

#VILLAVOICE

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ISLAND ADVENTURE

Reflections from two of the students who traveled to Belize for spring break.

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WHICH TEACHER ARE YOU?

Take our quiz to see which teacher you are most like!

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STALLING CLASSES

After a successful day of fundraising, this year's Stall Day breaks a Villa record for highest donation collection in coin!

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TRACK RUNNING RECORDS

Four Villa students broke records for the team.

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Alum Spotlight: Madeline Ladd, current University of Notre Dame student

Madeline Ladd, Villa Maria Class of 2021 and current student at the University of Notre Dame, is interning with ND's Global Development Institute, which is now running the Mandela Washington Fellowship.

Ella Nugent '23
Editor-in-chief

Madeline Ladd is working with young leaders across the country of Africa in her role as the Project Management Intern for the Mandela Washington Fellowship.

Ladd is a current sophomore at the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana. "I am a Management Consulting major in the Mendoza College of Business with a minor in Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation. I hope to pursue a career in consulting after graduation," she said.

Although Ladd stays busy with her work as a business major, she is involved in several extracurriculars. She is a project leader for Notre Dame's branch of the Student International Business Council Consulting division, an Associate Sports Editor for ND's student-run newspaper, a student caller at ND's alumni outreach program, and the Recruiting Events Chair for ND's Undergraduate Women in Business.

She said, "Villa certainly prepared me well for college in terms of having efficient time management and confidence in my abilities. Villa is such a special place, and I see a lot of it in Notre Dame."

Ladd is currently interning with the Mandela Washington Fellowship, a six-week program in which young leaders (ages 22-30) across the continent of Africa with careers in business, humanities, and science are invited to come to America to participate in academic and leadership training at partner universities.

She said, "I saw the Mandela Washington Fellowship internship posted on the job board by my minor director and decided to apply. After a written application and in-person interview, I was offered a position as the spring and summer intern."

"Meeting people from other backgrounds is important in life and in general."



Madeline Ladd// Notre Dame

Ladd's role in the Fellowship is the Project Management Intern. She said, "I plan and implement programming for the fellows that come to Notre Dame this summer. Acting as the spring intern right now, I am attending meetings, conducting interviews, and staying in touch with people in the local community about potential partnerships."

Ladd's internship lasts throughout the summer, as well. "I am also working with the Department of State to help iron out the fellows' travel and resource plans," she said. "In the summer, I will live at Notre Dame for the duration of the fellowship to help implement this programming and act as a resource for the fellows when they are here."

Ladd's role as a project manager relates to her major in business, as she is gaining experience in planning and implementing a large and prestigious program. "Additionally, meeting people from other cultural backgrounds is important in business and life in general, so that is a component I certainly will find useful," she said.

For the rest of her college experience, Ladd is already busy setting up her schedule. "Right now I am starting to recruit for consulting firms and hopefully will land a summer 2024 consulting internship," she said. "This summer before the MWF internship, I'll be going to Poland for two weeks as part of the Deloitte International Business Scholars colloquium I am in," she said. As part of this program, she meets once a week with the rest of the students to discuss the ethical and professional challenges of business and opportunities for pursuing business as a force for good. Ladd has advice for current Villa Maria students. She said, "To all the current Villa students, you are so lucky to be at such a great school, and you will do just fine in college!" She also suggested applying to anything, internships, etc., that may interest you.

Mock Trial has successful season

Villa Maria's mock trial team wins in and out of the courthouse

Mary Cate Doughty '23, Rose Dugery '25
Editor-in-chief, Reporter



Mock Trial at Semifinals// Cristina McLachlan

Villa Maria's mock trial team is a team of dedicated students who work to present a case of law as they compete against other schools in a realistic trial. Moderated by Mrs. Cristina McLachlan, a former lawyer, and Mr. Joseph Mattson, an attorney, the team has accomplished much this season.

Each year, the state of Pennsylvania assigns a case to all of the mock trial teams in the state. Their job is to analyze the case, pick it apart, and determine how best to win both the prosecution and defense.

"Everybody knows [the case], but the good teams know the entire case verbatim," said Devyn Stek '23, co-captain of mock trial.

The group meets two nights a week to go over the trial and practice their roles. When competitions are approaching, the time commitment is even greater. The team consists of a prosecution lawyer, a defense lawyer, and three witnesses for both defense and prosecution.

"It's a long process with a lot of homework," said co-captain Vanessa Truscello '23. "We read the case at home, then we go back in and work through what we think is most important. The meetings are mostly discussions on what

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The importance of the March for Life and Summit

Villa students traveled to Washington D.C to participate with thousands of others in the protest for life and Summit conference.

Ainsley McCollum '24, Kathleen McGill '26
Reporter, Contributor

Villa girls promote the protection of human life as they march. On the morning of Friday, January 20, roughly 150,000 people traveled to Washington D.C. to march for human rights. With the help of the Respect Life Club, Villa students were able to participate in this experience.

Before traveling to Washington D.C., girls and faculty participated in a prayer service in the Villa chapel before embarking at 6:00 a.m. by bus to begin the day. After arriving at D.C., the first stop was the memorial ground where

there was a rally consisting of a concert and several renowned speakers. Mackenzie Duffy '24 attended the march for the first time.

"It was so empowering to go to this large national gathering of people who really support life and see it as the future for America," Duffy said.

Valeria Guerin '24 has participated with multiple schools and organizations. "I had such a fun time going with Villa, and it is incredible to see all of the people and the support," Guerin said.

"[I learned] how to reach out in a loving way."

Continued on Page 3



March for Life Summit/ Photo provided by Susan Weldon

Behind the curtain: a look into Villa's set

Led by sophomore Caroline Naughton '25, the set design committee is hard at work on the upcoming production of "Into the Woods."

Isabella Licwinko '25, Sarah Duffy '25
Section Leader, Reporter



The Theater Department's behind-the-scenes stars reveal how they make each Villa production a special one.

"Into the Woods," a fanciful, fairy-tale musical, is coming to Villa this May. We are thrilled to see our talented Villa Sisters light up the stage, but it is just as important to dive into the behind-the-scenes work of this exciting production.

Caroline Naughton '25, Head of Set Design for the show revealed that she, as well as the rest of the set design team, have had a marvelous time working on the sets of this whimsical musical.

"The thing that makes the designs and the set work is the cooperation and sisterhood between the members of the committee," Naughton said. "All of our individual actions get tied together to form one amazing product that will hopefully make our actors really shine."

Naughton said, "I have always been interested in art and design since I was little, and when I came to Villa, I wanted to branch out into different mediums."

When the time came to create the sets for "Into the Woods" and get involved in the theater department, Naughton jumped at the chance to bring this fairy tale to life. It all started with planning.

"We had to get the set design together before the rest of the show could be planned," Naughton said. "I am not a very plan-oriented person. I'd rather work in the moment, so coming up with a concrete design was difficult for me, but the amazing members of my committee came up with some really good designs." Naughton said, "Sets are only part of the process, everyone has brought their unique gifts and talents to the table, and I can't wait for Villa to see the amazing results."

Don't miss Villa's fantastical production of "Into the Woods" on May 19, 20, and 21.

Students travel to Belize

Mrs. Keglovitz and Sister Mary Jo chaperone students on island adventure.

Skylar Kronenberg '24, Megan Ronan '24
Contributors



Trip reflection by Skylar Kronenberg '24

Having the opportunity to go on the Belize trip was truly amazing and I will forever be thankful for it. We learned and conducted research on marine life, bats, and one study of our choice.

My two favorite parts of the trip would have to be when we dissected three lion fish. They are an invasive species and the Tobacco Key Marine Station has a project to help remove them from our ocean.

My other favorite part of the trip were the bonds I formed with everyone on the trip. This trip changed my mindset on how I should be more conscious of how I treat the environment.

Trip reflection by Megan Ronan '24

Going to Belize was truly an amazing experience! I felt so educated about ecology conservation and the impactful role all ecosystems have on our daily lives.

I loved how we saw first hand the conservation efforts to protect the reefs in Tobacco Caye, which included trash pick up on the mangroves and coral health assessments.

At TREES it was so inspiring to see first hand the different ways they were combating local environmental issues such as soil exhaustion through recycling Inga plants and composting. It was so cool to conduct our own research project — I'll never forget the memories we made and experience.



Belize adventure//Pictures provided by participants

Crocheting a difference

Villa's Textiles Club works with charity organization Project Robby.

Caroline Naughton '25
Section Leader

The Textiles Club, founded by Caroline Naughton '25 and Annabel Shin '25, teaches students handicrafts and donates handmade items to charity.

Villa has had a recent addition to its art-focused clubs with the founding of the Textiles Club. Co-presidents Caroline Naughton '25 and Annabel Shin '25 started the club earlier this year. The club focuses on creating individual crochet and knitting projects, and experience is not needed to join. Many members of this club have had no experience in crochet or knitting but have grown to love it once they began.

Club member Rosie Dugery '25 had no knowledge of crochet before her first

club meeting, but said, "I loved learning how to crochet, and I now do it all the time."

Some members are already well-versed in this art form. The more experienced member Stella Kline '25 said, "The instruction given by the moderators makes knitting and crocheting easy and fun to learn. Members gain a new skill that they can use for the rest of their lives."

"Working on projects I know will make a difference in someone's life is extremely fulfilling."

Earlier this year, the co-presidents of this club were looking for charities that would take the handmade goods of their members when they found the charity Project Robby. "I

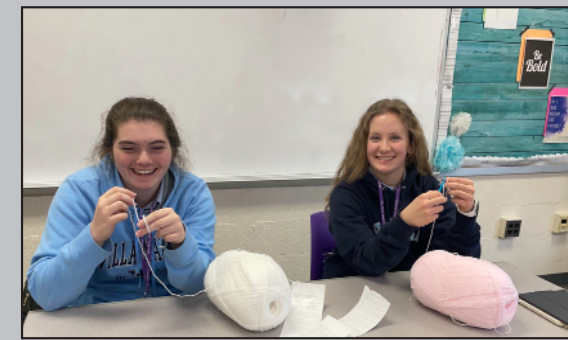
think the Textiles Club is unique compared to other clubs in that we are using our talents to serve our community as well," said co-founder Shin.

Project Robby is a charity that gives families who have lost a baby a bereavement set to hold onto after their baby is gone. The founders of Project Robby, Tanner and Amelia Smith, started the organization after experiencing the loss of their premature baby, Robby. The hat that was given to the couple to remember their baby was entirely too big but gave them

the idea to start their non-profit. Their



Textiles Club members//Linda Ryan



Textiles Club members//Linda Ryan

bereavement sets normally contain a baby hat, blanket, and angel wings, all of which are handmade and are donated to the charity by people from all over America. The sets are then given to hospitals, bereavement photographers, and families who request them.

Naughton's contact with Project Robby, Sherry Smith, led her to the knowledge that the charity is in desperate need of handmade baby hats, blankets, and little white pom-poms. And so, the idea was born, members of

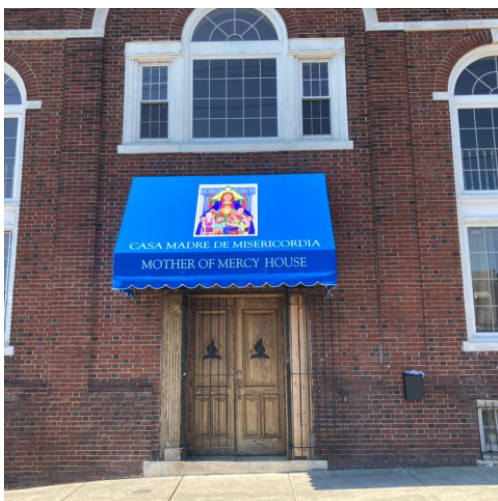
the club could create items to then be donated to the charity. Dugery said, "Working on projects that I know will make a difference in someone's life is extremely fulfilling."

Shin said, "Donating allows us to feel great about our creations, as we know they are beneficial towards the greater good. I value and hold serving others close to my heart, so orchestrating donations to Project Robby has been very important to me and Caroline."

Mother of Mercy House helps Kensington community

IHM mission in Kensington, Philadelphia seeks to be a light by serving the underprivileged

Sophia Snyder '25, Sophie Mesiarik '26
Reporters



Mother of Mercy House // Google

The Mother of Mercy House is a non-profit ministry founded in 2015 by the IHM sisters. Inspired by Pope Francis and his call to "be a poor Church for the poor," the mission works to meet the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the people in Kensington. Once a thriving industrial neighborhood in Philadelphia, Kensington is now a community that suffers from extremely high rates of substance abuse, poverty, and violence.

Alex Rodriguez, the executive director of the Mercy House, said, "We started the Mercy House because most of the Catholic parishes in the area were shutting down. We wanted the neighborhood's residents to know the name of Jesus and to share His love."

Rodriguez grew up in the neighborhood and started doing volunteer work to

"If you have to preach the gospel, do it, and sometimes use words." - St. Francis

help make a change in his community. Alongside Rodriguez works Sister Eileen Reilly who uses the title "Bagger in Chief." With the help of another sister, Reilly prepares over 100 bags to be delivered to families each week and prepares an additional 100 to 130 bags for the homeless people within their community, or their "outdoor neighbors."

Reilly said, "It's our presence and how we meet and greet these people that they understand and see that they are loved by God and not forgotten."

Both Rodriguez and Reilly believe that any type of interaction with the people of the neighborhood is truly a beautiful thing. They are "feeding not only the souls, but the mind and body" through sharing and offering God's word and simply being there for the residents. Rodriguez considers the Mercy House "like a lighthouse for ships that are lost" because they are truly there to help anyone and everyone in need.

Sr. Eileen sees her job as the opportunity to do something she loves. She said, "It's not a happiness like jumping for joy; it's a peace.

It's reminding people that they are loved."

To help out the Mother of Mercy House, the Villa community put together bags during DEI week with snacks and notes. These bags went to a program at the Mother of Mercy House that provides a safe environment for the children in Kensington to go to during the day.

The Mother of Mercy House is working to make a difference in the lives of the people in Kensington. Through their food pantry and various programs, the ministry takes Pope Francis's words to heart as they bring help and hope to the community in every way that they can.



Mother of Mercy House // Google

MOCK TRIAL HAS SUCCESSFUL SEASON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we think could be better or we could add on to our case.”

When it comes to competitions, it is not just about the facts of the case. The win goes to whichever team presents the case better, whether that is the defense or plaintiff. This emphasis on presentation requires the girls to be excellent public speakers with the ability to work under pressure.

“Lawyers have to know the rules of law. We do a direct examination and a cross examination of the other team’s witness,” Stek said. “You don’t know what they’re going to say, so you have to think on your feet. That’s the most difficult part of mock trial.”

The witnesses provide an account of the case, so the lawyers have the facts on the event from people who “witnessed” it firsthand. Witnesses must know a five-to-six page witness statement by heart to be successful in their roles.

“You have to know that all the little nuances and out of the tough questions. really hard role,” Stek said.

Mock trial is a huge and is one of the most de-clubs offered at Villa. Be-commitment, the members their all into their court cases and have certainly taken a lot away from it. From public speaking to time management, it seems that this club is a stepping stone to life after Villa, as it provides the girls with life skills and real-life work experience in the courtroom.

“[Mock Trial] has taught me how to be a better public speaker and a team leader,” Truscello said. “It has influenced me to go to college to study law. I cannot speak for everyone, but I think it’s great for learning how to present and prepare your work in both the club and life. It helps with not procrastinating because you can’t during mock trial. And it helps you learn how to pick out only the important information in things.”The team had a very successful season, making it all the way to the semi-finals.

“The good teams know the entire case verbatim.”

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Devyn Stek won the Best Advocate and Vanessa Truscello won Best Witness at the Chester County Semi Finals// Cristina McLachlan

“We’re pretty much on par as we have been in the past. I think a big part of it really is the practice,” Stek said. “I think putting in the time to practice is definitely beneficial...the competitions were hard and stressful but the success made it feel worth it. It was great getting the scores back and seeing how well we did,” Truscello said.

The moderators of mock trial have also given the Villa Mock Trial team a leg up over the competition. “Mrs. McLachlan used to be a lawyer, specifically a prosecutor, so she has a lot of experience and is very committed to the team,” Stek said. “And Mr. Mattson is our attorney advisor. For most teams, attorney advisors only meet once or twice with them. Mr. Mattson comes to almost every practice.”

Members of the team won multiple individual awards at various competitions. With the idea of building community between schools, there are additional awards besides those given by the judges.

“To build comradery with other teams and spark conversation, the schools give best advocate and best lawyer awards to the other schools they’re competing against,” Stek said.

The winners of these awards were for best witness, Sloane Ercole ’25, Shefa Khalid ’24, and Truscello, and for best advocate, Dakshta Arora ’24, Truscello, and Stek.

This season for Villa’s Mock Trial team was one to remember. Each member played a vital role in the competitions. Overall, mock trial has prepared them well for future endeavors and life beyond Villa. Who knows? You may just see them as future justices in our court system. Congratulations to Villa’s Mock Trial team on another successful year.



Vanessa Truscello and Alexis Allen participated in a Criminal Law Symposium at the Chester County Courthouse// Cristina McLachlan



Dakshta Arora won Best Lawyer and Sloane Ercole won Best Witness// Cristina McLachlan

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MARCH FOR LIFE AND SUMMIT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Participating in the march is an opportunity to meet people from all around the world. Duffy said, “We have met friends from all over who are students and leaders in the pro-life movement.” Both Duffy and Guerin also said that the experience helps attendees to become listeners and advocates on all levels, no matter their age.

On January 21 after the march, the National Pro-Life Summit was held. The Summit is a training day for pro-life activists of all ages. Guerin said, “Summit is where a bunch of pro-lifers are called together. They have pro-life giants like Abby Johnson and tons of other leaders who speak. There are workshops to help educate on issues and current events in the world.”

Not only was this training day a chance to be further educated on the pro-life movement but a chance to connect with people from all over the country that have the same passion for the movement as well. The Summit reinforced for Guerin an important lesson.

“[I learned] how to reach out in a loving way, especially to people on campus and in my community; [I learned] to be able to have a productive conversation on different views,” Guerin said.

The March for Life is a long day filled with much walking, but it is also a day filled with peace.

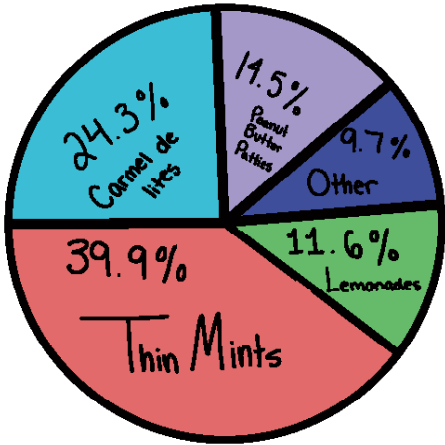
“At the end of the day, this is the way that America is trending and we have a lot to look forward to,” Duffy said.

After both the March for Life and the Summit, attendees were left feeling hopeful for the future. Equipped with the tools needed to help make a difference in their community, these students can continue to work towards change that protects and promotes the dignity of life at all stages.



National Pro-Life Summit // Students for Life

Finding the Favorite Cookie:
Girl Scout Cookie Rankings



Poll by: Caroline Reagan '26

Which teacher do you relate to the most?

Take a quiz to see if you are like one of these teachers: Mr. Borosky, Mrs. Filipowicz, Mr. Byrnes, Dr. Horan, Mr. Kolter, or Mrs. Rightley!

■ Brianna McDonald '23
Editor-in-Chief

1. If you could bring any one item with you to a deserted island, what would it be and why?

a. Sunscreen, for obvious reasons :)

b. A boat, so I could get off the island.

c. A piano, it would help me to find comfort, inspiration, and perhaps sanity. Plus, I'd finally have a chance to practice an hopefully get good at playing it.

d. A Swiss army knife, I feel that it would be useful in survival on the deserted island.

e. A tool kit, so I have essential tools to help me survive.

f. My wife – but if you mean non-people things, then matches. Fire would be essential for cooking, cleaning, and warmth.
2. You can be reincarnated into any animal of your choice. Which animal are you choosing and why?

a. A cat – they have nine lives and seem unbothered by most things.

b. An eagle – so I could fly.

c. A bumble bee – they can both fly and dig under the ground. They can go up and out into the world, but they can also get underneath the surface.

d. A dog – our dog lives a life of luxury with food and attention on demand, soft beds and plenty of companionship.

e. A shark – so I could live in the ocean.

f. A bald eagle – a fellow bald animal gets my respect! Plus, they have no natural predators, migrate away from the cold, and I would love to be able to fly!
3. What is your guilty pleasure food?

a. Trader Joe's dark chocolate peanut butter cups.

b. Carrot cake.

c. Chips Ahoy cookies, the blue pack (original crispy ones, none of that chewy non sense in the red pack).

d. A pint of Ben and Jerry's ice cream.

e. Mint chocolate chip ice cream.

f. Wings and anything fried.
4. During your free time, what will someone most likely catch you doing?

a. Walking my dog.

b. Sudoku.

c. Riding my bike or reading something.

d. Singing in a multigenerational choir called the Wayne Oratorio Society and potting at the Wayne Art Center.

e. Cooking/baking or doing a DIY home project.

f. From March to November, I'm at a little league baseball field. Otherwise, I'm taking my kids snowboarding or going on dates with my wife.
5. In a game of truth or dare, which option would you choose (and why)?

a. Truth.

b. Dare – I'm very private.

c. Dare – dares are fun. Actions speak louder than words, or at least, someone told me that!

d. Truth – Although I seem to be an extrovert at school, doing new things under pressure is not my preference.

e. Truth – I don't mind answering questions honestly, even if it'll be embarrassing.

f. Dare – especially if it's fun! I'm sort of adventurous, I'm willing to try new things.
6. If you could choose one place to travel to, where would you go?

a. Paris.

b. Ireland.

c. The Great Pyramid of Giza.

d. Alaska.

e. Ireland with my daughters.

f. Croatia.
7. It's a typical Friday night. What are you doing?

a. CrossFit and then pizza with my family.

b. Staying home and watching TV.

c. Eating a burrito and putting my feet up.

d. Occasionally we will go out to dinner, see a movie, or be in the car driving to visit one of our children.

e. Watching a movie with my husband.

f. If I'm not at home, then I'll do something local but fun: Round 1, X Golf, Bowling, Hibachi, etc.
8. If you were stuck in a room and could only have one song play on repeat for an undetermined amount of time, what song would you choose?

a. "All I Need" by Radiohead.

b. "Money" by Pink Floyd.

c. "Echoes" by Pink Floyd.

d. I can't decide – either "Love Shack," "Falling" or "Fire and Rain."

e. "A Life That's Good" by Lennon and Maisy Stella.

f. "Fallin'" from the Judgment Soundtrack is one of my favorites and is nostalgic for me. It would bring back high school memories for me to occupy my time.
9. What was your childhood dream job?

a. Fashion designer.

b. Engineer.

c. Paleontologist.

d. I had three – First female president of the U.S., a pediatrician, or a teacher.

e. Olympic athlete.

f. Actor, but was always intrigued by teaching.
10. You win the lottery. What is the first thing you'd do with your money?

a. Put it aside for education- for my kids and for myself in the future- never stop learning!

b. Pay off my kids' debts.

c. Start a publishing house.

d. I wouldn't want to win a big lottery. I think too much money leads to losing sight of the true blessings in our lives. If I did win, I wouldn't tell anyone and set up an account to invest.

e. Pay off debt.

f. Boring answer: set up funds for my kids. Fun answer: buy a beach house and a castle in France.

Finding the perfect reusable water bottle: Stanley Cup vs. Hydro-flask

Villa girls are picking up on the new trends while maintaining the original ones.

■ Annabel Shin '25
Contributor



Stanley brand's trending tumbler cup // Stanley.com

Almost every student has a water bottle with her. Water is necessary for everyday functioning, but many girls bring ones that match “their aesthetic” — getting ideas from viral trends across the internet. One of the most common and new water bottle trends seen at Villa is the Stanley Cup. The Stanley Cup brand is over 100 years old but is just making its Villa debut, as it became a trend in late 2022. Because of its popularity across America, it is still sold out at many stores. These cups went viral for their insulated body, handle, large 40 oz size, and their reusable and removable straw. However, are people buying these cups just because they are trending or to appreciate the different components? “I love my Stanley. It keeps my water really cold and insulated and it fits into cup holders perfectly,” Sarah Duffy ’25 said. It is evident that Stanley Cups also come with a lot of benefits, aside from just being a viral trend. Additionally, the Hydro-flask is still making an appearance as a common water bottle choice. The Hydro-flask went viral in late 2019 into early 2020 thanks to TikTok. This easily allowed them to become the “go-to cup.” Similar to the Stanley, it also keeps water cold and insulated. The only real difference is how it looks. “It works really well with keeping my water cold and is still in great shape after using it for a while,” Stipa said. Trends from the media typically do not last long, but the Hydro-flask is still popular after many years. Will there be another new water bottle trend soon? The future awaits, but in the meantime, make sure to check out these two trends.

Handbook Competition Winner

Congratulations to Ashlee Hill '25 for winning the 2023-2024 Student Handbook competition!



Where all the efforts of Stall Day go

Stall Day, one of Villa’s biggest fundraising events, encourages girls to scrap for coins in an effort to stall classes for the day.

■ Abigail Carlson ’24, Siena Fontana ’26
Section Leader, Contributor



Tri-M Bake Sale//Laurie Scaggs

March 10 marked the annual Stall Day tradition here at Villa. The gym was packed to the brim with students and teachers as the annual fundraising event takes its place. The coins were poured out onto the tables, as voices and laughter circulated the air in an attempt to distract teachers from counting the coins. Students flowed in and out of the gym to places like the auditorium for movies and the art rooms for service opportunities. If enough coins were brought in and it took teachers the whole day to count these coins, then all the time students spent scouring their couches, car cup holders, and bags for coins would pay off.

On the surface, Stall Day is an entertaining day for students, but what does it take for Mission and Ministry to pull this off and where does all the money go? Junior Mission and Ministry Executive Leaders, Sophia Conish ’24 and Dakshta Arora ’24, were eager to highlight the importance of Stall Day.

“All that money goes to different charities. Some of them are IHM missions and there’s an all-girls school in India, too. It’s up to our moderators Mrs. Bielli, Sister Mary Jo, Mrs. A,” said Conish. “The past few years, Stall Day has donated to the same causes: the IHM missions, the one in Peru, and more specifically this year, we have been partnering a lot with the Mother of Mercy House in Kensington, so definitely money will be going there.”

Dakshta Arora gave the idea to donate to the school in India where some of the Stall Day proceeds will be going.

“My older sister was the one that introduced Pardada Pardi to Villa,” said Arora. “So now we are able to increase our global outreach to Peru and India, and we are hoping to do more in the future.”

Mission and Ministry is methodical in assessing where Stall Day’s collected money will be sent. As an IHM school, the call to serve fellow sisters is necessary. As an all-girl school, the call

to spread the sisterhood and empower young women is a core value at Villa.

“It all starts in our executive meetings. We all meet in Mrs. Bielli’s room at 7:20 a.m., every other Tuesday, and that’s where we really begin,” said Conish. “This year we broke it up into committees. So each executive is in charge of one aspect of Stall Day, and the remaining representatives sign up and they are the ones who will be volunteering on the day of, or they’re going to help plan the events.”

Different movies are played during Stall Day and service opportunities are also available. “Last year we included movies, which were a big hit, and this year we are also planning on doing that again but with different movies,” Arora said. This year, students also have the opportunity to make St. Patrick’s Day themed cards for the Sisters at Camilla Hall.

It takes conscious planning to enable a and smooth-flowing event. With a larger student population and a myriad of smaller Huddles, it’s important to make sure enough space is allocated for this special event to occur.

“Stall Day is going to be the same format as last year, but we are definitely adding a twist. So this year, because we no longer have homerooms, and instead we have huddles, we are going to be combining the huddles per grade level,” said Conish. “It keeps it the most organized if we do it this way, and this year we are going to partition some outside space, so people can hang outside. Maybe we’ll put some of those games out there because it does get a little hectic in [the gym.]”

“There are two aspects: One, we are donating to various causes. Our school is run by the IHM mission and Sisters, and their mission does a lot for these communities. The Mother of Mercy House, for example, requires a lot of aid, and the House provides a place for kids to eat, hang out, and feel protected. On the other side, it’s a fun day to hang out with your classmates and stall the day,” Conish added.

“Stall Day is one of the most important events at Villa to increase sisterhood,” Arora said. “Not only are we helping other people, we are allowing the Villa community to come together to stall a day of classes.”

Stall Day is a special event that represents a pillar of Villa’s IHM values: service. Mission and Ministry makes this day enjoyable, but it’s important to remember that the money students bring in benefits a variety of people and communities.



Counting Coins //Laurie Scaggs



Esports Stall Activity //Laurie Scaggs



Students pass the time playing dodge ball //Laurie Scaggs

Plunging into the Special Olympics

A Special Olympics bocce team raises over \$13,000 at Citizens Bank Park’s Polar Plunge event.

Payton Denny ’25, Maggie McHale ’26
Reporter, Contributor

Will McHale is a senior at Downingtown East High School, where he serves as the captain of his bocce team. The team is made up of both neurotypical and neurodiverse student athletes. Their league is recognized by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. Recently, the team attended their biggest event of the year, the Polar Plunge, which raises money for the Special Olympics.

McHale started playing bocce two years ago after his football coach suggested he join the team. Though his time on the team has been short, this experience has made a great impact on his life.

“Playing bocce has taught me to be accepting of all people, regardless of your neurological capabilities. It’s also another great way to be involved within my community,” McHale said.

The commitment to the program is just the right balance of fun and competitiveness. “A normal schedule for us consists of two practices a week. We play in five regular season matches a year,” McHale said. His team went on to make it to the district playoffs. Though the team does not meet as frequently as most PIAA sports, the team’s bond is just as strong. “Even though I don’t see my teammates on a daily basis, they’ve still become some of my best

friends who have shown me an overwhelming amount of love, support, and joy,” McHale said.

The day of the actual Polar Plunge was fun filled with many activities and events leading up to the big moment.

“We were transported to Citizens Bank Park in the morning. They had various stations set up, where we would stretch, warm up, and do different water activities. Eventually, our big moment came, and we jumped into the Polar Plunge Pool. The whole purpose was to raise money and to bring attention to the Special Olympics Program,” McHale said.

There are different ways you can be involved in the Polar Plunge.

“You can contribute to the next Polar Plunge by donating on the GoFundMe pages and by possibly coming to the event,” McHale said.

Most public high schools have a GoFundMe set up for their Special Olympics team. Anyone can donate, regardless of where you attend school. These teams do not receive any funding from their districts, unlike other sports recognized by the PIAA. People’s donations directly benefit each team, whether it be by providing uniforms, equipment, or funding to attend the Polar Plunge.

McHale motivated his community to contribute in any way they could in order to get involved with the program.

“I pushed for donations, encouraged some of my friends to come out to our matches and even to join the team,” McHale said.



Special Olympics // Photo provided by Maggie McHale ’26

McHale’s last season with his team was filled with gratitude and appreciation for the incredible experience he’s had.

“It’s been a great experience overall. I really enjoy helping kids who have neurological disabilities and collaborating with my peers. I’ve also gained teamwork and leadership skills throughout my time working with the team,” McHale said.

His perspective on life is forever changed because of the people he’s met and memories they’ve shared through the Special Olympics.

“It’s changed my perspective on life in a sense of having a deeper understanding of the

challenges neurodiverse athletes face. It’s allowed me to have a greater level of empathy for those around me,” McHale said. “Throughout the world, we need to be accepting of each other and appreciate our differences.”

Even though McHale’s time with the team has come to an end, the lessons he’s learned are sure to follow him wherever he goes.

MALVERN PREP SWITCH DAY

Switch Day: Four Villa fish in the sea

Attending a high school filled with over 600 boys, four Villa students; Olivia Broadhurst '23, Maddie Catania '23, Brianna McDonald '23, and Ella Nugent '23; navigated through a school day at Malvern Prep.

■ Brianna McDonald '23, Ella Nugent '23
Editors-in-Chief

In the days leading up to this switch, we were all very nervous, considering we would be leaving our comforting all-girl environment at Villa Maria for an entire day of classes.

Right as we stepped out of the car, we saw our hosts walking up to us with welcoming faces and custom Malvern Prep sugar cookies in hand. We walked together into the Friar's Lantern homeroom class and went over the plans for the day.

"I think my favorite part of the day was getting to see the Friar's Lantern and how it was run each morning," Broadhurst said.

Then, we immediately noticed loud chatter coming from the left of the room we were in. They had a cafe that was fully stocked with breakfast foods and coffee that students could utilize every morning.

After homeroom, the boys had a chapel reflection time where a student leader shared his reflection prompt. This was really interesting to experience because we thought it was a great way to start the school day. Once chapel was finished, we split off into two groups.

Catania and McDonald started with English class, then went to Economics, lunch, Intro to Law, and Honors Modern Medicine. Broadhurst and Nugent attended Chinese, Ceramics IV, Lunch, African American History, and AP Literature.

I wish I recorded our faces when we heard that they have a 75 minute lunch break and the moment when we walked into the cafeteria to see that they have a pizza bar, salad bar, and pasta bar.

"The amount of food options was shocking," Nugent said. "I felt like anything I wanted was there."

Additionally, it was interesting to see the contrast in class dynamics between an all-girls school versus an all-boys school. Even though they had a lax dress code and are able to use their phones during class, this seemed to work for them.

Overall, I think that both schools have redeeming qualities the students wouldn't change. Our day spent at Malvern Prep was drastically different from our usual time at Villa, but I think there is a reason for the differences.

"An all-boys school is way different than an all-girls school," Nugent said. "It's really surprising because Malvern and Villa are associated with each other, yet they're so different."



The Friar's Lantern // Photo provided by Malvern Prep

Tips for Survival at Malvern Prep:

1. Bring your phone. You will likely use it all day.
2. Dress comfortably.
3. Be prepared to spend all of your money at the cafeteria.
4. Have a charger for all of your electronics.
5. Don't pick up food on the way to school. There is a fully stocked cafe with breakfast sandwiches and coffee for students every morning.
6. Ensure you have an extensive collection of hooded sweatshirts.
7. Get better at ceramics.

VILLA MARIA SWITCH DAY

Friar's Take on Villa Maria Academy

Friar's Lantern members Aidan Naughton, Luke Pajan, and Alex Gueriera traveled into the Hurricane becoming temporary Villa Maria Academy students.

■ Aidan Naughton '23, Alex Gueriera '24, Luke Pajan '24,
Editor-in-Chief and Contributors

The Malvern Student's Guide to Surviving Villa Maria:

School Spirit: Everyone had school spirit and Villa attire on. Villa students seemed to take pride in their work and carry themselves well while at school. Everyone had the right uniform on and treated and respected the teachers, staff, and each other. From all student accounts, there is a lot of pride in the sports teams for the number of people who actually attended the games.

Class Length: The class length varied from 80 minutes to 35 minutes. Alex had two classes over 80 minutes and was not used to it. It is impressive that the girls do that every day. My body and brain was worn down, but it was fun to experience something different.

Crazy Short Lunches: These short lunches were nothing we have ever experienced before. Malvern students are used to an hour lunch. At Villa, they had thirty-minute lunches and it seemed to be normal for the girls. Their cafeteria food was good, but the time to eat that food was brutal. If we brought only a handful of Malvern students we could eat all the food provided in the Cafeteria day.

Overwhelmingly Friendly: Everyone went out of their way to say hi to us. They were so nice and made sure you felt comfortable at their school. People would start conversations with me and ask how my day is. They wanted to make my experience better and love the school, which I did.

No Phones: Be careful not to have your phone out on campus or it'll get snatched. Villa Maria's no-phone policy is extremely strict.

Senior Lounge: Villa actually has one. The Villa seniors took full advantage of their space by turning off the lights, finding a nice spot on the couch, and taking a nap in between classes. Naughton was very jealous when he saw the lounge.

Dress Code: Watch out Doc! You got some competition! The uniforms at Villa were strictly enforced. A positive of this is that the uniforms actually serve their purpose. A negative, as many Malvern students may argue, is that strict enforcement of the uniform allows for less "self-expression" and more time to get ready in the morning.

No Friar's Cup: Villa did not have a cafe like the Friar's Cup on campus. Though the demand for food is not even close to Malvern's, the Friars need their snacks. I'm sure Villa students would want them too.

Wider Campus: The Campus is not very large in size however many classes are spread out between three buildings. Unlike Malvern, you will find yourself frequently moving between buildings for a majority of your classes. Though you might appreciate the picturesque campus on your walk.



Switch Day Hosts// Laurie Scaggs

DEI Week: Insight with Kenya Cook

From an educational speaker to breakout workshops, the DEI committee planned an exceptional week.

Dani Strid '25, Ari Butler '24,
Section Leader, Reporter



DEI Assembly // Mrs. Linda Ryan

After many weeks of planning, the DEI committee's vision came to life. This year, they re-modeled DEI week after attending the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice Conference (IFTJ).

"Before DEI week, the executive team traveled to DC to go to the IFTJ conference," Kenya Cook '23, president of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion board said. "It's a bunch of schools and colleges ... we do breakout sessions, it's really interactive. I decided I would take notes to try to bring learned, because we something confer for this year's as-

After the con-committee worked tics: what the assem-like, how many stu-in each workshop, how many executive officers would run each workshop, and more.

"We wanted to have multiple workshops that were interactive," Cook said. "We wanted people to take something away from it ... we had multiple meetings, we wanted to make sure we knew how to handle every situation."

Executive members were paired up and created their own interactive workshop about a social justice issue important to them.

"We wanted to make sure each workshop included a part of social justice and that students know that their opinions matter," Cook said.

"We wanted people to take something away from it."

The DEI day also featured speaker Ms. Michelle Duncombe, a graduate of Villanova university and Senior Product Manager at Comcast. She discussed how diversity has helped her in her personal life and career.

"My dad joined an employee research group ... he met [Duncombe] and sent me her email, so I set up a meeting with her," Cook said. "A lot of the things she said, every girl at Villa can relate to. I introduced her to the executive team, and we all met with her. She's a complete leader who is giving back to her community."

From coordinating a speaker, to several different workshops, DEI week has a lot of moving parts that the executive team, led by Kenya Cook, handled with ease. Overall, it was both informative and interactive for everyone involved.



DEI Workshop// Mrs. Linda Ryan

SpeakUp: Conversations to remember

Villa Girls attended the annual SpeakUp event.

Riley Meriwether '25
Section Leader



SpeakUp//Linda Ryan

Speak-Up, a nonprofit organization in Chester County, is a program held to help teenagers develop a strong relationship with their parents and other adults. Participants discuss tough topics such as drugs, alcohol, racism, etc. and provide support for one another. Villa students attend one of these programs every year, this year's was held at Notre Dame Academy High School. Our girls experienced the connection with and support of other kids their age and came to an understanding of the worries that run through parents' minds.

"They have the chance to talk about topics that are not generally talked about often."

The annual Speak-Up program started off with an opening assembly, where participants play guessing games as an introduction to the organization. Then, people break up into random groups based on a topic they want to discuss or hear more about. Many Villa upperclassmen helped run these groups and guide the members. Skylar Kronenberg '24 assisted in leading one of the groups about drugs.

"SpeakUp is such a great opportunity for people to attend" Kronenberg said. "They have the chance to learn more about topics that are not generally talked about often."

Shyloh Dugan '25 participated in a group discussion about racism.

"It was very informative and interesting," Dugan said. The conversation we had gave me insight into the lives of people of color."

Within a 75-minute session, teens and parents become more knowledgeable and comforted by talking with one another. Because of the SpeakUp program, teenagers feel more confident and comfortable to have difficult conversations and parents' minds are soothed with the knowledge of understanding just a bit more about their children.

Answers to the quiz from Page 3

MOSTLY A'S: YOU ARE MOST LIKE MRS. FILIPOWICZ!

"I love to read, watch my favorite TV shows, hang out with my family, and go on long walks with my dog. I am a big fan of several musicians/bands as well, such as Wilco, Radiohead, and Sleater-Kinney to name a few. I love going to new cities just to walk around and explore. My current favorite city to visit is Boston! I also am an advocate for animals, and I currently volunteer at the Brandywine Valley SPCA a few times a month with my daughter, Harper."



Mrs. Filipowicz

MOSTLY B'S: YOU ARE MOST LIKE MR. BYRNES!

"I'm a Phillies fan, I love Star Wars, and Walt Disney World is my favorite place on earth."



Mr. Byrnes

MOSTLY C'S: YOU ARE MOST LIKE MR. BOROSKY!

"I'm a person who values both adventure and the simple pleasures of being at home. What's visible above the surface of things is only sometimes as interesting as what's below the surface, and in both my reading and the rest of my living, I enjoy the process of digging. I like creating as well as consuming--writing as well as reading, listening to as well as making music, cooking and gardening as well as eating."



Mr. Borosky

MOSTLY D'S: YOU ARE MOST LIKE DR. HORAN!

"[My husband and I] moved to Pennsylvania after his residency where we began our family. I practiced as a pediatrician for eight years while we were welcoming our four daughters, Kaitlin, Stephanie, Cynthia, and Melissa. When the girls were 5, 7, 9, and 11, I elected to spend my next ten years as a full time mom, leading four Scout troops, editing the yearbook, and running various PTO functions. I am now onto my third decade, which is awesome! To spend my days engaging and challenging bright young women to believe in themselves is a blessing. In my free time, I continue my pursuit of music, have fun being creative with clay, and love to spend time with our dog, Maizy."



Dr. Horan

MOSTLY E'S: YOU ARE MOST LIKE MRS. RIGHTLEY!

"The thing I love most to do is spend time with family and friends. I enjoy hosting any holiday celebration, especially Thanksgiving. I look forward to it every year. In the summer, I spend most of my time down the shore, and I get to the beach as much as possible. I love watching all Philadelphia sports events, but watching college basketball is my favorite. Playing and coaching basketball will forever be a passion of mine."



Mrs. Rightley

Villa Maria’s winter sports teams dominate their seasons

Villa Maria basketball, track & field, and swimming & diving finish out their seasons with outstanding achievements.

Mia Ceritano '25, Madelyn DiBonaventura '26
Reporter, Contributor

Each of Villa Maria’s winter sports teams ended the season with great triumph. The basketball team completed their season with a record of 19-3.

“Everyone played fantastic throughout the whole season and all incorporated their talents with each role we have on the team,” Marah McHugh '23 said.

The basketball team later became ACAA League champions – a big accomplishment considering the last time this happened was in 2012.

“This is definitely the best year yet with the relationships made with the team and the success,” McHugh said.

Track and Field had a successful season with school records broken in the shot put, 4x200, and other categories. Each meet allows runners to bond and grow closer as a team while also improving in the sport. Ari Butler '24 was one of the team members who broke the 4x200 school record.

“The season was so much fun. The team was competitive, which I feel was great because we could push each other and really work hard to improve our running as a whole,” Butler said.

While Butler speaks highly of the team’s performance, she holds the relation-

ships with her teammates with the utmost respect and importance to her experience.

“I feel that track has allowed me to meet new people at Villa and form new relationships with people I had not yet had the opportunity to. I definitely wouldn’t have enjoyed it this much if it wasn’t that fun.”

Villa’s track and field team will continue in the spring season with more anticipated accomplishments and friendships to be made.

The swimming and diving team had an outstanding season this year, despite some changes among the coaching staff.

“This season was great for vimming! The first ‘post Cathy Hay season’ went amazingly well,” swim team captain Graciella Schofield '23 said.

As former head coach Cathy Hay retired, head coach Fritz Schumann and assistant coach Nikki Hinsdale stepped up and led the team to a great season. Not only were new faces seen on the swimming front, but Villa acquired a new diving coach as well.

“Diving had a great year, and I think a lot of that was due to our new coach, Michelle Heinemann,” senior diver and captain Mary Cate Doughty '23 said. “She has a lot of experience

“She has a lot of experience in diving and coached us all to a great season.”

in diving and coached us all to a great season.”

The team showcased their skills all throughout the season and eventually placed in the AACA Championships. Additionally, multiple swimmers and divers qualified for the district one championships.

“The team was very successful and even claimed second at the AACA championships, which was something that was truly a whole team effort,” Schofield said. “I believe this feat was due to our closeness as a team and our ability to always cheer and support each other throughout all the meets and races.”

Villa Maria has had great success in the winter season. There have been many rewards for the hard work and dedication the players have put into their sport. Roll ‘Canes!



Basketball’s Senior Night // Brianna McDonald '23

Success of the athletic and spirit winter pep rally

A look into behind the scenes of the pep rally.

Alexis Allen '23, Abby Baumann '24
Editor-in-Chief, Contributor

Villa’s Athletic and Spirit team spent many weeks planning and preparing in order to make their ideas a reality for the winter pep rally. The entertaining event was a big success due to the many hours the A&S executives invested into the preparations.

“We started planning right when we got back from break. It took a couple weeks



Villa Avatar// Laurie Scaggs

and the videos took a couple hours after school,” Mary Gabriele '23 said. “Then we had to get all the games, go out and buy the items, and plan it—along with figuring out what games we wanted, the order, and making the Sign Up Geniuses.”

Another aspect of planning the pep rally was deciding on a theme, which the A&S team unveiled at the beginning of the event. All week long leading up to the pep rally, the A&S team gave students

small hints as to what the theme could be.

“We went through a lot of movies until we found one that we thought would be funny and it is very current because there was a new one that just came out,” Gabriele said.

The long awaited theme was Avatar. The A&S executives even decided to introduce the theme in costume as the blue Avatar characters. They left the student body, facility, and staff in shock, making the theme a huge success.

One of the crowd’s favorite parts of the event was the bungee game, in particular the competition between Alice Nash '24 and Claudia Eells '24. Prior to the winter pep rally, the girls went head to head at the fall pep rally in the bungee game.

“I was going through my emails and was looking at the sign up sheet and I saw Alice’s name,” Eells said. “We had just met and I thought it would be funny to sign up against her.”

Nash and Eells were introduced on stage to compete in the bungee game at the event. After the fall pep rally, the girls’ friendship grew, which led them to sign up for another face off in

“We had just met and I thought it would be funny to sign up against her.”

the winter game. The stakes were high and students were excited to see if Nash would settle the score as Eells technically won their first competition due to a rule infraction on Nash’s behalf.

“I was super excited but honestly when I was up on stage I was really nervous,” Nash said.

Adversely, Eells said, “I was nervous the whole time because everyone was telling me I was going to die.”

Spectators were worried for Eells due to the major height difference between her and Nash. Therefore, Eells decided to take some precautions in order to ensure her safety during the competition with help from a senior friend.

“A really kind senior, Clare Cronley, offered to bring in her knee pads, elbow pads, and wrist pads for me,” Eells said. “She also brought in a helmet and she helped me put all that on at lunch.”

Through the hard work of Villa’s Athletic & Spirit team and the executives, as well as the lighthearted competition between Nash and Eells, the pep rally was a huge success. The A&S executives were able to create a lively atmosphere that fostered jokes, spirited rivalries, and engaged the audience. White was victorious over the blue team once again this year, leaving the final score 4-0 white.



Bungee game // Laurie Scaggs

Indoor track and field 4 x 200m school record

Four girls from the Villa Maria Indoor Track and Field team successfully beat a school record while competing at Lehigh University in January.

Sophia Conish '24, Lucia Strid '26
Assistant Editor, Reporter

Two freshmen, one sophomore, and one junior broke the 4 x 200m relay school record this season.

Ariana Butler '24, Avery Steltz '26, Sam Samar '25, and Delaney Todd '26 broke a school record for the 4 x 200m record this past indoor track season. This record breaking moment took place at Lehigh University on January 27.

Before the meet, the girls were aware that they were close to breaking the current record. “We had the goal to break it [at this meet],” Butler said.

After the race, however, the four girls came off the track and were unsure if they even broke the record at all. “I thought we didn’t get it at first because [our coach] told us we didn’t get it. He’d told us that we’d missed it,” Samar said.

The girls soon found out they were wrong and they had in fact successfully

set a new record. Such a momentous event did not go without celebration. “We had a little celebration in the middle of the track arena,” Steltz said.

The girls found their love of running in middle school. Todd said, “I started

in elementary school and then I stopped and went back in eighth grade.” Samar also found her love for track and field in middle school, following in the footsteps of her sisters. She said, “They did it so I just did it too.”

This was the first season that all four girls ran together since Todd and Steltz are freshmen. The dynamic group of four will be running together again in the approaching spring season with the exception of Butler, a softball player. They are expected to have another wonderful season.

When asked what their goals are for their upcoming spring season, Steltz said, “Get better!”

Villa will be rooting hard for this great group and the rest of the track and field team in the upcoming months during the spring track season.

“We had a little celebration in the middle of the track arena.”



Avery Steltz '26 // Comstock



Indoor Track Seniors // Mrs. Laurie Scaggs



Submissions

Submissions from any students in the Villa Maria community are encouraged, specifically letters to the editor and feedback. Submissions must include name and email verification, and anonymous submissions will not be accepted. Not all submissions are published.

Mission Statement

The Villa Voice is a student-run publication created to inform the Villa Maria community with truthful and relevant information. We strive to give students a safe outlet for their opinions and accurately represent the student body of Villa Maria.

Moderator:

Mrs. Laurie Scaggs '91

Copy Editor:

Mrs. Jessica Mullen

Editors-in-Chief:

Alexis Allen '23

Mary Cate Doughty '23

Brianna McDonald '23

Ella Nugent '23

Assistant Editors:

Sophia Conish '24

Emma Herrick '23

Allie Meyer '24

Kendall Nevins '24

Section Leaders:

Abigail Carlson '25

Isabella Licwinko '25

Riley Meriwether '25

Caroline Naughton '25

Daniela Strid '25

Social Media Reporter:

Lucy Strid '26

Contributors:

Devyn Stek '23

Emily Allen '25

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Ari Butler '24

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