joe LaBarge finished close behind at 29th and 30th respectively. Both ran times of 16:54. Senior Grant Brawley rounded out the scoring five with a 44th place finish and a time of 17:23. Juniors Wyatt Seal (17:30, 50th), Tim Greiner (17:33, 55th), Will Riggan (17:46, 60th), and Nolan Meara (17:59, 71st) rounded out the varsity racers.

The Jr. Bills were able to put nine varsity runners in the top half of the incredibly competitive race and medal their top four racers, which is certainly not an easy task given the presence of other state title contenders. Still,

the runners had held for a higher finish.

"It might not have been the exact outcome we were hoping for, but a lot of that was out of our control on Saturday," noted Pashea. "I still couldn't be more confident in this group of guys going forward."

In the JV division, the SLUH runners were able to continue their superb form from the previous week's Granite City Invitational, claiming the race victory with a low score of 34. The race featured one of the standout individual performances of the day, with sophomore Charlie Murray (17:38) taking home the individual victory, SLUH's first individual race champion in any division at Forest Park since 2013.

Murray was followed by sophomore Mason Scargall (17:59) in third, with senior Francis Alford (18:13) closely behind in fourth. Sophomore Anthony Zangara (18:19) ran a great race to finish in eighth, and junior Cody Cox (18:46) took the final scoring spot in 18th place.

This excellent performance from the JV squad was made even more impressive as Seal and Riggan, their two top finishers from the team that captured a perfect score at Granite City, were moved up to the varsity division, further highlighting the program's unparalleled depth.

In the freshman 3K race, the Jr. Bills finished in fourth place with a score of 94, falling behind Rockhurst (50), team champions due to tie-breaker, Festus (50), and Eureka (59). Despite the hot and humid racing conditions, Gus Talleur (10:43) led the way for SLUH throughout the race, contending for a race win and eventually crossing the line in third, just six seconds behind the race champion. Otto Reitenbach (11:39) finished in 19th as SLUH's second finisher, and a trio of freshmen—George Donahue (11:57, 25th), Gavin Smith (11:59, 26th), and Ethan Bognar (12:00, 27th)—crossed the line in quick succession to make up the remainder of the scoring five.

After FPXC, the members of the cross country team immediately began setting their sights on this Saturday's Paul Enke Invitational at Sioux Passage Park, which features an extremely hilly course that is considered one of the toughest in Missouri. The varsity top seven will be rested, giving a V2 squad of JV runners the opportunity to compete in the varsity race against some of the top competition in St. Louis.

ESPORTS!

Jr. Bills dominate CBC and Francis Howell Central in first competition. Read about it next week!



photo | David Callon

Sophomore team member playing Rocket League.



photo | David Callon

ESports fans after the win.

Swim team shines at all levels in wins against Ladue, CBC

BY ALEX WENTZ AND
BEN ORTMANN
REPORTERS

Claiming victory at their first real battle of the season, the St. Louis U. High swim team defeated their enemies at Ladue and CBC over the weekend to confirm what all had hoped was true: that SLUH swim and dive

has superior skills.

In the Ladue competition, the tenth place team got 2 points, the second place team earned 337 points, and the Jr. Bills climbed to the top with a whopping 713 points.

“Overall the meet went really well,” said head coach Lindsey Ehret. “It gave us benchmarks so that now

people have some ideas of (how fast they can go), and can make goals based on the performances they attained. Overall I thought everybody was pretty solid.”

The tadpoles of the team revealed themselves as swordfish, with the freshman dominating their events at their first ever high school invitational. Freshman Jaden Yarbrough walked away with a medal from every event he competed in, earning fourth place in the 200 yard freestyle, then showing off his endurance finishing third in the 500 yard freestyle. Yarbrough also contributed his skills to the 200 yard freestyle B relay and 400 yard freestyle B relay, which came in third and fifth place, respectively.

Continuing the theme of young greatness, freshman Ben Chumley also laid claim to a medal in each event he competed in, with his most notable performance being his almost six second time drop in the 200 yard individual medley, in which one must display mastery of all four strokes the sport has to offer. Ben's toil earned him fourth place with a time of 2:08.73.

“(My favorite thing to watch was) anything that the freshmen were in,” said Ehret. “Seeing them get to race for the first time was great.”

Freshman Charlie Hill shaved over three seconds

off of his 100 backstroke, rocketing in at a 1:03.49, while freshman Greyson Mueller completed the 500 freestyle in 5 minutes and 10 seconds, earning him fourth place. In addition, freshman Evan Zimmerman surged through the water in the 200 freestyle C Relay and 400 freestyle D relay, showing impressive splits in both. The final new addition to the team, freshman Luke Gill, glided gracefully into the wall at the conclusion of his 100 breaststroke, in which he earned seventh place with a time of 1:09.31.

“When I was up swimming the 100 breast and everyone was crowding around the end (of the lane) cheering me on, it just really felt like I was a part of the team and was important,” said Gill.

Not only did the fresh-faced freshman impress, but so did the state-bound seniors, dominating the competition each time they touched the water. Most notably, senior Cooper Scharff swam the fastest 100 yard butterfly that St. Louis U. High has ever seen, shattering the previous school record and further cementing himself into the history of this institution. Scharff took home nothing but gold on the day, earning first in the 200 medley relay, 100 fly, 100 back, and 200 free relay.

Following suit, senior Ned Mehmeti was a tsuna-

mi, absolutely destroying the competition in every race, taking home first in both of his individual events, the 200 IM and 500 free, as well as all of his relays.

And senior Jonas Hostetler claimed the crown in the kingdom of sprinting, seizing first place in the 50 free with a 21.88, then boasting a 47.84 100 free split in the 400 free relay.

“That 400 relay was really nice by literally everybody that swam it,” said Hostetler. “Everybody stepped up, everyone outside of the pool really cheered, and that's the type of spirit we need. That spirit is something we always bring to the table at every meet and it really makes a difference.”

Having defeated their local foes, the Jr. Bills prepare to travel to Columbia, Mo., on the 25th at their biggest meet yet. The meet takes place in Mizzou's division one swimming facility, and will host schools from all around the state. The Ladue Invite was getting from the parking lot to the top of the turnaround, the Columbia meet is peaking Mount Everest.

“It's going to be a big test,” said Ehret. “Only one relay can score, it's the top 16 that can score, and there will be many other teams so it's harder to get in the top 16. Anything can happen. I'm optimistic that we'll be in the

top four, but there are some really, really, good teams to watch out for.”

To top off their success, the Forest Park Community College pool was alive with energy this Tuesday as parents and players alike cheered on their sons and teammates to a victory over the CBC Cadets, 117-63. The Jr. Bills dominated their MCC rivals, getting a podium finish in all of the first ten races. Freshman Charlie Hill won the 500 yard freestyle and classmate Greyson Mueller won the 100 butterfly, two crucial races for the Jr. Bills.

With such strong performances in the pool, the swim team attributes its success to not only the hard work in the water, but also the leadership of the seniors outside of the pool.

“Coach Ehret guides us the most from a swim standpoint,” said sophomore Mattie Peretz. “But, I'd say Dennis McDaniel and Cooper Scharff probably keep morale up the most out of anyone. Ned Mehmeti is also good at keeping us on track.”

With the experience and leadership the old guard is giving the new swimmers this year, the Jr. Bills are set for another spectacular season. They look ahead to De Smet tonight to continue their run of dominance.



Swimmers posing with Ladue Invite trophy. photo | Lindsey Ehret

Football has big win, but loses star Thompson in the process

(continued from page 7)

Rather than surrender the field goal and not enough field to punt with for the Red Devils, they elected to push the envelope and go for it. SLUH's defense came up with a clutch stand, bending but not breaking, and giving the offense the rock back.

With 3:48 remaining in the second quarter, the crowd finally saw the fireworks they had been craving as senior running back Derrick Baker took the first play of the drive 68 yards to the house to put the Jr. Bills up 7-0.

Baker credited the O-Line and the receivers blocking as one of his keys to success.

“Running behind the nice blocks I received was really a win for me,” he said.

On the final drive before halftime, the Jr. Bills' defense showed flashes of Week 1, shooting themselves in the foot by allowing a third and 22 conversion and then committing a horse collar personal foul on another third down that drive. Epps was able to sneak across the goal line for a 1-yard score which evened the game at seven heading into halftime.

Coming out of the break, the Jr. Bills pieced together a three minute drive and, with 9:01 remaining in the third quarter, senior wide receiver Chris Brooks lined up as the wildcat, but there was another error snap.

Rather than surrender the ball to Chaminade as in the first half, Brooks picked up the ball and made four men miss en route to a 4-yard rushing touchdown which made the score 14-7 Jr. Bills.

The Jr. Bills looked like they could run away with the game for a second as, on the first play from scrimmage following Brooks' touchdown, senior safety Phillip Bone corralled a tip drill-esque interception, the first turnover the defense had forced all season.

Yet, this burst of momentum stalled as the Jr. Bills punted on their next two offensive trips.

Chaminade got the ball back and went to work on the Jr. Bills' fatiguing defense. They marched inside the 10 and Epps finished the drive with a 9-yard touchdown, his second of the day, to knot it up at 14.

At this point of the game, the offenses for both teams sparked to life, and, on the very next drive, senior Isaac Thompson took a handoff up the middle 50 yards for a touchdown which pushed the Bills' lead back to seven points.

Chaminade came right back down the field and scored a touchdown with 4:52 remaining in the game, Cam Epps' third touchdown of the night.

Yet, after everyone had

taken the kick for granted, Chaminade's place kicker's boot was blocked by a soaring Isaac Thompson who hopped the linemen to barely graze the ball which, of course, altered the field goal attempt.

Feeding off of this momentum, Wingo waited at the 10-yard line for the kick which went straight to him as he took it to the house for 90 yards to put SLUH up 28-20.

Chaminade wasn't going quietly into the night as they marched down the field with ease and secured Epps' fourth touchdown of the night.

Yet, being an eight-point game, the Red Devils were forced to go for two to tie the game.

Epps attempted to roll out to his right and gain an edge in order to meet the pylon, but the defense of SLUH High stood tall and pushed him out of bounds before he could cross the goal line.

The next drive sealed the victory for the Jr. Bills, solidifying the first tally in the win column, after a 62-yard run for Baker—who finished the contest with 14 carries for 206 yards—that set up a 1-yard QB sneak touchdown for quarterback Johnston, who finished the day 8 for 13 passing for 84 yards.

Senior kicker Thomas Ziegler added the extra point to make it a two possession game, and fellow senior Tom-

my Etling intercepted Chaminade on a deep ball which allowed the Jr. Bills to enter victory formation for the first time this year.

“It feels great to win against Chaminade and have the first win of the season contribute toward the MCC,” said Baker, “it's just special to be a part of the team that could do it ... I'm just proud to be a part of something special.”

Yet, amidst the celebratory atmosphere at SLUH once the clock showed 0:00, there was

an empathetic pain from the team in regard to Thompson who had to be helped off the field and was in clear pain.

It was later revealed that Thompson, a Mizzou commit, would require season-ending knee surgery after he awkwardly got tangled up and hit the ground on a crucial pass break up late in the fourth quarter.

Thompson was a starter on both sides of the ball for the Jr. Bills. He was someone who fired the team up with an irreplaceable energy each

time he stepped onto the field.

In his honor, the football program has adopted the motto of #DoItFor0 which means each member of the team putting Thompson on their back for the remainder of the season by affecting the outcome in all three facets of the game, something Thompson excelled at.

Coming off their thrilling win against Chaminade, SLUH will take the field tonight at 6 p.m. at home against Class 3 opponent Normandy (1-1).



Senior Luke Johnston hands off to Derrick Baker against Chaminade.

photo | Kathy Chott

OAC makes fond memories on bike trip through the Rockies



Students in Colorado.

photo | Courtesy of Nick LaPresta

(continued from page 1)
week that lay ahead of them.

Senior Nick La Presta, however, made some poor dietary decisions before embarking on the typically undemanding hike.

"About an hour before the hike, I thought it would be a good idea to eat some fish and chips," said LaPresta. "Best fish and chips I ever had by the way, needless to say, an hour into the hike, those fish had to come up for some air."

The next morning, the group started its first of seven days of biking hut to hut on the San Juan Trail. Their first destination was the Last Dollar Hut, approximately 15 miles from their starting point in Telluride. Starting at an elevation of 8970 feet above sea level, the gents gained an additional 2800 feet by the time they arrived at their destination. When they arrived, they were surprised at the appearance of the slim accommodations and others that would become their new homes for the rest of the

week.

"We had a difficult time sleeping 10 people in one hut," said senior Will Halley. "The huts were about half the size of a typical SLUH classroom and were lined with four bunk beds along the walls. That being said, we had to sleep two people on the floor, which was horrid and cold."

Despite the cramped and often uncomfortable conditions, the majority of the group kept positive energy in the mornings. Zarrick woke up early every morning to prepare a carbohydrate and protein-based breakfast for the group and led them in mountain yoga to start their day.

"We had to work as a team to get things done in the morning," said senior Sam Kean. "Someone had to fill up everyone's water bottles while someone else made PB&J's for the group's lunch while someone checked everyone's tire pressure. If one person didn't do their task, the whole group would suffer for the rest of the

day out on the trail."

The group would hit the gravel of the San Jose Trail at approximately 8:30 every morning to begin their day-long trek. Over the course of the day, they would take periodic breaks to get some clean mountain spring water, eat a snack, or just take in the beautiful scenery that the Western Colorado Rockies had to offer. Ziegler seized these opportunities to capture these surreal vistas with the drone he had brought from home.

"I definitely got some amazing shots," said Ziegler. "It was well worth the extra 10 pounds."

After taking their short breaks throughout the day, the bikers would continue on until they reached their hut. Oftentimes, the group would arrive in two to three smaller groups just because of different paces that they took over the trails. Seniors Flynn O'Connell, Bryan, and Ziegler led the pack with La Presta and Halley being the last ones in, making

sure no one had been injured. After arriving, the bikers would prepare for dinner and enjoy the scenery before climbing (or often collapsing) into their bunk beds.

"We would typically ride a total of 30 to 35 miles a day," Zarrick said. "In comparison, it is equivalent to biking 90 to 100 street miles in a day, so that really puts into perspective what the guys went through during the week."

On top of physical exertion, the group had to overcome mental hardships to get through the days, especially as they neared the Utah border and the climate began to become more arid. In one instance, junior Brendan Schroeder missed a turnoff and briefly got lost from the group, causing widespread panic. However, Schroeder double-backed on the trail and regrouped with his companions at the hut.

Even with the physical strain, the group had plenty of laughs. On the second day of biking, senior Miles Schulte fell down several small hills in the morning, on the way out from camp.

"We went the back way to avoid some loose rocks and we thought it would be easier," said Schulte. "It was really a downhill road and I just kind of lost my balance and then fell down the side of my hill. I tried to get up and then I fell again all the way down the hill."

Shortly thereafter, Schulte gained the reputation of being the wipeout king.

"If anybody could find a creative way to wipe out, it would be Miles," said Zarrick. "He would be riding along and it would almost look like a ghost would reach up and knock him off his bike."

With laughter a constant occurrence on the trip, the group was able to battle the hardships of biking by sticking together.

"You had to be fully committed to finishing off the trip strong and you knew you could not let the guy next to you down," reflected Kean. "We knew that there was no turning back. It was all in or all out."

On the seventh and final day of biking, the bikers descended 4400 feet from the final hut to Moab, Utah, their final destination. With two days in Moab, the riders thought they would be able to recover from their seven day adventure, relaxing at their hotel. However, the opposite turned out to be true. Traveling with Zarrick, most of the students went to Dead Horse Point State Park with their bikes and hopped onto another trail.

"It's a popular park with a single track trail, about a ten-mile loop," said Zarrick. "It overlooks the gooseneck in the Colorado River and is just very scenic."



Students on the Trail.

If biking on their day off wasn't enough, the group then hiked up to Delicate Arch in Arches National Park to watch the sunset. Following their eighth consecutive day in nature, the group spent one more day in Moab sightseeing before heading back to St. Louis. The group, feeling the spoils of victory and success, dreamed of one thing on their ride home: their own beds.

"Not only did the young men have to succeed and meet the objective goals themselves, but they had to do it collectively as a group and that is a powerful thing," said Zarrick.

This year was the eighth time the Outdoor Adventure Club either did a biking or backpacking trip in the summer. Led by Zarrick, the OAC challenges SLUH students to leave their comfort zone behind and embrace nature. As part of the club's itinerary for this year, students are invited on a 20-mile float trip down the Current River, Oct. 2-4, and a ski trip during Spring Break.

photo | Courtesy of Nick LaPresta

Seniors disappointed by switch to Grande Project, remain hopeful

(continued from page 1)
saying that they could only take a smaller number of volunteers. This resulted in there only being 40 volunteer spots for a class of 239 seniors.

"We surveyed all of our sites back in May with responses still shaky but many replied with a hopeful yes," said campus minister Simonie Anzalone. "In August we tried to track down all the sites again, while we were still hopeful at the time, the Delta variant has had a significant impact and the responses we received were pretty disappointing."

After this disappointing survey, Campus Ministry reached out to 20 other sites around the St. Louis metropolitan area to see if they would be interested in taking senior volunteers for the month of January. However, only one site replied saying that they would most likely be willing to take volunteers come January.

"Again the response was pretty disappointing so this time I reached out to the other high school campus ministers in the St. Louis region and I received similar results, most of them were cancelling their projects again or lowering the standards," said Anzalone. "That gave us more confidence going into the meeting thinking that we had done everything we could but

the circumstances were above us."

It was therefore determined that seniors would once again pivot to the Grande Project. The announcement was made this past Monday at a senior class meeting, and immediately students began voicing their disappointment.

"I was very bummed when I heard that Senior Project would be Grande Project 2.0," said senior Alex Mittendorf. "I am hopeful that it will be better than the experience last year's seniors had because they will be able to use the feedback to make it better."

"I know that a lot of guys were really looking forward to getting to have the experience and the switch to the Grande project was a real letdown," said senior Joe LaBarge. "I also know Campus Ministry will do everything that they can to make the project as worthwhile as possible."

In addition to the students, the senior parents took to Facebook Monday night to share their displeasure with the Class of 2022 mothers Facebook group chat. Mothers began suggesting potential alternatives to the traditional service sites and even went as far as to say that they would help to coordinate with different and new service sites.

Teachers too were initially disappointed for the seniors and hopeful that key aspects of the project are being reworked to provide their students with a better experience.

"I was on the one hand disappointed that our seniors wouldn't have that immersive community experience in the field, working with people on the margins of our society," said English teacher David Callon. "But I am glad that we are going to hold space for them in a more deliberate way than we did last year for them to do a deep dive on an issue."

Much of the negative response from this year's students was based on the comments of last year's seniors.

"I really appreciated the work of Campus Ministry, I think especially during my year there was no way to do the Senior Project and they did their best with being dealt a bad hand," said Carter Fortman, '21. "However, it was not a great replacement for the Senior Project. In my opinion it made the Senior Project setting too academic, which is something we get enough of during actual school. The thing that's so magical about Senior Project is you get to experience something outside of SLUH and the Grande Project didn't replicate that for me."

Noting these concerns, Campus Ministry sent a survey to the senior class asking for their thoughts and opinions on how the Grande Project went after competition last year. The senior class responded with a wide range of compliments and criticism, commenting on how they thought the Grande Project went and where there was room for improvement.

"I think the Grande Project worked well in that it challenged us to think about issues and problems that need to be remedied and how we as students can go about bringing much needed change," said Matthew Wilmes, '21. "However, at times it felt more like a homework assignment where I turned in the project and it was done. I would have loved to continue to pursue the issue of my topic on my own time but as we were still in school and given other assignments I didn't have as much time as I would have wanted to spend on it."

To respond to the feedback the class of 2021 gave, Campus Ministry has been working on devising a revised Grande Project seeking to solve some of the issues from last year.

"We felt like there is a real opportunity to hone in on what the project was about and to work on better defining what the project

is about," said Anzalone. "We have the opportunity to make it clearer and more meaningful for this class since the option for direct service is not possible."

Campus Ministry has already begun discussing revisions that they want to be made this year. These revisions include setting a designated two-week period for the seniors to focus on their project and not having the students participate in the Ignatian Family Teach-In.

"Students were frustrated because it felt like homework," said Anzalone. "We took the Ignatian Family Teach-In out of the equation because it felt like there were not enough rewards to spend that much time in theology class tuning into those sessions. Instead we are going to have Brenna Davis from ISJ to teach the whole class on advocacy."

To help students not feel overwhelmed, Campus Ministry plans on having seniors complete many of the preparation stages during three studium periods throughout the first semester. Then in January, students will have between 10-12 days to complete the project without having to worry about school work.

"Students will have all of that time to work on their projects," said Anzalone. "We will have workshops to learn about their

marginalized groups and how to create your projects. There will be space in between each of those sessions to complete work. Nothing will overlap with your other classes and hopefully none of it will overlap with homework."

With many things in this world of Covid changing on a daily basis, the Grande Project is unlikely to change back to Senior Project even if conditions would happen to improve.

"I don't think the plan will adapt at all at this point, given that we asked our sites about January and that was what their response was about January," said Anzalone. "The other piece also being that this time right now is when you would normally choose a site and there is a great amount of prep work that goes into getting you to your service site."

While many students are disappointed that they will not be able to go out into the community this January, Campus Ministry is hopeful and positive that the Grande Project will nevertheless be an impactful experience for seniors.

"Our goal is to give seniors something that is impactful," said Anzalone. "We want to provide them with a project that makes them feel like they are creating some sort of difference."

AMDG

Students enjoy fun of Spirit Week activities



Students playing chess.

photo | Courtesy of SLUH Facebook

(continued from page 1) with Covid and maybe they felt like they were isolated from the SLUH community or from their classmates and brothers, that they feel that this Spirit Week brings them back together again. I hope that they come together to see that, hey, we are one. We are one SLU-High, we are all one brotherhood," said STUCO spirit leader Matthew Kluba.

Some of the highlights of the week were "recess" on Monday and the Scavenger Hunt on Tuesday. An Open Mic Night scheduled for last night was postponed until a later date to be determined.

"Recess exceeded our expectations, the response we got was very positive, I had a couple people ask if we could do it everyday," said Thompson. "The scavenger hunt was the same way, we didn't know too much about it going into it, but people seemed to love it, especially the underclassmen."

STUCO's goal was to offer a range of events to appeal to each SLUH student, no matter his interests.

"I hope that whether you're a jock or whether you're an actor, whether you're a band member, or whether you're a Prep News writer, you can be able to come together and play spike ball or do a scavenger hunt together or sit next together in the pep rally, that's what I'm hoping," said Kluba.

"You can expect an event for everyone, no matter what

you're into, what you look like, what your availability is, there's an event for everyone. I mean there's an event for people who like robotics, there's an event for people who like to sing, there's an event for athletes, there's an event for people who in general just want to feel a sense of the SLUH community," said STUCO Vice President Ismael Karim.

One thing STUCO did to make the week easier for everyone and more enjoyable was use other clubs for help. StuCo turned to clubs like the KSHE Club, the Coffee Club, and the Tailgate Club to make sure that everyone was involved.

"I think that's part of the beauty of this week, it's not just STUCO spirit, it's SLUH spirit. And oftentimes, with only a limited amount of STUCO members and all the things that we need to organize, it's so much better when we can partner up with student organizations ... and make sure that nobody's left out during this week," said Karim.

Junior Grant McCormick and senior Brendan Stein enjoyed the week and the events they participated in.

"I liked seeing some of my friends show up in swim trunks for the beach day. I thought that was very funny, as well as hearing about baseball during Activity Period on Monday knowing we haven't played it since freshman year," said McCormick.

"I've enjoyed Spirit Week

a lot. I enjoyed recess, I played football with some friends. And there's gonna be a very fun pep rally on Friday," said Stein.

One of the final parts of the week is the mandatory pep rally that STUCO is planning during Activity Period today. By pairing school spirit with fall sports, STUCO is hoping to create a fun time for everyone.

"Obviously we needed one for getting into the school year," said Thompson. "We're going to try to incor-

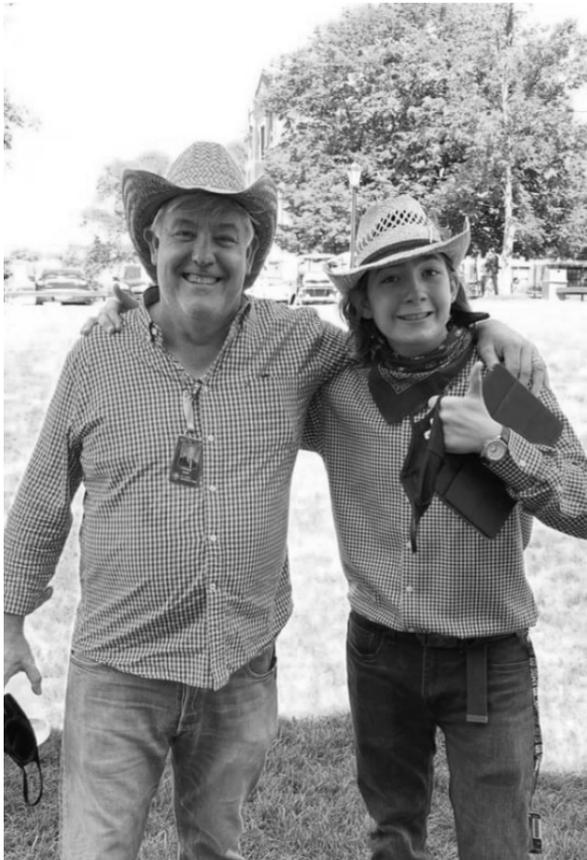
porate all the fall sports into it, and just get everybody excited again."

One of the last things happening this week is the tailgate starting at 4:30 this afternoon, leading up to the football game against Normandy at 6:00 p.m. With the stands bound to be packed, it's a great way to end a fantastic week.

"It's gonna be a great time, hopefully people will pop out. I think it will be a kick off to a great weekend and a great game" said Tailgate Club treasurer Will Fitzgerald.

Coming out of a pandemic, Spirit Week was a great way to build school spirit at the start of the year.

"I think this week will be special because we're coming out of the year where we were not able to do a lot of the stuff that we're doing right now. And I think generally, the student body is more excited than they have been in past years, just returning to normalcy as best we can. So we're just going to feed off that energy and just elevate it for this week," said Thompson.



Mr. O'Keefe and John Posey. photo | Courtesy of SLUH Facebook

Four scholarships under umbrella of the Presidential scholarships

(continued from page 1)

Early in the process of the establishment of the scholarship, donors worked with the administration to outline a set of hallmarks that a prospective recipient should achieve.

The St. Louis Scholarship, for example, seeks to preserve the geographic diversity of SLUH by awarding three students from around the St. Louis area with a scholarship that acknowledges their ambassadorship of SLUH in their local community, and vice versa.

Another scholarship, the Sheridan Scholarship, seeks to reward three graduates of Loyola Academy—a Jesuit middle school founded by former SLUH President Fr. Paul Sheridan, SJ, for underserved students in the city of St. Louis—who have continued their exemplary academic records at SLUH.

This past May, financial aid-eligible members of the classes of 2022, 2023, and 2024 were invited to apply for any of four Presidential Scholarships—the Heritage Scholarship, the Steward Family Scholarship (designated for students of color with exceptional academic records), the Sheridan Scholarship, and the St. Louis Scholarship. Applications were reviewed over the summer, and the finalists and their families were notified of the administration's decision by the end of July.

In addition to the financial benefits provided by the scholarships, student recipients also receive, among other things, the ability to step into the role of Presidential Ambassador at events such as class reunions and to represent their respective classes at various SLUH events. Awardees also receive the opportunity to meet the donor who has chosen to fund their scholarship.

Already, winners of the scholarship have begun their service to SLUH as Presidential Ambassadors.

"On (this past) Saturday, I

was able to work at the Class of 1970 reunion as a greeter," said junior Alex Preusser, who was awarded the Heritage Scholarship based on his commitment to continue the legacy of financial aid at SLUH. "I am really looking forward to more of these events and just helping more people be exposed to the great environment that we have here at SLUH."

With the new scholarship program having had a successful rollout, hopes among members of the administration are that more alumni can emerge to fund the creation of different scholarships, which—in addition to rewarding a group of students for their academic performance—will help SLUH move closer to realizing its goal of providing tuition-free services for all students.

"Finding the donors is a process of discovery, where we learn that a donor is passionate about giving back to the school and providing ways for opportunity in education," said Domeyer. "Almost always, these donors were recipients of financial aid themselves. And we just began the conversation with them, and we've discovered that it's important for (the donors) that they can make this opportunity available."

In addition to the Presidential Scholarships, incoming freshmen, beginning with the Class of 2024, are also eligible to earn merit-based scholarships based on their performance on the High School Placement Test (HSPT), which all applicants take as a part of the admissions process. Incoming freshmen are eligible to receive one of two scholarships—the Fr. Gerry Sheehan Scholarship, which rewards HSPT scores in the 95th percentile and above with money off tuition, and the Fr. Claude Heithaus Scholarship, awarded to incoming black and minority applicants who also achieve high HSPT scores.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS!

- NICHOLAS UNSETH
- MATTHEW LEIGHT
- RICHARD TAYLOR
- JAMES WINKELER
- JP TORACK
- LUCAS NAVARRO
- NATHAN RICH
- BRENDAN STEIN
- TIM GUNN
- FRANCIS ALFORD
- JACK DUMONT
- LUKE PIERSON



Front Row, left to right: Unseth, Leight, Taylor, Winkeler, Torack. Back row: Navarro, Rich, Assistant Principal for Academics Kevin Foy, Stein, and Gunn. Not pictured: Alford, Dumont, Pierson

photo | courtesy of SLUH Facebook

Around the Hallways

Mother's Club Cookie Sales

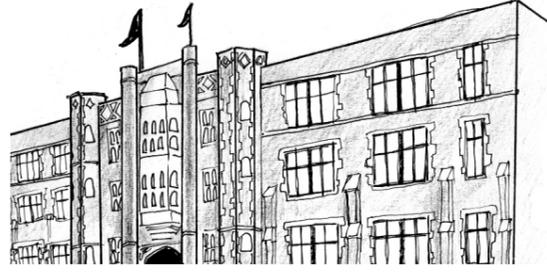
This week featured the return of one of the Mothers Club's most well-endearing traditions: the Freshman Moms Cookie Sale. Both Thursday and today, students of all grades were able to purchase three cookies during lunch, Studium, and Activity Period, for the inexpensive price of 50 cents. The cookies were provided by freshmen mothers, who were asked in the weekly email to contribute three dozen cookies of either the homemade or store bought variety to the sale.

Junior Class Mass

This past Tuesday, members of the junior class took part in their first class mass of the 2021-22 school year, which was also the first time that they had all celebrated Mass together in the chapel since the beginning of the pandemic. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Matt Stewart, SJ, and reading roles were filled by members of the Junior Pastoral Team.

Devious Licks

Worries that SLUH students might hop onto the popular new TikTok trend of



“deviously licking,” or stealing miscellaneous items from school, prompted Assistant Principal for Student Life Brock Kesterson to address the matter with students. During both junior/senior and freshman/sophomore lunch on Thursday, Kester-

son took to the podium on the stage in the Commons, warning students to stay away from the trend or risk serious punishment.

—Compiled by Jackson Cooper, Core Staff

Ads

Shooting the Stuff with Gus Podcast



Gateway Tea website



SLUH SERS 4: WE GOT SPIRIT, HOW ABOUT YOU?



Calendar

Friday, September 17

B Day

Spirit Week

Freshman Mom Cookie Sale

LUNCH Special—Baked White Fish with Lemon
Vegetarian—Spinach Quiche

4:15PM Swimming vs De Smet

6:00PM Varsity Football vs Normandy

Saturday, September 18

Reunions for '00 and '05

9:00AM Cross Country (C/JV/V2) at Paul Enke Invitational

10:00AM C Team Soccer @ MICDS

10:00AM JV Soccer vs STL (Varsity)

11:30AM B Team Soccer vs MICDS

5:00PM Varsity Soccer at CBC Tournament (vs De Smet)

Sunday, September 19

Monday, September 20

A Day

STUDIUM Bradley University

LUNCH Special—Homestyle Meatloaf

Vegetarian—Spinach Portabello Cap

5:00PM C Soccer vs De Smet

6:30PM B Soccer vs. Liberty

Tuesday, September 21

B Day (Late Start)

STUDIUM Depauw University, Fairfield University,

Purdue University

LUNCH Special—Chicken Wing Trio

Vegetarian—Stuffed Bell Pepper

4:30PM Swimming vs Oakville & Lafayette @ Lafayette

Wednesday, September 22

A Day

Food Drive

Immersion Trips Informational Meeting

STUDIUM Southern Methodist University

LUNCH Special—Chicken Alfredo

Vegetarian—Roasted Vegetable Pasta

4:15PM B Team Soccer vs Lindbergh

4:30PM C Team Soccer @ Edwardsville

6PM Varsity Soccer vs Lindbergh

Thursday, September 23

B Day

Food Drive

Picture Retakes

Studium Baylor University, Loyola University-
Chicago, United States Naval Academy

LUNCH Special—Santa Fe Chicken

Vegetarian—Eggplant Parmesan

10:30AM Mother's Club Mass, Meeting, Crafts

4:30PM C Team Soccer vs Bayless (JV)

calendar | Luke Duffy

Prep News Volume 86, Issue 4

Editor in Chief
Jack "PN room key" Figge

Editor
Nathan "Yearbook room" Rich

News Editor
Roarke "the S.F.L.A.C. room" Unrau

Visual Editor
Charlie "Senior Project" Bieg

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Duffy

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Alex "John Posey's fedora" Preusser

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Mark "a bathroom stall" Wappler
Thomas "everyone's lanyards" Juergens
Sean "XC state titles" Kellogg
Micah "the omelet bar" Doherty
Ben "Leo's rugby ball" Croat
Charles "the hand sanitizing containers" Turnell
Michael "dad's crossword skills" Baudendistel
Alex "the swim lane lines" Wentz

Credits

"What would you deviously lick from SLUH?"

Ben "lacrosse goals" Ortman
Vincent "cafeteria utensils" Weinbauer
John "the clock tower" Bytnar
Drew "my big brother" Figge
Joe "Coach Porter's logistics" LaBarge
Chase "the Jr. Billiken statue" Hatch
Charlie "everything in Lost and Found" Von derheid
Ted "the Visitu kiosk" Williams

Artists
Jude "Mr. Power's sharpies" Reed

Photographers
Mrs. Kathy "Periodic table" Chott
Nick "Canon EOS 70" Sanders

Moderator
Steve "Curd's blue crayon" Missey