



# CATS CLAIM THE BRUCE

The Bruce Mahoney trophy will stay in the Sunset after SI wins a winner-take-all baseball showdown at Oracle Park, completes a three-peat against SHC.  
Cole Siwinski '26  
Contributing Editor



The Wildcats celebrate their win of the 2023 Bruce Mahoney.

**BRUCE-MAHONEY SERIES**  
**SI 3 - 2 SHC**  
**SI WINS 2022-23 TITLE**

The SI Wildcats will keep the Bruce Mahoney trophy on 37th Avenue for another year. The St. Ignatius Wildcats and the SHC Fightin' Irish baseball teams faced off on Saturday March 25th at SF Giants home stadium, Oracle Park.

This was the 14th time that the storied matchup had been held at Oracle Park (previously AT&T Park). The Cats jumped out to an early lead that was never relinquished. The game led off with a windy but sunny first at-bat to Senior Gus Parker. Parker was walked and eventually scored as part of a solid two-run first inning. The Wildcats came out firing at their next at bat with a four-run second inning resulting in a 6-0 lead by the middle of the second. While the Fightin' Irish mounted some decent threats throughout the rest of the game, the end result never really felt in doubt. Strong defense

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# How We Blossom: Growth and Transformation

THE FEATURE

Spring has finally sprung, and SI is in full bloom!

This season brings alive scenes of new beginnings and change. As the end of the school year steadily approaches, we enter a time of transformation and recall our growth throughout high school, especially this year. How have we blossomed as a school, a community, and as individuals?

Growth is essential to the experience of high school, and our community has no shortage of it. While reading this issue, you will see how SI is blossoming in every corner of the school through articles on Greg Boyle and erasing the margins, SI's future renovations, and the Spring Musical!

- The Editors-in-Chief



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Jack Quach '23 & Kate Quach '25  
Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor

## FEATURE

# Building the Campus of the Future

Jeslyn Oum '24

Associate Editor-in-Chief



Digital rendering of planned common space

Since its establishment in 1855, SI's Jesuit influence has encompassed the San Francisco Bay Area. Despite moving five times before landing on its sixth and current campus in the Sunset district, St. Ignatius College Preparatory has withstood various plights including the infamous 1906 earthquake and fire on the Van Ness campus.

Today, SI aims for a different type of campus change and hopes to build a new learning commons that will positively

impact all members of the comm—unity.

During an interview with the head of the ambitious plan, SI's Vice President of Advancement Mr. Joseph Vollert shared information on the administration's idea to expand the North side of the campus. This new construction would rebuild

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A planned small group learning space

## SI NEWS

# Fr. Greg Boyle to SI: Erase the Margins, Armed With 'Affectionate Awe'

Madison Farrell '24 & Rachael Gray '24

Contributing Editors

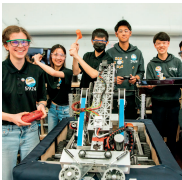


Fr. Boyle, author of Tattoos on the Heart, addressed SI for the first annual Social Justice Summit on Feb. 28.

Last month, Fr. Greg Boyle, the founder of Homeboy Industries— Homeboy Industries was founded in 1992, and has since to dissolve gang violence in become the largest gang downtown Los Angeles over the intervention program in the past 30 years. On February 28, world with over 10,000 new Father Greg along with Ivy and “homies” each year. He is also the Stephanie, two “homegirls,” gave a author of best-selling book *Tattoos on the Heart*, which every SI faculty, and parents about his life's student reads as part of the junior work centered around belonging,

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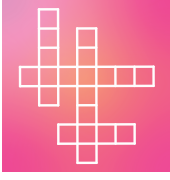
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## FR. GREG BOYLE ADDRESSES SI

Madison Farrell '24 & Rachael Gray '24

Contributing Editors

### **Continued from Front Page**

year Ethics curriculum. Ivy and Stephanie opened the address with their life stories before and after they found Homeboy's. Each of them received multiple jail sentences in juvie and prison. Once finding Father Greg, they turned their lives around and realized the power of having someone believe in you. They both now work at Homeboy's and help other gang members realize their own potential.



*Reflections from the Fr. Boyle talk created a mural of words at the Main Entrance of SI's school building (Photo by Jack Quach '23)*

### **Affectionate Awe**

A phrase that Father Greg repeatedly emphasized was "affectionate awe." It means standing with people, looking in from the margins, and recognizing those that are different from you with respect and acceptance. This message was greatly echoed throughout Father Greg's speech, and helped students to better understand what truly standing with people on the margins is.

He told the students to "go to the margins and go to be made different." Many in society go to the margins to "fix" or "teach," but Boyle teaches students that going to the margins creates relationships that can change you. This is a very important message to our SI community because at SI, all students go to the margins in their volunteer work or immersion groups, and this guiding message can create life-changing experiences.

### **Shooting Texts, Not Bullets**

Lastly, Boyle told many impactful stories about his time at Homeboy Industries. One of the most

important lessons he told was about two former gang members that are a part of Homeboy Industries. He explained that the two homies used to be rivals in their gangs, but now they are "shooting texts, not bullets." The homies overcame their hatred for each other, and found love and friendship.

This can apply to the lives of SI students, even if it is on a smaller scale. They display great amounts of resilience, bravery, and compassion that all students should learn from and try to find within themselves. Overall, Boyle's speech to the students of SI expressed meaningful lifelong lessons that can inspire and teach the students of SI, as well as anyone else who encounters Greg Boyle and Homeboy Industries.



*Students gathered in McCollough Gym to hear from Fr. Boyle and homegirls Ivy and Stephanie.*

## MOTHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

Sierra Murphy '25

Contributing Editor

Have you been to Outside Lands? It is one of the most popular music festivals in San Francisco where people gather together, have fun, and dress up in unique outfits. This is why "Wildcat-Lands" made such a great theme for this year's SI Mother-Daughter dance.

This fun event took place in the commons and had various food bars serving fish tacos, tortellini, pizza, salad, and more. No meat was served because the dance took place on a Friday during Lent. Fun activities filled the Commons, such as a permanent jewelry station, a henna tattoo station, and a photo booth.



*DJ Hightop provides the best music to dance to*

"The Mother-Daughter dance was such a fun night filled with amazing foods and lots of dancing," said sophomore Bridget Stecher; she described the dance's lively atmosphere. DJ Hightop returned to SI and had the crowd going wild, leading moms and daughters to fill the dance floor and sing along to their favorite songs.

At the end of the dance everyone made an arch with their hands for seniors and their moms to run through. "This dance is such a special tradition at SI," said Bridget as she explained how everyone was able to come together as a community, let loose, and have fun. The Mother Daughter dance was another successful night at SI.

## HOW WE CELEBRATE LENT AT SI

Alyssa Wong '25

Contributing Editor

What makes Lent at SI special? The Lenten season is one of the most important periods of the liturgical calendar. The season commemorates the forty days in the desert that Jesus spent fasting and enduring temptation. It is a time in which Catholics dedicate these forty days to turning their hearts from any pattern that can be destructive, from choices that limit people from being who God wants us to be, and turning towards the God who sees us for our authentic selves. At SI, the community has a special and unique way of celebrating this significant time of the year.

"I think that one thing that makes Lent special here at SI is that there is a community of people who know each other well, who are journeying together through Lent, so that no

one has to do Lent by themselves," said SI Campus Minister, Mr. Wotawa. Campus Ministry hosts several events to bring students together spiritually, especially during the Lenten season.

The Busy Person's Retreat, held every Monday morning in the chapel, is designed to meet the needs of community members who are faced with busy schedules. The retreat gives students the opportunity to take a breather, pray, reflect and be centered.

Another Lenten event that is offered by Campus Ministry is Friday Afternoon Mass (FAM), which is a service that centers around the spirit of Lent. Every Friday Afternoon during X-period, students are given the opportunity to gather and pray through the season of Lent.

Additionally to these services, Campus Ministry also organizes the Ash Wednesday mass and a prayer service on the last day before break.

The SI community and Campus Ministry offer several opportunities to celebrate and learn about this unique time of the year. Want to learn more about Lent? Attend one of the gatherings and embrace the true meaning of the Lenten season.



*Students actively listen to the homily given during Friday Afternoon Mass*

Rachael Gray '24

## JUNIOR PROM: EXPLORING THE BAY

Contributing Editor



*Students dance, eat, and drink at last year's Junior Prom with the theme Moulin Rouge.*

Prom season is here! The entire junior class is invited to the annual prom on April 1st, 2023 at the Exploratorium. This year's theme is "Exploring The Bay," and it is very fitting to the location. All students are invited to bring a date or a friend, and there will be many activities and food.

When asked what she found memorable at Junior prom last year, Leila Dalem '23 said, "The food was delicious!" One of the highlights of this year's food options is a taco bar, which will be accompanied by many different delicious desserts and drinks. Along with dancing and food, the location of prom is also very exciting.

Ariana Barredo '24 said she's "super excited to discover the Exploratorium." The famous city landmark will make this a night to remember because of its beautiful location and fun activities. But the location is not the only thing that will make this an unforgettable night—the time spent with friends will make lasting memories.

When asked what she's most looking forward to, junior Ilaria Rossetto stated she's most excited to "bond with [her] classmates." Prom night is a very meaningful event to spend with friends and all of those in the class. All are welcome, and greatly encouraged to come to this exciting, fun, and memorable night.



## SI PARTNERS WITH SFFD FOR FIRST RESPONDERS CLASS

Jack Quach '23 Editor-in-Chief

In collaboration with the San Francisco Fire Department, SI is hosting its first-ever high school first responders class for students to learn emergency response skills and tools for safety. The classes will be hosted in the Choral room on Saturdays from 9 am to 12:30 pm beginning on April 1.

For more information and to register, email Ms. Merrell at [smerrell@siprep.org](mailto:smerrell@siprep.org)!

## SHOW US YOUR STUFF

Jack Stecher '23 Editor-in-Chief

SI will be hosting a talent show this year for high schoolers of all ages. Auditions have been happening all throughout March where students have been crafting an unforgettable experience by showing off their hidden, and awesome talents. Come support your classmates on April 4th where you can see them show their stuff.

For more information, email [jglosser@siprep.org](mailto:jglosser@siprep.org) or [mfinn@siprep.org](mailto:mfinn@siprep.org)!

## SI ENGINEERS A NEW DEPARTMENT

Reilly Moriarty '23 & Jack Quach '23 Editors-in-Chief



Mr. Murphy, the future Tech and Engineering department chair.

SI is set to receive a new department for the 2023-24 year, school administrators announced in late January. The school will establish the Technology and Engineering Department, following trends in recent years of increasing popularity in learning engineering and tech skills. Engineering, both AP Computer Sciences, and Project Invent are the classes that fall under the new department's umbrella. The launch will mark the first new department created in modern SI history.

"The purpose of creating this new department is to provide focus and structure for those courses which might be classified

under science or math, but perhaps do not currently fit into a larger study path," Ms. Levine wrote in an email to the community, adding that the classes, which are all currently planned as electives, will help to "create a coherent sequence of study for students interested in pursuing computer science and engineering."

Mr. Murphy, currently an AP Stats and Pre-Calculus teacher as well as moderator of the Robotics Club, was announced as the first department chair of Technology and Engineering. Mr. Murphy spoke about his visions for the future of the department which include potentially adding a Robotics class and lab, a beginners Computer Science class teaching Python, and physical expansions when SI begins its renovation journey.

"We are a stone's throw from Silicon Valley," Mr. Murphy said about the particular importance of technology for students at SI. Subjects such as Robotics and Engineering are, as a result, especially popular and prominent.

SI engineering and technology has grown swiftly since its origins. Both Engineering and AP Computer Science came from humble beginnings but have blossomed into popular classes and clubs with developed curriculums.

Mr. Murphy has always had a dedicated interest in creation through technology, personally coding his classes' websites, and said he is excited to see where the future of Tech and Engineering leads. The new department will especially give Robotics the platform to evolve into a class with a proper lab and curriculum. Mr. Murphy explained, "We can't do a lot of the robotics stuff that we'd like to do. That is years down the road because we need a new and functional space. Right now the Robotics Lab is an old bus garage."



Engineering students race boats made during class in the pool.

## JCL CERTAMEN SEMIS

Aiden Gray '26 Contributing Editor

Certamen (ker-tah-min), which means "contest" in Latin, is a statewide competition in which students at SI participate. It is a Latin-based trivia contest that is generally played in teams of four, and, to succeed, a team needs to be coordinated and prepared. Last year, SI's certamen team made it to the state semifinals, and they will be returning this year!

After being online during COVID, the Certamen also returned to in-person competitions for the first time in three years. Despite being a competition, Certamen centers around teamwork and is a great opportunity for students to bond and develop friendships. Multiple students, including Penny Pyo '24 and Thomas Fong '23, said that their favorite parts of Certamen are the friends they have made and the bonds they have strengthened.

Aside from being a regular member of SI's Certamen team, Penny is also the captain. Her main role as a captain is encouraging students to be confident and finding ways to help them learn together.

Certamen is a part of JCL and the Latin club so any interested students should reach out to Ms. Curcio. They would be delighted to have you, but I think we can all agree that they don't need extra help!

## MOTHER-SON DANCE

On March 24th the SI community celebrated the Mother-Son Dance filled with laughter, dance, and bonding. Students celebrating the Western theme came decked with cowboy boots, flannel, and a willingness to have a good time!



Mothers and sons getting hype on the dance floor

Student rides the mechanical bull



Students and parents taking photos before entering the Mother-Son Dance



## SI'S NEWEST FACULTY: HOW HAVE THEY GROWN?

Sophia Barsoian '26

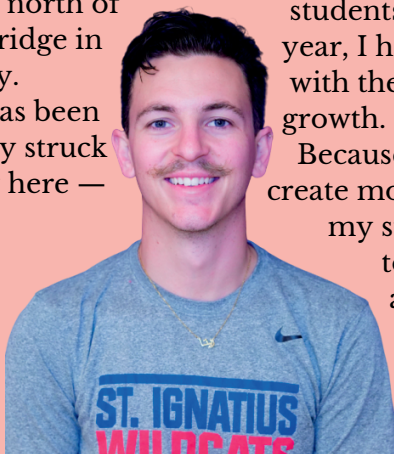
Contributing Editor

Hello Wildcats! For this month's issue, we decided to interview our newest additions to SI's school faculty. We asked our newest English teachers how their time here at SI has been so far and how they've grown as a person since working here. Here are their responses:

### Mr. Taxis

I'm Mr. Taxis — but some cross country runners call me Coach Noah. I teach junior and senior English: American Lit and Film. I'm from a small town named Ukiah, a few hours north of the Golden Gate Bridge in Mendocino County.

Working at SI has been fun! I've been really struck by the community here — both amongst the teachers and, of course, within the student body. As I'm sure many people have said before (and many more will say



after me), the spirit here is infectious! Speaking as a relative newcomer, there's a real vitality in the air here that's palpable. Whenever I have opened up and been vulnerable with my students and colleagues this year, I have been rewarded with the greatest personal growth.

Because of this, I hope to create more opportunities for my students and colleagues to open up with and around me too: to be fully themselves in the name of creating a greater shared sense of trust and mutual understanding.

### Mr. Schwager

My time at SI so far has been dynamic. The fall feels like it was only a few short weeks ago, and I'm still wrapping my head around this school year coming to end in the next few months.

Last year marked my first year teaching, where I taught in SFUSD. Coming to SI was walking through a wormhole from public to private schooling. I felt like a new cog in a very well oiled machine, something immense and with history, the equivalent to brass Big Ben gears and the braided ropes of Notre Dame bell tower mechanisms.

It was an intimidating and exciting space to enter, full of the best challenges and learning moments. I had come to SI with only one year of

teaching experience, but sometimes I felt as though (in a way) I was arriving with five years of experience squeezed into 180 days. Teaching class sizes of 40+ students is a great teacher unto itself.

However, the gap between August-Schwager and March-Schwager is something I could not have achieved without the support of my colleagues. Everyone deserves a team, a coach, a colleague, or friend to support them grow. I'm grateful for my renewed sense of community and collaboration from my first year at SI.



### Mr. Mangan

My name is Mr. Mangan, and I teach junior and freshman English at SI. I am from San Francisco (Mission District) and went to SI myself!

My time at SI so far has been great. It's a community I am familiar with, having gone here as a student, and my role now as a teacher offers me a whole new perspective.

Students teach me new things every day, and the faculty, staff, and administration have all

been incredibly welcoming and helpful.

Listening and making learning an active — even fun — experience are a few areas I'd like to think I've grown in as a teacher.

When I was a student at SI, I had great teachers who made learning engaging.

I now hope to do the same.

Coming full circle — from one time student to now teacher — also

reminds me that learning, when it's right, is continuous...(just like a circle).

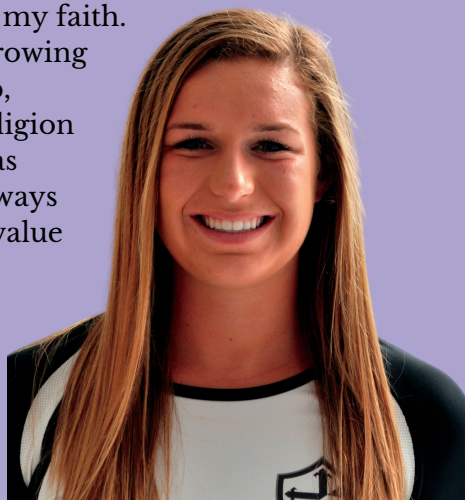


### Ms. Horner

So far my time at SI has been very rewarding. My classes have been full of students who are excited to be in the classroom and dive into deeper themes and ideas presented in our texts. I also love to see all of my students' involvement in various extracurricular activities outside of the classroom.

In my time at SI, I have grown in my faith.

Growing up, religion was always a value



of mine, but I felt myself lose touch of it in college.

The various prayer services offered at SI have allowed me time and space to be grounded in my thoughts as well as provided me the opportunity to hear the voices of our SI students involved in ministry.

Additionally, I feel as though I have grown in my teaching craft thanks to the amazing English department and especially my mentor teacher, Ms. Moraine. She has helped me grow in the classroom and has provided countless resources and ideas for the freshman curriculum.

She is willing to answer any question at any time, and I am so grateful for that. She has really helped me with my transition to the SI community.

### Mr. Rougely

My name is Mr. Nick Rougely and I am a new English teacher here at SI teaching freshmen (100) and juniors (300). The "yall" is intentional as I am from Texas! Things I love: fashion (students say drip?), dancing, movies, writing, gaming, and all things sports related. I'm also really interested in spoken word poetry. We tried to get it started at SI last semester, and I'm hoping we can try again next year.

My time at SI has been pretty great so far. I use the phrase "drinking from a fire hydrant" to describe my first semester! Things have slowed down now and my students are pretty incredible. I couldn't have asked for a better set to start off my time at SI. I transitioned from [a] higher education so I had to adapt, but also utilize those skills to show students what college will be like in just a few years!

I had dreamed of being a teacher for years—it felt like what I was supposed to do, so to get this opportunity at SI was so exciting. Honestly, the biggest way I've grown is being kind to myself. I can be a calm, low-key, and caring teacher, and that is okay. My style works here and the students respond to being able to be themselves and being in a classroom where every voice is respected and welcome. Turns out being yourself is enough, which is what I try to pass on to my students. I'm just out here trying to make literature cool again.





Winston Zapet '23

Managing Editor

Walking to class during passing periods, Campus Ministry during break, or studying in the counseling center, Jade Mac '23 can be found anywhere on campus. Involved in many different activities such as the Association of Latin American Students, On Air With SI, and her favorite extracurricular activity, Polynesian Dance Club. She became a Co-President for the Polynesian Dance Club and choreographed a senior piece for the Dance Show. With so many activities, one wonders how she maintains involvement and keeps herself motivated. When asked, Jade explained that in addition to loving her activities, a strong sense of responsibility and commitment goes a long way in staying motivated.

Her involvement, she says, has helped build her sense of being part of a greater mission; helping others provides “satisfaction of helping [the] community.” Balancing academic and personal life proves to be difficult for many—Jade reminds the student to take a break and give oneself time to decompress. Some of her pastimes include weightlifting, walking her dog, or journaling. St. Ignatius develops students into leaders who are with and for others and Jade Mac embodies that mission through her dedication to helping out her community the best she can.



Jade Mac '23 demonstrating great leadership during an event

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Winston Zapet '23

Managing Editor

Melissa Hua was honored in Sacramento on January 27, 2023 as the Voice of Democracy post and district scholarship winner. During the Veterans of Foreign Wars' state recognition dinner, she received a state honorable mention scholarship award. Her winning essay was selected among 700 submissions in the 2023 Voice of Democracy competition.



Melissa Hua '23 spent hours crafting an award winning essay

POSSE SCHOLARSHIP

Winston Zapet '23

Managing Editor

These five students worked tirelessly to earn the Posse Scholarship



Earlier this year, the Posse Foundation, a scholarship organization, hosted an awards ceremony celebrating the 40 Bay Area recipients of the scholarship. Among those 40 stood 5 students from the SI community. Nicholas Sokolov '23, Jade Mac '23, Mia Delaney '23, Winston Zapet '23, Andres Safa '23, congratulations! Good luck in college!

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Throwback Edition

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Jack Quach '23 & Kate Quach '25

Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor

Izzy, Eve, Summer, and Philip were members of the first-ever cast of the Frosh Closeup, which began four years ago in 2019! As they prepare for graduation in two short months, learn how these game changers have blossomed since their first days exploring the campus!

(Nicknames are from first edition)

Izzy "Clementine" de Souza

"LIVE AD MAXIMUM!!!!!!!!!!!! :))))))"

Song of representing time at SI: "Chasing This" by MisterWives

Izzy is loving spending time outdoors and with friends during her Senior year! "I'm going to hug everyone I love as much as possible!"

Advice to self on first day: "Take the time to find, hear, say, and experience the love and community around you!!!"

Eve "The Last" Goodrow

"You can catch flies with honey, but you can catch more honeys being fly."

- Unknown Source

Song of representing time at SI: "Try Everything" by Shakira

Eve's making the most of her last months of high school by trying to say yes to everything, and if she were to go back to her first day of high school, she would tell herself, "Don't sweat the small stuff!"

Summer "Sunny" Jackson

"Don't let anyone ever make you feel like you don't deserve what you want. Go for it."

-Patrick Verona

Song of representing time at SI: "What Once Was" by Her's

In her Senior year, Summer's favorite aspect has been not being as stressed about academics, and she's taking it all in by spending lots of time with friends and trying activities!

Philip "P3" Luongo III

"Do the most loving thing!"

- Ms. Miguens

"Something I have kept since Freshman year is my little cat name tag. It reminds me of when I first came to SI and had to memorize the Prayer of Generosity. I like to look back and see how far I've come."

Philip's favorite parts of Senior year has been the Fashion show and leading a Kairos retreat!



## VOLUNTEERING RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD

Sebastian Fisher '25

Contributing Editor

Community service and volunteering is a big part of St. Ignatius, and is one of its core values and ideals. One of the local, non-profit organizations where SI students frequently volunteer (including me) is the Richmond Neighborhood Center. The Richmond Neighborhood Center was founded roughly forty years ago and its main purpose is to meet the needs of the people in the western part of San Francisco. That means making San Francisco feel accessible to working families and low income residents, primarily through its two main programs: Youth Before and After School Programs, and Food Security Programs.

I recently spoke with Yves Xavier, who is the Director of Community Programs at the Richmond Neighborhood Center, and oversees its Food Security Programs. The food program that Yves runs consists of several different programs such as food pantries, home delivered groceries, and emergency food boxes, all combining to serve around a thousand community members in the Richmond and Sunset Districts, each month. The people served are mostly seniors, including from Chinese, Russian, and various other language backgrounds, and the programs also meet the needs of people with disabilities and mobility impaired people.

While experiencing setbacks during COVID, the Center made sure to find ways to operate while

staying safe, given the critical nature of food delivery for community members. The Center refrained from face-to-face interactions and did things like pre-packaging grocery bags, and operated almost one hundred percent outdoors, rain or shine. They also created a new program where volunteers delivered grocery bags to people in need, directly to their homes.

Volunteers, like those that come from SI, are essential to the Richmond Neighborhood Center. Volunteers pack groceries, distribute food directly to recipients at pantries, load groceries into delivery cars, and oftentimes deliver groceries directly to homes. When asked what he would say to potential volunteers, Yves said that the feeling of helping others in the local community secure critical food is special, and that the hands-on nature of the work is rewarding. And the importance to community members goes beyond just the critical food delivery.

For some recipients, conversations with volunteers from the Richmond Neighborhood Center can be the only contact with another person they have their entire day, especially those who are elderly and/or live alone. So, as Yves says, not only are volunteers helping the local community, they are also broadening their own horizons. So if you are looking for a place to volunteer, consider the Richmond Neighborhood Center.

## THE CHANGING OF THE POLITICAL GUARD

Grace Brady '23

Managing Editor

The decades-long Congressional careers of the California politicians Nancy Pelosi and Dianne Feinstein have come to an end. Both women represent an impressive generation of political leadership, and their retirement represents an incoming age of politics as younger generations call for a revitalized system of government.

Both former Speaker Pelosi and Senator Feinstein have been powerhouses in Congress throughout their respective careers. Feinstein served first as President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and later as mayor, before being elected to the Senate in 1992. She championed gun reform, passing a bill banning assault weapons, and led the investigation on the CIA's detention and interrogation program, exposing the American public to the brutality of the program. Feinstein has announced her retirement at the age of 89.

Speaker Pelosi began her career representing San Francisco in the House in 1987, and served a historic 19 years as head of the Democratic party in the chamber. Most notably, Pelosi successfully passed the Affordable Care Act, masterfully uniting a split party. Pelosi will continue to serve as a representative, but will retire from leadership. She leaves behind an impressive legacy.

The younger generation of Californians seems to support this transition from the old to the new. Eva Lee '23 emphasized the importance of circulating new ideas in the political sphere, saying, "It's exciting to have younger voices in positions of power. It adds fresh perspectives to the political arena." On a similar note, Rini Saha '25 said "This is a moment of change, and things won't be the same as they once were."



*Nancy Pelosi and Dianne Feinstein shaking hands*



*The Richmond Neighborhood Center*





## CHATGPT CAUSES CONTROVERSY AT VANDERBILT

Kate McFarland '24 & Kai Lamb '24.

Contributing Editors

Following a shooting at the Michigan State University which resulted in three deaths, controversy arose at Vanderbilt University after they sent a consoling email to the student body that was written by ChatGPT.

ChatGPT is artificial intelligence that is capable of gathering information and producing a response to any question, in just a matter of seconds. At the end of the school's email to students in regard to the horrific shootings, it read, "Paraphrased from OpenAI's ChatGPT AI language model, personal communication, February 15, 2023."

By using ChatGPT to write an email approaching such a sensitive and devastating subject, many people say the school has lost its credibility. For a university that is so well-established and held in high-esteem, the carelessness of using a website commonly used for cheating is shocking.

This website has received a lot of backlash from high schools and universities recently because it's a form of

cheating, and it promotes a lack of effort and lying. SI's Nico Baria '24 asked, "If a school like Vanderbilt uses and normalizes ChatGPT, don't you think that students around the US will start to use it more and more?" Students might see this use of the website as acceptable.

Not only does this diminish the actual learning of America's youth, but it builds a gaping divide of distrust between students and their educators. Students feel like their teachers do not care about their mental health and grievances. Educators fear that their students will not learn and instead cheat on their assignments.

It is still very difficult for schools to determine whether or not students use this AI generator, so the future of using computers in education is uncertain. If ChatGPT is normalized by universities, then what does that say about the academic integrity of those educating the newer generations?

## BANKS FAIL: A DEVASTATING BLOW TO THE STARTUP SCENE

Evan O' Driscoll '24.

Contributing Editor

Silicon Valley Bank suffered a collapse on March 10th, which is now known as the second-largest bank failure in the history of the United States. This bank provided banking and lending services to renowned companies such as Roku, Pinterest, Square, Cisco, and Airbnb. The bank's shares fell by 60% in a single day, leading regulators to shut it down.

The collapse of the bank that served almost half of the country's health and tech venture companies happened abruptly, leaving many wondering how exactly this collapse happened. The US Federal Reserve laid the foundation for the collapse with increased interest rates, keeping them higher than they had been since 2007. Higher rates lead to higher borrowing costs, which leads to fewer people and businesses borrowing money. The tech startup industry slowed down as a result, which was catastrophic for SVB, as most of its client base is comprised of tech startups.

The bank tried to come up with over \$2 billion to strengthen its financial position before the collapse, but this became an unintended catalyst for the events to follow. As prominent investors and companies lost faith in the bank due to its inability to come up with the \$2 billion, they started withdrawing money from their accounts. Within a short time, the bank was unable to pay back the withdrawals.

Consequently, regulators shut down the bank on Friday. As more people ran to withdraw their savings, the bank was led to a faster collapse. Silicon Valley Bank's client base was mainly comprised of tech companies, many of which are now concerned about the fate of their funds. The collapse of the bank may cause difficulties for companies trying to pay salaries and other expenses. It is predicted that companies may have to lay off employees or find ways to reduce costs while seeking reimbursement.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) is in charge of facilitating reimbursement. The FDIC's website lists "Silicon Valley Bank" as the first link, underscoring the collapse's significance. Most deposits up to \$250,000 are insured by the FDIC, but for companies with millions in the bank, this is insignificant. However, the FDIC has promised prompt insurance payouts by the Monday following the collapse.

The impact of the collapse remains unclear, but investors and companies are likely to be more cautious when diversifying their savings. There are concerns about the "contagion" effect, where smaller banks may be negatively impacted by the collapse. Nevertheless, the immediate aftermath of the collapse is one of shock, and considered one of the most devastating bank collapses in recent memory.

## PASSING THE YEAR MARK IN THE UKRAINE

Jordan Liu '26

Contributing Editor

February 24th, 2022 was a day like no other for most of us. But for Ukrainians, it would mark the beginning of a year of destruction and catastrophe. Just a few weeks ago marked the one-year anniversary of Putin's military operations.

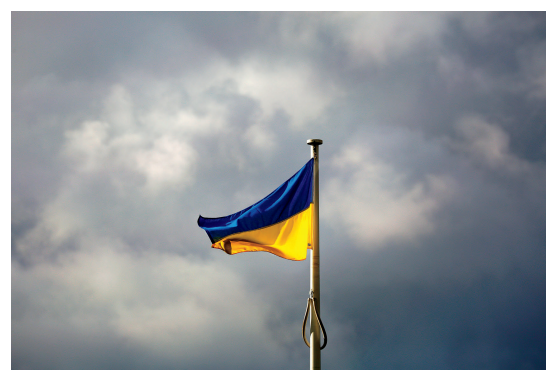
The war has had detrimental effects on many countries' economies. Due to sanctions placed on Russia, Russia's economy has dwindled, as with its major exports of oil and wheat. Ukraine's economy has suffered more than Russia as a result of broken infrastructure and interrupted trade and exports. This war has also had major repercussions on the citizens and military of both countries.

Russia's military has endured 200,000 deaths, severe injuries, and missing cases. Ukraine has 130,000 deaths, severe injuries, and missing cases. 30 Russian citizen casualties have been reported, and a disproportionate 8,173 Ukrainian citizens have passed. 1.5 million people have been displaced. This conflict presents challenges for political stability as well. Namely, Russia has become estranged from the West, as NATO continues to impose sanctions and bans on the Russian economy.

Russia and Ukraine have had a complex history. There are many major events that have defined the outcome we observe today. The biggest contributor to the war was the

2014 Annexation of Crimea. At that time, Putin claimed the Crimea peninsula as a part of Russia. This violated international law and sparked conflict.

There can be no definitive cause of this invasion, nor are there any signs of when the war will end. Student Nicholas Sokolov '23 commented on the brutality of the war, saying, "I think that the war in Ukraine has gone on for too long, and that it is time for peace. The war has caused too much suffering and it is time for it to end." The conflict is highly volatile due to the many variables. All we can do is hope that this war does not reach a second-year anniversary.



*The Ukraine has been struggling for over a year, but they continue to persevere*





## COMFORTABLE SILENCE

Emma Chan '24

I'm sitting in my friend's car, where we're talking about the day's activities, blasting the same music we always listen to, and sharing laughter and tears. Silence inevitably arrives but there's no overbearing pressure to fill the air with words. Peering out the window, I take a sip of my watered-down coffee and check my unread messages. The silence is unmistakable, but there's not a hint of discomfort. I'm looking over at her as the wind gently blows at her blonde hair. Her eyes are on the road, and I see a sly smile creep onto her face - credited to making it through yet another catastrophic precalculus test. We are silent the rest of the car ride.

It didn't occur to me in that moment that what my friend and I had just experienced was incredibly special.

People have been wordlessly communicating with one another since the dawn of humanity. A person's posture, eye contact, smiles, handshakes, gestures, and head nods are all aspects of how individuals communicate non-verbally on a daily basis. Body language is a global language; it encourages actions to show engagement, find new ways to interact with loved ones, approach someone who's upset, and discover the key to rebuilding connections with fragmented relationships of the past. If non-verbal communication comes with such ease, then why does silence command so much anxiety and excruciation for most people?

Frank Alioto '24 said, "Expectations make silence awkward. When a moment of unusual and unwanted silence is reached in a conversation, both people are struggling to keep the original flow going."

In the Netherlands, a study from the University of Groningen found that it takes only four seconds of silence in a conversation for people to feel insecure, rattled and awkward. Group dynamics and human psychology seemingly dictate the inability to live life without silence. The background noise of musical artists, podcasters, and talk show hosts balm the anxiety of feeling less alone and more in tune with the world. The irony lies in that these connections only increase the sense of isolation and despondency.

With body language being a vital part of person-to-person communication, the motivation to enable and embrace comfort—able silence arises.

Another Junior, Christopher Weltzien, shared, "Comfortable silence comes from being totally relaxed in your friendship.

When creating new friendships, oftentimes these moments are filled with stress. This is because we are unsure of how much of our personality we should share with this new person.

This relaxed nature comes from years of built-up trust — the trust in knowing that your friend accepts you entirely. When you are sitting in silence, you aren't wondering what they think of you because you know that they unconditionally accept you and enjoy your presence."

Contributing Editor

There's a certain tranquility in the act of not speaking and just living in the moment. Comfortable silence contributes to a higher sense of self-awareness, relaxation, patience, and empathy, offering the opportunity to reconcile and reflect upon relationships.



## RETREATS: TIME IN REFLECTION IS TIME WELL SPENT

Ava Murphy '25 &amp; Kate O'Keefe '25

Contributing Editors

Retreats at SI are almost always an uplifting escape from the stress of school, extra-curriculars, and life in general. Retreats also serve as time away from a typical day to day routine and are a quiet time for reflection and peace. On retreat, students are able to reframe their thinking and expand their knowledge of themselves and others around them. This is a unique and transformative experience aimed at helping the SI student body become persons with and for others.

There are several retreat opportunities for students at SI. The freshman and sophomore retreats are mandatory, but if one wants to make retreats a regular activity, SI offers further opportunities for personal growth. Over the years, the retreat content may differ but the ultimate goal has always stayed the same.

The first-year students at SI work with the staff and guests at St. Anthony's Foundation to better understand the diverse groups of people that call San Francisco their home. Mr. Hansen recalled, "On every retreat, I'm

encouraged by the presence and engagement of the frosh participants. The St. Anthony's staff often comments on the readiness of our students to interact with guests in a very positive way." Through this experience, the freshmen take time to step outside of what they know and expand their knowledge of the world around them. Mr. Hansen shared, "The simulation helps all of us to feel more compassion for others – and to ask questions of justice." The Frosh retreat is a time to broaden one's horizons and grow in the understanding of the world outside of the SI community.

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COMMUNITY THROUGH CO-ED

Bridget Stecher '25

Contributing Editor

Saint Ignatius High School, founded in 1855, blossomed into something very different than when it started. What attracts so many students to SI? Although SI being co-ed entices many prospective students, competition rises as a result. For example, male students now face greater challenges getting accepted to SI than when it was an all boys school. This brings challenges and new opportunities to engage with a different variety of people. Since the invitation of female students to the school in 1989, the school experienced change in so many beneficial ways. Mr. Regalia, graduate of the first co-ed class, states, “Adding women to the school has made the experience more rich for all involved; different experiences are highlighted and celebrated.” The diversity our school has to offer is very unique and can stand out from other schools

Another fact that adds to SI’s popularity is its status as the only Jesuit high school in San Francisco. Mr. Regalia mentions that “the Jesuit teaching has been and will continue to be the foundation of who we are.” Many people want to come to SI to experience what makes a Jesuit education so unique: living with and for others. SI also offers a variety of activities that appeal to everybody. Whether they are into performing arts or athletics, SI stands out by presenting opportunities that aren’t available at other schools. Through the different things SI has to offer, it completely stands out amidst other high schools in San Francisco and will continue to blossom as it becomes more unique.

EVOLUTION OF CLUBS AT SI

Mia Messinger '24

Contributing Editor

Whether students are interested in chess, fishing, Disney movies, or art therapy, SI has a club that can accommodate their quirks and interests. SI is known for its wide variety of extracurricular activities, with clubs being one of the biggest opportunities to join a group passionate about the same things as you. With over 100 clubs currently run by the student body, there essentially isn’t an interest or hobby that doesn’t have a group hosting meetings. From anything to journalism, baking, politics, or community service, SI has a balance of leisure and academic clubs.

Although there are many clubs present at the school today, clubs have evolved over the decades. To learn about how this has changed, Mr. Robert Vergara, an SI alumni and upper division history teacher, gave some insight into what the club landscape looked like in the 1970s. “The chess club and computer club were part of SI in the 1970s.

SI Outbound worked tutoring students at grammar schools. The Forum was the club for speech and debate,” said Mr. Vergara. While the chess club remains an active club today, the computer club evolved into the Computer Science Club. SI Outbound holds similarities to the service-focused CSF, which tutors middle schoolers. The Forum club has simply become the Speech and Debate club.

“Other clubs do not exist any more: Ambient, concerned with cleaning the environment, Art and Publicity painted posters to publicize games and events. The Sanctuary Society was about as old as SI. Its members acted as altar boys for Masses,” added Mr. Vergara. Although the Ambient Club has somewhat become Green Team, the other clubs have ceased. The Block Club, which was around long before the 70s, was considered the service club and only open to athletes.

However, Mr. Vergara noted that the Service Club, which came about in 1970, was created as an opportunity for non-athletes to do service. Since the establishment of the Service Club, SI blossomed into a school that encourages and promotes community service across the student body, and many clubs now emphasize the importance of volunteering and outreach.

As for the affinity groups, SI originally had fewer than today. BSU and ASC were two of the original affinity groups at SI, with BSU having celebrated their 50 year anniversary last month. Since then, ALAS, AMA, JAG, and PIA have added diversity and rich narratives to the SI community. Since becoming co-ed, SI welcomed a wide range of female led and operated clubs. The GEAR Club, which centers female voices in the fight for gender equality, and Girls in Journalism, an all-female publishing club, are just a few examples of women-run organizations that elevate the female experience in a male-dominated school environment.

Clubs at SI have transitioned over the decades to include the narratives of groups that struggled to find a place among a predominantly white institution. SI has developed into a place where affinity groups, clubs run by women, and leisure clubs that support the myriad of passions and interests of the student body can blossom.



Illustration by Viv Lum '24







BLOSSOMING INTO NEW SPACES AT SI: BUILDING THE CAMPUS OF THE FUTURE

Jeslyn Oum '24

Associate Editor-in-Chief

Continued from Front Page

space between the Oradre Courtyard towards the Jesuit Residence and McGucken Hall. In place of these structures, there are plans to build a new learning commons which would include a new dining center for all Wildcats and faculty, modified classrooms with an emphasis on technology and small group learning, a library, and many other advancements. Alongside these new buildings, a “hub” will be created to provide a main entrance to the school and a secondary seating area.

As he discussed the specifics of this project and new buildings, Mr. Vollert shared his thoughts on the impact of the new learning commons. He stated, “With the change of the learning commons, I think it will inspire teachers and students to explore different ways of learning.” The hope of the learning centers will be to divert from traditional classroom settings and instead display an approach focused on advanced infrastructure prepared to adapt to the growth and spread of technology in tandem with learning. Although the importance of student-teacher interactions still applies, this new facility will support the fast-paced changes within education. Due to the sheer size of the construction plans, SI will employ the use of “phases” to create stages within the lengthy construction periods.

Despite there being no specific start date yet, it can be expected that the construction period will be long and inflict some changes on the daily activities of students. In response to the temporary loss of space, campus ministry may be moved elsewhere as well as a new space for food service to provide for all members of SI. In regards to the new changes, Mr. Vollert shared, “Although it seems very ambitious, I don’t think we were out here to be demure.” The administration has worked diligently on these plans to physically build upon a new future for old and new Wildcats. The new infrastructure will complete the image SI intends to maintain as an advanced school prepared for the new terrain of learning and student life.

Upon the creation of the idea of the new learning commons, students were interviewed for advice and their perspectives. Their opinions were highly valued during this process as the

infrastructure would improve upon the SI experience as a student. Megan Stecher '24, one of the interviewees, related, “I think it’s really awesome that SI is getting an update. The school can feel very crowded sometimes, especially during passing periods and before and after school, so having more room to spread out and quieter spaces to study will be a really great option for future students...I think this will benefit students and I’m excited to see how it turns out, even if I’m not here to experience it for myself.” As this process moves forward, many anticipate the positive changes this will create at SI in the long run.

Although many more plans are yet to be formulated, the committee behind these improvements continue to receive feedback from parts of the SI community. The hopeful start date of construction will be June 2024 with a period of construction of about 18-24 months for the first phase of the large-scale build. In relation to the questions and responses of parents and families, Mr. Vollert concluded, “even though it is such a huge project, I think that people believe deeply in what we do as a school and the quality of education with the experience we offer. They see a 54 year old building in dire need of a face lift with an opportunity to build a facility that would allow us to adapt as technology changes.” Despite the interim creating temporary challenges, the renewed spaces and upgrades created by the new learning commons will inflict a positive change and uplift SI as it moves into the new age of technology.

Upon completion, the faculty and staff eagerly await the return of former Wildcats to roam the new spaces built to advance and provide for the journeys of many more students to come.



Rendering of one of the new learning areas to be built



Rendering of projected new Campus Ministry space

TIME IN REFLECTION IS TIME WELL SPENT

Ava Murphy '25 & Kate O’Keefe '25  
Contributing Editors

Continued from Page 8

comments on the readiness of our students to interact with guests in a very positive way.” Through this experience, the freshmen take time to step outside of what they know and expand their knowledge of the world around them.

Mr. Hansen shared, “The simulation helps all of us to feel more compassion for others – and to ask questions of justice.” The Frosh retreat is a time to broaden one’s horizons and grow in the understanding of the world outside of the SI community. The sophomore retreat is an experience that brings students together to build a stronger connection with their classmates and allows one to find his or her true self, with the retreat’s theme being “Becoming Your Most Authentic Self.”

Although retreat brings counsel and stability into one’s life, the perception throughout campus differs. Two days away from home in a retreat center can be initially interpreted as a “boring experience with endless

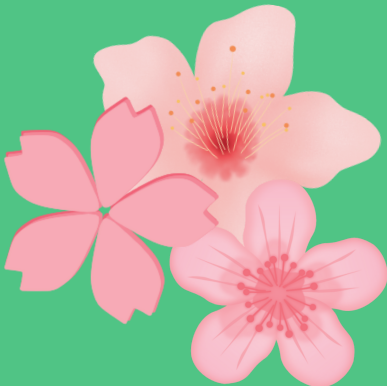
reflections and writing activities,” said Logan Mitchell '25.

Logan spoke on her preconceived impression of the two-day experience and how her idea soon changed for retreats at SI. Like Logan, some Sophomores have a negative and judgmental prejudice about this retreat. However, most students leave retreats in an optimistic state. “I learned a lot about myself. My retreat leader was really helpful with trying to get the group to open up and put in the effort to make the experience great,” said Logan.

Junior or Senior student leaders show leadership in making the retreat experience memorable. Sr. Sharon, a main coordinator of the Sophomore

retreat, believes the retreat helps Sophomores reflect on themselves as people, their interactions with others, and how they are growing as an SI student. “I think that really knowing who we are - when we are with others, and when we are on our own - is one of the most important tasks we can do as members of a community,” said Sr. Sharon.

Without this internal and interpersonal experience, SI’s community would not be as strong as it is. Both retreats are incredibly valuable and teach important life lessons to Frosh and Sophomores. These retreats are pillars of a Jesuit education and all SI students walk away grateful for the unforgettable memories made.





## ALAS 50TH YEAR CELEBRATION

Alexandra Vivas '23 and Alexandra Sanabria '23

Contributing Editors

This year the Association of Latin American students, also known as ALAS, celebrates their 50th anniversary. ALAS celebrated with their annual Showcase back in October called “Mi Gente.” Celebrating different Latinx cultures in our SI community.

ALAS has a rich history stemming from its origins as the Hispanic Club. In the Hispanic club, anyone could join regardless of if they identify as Latinx. When we spoke to Ms. Medina Zevas, she explained how it was not structured like an affinity group, but rather had sporadic meetings, which made the Latinx community less united and known. The director of equity and inclusion had the idea to make BSU, ALAS, and ASC into affinity groups.

On the SI website Affinity groups are defined as “Pro-moting awareness and respect for diversity at St. Ignatius. Affinity groups provide a safe space for students who self-identify within each affinity group with the larger goal of creating an inclusive and thriving learning environment.

When Ms. MZ became the moderator for ALAS, a lot of the students told her how they felt invisible and weren’t a part of the SI community. Even now ALAS members feel underrepresented in all various aspects of the SI community: administration, curriculum, and in social settings. Since many students felt this way, they wanted to become a part of leadership in order to make change and be seen.

Ms. MZ described the students as, “Not afraid to talk to administration and let them know what they want to see in terms of change in the school. The fact that people of our leadership are willing to do that is really important because it has told the administration that we are important and need to support our Latinx students.” We then talked about how ALAS has become a place to inspire students on what they can do in the future. She said we can “See the growth where ALAS is not just about being at SI but about where you can go.”



Members of the he(art) club at this year's ALAS showcase.

“When I look to the future, I think about going back to some of the basics, like making sure ALAS is a welcoming space no matter whether or not they speak Spanish, no matter whether or not they have blonde hair, blue eyes, the Latin community is incredibly diverse and that you belong here. So I think continuing to feel welcomed is an important thing to do past, present and future.”

Ms. Medina Zevas, Social Science Teacher

## WELCOMING SPRING WITH SAN FRANCISCO’S 56TH ANNUAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Penny Pyo '24

Contributing Editor

Today, San Francisco’s Cherry Blossom Festival is one of the largest in the country, and captures this spirit of togetherness and community. This year, the Festival will be held on April 8-9 and 15-16, at 11am-6pm in Japantown. Festival-goers can view performances, enjoy food from local vendors and restaurants, and participate in cultural activities. You can admire traditional art at the calligraphy, origami, ikebana (flower arrangement), and washi ningyo (paper doll) exhibits and demonstrations. From late March through early May, cherry trees across Japan and the U.S. burst into bloom, their delicate petals flurrying through the spring air and carpeting sidewalks like snow.

San Francisco’s Cherry Blossom Festival is rooted in the Japanese tradition of Hanami, or “flower viewing,” in which families flock to parks to have picnics and parties beneath the blossoming cherry trees. In 1968, a group of Japanese American business and community leaders started the Cherry Blossom Festival to preserve cultural traditions, support local Japantown businesses, and strengthen U.S.-Japanese relations.



Japantown during the Cherry Blossom Festival

support local Japantown businesses, and strengthen U.S.-Japanese relations. Various performances showcasing both traditional and contemporary styles of Japanese dance and music occur throughout the weekends — a crowd favorite being the annual, exhilarating taiko drum performance. Board game lovers can learn go from the SF Go Club, or watch the pros go head to head in the Cherry Blossom Go Tournament. Those interested in martial arts can visit the Japanese sword and armor exhibit and karate demonstration. On its 56th year anniversary, the Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates the vibrancy of Japanese culture and the rich heritage of the Japanese American community.

## THE FESTIVAL OF COLOR: SI LOVES HOLI!

Melissa Hua '23

Editor-In-Chief

On Thursday, March 23rd, SI celebrated Holi, also known as the Festival of the Colors. This is the second year that SI has celebrated Holi. The highlight of the event culminates in a huge "Color War," where attendees of the event threw a variety of different colored powders at each other.

Senior Cassandra Yeung said "I was excited to experience Holi for the first time at SI. I loved learning g about a different culture and being able to eat and participate in something new!" SIPAC (SI Parents Asian Club) similarly celebrated Holi on February 22nd celebrating their own color war! Holi will sure to be a long-standing ASC and SI tradition for years to come!



Senior Eva Lee enjoys a day out in the sun during the Holi color war.

Moderators of ASC and ASC club members smile after an eventful Color War on the piazza.





Melissa Hua '23

Editor-In-Chief

On Saturday, February 25th the BSU, alongside the SI community, celebrated the Annual BSU showcase with the theme of "The Gift of our Legacy: A Story to be Told." The evening featured poetry readings from returning SI alumnus (Henry Davis '17) as well as original poetry! The night culminated with the step routine which was choreographed by seniors Reann Phillips, Raven Shaw, and Zoe King.

Dances featured Fr. Sauer Academy students and the Praise Dance Team. At the event, SI alumnus Jerome Williams '75 was honored with the first ever Black Excellence Award. Williams, a former BSU president, credited his wife and fellow former BSU leadership for much of his success. Senior and BSU Leadership member, Chloe Ovbiagele stated that "Being part of the BSU showcase all 4 years at SI has been wonderful! It has allowed me to express my creative talents through poetry, dance, and music. It has also helped me to grow in my Black identity and has taught me to be proud of my Blackness!" The night also featured a special fashion of the 90's and 00's featuring BSU members!



Seniors Furtuna, Msgana, and Danait perform an Ethiopian dance



Freshman Rob Shaw reads Paul Laurence Dunbar's poem "We Wear the Mask"

## WE NEED TO SET ASIDE TIME FOR FAM

OP-Ed

Grace Brady '23

Managing Editor

The word "holy" literally means "set aside." As a freshman, one of the holiest times in my week was the weekly Friday morning liturgy I attended, along with many other students and faculty. FML made me feel a part of a larger community of faith, while also growing my relationship with God. The time was holy because it was set aside as totally dedicated to God, even in the midst of schoolwork, tests, and extracurriculars. FML was holy, so it was rightfully set aside.

Unfortunately, as a senior, I now feel that this sense of holiness has been somewhat lost with the relegation of our weekly ministry to an X-period. Mandatory X-periods, sports practices, club meetings, and Friday afternoon fatigue all prevent attendance. Now, the busyness of school and extracurriculars intrude on a time which was once holy, once set aside. I have even seen a last minute cancellation of FAM due to the number of required X-periods one afternoon.

I had the opportunity to speak with our Assistant Principal for Mission, Mrs. Pryor Lorentz, on this topic, and she was incredibly sympathetic to my and other students' feelings about the scheduling of FAM; however, she did make many important points about how, as she said, "the dynamic of FAM has changed." She emphasized that while FAM serves many students, there will always be a large number of others who do not attend, and that we need to ensure the schedule takes this into account. She also added that while FAM (originally FML) used to be a weekly liturgy, "the ways in which people are experiencing ministry are changing." Now, the Campus ministry team uses the time in ways other than liturgy to serve the community. Mrs. Pryor Lorentz made a beautiful point when she said, "The why behind why we are trying to do FAM differently is not the numbers. We're trying to meet students where they are."

I completely agree with Mrs. Pryor Lorentz that FAM has changed, and that there are other wonderful, new opportunities we are presented with each week at FAM besides a liturgy to grow our spirituality and worship God. But I also feel that these new forms of worship are still holy and should be treated as such.

St. Ignatius is first and foremost a Catholic school. Our school motto is "Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam," or "For the Greater Glory of God." How can we see ourselves as working for the greater glory of God if we do not treat Him as more important and more necessary in our schedule than schoolwork and extracurriculars? I don't neglect the importance of extracurriculars, of which I am a part of many, or of certain required X-periods, but I do not believe that any of these are holier than experiencing God in FAM.

As a Catholic school we should prioritize our school's spiritual life, particularly because many who want to attend FAM are unable to do

so due to scheduling conflicts.

I spoke with several other students about the scheduling of FAM as well. Max Briones '23 said, "It's not the same as Freshman year...If it was in the morning, more people would be able to go and there would be more of a spiritual culture at SI." Emily Fable '23 and Elizabeth Willson '23, like many of our music ministers, both constantly have scheduling issues and have been unable to attend FAM. Emily said, "I would be able to go to FAM more often if it was at a better time." Elizabeth added, "I love singing in music min, but I often can't make it because of other scheduled mandatory meetings. I wish FAM was in the mornings."

In fact, music ministry may be unable to provide music in upcoming FAMs because so many of our ministers have required X-periods. Naomi Ko '24 echoed this sentiment, saying "Although I used to participate in the FMLs, now that they're during X-period I am often forced to skip them...I really like FAM...but the scheduling makes it difficult." Alex Salentine '26 said, "It is important to leave time for God and for others in our busy schedules."

There are so many students who look for spiritual nourishment in FAM, and they are unable to achieve this regularly because of our school schedule. We need to prioritize God in our weeks, above all else. Set Him aside.



Students pray the "Our Father" at first FAM of the year



UNITY IN THE JUNIOR CLASS

Bradley Benton '24 & Ella Brown '24

Contributing Editors

We are all familiar with *High School Musical*'s famous song, "We're All In This Together," where all the juniors band together in song and demonstrate their united and mature social dynamic. For most, this was the picture of high school we imagined growing up. But now that we're here, we have come to realize that high school is nothing like that. In many ways that is because of the extremely high bar that the movie set for us. However, we can't help but wonder how much the pandemic had an impact on our social dynamic.

The junior class did not have the traditional orientation which consists of meeting new friends, learning new lessons, and is a vital time to mature socially and emotionally. Therefore, many students feel disconnected from one another and find it more difficult to socialize with their fellow classmates. The lockdown caused students to stick to familiarity and cliques that were formed pre-pandemic.

Additionally, while Flipgrids and Zoom classes were certainly beneficial tools during the pandemic, they are not the best ways to meet your classmates, and they prevent students from reaching out and getting to know others. For the first few months of school, we were confined to small Zoom "boxes" in our computer screens. And even after that, we still had masks and social distancing that kept us apart in and outside of the classroom. These factors play a major part in the walls that still separate us from fully integrating ourselves socially.

Mr. Escobar, one of our deans who has witnessed previous classes mature and develop, stated, "There are guards and barriers making [us] a very armored class. So much has been taken away that there is general fear that it could be taken away again. [We] keep [our] guards up so that if it happens again, [we] are well-protected."

The barriers in our social dynamic are noticeable at the attendance of school events. Many juniors remain confined to their familiar friend groups and don't feel obligated to attend school dances and games and spend time as a class.

One junior student, Georgia McDougall, reflected on our class saying, "Our class compared to other classes doesn't participate in school functions as often. It feels that our class isn't very involved in the community." We notice the lack of involvement in dances, games, and leadership opportunities such as the Big Cats, which sets an example for the following classes.

Another junior student, Alex Siegfried stated, "The underclassmen look up to the upperclassmen. So, when the seniors are gone it's just going to be them looking up to us and we don't set a great example for fun activities at school." A strong and welcoming impact on the lower-classmen is crucial in order to keep up traditions and our schools reputation.

Although the pandemic has left us with long lingering effects, we still recognize how far we have come since our Freshman year. We notice the effort we have taken to renew ourselves and the steps taken to become better leaders. Mr. Escobar stated, "There is no doubt that you all have the leadership skills and capacities to progress."

As we progress closer to our Senior year, we have high hopes that the Junior class will begin to integrate and become one class as a whole. So to all the juniors: it is not too late to step into our role as leaders of the school, and show off our wildcat spirit!



The first day of in person school for the Class of '24 as Freshman.



The Class of '24 now as Juniors this year in class.

INDEPENDENT SPORTS: MENTAL TOUGHNESS OR A MENTAL BREAK?

Anya Frey '25

Contributing Editor

What is it like to compete alone? A sport in which participants compete as individuals may seem daunting, but swimming, track, singles tennis, golfing, skiing, ice skating and even fencing bring a new meaning to "team."

Opinions on individual sports tend to be very versatile depending on who you ask. Some people thrive in the environment these sports create and others languish beneath the pressures. The somewhat isolating nature of individual sports can bring out the most self-determination and grit within athletes, yet also launch an unhealthy battle with oneself in two huge areas of our emotional being: mental health and confidence. As someone who has been a competitive swimmer almost my whole life I have an personal understanding of the positives and negatives that come with being an individual athlete.

I've found the positives to outweigh the negatives. Individual sports teach valuable life skills that are transferable to life outside scores and times. From learning accountability, these independent competitions create a comfortable environment where one is able to learn and train at a pace that is right for them and foster a certain mental toughness that may not be as intense in other team-focused sports.

However, individual athletics can take a toll on an athlete's mental health and confidence as players, runners, and swimmers can begin to develop unhealthy relationships with losing. It is very common for athletes to struggle with anxiety or extreme nerves especially before competing due to fear of letting their personal mistakes affect the overall performance of their team.

It is important to share the truth behind individual sports and offer advice and motivation to athletes who could be struggling to find motivation within these stressful environments.

Sophomore Eliza Harlow stated that when she feels stressed with competition she "likes to get in [her] zone by listening to pump up music." She also mentioned, "I like to talk to my coach and get some advice on my upcoming events. Talking to other teammates who are also nervous makes me feel a lot better."

Perhaps there is some team comfort in the madness of independent competitions. For better or worse, independent sports remain popular and the importance of understanding the mental health behind these athletes continues to grow.



Senior on the Women's Varisty Golf Team tees off at a match.

MY LENTEN JOURNEY

Shay Moriarty '25

Contributing Editor

Lent is the 40 day time period in which Christian's recall the events that lead to the death of Jesus Christ. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. If anyone were to ask me what Lent is, the middle school memories of "Totally Lent " booklets and religion class would automatically resurface in my mind, and I would be able to formulate a religion textbook definition in a matter of seconds. The not so fond times of required mass every week and extra religion class still live as a reminder of Lent, but not in the same dreadful way my 6th grade self would have imagined.

It is safe to say that I was far from enthusiastic when Lent rolled around at my middle school. I despised the constant anxiety that I wouldn't have a good enough Lenten promise or the dreadful, meatless Friday dinners. In my mind, Lent was just another way for my teachers and parents to tell me what to do.

However, my idea of Lent in recent years has blossomed from its rigid

traditions into a time of year that draws me to reflect and show my gratitude for God, family, and the opportunities life creates for me.

My mindset on Lent has done a complete 360 now that I am able to make an active choice to celebrate Lent instead of being forced. At SI, I am not required to stay on my old strict schedule and follow specific directions on what I can and cannot do during Lent. Coming to SI gave me the opportunity to choose what path I take on my Lenten journey, or whether to take it at all. That opportunity made me realize what I value and gave me the chance to flourish in my faith through the season of Lent.





“Ladies, don’t let anybody ever tell you that you are ever past your prime,” said Michelle Yeoh, 60, as she accepted the Oscar for Actress in a Leading Role. “Never give up.” The second woman of color and first ever Asian to win this award, Yeoh is blazing a trail for Asians everywhere and making her hometown, Malaysia, proud. At the 95th Academy Awards, A24’s *Everything Everywhere All At Once* brought home seven gold statues, including trophies for Best Picture, Actress in a Supporting Role, Actor in a Supporting Role, and Best Director.

For Ke Huy Quan, who won Best Supporting Actor, this award is truly special. “My journey started on a boat. I spent a year in a refugee camp and somehow I ended up here on Hollywood’s biggest stage. They say stories like this only happen in the movies...this is the American Dream.” Quan’s role as Waymond Wang marked his return from his 20-year acting hiatus.

## OUTSIDE LANDS LINEUP

Naomi Ko '24

Managing Editor



Outside Lands Lineup graphic from Alternative Press

The 2023 Outside Lands lineup has been announced! Fan favorites like Kendrick Lamar, Lana Del Rey, and The 1975 are headlining the festival, while a plethora of other artists (such as Cigarettes After Sex, Beabadoobee, Alvvays, and Inhaler) are also performing. Abby Reed '24 said, “The most notable band for me on the lineup is The 1975, one of my favorite bands of all time. I’ve been to Outside Lands twice before, but I’ve never been this excited about a lineup!” The festival will be held from August 11-13 in SF’s Golden Gate Park.

## BRINGING THE BIG SCREEN BACK

Cece Hammond '24

Contributing Editor

Post-lockdown, we’ve made several challenging adjustments back to a “new-normal,” like wearing jeans again, getting through full weeks of work, and being sociable. The economy was forced to adapt, and the entertainment industry may be a victim of an ever-changing world. COVID-19 shut down movie theaters for a year, so executives released feature films through streaming platforms, keeping the cinematography business lucrative. This was ideal during the pandemic because it kept the public safe and entertained. Now, it’s a cheap convenience that starves the viewer of real art. There’s no clear separation between an Oscar-winning film and a Disney Channel Original Movie.

However, movie theaters are yet to meet their maker, and that’s not just credulous nostalgia. Feature films should hit theaters before streaming platforms. If there are more highly-anticipated films in theaters, more people will go to the theater. We’ve hit the three-year mark since the beginning of lockdown. It’s time for movie theaters to come back from their sabbatical and play their role as a creative medium in our society, culture, and economy. The entertainment industry must pivot and allow films to be enjoyed as they should: in a dark room with a bright screen, a crying baby, and a coughing grandmother. In community.

Also making an astonishing comeback that night was Brendan Fraser, who accepted the award for Best Leading Actor with shaking hands and teary eyes. “So this is what the multiverse looks like,” he said. After suffering from depression, sexual assault, and multiple health problems, Fraser’s role as Charlie in A24’s *The Whale* was his return to the big screen after several years.

All in all, *Everything Everywhere All At Once* won seven awards, while the foreign film *All Quiet on the Western Front* won four. The former is a win for Asians everywhere, representing the quiet power of being an immigrant in so many different worlds, and finally finding your place in each one. March 12 was truly a special night, and signified a plethora of historic moments that will spur a future of diverse, lovingly-crafted films.

## SPRING MUSICAL: INTO THE WOODS

Aidan Stecher '23

Managing Editor

As the seasons turn from winter to spring, there are few things to look more forward to than SI's very own Spring Musical. This year, put on by Mr. Curry, the students performed the popular *Into the Woods*.

*Into the Woods* was created by Stephen Sondheim in 1987. Ever since its debut, the musicals has been praised for its ability to interweave classic fairytale stories and bring them to the stage. Most recently, *Into the Woods* has become more widespread with the release of a movie bearing the same name as the musical in 2014 with a star-studded cast.

While SI's rendition of *Into the Woods* might not have A-list celebrities voicing the characters, the students have their own cast full of stars who demonstrate heart, skill, and passion through the characters they play. After around two months of preparing and practicing, the cast performed in front of the SI community for six shows starting on March 22 with their final show set for March 31.

Some of the cast members described it as being a moment of relief and pride to be able to finally share their talent with the audience and have their hard work and dedication be on display. Audience members have loved the show, remarking on the amazing singing voices of all members of the cast. Bravo to all involved in the show!

## MOVIE/TV RECOMMENDATIONS

Aidan Stecher '23

Managing Editor

### MANDALORIAN

TV-14 | 8.7/10 IMDb  
90% RT | Disney+  
*The Mandalorian* and *Grogu* valiantly return in season three of *The Mandalorian*. Debuting March 1, the show is currently in the middle of their third season, releasing a new episode each Wednesday. With the threat of the scattered empire now resolved after the end of season 2, *The Mandalorian* is forced to reckon with his own identity and culture. The show focuses on the Mandalorian’s past, as he returns to his home world of Mandalore, after decades of fighting and war.



### CREED III

PG-13 | 7.3/10 IMDb  
88% RT | Theaters  
The third installment of the *Creed* franchise continues in *Creed III*. Now on top of the boxing world, Adonis Creed must face his past as he reunites with his childhood friend Damian. After resurfacing from prison, Damian has nothing left to lose and has a meteoric rise through the boxing world. Creed and Damian are destined to clash in the ring and outside of the ring. With fantastic performances from Michael B. Jordan and Jonathan Majors, the film grapples with Creed’s past and relationship with Damian as well as his family.





“What are you training for?” someone at the gym asked Dr. Davis at the gym one day, and her response was “LIFE!” Dr. Davis, alongside other panelists and discussion leaders, shared her own athletic and mental health journey at Loud and Clear, SI’s very first Mental Health Summit.

With student-athletes making up nearly 70% of the student body, the Sports Medicine Club thought it was about time to start their own discussion, focusing on the variety of ways that mental health impacts athletes. Our athletic trainers, Josh Pendleton and Kayla Gradillas, and the presidents of the Sports Medicine Club Nabie Bertrand and Katrina Strain, organized this important event; Dr. Tiana Woolridge led the discussion alongside three other panelists: Dr. Tasia Davis, Myles Holmes, and Elisa Mann.

Each of the speakers opened up to the audience, sharing their athletic journey and the mental health struggles that they overcame to be where they are today.

Mental health awareness only started to grow with the last few years. Struggles with mental health can appear in a variety of ways which is why it is important to reach out for help when you think you are taking on too much or are feeling overwhelmed.

Dr. Woolridge’s other key takeaways from this summit include the topic of common mental health challenges. These include lack of sleep, coping with failure, and intense pressure. Woolridge also mentioned the mental health triangle, which demonstrates how athletes can be susceptible to the pressures of sports, society, and stress.

Kevin Chin '26

KICKING OFF TRACK

Contributing Editor

The Saint Ignatius Track and Field team kicked off their season on March 4, with not one, but two meets. One group competed at the K-Bell Track and Field Classic at Westmont High school while the other group traveled to Monta Vista High School to compete. Both teams had a number of athletes with great finishes but most notably Ellie McCuskey-Hay who broke the long standing Female 100m record. The record held by Sommer Washington for nearly 30 years was broken by Ellie McCuskey-Hay who ran a shocking 12.15 sec 100m through the pouring rain. The track team is looking forward to a promising and existing season and is ready for their next meet.

Ethan Qua '23

SPRING SPORTS UPDATE

Managing Editor

Spring Sport seasons are moving at full speed! This season we have many Varsity teams who have WCAL Championship aspirations. Roll Cats!!! *\*Records as of 3/26\**

**Boy's and Girl's Lacrosse**  
(B) Record: 7-0 | (G) Record: 6-0

Men’s lacrosse stands at 7-0 after defeating rival Torrey Pines, and Women’s lacrosse remain undefeated at 4-0 after a dominant trip to San Diego.

**Boy's and Girl's Swim & Dive**

The Men and Women Swim and Dive teams are off to a great start after a strong meet at St. Francis on the 23rd of March. The Women’s team is 3-0 and the Men’s team is 2-1.

**Boy's and Girl's Crew**

Crew has an exciting season ahead as they participate in regattas all over the Bay Area. This past weekend they participated in an Alumni race at Lake Merced and now look forward to the 510 Sprints and West Coast Scholastic Championships.

**Track & Field**

Men's varsity is coming off of huge wins against Serra and Mitty, while women's varsity suffered a tough loss against Mitty. Both teams eagerly await a matchup with SHC. Men's varsity is 2-0, and women's varsity is 0-2.

**Softball**  
Record: 2-2

A rough loss to Burlingame brings SI's record to 2-2, but Varsity looks to get back in the win column on the 31st against Capuchino as they continue their season

**Boy's Tennis**  
Record: 10-2

A six-match win streak kept varsity in first place in WCAL. Varsity looks to bring the momentum into big matches against St. Francis and Valley Christian in the coming days.

**Boy's Golf**  
Record: 2-2

A close match against Bellarmine ultimately resulted in a loss, but Varsity looks to bounce back against the rival Serra Padres on April 3rd.

**Baseball**  
Record: 9-1

Varsity takes the Bruce!!! After a tough loss to Valley Christian SI dominated in the Bruce Mahoney. They look to continue their succesful season against Bellarmine on the 31st. The team is currently ranked 15th in California.

**Boy's Volleyball**  
Record: 1-5

After tough losses against Sacred Heart and Urban, Varsity looks to bounce back after a tough skid when they compete against San Mateo on April 3rd.



CATS CLAIM THE BRUCE

Cole Siwinski '26

Contributing Editor

*Continued from Front Page*

from the Saint Ignatius crew helped hold the Irish to only one run in the game, which came in the fifth inning. Senior Niko Gomoziias pitched a stellar 3.1 innings for the Wildcats letting up no runs and on only three hits. Sophomore Beau Schaffer came in to close out the 4th inning allowing no hits and striking out 1 batter. Freshman Archer Horn sealed the deal, pitching the final three innings. Horn struck out five, allowing one run.



*Fans after the win*

These two high school teams have a rich history of athletic contests. The very first game between the Irish and the Wildcats was a rugby game on St. Patrick’s day 1893 at 8th Street and Market, when the Irish beat the Wildcats 14-4. It was the berth of a long standing rivalry between the two schools and the Bruce-Mahoney trophy itself was founded in 1947 honoring Bill Bruce, an SI graduate and Jerry Mahoney, an SHC graduate, both of whom died in World War II.

Saint Ignatius has now held the Bruce Mahoney trophy for four consecutive years of competition (excluding 2019-2020 due to the final contest, baseball, not being played as a result of Covid). Saint Ignatius intends to build upon this four year streak as the Cats chase their record 12 year trophy streak that existed from 1973-1985.

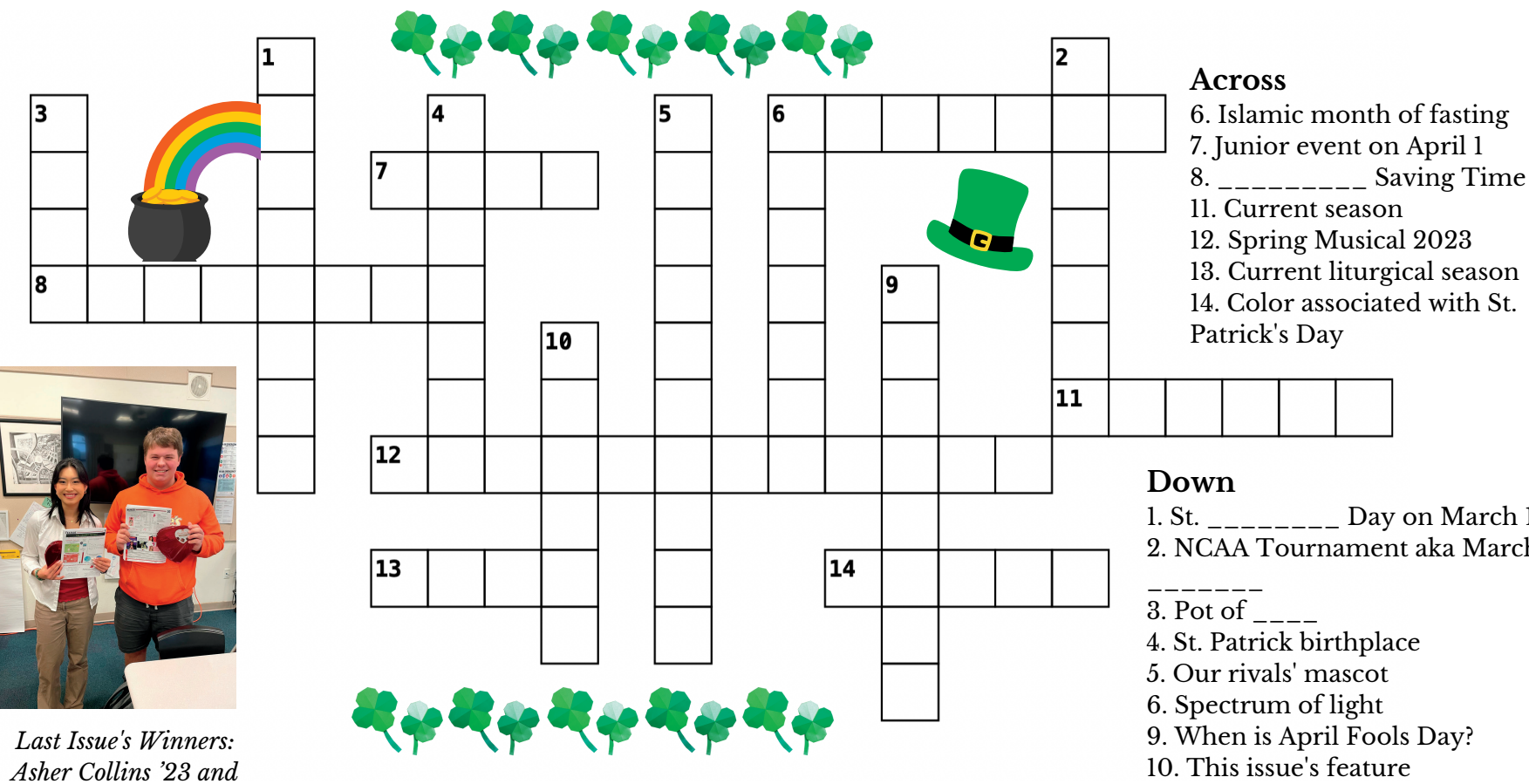
ALL-TIME RECORD  
SI 54 - 21 SHC



MARCH CROSSWORD

Philip Luongo III '23

Editor-in-Chief



**Across**

6. Islamic month of fasting  
7. Junior event on April 1  
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Saving Time  
11. Current season  
12. Spring Musical 2023  
13. Current liturgical season  
14. Color associated with St. Patrick's Day

**Down**

1. St. \_\_\_\_\_ Day on March 17  
2. NCAA Tournament aka March \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Pot of \_\_\_\_\_  
4. St. Patrick birthplace  
5. Our rivals' mascot  
6. Spectrum of light  
9. When is April Fools Day?  
10. This issue's feature



Last Issue's Winners:  
Asher Collins '23 and  
Larissa Firmansyah '23

MEME MADNESS

SI PROM-POSALS

Andrew Wong '24

Managing Editor

a brigade of freshmen  
joining forces to take up  
as much space in the  
hallway as possible





the deans getting ready  
to give the call downs  
after a dress code check







PROM?





