

A Closing Letter From the Editors-in-Chief

Dear SI,

We're at the canopy now! Trees in a forest, we've grown furiously this year. We began at our roots, broke through what held us back from growth, bore fruit, connected together, blossomed — and now, we reach for the openness of the emerging skies, leaving our nest. At year's end, it is a time for celebration, for nostalgia-filled reminiscing about the journey we've all taken. And, as we look to the new environments we will enter, it is a time to say farewell and "until we meet again" to the forest that has been our home for so long.

It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to *Inside SI*. This publication has played an immense role in our lives for the

past four years. We would especially like to thank Ms. Boland and Ms. Nickolai, our benevolent censors, who have been instrumental in helping us to develop both as writers and as individuals. We are so proud of the growth of the paper, creating eight issues with the largest staff in modern SI history, printing full-sized papers, re-launching the website, and so much more. There's no containing our excitement for the future Editors as they sprout new growth when Fall rolls around again.

Happy Graduation to the Class of '23! We hope you have a summer worthy of all the best headlines!



Jack Stecher
Jack Stecher

Reilly Moriarty
Reilly Moriarty

Jack Quach
Jack Quach

Mel Hua
Melissa Hua

Philip Luongo III
Philip Luongo III

How the Fr. Sauer Academy Is Taking to the Skies

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



Fr. Sauer Academy students plant new growth in their garden.

Of the various aspects of St. Ignatius that have soared to new heights over the past few years, the Fr. Sauer Academy exemplifies a key way the mission and community of SI has grown. Many students have passed through the Fr. Sauer Academy, but there are some who may not know the stories of FSA's students, faculty, and alum.

The Fr. Sauer Academy was created in 2017 to provide educational opportunities

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April & May at SI, In Photos



SENIOR PROM, April 22



SPRING POPS, April 28-29

EASTER PRAYER SERVICE, April 26



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Sophie Barsoian '26

Contributing Editor

Hello Wildcats! For this article, we decided to interview several clubs at SI. We asked the club leaders how their clubs are finishing up the year and what goals they have met and exceeded. Here are their responses:

Budding Penships

Kate Quach '25

"Budding Penships had such a successful and meaningful year, from our penpal outreach to senior homes across California to our second annual Words of Wisdom welcome card event, which brought together students of all grade levels in enthusiasm for the Class of 2027! We're looking forward to rolling out our Buddy Huddle board during Spring Finals to display encouraging notes and messages to the SI community. We're also so thrilled to have our end-of-the-year gathering to celebrate our accomplishments and ring in another upcoming school year filled with new memories and opportunities!"



Pet Nation

Jack Quach '23

"Pet Nation is looking forward to finishing a fantastic year strong and engaging all of the SI community through a shared love of pets! In May, we created therapy with Roger and Ginger as we participated in the Wellness Fair. We look forward to sharing the mental health relief that the joy and warmth of our therapy dog visits during the Finals Week Oasis! This year, we extended our commitment to service that is at the core of our club through our annual, all-school Pet Nation Calendar Fundraiser — supporting the St. Dominic's community — and a return to in-person service visits and activities with our pets. As Pet Nation both celebrates the 2022-23 school year and looks on to the next, there's only exciting new voyages ahead!"



Gender Equity and Rights Club (GEAR)

Eva Lee '23

"Gender Equity and Rights Club is finishing up the year with unity and pride. As we enter the twelfth year of its legacy, the the mission of GEAR has only expanded and will continue to reach all sectors of SI as a community and an institution. I'm incredibly grateful for the active participation of our members at events this year, and I hope to se this club flourish in the future! Two specific goals set at the beginning of this year were to hold more open dialogue and to organize events in which we analyze pop culture. I felt that in both the fall and spring, we successfully achieved this and more. I continue to reminisce [about] the brilliant insight shared by members of our sophomore class who questioned gender equity in SI's dress code. This valuable discourse combined with an increased male membership fostered faith for the future of GEAR— aka, the dismantling of sexism and patriarchal ideals that remain in the core of our school and larger American society."



The Quill

Meredith Foster '23

"After many lunch meetings and long hours spent quilling in Room 117, this year's edition of The Quill was brought to the SI community on April 28. The number of stunning poetry, prose, art, and photography submissions far exceeded our expectations. It was a joy to curate our literary magazine to showcase the bold and beautiful creations of the SI student body."



REFLECTIONS ON CLUB GROWTH

JCL Club

Carmen Aaronson '24

"JCL will round out a successful year with the election of the new board for next year! We are looking forward to seeing what ideas new leadership will bring in the coming year. We aimed to bring back activities that went away due to Covid, and we did that with ease. The main accomplishment from the year was going to the first in-person State Convention since 2020. Our delegation had an incredible time, and we came back with many awards that are proudly displayed in the Latin classroom. We all look forward to what next year will bring for JCL."



Girls Who Lift Club

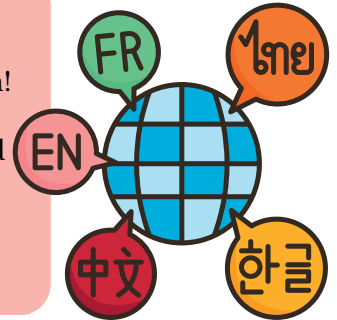
Samantha Sun '23

"To finish up the year, our last workout will be led by Weightlifting Coach Rebecca Mehling, who will go over her career in weightlifting and teach us some Olympic weightlifting basics. The club is excited to have a female coach introduce us to this side of lifting as it is beyond our current scope. Looking back on the club's first year, our members have exceeded expectations by simply showing up and exposing themselves to a new environment. We're glad we held a yoga session, and we hope that the club continues to reach more students looking for a safe space to work out and expand its activities beyond the weightlifting room."

Polyglot Club

Grace Brady '23

"Polyglot hopes to have a laid-back final meeting, perhaps learning something like Klingon! This will be an opportunity to enjoy what we've built with the club. My hope with Polyglot was that our meetings would be informative but at the same time build community around language learning. We have had a student speaker teach us Russian (shout out to Gaby Freedland '23!), we've taught each other romance languages, and have learned how to sing Irish folk songs. Through learning, Polyglot has become an awesome community, leaving everyone with some wonderful memories."



SITV

Leia Kwan '23

"SITV is finishing up the year fairly strong. We're planning for some fun episodes to come, as well as some engaging segments to participate in! Seniors especially are trying to squeeze in everything we want to do before we leave. Logistically, we are also training lower classmen and the potential leadership in skills and techniques to take over for next year. To be completely honest, I don't think we set many goals this year for what we wanted to achieve. SITV just set out to see what would happen, and personally, I am very proud of what we've done. We put in a lot of effort into what we do, and the product definitely shows. It might not be perfect, but it's uniquely ours and no other season could compare to this Season X."



Medcats Club

Vivian Ng '23

"MedCats chose to host more social and informative events as the end of the year nears. We have prioritized student interest and engagement! Having hosted a Banana Suture Lab and Guest Speaker events, we have seen students' passions and motivation to learn more about the medical field. Our club has more members than last year and have been proactive about opportunities. The opening Ice Cream Social Event included more than 100 students! We have reached a bigger audience and we want to invite other students who may have an interest in medicine, or simply dip their toes in the water."



THE JOYS OF OUR FRIENDSHIPS: 4TH QUARTER PRAYER SERVICE



Mr. Santos shares his story with the SI community

Jade Mac recounts about her "7 friends"



The 4th quarter prayer service focused on diving into the celebratory spirit of the the Easter season- specifically reflecting on and holding gratitude for our relationships. Jade Mac '23 used the "7 friends" trend circulating on the Internet to reflect on her most meaningful friendships, sharing stories of how these people impacted her high school journey as she prepares to start a new chapter. Mr. Santos shared about his complicated relationship with one of his students and how this has contributed to his perspectives.

ADMIRAL CALLAGHAN AWARDS DINNER

Jeslyn Oum '24, Kate Quach '25

Editor-in-Chief, Associate Editor-in-Chief

The Commons doors opened on the evening of May 3, inviting in students, parents, and honorary veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. Gathering in celebration of the 12th annual Callaghan Essay Contest, guests commemorated guest speaker Colonel Christopher A. Tavuchis of the Marine Corps and his fellow veterans seated around him.

For this year's essay prompt, the Callaghan Society encouraged writers to consider the implications of AI on humanity, as well as the relationship between the benefits of AI with St. Ignatius' and Admiral Callaghan's values.

The dinner also included the announcement of the 2023 Admiral Callaghan Essay Contest winners which included: Cayden Tu '24 (1st), Addie Vida '24 (2nd), Caleb Fordyce '26 (3rd), Quinn Gomes '25 (Sophomore Award), and Evelyn Conboy '26 (Frosh Award). Congratulations to our award winners!

The gathering heard from the Admiral Callaghan Society's outgoing president Ben Harrison '83 as well as SI's Vice President of Advancement Joe Vollert '84 who introduced the new president of the beloved organization, Marcus Gaetani '95.

Since its development at SI, the Admiral Callaghan Society has become an integral part of the Ignatian perspective that many Wildcats follow each day- to be men and women with and for others.



Essay winners gathered for a photo: (in order left to right) Addie Vida '24, Quinn Gomes '25, Caleb Fordyce '26, and Evelyn Conboy '26

SI LIVE

Alyssa Wong '25

Contributing Editor

Do you enjoy comedy? Then you probably enjoyed SI's very own version of Saturday Night Live! SI Live is an annually recurring live sketch comedy show that is written and produced by SI students; this year it was held on May 11th and 12th in Bannan Theatre.

Previewing the event, sophomore leader Cooper Rollings said, "We've been working on some good stuff. If anyone has recently had stomach surgery they cannot come because they will be laughing so hard their stitches might explode." The show featured parodies and poked fun at SI culture through a collection of videos, live sketches, popular memes, and skits about teachers. The show was made for everyone and featured comedy for all grades and something for everyone to laugh at.



The 2022-2023 SI Live cast bring laughter to Bannan Theatre



THE CALCULATED CHAOS OF ROBOTICS

Kate Quach '25

Associate Editor-in-Chief

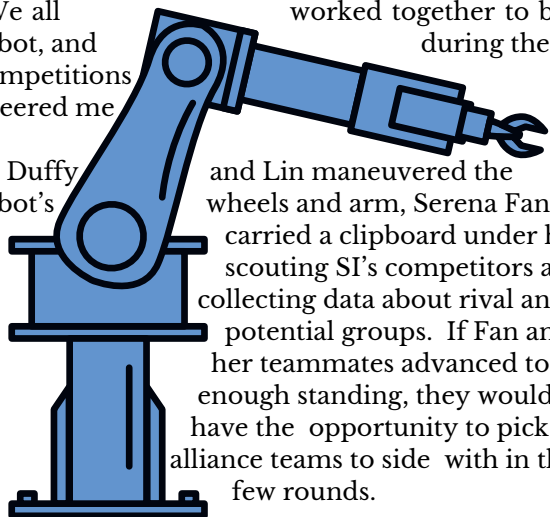
The robots take off to the center of the pit, whirring over ramps, scrambling after cones, and revving into other robots on their return to the goal. Geared with safety goggles and matching shirts with "Team 5924" sprawled proudly across their chests, the students of SI Robotics team gripped onto their control consoles to secure points in hopes for a victory at the Las Vegas Regionals FRC tournament.

During the first weekend of April, over 44 high schools from California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, and Canada gathered to compete amidst a robotics rampage.

After hours of designing, manufacturing, building, and coding their robot, the SI Robotics team entered the tournament area, faced with the challenge of steering the robot and controlling the claw mechanism to pick up cones and cubes in exchange for points. Ciel Duffy '25, who served as the team's claw operator, initially felt the pressure of the competitive environment as she stepped into the game zone. "Robotics competitions are intense because all of the work we've put into the season and the robot comes down to a few 2 and a half minute matches," said Duffy.

While the robot's driver and designer, Dustin Lin '25, experienced similar instances of hesitancy as he undertook his large responsibility in his team, he recognized the encouragement that his fellow robotics engineers provided him. "I feel like having teammates is a very important part of this team because without them it would be impossible to compete," shared Lin. "We all worked together to build the robot, and during the competitions they all cheered me on."

As Duffy
robot's



and Lin maneuvered the wheels and arm, Serena Fan '25 carried a clipboard under her arm, scouting SI's competitors and collecting data about rival and potential groups. If Fan and her teammates advanced to a high enough standing, they would have the opportunity to pick alliance teams to side with in the final few rounds.



SI's Robotics Team 5924 smiles at the Las Vegas Regionals.

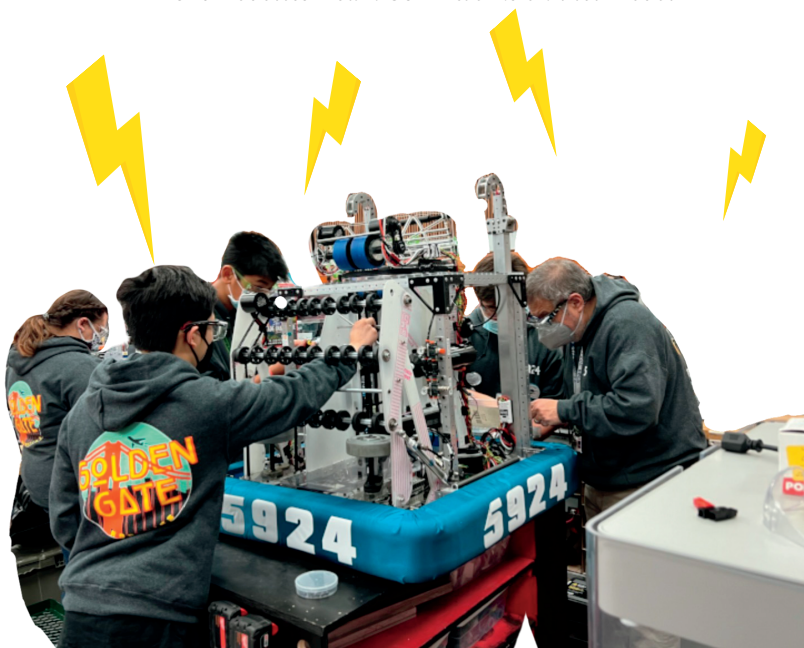
Gaining steam through numerous victorious matches, the SI Robotics team found themselves ranking fifth out of the 44 teams in total. Yet, challenges arose as Duffy and Lin encountered malfunctions robot's system. "In one of our

matches, our robot lost communication and we couldn't drive, costing our alliance the match. We dropped to rank 11 and could not play in the following match," said Duffy. Lin also noted untested alterations to the robot's design while working with the repair crew. "We decided to change out the entire grabber," described Lin. "This was a major risk for us since we could ruin all of our chances if it didn't work." Cooperating with one another to cut off pieces, drill holes, and rewire electrical elements

of the robot, the SI Robotics members shared moments of teamwork and support as they fought their way to the Top 5 and became appointed as alliance captains during the showdown rounds. Although the team took a risky step in picking members with a lower ranking, Fan's scouting data provided the newly bonded teams with confidence and helpful information of each other's skills. "Our alliance's teams worked really well together during playoff matches," added Duffy.

With their decision paying off in the end, the SI Robotics team triumphed in the Top 5 ranking in the regional tournament, proving their successful response to the risks in robotics.

SI's Robotics Team 5924 works on their robot



SF DISTRICT ATTORNEY VISITS SI

District Attorney Brooke Jenkins visited SI government classes on April 20th in order to help students understand complex issues facing the criminal justice system in San Francisco.

The following topics were discussed during the Q&A session: increased juvenile crime rates, property theft, police shortages, rehabilitation, violence toward the elderly and the Asian community. Ms. Danielle Devencenzi, Asst. Principal for Academics remarked about the visit, "Students did a wonderful job asking high level questions to further their understanding of the system."



Students meet with SF District Attorney- courtesy of @lifeatsi

THE GLITTERING JOY OF THE SENIOR DANCE SHOWCASE

Melissa Hua '23

Editor-In-Chief

Lana Del Ray. Rihanna. La La Land? Ah... the glittery and the always spectacular senior dance showcase. This year's senior dance showcase featured over 20 dances (all choreographed by seniors, 13 in total!) on May 4 and May 5th.

Dancers performed styles ranging from contemporary to hip hop to jazz fusion and ended off with an ode to the senior class with the song "Rivers and Roads" choreographed by Ms. Calalo Berry. This senior dance showcase marks the end of the dance careers for seniors, many of whom have been "a part of the dance community for all four years during their time at SI. Senior Chloe Ovbiagele remarked, "I cannot even begin to express how much I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the senior dance showcase! It gives me a chance to officially wrap my 4 years of dancing at SI by choreographing! The dancers in my piece are so amazing and I've had such a wonderful time working with them! It was definitely a highlight of my senior year! I'm going to miss the SI dance community so much!"

The choreographers started planning their dances all the way back in December and would spend their entire spring semester planning outfits, choreography, and training their dancers on the most intricate parts of the pieces.

When asked about the inspiration for her choreography to the song titled "Wonder in the Wind," Emily Fable '23 recounted, "I found a song that inspires me and basically played it a bunch of times while improving. Then I picked out the moves I liked and strung them together to create choreo!"

Following her final performance, Chloe also added, "The senior dance showcase was an experience of a lifetime! It really hit me during the last show that this would be my last time performing at SI!" This final dance showcase proved to be a fitting bang to an awesome year of dance at SI!



Students perform Jasmine Gatus' choreography

FROSH CLOSE-↑

Final Edition 2022-2023

Jack Quach '23 & Kate Quach '23
Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editor-in-Chief

We've tagged along with Jacqueline, Ellie, and Alexander as they broke out of their shells upon entering their Frosh year at SI. While soaring through the changing winds of high school, they met new friends and teachers that took them under their wings and flocked to events around campus. Discover their experiences as they took flight in SI!



FAVORITE ACTIVITY THIS YEAR?

My favorite event this year was Homecoming. It was so fun dressing up and dancing all night with my friends.

-JACQUELINE

My favorite events this year were Casino Night, Homecoming, and the Social Justice Summit.

-ELLIE

My favorite event was Casino Night!

- ALEXANDER

ADVICE FOR INCOMING FROSH?

Be respectful, keep an open mind, take every opportunity to get involved, and be open to make new friends!

- JACQUELINE

Have a balanced life, stay on top of things, and be responsible.

- ALEXANDER

Take the beginning of the year one step at a time. Know that you'll adapt to our school sooner than you think.

- ELLIE

FROSH QUOTE

"Be who you are because that is always enough."

- JACQUELINE

"Have a balanced life and be responsible."

- ALEXANDER

"Believe in yourself. Stay in your own lane (get it?!). There's only one you."

- ELLIE

SOMETHING NEW YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF OR ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

I learned about myself was how persistent I am. I achieved a lot that I didn't think I could, and I am really proud of myself.

- JACQUELINE

I broke the Saint Ignatius track and field school record in the 100m and the 200m!

- ELLIE

Some things that I have accomplished is a high GPA, a large pool of friends and acquaintances, and a busy but filling water polo experience.

- ALEXANDER



Vivian Sears '23, Delaney Broderick '23, & Kylie Johnstone '23 groove to the music.



Senior friends stride in fashion to the senior prom.



Keaton Mayo '23 hits up the dance floor.

On April 22nd, SI seniors celebrated their senior prom at Regency Ballroom with the theme "Enchanted Forest." Seniors enjoyed a plethora of donuts, blackjack tables, and hit tunes.

SI TALKS JAZZ WITH BRANFORD MARSALIS

Jack Quach '23

Editor-in-Chief



SI students, many from Dr. C's 5th Period Music Appreciation class, take a photo with Branford Marsalis, seated center.

On May 2, the Choral Room played host to one of the most prolific modern jazz players: three-time Grammy Award winner Branford Marsalis. Marsalis, who has performed with his own quartets, Grateful Dead, jazz group Buckshot LeFonque, and the Tonight Show, as well as in films including *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, shared insights that he gained during his decades-long career about the world of jazz.

He said that improvising in jazz becomes as natural as conversation between two people, adding that a key lesson he's learned is that sometimes, something might be *correct*, but not *right*. "You have to feel what's right."



Branford's Picks For Jazz Beginners



PAUL WHITEMAN AND HIS ORCHESTRA

FLETCHER HENDERSON

LOUIS ARMSTRONG



INTERNATIONAL FOOD FAIRE

Jeslyn Oum '24

Editor-in-Chief

On Saturday, May 6th, the Commons opened up to a variety of cultures and flavors with the celebration of the 30th annual SI International Food Faire. The culinary tour represented multicultural entertainment including Irish and Polynesian dance as well as delicious eats for the entire community!



HOW THE FR. SAUER ACADEMY IS TAKING TO THE SKIES

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

Editors-in-Chief

Continued from Front Page

to economically disadvantaged students in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Academy began with one class of 6th graders in 2017 and now is a fully-enrolled middle school for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Many key faculty and staff members have been integral in shaping Father Sauer since its beginning to now: including Ms. Bayze (principal of FSA) and Mr. Geraghty (the vice-principal of FSA).

Fr. Reese, — SI's President — was integral in the founding of FSA. He remarked, "St. Ignatius College Prep is making a significant difference in the lives of Fr. Sauer Academy students, they are making a difference in the life of St. Ignatius College Prep and as with all our students they will have the gifts to make a profound difference in our world." In fact, the Fr. Sauer Academy has blossomed over the last six years with members of the

initial class soon to be seniors at SI. Alumni from FSA are heavily involved on the SI campus.

One such alum is Donovan Wu '25. He highlighted FSA teacher, Mr. Geraghty, as one of his FSA saying, "He was the teacher that everyone liked and he provided support for his students when needed, no matter how big or small. Personally, I think he helped me develop most as a person when it came to growing and learning from my mistakes."

Coming from FSA where there is only one class per grade and transitioning into high school at SI can be a big leap for many, but Donovan wouldn't change a thing about his journey. He recalled, "Adjusting to the new environment definitely wasn't easy, but I'm pretty happy with where I am today. The emphasis on building relationships with peers continues to stick onto me the most.

Today's FSA's students have only continued to blossom into SI leaders, with alums of the first class now serving as presidents and vice-presidents for the BSU and ALAS (and many other organizations on campus). Many of these alums continue to come back to the FSA community as tutors and mentors.

Ms. Bayze highlighted the supportive care and connection that students and faculty share, which leads to success in academic and extracurricular spaces. "The best representation of what the FSA students accomplish can be seen in the current high school students," Ms. Bayze added. "We have graduates involved in all areas of the school — performing arts, affinity groups, campus ministry, sports, Honors and AP classes." The FSA principal spoke with excitement and optimism about the future of Fr. Sauer Academy students, stating, "Our students see the opportunities that are waiting them once they graduate from the FSA and are accepted to SI. Our biggest hope is that our FSA students will know, from the start, that they are supported and recognized."



A Fr. Sauer Academy class during the first day of school.

MAGIS SENIOR CELEBRATION & AWARDS CEREMONY



Seniors smile prior to beginning the celebration



Senior Zaid Sharaiha receives his AMA sash

On May 10th, seniors and leaders of SI's affinity groups and Magis program were honored in the annual Magis Affinity Senior Celebration & Awards Ceremony. Senior Raven Shaw '23 was honored with the Magis Engaged Scholar Leadership Award and junior Andre Ignoffo was awarded the Magis Social Justice Award! Members of JAG, the LGBTQ+ Affinity Group, and AMA received sashes for the first time in these affinity groups' history!

DANCE AND DRILL: KRISTEN PATRICIO

Winston Zapet '23

Managing Editor

One of the most wonderful things about SI, and one of the things that we want to highlight as the year comes to a close is the incredible opportunities that SI students have in multiple areas of interest. Whether it is furthering their academic interests through Speech and Debate competitions, pursuing arts through performing in the Spring musical, or taking part in the athletic community through playing in the Bruce Mahoney, SI students apply themselves in a wide variety of passions. One student, Kristen Patricio '24 has done just that, expressing herself through dance and choreography opportunities on the SI Dance and Drill team.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PIECE YOU'VE DANCED OR CHOREOGRAPHED?

My favorite piece that I have choreographed would be "Uproar"; I choreographed this over the summer with senior, Mary De Guzman and we performed this for the Women's Basketball Bruce. It was such a lively and energetic piece and somewhat different than what we normally do.

WHO, IF ANYONE, IS YOUR DANCING IDOL?

I don't have a dance idol but I have a few dancers I look up to. Kyle Hanagami is one of the main dance influencers I look up to. His videos and dances were the reason I started dancing. He choreographs for many well known artists such as BTS, JLO, Beyoncé, etc. My dream in life is to meet him and take one of his classes in LA.



Kristen Patricio rocks it!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT DANCE?

My favorite part about dancing is being able to

express myself. It's something I've always been passionate about because I've been dancing since kindergarten. I love learning new styles of dance and growing on my technique.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES AND VICTORIES OF DANCING?

A challenge for me is just being in the right mindset when it comes to dancing. You stare at yourself in the mirror for hours judging every single movement you do. I think dancing can lead to some issues with self image. Like if you don't like the way your body looks when you dance it somewhat affects your mood and causes you to not do your best. I think one of the biggest victories in dancing is having such a supportive community. At drill, we don't judge

others and constantly are uplifting each other. We always cheer each other one and highlight the parts we do well.

Winston Zapet '23

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: P3

Managing Editor

Music provides a platform for self expression, whether it be in the genres one listens or writing and producing original songs. For Senior Philip Luongo III '23, inspiration stems from "emotions [he] feels everyday," oftentimes valuing a song where "real and true sentiments" are experienced.

P3, his stage name, began with the intention of "having fun," releasing his first song, "Bow Ball," as a joke between him and a friend. As with many hobbies-turned-passions, there are aspects which entice the person to continue pursuing their craft; for Philip, the most enthralling aspect lies in "thinking of rhymes and trying to tell stories" through his lyrics.

Music genres are vast, spanning from afrobeats to indie-pop to bossa nova and so much more. Philip incorporates elements of rap and pop into his own original beats. As of May 2023, Philip has written, recorded, and produced over 30 songs, including those

in his most recent album *The Gemini Mixtape*. Naturally, sharing something valuable to oneself brings a mix of emotions—pride, joy, nervousness, frustration—that may seem daunting. "I do get nervous about how my music might be perceived by others but I know that as long as I like it, I'm happy," shares Philip with regards to worries or concerns about releasing music. The most important thing for this young artist is that he works on what makes him happy. His music can be found on Apple Music and Spotify under Rahún Records, and SoundCloud under the name P3.



Cover art for "The Gemini Mixtape"

The community of female-identifying students at SI came together to share their responses to a prompt. As we move forward, let us continue uplifting and spotlighting the powerful female voices in our community.

What is a piece of advice that you would give to young women?



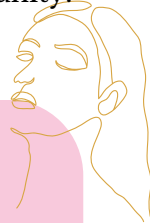
"It's important to make sure that you are not pinning yourself against other girls. I feel like there is a tendency to think that other girls are the enemy, at least when you're growing up, because that is how we're raised to believe in society, so maintain those female friendships and relationship and look at all the women in your life and see how they impact you"

~ Lary Jimenea '23



"What makes [you] different now, when you're young and feels so painful, is what will be your superpower when you grow up. It will connect you with others that you didn't know you were meant to be connected with—it represents your unique gifts. So often we don't know to appreciate those [differences] but if [you] can just get through the difficult time, someday you will see how those differences make you exceptional"

~ Ms. Cara Brancoli



"Don't give up. Things may seem harder and you might have to work harder, but know that there are other women out there that are facing difficult things like you and you are not alone. If you keep fighting then only good things will come"

~ Gabriella Blas '26



"Don't be afraid to be outgoing and social and positive because you're afraid that someone is going to stereotype you as annoying and loud or not lady-like"

~ Sally Kharadze '24



"Believe in yourself and your self worth and don't let your identity limit what you can do"

~ Nora Mannion '23



"You're never going to be able to please everyone in your life so don't try to. Do the things that are fulfilling and purposeful to you because that's the only way you'll get to experience genuine happiness and individuality"

~ Gianna Gazulla '24

Who is a woman that inspires you?

"My sister. I look up to my sister because she knows what she's doing and she inspires me to go forth and live my dreams"

~ Angelina Melis '23



"Leymah Gbeowee inspires me because, against all odds, she brought women together and made the world a better place and she continues to do so"

~ Elizabeth Wilson '23



"I am inspired by my daughters; how they see the world of possibilities and the place of women in society. They cast a new eye on the relationship that exists between men and women far away from our traditional roles dictated by patriarchy or trying to shake it up and off."

~ Mme Sandrine Vilna



"A woman who inspires me is Zendaya. From a young age she could prove that she had a lot of talent and seeing somebody who is like me, who is biracial, on Disney gave me a voice. I want to be in the [acting] industry when I get older, so she set the tone for me."

~ Zoe Aguasin-Horace '26



"My hero is my aunt, Jerusalem Gebru. She has been a role model, teacher, and inspiration in my life for as long as I can remember. Growing up, I watched her go to school and work to support her family and community, which I plan to do as well. Being an immigrant myself, I have always admired her perseverance and appreciated her for encouraging me from a young age to embrace my culture and stick up for myself. I'm forever grateful for her endless support and guidance!"

~ Furtuna Yemane '23



NAVIGATING SUMMER FUN

Kate McFarland '24

Contributing Editor

As summer break approaches, we all start thinking about sleeping in, basking in the sun, and spending time with friends. For some of us SI students, summer break means going to music festivals, like Bottlerock and Outside Lands, or concerts at Shoreline Amphitheater and Oakland Arena.

Bottlerock, in Napa Valley, will host the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Post Malone, Lizzo, Lil Nas X, the Smashing Pumpkins, and many other artists. Since the venue is in Napa, it is a drive for many Bay Area residents, so be sure to plan for plenty of time to navigate traffic getting there. Bottlerock is known for taking place on very hot weekends, meaning it is incredibly important to wear sun protection and drink tons of water!

In 2023, San Francisco's famous Outside Lands will host Lana Del Ray, Kendrick Lamar, Megan Thee Stallion, the Foo Fighters, and many more fantastic artists. When attending this event, be sure to wear plenty of sunscreen, dress for the unpredictable Sunset weather, hydrate, and eat before and during the long festival days.

When dancing and listening to music in warm weather, dehydration and heat stroke are far too familiar. It is essential to look out not only for one's health but also

for friends' health. Look for signs of nausea, overheating, confusion, slurred speech, and fainting.

While getting ready to watch live music this summer, be sure to get a map and scout out where medical and food tents are beforehand. Lastly, be sure to have fun and make some amazing memories of seeing your favorite artists with your loved ones!



Attendees of last summer's Outside Lands festival bring up the heat.

THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Grace Brady '23

Managing Editor

Pope Francis has made headlines with his intention to allow laypeople and women to vote in the Synod on Synodality.

A synod in the Catholic Church serves as an advisory council to the Pope on issues of importance to the Church, so that the Church may remain in unison on those issues. By the end of the Synod, bishops will have voted on several documents addressing those key issues, and the Pope can decide whether or not to adopt these documents officially for the Church. The faithful will need to conform to the teachings which Pope Francis decides to approve from the Synod.

The purpose of the Synod on Synodality is to determine ways in which the Church can better journey forward together as a unified whole, which is part of the reason why Pope Francis has allowed laypeople and women to vote in this Synod. While these people will be well educated in matters of the Church, they will also provide unique insight from the perspective of the laity as to how the Church can become more communal. The Synod addresses issues such as "conservative" and "liberal" divides within the Church, tensions surrounding the liturgy, and the LGBTQ community.

Traditionally, while lay people were previously allowed to participate in synods, they could not vote.

But because the Synod on Synodality particularly focuses on the Church moving forward in a unified manner, many believe that this change is important for the Synod so as to provide Pope Francis with documents supported not only by the bishops, but also lay people who make up the vast majority of the Church. Another way the synod is trying to understand the needs of lay people is through surveys which have been conducted and will continue to be conducted in dioceses throughout the world until the synod officially ends next year.

Pope Francis will have final approval of all lay people who will join the Synod, and ultimately he will have the final say on any documents which the Synod approves.



Image Courtesy of U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Jordan Liu '26

Contributing Editor

As a freshman, I am very busy with driving school. I have to learn about different signs and when to make specific turns. When I get unmotivated, I often think about what life would be like in a world where we had self-driving cars. Transportation would be highly efficient, as computers would route and steer perfectly. Also, there would not be any driver's ed.

In San Francisco, you have likely seen a sleek white car with a spinning disc on top. These vehicles are owned by a Google startup company called Waymo. Their mission is to make driving autonomous. This will mitigate car crashes and ensure safety for passengers. Over its 12 years of existence, Waymo has accumulated over 20 billion miles with its robot-assisted mechanism.

The rotating cylinder has three LIDAR (Laser Imaging, Detecting, and Ranging) systems that perceive depth and range. It works by emitting lasers and measuring how long the light takes to return. Waymo has many other sensors and radar systems that guarantee passenger safety.

People can use the Waymo One app to receive a ride from one of the Waymo vehicles. The vehicle can accommodate up to three people. You must be 18 or older to hail a car, and can invite guests older than eight.

Waymo is just one example of technology's amelioration during the 21st century. In a few years' time, driving could become completely autonomous. Technology has the ability to replicate human tasks, and the future will hold many more advancements soon to come.



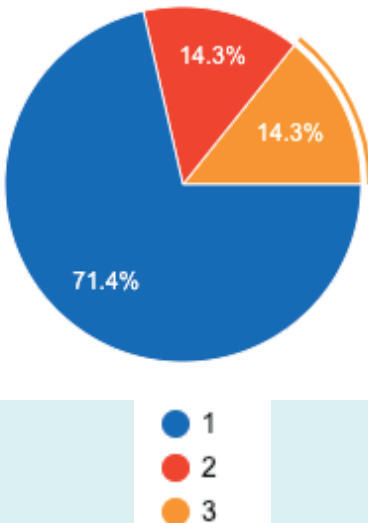
Waymo Vehicle photographed by Justin Sullivan



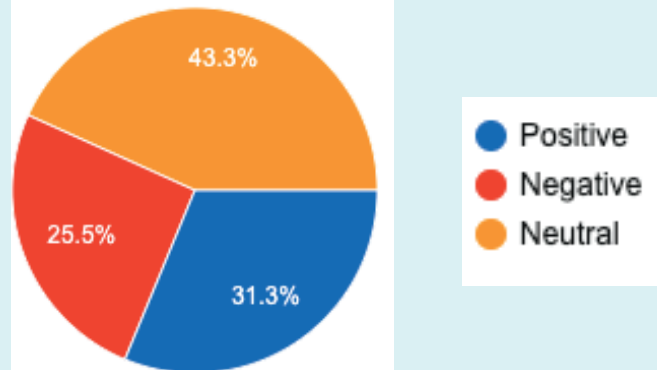
Image courtesy of Wired Magazine

With Bay Area being one of the most prominent areas for new and emerging technology in the 21st century, it is no surprise that self-driving cars can be seen on every major city street. We have taken a poll of 210 SI students and their opinions on self-driving cars.

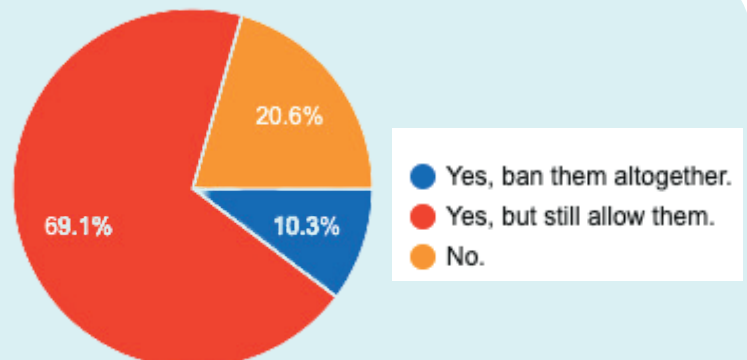
If you have taken a ride in a Waymo vehicle, how many times have you done so?



Do you think self driving cars will have a positive or negative impact?



Do you think the government should put heavier restrictions on self driving cars?



GO SEE SOME \$5 MYSTERY MOVIES

Delaney Broderick '23

Managing Editor

Do you enjoy a trip to our local Regal theater at Stonestown? Do you want to deep dive into a tub of buttery popcorn in front of the big screen? Movies allow us to jump into a variety of timelines—but what if you didn't know which one you were entering?

Regal Theater is holding a monthly special: mystery movies. No, it's not a detective film or Sherlock Holmes murder scene, but a five dollar ticket and a world of confusion. With this Monday night special you will be viewing an upcoming unreleased film but putting yourself in the potential crossfire of disappointment; you don't know what movie you are seeing.

You may be getting a heavily discounted exclusive show of the movie you were highly anticipating, or you could walk into a Christmas musical, like I did. It's almost like walking into a random theater with a blindfold—will you stay? I sure have. From tuning into Zach Efron's recent release to Will Ferrell's twist on the Christmas Carol, with all bias aside, the five dollar price and red recliner seats make this thrilling guessing game one to participate in. And people have been; most of my recent visits have been in a full theater full of curious movie-goers.

My mom, the one who introduced me to this new craze, says, "It's the perfect way to plan something small, cheap, and uncertain. It's something I look forward to every month."

Only disclosing the length of the film, the age restriction, and date, this Monday mystery makes for a fun start to your week. I love this thrilling and cost effective spin on the classic trip to the movies. I've become fond of settling into a theater recliner and cringing to see the first scene, and I think you will too.



*Regal Theater at Stonestown
c/o San Francisco Chronicle*

MAPPING OUT OUR MISTAKES

Addie Vida '24

Contributing Editor

A few months ago, I attended the discernment dinner for immersion. This was the night that I was to find out where I would be traveling to, which social justice issue my trip would focus on, and which classmates would accompany me on this journey.

The group of faces, some more familiar and some newer, celebrated when we found out that we would be going to El Salvador for two weeks, with a focus on the aftermath of the Salvadoran civil war and the role of religion in the nation.

As I shared my excitement about the trip with other friends, common responses to the mention of El Salvador were, "Where is that?" or "Is that in Mexico?"

This recurring confusion regarding my immersion destination sparked a realization—the knowledge of geography lies lower on the list of priorities for some students. While I was lucky to have a geography program at my middle school and a passion for memorizing states, countries, and capitals, I learned that this is not always the case for most students.

Our generation is surrounded by news of novel

discoveries, political reports, and moments of history in the making. It is crucial to have an understanding of geography in order to grasp and conceptualize the news that we hear about, on a local, national, and international scale.

Matt Blake '24 agrees, saying, "If you don't know where you are relative to other places that might show up on the news, then you don't fully understand the world around you."

For the SI classes that choose to put an emphasis on geography, this incorporation has proven to be very educational and beneficial.

"Last year, in Modern World History class, each student had to quiz their geography skills using an app called 'World Maps,' which introduced a lot of geography to my peers," Isabella Kelly '24 recounted. "I was appalled at the amount of times that someone said, 'Oh, that's where that country is!'"

Learning the layout of our world is essential to attain a three-dimensional understanding of history, social justice, and current events—maybe we should finally address our shortcomings and create a Geography class elective at St. Ignatius!

BANDING TOGETHER AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

Megan Stecher '24

Editor-in-Chief

News headlines appear daily, bearing the news of yet another mass shooting, of yet another school that must now mourn the loss of its students and faculty, of yet another family forever marred by the atrocity of gun violence in the United States. In 2023 alone, there have been over 190 mass shootings, according to the Gun Violence Archive. These mass shootings have led to 248 deaths and 744 injuries in 2023 alone, with death by gun violence becoming the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States, according to kff.org. With these rapidly rising numbers, every family is left to grapple with the question of whether or not to send their children to school—and risk the possibility of having them never come home.

Fortunately for SI students, numerous safety measures have been taken to prevent such a tragedy from occurring at our school. In 2014, SI made a concerted effort to expand its security team and protocol by hiring Ms. McFarland, who has taken charge in developing these new security measures at SI.

One of these developments includes the implementation of an access control system, which places devices on doors that unlock at the scan of a badge, can lock and unlock on a schedule, and can lock on command in the case of an emergency where the school must go into lockdown. Ms. McFarland also explained how in recent years, this control system has also been added onto interior doors, such as the ones leading into the school from the courtyard and gym foyers. These doors lock immediately at 9:01 every morning from the outside, meaning any student that arrives at school late or leaves campus must return through the main entrance of the building.

Though these measures have frustrated some students, they are necessary to ensure the safety of everyone at SI. Junior Cece Hammond agreed, saying that “While it would be fun to go off-campus during [my] resource and it can be inconvenient to have to go through the main entrance when I’m late, I understand it’s important to implement campus safety measures now more than ever.”

When visitors to the school check in at the main entrance they are automatically checked against the national sex offender database, and SI is currently working towards developing a database to check against visitors’ criminal history.



In 2018, SI students staged a walk-out to protest gun violence in response to the Parkland shooting on February 14, 2018. Over 700 students participated in the rally.

In spite of SI’s many security measures against possible intruders, much of keeping our school safe comes down to the students. Ms. McFarland urged students to “know what they can contribute to keeping our campus safe. Students shouldn’t let anyone into the building, don’t prop doors open, don’t wear hats or hoods, and secure your belongings.”

In response to this, junior Angelica Chu said “The talk at the beginning of the year regarding school safety was helpful but I forgot most of what it was because it was never repeated. I appreciate all the posters we see in the halls reminding us of what to do, but again, without reminders it can easily be forgotten about what we need to do if an actual school shooting happens.”

Each student attends an orientation on school safety at the beginning of the year, but to truly ensure that every student knows what to do in the event of an emergency, or on a regular school day, perhaps we need more frequent reminders.

Ultimately, SI’s security measures can only go so far if students refuse to comply with them. Obeying SI’s rules, while inconvenient and restricting at times, are only in place to protect the entire school population. If we hope to prevent a school shooting or other intrusion from occurring, we must work as a school—together.

Inside SI Wishes Farewell

In this special section of our final issue, we wish farewell to some of our teachers who will be leaving St. Ignatius at the end of the year. They will always be members of the SI community and family, and we keep them in our prayers.

IN LOVING MEMORY

THE ASTRONOMICAL JOY OF MS. KELLAR

Mel Hua '23 & Jack Quach '23

Editors-in-Chief

In April, the SI family grieved the loss of beloved physics and calculus teacher Ms. Kellar. During each class she taught, Ms. Kellar continually spread laughter, enthusiasm, and the utmost fascination with the discovery of the universe. She joined St. Ignatius in 2018, where she would teach both AP Physics and AP Calculus classes to students.

Outside of the classroom, Ms. Kellar was actively involved as a moderator of the SI STEM club where she was an advocate for math and physics education. Her favorite events to host were star-gazing events. These events would invite students from all different grade levels; any student who attended could instantly remember her resounding joy as she pointed out a new star or constellation.

Before teaching at SI, Ms. Kellar was also a researcher in astrophysics at Dartmouth University, where one of her papers created methods of discovering distant galaxies often too faint for most instruments to detect.

"Her passion always transferred to the meetings we held," Gaby Freedland '23, a STEM Club leader, said. "When one of the leadership members suggested the field trip to Astra, the space company, she was beyond excited to make this trip a reality. She embodied the curiosity of the science field." Ms. Nickolai also remarked, "Ms. Jessica Kellar was such an enthusiastic teacher, and she shared her passion for Physics, especially on topics related to the Astronomy, with her students in such a vibrant way. She was particularly interested in celebrating the achievements of women in science. We will miss her optimistic spirit."

Dr. Quattrin, who shared a room and taught AP Calc with Ms. Kellar, recounted, "Ms Kellar was always upbeat, excited, and infectious. She loved her students and her subjects. We had a great time creating word problems for Calculus about black holes, trinary stars, the Arecibo telescope in Puerto Rico where she had worked. We will all miss her."

The SI community is praying for Ms. Kellar's family and loved ones during this time of remembrance for the joyous, loving, and compassionate person of Ms. Kellar.

In Loving Memory



May God grant eternal rest onto
Ms. Kellar, and let perpetual
light shine upon her. May she
rest in peace.

FAREWELL MS. SETIADY & MS. GENCE

Emma Chan '24

Contributing Editor

As the vibrant hues of Spring burst, so too does the bittersweet feeling of goodbye to select teachers of the St. Ignatius community. The impending departure of some of SI's beloved teachers brings forth a poignant reminder of life's transitory seasons and the importance to hold onto the loving memories made with one another over the past few years.

Ms. Gence, a French teacher who has taught all levels of French at SI for the past six years, bids adieu. Moderating and overseeing the French Club, she cultivated an ambiance of leisure and respite at club meetings, a rare moment, given the intensity of academics and sports pressure at SI. Some of the activities Ms. Gence designed included crêpe making sessions and beignet fundraisers.

She reflected, "It has been a great pleasure to teach here at SI. I have loved to share the magic of the French culture with my wonderful students through French cinema and music." A hallmark of Ms. Gence's career at SI was the trip she organized to France and Spain, where she bonded with 48 of her students, in the pre-Covid era.

As Ms. Gence parts ways with SI, she encourages all students to explore areas outside of their comfort zone and to keep growing both as learners and as citizens of the world. A fervent believer in mental and physical health, she concluded, "Treat others the way you would like to be treated. And most of all, Carpe Diem!"

Another cherished member of the school community, Ms. Tamara Setiady has been in charge



of a multitude of programs and service events throughout her tenure at SI. Over the past seven years, Ms. Setiady worked in the Office of Community Service and Social Justice, coordinated the Immersion and St. Anthony's Retreat programs, and moderated the Arrupe Social Justice Council.

Cultivating the Jesuit ideals of healing, solidarity, and kinship, Ms. Setiady leaves a lasting legacy upon the SI community through her extensive partner initiatives with local, domestic, and international faith-based agencies to host SI students for their community service projects. She has welcomed the student body into a new way of perceiving the world and introduced them to the intersectionality between faith and the work of justice and advocacy. She remarked, "I loved serving as a consistent presence to our students, showing them that they were seen, loved, and cared for."

With regard to her final advice, Ms. Setiady encouraged all SI students to take time out of their busy schedules to get to know the people who make the school run: the security and kitchen staff, as well as the adults who work in the business and front offices. These individuals are the unsung heroes who make the SI community sing. Ms. Setiady looks forward to turning the page to a new chapter of her life and moving to the East Bay with her husband. In an exclusive interview, she said, "I feel excited about this next stage of my life and my heart is full of gratitude for all I have learned from SI. Student commitment to animating the school around service and justice has energized me."

As Ms. Gence and Ms. Setiady take their leave, their indelible mark on the school will forever remain etched in the memories and hearts of the community members they have inspired.



MS. MORAINÉ: TEACHING SI ENGLISH WITH AN EXCLAMATION POINT!

Jack Quach '23

Editor-in-Chief

Ms. Moraine walked into an SI classroom for the first time filled with the undeniable excitement of a newcomer and, she admitted, a bit intimidated by the outstanding reputation of the English program. Twelve years later, she is an illustrious force in SI's English Department, teaching AP Literature and moderating the school-wide literary magazine *The Quill*.

While the sense of intimidation definitely subsided in her decade-plus of teaching at SI, Ms. Moraine's excitement for teaching literature, as her students can attest, has never diminished.

"I'll always remember the great discussions our class would have with Ms. Moraine, whether it was about what we were studying or something completely different that was happening in our lives," said Aidan Stecher '23, a Senior taking Ms. Moraine's AP Literature class. "You always knew that Ms. Moraine cared about how we were doing and feeling."

Ms. Moraine joined the SI community in 2011, when she said she was immediately embraced by then Assistant Principal Ms. Nickolai. At the time, she not only entered into a brand new school environment, but into an entirely different city as well. Teaching at SI helped her adjust to the shift in life in more ways than one, as taking on an additional nature class allowed the English teacher to explore the city through field trips.

From *Hamlet* readings with foam sword props to book club soireés, Ms. Moraine continually displays dedication in teaching literature with excitement and engagement. Walking into Room 117, one will find unmistakable signs of this commitment: students' posters and art projects from studying novels decorate the walls of the classroom. Another prominent display is a row of seven framed covers of *The Quill*, each one designating a different year Ms. Moraine served as moderator.

The moment Ms. Moraine found out about an opening to moderate the literary magazine, she jumped at the opportunity. Through eight total years, she's worked with a wide diversity of writers, poets, and artists. "Working with Ms. Moraine on *The Quill* was a blast! She is always ready with witticisms, supportive advice, and book recommendations to keep our literary skills sharp," Meredith Foster '23, a *Quill* Editor-in-Chief, shared.

For Ms. Moraine, one of the hardest parts of leaving St. Ignatius will be the physical distance from one of her closest

friends and guides at SI: Ms. DeBenedetti. From sharing the same classroom to moderating *The Quill* together, the two teachers have shared a close bond — so close that, as Ms. DeBenedetti put it, they "have a sort of telepathy." For example, if one says, "Oh, I did the thing with the thing, so we're all set," the other will perfectly understand.

"It's rare because you just don't really find too many people in the world, let alone in the workplace, that you have this with," Ms. DeBenedetti added. She also highlighted the many aspects of Ms. Moraine's personality she appreciated over the years, including her "stunning sense of humor," skill at impersonating a wide variety of accents (especially her "wicked Irish accent"), her accomplishments as a published author "many times over," and constant willingness to say "yes" when others are in need of help. Ms. DeBenedetti detailed her first impression of Ms. Moraine that arose from one of their first-ever interactions. When Ms. D needed a proctor to take over while she dropped off her kids

at school, Ms. Moraine immediately served as a helping hand. "What I know now is that she always says yes. If she can help, she helps. It's that simple."

Along with English and *The Quill*, Ms. Moraine is a former volleyball coach and enjoys interacting with students outside of classes, where she feels truly part of the community and spirit of SI. She can always be found cheering on her students in performing arts, sports, and big events. And in her last year at SI, Ms. Moraine has found special joy in taking a step back to relish the time she spends with her students.

"I just have felt so lucky to be here and have as much fun as I can with my students," Ms. Moraine said. "I have the best students in the world."

Turning the page to future adventures beyond SI, Ms. Moraine will be moving with her family to the state of Washington, where she said she looks forward to spending more time with extended family, enjoying the sprawling nature and scuba-diving opportunities, playing the piano again, and possibly becoming involved in a university. SI thanks Ms. Moraine for her lasting impact on the community and wishes both her and her family the very best on the next stanza in Washington!



"I'm gonna miss Kristen Moraine in a big way, every day. And yet, my heart is full of joy for her — this next phase of her life is going to be magical, and she deserves it."

Ms. Donna DeBenedetti

MR. SANTOS

Leia Kwan '23

Contributing Editor

After 8 years of working at Saint Ignatius College Preparatory, and 17 years of teaching total, Mr. Michael Santos has decided to move onto new horizons. Having previously taught math at Notre Dame Belmont, in 2015, Mr. Santos moved to SI and has been teaching in room 412 ever since. In addition to teaching engineering since entering, he also began teaching Project Invent in 2021, a course he created with Mr. Patterson.

In addition to heading SITF for several years, he also participated in SI Live as a moderator alongside Dr. Morris.

Although he left coordinating SI Live after the 2019-2020 show, swearing he would never do it again, he made a surprise comeback in 2022-2023 show alongside Mr. White as a moderator for SI Live one last time.



Mr. Santos holds a special place in the heart of SI with his friendly disposition, funny personality, and charismatic charm. From cracking jokes with students in class or outside of class, to hosting the schoolwide-known.

cardboard boat races and jumping off the high dive during so, Mr. Santos has never failed to bring joy to the SI community. His dedication, although hidden behind meticulously curated projects and videos, is nothing short of devoted: he has spent many long hours after school around the campus and sometimes through the late night!

Mr. Santos will truly be missed. He leaves this year to go to graduate school at UC Berkeley where he will get his masters in civil engineering, leaving an irreplaceable hole in the soul of the SI community.

MR. RHODES

Jack Stecher '23

Editor-in-Chief

Mr. Rhodes, Profe Rhodes, Coach or just Profe, Brian Rhodes has shared himself with the SI community since 2009. Teaching Spanish and being an inviting figure for all classes he taught, Mr. Rhodes is often seen dancing around the classroom and encouraging his students to enjoy the fun.

He allowed students to relax and feel welcomed which is especially important when dealing with learning a new language. Not only is Mr. Rhodes, an aspiring dancer and teacher, also coached men and women's soccer. His dancing footwork translated exceptionally well into his soccer footwork teaching kids how to be better players and better people.

"He always made the time fly by in class," Ethan Qua '23 said when reflecting on his former Spanish teacher. Mr. Rhodes you have positively impacted the SI community and will be greatly missed by all.



FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS LEAVE THEIR MARKS

Julianne Alegria '23

Contributing Editor

As graduation approaches, our first-generation students prepare to see their hard work and resilience paying off. First-generation students are individuals whose parents did not attend college. Most first-gen students navigate the college application process through perseverance and learning from their counselors what to look for in a school and how to advocate for oneself.



First-gen faculty guide first-gen Seniors leaving to college

Since their parents have not gone through this process, first-generation students take initiative in planning out their future, aiming to make not only their families proud but themselves as well.

Fortunately, the Magis High School Program and counseling center are wonderful resources for first-gen students. The Magis High School program led by Ms. Maricel Hernandez supports first-gen students through a variety of events, such as weekly college workshops and annual college tours. Ms. Anna Maria Vaccaro, one of SI's College Counselors, works closely with the Magis Program in preparing first-gen students for college and beyond. She consistently communicates about upcoming scholarships, deadlines, and internship opportunities.

support continues throughout your senior year and beyond. As a first-generation student himself, Yohann Moraes '23 advised other first-gen students, "between the amazing counseling center, teachers, and even fellow students...take advantage of all the outlets SI has to offer you."

For our graduating first-gen seniors, Ms. Vacarro conveyed a key message, "From one first-gen to another, you did it. You climbed this mountain. Now you only have 20+ more mountains to climb. You will trip and fall along the way but you scrape off and take pride in those scratches. You rise up because you are first gen and there are so many more great things from you."

The counseling center is full of amazing counselors who wish to see students succeed; they do their best to prepare students for the application process. Beginning junior year, the college counselors invite admissions representatives and different universities to SI to learn more about what colleges are looking for. This

Olivia Leigh '23

SAFE SPACE PANELS

Managing Editor

April was Schoolwide Pride Month, as you may have noticed around campus with colorful hero posters donning the hallways, the morning prayers, and the various events occurring around campus.

The LGBTQ+ affinity space at SI, Safe Space, hosted two panels for Pride Month - an Alumni panel on 4/19 and a student panel on 4/25. In both panels, the challenges that come with being a queer teenager in a heteronormative society, much less a Catholic school, were discussed. This included everything from promposals to a lack of queer narratives in the classroom to combatting everyday subtle (or not so subtle) homophobia from one's friends or family.

Co-President Mel Hua '23 explained that the panel was created "to share our voices and stories." "We were just hoping to see some new faces and hopefully meet new allies," she shared.

And the topic of allyship also came up in the student panel; how for many of them it was the support of their non-queer friends that truly made coming out and owning their identities easier.

More than simply being able to confide and create community in one another, the panelists explored how they experienced joy within their affinity space.

Many cited one specific event, the Movie Night in October 2022, when both members and allies crowded into

Mr. Geraghty's room to watch the Netflix hit *Heartstopper*.



LGBTQ+ leaders present at the panel

SPRING POPS CONCERT: THE MUSIC OF THE NIGHT

Naomi Ko '24

Editor-in-Chief

As the blue lights rose, fifty-three student musicians gracefully lifted their instruments under the instruction of Dr. Clements. This April, St. Ignatius's annual Spring Pops concert, featuring orchestra, jazz band, and choir, presented a beautiful mix of music that delighted family, faculty, and students alike.

The first group to perform was the orchestra, who started off with the jubilant "Cole Porter Salute," which featured an array of Broadway classics. Next was "Slavonic Dance" by Antonin Dvorak, an exuberant piece with a lively violin part. The orchestra then transitioned to their more "pop" piece—a Lord of the Rings medley, and the theme from James Bond.

"This semester of orchestra was really fun, and I enjoyed all of our pieces, especially "Lord of the Rings," says Carmen Aaronson '24, who plays the bass clarinet. "The woodwinds, brass, and strings all come together to sound very exciting."



James Nicolson '23 leads a quartet in a rendition of "I Guess That's Why They Call it the Blues"

After intermission, the jazz band (directed by Mr. Green) amped up the energy with their upbeat renditions of "Just By Myself" and "The Jazz Police." The 11-person ensemble also played a slow, pretty ballad called "You Know I Care" by Duke Pearson. Almost all of the songs featured individual solos, notably from Nick Graham '23 on alto saxophone and Anthony Jin '24 on the trombone. "Playing in jazz band is definitely a unique experience... 'Jazz Police' was a good chance to learn how to play with a lot of energy, and was an exciting way to end the concerts," said



The violinists play the lively "Cole Porter Salute"

Anthony.

As orchestra exited, SI's Chamber Chorus (directed by Ms. Gomes) stepped into the spotlight. The first song they performed was "Benedicid Su Nombro," a piece from Jubilate Deo that the choir also performed at Lincoln Center in New York City this spring break. The next three songs were student-conducted. The first, an arrangement of "All Star," was conducted by Emily Fable '23; the second—"Because" by John Lennon and Paul McCartney—was both arranged and conducted by Gaby Freedland '23.

James Nicolson '23 then led a quartet in singing his arrangement of "I Guess That's Why They Call it the Blues." Chamber chorus finished their performance with a beautiful rendition of "Desert Song." Mixed chorus polished off the choir act with notable songs like "When the Party's Over" and "Clouds." "This was a really bittersweet performance that was the most fitting end to my performing arts experience at SI...I felt both sad and happy when all the seniors lined up and sang "Clouds" together one last time," said Preston Ho '23.

“ Conducting a song for Spring Pops was such a special and fun opportunity! #onlyshootingstarsbreakthemold ”
-Emily Fable '23

SCAN HERE FOR THE
PERFORMANCE VIDEO!





BRINGING MUSIC TO THE BIG APPLE



Samantha Major '23

Managing Editor

Over Spring Break, SI's orchestra and choir traveled more than 2,566 miles to New York City from San Francisco. There, they had a whirlwind trip full of sightseeing, show-watching, competing, and performing. Both groups got to see the Broadway show, "Funny Girl," visit the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, and in students' freetime, explore all that NYC had to offer, including Times Square, Central Park, college campuses, Carnegie Hall, and Radio City Music Hall.

The orchestra also had the opportunity to watch a jazz show performed by Tres Aguas & Music of Colombia featuring the Jazz at Lincoln Center. Aside from getting a chance to watch performances, the orchestra also had their own agenda. After a clinic with NYU professor Stephanie Baer, the orchestra competed in the 2023 Big Apple Music Festival and won 2nd place.

Meanwhile, the choir had a busy schedule that included four rehearsals with several other school choirs. These rehearsals culminated in a performance at Lincoln Center with a professional orchestra and complex repertoire that spanned a wide spectrum of genres, making it a truly impressive performance.

After four days and four nights in New York City, SI's orchestra and choir flew back to San Francisco just in time for their Spring Pops concert, which took place on April 27th and April 28th. It was a trip to remember and a wonderful experience for SI's talented performers.



The orchestra after performing at the Big Apple Music Festival!

TOP TEN SONGS FOR GRADUATION (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

1. "Forever Young" - Rod Stewart
2. "Where'd All the Time Go" - Dr. Dog
3. "Count on Me" - Bruno Mars
4. "Dreams" - Fleetwood Mac
5. "The Climb" - Miley Cyrus
6. "Walking on a Dream" - Empire of the Sun
7. "We Built This City" - Starship
8. "Story of my Life" - One Direction
9. "Somewhere Only We Know" - Keane
10. "Send Me On My Way" - Ruston Root

BONUS! "High School Musical"

Aidan Stecher '23

MOVIE & TV RECOMMENDATIONS

Managing Editor

THE SUPER MARIO BROS

PG | 7.4/10 IMDb | 59% RT | Theaters

The popular video game characters, Mario and his brother Luigi, are brought to life in this fun and entertaining film. Now in theaters, The Super Mario Bros Movie explores the uncanny world of the Mushroom Kingdom. Full of characters and callbacks to the video games, the movie emphasizes the brotherly bond between Mario and Luigi. While the story is rather simple, the movie provides fun entertainment for anyone to enjoy.



TED LASSO: SEASON 3

TV-MA | 8.8/10 IMDb | 92% RT | Apple TV+

Ted Lasso returns for its third and possibly final season this spring. Season three contains 12 episodes and currently is releasing one episode every week. Season three continues to follow Ted Lasso as he manages the club AFC Richmond through the Premier League. Full of heart and humor, Ted Lasso remains different from other sports shows, as it focuses on the dynamics and relationships of coaches, players, and owners, not only with issues on the field but also off the field.



SPRING SPORTS UPDATE

Congratulations to all of our Spring sports for another successful Wildcats season full of hard work, losses and triumphs. Good Luck to the Senior Athletes as they prepare for their next chapter in college. GO CATS!

Men's Baseball

Record: 13-10

Baseball stands at 14-10 after an exciting win on senior day versus Bellarmine clinching a CCS playoff birth.



Varsity Men with their parents on Senior Day

Women's Softball

Record: 11-6

The women's softball team improved to 11-6 after a 9-3 victory over SHC on Senior Day. The Varsity looks to further their season in CCS playoffs.



Happy Senior Day Softball Wildcats!

Men Rowing

The JV and Freshman qualified two eights for Scholastic Championships in Tennessee later in May. The freshman finished with a strong 5th in the grand finale in Sacramento



Varsity Men's finishing off their last race with Seniors

Women's Rowing

The Women sent a varsity boat to the grand finale in Sacramento after three days of intense racing finishing 7th. The Varsity women qualified an impressive 5 boats for Scholastic Championships later this May



Varsity Women swinging together as they head towards the finish line

Women's Swim & Dive

Record: 6-0

The women's swimming team remained undefeated after winning CCS and competed at states last weekend, where they were sure to be successful.



Varsity Women's Swim and Dive stands on the podium together after winning the WCAL finals.

Men's Swimming & Dive

Record: 6-1

The men's swimming team finished in 3rd place overall in the WCAL finals and competed at states last weekend.



The Varsity Men's Swim and Dive team poses after defeating Saint Francis in a dual meet.

Men's Lacrosse

Record: 19-4

The Men's Lacrosse team is 19-4 after winning the WCAL playoffs, beating SHP on a thrilling senior night. The team started CCS last weekend.



Wildcats dive for the ball against SHP in the WCAL championship

Women's Lacrosse

Record: 12-0

Women's Lacrosse is 15-3 heading into CCS playoffs with their first game on May 10th. The team recently celebrated their seniors in a 17-5 victory against Saint Francis.



SI women's team poses for a group picture before their game against St. Francis

Track & Field

Record: (M) 6-1 | (W) 4-2



Wildcats taking on SHC as they fly across the track

Track successfully finished WCAL trials with many Cats performing well. Mo Barnum and Mariel Rocca both set school records for the triple jump and performed well at the meet.

Men's Volleyball

Record: 14-21

Volleyball men's finished off their season in CCS playoffs versus Harbor losing 3-1. They men look to improve on their season heading into the new year



Steven Nip '23 celebrates senior day with his team and family

Men's Golf

Record: 8-6

Men's Golf won WCAL with senior Andrew Callahan leading the team with a low 74. To win, the team shot a 406 at Los Altos Golf & Country club.



Louis Persky '24 takes a swing on the green

Men's Tennis

Record: 12-2

The tennis team got the number 7 seed in CCS. They had a tough 2nd round loss against Homestead but had a great season overall.



The men's tennis team comes together for a group picture

LEADING THE PACK: SI SENIOR CAPTAINS

Bridget Stecher '25, Ella Walti '25

Contributing Editors

As the school year winds down and Seniors prepare for the next chapter of their lives, Senior captains begin to reflect on their experiences with their respective sports and the impact of leading a team on their high school career. Captains have the unique opportunity to give and receive knowledge from their teammates as they interact throughout the season.

Sports at SI bring students from various backgrounds together in the form of a shared common interest. As a leader, this opportunity manifests itself in invaluable ways. Senior coxswain and crew captain Elle Karanian '23 stated, "My teammates inspire me everyday to push myself physically and be a better person! I strive to have a positive impact on them too! I have learned many values such as persistence, and how to be a leader, which will stick with me through college and the rest of my life." As a result of her years as a leader for younger Wildcats, Elle values her ability to unite a group of people. Being a leader in high school gives one the confidence later on in life to set examples for others.

Sports bring people from different corners of the school together and captains help them find a place of belonging on the team. "Being the team captain has been a really good experience for me," recalled crew captain, Masey Milham '23. "Being a team captain has allowed me to connect and talk to people on the team that I probably wouldn't have anyways and I have loved it. I will definitely try to keep fostering that same environment on my team in college even if I'm not the captain, because you truly don't need the title to be a good leader." Masey provides a sense of comfort for the lower-classmen on her team that she felt was lacking when she was in their position. Now, she enters college with new skills that she might never have gained without this opportunity.

The most important things in maintaining a healthy relationship with your sport and creating team camaraderie are to have passion and find support," remarked Track captain

Bianca Hallinan '23. "Whether it is words of affirmation or motivating conversations with my teammates, keeping an optimistic mindset is vital in being the best athlete and teammate I can be." Bianca shared how she tried to stay positive throughout the season and spread this mindset to others. By looking on the bright side of things and always choosing the option with a great challenge, her skills will rub off on their teammates.

The relationships made on teams have the potential to be life-long friendships. Track captain Ben Rodriguez '23 said, "Leading this team taught me the importance of building a relationship with my fellow teammates. The friendships I've made while leading this super blazing fast SI team are going to last even when I go to college next year, that's how strong my friendship with my teammates has gotten!" Spending everyday with his teammates as a captain, Ben knows he will take these friendships to college. He puts in the work to get to know his teammates on a deep level, to a point where it will be hard to leave them next year!



The Women's Crew Team celebrate Seniors Masey Milham (left) and Elle Karanian (right).

*"IT'S ONLY YOUR BEST WHEN
YOU MAKE IT YOUR BEST...SO
MAKE IT YOUR BEST."
-BIANCA HALLINAN '23*



Bianca Hallinan '23 (center) smiles at the Track Senior Day with her family.



Senior Day for Track

The Wildcats had a successful run in the WCAL Individual Tennis Tournament, securing both the singles and doubles titles. After an impressive season in which they finished 16-3 (12-2 WCAL), they were granted the #1 seed in both the singles and doubles draw.

In the doubles draw, #1 Jacob Young and Devin Stuppin cruised in their first two matches as a team, defeating the SHC duo of Ichinose/Steinhart 6-0 6-0 and Serra's Danielson/Urrutia 6-1 6-1. The opposite half of the draw saw Spencer Shank and Neel Noronha play some tough matches, beating Valley Christian's Lin/Kalahasti 6-0 7-5, as well as coming back from the brink in the first set against SF's #3 Wirjadisastra/Wang to win 7-6(5) 6-2 to advance to day 2 of the tournament. The singles draw saw #1 Spencer Leung return to his first junior tournament since USTA Nationals at Kalamazoo this past August.

After a season in which he dropped only one set, Leung cruised on Day 1 of the competition, defeating Nathan Reynolds of Serra 6-1 6-2 and Alex Simone of St. Francis 6-2 6-2.

On the other side of the draw, Alton Tse made his presence felt, defeating Riordan's Ian Gyrb 6-0 6-0 before crashing out to #3 Anish Lolabattu 6-3 6-0. Spencer Leung showed his first signs of struggle all season, but was able to power through it to book his slot in the final. Facing Bellarmine's Martin Dimitrov, a four-star freshman, he fought through a difficult first set before finding his rhythm in the second, taking the match 7-6(3) 6-2.

In the final, Leung expected to cruise his way through, having already badly defeated SF's #2 Shiven Mehta during the regular season. However, this time Mehta came ready. Despite taking the first set 6-2, Leung struggled to find his rhythm, as he saw the second set slip away by a score 5-7. Locked into a 10-point battle for the crown, Leung used all of his junior tennis experience when he needed it most, saving a match before taking the exhilarating breaker 13-11, making him WCAL Champion.

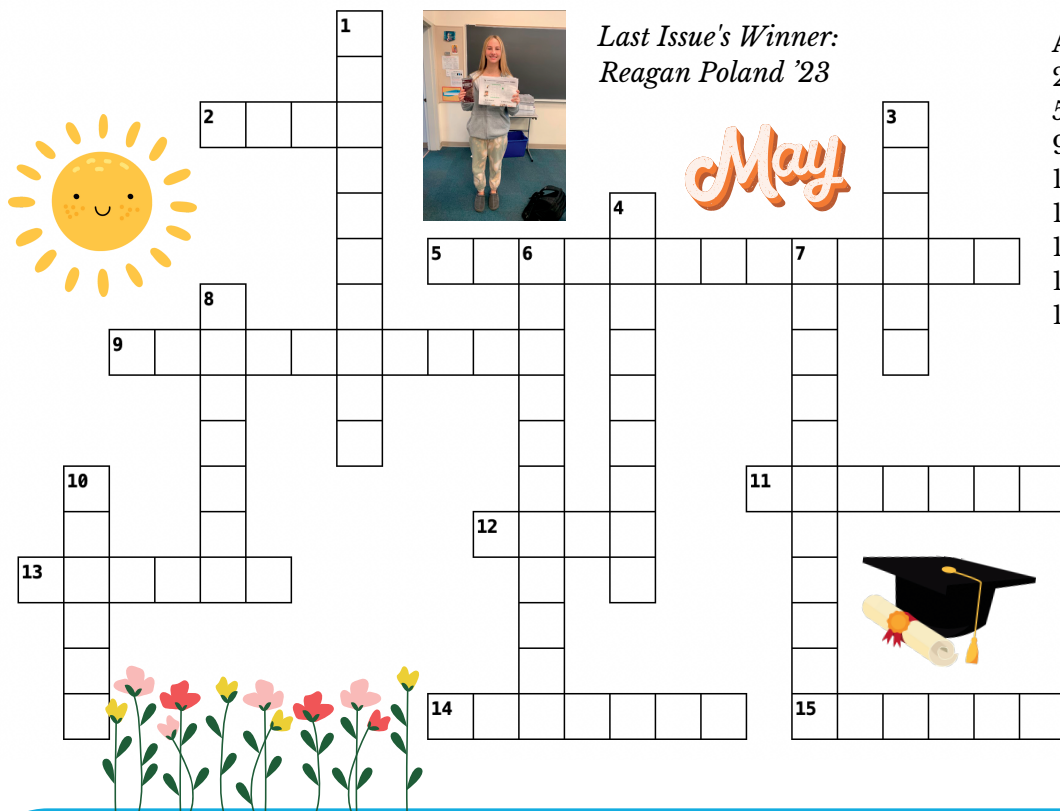
After a successful tournament, the boy's tennis squad will look to ride the momentum into the CCS Playoffs, where they aim to make a deep run.

This year, Saint Ignatius has had an extraordinary amount of seniors commit to playing their sports at a collegiate level. This spring, we had 20 athletes sign at signing day and an additional 14 in the winter and fall. Congratulations to the following athletes on their commitment to their sport and dedication to playing at the next level: Lenny Beatie playing baseball at Chapman University; Jackson Short playing baseball at Occidental College; Gus Parker playing both baseball and football at Middlebury College; Alex Hartigan playing football at Middlebury College; JJ Casey playing football at Chapman University; Luke Leupold playing football at Villanova University; James Lucey at Bowdoin College; Charlie Haginichols playing lacrosse at Rhodes College; Tristan Ghosh playing lacrosse at Yale University; Rye Kushner playing lacrosse at Bates College; Peyton Lee playing lacrosse at Oberlin College; Natasha Tribolet playing lacrosse at Harvard University; Elle Karanian rowing at Uni-

versity of San Diego; Ethan Louie rowing at Purdue University; Colin Mulkerrins rowing at University of San Diego; Becca Button playing soccer at Amherst College; Emmie Ennis playing soccer at St. Mary's College; Anabelle Mullin swimming at Colby College; Lian Jeong Engle swimming at American University, and Eva Devlin running at the University of Chicago.



Committed Seniors pose for a group photo after signing



*Last Issue's Winner:
Reagan Poland '23*

Across

2. "Leaving the ____"
5. Mass celebrated on 5/25
9. Graduation attire
11. When the seniors say goodbye
12. "W" in WCAL
13. "Sprint to the _____!"
14. "April showers bring May _____"
15. Season that's just around the corner

Down

1. May 14 holiday
3. Everyone's favorite week coming up!
4. Star Wars Day
6. May 5th in Spanish
7. 1992 cargo ship spilled items
8. Year-end tests for college credit
10. Senior retreat

THE FIVE STAGES OF AP EXAM GRIEF

Andrew Wong '24, Ethan Lo '24, Justin Lin '24

Assoc. Editor-in-Chief & Contributing Editors

Step 1: Denial - It's not your fault, that probably isn't even your real grade.

They must've graded it wrong. Maybe they gave you the wrong test. Or maybe it's someone else's score. Whatever it is, there's no way it's YOUR fault.



Step 2: Anger - The College Board is corrupt, I deserve a better score.

The teachers are in on it. Your classmates got bribed into raising the average score. The system is rigged. You are enemy number one and you 100% deserve a better grade.



Step 3: Bargaining - I'll do better next year. I'll take 10 APs. Anything to get into my dream college.

Maybe you're the next Einstein. That guy dropped out of school. You can overcome this disappointment by solving world hunger or curing cancer. Yeah, that's how you're going to get into your dream school. Who cares about APs anyway?



Step 4: Depression - Actually, that will burn me out. I'll never get into any colleges.

Be prepared to cry before checking the results. Go to your college counselor the moment the AP scores are released. After that, maybe try some shower crying.



Step 5: Acceptance - I don't need college. I'll become the next Mark Zuckerberg.

Y'know what, no one cares about AP tests anyways.





Cheers to the summer of 2023!
Thanks for a great school year SI!



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