

THE FEATURE

All in the Conversation: Communicating and Connecting

Happy Valentine's Day! In our first issue of 2023, we're starting the conversation about conversations. Whether through spoken words, essays, or Valentine's notes, our communication and connection with each other is a core experience of growth as students. Through this issue's feature, you will discover the impacts of artificial intelligence, connection with pets, the discussion of the Junior Ethics Dating Project, and much more. Enjoy!

- The Editors-in-Chief

WILDCATS SPLIT BRUCE BASKETBALL GAMES

Stage set for a winner-take-all baseball battle at Oracle Park

Alex Salentine '26 & Julia Pellegrini '26 Contributing Editors



Both teams played competitive games, with the boys' team claiming victory.

BRUCE-MAHONEY SERIES

SI 2 - 2 SHC

On the night of January 10th, the Irish and the Wildcats Men's basketball teams went up against each other in a packed USF Hilltop to compete in the 76th Bruce-Mahoney series. A notable three Freshmen were on the starting lineup for SI — Steele Labagh, Caeden Hutcherson, and Raymond Whitley, who lined up alongside Kreekor Karageuzian and John

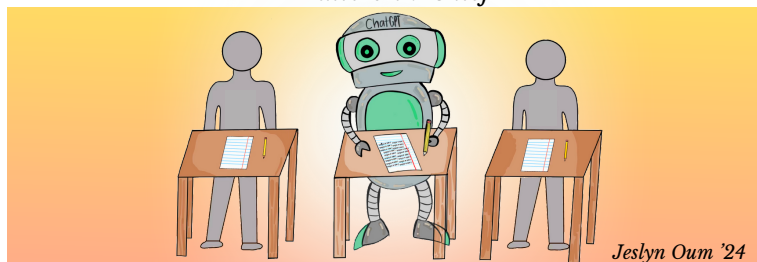
Squire.

The first half was back and forth in terms of scoring, with both teams being consistent in points and defense. However, the heroic rebounds by Raymond Whitley and the dominating performance in the paint by John Squire proved deserving of mention.

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The Many-Edged Sword of ChatGPT

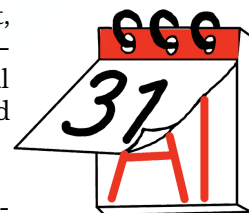
Melissa Hua '23, Philip Luongo III '23,
Reilly Moriarty '23, Jack Quach '23 & Jack Stecher '23
Editors-in-Chief



Jeslyn Oum '24

An email. A line of intelligence chat-bot, code. A two-paragraph synopsis. An explanation of a confusing topic. An Elizabethan sonnet about finding the meaning of life. If you can dream it, ChatGPT can write it (for the most part).

Since its unveiling in late November 2022, ChatGPT, Open AI's flagship artificial intelligence chat-bot, has dominated conversations across social media, classrooms, and family dinners alike. For better or for worse, the era of artificial intelligence has arrived, and is quickly spreading through the SI community. In fact, ChatGPT has been put at the forefront of many students'



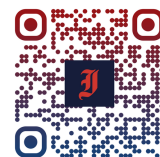
Graphic by Jack Quach '23

educational experiences as some SI teachers

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St. Ignatius Valentines



L'Esco spend Valentine's Day together!



Find more clever name puns celebrating Valentine's Day throughout this issue. Please note that none of the cards are indicative of the beliefs of any of the featured SI faculty!

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SENIORS DAZZLE AT “CALIFORNIA LOVE” 2023

Lilly Eugster '25 & Sierra Murphy '25

Contributing Editors

Lights, cameras, action! It was officially that time of the year for one of the many traditions at SI: the annual senior fashion show that takes place in our very own McCullough gymnasium. This year's theme was “California Love,” which included sections such as Tahoe, Hollywood, Disneyland, Santa Cruz, and more. “I loved the theme of the fashion show, it was very relevant and fun,” said senior Dimitra Jansens. All seniors who participated in the show brought the energy by dressing up to accurately portray key parts of California culture.

Each senior took turns showing off fun and unique costumes to a packed audience. The show included loud music, large digital visuals, and comical poses, ultimately creating a fun, entertaining, and very lively performance for the SI community to enjoy. “They threw a lot at us in rehearsals but I enjoyed every second of it,” said Dimitra as she explained the hours of preparation leading up to the show. Even though the process leading up to the show wasn't easy, she “made so many memories and made so many new friends.” However, her favorite part of the whole experience was getting to walk down the stage with a group of people she didn't know too well strike a pose.

However, we can't forget the hard work of many SI parents who donated time and energy into putting on an amazing show. While interviewing Molly Bridges, an SI mom who helped with the show, she rated her experience a ten out of ten, saying, “I loved working with all of the kids while getting to know all of the moms better during the show.” Although she loved her experience and confirmed she would absolutely do it again, she did experience challenges during the process. Ms. Bridges said, “I think I had a lot of self doubt towards the beginning because I wanted to make sure that the pieces I was picking went well with the theme of the section. Throughout the process I gained more confidence in what I was doing, but it was definitely a challenge in the beginning.”

Overall the fashion show was a very special event for both the senior class and the moderators of the event. The class was able to come together and have fun with one another in a fresh environment. The show was another successful SI event that we can't wait to continue in future years.



Seniors dress up as Beauty and the Beast for the Disney segment



Seniors strike a pose for the In and Out segment



Principal Michelle Levine dances with seniors in the final segment



The Dance and Drill team dances down the runway

SI'S SERENADERS: THE CUPID QUARTET



Madison Farrell '24

Contributing Editor

Now that Valentine's Day is here, love is in the air and Cupid is in need of a quartet! Traditionally known as the Greek god of love, Cupid often serves as an important symbol for Valentine's Day. At St. Ignatius, the Cupid Quartet has been a longstanding tradition that takes place every year in the month of February.

Student council normally organizes this event, and accepts singing telegram requests through a raffle. Four students go around school singing a predetermined list of songs to a number of lucky recipients! Each year, SI's

Student Council and the Community Service Office partner to select a charity that the raffle proceeds will go to. Around ten names are picked from the raffle each year, granting the winners the opportunity to send the person of their choice a quartet on Valentine's Day.

Ms. Finn, the Director of Student Activities and Student Council Moderator said, "Cupid Quartet has been a tradition long before I got here 11 years ago. It is always a fun activity that students and faculty look forward to around Valentine's Day."

Student Council and Ms Finn choose around five songs each year to be cycled through the performances. But the best part is, students are not the only people allowed to receive a visit from the quartet! Teachers and faculty around school can receive quartets from the clubs they are moderators for or their students from class.

Without a doubt, the Cupid Quartet is a fun tradition at St. Ignatius gets students in the Valentine's Day spirit, and makes for a good laugh in the middle of class.

NEWS AROUND SI!



CCC and ASC celebrated Lunar New Year with a dumpling-making event on Feb. 3!



Stephanie Sun '23 won Miss Chinatown Chamber of Commerce/1st Princess on Feb. 3 competing with young women across the United States.



The SI Ethics Bowl Team proceeded as one of the top 4 out of 30+ at the NHSEB @ UC Santa Cruz on Jan. 14. In the NHSEB, students debate ethical issues in today's society.



The SI Mock Trial Team wrapped up their season with a scrimmage against SOTA on February 5.



SI Model UN delegates attended a conference on Feb. 11-12. Grace Brady '23 won a research award, and Amelia Chen '24 and Jeslyn Oum '24 were awarded as Best Delegates in the conference.

3RD QUARTER PRAYER SERVICE

On February 7th, SI held our 3rd Quarter Prayer Service. The theme of the service was: What are the things that enliven us as a community? Junior, Markeala Gadduang, and teacher, Mr. Cafasso, shared their moments, relationships, and experiences that have kept them enlivened amidst Ordinary Time.



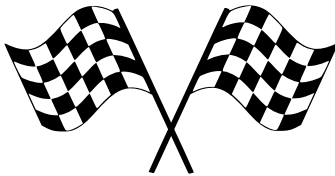
Markeala Gadduang '24 speaks at the prayer service about the importance of friendship



Mr. Cafasso shares with SI what kept him enlivened during quarantine.

THE AMA-SI-NG RACE

On January 28th, SI Student Council hosted its first ever, "Amazing Race!" Teams of students completed 10 tasks in order to qualify for the final race where they won big prizes: \$1000 for first place, \$500, for second place, and \$250 for third. The day ended with a Barbecue on the Upper Field before the Men's Basketball game.



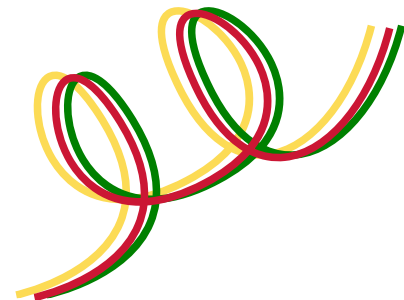
Juniors from the SI Grill Club grill up and serve burgers to the participants.

THE BLACK STUDENT UNION'S ANNUAL SHOWCASE



All SI community members are invited to join in the Black Student Union's Annual Showcase on Saturday, February 25, 2023. The event will showcase BSU students' gifts and talents including dance, music, and spoken word. *The Gift of Our Legacy: A Story to Be Told* will focus on the large obstacles, barriers, and systems of oppression that Black Americans have overcome. This theme is a celebration of past achievements and future goals.

By acknowledging these gifts, we allow others to be enlightened on how great an impact Black people have in our community.



COMMUNICATION WITH PETS

Bridget Stecher '25

Contributing Editor

Did you know that over five-hundred million people in the world have pets? The communication developed with pets is very meaningful and brings people together in a way like no other.

Ms. Merrell, counselor and moderator of Pet Nation stated, "Whenever an animal is present, it doesn't matter who the people are, the animal brings people together. Animals form a bridge between people." Animals can uplift one's mood with their non-verbal communication and even by simply just being there!

Animals boost people's moods and can bring out a new side of them. When talking about her dog, Julia Ting '25 stated, "Tobi has a really big impact on my life because I always look forward to seeing her when I get home. She's energetic and happy and it always makes my day 10x better to see her like that. Tobi and I have a bond like no other; she'll lean up against me or snuggle right up next to me and I can easily feel her love. It's nice to have my dog by my side to cheer me up no matter what."

Dogs derive purpose from making their companion happy. According to Breeding Business, "Dogs actually see us as more of a family." This is why they are so pro-

tective and loyal to their owner and how they love to see that they have made a difference in someone's day. This is why they are so protective and loyal to their owner and



Students de-stress during Finals Week with Pet Nation Therapy Dogs

how they love to see that they can make a difference in someone's day.

Animals can decrease people's stress, too. Ms. Merrell said, "Inter-acting with animals decreases levels of cortisol, which is a stress-related hormone; it can also lower blood pressure. So, there have been many studies that show that interacting with animals can reduce loneliness, increase feelings of

social support, and boost one's mood. I think that really helps our community especially in a stressful time with school, tests, and growing up."

Pets will always be around for their companions when they need support during stressful times. Emma Chan '24 agreed, saying, "After a stressful day, curling up with my cat and dog on the couch is my ideal way to unwind and relax. I feel that my pets are an important part of my emotional support system." Animals are very essential in our lives and communicate with us in more ways than we know.

FROM X'S AND O'S TO "THE LOVE TEXT"

Ava Murphy '25

Contributing Editor

Throughout history, people have discovered ways to convey their love, profess their feelings, and share information. Communication brings people together and makes bonds stronger. As time moves on, the form of communication may change, but the content never does. Whether it be a kind word from a classmate over text, a comment from a friend on Instagram, or a hand-written birthday card, these all have the ability to leave a long-lasting impact.

Communication is defined as "an exchange of information or news." However, it can also be much more than that. Communication is how people remain connected and close to one another. It is how they share their true feelings and what is most important to them. Without communication, the human race will be truly lost. When people do not have effective communication, it can lead to discord and heartache.

In this age of social media and technology, people often forget the importance of the information they

exchange with one another. Over time, etchings on cave walls have changed to written words in letters which have also transitioned into modern day abbreviated text messages.

Today, so much information and influence is at the touch of one's fingertips and it is easy to forget how much people are able to share through communication. Viewing ancient cave paintings, allows people to travel through time and see how early civilizations communicated. With Shakespeare's sonnets, people can read about love through a Shakespearean lens.

With the transition from "I love you" to "ily," has the human race lost a crucial intimate component? During this month of February, people must make the choice of how to communicate their love to their family, friends, and even themselves. Will a text make the cut? Or can pen be put to paper, bringing old/new life to the art of communication?

CELEBRATING TEACHER FRIENDSHIPS

Melissa Hua '23

Editor-in-Chief

From unlikely friendships to decades-long bonds, our beloved SI teachers have a variety of friendships — here are five of these stories!



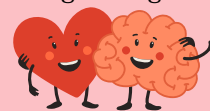
Mr. Joo and Mr. Castro

As friends for the last 15 years, Mr. Castro and Mr. Joo were originally not as close as they were now. 15 years ago, as the departing psychology teacher and incoming educational technology specialist Mr. Castro wanted to give space to Mr. Joo to develop his own reputation as the newest psychology teacher at SI.

Eventually, their friendship would fully blossom as they began to share their classroom. Mr. Joo affirmed that “besides my parents and my wife, there is no one who has had as big of a positive effect on my life as Mr. Castro.” Mr. Castro reiterated this sentiment revealing that

during his own health struggles, Mr. Joo was one of the people (alongside Latin teacher Ms. Curcio) who was consistently there for him and helping him with daily tasks such as eating. For them, their most sacred memories include their morning conversations and shared Kairos retreats.

When asked about a media friendship most similar to their friendship, they pointed at Bert and Ernie as the best example of their “polar opposite personalities.” Mr. Castro emphasized that he looks forward to “growing old with Mr. Joo.”



Mr. Casey, Kennedy, Geraghty, Schwartz

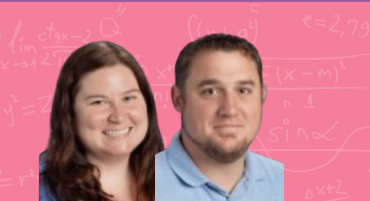
As globetrotters around the world, living together as roommates in places such as Chile, Los Angeles, and Mr. Kennedy's favorite Indiana — this group of friends

have remained by each other's sides from trivia nights, bonding over Notre Dame football games or alumni meetups, to biking across the Bay (Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Geraghty). Although Mr. Geraghty and Mr. Casey had previously met as SI students, the four of them would meet at Notre Dame's graduate teaching program. Since leaving the graduate program, some of their favorite memories include visiting each other at the places where they have respectively taught. Mr. Schwartz, self-described as the “fun one” revealed that their friendship theme song is “We are One Body,” exclusively the John Michael Talbot version.



Mr. Steigeler & Mr. Green

Music is a form of language that almost subconsciously connects people. History teacher Mr. Stiegeler and Jazz Band instructor Mr. Green were both able to bond over their shared love of jazz; they both hope to be able to go to a show by “Tower of Power,” a funk and soul band out of Oakland together. For Mr. Green, who doesn't teach main subject classes at SI, music has also been a way for him to connect with other faculty members at SI.



Ms. O'Reilly & Mr. Jackanich

Many will know Mr. Jackanich and Ms. O'Reilly as teachers of the new course “Linear Algebra and Multivariable Calculus,” but some may not know that Ms. O'Reilly was in Mr. Jackanich's sister's class. Now as teachers, they are bonded in friendship over their shared love of math but also laughed over their drastically different

tastes in TV shows (ranging from reality TV to sci-fi). When asked about the traits that they most admired about each other, Mr. Jackanich stated that he most admired Ms. O'Reilly's constant organization and incredible math talent while Ms. O'Reilly highlighted Mr. Jackanich's humor and ability to relate to students. They cited some of their favorite memories as going on Covid walks together and co-teaching their new class this year!



Ms. Gomes & Dr. Clements

As leaders in the music department, Dr. Clements and Ms. Gomes can point to the Covid pandemic as one of their favorite experiences together— teaching together, providing company and sanity from the Band Room's remote location. In Ms. Gomes' first year as a teacher at SI, Dr. Clements served as a mentor for her adjustment to SI. Beyond music, they both bond over their cats! The song that best represents their friendship is the Bee Gee's *Stayin' Alive*.



FEATURE THE MANY-EDGED SWORD OF CHATGPT

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

Editors-in-Chief

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have begun to switch what were once take-home essays into in-class quick writes. Students have reservations. Megan Stecher '24 stated, "I don't think I could do as well on a quick-write as I would on taking home essays."

How will this affect the future of SI English classes? At the top of both students' and teachers' minds is, "Are there ways for at-home essays to give students more time to sit and develop their thoughts or will we have to solely resort to in-class writing to ensure that students are critically thinking about their essays without resorting to AI tools?"

"I think we [the English Department] fear our students may lose the ability to have a have an original idea, dig into that idea, develop it further, and then feel proud of that final product that they get to at the end of an essay," AP Literature teacher Ms. Moraine said about access to the rhetorical creations of ChatGPT.

For Ms. Moraine, reconciling the innovation of artificial intelligence tools with writing and critical thinking education is a collaborative responsibility. "It's always been the job of an educator to help with motivation, help with integrity, and help kids and students feel confident with their own ideas so that they don't think they need an easy fix," Ms. Moraine said, adding that the realm of education also needs the tech world to assist in managing the ethical use of technology. She also shared ideas for integrating artificial intelligence to amplify classroom lessons, including to display good uses of tone and improve grammar.

Contrastingly, many teachers in the Science and Math department have more positive opinions on this new AI platform. Mr. Oliva, both a Computer Science and Physics teacher stated, "I am absolutely fascinated by it and I want to leverage it as much as I can, but I am horrified by it at the same time." Mr. Oliva explained how he is already using ChatGPT as a teaching and learning tool by asking it to generate test questions, write lesson

plans, and provide code comments. He believes one can either utilize AI to further gain knowledge and experience or misuse it to cheat on your assignments. He reiterated, "If you choose the latter, you will be left behind."

The rise of ChatGPT has raised many questions, such as if there is an ability to detect the use of ChatGPT and similar tools in the classroom setting. This has inspired two such programs designed to detect the presence of AI: Open AI's Text Classifier and Princeton student's Edward Tien's GPTZero. It might be telling that the creators of ChatGPT created their own software to detect AI written text, yet their program only correctly identifies 26% of AI-written text; 9% of the time when reading human-written text, it labels it as AI-written. Additionally, for GPTZero, in order to test one's submission, one has to write more than 250 words for it to

"I am absolutely fascinated by it...but I am horrified by it at the same time. - Mr. Oliva"

identify whether it is written by a bot as GPTZero struggles with short paragraphs.

Stanford University has also released its own program: DetectGPT, which is still in the research phase. Although these programs cannot detect all instances of AI-written text, it seems to be only a matter of time before some organization is able to create a program that has a higher accuracy in regards to detecting AI-written work.

However, it should be no surprise that ChatGPT is not the only artificial intelligence text-bot on the market. Google has also begun to create their own alternative to ChatGPT with Bard. Additionally, search engines like Bing have already begun integrating ChatGPT into their search engines. It is clear that ChatGPT and similar models are here to stay.

Although ChatGPT is currently free to use in its demo stage, the creators of

ChatGPT have already launched a "professional plan" price of \$42 per month as well as a "ChatGPT plus plan" costing \$20 per month. This pricing raises important equity questions. Foremost, given that only the most wealthy will likely be able to afford such a product: will it continue to widen the wealth gap and technological divide?



Graphic by
Jack Quach
'23

For librarian Ms. Brancoli, the issue is a definite concern that comes with the advent of ChatGPT and similar technologies. While she has optimism that ChatGPT "can be used as a real tool for education to help students take their thinking and learning to another level," she also recognized the potential for equity issues, and — on an even larger scale — manipulating trust in AI to spread disinformation. Ms. Brancoli pointed to the Center for Humane Technology, a San Francisco-based nonprofit dedicated to monitoring the ethics of tech usage, as an example of finding solutions to for-profit companies monetizing technology that could cause increased inequity.

Fellow librarian Ms. Wenger expressed a similar cautious optimism for the future of ChatGPT. "As it evolves, I think there's so many wonderful applications for it in terms of education," she said, "but if we approach it as a way of giving away an essential part of ourselves, then that's where the danger comes." Ms. Wenger described the new digital tool as a way to improve the curation of books and resources for research projects.

Is ChatGPT a tool for cheating and educational disparities? The next major step in human and technological advancement? It's most likely some blend of both, but ask anyone the question and you will receive a broad diversity of answers. And, sifting through the complexities of AI and ChatGPT while entering a new age of interacting with and communicating through technology, it's a diversity that's sorely needed.

The ChatGPT Survey

282 SI students weighed in on ChatGPT. These graphics depict their feedback!

DRAWING THE LINE

Percentage of students that said this action is "cheating" or "plagiarism."

Having ChatGPT edit grammar
14.2%

Asking ChatGPT for an idea of an essay or writing
37.7%

Having ChatGPT "improve" and/or change the tone of an essay
39.5%

Asking ChatGPT for part of/a paragraph of an essay
68%

Asking ChatGPT to write a full essay/assignment
85.8%

Asking ChatGPT to write a full assignment, and then changing some of the wording
82.2%

None of the above is cheating/plagiarism
10.3%

Should we restrict ChatGPT?

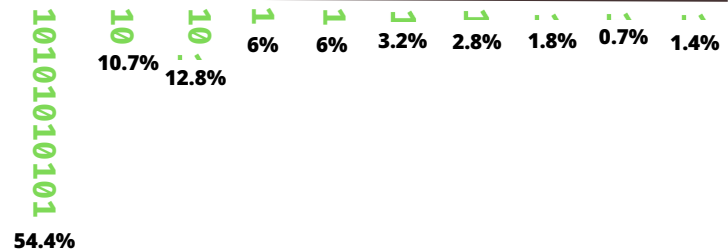
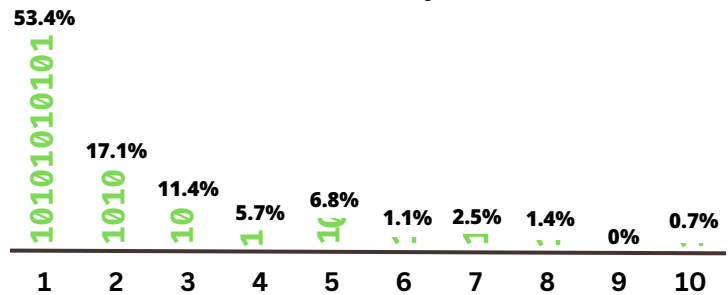


Does ChatGPT have a consciousness?

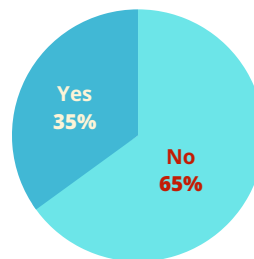
No
93.6%

Yes
6.4%

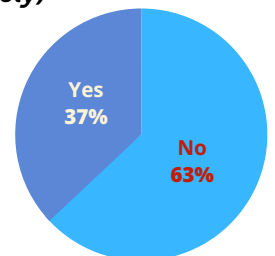
How likely are you to use ChatGPT on an essay?
(1 is least likely)



How likely are you to use ChatGPT for everyday communication (text, email, etc.)?
(1 is least likely)



Have you used ChatGPT before?



Do you know anyone who used ChatGPT on an assignment?

Can you guess which of these poems was written by ChatGPT?

Aquamarine Ambiance

I stand by the ocean, admiring its shore
Its depths contain a hidden lore
Taking in a breath of the breeze,
I rest and relax as I please.

Joyful Symphony

A world so vast and full of glee
Where happiness is there to see
Where love and laughter fill the air
And friends are always there to care



Be the first to turn in the AI-generated poem to Room 119, and you will get a special prize!

Snowfall

Snowflakes float down as if in a dance
They put me in a glorious trance
One falls and slips a kiss on my nose
It blooms, then wilts, just like a rose

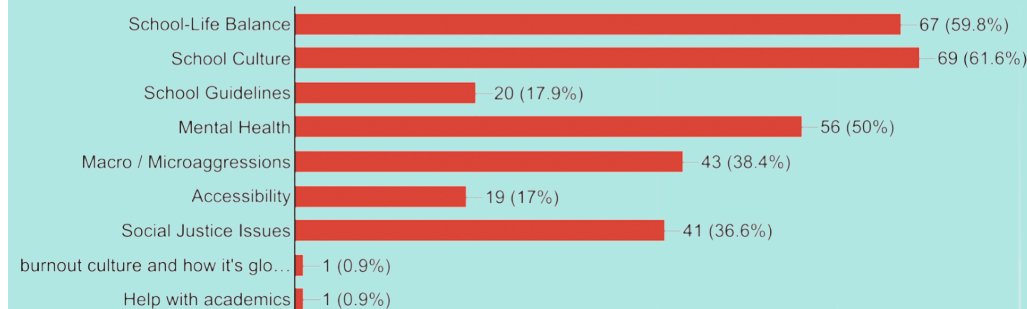
WHERE IS OUR VOICE?

Anthony Jin '24

Contributing Editor

One of SI's core tenets is "to be [people] for and with others." To do that, we must be willing to witness each other's experiences and speak candidly about issues of our time. Communication is key. Given this, do we engage in great conversation around issues that affect us? To answer that question, we need to take a look at what issues are prevalent in our community. Through a form was open to the whole student body, over 100 responses from different people within SI were collected.

Which of the topics would you like to see discussed more at SI?



responses. One recurring topic that emerged reflects intersectional experiences at SI, more specifically, how race, gender, and orientation can compound with one another. Another point of discussion is the mental health of students, particularly within a culture of packed academics, sports, and co-curricular schedules.

The question still remains: how can we have these conversations on campus? The truth is—there is no set spot where these conversations can occur. While many students referenced English classrooms as a safe place for these types of conversations, many more felt that there are not enough spaces at SI

dedicated to talking about these issues. We are left to wonder, why not?

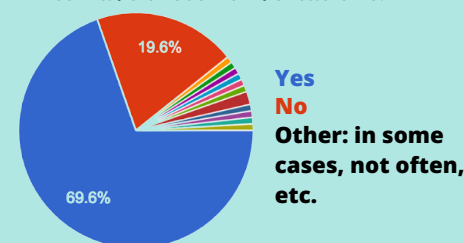
In the early 2000s, SI's Counseling Department hosted "Brown Bag Lunch Sessions," about topics like these. They were informal discussions during lunchtime facilitated by Counselors. Maybe our school can bring something like these discussions back to campus.

How do we listen to a diverse range of voices, and how do we make them matter? Those are questions that we hope students and our school administration can come together to address. SI, where are our voices?

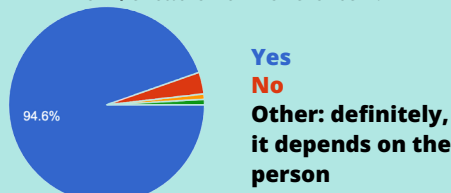
Within SI, discrimination is still present, in both overt and covert ways. From the student perspective, these issues often are dismissed or kept secret, creating the perception that nothing is being done. How can we address these problems in a more direct way?

While these percentages present a bird's-eye view of the topics we should discuss on campus more, the open-ended questions allowed for more specific

Do you think there are spaces at SI to have these conversations?



Do you think SI should have these conversations more often?



SPOTLIGHT

Otto Dreier '23

THE POLYGLOT CLUB

Contributing Editor

It always brings me joy to learn about new perspectives and experiences. To that end, I learned about the Polyglot Club today. A brief context: A polyglot is one who can speak multiple different languages. For those of you intellectuals out there, C-3P0 from Star Wars is an example of a polyglot. Leaders Grace Brady '23 and Melissa Hua '23 shared some insights on SI's Polyglot Club.

In the words of Grace Brady, the Polyglot Club is a club where students "Learn about other cultures and countries...by learning about their language." Polyglot Club members are exposed to new perspectives and ideas through languages different from their own.

Through these unique experiences and knowledge, Polyglot Club members are able to see the world from a whole new light and broaden their horizons. The Polyglot Club fosters growth through learning of other students' experiences and sharing different languages." Melissa Hua stated that it is necessary to "speak a different language that is not traditionally represented in the SI curriculum [because] a lot of people speak different languages."



Polyglot Club members gather for a club meeting on the French language

At SI, we value diversity, equity, and inclusion because we each bring our own unique experiences and perspectives to the table. Oftentimes we get so caught up in our own studies that we forget to look around and see the uniqueness and brilliance of our classmates. The Polyglot Club allows students to acknowledge our fellow classmates for what they each bring to the table.

Grace Brady stated that "Students learn different aspects of the language" [whilst] being able to have a laugh [while concurrently] learning something." The February 8th meeting focused on different "Love Languages," and a great time was had by all.

MASS SHOOTINGS ROCK CALIFORNIA

Grace Brady '23

Managing Editor

Monterey Park, Half Moon Bay, Oakland, San Diego, and Beverly Hills have all been host to the recent string of mass shootings which have rocked California in just the first month of 2023.

The first in the onslaught of these shootings occurred during a Lunar New Year celebration in Monterey Park, LA County. A gunman fired 42 rounds into Star Ballroom Dance Studio, resulting in the deaths of 11 people and injuring 9 others, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

The gunman was later found dead from self-inflicted gunshots. Eva Lee '23 noted, “[it’s] very scarring...it seems as if our federal government has...no grasp on responding to these things.” Less than 48 hours after the Monterey Parks shooting, seven were killed and one injured in a work-place dispute at Mountain Mushroom Farm in Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County. The gunman was apprehended.



A Vigil at Monterey Park (Source: NY Times)

This time in Half Moon Bay. Tragedy upon tragedy.” San Mateo County District Attorney Stephen Wagstaffe called the shooting an “unprecedented tragedy” in a statement, and vowed to “aggressively prosecute” the perpetrator. Later in Oakland, 1 person was killed and 7 injured by an unknown gunman. In San Diego, a shooting spree left 1 dead and 3 injured. And in Beverly Crest, LA, 3 were killed and 4 injured in a shooting.

“ **It feels like our state is falling apart. It seems like this type of thing is happening more and more everyday.**

Andonis Gullotta '23

Masey Milham '23 expressed a sense of confusion over the proximity of the shootings, saying, “It’s awful. I don’t know what to say...it was shocking that they happened so close together.”

The slew of violence has raised calls for increased gun control from some, while others maintain that California already has hefty gun control laws, so more creative strategies for combating gun violence must be employed.

In the wake of the shootings, Governor Newsom commented on varied gun policies across the country, saying, “We can’t do this alone. And with all due respect, we feel like we are.”

It’s important to remember the resources SI offers to process tragic events such as these, especially when they hit so close home. If one feels impacted by these events, take advantage of trusted adults and the counseling center.

Lucas Liang '26

Contributing Editor

A HOUSE DIVIDED

As 2023 began, a new Congress heralded in a new government as the Republican Party gained a slim, five-seat majority in the House of Representatives. However, the stark divide within the House Republican Conference was quickly evident when the House began voting for a speaker—a position normally given to the leader of the majority party and without which the House can do nothing except adjourn.

For Kevin McCarthy, the incumbent House Republican Leader, that task proved exceedingly difficult as about 20 members blocked his ascension to the speakership.

Eventually, Rep. McCarthy was able to negotiate down the number of Republican detractors to just six, who allowed McCarthy to win the speakership.

The chaotic start for Speaker McCarthy has brought into question his ability to effectively lead the chamber, especially since many of his concessions during negotiations have significantly weakened the office of speaker.

Even if Speaker McCarthy is unable to corral his party into passing some pieces of his legislative agenda, the speaker and Congress as a whole will be forced to agree on certain “must-pass” legislation.

[See the Inside SI website at insidesi.siprep.org to read a longer version of this article.](https://insidesi.siprep.org)

THE BRIDGES BENEATH OUR FEET

Senna Nijagal '24 & Bradley Benton '24

Managing & Contributing Editor

After more than ten years of design, construction, and testing, San Francisco's Central Subway extension of the T-Third line has been completed. The extension reaches 1.7 miles through SoMa, Union Square, and Chinatown, and provides quicker and smoother service.

The project was more than 20% over budget, with a total cost of \$1.95 billion. This is San Francisco's first new subway in over 40 years, and the opening ceremony was celebrated by many, including Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Mayor London Breed. The innovative leaders behind this project envisioned over 40,000 riders would take the new addition of the Central Subway by 2030. This will not only allow for quicker commutes for many residents, but it will also boost the economic recovery for certain neighborhoods.

New access to these neighborhoods will bring in more riders from the community to stores, restaurants, and other attractions. As Phil Ting, the Assembly Budget Chair stated, "State and local partnerships demonstrate that all neighborhoods deserve the convenience and economic vitality public transit can bring.

In fact, connecting underserved communities to other parts of a city is now a priority in other transportation projects throughout California." The new subway line has also had a large focus on bridging communities. As Tacing Parker, the senior executive director at the Bayview Hunters Point YMCA said, "The Central Subway is beneficial to the youth and families we serve, building bridges and creating pathways between so many rich and vibrant cultural communities. It further solidifies our commitment to strengthening the fabric of our community throughout San Francisco."



*Mural Yangge:
Dance of the Bride
at the Chinatown
Rose-Pak station*

In addition to its focus on bridging communities, the Central Subway Line Project has had a large impact on the art culture in public spaces. Each station features innovative works of art from artists around the globe. "Art connects us all. These ten new public works of art not only add beauty and character to the stations but also provide an opportunity for locally, nationally and internationally renowned artists to showcase their talents and contribute to the cultural vibrancy of our city," said the Director of Cultural Affairs, Ralph Remington.

The ten pieces in the Union Square/Market Street, Chinatown, Yerba Buena/Moscone, and SoMa/Brennan Street stations are transforming the perception of all that public transportation can bring to cities.

The project has been able to incorporate fascinating art works in commuting structures, incorporate communities that have been historically excluded from the economic benefits of our city's transportation system, and prove that public transportation should be brought to each and every community in San Francisco.



*The revised Muni
Metro map with
the Central
Subway (SFMTA)*



Don't Moraine
on my parade -
Be my
Valentine!





It would be a
huge Blaesing
if you were my
Valentine!



A MATCH MADE IN ETHICS CLASS

Addie Vida '24 & Isabella Kelly '24

Contributing Editors

Although they appear in classic rom-coms, bouquets of flowers and picnic dates are not common in our generation. In fact, hookup culture is typically the norm. Every year, the Ethics teachers assign juniors with a simple task — ask someone out on a date. This is based on Professor Kerry Cronin's "Dating Project," an assignment she annually gives to her students at Boston College. The rules of the project are simple—ask someone out on a date, in person, with the goal of eventually developing an intimate connection. Cronin defines intimacy as "the distinct feeling that I matter to the other person."

When these sixteen and seventeen year-old high school students first heard of this project, there were widespread feelings of confusion, skeptic laughter, and questions. However, as students became more adjusted to the window of possibilities, and with the chance to form connections without the distractions of phones, they became excited to take someone on a fun date. For instance, students played mini-golf, ate lunch, ice skated, and even hiked together!

Mr. Lynch, one of the Ethics teachers stated, "Reflect on the experience of the virtue of courage and vulnerability and sexuality...it's an opportunity."

Many students were also in favor of the assignment, agreeing that this project opened up the doors to mature and undistracted interactions, developed conversational skills, and built deeper relationships. Some students took this as a chance to get to know someone whom they only had surface level connections with. Others summoned the courage to ask their crush, hoping to develop their connection on a romantic level.

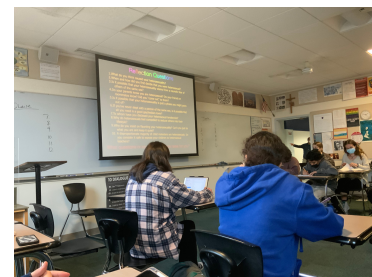
"Reflect on the experience of the virtue of courage and vulnerability and sexuality... it's an opportunity."

Mr. Lynch, Contextual Ethics Teacher



Professor Kerry Cronin, the inspiration behind the famed ethics date

Students learning in Mr. Lynch's Contextual Ethics class



"This gives you an excuse...a free ticket to interact with someone else...you don't always have those opportunities," remarked Liam Fitzgibbon '24. Not only does this assignment develop intimate bonds through shared vulnerability and trust, but it teaches students how to hold a continuous, flowing conversation. Frantically digging through your mind for a new conversation topic to combat the awkward silences was a universal experience during these dates. At the end of the 45-90 minutes, everyone knew exponentially more about their date.

Despite the appealing and exciting nature of the Ethics date, many people were not enthusiastic about it, did not follow the rules, or chose not to go on it at all. For students who are more introverted, it takes a lot of courage and vulnerability to follow through with a project that creates a tremendous amount of discomfort.

"It seems fun when you think about it but in reality it puts a lot of pressure on people who don't put themselves out there...it's not really ethical to put all this pressure on the kids," Junior Tutoe '24 reflected.

However, sometimes the best things start with a risk, a leap of faith. Though it might be nerve-racking or unfamiliar at first, the Ethics date calls us to embrace the discomfort, and pushes us to reach out in search of an intimate connection and an unbreakable bond.

Kate McFarland '24

Contributing Editor

Do you want to make your Valentine's Day special, but save some money while doing so? Here are some fun and cheap date ideas in the Bay Area!

1. Grab some sandwiches from the Sunset's very own George's Zoo or Java Beach and watch the sunset at Ocean Beach. You can do this by driving and parking, or it is an easy walk, too!

2. If you are not afraid of heights, go to Golden Gate Park's SkyStar Wheel. With its vibrant lights of all colors and amazing view of San Francisco, it is an unforgettable experience. For this date, make sure you choose a clear night.

3. Go for some milkshakes and delicious burgers at Mel's Drive In! With its fantastic old-fashioned style, Mel's Diner is enjoyable for anyone. They have locations on Geary Blvd., Mission St., and Lombard St.!

4. Feel like you are in your own world up at Bernal Heights swing! Make sure to bundle up in warm jackets and wear comfortable shoes. This view of the Golden Gate Bridge and the rooftops of San Francisco neighborhoods is well worth the walk!

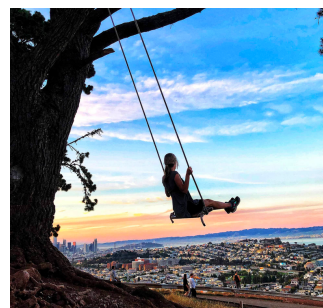
Whether you want to hangout with friends or take someone on a date, these locations will provide plenty of fun and amazing memories!



Java Beach Cafe, near Ocean Beach
Photo: Java Beach Cafe



SkyStar Wheel
Photo: San Francisco Chronicle



The Bernal Heights Swing
Photo: Bernal Heights

VALENTINE'S DAY: ONLY FOR LOVERS?

Maya Altman '24 & Catie Summe '25

Contributing Editors

When you walk into a grocery store in the month of February, aisles are filled with red roses, teddy bears, and chocolates. Couples all around you are becoming excited to celebrate with their significant others and to see their newest display of affection wrapped in red ribbon. And while those who are in relationships may enjoy a romantic date with their partner or a serenade of roses, what about the rest of us?

We could start buying Valentines for our friends and family and sharing our love in a more authentic way, like focusing more on telling our loved ones how grateful we are for them. "Spending time with your loved ones and reminding them how important they are and how grateful you are for them is so important," said Anastasia Mifsud '25. For people without a boyfriend or girlfriend, the holiday doesn't have to be boring. We can make it special with all loved ones, and spend time with them.



Trader Joe's Valentines Section

When asked for her opinion, Grace Miller '24 said, "While I think Valentine's Day can be a meaningful thing for couples, I far prefer it as a day to celebrate other loved ones in my life such as my friends and family. I also think the idea of honoring self-love on Valentine's should be more popularized in our society."

"It doesn't matter if you have a boyfriend or anything, Valentine's Day is about celebrating the people you love in your life," said Madeline Klanjac '25.

Valentine's Day isn't bad. It's great to celebrate your partners and have a day to do something special. But it is also important for people to broaden the holiday, so that it may be enjoyable for everyone.

"RAP SESSIONS" ADDRESSES BLACK-JEWISH ALLIANCE

Ella Liang '23, Stella Hong '24 & Julianna Alegria '26

Associate Editor-In-Chief and Contributing Editors

On January 17, SI's Rap Sessions presented Beyond Kanye and Kyrie: Renewing the Historing Black-Jewish Alliance. In this event, attended by over 400 individuals, Bakari Kitwana, W. Kamau Bell, Mira Stern, Dr. Courtney Desiree Morris, and Adam Mansbach discussed ways to move beyond anti-Semitic and racist comments toward building a bridge between the Black and Jewish communities.

To begin the discussion, Adam Mansbach gave some context on the relationship between the Black and Jewish communities. He touched on the great progress made in the Civil Rights Movement from their alliance but also the tension between the two groups based on Jewish individuals' proximity to whiteness.

Mira Stern added to the conversation by noting the harsh punishment for Black individuals around anti-semitism compared to white individuals. She described this continuous cycle as "upholding anti-blackness, even when trying to condemn anti-semitism." With Mansbach and Stern's insights, the SI community and the larger world can find ways to address these contradictions and find common ground to bring the two communities together.

W. Kamau Bell brought up how social media's accessibility allows people without proper background knowledge to enter spaces and "end up saying inappropriate things." On another point, even in well-intentioned, educated spaces, conversations surrounding culture, race, and power "will be messy since everyone comes from different backgrounds and we might not understand each other." Despite our differences, he was adamant that we had



Bakari Kitwana, W. Kamau Bell, Mira Stern, Dr. Courtney Desiree Morris, and Adam Mansbach stopped by SI as part of the Rap sessions series hosted throughout the United States!

a common enemy: dismantling white supremacy, which he details in his episode "Tree of Life" from the series *United Shades of America*.

As students at SI, we should expose ourselves to different opinions and space so that we can better inform our beliefs and overall judgements. Niamh Concannon, a junior at SI commented on the event stating, "It was refreshing to hear about the historical perspective and collaboration of alliances, instead of focusing mainly on the titles of Kanye and Kyrie's societal reputations."

As the youth generation, our community should not be influenced by perpetuated comments of idolized figures in America but rather, we should learn how to grow from experiences, listen to the knowledge of educated individuals, and highlight the unity in society. SI's Rap Sessions was a crucial discussion for our school community to listen to.

“

**We all must be
fluent in each other's history.**”

Courtney Morris

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH THE BSU'S BHM PLAYLIST

Olivia Leigh '23

Managing Editor

Andra Day's "Rise Up" -
Raven Shaw

Tems' "The Key" -
Reann Phillips

Common & John Legend's
"Glory" - Andre Ignoffo

Beyonce's "Brown Skin
Girl" - Chloe Ovbiagele



Kendrick Lamar's
"Alright" - Mia
Delaney

Ms. Lauryn Hill's "Doo Wop
(That Thing)" - Olivia Leigh

Jordin Sparks'
"One Wing" -
Msgana Keleta

Spanning everything from jazz to gospel to rap, and even indie, Black music was and remains an integral part of Black culture. Undoubtedly, music is a central part of Black History month, boldly expressing pride and empowerment, and honoring our past, throughout the celebratory month of February.

BSU leadership compiled a playlist of the 2022-23 BSU Leadership team's favorite songs for Black History Month. Pulling from everything from the Billboard to film soundtracks, our songs range from spiritual to danceable, political to confidence-boosting. Enjoy!

WILDCATS SPLIT BRUCE BASKETBALL GAMES

Alex Salentine '25 & Julia Pellegrini '26

Contributing Editors

Continued from Front Page

As the minutes went by, the Irish started to turn over the ball, a pattern which would plague them throughout the game.

The third quarter was where the game really turned in favor of the 'Cats. The Irish continued to turn the ball over at an unsustainable rate, which affected them in a visible way. The Irish's trap strategy for containing the Wildcats was backfiring on them due to excellent and far passes by the 'Cats.

Additionally, the excellent rebounding for the Wildcats, led by Raymond Whitley, all contributed to SHC beginning to unravel. All three Freshmen, Labagh, Hutcherson, and Whitley contributed this quarter, with a combined total of 28 points scored between them. To top off an incredible quarter, junior Marcus Bast hit a buzzer-beater 3-pointer from well beyond the arc.

The 4th quarter was dominated by Caeden Hutcherson and Raymond Whitley, who combined for a total of 14 of the 21 points scored by the Wildcats in the quarter, which justifies the near

continual chants of, "He's a freshman!" SI cleaned up and completed their dominant victory over SHC with a final score of SI 78 SHC 58, a dominant victory.

The crowd for SI was also a huge influence, as Assistant Coach Jamal Baugh said, "If you can control the noise and execute, you will always be victorious." The SI student section brought a lot of energy to the game, with their encouraging and loud chant which urged the Wildcats on.



Wildcats celebrate the victory with a raucous SI crowd.

On January 25, the Saint Ignatius Wildcats took the court hoping to take home the win of the series. The energy was high, and USF was flocked by SI students all donning black. The three Seniors Emily Ennis, Brigitte Mahoney, and Jaclyn McDonough started the game; accompanied by Junior Mackenzie Eggert and soph-

omore Meaghan Manning. The team gave it their all, but the shots just weren't falling, resulting in a 54-36 Irish victory.

Both teams marched onto the court hyped up with energy. Wildcat Nation brought next level enthusiasm for their team, so much that the officials had to ask for the music to stop playing. This energy carried through to the Wildcat's defense with high intensity ball pressure and multiple steals from their full court press.

Fired up from the beginning, Senior Brigitte Mahoney left her heart on the court trying to bring her team to victory. Scoring all of the Cat's 10 points in the first quarter, Brigitte ended the game with 16 points and a perfect free throw percentage. From her first three, it was clear that she wouldn't stop fighting and trying to lead her team to victory, despite injury to one of their leading scorers.



Brigitte Mahoney '23 leads a fast break.

The Cats never go down without a fight, but sometimes a little more is needed. "We played our hearts out, but what it came down to was our final effort and pushing through at the end," explained Frosh Julia Alcantara.

The effort, energy, and intention was there, but the ball didn't bounce our way. The Bruce-Mahoney series is now tied at 2-2, leaving the baseball game as the deciding factor of who gets to take home the trophy.

SOCCER SEASON WRAPS UP

Ethan Qua '23

Managing Editor

As the winter wraps up and spring tryouts begin, the boys and girls varsity soccer teams are preparing for the postseason. Both teams have seen lots of regular season success, boasting 12-4-3 (men's) and 11-3-4 (women's) records respectively. Recently both teams celebrated their senior days, resulting in a huge turnout from parents, friends, and classmates.

The women's team shutout Valley Christian in a statement win while the men's team pulled out a dramatic victory against St. Francis. When asked about the soccer team's success, Joseph Fisher '23 commented, "Everyone just does their part and puts in work off of the field. It's second nature to pick

Odhran Kenny '25 looks to take possession and control over a match against the St. Francis Lancers



our teammates up when things get challenging." What's even more impressive is that all SI soccer teams hold winning records up to this point. The women's JV and Freshman teams have combined 17 wins, yet only have 3 losses on the season!

The Wildcats fight hard against a tough opponent



Stella Etcheverry '23 sprints across the pitch with the ball in toe

WINTER SPORTS UPDATE

Jack Stecher '23

Editor-in-Chief

The Winter Sports are wrapping another competitive and successful season of Wildcat Athletics. Congratulations to all of the Seniors participating in their given sport and good luck to Spring athletes! Go Cats! As of 2/13/23

Women's Basketball**Record: 12-11**

The Varsity women lose their three game winning streak after a 62-55 loss to SHC. They finish off their regular season 12-11 and look to the playoffs to continue their season

Wildcats are looking forward to bringing fierce competition to the playoffs

Men's Basketball**Record: 13-10**

The Varsity Men look to finish off their regular season off strong in the Jungle game against Serra on 2/14 after two tough back-to-back loses against Bellarmine and Mitty



The Cats took game 3 of the Bruce-Mahoney

Women's Soccer**Record: 11-3-4**

The Varsity women fought hard but came up short in a tightly contested 2-1 loss to Mitty. They finished off the regular stellar season with a tie against St. Francis on 2/11.



Wildcats celebrating their Senior Day

Men's Soccer**Record: 12-4-3**

After coming off of a tough 1-0 loss to Mitty. The Varsity men had a thriller of a game heading into the 88th minute tied the Wildcats squeezed out a 3-2 victory over St. Francis on 2/11



Cats celebrating their commitment to SI soccer

ATHLETES BEYOND SI

On February 1st during Upper Lunch, four Seniors were celebrated for their hard work. These students worked hard for where they are both in the classroom and their respective sports allowing them to make a commitment in college to their respective school. Spencer Leung, Jacob Young, Stella Etcheverry, and Kreekor Karaguezian signed their commitments to play and serve their respective school for the next four years. Good luck and congratulations!



Media Day on February 1st

AWARDS SEASON: A STRIDE IN ASIAN RECOGNITION

Naomi Ko '24

Managing Editor

This year, a little movie called *Everything Everywhere All At Once* swept the Golden Globe nominations and garnered two of its biggest awards. Michelle Yeoh, who plays the main character of Evelyn, received the trophy for Best Actress in a Musical/Comedy.

Her speech was profound, and she asserted herself in a big way. Besides thanking her costars and directors, she talked about coming to Hollywood as a minority. "Someone said, 'You speak English?'" and I replied, "Well, the flight was about 13 hours long, so I learned on the way," Yeoh said, laughing.

As Yeoh continued speaking, the pianist started playing the exit music around her two-minute mark, interrupting her speech. Yeoh playfully silenced him, remarking, "Shut up, please. I can beat you up, okay? I'm serious." For many Asian women, it's a universal experience to try and make them-selves small for others. Yeoh, however, insisted on taking up space, continuing to speak about the Asian-American experience. She also affirmed Jamie Lee Curtis (good-naturedly referring to her as "my hot dog lover"), Stephanie Hsu, her on screen daughter, and Ke Huy

Quan, her on screen husband (who won for Best Supporting Actor). "This is also for all the shoulders that I stand on, all who came before me, who look like me and all who are going on this journey with me forward," Yeoh closed her speech with. "So thank you for believing in us, thank you so much."

Yeoh's triumph at the Golden Globes was not the end of her achievements with *Everything Everywhere All At Once*. On January 24, 2023, Yeoh made history as the first Asian to be nominated for the Best Actress Oscar. "I am overwhelmed and overjoyed with happiness!...It is truly the role of a lifetime," she captioned her Instagram announcement post. The 95th Academy Awards will be held on March 12, 2023.



Michelle Yeoh accepts her Best Actress Golden Globe Award.

Photo from People.com

ARTS AND ATHLETICS: NEW EXPERIENCES

Cece Hammond '24

Contributing Editor

Contrary to popular belief, the athletic and artistic scenes of SI are not completely separate; rather, they constantly intersect. Students are often both athletes and artists. Both artistic creativity and exercise have positive effects on one's wellness, so it's no wonder students are apt to reach out to both spheres of SI.

A common misconception is that athletes are only athletes. Grace Schwarz '23, a Carleton College women's basketball commit, also plays the violin. "Being an athlete, musician, and artist has really opened me up to new experiences, because I've noticed that at SI athletes often get pushed into one box," Schwarz said. "I really enjoy meeting new people, and being a musician has been a universal way to make new friends. People don't always expect me to be an athlete, and also expect me to be able to play the violin and draw a tree. I think being competent in many things is a really good life skill."

Athletes at SI have also found they appreciate fulfilling their fine arts requirements. Jo Lum '23, one of four softball captains currently enrolled in Dance 1B, looks forward to dance class when she wakes up in the morning. Lum shared, "I love starting the day off being surrounded by the calmness of Weigand, and learning new dance techniques everyday. I'm genuinely grateful for the opportunity." While Lum was not originally involved in the arts at SI, her graduation requirement encouraged her to embrace new experiences and creativity.

If you are a freshman athlete dreading taking a fine art next year, don't worry! You will most likely enjoy the class, learn many new skills, and make new friends. Don't fall for the trap of being boxed in—it will only hold you back from your full potential.



Student singers at the SI Winter Choral Concert.



Meaghan Manning '25 dribbles up the court..

PERFORMING ARTS ASSEMBLY

Samantha Major '23Managing Editor

"Who doesn't love jazz?" Wise words spoken by Nicholas Graham '23 when asked about SI's performing arts assembly. On January 31st, he joined the Jazz Band and Symphonic Orchestra as a saxophonist and violinist in performing for SI's entire student body. Along with SI's instrumental music department, students and faculty saw performances from Dance Workshop, Mixed and Chamber Choir, and a sneak peek of the upcoming Spring Musical, *Into the Woods* (plus pre-assembly music performed by The Shades). Presenting SI's talented artists, this annual event is an effort from each department and student involved.

Chloe Ovbiagele '23, a member of Dance Workshop, shared that she felt nervous going into it, but after performing, was both relieved and energized. Like many of the performing seniors, she also described the bittersweet feeling that came with participating in the assembly for the last time. Understandably, performing is a nerve-wracking experience, so to do so in front of the whole school is a praiseworthy act.

Angelina Melis '23, the concertmaster of SI's Symphonic Orchestra, said that for her, "Performing is a great learning experience and really fun. [She] like[s] how people who see you in the classroom get to see your creative side." Similarly, Chloe Dalzell '23, who will be playing *The Baker's Wife* in *Into the Woods*, specified that a highlight for her was performing the song "Moments in the Woods" for the student body, and said that "I absolutely loved watching my fellow castmates Sammy and Amelia tell such a story in their songs. I feel very fortunate to be around such talented peers and to be able to do what I love in front of the school community."

Like Dalzell, many of the students involved in the assembly appreciate most seeing their counterparts perform. Shane O'Brien '23, a member of Mixed Choir, shared that he especially enjoyed the orchestra's performance of "The Typewriter."

While the assembly serves to showcase SI's talented dancers, singers, musicians, and actors, it is also meant to promote student attendance at official performances. Most of SI's performing arts put on only a few performances near the end of each semester, so the assembly allows students not able to attend the fall/winter shows to witness their peers' creative passions. Tiffany Fong '23, a baritone saxophonist in the Jazz Band and Orchestra, explained, "There's a lot of focus on sports at SI, so the performing arts assembly is a chance for the whole school to see what we've been working on over the school year."

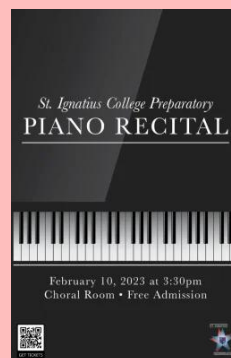
Moreover, seeing the performing arts in action may spark some artistic inspiration in the audience. Ovbiagele enthusiastically put it: "I want to encourage people to continue supporting the arts as there are so many hidden talents within the student body at SI! I also want to encourage people to please join the arts as well. I started dance as a freshman at SI and it completely changed my life! Step out of your comfort zone because you never know what you may discover!"

Talent is of no shortage at SI, and the performing arts assembly was just one way to show that. Be sure to look out for SI's performing arts' posters around campus, detailing the upcoming spring performances!

Dancers, left, and cast members of the spring musical Into the Woods, right, showcase their talents.



PIANO RECITAL

Aidan Stecher '23Managing Editor

Summer Jackson '23, above, one of the student performers



Audience members applaud the performers.

On February 10, SI students performed in front of a live audience at the 2023 annual Piano Recital. The students showcased their talents by playing famous piano pieces!



The orchestra, left, and Jazz Band, right, perform their musical pieces.

LESSONS FROM A ROM-COM: HOW TO SPICE UP YOUR

Tiffany Fong '23

VALENTINE'S DAY

Contributing Editor

Generally speaking, one should never take advice from a rom-com, especially when it comes to love. But people do it anyway, so luckily our writers from *Inside SI* took the time to filter through four popular Rom-Coms for the best date ideas to make Valentine's Day a bit spicier.

Roman Holiday

Black and white may be going out of style, but we still can't help but be hung over this beloved rom-com classic. I mean, a day of sightseeing over Rome with the amazing Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck? We can't say no to that! While we can't say that you'll be able to take your partner motorbiking around the streets of Rome, we can offer you an equally cute alternative of biking together around Golden Gate Park. You can't forget the added bonus of cute geese, which only make the date more enjoyable.

10 Things I Hate About You

Who knew Shakespeare could make great modern rom-com material? While there are some many iconic moments in this movie (like a certain long haired heath ledger), Kat's poem grabbed our heart the most. This week, try channeling your inner quill and write your partner a poem! You don't need to hate someone or read their mind in order to make you rhyme, instead be heartfelt and simple. A little phrase may truly go a long way!

Crazy Rich Asians

Crazy Rich Asians redefined the essentials in a good romcom: a power couple, Awkwafina, extravagant settings, and diversity. While we will never forget the mahjong showdown or Rachel's wedding entrance, the family dumpling making activity did hit a little close to home. This Valentine's day, try cooking some comfort dishes together. We can't guarantee that it'll taste great, but it's a great way to get to know each other better while making something together. Plus it's always fun to get messy in the kitchen.

To All the Boys I've Loved

What do you do when you have an intense crush on someone you know? Lara Jean-it by writing a letter to your partner! What about them makes you smile everyday? Let them know of it! Besides, you'll be spared from the friend-zone or the sudden confession reaction (awkie...) because you're way past that stage. But remember, snail mail doesn't get instantly sent! Remember to send it at least 3 days in advance if you want it to arrive right on time.

Aidan Stecher '23

MOVIE/TV RECOMMENDATIONS

Managing Editor

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish

PG | 7.9/10 IMDb | 95% RT | Theaters

The sequel, *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish*, expands not only on the legend of Puss in Boots but also explores deeper concepts about family, anxiety, and even death. *The Last Wish* takes a different approach from the previous films in the Shrek franchise and decides to animate in a hybrid of the comic-book style from Spider-man: Into the Spider-verse with painting brushstrokes. Just as the sequel's animation brings the story to life, *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* has rejuvenated the franchise all together. *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* keeps the same humor and twists on storybook tales from the original films, while also introducing new characters, themes, and concepts.

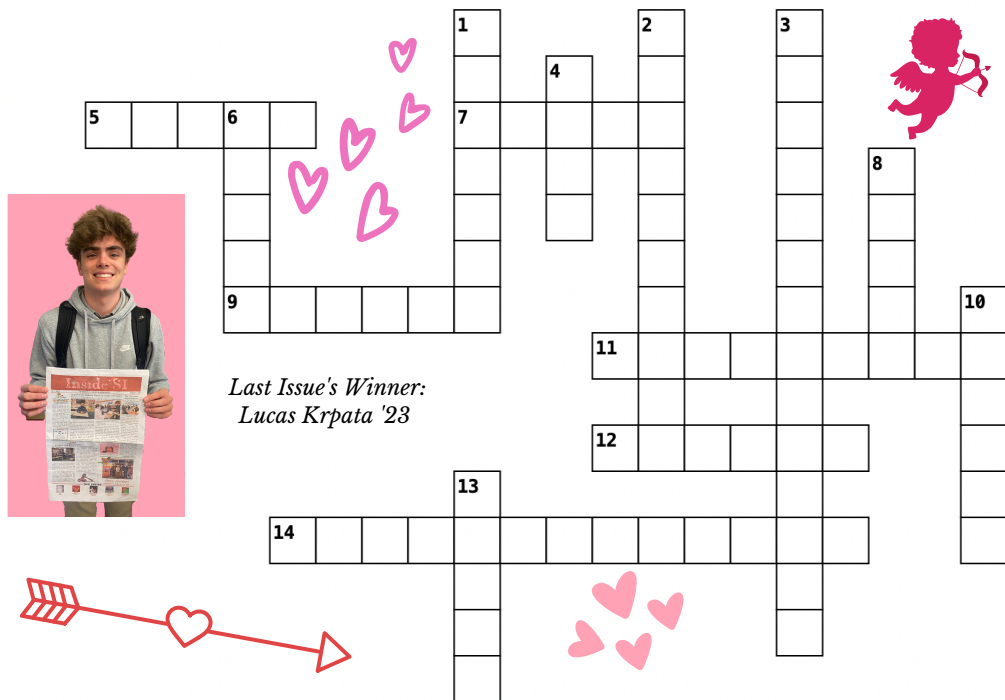
The Last of Us

TV-MA | 9.3/10 IMDb | 96% RT | HBO Max

Currently, *The Last of Us* is amidst its first season and releasing new episodes every Sunday. Based on the video game bearing the same name, *The Last of Us* depicts a world taken over by zombie-like creatures called "infected" due to a pandemic. The show takes the premise from the game and creates a thoughtful and atmospheric gritty world. The show perfectly balances staying true to the source material while also being unafraid to deviate. With great performances from Pedro Pascal, Bella Ramsey, and Nick Offerman, *The Last of Us* abandons some of the video game action to focus on the characters, their hope for survival, and connection towards each other.



Leave your movie/tv recommendations for a chance to be in the next issue here:



*Last Issue's Winner:
Lucas Krpata '23*

ACROSS

5. SI's literary magazine
7. What Catholics will receive next Wednesday
9. Year of the _____
11. Feb. 14 Saint
12. Jan. 16 holiday
14. This issue's feature

DOWN

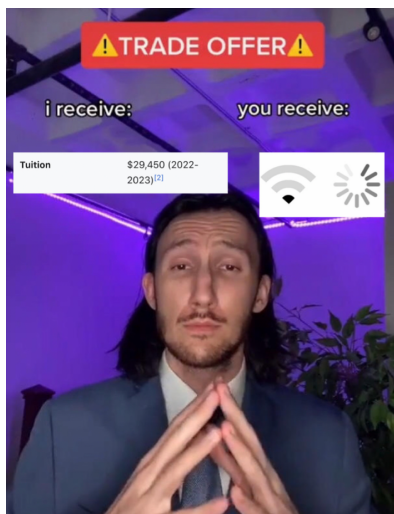
1. EICs' article topic
2. January Bruce-Mahoney sport
3. SI Fashion Show theme
4. Famous groundhog's name
6. _____ New Year on Jan. 22
8. St. Valentine's birthplace
10. Symbols of love
13. Baby with bow and arrow

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!

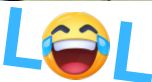
Spencer Phillips '24
Zaid Sharaiha '23

MEMES

Contributing Editors



**The English Department's
secretary closely monitoring
the JWE prompt**



MORE ST. IGNATIUS VALENTINES



Don't make
the Wong
decision! Be
my valentine!



Reese-ently, I
haven't been
able to take my
mind off you!



Will you go
Boland watch a
movie with me
on Feb. 14?



**VOLUME 71 ISSUE 6
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