

LasidoST

Art by Lily Sheehan '23 and Shay Moriarty '25

Gift-Giving: Offering Our Fruits THE FEATURE

Happy Holidays, SI!

For this commemorative December issue, we are diving into the spirit of gift-giving, the way we offer our unique fruits in service of others, through artful expression and while enjoying time with one another.

In this issue, you'll discover many "gifts" under the tree of SI — and hopefully you'll consider the special gifts that you provide.

We wish you the best of luck during Finals Week, a Merry Christmas, and a fantastic Winter Break. We'll see you in 2023!

- The Editors-in-Chief

SPOTLIGHT

FROSH
CLOSE

Find the Holiday Special of the Frosh Closeup on Page 5!

Superheroes Without Capes: SI's Daily Gift Givers

Melissa Hua '23, Philip Luongo III '23, Reilly Moriarty '23, Jack Quach '23 & Jack Stecher '23

Editors-in-Chief



B&G staff member Mr. Josue Marquez, left, and SI's Kitchen Staff help students purchase lunch.



Although we emphasize gift giving this holiday season, we often overlook the gifts we receive all year round. Not all superheroes wear capes, and SI's building and grounds, kitchen, and custodial staff give to the SI community every day.

There are almost no better examples of superheroes than our Buildings and Grounds team. Josue Marquez, a member of the Buildings & Grounds (B&G) staff, works each day as an essential plant engineer at SI

to make the SI campus safe, healthy, and functioning.

Mr. Marquez was first hired as a member of the events team before later transitioning to his current role as a plant engineer in the B&G department. He had no previous experience before joining the team and learned everything on the job. Reflecting on his first month working for SI, Marquez recalled often experiencing high levels of stress,

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The Christmas Drive Returns

Kate Quach '25, Stella Hong '24 & Kristen Patricio '24
Managing Editor and Contributing Editors



Students gather at a Drive bake sale.

A delicious array of baked goods and festive holiday gear spread across red tablecloths in the decked halls of the Student Center. Within each classroom, students encourage each other to check their grocery lists to fill their food boxes. Heralding the holiday cheer to SI with food drives and fundraisers is the annual Christmas Drive.

For over 30 years, SI has been supporting the St. Dominic's community through the Drive, a three week event that provides pantry staples and raises money for gift cards for families in need. The fundraising event is a special tradition at SI that teaches the community to come together through creative ways to help those who are in need of extra

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SI NEWS

Legal Outlaws:

SI Mock Trial Banned In San Francisco

Jeslyn Oum '24

Associate Editor-in-Chief



Mock trial team members gather for a scrimmage.

The bang of a gavel. The distinct voices of rehearsed and practiced students. The rustle of papers. The presence of these sounds pervades the rooms for all those involved in Mock Trial at St. Ignatius.

As a newly formed extracurricular at SI, Mock Trial has not only educated fellow Wildcats on the procedures of real courtrooms, but also enlightened participants on the behind-the-scenes processes of attorneys and witnesses. Mr. Devitt, who previously coached Mock Trial at Menlo High School for over twenty

years, played a large role in guiding the formation of this extracurricular team and the success of the club at SI.

Behind the scenes, another voice has influenced SI's mock trial team. The Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF), a non profit legal professional organization that aims to serve citizens, also manages Mock Trial in the county of San Francisco. A longstanding policy of BASF prohibits independent and private schools from participating in official county competitions or being recognized by BASF as a competing team.

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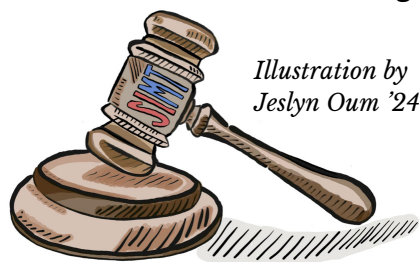


Illustration by Jeslyn Oum '24



The 2022 Christmas Drive logo



Happy Holidays!
Melissa, Jack Q., Reilly, Jack S & Philip

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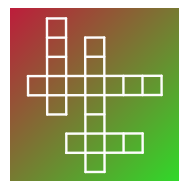
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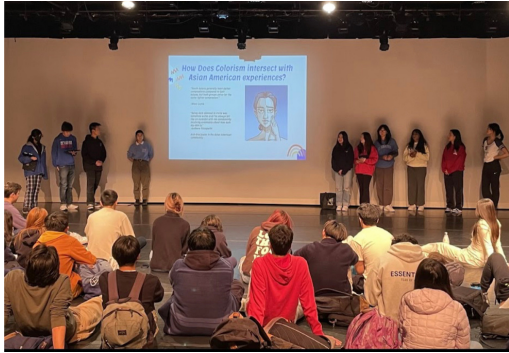
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OPENING EYES WITH BSU & ASC

On November 29, the BSU's first "What is Black" event of the year featured panelists Ethan, Trey, Raven, Reann, Andrea, Will, Zoey in Bannan Theater where they discussed the intersectionality of gender and the Black experience at SI.



ASC hosted an event: "Confronting Colorism: Hopes for the Future" on November 21 featuring a presentation and discussion hosted by ASC leadership in Wiegand Theater

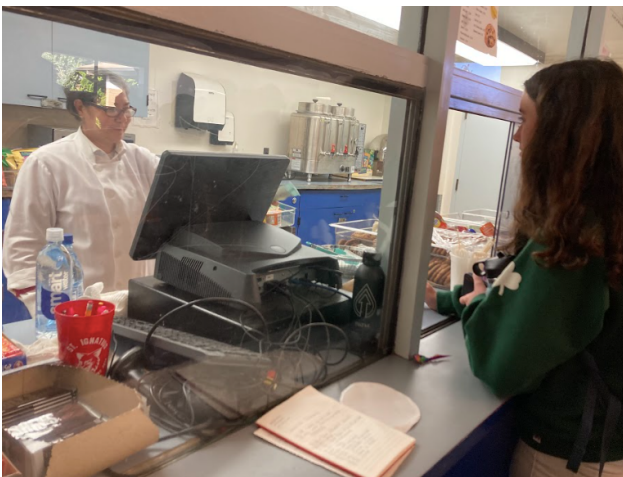
THE GIFT GIVERS OF SI

Melissa Hua '23, Philip Luongo III '23,
Reilly Moriarty '23, Jack Quach '23 & Jack Stecher '23

Editors-in-Chief

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saying, "At times, my brain was so loaded with information, I'd go home with headaches."



Ms. Ana Robles serves the SI community at the Snack Shack.

"They are really cool people who do a lot of good work for the school... and a lot of their work just goes unrecognized," Senior Winston Zapet '23 said.

While students stayed at home during the COVID lockdown, the B&G team was still hard at work, getting the school ready for the eventual return of students. Mr. Marquez recalled various times when members of the B&G staff worked at school from midnight to 3 and 5 in the morning. Some may know the arduous nature of the work that many in the department undertake, but throughout Marquez's time the department has continued to transition the way they are approaching their work.

When describing the B&G team, he especially showed gratitude toward the Director of Buildings and Grounds, Christopher Meehan. Mr. Marquez's remarks on the B&G team sums up the school's appreciation for this very special group of hard-working individuals: "SI is very lucky to have this group of people. It's people that make the difference."

“
The kitchen staff works really hard to make sure people are fed...They wouldn't be doing it if they were looking for recognition
- Mr. Yang, Director of Food Services

Another underappreciated group at SI is the Carlin Commons kitchen staff. Tommy Wachowitz '26 said of them, "The kitchen staff are nice, and I enjoy having small conversations with them when I go to the Commons."

Mr. Yang, the head of the Kitchen staff, made it clear that the staff's central goal is "to serve the community." Mr. Yang has been in the food business for around 20 years from working in fine dining to Meals on Wheels. Another unsung hero of this team is Ms. Schwarz, who works tirelessly in administration for the kitchen to make sure SI students are properly fed.

Mr. Yang makes an effort to be aware of the menu and tries to rotate and refresh it constantly. In addition, the impact that they make extends much further than simply cooking for SI students. "The staff are here early everyday...6:00am, sometimes earlier." Not only do they craft breakfast and lunch items daily, they create dining experiences for school events such as showcases and the President's Cabinet Reception.

“
They all do their work with a smile on their face - Carlos Escobar, Dean

For Deans Mr. Escobar and Ms. Sanchez, the school doesn't run without the work of the Building and Grounds and Kitchen crew. The Deans, as the leaders at the forefront of daily school activities, carry a close appreciation for the gifts each of these departments bring to the SI community. Ms. Sanchez called them "unsung heroes" for the vibrant energy they bring before and after school, at

FINDING HUMANITY IN SAN QUENTIN

Nina Schmidt '23

Managing Editor

On November 15th and 17th, Mr. Steigler and Ms. Mannion took their seniors on a field trip to San Quentin State Prison. Students in the Crime, Law, and Constitution class for US Gov received a tour from a lieutenant and five inmates. They saw areas of the facility such as the recreation yard, the newsroom, the chapel, the cell blocks, the infirmary, and what used to be solitary confinement.

By witnessing the conditions inside a functioning prison and having face-to-face encounters with members of the general population, SI students gained an invaluable understanding of the US incarceration system. For many, this opportunity was truly a transformative and unforgettable experience. Senior Jack Stecher stated, "It was really eye-opening to see the humanity of the incarcerated."



Gov students pose with copies they received from San Quentin newspaper staff.

SI'S THANKSGIVING JOY: TURKEY TROT



Ms. Sanchez, her daughters, Molly Linehan '23, and Michaela Mulkerrens '20 after the trot on 11/24.

lunch, and during events. "I don't even think there are enough words to say how much we respect them and are thankful for them at our school."

"Love is shown more in deeds and words, and they definitely show their love to us for all the work that they do behind the scenes," Mr. Escobar added, declaring SI's teams the best Buildings and Grounds and Kitchen Staff Ground.

When asked about these staff members, SI faculty had nothing but words of praise. Mr. Brian Murphy said, "Imagine life without plumbers or electricians or someone who knows how to keep the building safe and functioning. We don't have to worry about that because of the many hours they put in in order to make sure we have that peace of mind."

Additionally, Ms. Bricker said, "They make certain our shared home is maintained and comfortable, and they keep us nourished. Thank you for your care and love, we often do not see you working but we all feel the many hours of your work each time we enter our school."



SI MOCK TRIAL: BANNED IN SAN FRANCISCO

Jeslyn Oum '24

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Some Background

For many outsiders, this statement may be confusing or irrelevant, but for St. Ignatius's Mock Trial team, this saying has become a focal point since its formation last school year. When the coaches at SI first heard of the regulation prohibiting private school participation, they began a long and tireless journey to amend these rules and to understand the reasoning behind their formation.

When requested for comments regarding this policy, Executive Director of the Justice and Diversity Center at BASF, Yolanda Jackson, did not respond.

At the moment, San Francisco is currently the only county in California to have a participation policy based on school type. With six public high school teams currently participating in SF, these competitions provide those students with the learning opportunities and preparation required to compete at regional and national levels. SI's mock trial team is currently the only active team in California unable to compete due to these rules.

The reasoning behind BASF's decision is stated to be a matter of equity. Mock trial is a program offered by the Justice and Diversity Center and therefore the inclusion of private or independent schools' participation in competitions is thought to hinder public school's ability to compete, due to private schools having heightened access to resources. Also, BASF has stated that they currently lack the assets necessary to accommodate any additional schools that may want to compete.

In response, SI has attempted to create a dialogue with BASF and aid in closing the resource gap between private and public high schools. Last school year, SI coaches also organized a body of experts to help build a different organization to govern Mock Trial in San Francisco in the case that BASF may step down. However, this solution fell through but the SI team has continued to move forward.

Seeking Compromise with Shared Spaces

When asked about the course of action made by SI to further amend these rules, SI mock trial coach Kevin Harris shared, "The coaches have looked at as many creative solutions as possible to try and solve this situation and formulate a resolution that everyone (including other competing teams) would be comfortable with." In conversation with BASF, SI proposed a separate private school league to compete against the winner of a public school league, but received pushback from the organization as well as public school coaches. SI's continued persistence to change the policy has been met with concern from public school coaches as they too believe the economic and resource gap would be inequitable.

Although SI's resources are no secret and could potentially provide an advantage over public high schools, SI's coaches have expressed an interest in sharing with other teams through open practices and more. Recently, SI formed "round robin" scrimmages with local competing teams like Lowell to help them prepare for their official matches and rehearse their cases.

Associate Editor-in-Chief

Furthermore, SI opened its doors a few weeks ago to more public school teams for a mock trial workshop that included speakers from the legal profession such as Deputy District Attorney Nancy Tung. This opportunity gave students the chance to ask questions regarding careers in criminal law and receive advice on how to best work a courtroom. As SI coaches aim to network and help other teams in the country, students from Lincoln and Wallenberg High School attended this event alongside SI's members.

Many students at SI joined Mock Trial with the intent of learning more about law as a potential career. BASF's policy has slightly hindered the knowledge and practice that they would receive from an official county competition against other city teams. Nonetheless, as this organization has reasoned, economic background does play a role in the factors impacting high school mock trial in San Francisco.

SI Mock Trial aims to continue striving for positive changes and influencing the gap between independent or private institutions with public ones. As San Francisco hopefully progresses to join every other county in California involved with Mock Trial, SI community members anticipate cheering on fellow wildcats as they compete in the upcoming years.

SI SPIRIT WEEK



This year's Christmas spirit week held 11/28-12/2 featured themes ranging from "Channel your Flannel" to "The Night Before Christmas" to raise awareness for this year's Christmas Drive. Outfits above are from Tuesday's "Tacky Tuesday" (Ugly Christmas Sweaters) and Wednesday's "North Pole" (Christmas accessories).

ALL IN FOR A NIGHT IN VEGAS

Leanna Leung '24 & Ella Walti '25

Contributing Editor

On Saturday, Nov. 12, SI's Student Council hosted one of the year's most anticipated student events: Casino Night. Several new activities were added, leading to a night that saw students from across four classes engaged in the event, with over half of the student body attending. From students participating in karaoke to the dealers teaching the rules of gambling, as well as the astonishing

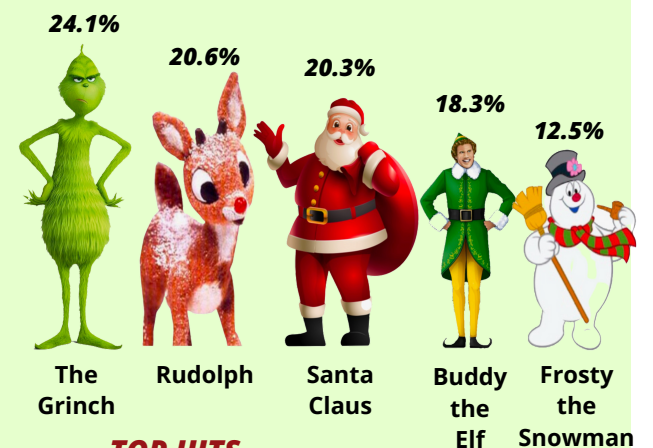


Jazz band performing tunes at Casino Night.

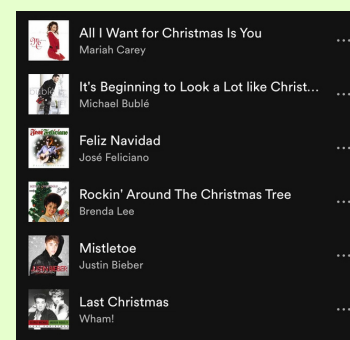
mind-tricks of mentalist Jay Alexander, the *Great Gatsby* themed night united the SI community. SI Student Council member Danny Flores '25 was proud of the success of the night, remarking, "I think this year's event went really well, and the jazz band at the very beginning really set the mood for the *Great Gatsby* vibe of the event. To see this full article, please visit the *Inside SI* online website.

THE Inside SI CHRISTMAS POLL

Here are the results we heard from 311 SI Wildcats!
BEST CHRISTMAS CHARACTER



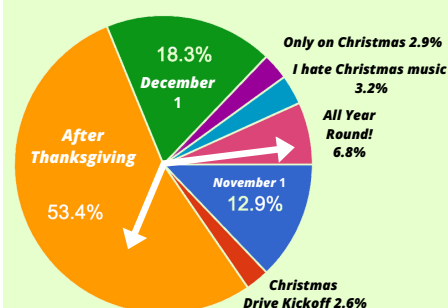
TOP HITS



BEST WINTER ACTIVITIES

- Watching Christmas Movies
- Opening Presents
- Drinking Hot Cocoa
- Gingerbread Cookies
- Spending Time with Family

WHEN DO YOU START LISTENING TO CHRISTMAS MUSIC?



BEST MOVIES



OVERCROWDING OF THE CATS CENTER DURING FINALS WEEK

Ariana Barredo '24

Contributing Editor

With finals coming up soon, the standard test-taking we all experience may look different for some of us who typically take our exams in the CATS center. The CATS center is a service that provides support to students who may suffer from learning disabilities that interfere with their academic lives—specifically test taking. As a student with testing accommodations here at SI, I've personally experienced the overcrowding of the gym at the end of each semester.

During the normal school year these students are provided with a separate room to take tests with the extra time they require. However, during finals, each student with accommodations is scheduled to be crowded into the same room at the same time. Often these students are suffering from learning disabilities such as testing anxiety, ADHD, or sensory issues, and being in a massive room with such a large number of people heightens the potential stress and anxiety students may already be dealing with.

Although some students with certain accommodations are able to individually take their finals in a separate room, the rest of the group is left in the loud and even more distracting gym rather than the traditional classroom setting.



THE POISON OF GIFT GETTING

Emily Winters '24

Contributing Editor

It's December, 2016, and I'm nine years old. My restless classmates and I countdown the days to Christmas. I'm so excited for Santa to visit my house, eat my homemade cookies, and give me the American Girl Doll I yearn for, until my teacher ruins it all. She stands in front of the class and asks us to raise our hands if we believe in Santa. Hands eagerly shoot up. "Well kids, Santa isn't real," she says. My jaw drops open, three kids start to cry, and chaos ensues.

That's how I, and twenty other kids, learned Santa wasn't real. Those presents that we were hoping to get became unmagical. My Christmas was ruined.

Although this anecdote might seem like just a funny holiday story, it also reveals the dependency we have on "gift getting" for a good Christmas. From a young age, we are conditioned to rely on gifts to have a magical Christmas experience.

Junior Milena McMahan expressed, "When taking tests during the regular school year the CATS center is very accommodating and makes it a lot easier to focus and take time on your tests. But during finals week, the gym becomes very chaotic and makes finals more stressful and creates a less nurturing environment."

Although this issue may seem easy to fix, it is due to the fact that too many students require accommodations, and there simply isn't enough room. Even in the regular school day, the CATS center gets overcrowded and students have sometimes even been moved to take tests in the podcast room.

Mrs. Hurley, a CATS center administrator, explained that they are actively trying to solve the problems that many students face during finals week. She also elaborated on the reasoning behind why finals take place in the gym, saying that the gym is "more efficient in terms of cheating and easier for communicating end times." Having everyone crowded into the gym at once may help with the organization aspect of finals week, but additional steps should be taken in order to better accommodate students.

An alternative option during Finals Week could be to use both gyms, or even potentially initiate test taking in empty classrooms or at different times throughout the day. The CATS center's limited office/work space serves as a valid explanation for the overcrowding during finals, yet it is still an issue that affects many students and their ability to perform to their highest standards while taking exams.

When I did end up getting that American Girl Doll, I said, "this is the best Christmas ever," highlighting the correlation between getting what I wanted and feeling Christmas joy. Additionally, marketing and capitalism further instills a greedy mindset in kids, making sure that the media advertises toys during December.

Even though getting gifts enhances the Christmas experience, it shouldn't define it. When children are taught that Christmas is about opening presents, it confines the holiday to a tight box of greed. Society must broaden the definition of Christmas to children—the next gift giving generation—in order for traditions to reflect the real meaning of Christmas.

Instead of idolizing the gifts under the tree, kids should be taught the gift of sharing love and spending time with family during the holidays. Christmas needs to be redefined for the next generation to truly reflect the love and joy that the holiday is all about.

CRUSHED DREAMS: HOW SPORTS CUTS IMPACT SI

Emma Morgan '26

Contributing Editor

When sports tryouts roll around in the fall, winter, and spring, high school students typically feel nervous; it's a normal reaction to a new and scary experience. However, students at SI are facing abnormally high rates of stress in connection with the high school sports experience.

For decades, SI has prided itself on its academic and athletic reputation, producing many DI commits each year across multiple sports. Almost every sport at SI has a widely renowned program and ends the season with an impeccable record. But achieving this success comes at a cost: cutting dreams short.

SI has 26 sports teams; 13 for girls and 13 for boys. However, even with this wide array to choose from, many students will have the experience of being cut from a sport they may have played their whole life leading up to tryouts at SI. Particularly as a freshman, most assume they would be able to participate at a less competitive frosh level to experience being on a team that represents SI. Yet this winter, over 40 girls tried out for the frosh soccer team; only 21 roster spots were awarded. Almost 30 of the girls trying out had previously played club or competitive soccer outside of school.

The pressure and stakes are at an all time high. For a lot of students entering SI, identifying as an athlete is short lived. And for most students, playing at a varsity level is a dream crushed by the competitive nature of SI sports. At SI, it has become increasingly more competitive to even be considered for a team, despite spending countless hours in the workout room, in the gym, or on the field. So what are all those students supposed to do?

Although Intramurals provides a great outlet for those who want to participate in a less competitive sports environment, all students deserve the opportunity to compete on a sports team representing their school. Every student deserves to get to experience team bus rides, practices, working with expert coaches, and the friendships that come from high school sports.

No one, especially students playing their sport for years, should have to experience the pain of getting cut. Everyone deserves the chance to grow with coaches and reach their full potential, something that should not pre-determined by 9th grade tryouts. The time is now for more non-cut sports at SI.



The Gil Hasken trophy awarded each year to the winner of the SI-Riordan football game

Rachel Kirk '26: "I feel that SI's competition drives our school spirit"

Francesca Flocchini '26: "SI tryouts can always have a lot of people for each sport and are very competitive... It feels as though we are pushing the incredibly expensive club program at a young age, only for a smaller glimmer of hope to make a roster in high-school"



MUSIC FOR OTHERS: SHARING THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Anthony Jin '24

Contributing Editor



SI students Nicholas Graham, Anthony Jin, and Stuart Barakos perform at Music for Others' most recent concert.

During this season of giving, how will we be people with and for others? Is it at school, donating to the Christmas Drive, or volunteering amongst a group of friends? With the multiple concerts and performances of the Performing Arts during November and December, some students took the music to others outside of the SI community.

Music for Others is a community engagement club that visits different senior facilities, playing for the residents and their guests. Stuart Barakos '25 was instrumental in getting this club up and running, building it up, slowly but surely, over his freshman and sophomore years. So far, Music for Others has played at Alma Via, a convalescent home in San Francisco, bringing music via hour-long concerts, followed by engaging with the audience afterward. Their most recent concert was on November 20, 2022, the weekend before Thanksgiving break began. Although the group consisted of only a handful of musicians, the assortment of individual and ensemble pieces filled the entire hour. Afterward, one audience member said, “the music made me feel young again,” revealing how transformative sharing one’s gifts can be.

Should you be inclined to share your music with others, contact Stuart Barakos '25 via email: sbarakos25@siprep.org.

MS. MCFARLAND: TRAILBLAZING A MORE EQUITABLE PATH

Aiden Gray '26

Contributing Editor

Ms. McFarland is the Director of Security at SI. Born in Chicago to Irish parents, she grew up during the 60s and 70s and was surrounded by change; the Stop the War Movement, Watergate, the Civil Rights Movement, the Women’s Rights Movement, and more were active at the time. This environment of people advocating for themselves taught her the value of standing up for herself and being a force for change. Ms. McFarland shared her story during an X period presentation on November 18th.

Starting when she was a teenager applying for her first job she witnessed many of the sexual inequalities of the time. Men would talk to and touch women inappropriately and without restraint. She played basketball during her first year of college at Arizona State University, and during the season she pulled her hamstring. Since the men’s gym had trainers, Ms. McFarland tried to go to them for help. However, they wouldn’t let her, simply because she was a woman.

Despite these challenges, Ms. McFarland graduated ASU with a degree in criminal justice. She then applied for a job as an officer, and—despite being one of the most highly rated candidates for the job—she was rejected. After questioning them on their decision, she was told by the chief ranger that she was “too aggressive.” After inquiring further, she found that they had manipulated the scoring system so that the two male candidates that they wanted would rate higher. Ironically, she had trained the very men who got the promotion instead of her. She sued them for this.

After three long years of court battles, Ms. McFarland won; she gained the promotion, good housing, and ten thousand dollars. Despite the fact that she clearly won her job by merit, other officers resented her for being a female “trouble maker.” They would do things like jamming her radio, even when she pulled over convicted felons. She sued (and won) a second time.

Even though sexual harassment is a difficult subject, those present at Ms. McFarland’s talk were supportive and clearly cared about what she had to say. This is an issue that, although getting better, needs to get a lot better a lot faster—and we can thank Ms. McFarland for raising awareness on it.

GIVING BACK WITH THE COMFORT RUN

Otto Drier '23

Contributing Editor

The comfort run is a service-oriented activity at school where students join Mr. Escobar in the mornings to deliver sandwiches and juice to our neighbors in the Tenderloin. Those who participate in the Comfort Run each week show solidarity with those who are struggling to afford food for themselves or their families.

As students at SI, we are blessed to have the opportunities, necessities, and support structures that we need in order to be successful and to thrive. Participating in the Comfort Run represents one of the most important things one can do for the community—taking a little bit out of their busy schedules and lives to give back and improve the lives of others. They recognize the blessings in their lives, and then they give some of those blessings to others in need. Mr. Escobar was kind enough to answer a few questions regarding the Comfort Run:

Q: What is your favorite part of the comfort run?

Mr. Escobar: “Beginning with an early morning reminder that we all have complex stories and our current circumstances do not define the entirety of who we are and what we have to offer.”

Q: What is your best memory/memories that you have made from being on the comfort run?

Mr. Escobar: “Probably building relationships over the course of the years with the folks. Even though the faces change, they come to rely on us and we come to rely on them.”

Q: How do you believe that the comfort run expresses the theme of giving or service to others?

Mr. Escobar: “Well one thing we believe is in giving we receive, and the exchange of gratitude that we witness those mornings is a grace filled exchange, not only hearing their gratitude towards us but how the students see the gratitude and express it to their friends and classmates later in the day.”

A huge thank you to Mr. Escobar as well as all of those who participate in the comfort run weekly! If you are interested in going on a Comfort Run, contact Mr. Escobar or Daniel Mejia '23 at dmejia23@siprep.org who helps coordinate the program.



On our sleigh ride to the end of 2022, three Frosh provide a closeup into their first-year experience — join us during the most wonderful time to celebrate our unique gifts!
— Jack Quach '23, Editor-in-Chief, and Kate Quach '25, Managing Editor —



THE LOVE LANGUAGE OF GIFT GIVING

Emma Chan '24

With the holiday season fast approaching, communities across America come together to celebrate seasonal festivities packed with an abundance of generosity. As hearts life while singing along to carols on a car ride, a radio station staff member carefully curated that very playlist - a true gift.

Beautiful lights glimmer through the city, and a crew of hardworking volunteers were there to set it up - another gift.

Six grandchildren spent two days picking the perfect holiday classics to play in the background of a family reunion. The blue glow of a computer lights up the rooms of people endlessly scrolling through holiday gift guides. It's undeniable that the basis for the winter season revolves around gift-giving.

According to Gary Chapman's five love language theories, which he shared on the the 5 Love Languages TV show, the love language of gift-giving resides in individuals who feel most loved and generous when they give tangible gifts. To gift-givers, context is everything. Gift-giving acts as a gesture of affection that memorializes a feeling shared between two people.



It reflects the giver's ability to listen, observe, and empathize to find the best gift for their recipient. Givers have the desire to preserve sentimentality and deepen relationships, which is a gift in itself.

Penelope Cheun-Tolley '24 described the gifts that the winter season brings for her as "Community. There's so much anticipation for finals and when Winter Break comes, it's nothing but relief and happiness. It's a great feeling knowing that I can cozy up with my loved ones and enjoy the holidays."

For another Junior, Leanna Leung '24, December brings the gift of familial bonding and interconnectedness. "I love spending time with my friends and family over our love for the holiday season," she remarked. "The atmosphere really inspires everyone to go out and volunteer one last time before the new year comes."

Gift-giving isn't everyone's love language, but the winter season brings it out in unexpected ways.

See more feature articles on the *Inside SI* website!

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AT SI

Bridget Stecher '25

Contributing Editor



"I take a scenic walk by Ocean Beach on Christmas morning with my family."

-ELLA WALTI '25



"My family likes to get ahead of the game and start decorating for Christmas the weekend of Halloween."

-ARIK RUIZ '23



"We go to a family reunion and take part in White Elephant."

-KEYIN CHIN '26



"Every year, I go to my dad's friend's holiday party. We always watch Home Alone and eat tiramisu."

-GHLOE FONG '24

"The most remarkable gift the season can bring is spending time with my family and taking part in the traditions we share."

-LUKE UNTALAN '25



"I love to buy a Christmas tree and watch holiday movies with my family."

-ALEXANDRA HARLAN '25



"I enjoy getting creative and making festive gingerbread cookies with my mom."

-EYA DEVLIN '23

THE CHRISTMAS DRIVE RETURNS

Kate Quach '25, Stella Hong '24 & Kristen Patricio '24 Managing Editor and Contributing Editors

Continued from Front Page

support during the holiday season.

Dr. McCann, in her second year of leading the Christmas Drive, emphasized the beauty she recognizes during the annual giving event. "The Christmas Drive really requires the support of all members of the SI community and it is incredible to see what we are able to do together," she said. With all of the items in preparation for donation, Dr. McCann wished that every food box and dollar fundraised "will make the holidays a little easier for the 275 families."

From November 15th to December 6th, the student body has multiple opportunities to engage in fundraising activities that consist of bake sales, holiday gear, and spirit week. Winston Zapet '23, a lead organizer of the Christmas Drive in the Arrupe Social Justice Council, similarly described the drive as a cherished SI tradition: "It's just a wonderful event that brings the community closer and helps bring justice to others." Reflecting on his experience delivering food boxes to families at St. Dominic's, he added, "seeing their faces light up as you pass out the donations is simply amazing. We can all do our part during the holidays, anything helps."

With their goal of \$20,000 raised, the Christmas Drive

Committee plans to include Safeway and Target gift cards for each family and child at St. Dominic's to buy holiday gifts and essentials. "We're doing a great job so far with incredible support with money donations in classes and through the online fundraising link," added Dr. McCann, appreciating the progress made so far.

Nam Nguyen '24, one of the student leaders coordinating the beloved Christmas tradition, acknowledged that despite the hectic enthusiasm surrounding the holiday sales, there is "a great feeling afterwards," as if after watching a good movie. "There's nothing that can compare to that emotion."

Looking ahead to sorting and distribution day at St. Dominic's, Dr. McCann motivated those at SI to support "our neighbors in ways we can during the holidays and grow in our love of others. I think everyone in our SI community has a part in that during the Christmas Drive."

Illustration by Camille Pyo '26



ORIGINS OF CHRISTMAS GIFT-GIVING

Mia Messenger '24

Contributing Editor

The next time your parent comes home upset and frustrated from buying last-minute Christmas gifts and asks: Why are we doing this anyway? Show them this article to remind them of the joyous history of gift-giving.

As the holiday season approaches, this time of celebration can bring both a sense of joy but also stress, with the shortage of available gifts and last-minute prepping for Christmas dinner. Christmas gift-giving, often associated with the birth of Jesus and the three Magi, is a tradition that has been around long before Christianity and has closer ties to secular traditions.

It is estimated that gift-giving originated from winter solstice celebrations in ancient Rome. One of the most well-known holidays of this time, Saturnalia, was held from December 17th to December 23rd, and honored the Roman god Saturn. Festivities at Saturnalia include sacrifices at temples, food banquets, and private-gift giving. These gifts were often in the form of sigillaria, small figurines made of clay or wax that resembled gods.

They were given as a way to entertain or perplex whom they were gifted to. Less meaningful gifts such as cups, combs, twigs, coins, and even mistletoe were distributed among Roman citizens.

Later in the 4th century A.D., this ancient tradition was linked to the three Magi who presented Jesus with gold, frankincense, and myrrh on January 6th. This event is said to have inspired a Christian feast around this time similar to what is now celebrated as Christmas dinner. Similarly, the 4th century bishop, Saint Nicholas, is most closely associated with the well-known figure Santa Claus. It was believed that in addition to having a hobby for gift-giving, Saint Nicholas could also perform miracles, and regularly sought to help the poor and destitute.

In a more modern sense, Christmas gift-giving as we know it began in the 19th century. During this time, technological advances in mass production and manufacturing provided affordable and wide-spread options for gifts.

Shifting from a secular view to one of closer religious significance, Christmas became domesticated in American life.

Gifts were given more often to children rather than the lower class as seen in early Europe tradition, where Christmas was rooted in begging for money and had little ties to family. This modern view of Christmas emphasized a season of joy and happiness for children to receive gifts from Santa Claus. Business people saw this as an opportunity to capitalize the tradition, expanding the emphasis on buying gifts, and shaping the modern traditions that many Americans practice today.

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Throughout history, gift-giving has become a crucial part in our relationships with others, whether done during Christmas time or not. Giving a meaningful gift to someone in your life can provide connection and a closer relationship with our loved ones. So, while buying and wrapping those last-minute gifts can feel stressful, remember the joy that your gift will bring someone else!



COMMENTARY: SI'S GIVING TREE



Ava Murphy '25

Contributing Editor

December is the season of giving. With the holidays on the horizon, the thought on everyone's minds is GIFTS. What to get others, what to get for oneself, and what others think they might receive. It is often easy to forget the true meaning of the holidays: a reason and a season to share one's gifts. The SI community is full of gifts. The community is like a "giving tree" because everyone comes to SI with unique attributes to share. The difficulty, though, is framing one's mind to understand that God given gifts are meant to be shared.

There is a certain entitlement the holiday season brings. People are often so wrapped up in the idea of what is in it for them that they forget that the pleasure of receiving comes from the giving. At SI, students need to be reminded of the power of the gifts they possess. God given gifts are talents. Sharing those talents with the community and the world are a gift back to oneself.

The "giving tree" that is SI is full of treasures waiting to be shared. There are so many gifts that our SI "giving tree" provides; safe spaces in athletics or the arts, a supportive faculty, and friends who are always willing to help by sharing their talents. People should never lose sight of their own gifts and how they can contribute to the SI community.

By performing in the play, dancing in the winter showcase, or even speaking at a prayer service one can bring joy to others through sharing gifts. When athletes step onto the field or court, they are sharing what they are most passionate about with others. Students who try their best in every class they are in and hope the best for their classmates and contribute to making the community better.

Gift giving has traditionally focused on material things. The truth is the best gifts to share cannot be wrapped up in a box with a bow. The best gifts are shared on a random day when a gift is unexpected. Everyone has gifts they can contribute to their community and the world. The magic happens when gifts are shared for the benefit of others expecting nothing in return.

So SI, what gifts will you share on your "giving tree" this year?



MUST SEE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS!

Jordan Lui '24

Contributing Editor

The spirit of Christmas fills the air as Yuletide approaches. The jolly season heralds vacations, Christmas trees, eggnog, Mariah Carey, and Christmas lights! The Bay Area is home to impressive light displays, so you might as well take advantage of it. Here are four must-see places to check out this holiday season.

Image from Oakland Zoo's Dazzling Glowfari Lantern Festival



From November 11 to January 29, tickets can be purchased to witness a dazzling array of enormous light-up animals, such as a tiger or bear. This festival even has an underwater tunnel teeming with marine life.



Lights hung up at Berkeley's Fourth Street

For the whole Christmas season, there are three blocks of lights that start at 5PM. On December 10 and December 17, there are drive-thru parades from 5:30-7:30. These magical displays have so many lights in so many colors. It's definitely worth the visit if you live nearby.



Oakland Temple Hill

From November 25 to January 1st, you can enjoy the breathtaking view of decorated palm trees and illuminated lights until 9PM.



Magical displays at Woodside's Historical Fioli Garden

These manicured gardens require tickets to explore from Nov. 19 to Jan. 8 between 10AM to 9PM. You can frolic in the decorated interior, or stroll in endless green expanse. Santa even visits on Dec. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, and 23 from 10AM to 4PM. These gardens are truly a sight to behold.

INSIDE SI ASKED STUDENTS ABOUT SOME OF THEIR FAVORITE PLACES TO SEE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & THEIR REACTIONS TO SEEING THESE LIGHTS:

"IT PUTS ME IN THE HOLIDAY MOOD."

—SOPHIE GALLAGHER '24

"SEEING THE LIGHTS EVERY YEAR BRINGS ME JOY."

—ANDREA PHILLIPS '24

"WE GO TO SAN CARLOS AROUND SUNSET & WALK AROUND AND TAKE PICTURE OF THE LIGHTS."

—AVERY TIN '25

COMMENTARY: NOT ALL IS SWEET IN THE LAND OF THE SWEETS

Lucia Rocchio '26

Contributing Editor

Almost everyone has heard about the premise of *The Nutcracker*, where a lucky girl is gifted a toy Nutcracker that comes to life and takes her on an adventure to the Land of the Sweets. This ballet is a holiday classic around the world, and the most popular performance for many dance companies. However, something many people are not aware of is the racism that is rooted in this production, and the harmful stereotypes the dance promotes.

When Clara watches many of the characters perform, despite being from a made-up Land of the Sweets, characters from real countries appear—most notably, the characters of "Chinese," and "Arabian." While this seems innocent enough, issues arise through the stereotypes portrayed in these dances. An example of this is through the use of head bobs, pointy-finger movements, and racist costumes present in most "Chinese" dances. Additionally, the country of Arabia does not even exist—instead, the "Arabian" dance sexualizes women in Middle Eastern cultures by depicting the lead lady as a seductress.

Many ballet companies have been working to change their *Nutcracker* after growing concerns of these harmful issues. Some replace the names of countries with names of candies and beverages—for instance, "Spanish" is replaced with "Hot Chocolate," "Russian" with "Candy Canes," "Chinese" with "Tea," and "Arabian" with "Coffee."

However, it is not enough to just change the names of the dances; the costumes and overall choreography must reflect the desire to change as well. Hopefully, there will come a time where no company portrays these harmful stereotypes and the audience is able to solely focus on the joy of the performance.

HIGHLIGHTING THE DIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO SERVICE DRIVES

Evan O'Driscoll '24 & Kate McFarland '24

Contributing Editors

The holidays always bring excitement, but for some it may be a cause of worry. For those struggling financially, the holiday season may bring feelings of anxiety over buying coats to stay warm, getting Christmas gifts for children, or earning enough money to put holiday meals on the table. Luckily, in San Francisco and the surrounding Bay Area there are programs that help residents support their families during a time that should be spent with loved ones comfortably.

One of these programs is the Delancey Street Foundation, which offers a place for former drug users, ex-convicts, those suffering from homelessness, or just people in need of a place to stay and recover for 2+ years. The Delancey Street Foundation trains its residents with skills that help them find successful career paths. During the holidays, they have several Christmas tree lots around the city that train workers through the basics of sales and customer service. The best thing about this organization's Christmas enterprises is that one doesn't have to make any additional donations or efforts—many people who celebrate buy a Christmas tree every year, and carrying out this tradition at a Delancey Christmas Trees location not only ensures customers a great tree, but also directly benefits the foundation.

Another great organization is Urban Angels SF, which rallies community unity and support. With donations from fellow community members, Urban Angels SF do Angel Runs, where they deliver food, water, clothing, and toiletries, and during the holidays, toys and sponsorships for children in families that are struggling. Volunteering for Urban Angels SF is a great way to do some good in the time off SI students have during Christmas Break, and get going with volunteer hours if needed!

Other ways to support the Bay Area community are donating to food drives, volunteering for soup kitchens and other nonprofits, and spreading the word about the many great opportunities there are to get involved in bettering SF as a whole!

If any of these opportunities are inaccessible or inconvenient, however, there is a great holiday giving opportunity for all SI faculty, staff, and students right in school! (see [Xmas Drive article on P7](#))

Overall, the holidays should always be a time for giving, not only to loved ones, family, and friends, but also to those in need in our local community, to uplift and spread kindness to others during the holidays!



EDUCATION ON UNEVEN GROUNDS: FIRST-GEN

Anthony Jin '24

Contributing Editor

At SI, the typical progression from high school is on to college. This step is an integral part of the school's culture and curriculum, given that it is a college preparatory school. However, the pathways for individuals to attend higher education are unequal. Some constraints include a lack of resources, connections, or even literacy in the US education system. The ability of students to seek higher education is unique to the individual and can range from having many different resources to hardly anything given at all. This difference in necessary tools can be affected by a multitude of factors, including but not limited to race, gender, ethnicity, and immigration status. These factors may appear as discrimination or lack of generational wealth and connections. These issues can become intertwined, creating an unequal playing ground that immigrant families face on the road to education, either for them or their children.



SI alumni presented their unique experiences of striving competitively for college on an unequal baseline.

At the First Gen Panel on November 8th, students had the opportunity to listen to the experiences of graduates who were first-generation college students (first-generation denoting one as the first generation in their family to attend college in the US). However, at SI, resources are available to those who seek them. From the Counseling department to the Magis program and workshop sessions held by Ms. Vaccaro, there is a plethora of tools that people can use to address their specific needs and work towards a strong application, as well as a holistic high school experience.

Ultimately, college is a significant step in education and is often seen as a stepping stone toward a professional career. The programs and workshops provided by SI allow students to put their best foot forward with their application and take the first step towards a successful professional future.



The first-gen panel is] an opportunity for faculty and staff to see how our 1st Gen students have grown and made a difference in their lives and in others, and a moment for our current students to see others on the stage who they can identify with.

Ms. Anna Maria Vaccaro



THE GIFT OF DANCE: CULTURAL STORYTELLING THROUGH MOVEMENT

Ella Liang '23

Associate Editor-In-Chief



Praise & Polynesian Dance at this year's Fall Dance Concert.



COMMENTARY:

BEYOND "WAKANDA"

Olivia Leigh '23

Managing Editor

In *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, Ryan Coogler highlighted a new post-colonial, indigenous-centric, highly advanced world in the underwater kingdom of Talokan.

The world of Talokan is heavily inspired by the Yucatan Maya and Aztec cultures, specifically, the Aztec *Tlalocan*, the first of the thirteen levels of heaven. The main antagonist of the movie, Namor, explains how the underwater kingdom came about in response to Spanish colonization.

Through both *Wakanda* and *Talokan*- the movie emphasized the beauty of indigenous culture and pushes back against how BIPOC individuals and communities are generally represented in film. Although both *Wakanda* and *Talokan* are fictional worlds combining the real-life traditions of multiple cultures, their world-building sends a powerful message, especially coming from one of the biggest movie franchises in the world.

Wiegand transforms from stage, to classroom, and to a place to build community. Through movement and music, dance can showcase a dancer's personal stories but also culture and history passed down through multiple generations. Notably, SI's Praise Dance and Polynesian Dance Clubs perform both alongside Dance Workshop in biannual shows.

For Mary De Guzman '23, Co-President of Praise Dance, dance reaches beyond the physical to serve as "an outlet to truly express [herself] through storytelling that can be hard to do by words." She believes showcasing the club's work allows her "the opportunity and gift to share the importance of Performing Arts at SI." She sees Praise Dance as "a group of beautiful Black and Brown students who identify with a diverse range of spirituality." Praise Dance's originates from West African slaves preserving their roots while assimilating to Christianity.

At SI, this club was founded by Gemma Oakley-Lynch '22 with the hopes of incorporating dance into religion and Campus Ministry at SI.

Jasmine Gatus '23, Co-President of Polynesian Dance Club described dance as a "safe place for [her] since freshman year" that allowed her "to bond with friends and [explore] the beautiful culture. She echoed Mary's sentiments of dance as a medium for storytelling.

Dance is one of the ways minority groups have preserved their culture in spite of historic oppression. For many, dance tells a story of persistence, survival, and celebration; at SI our talented students give us the gift of viewing this story.

Praise Dance performed at the Prayer Service on December 6th and will appear in the future at the BSU Showcase; you can see the Polynesian Dance at Pasko and both groups at the Senior Dance Concert next May!

PASKO: CELEBRATING FILIPINO CHRISTMAS

Alex Sanabria '23

Contributing Editor

ASC and SIPAC (SI Parents' Asian Club) will hold its annual "Pasko, a Filipino Christmas Celebration" in the Commons on December 10th. A sold-out event, it promises to be a great occasion.

As one of two Christian nations in Asia, Christmas is very important in the Philippines. Pasko begins in September. In October, people start listening to Christmas songs; in November they start shopping for and giving gifts. By December there are lights, music, and so much Christmas spirit. Melissa Hua '23 said, "As a Filipino-American student at SI, it's really important to see aspects of my culture celebrated and accepted at our school."

To celebrate, families come together to eat delicious roast pig, fruit salad, ham, queso de bola and other favorite dishes.

There will be various performances, including singing and dancing from SI students, as well as amazing food for everyone to taste.



Performers at last year's Pasko performance



TRANSFIGURATION

Aidan Stecher '23

Managing Editor

On November 17th and 18th, the talented St. Ignatius dance group invited members of the SI community, including students and parents, to the annual fall dance concert, "Transfiguration."

The dancers spent weeks inside of Wiegand Theatre choreographing, practicing, and perfecting their performance. The concert consisted of jazz, contemporary, Praise, and Polynesian dance styles, all displaying unique and uplifting aspects of cultures and emotion.

Winston Zapet '23, who was working backstage for one of the nights of the dance concert helping dancers get ready for their next pieces, said, "The dance was meaningful to me because I saw the effort put into it by the dancers, many of whom are my friends. It was admirable watching the end result knowing the hard work the dancers put into preparing and rehearsing their pieces."

The dance concert brought together much of the SI community, as the performers shared their talents. The dancers worked extremely hard and created a beautiful event for all to enjoy.

ROCKIN' OUT AT THE FALL JAZZ & ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Samantha Major '24

Managing Editor

SI's Orchestra and Jazz Band recently put on three concerts with a variety of lively and well-performed song selections. Under the direction of Dr. Clements, the orchestra spent the last few months rehearsing for the Fall Concert which took place on November 30 and December 2.

They opened their performance with Vivaldi's "Concerto No. 10 In B Minor for 4 Violins," with string players accompanying soloists Angelina Melis '23, Nicholas Graham '23, Shea Tran '24, and Phianna Luu '24. Following this was an exciting and creative piece called "Foundry" by John Mackey, performed by the brass, woodwind, and percussion players, and which featured "found" percussion instruments. With a diverse repertoire, the full orchestra performed classical music, like the famous "William Tell Overture" by Gioacchino Rossini and "The Typewriter" by American composer Leroy Anderson, as well as the rock song "Smooth" by the band Santana.

The Jazz Band, also having prepared over the course of the semester, impressed the audience with their performances of "Birdland" by Weather Report, "Cubano Chant" by Ray Bryant Trio, "Fables of Faubus" by Charles Mingus, "Pick Up the Pieces" by Average White Band, and "Softly as in a Morning Sunrise" by Modern Jazz Quartet and The MJQ.

The Inside SI Christmas Song Rankings

Matthew Lu '23

Contributing Editor

These are the 5 songs (and some extras!) that made the Nice List on our ranking of the best Holiday songs.

5. "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" by Andy Williams

The only emotion I feel when listening is pure joy. Williams's voice along with the jingle of bells and various instruments makes for a beautiful song. It makes you want to get up and dance in the mirror by yourself. Whenever this song plays on the radio, it's always "the most wonderful time of the year."

4. "Last Christmas" by Wham!

This song "whams" you in the face with warmth, happiness, and sadness. How could that person give away his heart like that? You can't help but hum the melody and dance uncontrollably whenever "Last Christmas" plays. It's a masterpiece.

3. "Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber

Each time "Mistletoe" plays on the radio, everyone listening contracts Bieber fever because of how good it sounds. This song brings me back to my childhood and reminds me of happier times when I didn't know what a college was.

2. "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" by Michael Bublé

How could you not love some Michael Bublé? His voice is the food for my soul and makes me feel "bublé." The slow tempo transports me to a fireplace with a cup of cocoa in hand, making me forget my worries and enjoy life.

1. "All I Want for Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey

Store owners wait with their fingers ready for when the clock strikes 12 a.m. on November 1st to play this song on loop. Mariah Carey rises from the ashes during the holiday season. Though you might lose your sanity each time you hear this song, it's still undoubtedly the one most associated with Christmas. Sorry if you expected something different, but Mariah Carey is here to stay.

Honorable Mentions:

Still Waiting to Get a Ticket:
"Christmas Tree Farm" - Taylor Swift

Of course I haven't forgotten about the Swifties! While "Christmas Tree Farm," is a little less known than "Shake it Off," I assure you it's one of a kind with its distinct Swift sound. Swifties will be blasting this song during Christmas if they ever manage to get out of the line for concert tickets.

"You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" - Jim Carrey

What's not to love about watching "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," while hearing this masterpiece? With genius lyrics like "you're a bad banana with a greasy black peel" and "you have all the tender sweetness of a seasick crocodile," this song deserves its honorable mention.



SARDINES! SARDINES! JOYS FROM NOISES OFF

Naomi Ko '24

Managing Editor

As the first show of the fall/winter season opened, pressure was high, allergies were brewing, and Mrs. Clackett was making herself a nice plate of sardines onstage. This year's fall play, *Noises Off*, was notably a farce comedy (a big departure from last year's *Radium Girls*) and consisted of a small cast of 18 students (double cast).

St. Ignatius' fall production of *Noises Off* came to a close on November 11 after a successful three-day run. Students performed two shows each day with alternating casts to include as many actors as possible, ranging from all different grades.

Noises Off is an especially unique production in that it showcases the same "show within a show" three times, at different times. Act One is a dress rehearsal of the fictitious play "Nothing On" that takes place within the world of *Noises Off*. Act Two completely flips the set, where the audience can now see a Wednesday matinee of "Nothing On" while the actors fight backstage over relationship dramas and career issues. Finally, Act Three is an evening performance of "Nothing On," two months later with the set



Closing Cast of *Noises Off*

flipped back around and things going awry. The plot follows messy relationships, miscommunications, and of course, the entire cast's obsession with sardines. While this may sound confusing on paper, it is great fun on stage.

Kaitlyn Cline '23, who played Poppy, said, "I loved being part of a small cast because it helped me create really strong bonds with my cast mates. It was also definitely a learning experience to be on such a complex set."

Because of the double casting, sophomores, juniors, and seniors were able to act in the production, and many people came to each show. Preston Ho '23, who played Tim, said, "The fall play was really fun because it had the loudest audiences I've ever performed to."

The small cast size also meant that all the actors grew closer together. EJ Gantz '25, who played Garry, said, "Sometimes you become friends with people you never would've guessed you'd become friends with." Jillyan Accosta '24, who played Brooke Ashton, stated, "In my experience as one of the main roles in the fall play, I met a lot of new people from my class that I had never met before and tested my work ethic skills in the best way possible."

Madison Farrell '24
contributed to this article

SEASON OF LIGHT: CHOIR SHARES THE GIFT OF VOICE

Alexis Paras '25

Contributing Editor

Are you ready to hear some beautiful music in December? This holiday season, the choral program is ready to share their beautiful voices, directed by the one and only Ms. Gomes. Music is one of the most magical gifts someone can experience, and this winter the magic will be shared with the SI community through concert. The SI Choir will share their gifts with you through songs such as "Night of Silence," "Keep Your Lamps," and "Glow." Students in both Chamber and Mixed choir will be singing in the Season of Light choral concert on December 9.



Check out the
Inside SI Online
Version for
articles on
Creative
Consumerism!



STRONG THROUGH THE FINISH LINE

Kevin Chin '26

Contributing Editor

The St. Ignatius Wildcats cross country team just finished a very successful season as they pushed themselves to the limit and performed exceptionally all around.

The freshman boys finished first in their WCAL division race and first overall. Aiden Gray '26 ran an outstanding race finishing up third. The sophomore boys finished third in their WCAL final race and third overall. After finishing fourth last year, the team is trending up. The JV boys had a strong season finishing second in the league and second in the WCAL finals. They finished behind Bellarmine, who had an impressive 9 out of the top 10 finishers.

The varsity boys raced exceptionally well finishing second in their race and tying for first in their division. The team was led by Trey Wright '25 and Kelvin Chan '23, who finished third and fourth respectively. It was a huge step up from last season, as the 'Cats jumped four spots up the ladder this year. After finishing second in CCS, the varsity boys finished 9th out of 27 in the state meet held November 26th!

The freshman girls had a great season, finishing second overall in the WCAL race, holding their spot from the previous year. The frosh team was strong in the WCAL finals, finishing second overall led by Natalie Bravo who finished third individually. The JV girls stayed strong placing third overall in their division and third overall in their final race. All of the five JV girls scored placed within the top 20, displaying the depth of the time. The Varsity girls raced well and raced strong, finishing third in their league and third in the WCAL finals. Eva Devlin '23 raced in the state meet and finished on the first team for the WCAL All-league Team, after a spectacular season!

The squad as a whole had a great season, with every group finishing in the top three of their division.



AQUATIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Reilly Moriarty '23

Editor-in-Chief

The Boys' Water Polo Team made history this season winning not only the CCS Championship but also the CIF NorCal Championship. The boys took home the CCS Championship title, beating Soquel High School 16-9 on November 12th. They then advanced into the CIF NorCal Championships where they shut out all three of their competitors, Sonora, Clovis West, and Gunn High School. Their 13-9 victory against Gunn made them state champions on November 19th.

The head coach for the boys' team, John Roberts, recalled, "We didn't start the season the way we wanted to but as everyone started to find their role and trust each other, we began to pile on the wins when it mattered most. A lot of teams might deflate after going down in the 4th quarter, but we always had a response for a team's offensive run."

This ceaseless strength inevitably led to the team's victories in NorCal and CCS. Ben Bishop, a senior water polo player, said, "Winning CCS and the state championship is proof that all of our hard work really did pay off. I am so happy I get to share this accomplishment with the people I care most about."

Not only were these wins important, but they were an incredible way for the senior players to end their last high school season. However, we excitedly look forward to the future of the water polo program. Roberts also exclaimed, "I am excited because we are an extremely young team with six juniors and two sophomores this year alone. We will have a strong core of players for many years to come. But, what excites me the most is our work ethic year round. All these guys train all year with the goal to be better for SI, and I can't wait to continue to work and grow with them."

The boys' resilient effort throughout the whole season proved influential as they continued to dominate up until their very last game. Their team spirit, endurance and pride for their sport is not only admirable but inspiring to all student athletes at SI.



THE FINAL WHISTLE

On Saturday November 26, after practicing hard all week including a Thanksgiving practice, the Varsity Football Wildcats sought to take a victory over Bellarmine in the CCS Championships in San Jose. They would fight hard but, they would fall 21-14 after a late 4th quarter touchdown was scored to seal a Wildcats defeat. Even though the season feel it was cut short, the Football Wildcats showed true grit throughout the entire season and played until the final whistle. **Check more in-depth articles of past football games on the *Inside SI* website!**



Luke Leupold '23 makes a huge tackle to stop the Bellarmine Bells from getting any extra yards



Cameron Jones '24 looks find the hole for a big gain during the CCS Championships

WINTER SPORTS HEAT UP

The Winter Sports Season has arrived! As the Fall Wildcats hang up their gear the Winter Wildcats get ready for seasons. Soccer and Basketball are each looking forward to successful seasons. Winter Sports Media Day was held December 5th. Good luck and Go Cats! Check out their schedules on <https://siprep.gorepu.com/> (the Athletics page on siprep.org) and on the Repu SI Prep App.



JV Soccer seeks to start their season off strong versus San Mateo



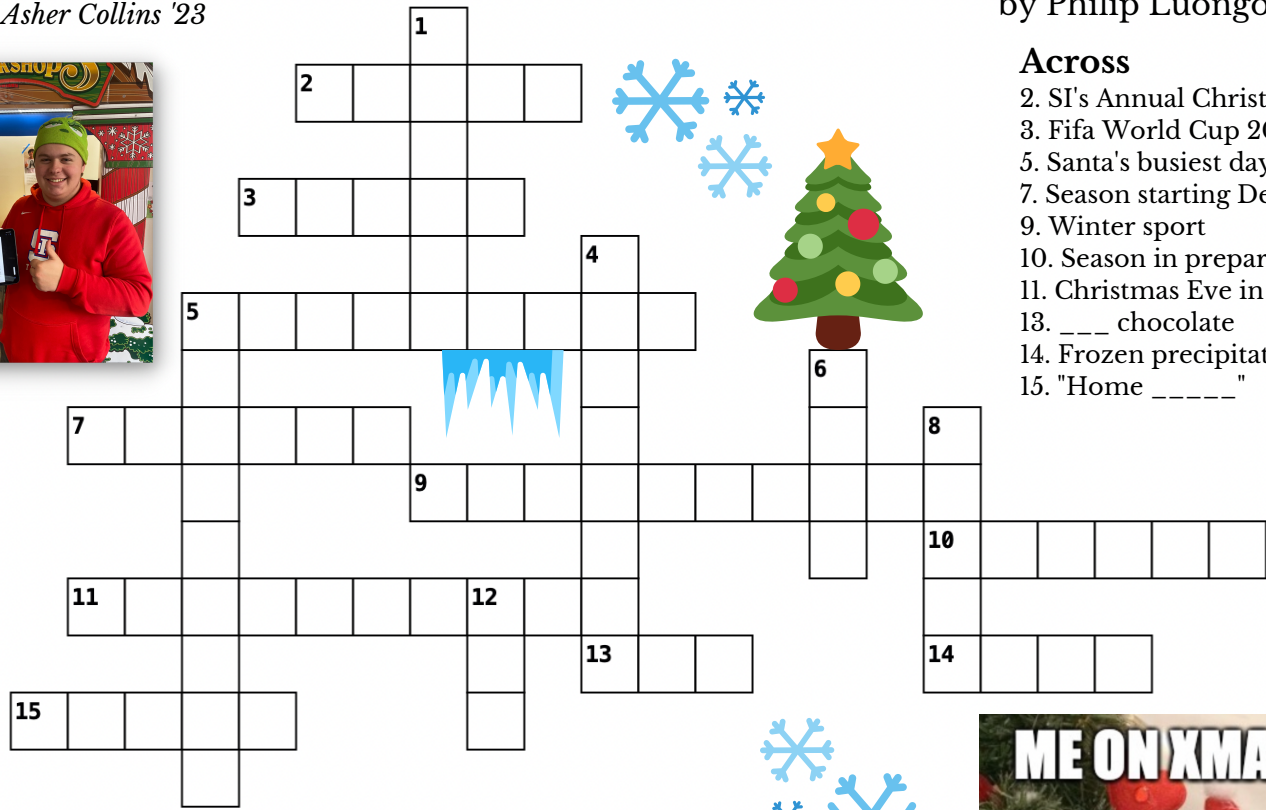
Wildcats Basketball begins their season with a Varsity versus Alumni scrimmage



DECEMBER CROSSWORD

by Philip Luongo III '23

Last Issue's Winner:
Asher Collins '23



Across

- 2. SI's Annual Christmas _____
- 3. Fifa World Cup 2022 location
- 5. Santa's busiest day of the year
- 7. Season starting Dec. 21
- 9. Winter sport
- 10. Season in preparation for Christmas
- 11. Christmas Eve in Spanish
- 13. ___ chocolate
- 14. Frozen precipitation
- 15. "Home _____"

Down

- 1. Everyone's favorite way to end the semester!!
- 4. Eight day Jewish festival
- 5. Red and white Christmas treat
- 6. Snowman from Frozen
- 8. Santa's last name
- 12. Will Ferrell Christmas movie

First person to print out or screenshot a completed crossword and bring it to Ms. Nickolai in Room 119 will receive a sizable candy prize! You will still win a piece of candy for completing the crossword even if you are not first!

SI HOLIDAY SHOPPING LIST

Andrew Wong '24

Managing Editor

As the shadow of Christmas looms closer and the voice of Mariah Carey grows louder, finding gifts for friends and family comes to mind. Are you having problems finding the perfect gift for SI classmates/faculty? Here's some SI gift ideas to get you ready for the holiday season!

- ✓ **Tissues** - There's going to be a lot of crying as the semester comes to a close, especially when finals get graded. Be sure to prepare your classmates with plenty of tissues (and emotional support while you're at it).
- ✓ **Detention Slips** - Think about the sheer amount of detentions that are given out on a daily basis. Impress your teachers with all the detention slips they'll ever need! Maybe they'll think twice about giving YOU detention next time.
- ✓ **SI Dogs** - School is stressful. Dogs are not stressful. Sure, we already have a few dogs roaming the halls, but think about how much better school would be if there were at LEAST ten dogs per class! Bring in a dog or two as a gift to SI (and as a gift to yourself)!
- ✓ **Grammarly and Photomath Premiums** - We could all use some extra help in our homework and tests. Get a struggling friend that helps with the power of TECHNOLOGY! It's not cheating. Who ever said it was cheating?
- ✓ **1 Teacher Swap** - We all have that one teacher who grades with an iron fist or dishes out detentions like a professional casino dealer. Treat your friends with a teacher swap! Swap out that teacher with another one and get that A! **not affiliated with, supported by, or enforced by St. Ignatius College Preparatory or any of its faculty*

And if all else fails, buy them a cookie or something. Actually, just get them a cookie. That would be a lot easier.



MERRY MEMES

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HAHA!

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