



INSIDE SI



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The Feature:

Traditions



This festive season, our Feature focuses on both general and holiday traditions! We have traditions at SI and in our homes, around friends, family, and communities. We hope that these activities and celebrations will bring comfort, warmth, and joy to this Christmas holiday season.



-The Editors-in-Chief

Emma Chan '24

SI STUDENT TRADITIONS

Managing Editor

As the chilling winter air begins to roll in throughout campus, so too does holiday spirit. A season abundant with generosity and festivity, many SI students look forward to their December traditions. Many families opt to spend their holiday season visiting the War Memorial Opera House for opulent Nutcracker shows, venturing on hot cocoa-tasting tours around the city, or driving through decked-out neighborhoods like the Castro.

When asked about what he and his family get around to during Christmas time, Evan O'Driscoll '24 responded, "During the holidays I always look forward to spending time with my family. One of my favorite traditions is our Christmas Day Dinner, where we enjoy good food, each other's company, and the spirit of the holiday. Another tradition I have is taking the time to pick out meaningful presents for those closest to me."

Gift-giving is certainly a popular aspect of the holidays and for another senior, Penelope Cheun-Tolley, large-scale white elephant parties exemplify this perfectly. Speaking about her family gatherings, she noted, "White elephant has become my favorite holiday tradition I do with my family. We buy the most wacky gifts we can find, then wind up spending hours fighting over the best gifts and attempting to steal them. It's honestly a great way to have Christmas cheer!"

Holiday traditions come in all shapes and sizes. Jolie Barrett '24 finds that "hanging mistletoe around the living room, putting up Christmas decorations on the fireplace, and lighting cinnamon, gingerbread, and pine candles" have become unanimous traditions in her household.

Whether individuals find their festive cheer by singing along to radio carols, cuddling up with beloved pets on the couch binging holiday classics, or (over)indulging with great-aunts and uncles in decadent sweets and spiced cider, it's evident that the way we celebrate the holidays is rooted in the traditions our families have made and the ones we continue to make along the way.

THE BUCKET LIST

Written by
Penelope Cheun-Tolley '24

Now that it's about to be winter break, the realization that I will be out of high school in less than six months hit me like a truck. In eight months, I would be in a new city, possibly a new state, and not close to anything that I grew up with. Recently, my friends and I had the idea to act like tourists for a day during the summer before we all left for college. That way, we could go to all the iconic sights and places in SF as a final hurrah before we started a new chapter of our lives.

Immediately, I said we had to visit the California Academy of Sciences.

The institution holds a special place in my heart because I visit it so often. From school field trips, Christmas parties, member exclusive sleepovers in the museum, and much more. If there was a new exhibit, I would immediately drag my parents on the weekend to check it out. Even now, I got one of my friends to come with me this past summer to check out their updated lower levels and new dinosaur exhibition. *Cont. on p.15*

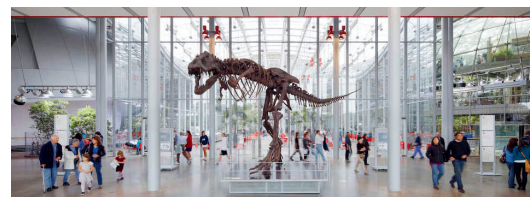


Photo courtesy of calacademy.org.

SEE INSIDE!



SI
Tradition
Bracket
(p. 9-10)



Instrumental
Winter
Concert
(p.4)



SI's
Annual
Christmas
Drive
(p.3)



SI Girls'
Bathroom
Tier List
(p.19)



Sienna Cline '25

IMMERSION: TRIPS TO REMEMBER

Contributing Editor

The immersion process has officially started for the Class of 2025. During an immersion trip, junior participants immerse themselves into a specific place. Students are not able to choose the place that they immerse in as this place is randomly assigned to students. Immersion trips invite juniors to enter into solidarity with people that they are not close friends with. Groups are specifically designed so that students are able to bond with new faces.

Each trip centralizes around a major social issue. In order to go on an immersion trip, junior students have to first submit an application. On the application, students had the option to choose if they wanted to partake in a domestic or international immersion. Additionally, students could make known if they wanted a one week or two week experience. The immersion trips for this upcoming summer are as follows: L'Arche Tacoma, Washington (Inclusion and Disability), Tenderloin in San Francisco (Human Dignity, Poverty, and Homelessness), Wheeling, West Virginia (Ecological Justice and Rural Poverty), Jerusalem Farm in Kansas City (Housing and Sustainable Living), Chicago, Illinois (Intersectional Justice Issues), El Salvador (War and Witness), Agua Prieta, Mexico (Migration and Border Issues), Las Cruces, New Mexico (Migration and Border Issues), and Ecuador (Colonization and Indigenous Communities).

On November 2nd, all juniors were invited to attend the Immersion Solidarity Dinner. At this dinner, juniors had the opportunity to learn more about what immersion is and if it is a right fit for them, as well as decide if they wanted to submit an application.

At this dinner, juniors ate a simple meal of rice and beans to demonstrate the simplistic lifestyle that one will live in while on immersion. November 13th was the First Discernment Evening of two for solely the applicants of immersion. At this discernment evening, small groups were carefully created beforehand and students were asked to make a specific meal with their small group.

My group cooked a chicken pasta salad. It was a great way to collaborate with others in a different setting and get out of my comfort zone. It was nice to have a feel of what immersion might be like.

— Bridget Stecher '25

On November 28th, junior applicants attended the Second Discernment Evening, which is the final discernment evening. During this evening, different small groups had been made beforehand and students ate a protein dish, vegetable dish, and a starch dish together while reflecting and sharing thoughts on specific prompts with the rest of the group. After reflecting on her time during this Second Discernment Evening, Cassie Doerner '25 stated, "It was a great experience where I learned more about what immersion would look like. I was also given the opportunity to talk with other juniors that I don't really hang out with." Juniors will be finding out where they will be immersing in late January.

Sierra Murphy '25

JCL UPDATE

Managing Editor

On November 4th, the students of the Junior Classical League traveled to St. Francis High School in Sacramento. JCL participated at Ludi Novembres where their delegation played certamen, had their faces painted, participated in unique contests, had a blast at the Photo Booth, and so much more! "Everybody, academic integrity matters, even at Ludi," said senior Penny Pyo, after her eventful day.



Photo courtesy of SlickPic

Students taking some pictures in the photo booth at Ludi



A FAMILIAR SIGHT TO SEE...THE CHRISTMAS DRIVE!

Kate Quach '25 & Lilly Eugster '25

Christmas trees, adorned with shiny ornaments, glisten across campus while light-up character displays brighten the hallways. In the classrooms, new, unassuming decorations gather in the corner: boxes. However, instead of glowing with strings of light, these boxes radiate the greater purpose of carrying food donations for families at St. Dominic's Church and the Rose Court.

With the return of the Christmas Drive tradition at SI, the holiday spirit quickly sweeps across campus. In the Student Center, Arrupe Social Justice Council members offer daily sales of pie, hot chocolate, and pastries. From bags of rice to ketchup to cake mix, classes strive to help those in the St. Dominic's community for the 60th Annual giving event. All of the contributions raised from November 7 to December 4 serve as support for 260 families during the holiday season.

As leader of the Christmas Drive Committee within the Arrupe Council, Rini Saha '25 organizes the food boxes as an invitation for students to bring together pantry staples until the final food distribution at St. Dominic's. "Around this time of the year, the warm, cozy feelings are in the air and ramping up that holiday spirit...really makes the Drive extra special," shared Rini. "It's like a little time for SI as a community to bond over giving back."

Associate Editor-in-Chief & Contributing Editor

Elyse Hallinan '25 embraces the celebration of the Christmas Drive each year. "I think it is important to count our blessings during the holiday season and support such a good cause," she said. "It doesn't take a lot of effort for us to make a difference, and as a Jesuit community, we are called to spread our love everywhere."

Dr. McCann certainly agrees. Echoing Elyse's emphasis on Jesuit values, Dr. McCann draws towards the words of Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J.. "The SI community is called to respond to the challenges of our time and to love our neighbors. Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J. said, "Today's prime educational objective must be to form men and women for others...who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors." As she witnesses the students of SI contributing to the Drive's goal of \$20,000, Dr. McCann holds optimism for the fundraiser's city-wide impact.

"This holiday season, we are each asked to give what we can to support our neighbors and make the holidays a little easier. The Christmas Drive is a great way for our community to come together at the holidays to give to our neighbors in San Francisco."

Seniors preparing Xmas drive boxes



Photo © SlickPic

Abigail Edwards '26 & Aiden Gray '26

CASINO NIGHT: GO BIG OR GO HOME

Contributing Editors

On December 1st was the event of the year at SI. Casino Night is a night of fun and chance as you play blackjack to win some crazy prizes. This year's prizes included Warriors tickets, free dress for a month, an iPhone 14 and 15, Outside Land tickets and so much more!

Every year Casino Night is one of the most popular events among Saint Ignatius students. Along with the fun games and chances to win big, there was an intriguing mentalist who came to perform. "I really enjoyed the show," said Bridget Stecher '25.

The theme for this year's Casino Night was Kentucky Derby. Students were able to dress up in very fun and unique outfits to match the theme.

As students come together there is also a final poker tournament held during Casino Night. After talking to a finalist in last year's tournament at Casino night, they said, "Casino night was legit insane! We turned the gym into a mini Vegas and had a blast!"



SI students playing Roulette



Students gathering to watch horse-racing



The SATB Chamber Singers open the show!



Photos courtesy of Jeslyn Oum '24



This year's concert pamphlet alongside candles used in the closing song, "Night of Silence"

The Choral Concert held Dec. 7th was a beautiful event, showcasing the talents of SI students. The director of the concert, Ms. Gomes, described the concert featuring "3 choirs, student instrumentalists, student conductors, and lots of Christmas Cheer."



Photos c/o SlickPic

The Winter Instrumental Concert featured members of the orchestra and jazz band performing a selection of classical and contemporary pieces.

Orchestra played songs including a lovely medley of "Harry Potter" and an upbeat "Sleigh Ride," exciting the audience. Jazz Band finished the concert with a bright tune called "Opus One" and a familiar tune - Stevie Wonder's "Superstition." All in all, it was a great concert that showcased the wide talent at SI.



AFFINITY

Penny Pyo '24

WARDING OFF EVIL DURING THE WINTER SOLSTICE

Contributing Editor

Want to drive away both the bitter cold and malevolent spirits this winter? Then cook up a bowl of patjuk, a sweet red bean porridge!

On December 22, many cultures around the world will celebrate the Winter Solstice, the shortest day and longest night of the year. In Korea, people celebrate Dongji. Traditionally, Dongji is celebrated by performing ancestral rites and eating patjuk, a sweet red bean porridge. Red is a lucky color in Korean culture; therefore, red beans are considered to have the power to repel bad luck.

My grandfather Je Bongju explained, "Our ancestors believed that during the winter solstice, the yin energy is strong and there are the most evil spirits. So, they believed that they could chase away evil spirits with patjuk, because red beans have strong yang energy." During Dongji, families would place bowls of patjuk inside and outside the house to ward off evil and misfortune. Patjuk is also topped with round rice cakes called sae-alshim; shaped like bird's eggs, the sae-alshim symbolize new life and prosperity.

While Dongji is not as widely celebrated today, many Koreans still enjoy the tradition of curling up with a warm bowl of patjuk. Recalling his childhood, my grandfather shared, "Eating patjuk was not a custom just for our family members, but also to exchange food with

our neighbors."

Additionally, Dongji is also nicknamed "Little New Year," as it marks the transition from barren winter to blooming spring. After Dongji, days become longer, the growing hours of sunlight paving the way for spring. The Winter Solstice reminds us that in the midst of dark times, our communities help us find solace, hope, and joy, and that a new day is on the horizon.

This winter, may we all spend time—and share meals—with our loved ones, cherishing each other and looking to the future with hope.



Dongji

This year's year's annual Pasko Celebration was held Saturday, December 9th. Every year, SIPAC (SI Parents' Asian Club) hosts Pasko, a celebration of Asian and Asian American cultures through performances. This year was a particularly special celebration, as it was the 15th Anniversary of Pasko being celebrated at SI! While this event is based on Pasko, the Filipino tradition celebrating Christmas, it was open to all Asian students to showcase their cultures, whether that's through a cultural dance, a fashion show, or an original poem!



Pasko Cultural Dance 2022



Pasko Fashion Show 2022

What is Hanukkah? The Hebrew word Chanukah directly translates to "dedication," representing one of the most beloved Jewish holidays to date. The celebration, lasting eight nights, has evolved over centuries through the blending of religious traditions. Hanukkah is a festival commemorating the victory of the Maccabees over the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BCE and the subsequent miracle of the oil that burned for eight days in the Temple in Jerusalem.

The origins of Hanukkah can be traced back to 2nd century BCE, when the land of Judea was under the rule of the Seleucid king Antiochus IV. He sought to impose Hellenistic culture in order to suppress Jewish practices. Led by Judah Maccabee and his brothers, a small group of Jewish rebels known as the Maccabees revolted against the Seleucids and reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem in 165 BCE.

The Hanukkah miracle revolves around the rededication of the Temple, describing that upon the Maccabees entrance to the desecrated Temple, they found only a small amount of pure oil left-enough to light the menorah for just one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days, allowing them to properly prepare new oil. This event is key to the festival, and the lighting of the menorah for eight nights symbolizes this specific story.

Enough history, let's talk about celebration!

From food to music to games, the Hanukkah festival is one of the most traditionally and culturally rich events in today's world. Saint Ignatius Senior, Nola Derrick, shared some personal experiences and unique ways her family approaches the holiday.

"In my family, Hanukkah is a time for us to come together and truly connect to the beauty of our Jewish traditions. Over the years, we've cultivated customs that make this festival uniquely ours.

One tradition we hold dear is the creation of a family Hanukkah scrapbook, where we capture reflections, moments, and even family recipes dedicated to each night of Hanukkah. The visual journey is something I look back on to reminisce on our celebrations. On the first night, we gather as a family to light the menorah, reciting the blessings and taking turns sharing personal reflections or stories related to the festival. It could be a memory from childhood, or a simple expression of gratitude.

Our Hanukkah table is covered in traditional dishes, but each night we try to introduce a new twist to the menu. It could be a unique latke recipe or an exciting dessert inspired by the festival.

As I move through my high school years, I feel a deep connection to my roots. The traditions that my family practices during Hanukkah each year have been a steady anchor in my life to remind me what is important."



Tai Morganson '26 & Jordan Liu '26

APEC SUMMIT

Contributing Editors

The Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation is an international forum made up of twenty-one Asian-Pacific countries who share a common goal of economic development. This year on Nov. 16-17, members of APEC gathered in San Francisco for the annual APEC Economic Leaders' Week, sparking protests and traffic disruptions throughout the city.

Leaders congregated to discuss economic policies and initiatives among the nations bordering the Pacific Ocean. For the first time, the event was held in San Francisco, a city chosen for its economic output, foreign trade, and integration of Asian culture; this was the third time the US has hosted. For APEC, 20,000 delegates from over twenty-one nations gathered in San Francisco, with an aim to foster growth and cooperation among trading countries. In addition, the conference covered sustainability, global health, food security, women's rights, and energy. These countries constitute fifty percent of global trade and receive over sixty percent of American exports.

Although the meeting hoped to bridge gaps among nations and citizens, the presence of international leaders and President Joe Biden stirred unrest. Groups of pro-Palestinian protesters marched through downtown San Francisco, condemning Mr. Biden's support for Israel. On November 16th, protestors calling for a Gaza ceasefire shut down the Bay Bridge by laying on the road, disrupting tens of thousands of commuters entering San Francisco. Separately, pro- and anti-Chinese government protestors confronted each other on the streets of San Francisco.

Those with personal ties to the autocratic government cried for imprisoned family members, while those ideologically opposed to China protested privacy violations, dictatorship, and the oppression of minority ethnic groups such as Tibetans. Large groups of Chinese government supporters also gathered to welcome the arrival of China's paramount leader, with sporadic violent fights erupting between the two staunchly opposed groups.

In preparation for the summit, areas of Civic Center and the South of Market were cleared of their homeless inhabitants. The streets were sparkling and clear. Skeptics from across the political spectrum immediately raised questions, including concerns for the destination of the displaced homeless community and questions why the arrival of foreign leaders was the only reason San Francisco would clear its streets.

In addition, the conference posed challenges for SI students commuting to school; according to CalTrans, closures included "multiple ramps, lane, and ped/bike path closures scheduled along I-80 and U.S. 101." SI student, Jayden Lewis '26 said, "Usually, I switch between the Golden Gate Bridge and the Bay Bridge. But because of the police presence on the Bay Bridge, I have been taking the Golden Gate Bridge all this week. Which is one, more expensive...and it's inconvenient."

Overall, the APEC summit was undoubtedly a special event; foreign dignitaries, international media, protestors, and traffic disruptions combined to create a unique presence in San Francisco.

Kate McFarland '24

HOLIDAY GENEROSITY

Managing Editor

As the holiday season is upon us, people's minds are filled with thoughts of ice skating in downtown San Francisco, warm meals, and gifts. However, those who are less fortunate are more concerned with staying warm, dry, and fed throughout the winter months. According to the 2022 San Francisco City Performance Scorecards, 7,754 people experience homelessness in San Francisco, with only 3,357 staying in shelters. Efforts to aid those in need during the winter months are being made by numerous nonprofit organizations, including the San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter, the SFFD Toy Program, and the St. Anthony Foundation.

The San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter provides breakfast, dinner, and safe, warm beds to 100 guests each night. This Winter season, they are open from Monday, November 20th through the end of March. The shelter operates on donations and the help of faithful volunteers to care for the city's homeless population.

The SFPD has been running its toy program since 1949. Each year, over 300 firefighters and volunteers distribute over 200,000 toys to more than 40,000 disadvantaged children year round, especially during the holiday season.

For children whose families have greater worries than toys on Christmas morning, this program can perform miracles. Donate toys by finding toy donation barrels at the workplace, corporate events, holiday parties, or by dropping off a personal donation at any SFFD Fire Station.

Finally, St. Anthony's Foundation in the San Francisco Tenderloin is a well known partner of the SI community. They serve food everyday to those struggling to make ends meet, and also run a clothing donation program. The Free Clothing Program takes gently used clothes of all sizes and distributes them to those who cannot afford to shop for them. Addie Vida '24 remarked, "When I was volunteering at St. Anthony's, I helped a woman pick out a much needed winter coat. It made my day to see her so radiant and confident as she left the building with her new jacket."

A small donation of toys, clothing, or a few hours of volunteer work can make a huge impact on people's lives. SI students and faculty are encouraged to get involved during Christmas break and share some holiday generosity!



Lucas Liang '26

ALGEBRA IN SF

Contributing Editors

For many SI students, Algebra 1 may have seemed like a normal, mundane class that everyone had to take during freshman year or in middle school. However, which grade students can take Algebra 1 at San Francisco public schools has become a stark political issue that will appear as a proposition in the March 2024 general election.

Nine years ago, the San Francisco Unified School District removed Algebra 1 from 8th grade in order to end "tracking" and keep students of different ability levels in the same classes. This was done as an attempt to close the math achievement gap between Hispanic and Black students and their white and Asian peers.

Since the policy has taken effect, researchers at Stanford University have found that the racial achievement gap in SFUSD high schools for math has largely remained the same. For the class of 2018, the last class to graduate that could take Algebra 1 in 8th grade, 71% of Asian students and 56% of white students enrolled in Precalculus by 12th grade while just 31% of Hispanic students and 13% of Black students enrolled in Precalculus. Those numbers were largely unchanged for the class of 2021.

The study also displayed a drop in students who enrolled in AP Calculus following the enactment of the new Algebra policy. For the class of 2018, 28% of all SFUSD high school students enrolled in AP Calculus by graduation. In 2019, that number dropped to 22%. The drop was especially felt by Asian students, with 45% enrolling in AP Calculus in the class of 2018 compared to 34% in the class of 2019.

Since 2019, AP Calculus enrollment has rebounded because students can 1) take Geometry during the summer between 9th and 10th grade; 2) take two math courses simultaneously; 3) take a com-

pressed Algebra 2 and precalculus class; or 4) pay for outside math classes. Opponents of removing 8th grade Algebra argue that making Calculus difficult to reach by 12th grade hurts students interested in advanced math courses and makes students pursuing careers in STEM less competitive in college applications.

Keeping Algebra out of 8th grade has also raised fears of a widening gap between public and private schools in San Francisco. SF Supervisor Joel Engardio, wrote on his website, "We have a tale of two school systems in San Francisco. Private schools are growing and public school enrollment is declining...A policy against 8th grade Algebra is a big factor when families decide to leave public schools when their child reaches middle school."

Supervisor Engardio represents the Sunset District and introduced the March 2024 ballot measure which urges SFUSD to offer Algebra 1 by 8th grade. Tai Morganson '26, who attended an SFUSD middle school, attested, "I do definitely think that not being able to take algebra in 8th grade put me at a disadvantage compared to my peers at SI." For Tita Bell, an SI parent and the chief of staff for Supervisor Engardio, the ballot measure marks the results of a years-long push to offer Algebra 1 in 8th grade. Bell remarked to *Inside SI*, "We feel like the measure is long overdue because families, educators—people who care about this issue—have been pushing to change the policy."

Ultimately, the voters of San Francisco will have the final say over what the *San Francisco Standard* has dubbed the "math wars" on the March 2024 ballot.



$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Annika Watkins '25

Contributing Editor

Christmas, everyone's favorite time of year, looks different across the globe and everyone has a way of making it a special and joyous time. Some make dishes or treats that only come around once a year. Others share their holiday spirit through gift-giving, parades, parties, or festivals. Christmas is undoubtedly one of, if not the most spirited and beloved holiday. Here are a few traditions from around the world!

Japan: A KFC Christmas

Christmas in Japan has only gained popularity in the last few decades and is now more commonly observed as a time to spread cheer or as a romantic day for couples, rather than as a religious holiday. Instead of preparing a large feast, many people book a table at a restaurant or order KFC for Christmas dinner.

Sweden: St. Lucia's Day

St. Lucia's Day is a unique celebration on December 13, honoring a woman who is believed to have been among the first Christian martyrs. Celebrations include a candlelit ceremony where the oldest girl in each family dresses up as St. Lucia in a white gown and dons a candle wreath. The girls will serve coffee or mulled wine to their families.

Philippines: Nochebuena and Neverending Lights

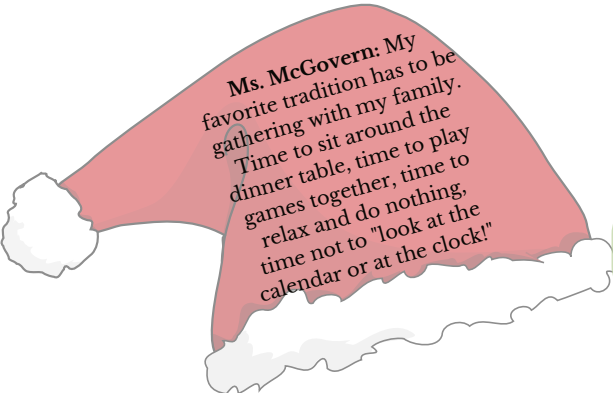
The start of the Christmas season is marked by the creation of traditional lanterns, the sound of carols in stores, and the sight of Christmas gifts piled high on shelves during the "ber" months. Huge Nochebuena parties take place on Christmas Eve, with a variety of foods. After Misa de Riso, the evening Mass, many people feast and dance until the earliest hours of the morning.

FESTIVE PERSPECTIVES

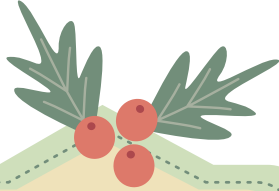
Sophie Barsoian '26 & Caroline McFadden '24

Contributing Editor & Managing Editor

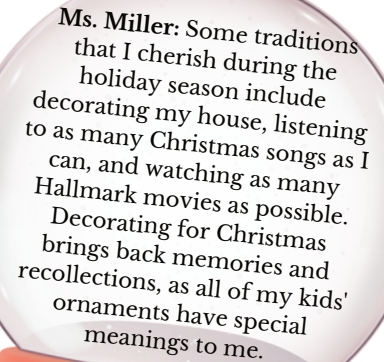
Hello Wildcats! For this article, we conducted interviews with several teachers to explore their thoughts on traditions during the holiday season. We inquired about their favorite traditions during this time and specifically at SI. Here are their responses:




Ms. McGovern: My favorite tradition has to be gathering with my family. Time to sit around the dinner table, time to play games together, time to relax and do nothing, time not to "look at the calendar or at the clock!"



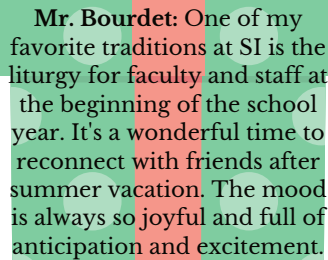
Mr. Castro: One of my most favorite traditions at SI is the Christmas Food Drive. When I was a kid, money was tight in the house. A lot of people in the family and in the community helped us out for many years, and I see SI's Christmas Drive as a continuation of that.




Ms. Miller: Some traditions that I cherish during the holiday season include decorating my house, listening to as many Christmas songs as I can, and watching as many Hallmark movies as possible. Decorating for Christmas brings back memories and recollections, as all of my kids' ornaments have special meanings to me.



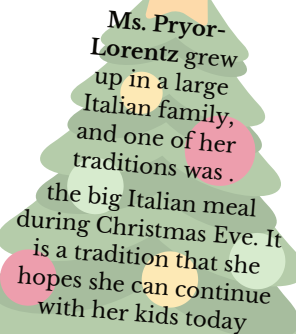
Ms. Stricherz: I love to bake and I have a massive sweet tooth. It's hard to turn down all the holiday treats. I make a mean Christmas Salty Sweet Treat. Ask me for the recipe. I know it by heart.



Mr. Bourdet: One of my favorite traditions at SI is the liturgy for faculty and staff at the beginning of the school year. It's a wonderful time to reconnect with friends after summer vacation. The mood is always so joyful and full of anticipation and excitement.



Mr. Murphy: My favorite tradition during the holiday season would be listening to the best Christmas music ever: A Charlie Brown Christmas Soundtrack.



Ms. Pryor-Lorentz: I grew up in a large Italian family, and one of her traditions was the big Italian meal during Christmas Eve. It is a tradition that she hopes she can continue with her kids today.

Evelyn Conboy '26

SI CLASSROOMS CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

Contributing Editor

As the holiday season approaches, SI teachers and administrators are using annual traditions to help foster a fun and festive atmosphere.

With the multitude of cultures represented at SI, the celebration of different holiday traditions is once again uniting the SI community. Not only is the school decked out in Christmas lights and Santa decorations, but many holiday festivities also continue in the classroom.

Teachers might decorate their classroom, add a festive spin to classroom assignments, or let their students let loose before winter break. In his classroom, English teacher Mr. White plays Just Dance, an interactive video game, with his seniors to commemorate the end of a semester. Many clubs also host holiday-themed events such as the Arrupe Social Council's Christmas Drive and their sale of pumpkin pie, apple pie, and hot chocolate. In the Chinese classroom, Mandarin teacher Ms. Pappas celebrates the holiday season with the Chinese holiday Zhong Qiu Jie, also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Mandarin students celebrate this holiday by learning about the stories behind the holiday, eating mooncakes, drinking Chinese tea, and learning the Chinese song, "The Moon Represents My Heart."

Modern World History teacher, Ms. Mannion, created an assignment that honors the stories that connect a student to his or her family. She explained the interwoven nature of the holidays and family. As a history teacher, she wanted to encourage her students to learn more about their own family's history. Thus, she asked her students to interview a family member about their own family history and record it for posterity. These family interviews, filled with rich stories would then be uploaded to The Library of Congress database for future generations.

SI's teachers ways of highlighting the holidays in their classrooms are sure to bring cheeriness even amidst the stress of finals season.



Bridget Stecher '25

THE TRADITION OF THE TURKEY TROT

Contributing Editor

On November 23rd, Thanksgiving, the twenty-fifth annual Turkey Trot was hosted at Lake Merced. Every year since 1998, this tradition has continued to bring alumni, students, teachers, and families together to raise money for those most vulnerable in our community. This fundraiser, which involves many people running, jogging, or biking around the lake, raised over two thousand three hundred dollars for the organization St. Anthony's. The Turkey Trot allows SI students and community members to collaborate for the greater good on Thanksgiving, a time when we should be most grateful.

Mr. Evans, who has participated in the Turkey Trot for twenty years and helped organize it for the last five years, recognizes that people love doing it for the amazing community that is created. He knows that on Thanksgiving, "people naturally take note of what they are grateful for, and respond with generosity to their own position." This sense of generosity is very contagious and causes many recent graduates and older alumni alike to be drawn back to the Turkey Trot itself and the people and the environment that comes with it.



Photo courtesy of Shelby Evans '24

SI students pose in matching t-shirts at this year's Turkey Trot.

Recent graduate of the class of '23 Jack Stecher stated, "It is a great way to stay part of the community and stay connected with old friends and teachers."

Jack and many others who came back, recognized the importance of continuing to participate in activities that involve the broader SI community, even after graduation.

Freshman Ami Mora also participated in the Turkey Trot and appreciated that "even in something that seems so challenging, we can find comfort in the people around us."

The Turkey Trot exemplifies what SI is about—uniting people from all different parts of the SI community for the greater good.

Alex Salentine '26

OPINION: THE GOODNESS IN TRADITION

Contributing Editor

Have you ever attended a birthday party, a Bruce-Mahoney game, or a national holiday celebration? If so, you have engaged in tradition, which is a fundamental concept that binds the past, present, and future together. Healthy tradition is founded in truth and changes with the necessity of the social contexts in which it finds itself, while still maintaining its core meaning and significance. On the contrary, an unhealthy tradition is something that is the opposite of a healthy tradition. I will assert that upholding healthy traditions is essential to maintaining a functioning and healthy society for two main reasons: traditions preserve cultures and values that bring people together, and traditions transmit knowledge.

First, tradition preserves cultures and values that bring people together. Tradition connects people to their cultural roots and preserves and transmits the values, history, and practices therein. It maintains and celebrates their uniqueness amongst themselves and in regard to others. Tradition maintains social norms and expectations that form a strong and consistent moral compass. This provides for and reinforces a strong sense of identity and belonging to a larger community that shares this common tradition, as well as a strong sense of self. This common identity allows one to bridge generational gaps, strengthen relationships between its members, and create a cohesive and unified body, which is beneficial in fostering stability and community.

One can therefore easily see the dangers that come when traditions are undermined, as there is no longer a foundation for one's identity, which leads to insecurity. In imperialism, when Western powers replaced the Native culture with a

foreign one, much harm was done socially to indigenous peoples as their foundational tradition was scoffed at and damaged.

For these reasons, I assert that traditions are good because they preserve culture and values that bring people together and are dangerous when undermined.

Second, tradition transmits knowledge. Tradition facilitates intergenerational communication and respect for elders, which is invaluable in education as it establishes the hierarchy of the teacher and the students, which allows for wisdom to be taught and handed down. In this way, tradition provides the framework for education from the idea that we pass on what we know to others so they might move forward with that knowledge. This is the very basis of education, which traditions celebrate and engage in. Examples of this include cultural centers, art museums, cultural festivals, etc., in which tradition is shown and passed down to others. In this way, tradition is good because it provides the framework for and encourages education.

Upholding healthy traditions is good and is needed to maintain a healthy society. Traditions bring people together, preserve values and culture, and transmit knowledge. These are essential in building a stable society and are disastrous when rejected. So I urge you, reader, to maintain your traditions. Being immersed in your tradition will enhance your identity and create a much more stable life for you and our broader society.

SI TRADITIONS: THE ONE TO RULE THEM ALL

Naomi Ko '24, Senna Nijagal '24,
Jeslyn Oum '24, Megan Stecher '24, Cayden Tu '24

Editors-in-Chief

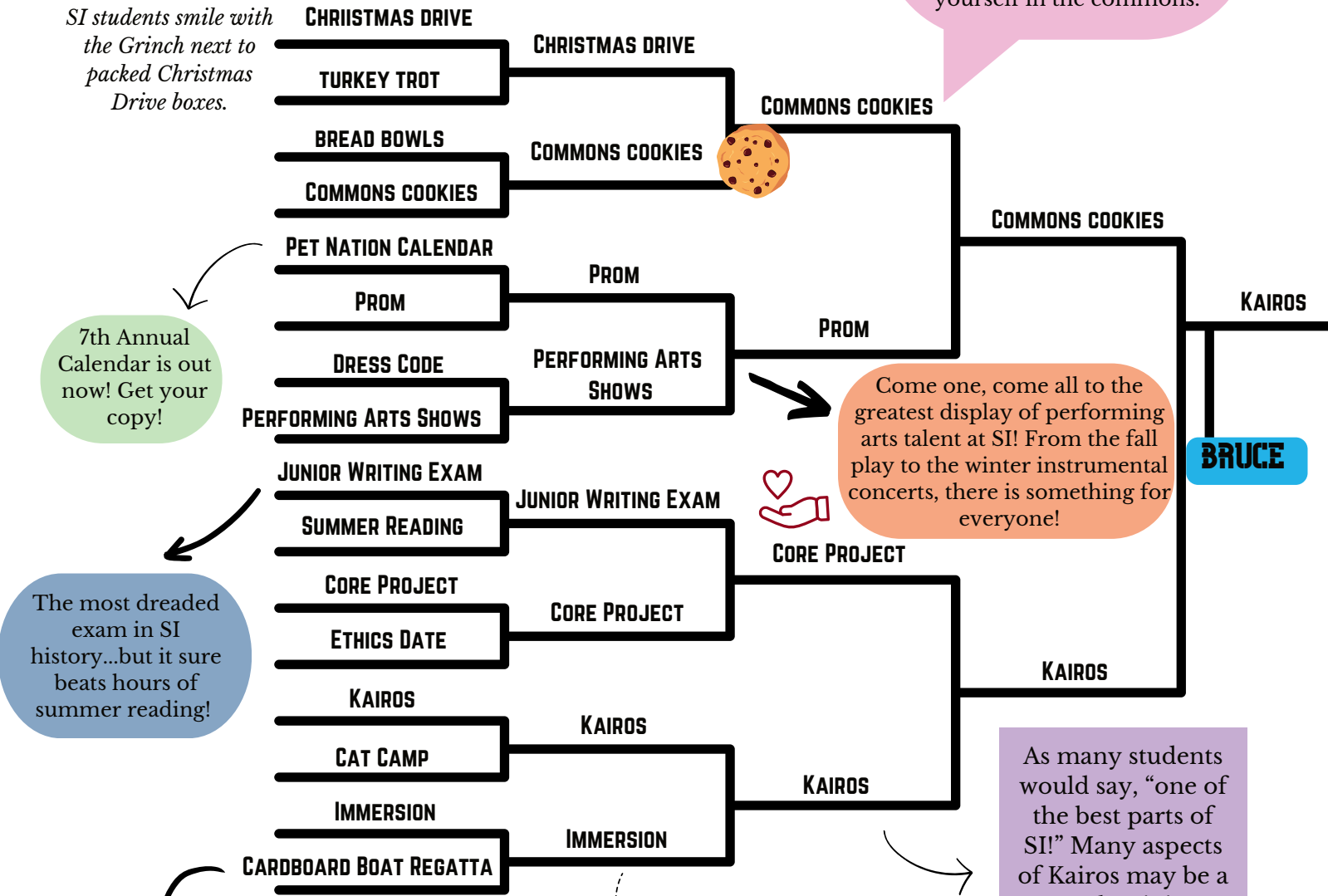


Photo c/o SlickPic

SI students smile with the Grinch next to packed Christmas Drive boxes.

An amazing time of the year where SI students are able to give to our broader San Francisco community and provide families with a Christmas dinner!

This Cookie's Reputation extends beyond the SI Campus. It draws 8th graders in on their Wildcat tour day, and you can get one for yourself in the commons.



7th Annual Calendar is out now! Get your copy!

The most dreaded exam in SI history...but it sure beats hours of summer reading!

Seniors in Mr. Toney's Engineering class participate in the annual Cardboard Boat Regatta, where students construct boats made of cardboard, garbage bags, and tape.



Photo c/o SlickPic

Last year's seniors pose in front of their finished boat.

Come one, come all to the greatest display of performing arts talent at SI! From the fall play to the winter instrumental concerts, there is something for everyone!

An Educational, Fun, and Impactful Opportunity for Juniors at SI to immerse themselves in the world!

As many students would say, "one of the best parts of SI!" Many aspects of Kairos may be a secret, but it is not an experience to miss!



Attendees of K184 from May/June 2023.

The Editors in Chief filled this bracket out. What are **YOUR** opinions on SI traditions? Fill in your **OWN** bracket by getting a copy in Room 119. Drop off your completed bracket to Rm. 119 for a raffle & chance to win a \$50 gift card!

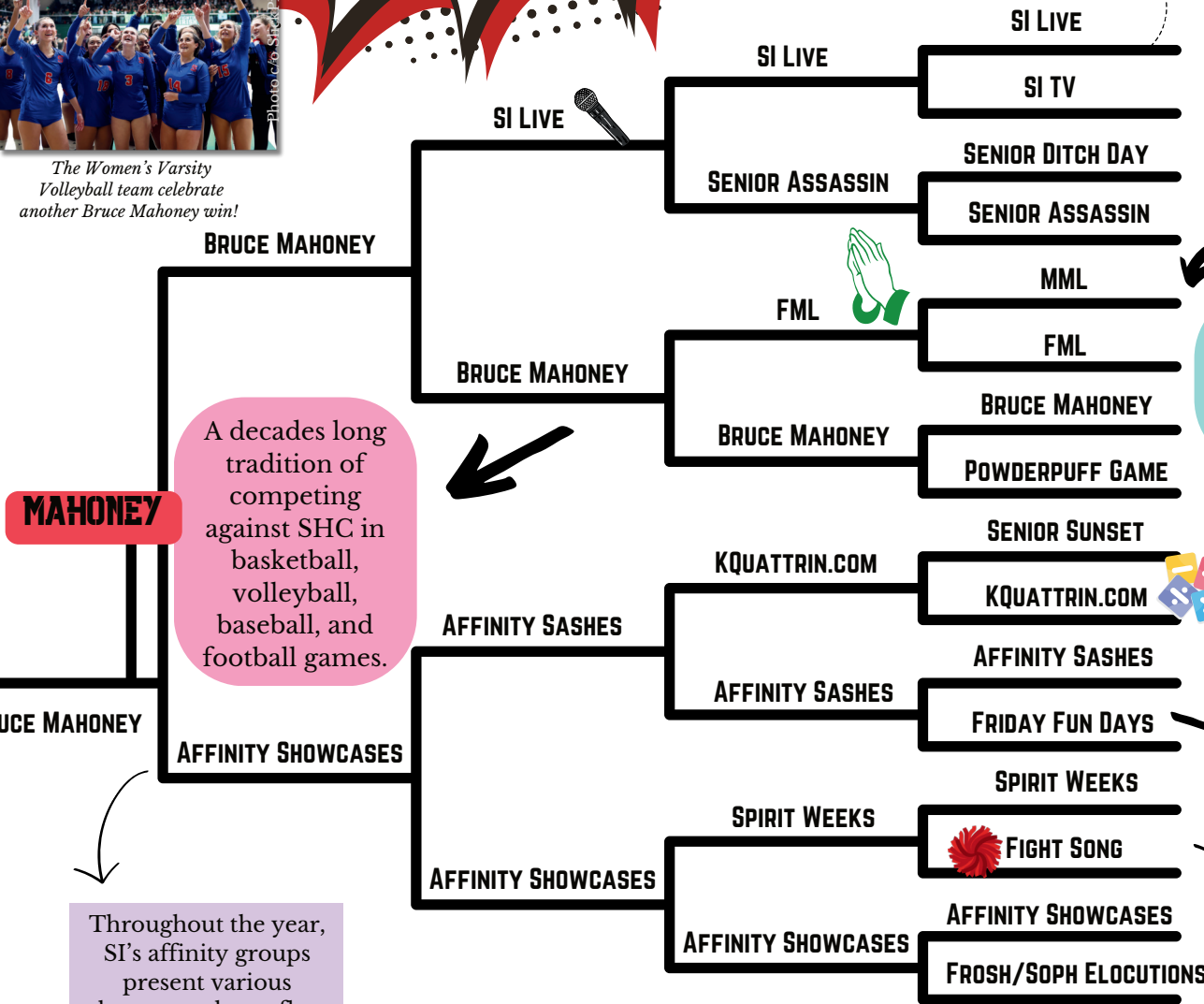


The Women's Varsity Volleyball team celebrate another Bruce Mahoney win!



SI Live performers take their bows at last year's performance.

Comedy writers and actors alike come together every year under the direction of Mr. White and Mr. Devitt to create a humorous showcase that satirizes various parts of SI.



Friday morning or... Monday morning? We know our preference, what do you think SI?

Got some extra time during Friday's at break? You can watch or participate in a belly flop contest, SI trivia, hot dog eating, and more!

Throughout the year, SI's affinity groups present various showcases that reflect culture, music, and food. Some of these showcases include Pasko, the BSU showcase, and the ALAS showcase.



The Varsity Football team rushes the field before their game.

"To the Red and Blue we'll all be true,
We'll wave her banner to the sky,
We'll fight for you, old Red and Blue,
We'll fight for Saint Ignatius High!
And victory will be our goal -
For we will reach it, if we try,
So let us fight - with all our might -
We're gonna fight, fight, fight, fight, fight!"

SOPH RETREAT AS A SENIOR

Maya Altman '24

Managing Editor

About a month ago, I was one of the student leaders on the November 13-14 Soph Retreat at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville. Having enjoyed my own Soph Retreat back in February of 2022, I was excited to participate in this experience again, this time on the other side of the white binder.

Leading up to the retreat, I participated in a few training sessions to refresh my memory on what the retreat is all about, inform me on how to facilitate small group conversations, and learn the general guidelines of the student leader role.

When the 13th finally rolled around, I have to admit that I was nervous and second-guessing myself. However, leading this retreat ended up being one of the best decisions I have made during my time at SI. Not only was I able to form close bonds with my fellow student leaders and small group of sophomores, but I was also able to revisit some of the same questions I was first confronted with two years ago. I was pleasantly surprised when I realized how much my answers had changed since sophomore year.

Some of my peers have also had positive experiences while leading a Soph Retreat. For instance, Cecilia Ryan '24 shared, "I loved having the opportunity to

make connections and friendships with the other leaders. Also getting to know my small group members and interacting in the form of icebreakers was super fun!"

Despite the idea that leading a retreat may sound intimidating, overwhelming, or stressful, I highly encourage any upperclassmen to consider leading a Soph Retreat, especially if you found your own retreat to be meaningful and

worthwhile. Yes, the experience is challenging

and definitely pushes you out of your comfort zone, but it also gives you the opportunity to strengthen your leadership skills and foster unique relationships with people you would never normally get to talk to. I am very grateful that I was able to go on this retreat for a second time and I hope you will get to see what it is like for yourself, too.



Soph Retreat Leaders posing for a picture at San Damiano



THE POWER OF HANDWRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Kate Ozaeta '24

Contributing Editor

In our current society, we send and receive countless text messages and emails a day, not giving a second thought to this fast-paced way of life. But when was the last time you wrote a note by hand for someone instead of "sliding into their DMs?" When was the last handwritten card of gratitude you sent instead of typing a quick "thank you" email? While the difference between handwriting and typing seems insignificant, I believe handwritten communication has a simple and meaningful impact that can never be achieved online.

In an attempt to find deeper connections with others, I joined a club at SI called Budding Penships, which supports the art of handwritten notes and allows students to write to communities outside of school. This past spring, I wrote a letter to a retirement home, and just recently, I received a response from one of the seniors living there; he mentioned that it was refreshing to have received a handwritten letter and that he would like to start handwriting more. To me, the process of handwriting and waiting patiently for a response made our connection much more sentimental than if it were done through email. I am proud to say that continue to correspond with my newfound friend through letters.

Especially in the age of online communication, I hope more people will recognize the importance of handwritten communication and honor this "tradition."

From taking notes in class to handwriting messages to a friend, there are various ways to implement more handwriting in one's life. For instance, in his US History class, Julian Ozaeta '25 had the opportunity to write a letter to his grandparents. Julian felt enlightened by this experience, sharing, "I felt proud of the words I wrote, and I'm glad that my grandparents now have a tangible reminder of our bond." Nathalie Mejia Medel '26 enjoys writing messages to others. She believes handwriting, "made [her] feel like [she] could express [herself] better." As part of Budding Penships leadership, Dylan Liu '26 stated that, "handwriting is a spectrum of formality... handwriting can also convert emotions, whether it be anger (deep and dark scribbles), or feelings of love (cursive that flows smoothly)." Dylan perfectly described that "digital writing, such as email, fails to convey these truths."

Through these students' shared appreciation of handwriting, they have utilized its benefits of thoughtful communication, effective self-expression, and deepened connections with others.





PERIOD PROBLEMS

Elizabeth Foster '27

Contributing Editor

In a bathroom, a highschool student frantically searches the pockets of her backpack. She only has a few minutes before she must return to class, and she is desperate to find a pad or tampon. But she is alone in the bathroom, and there is no one she can ask to lend her one.

This unlucky situation is one that many people will experience at some point in their lives, and it has two results. The young woman might use toilet paper or wrap a sweatshirt around her waist until she can find supplies. Or she could reach towards a menstrual product dispenser and take a free pad or tampon. However, in half of the US, free period products are not required in public schools.

The availability of free period products in school bathrooms is a step toward normalizing in society what is already normal for women. Additionally, the security of having a basic necessity contributes to the positive mental health and well-being of students. Data has shown that school attendance in New York increased when period products were available in schools.

The major problem with SI's system is its barriers to access for necessary period products. While many foods to sustain us are available by touching our fingerprints to a sensor in the Commons and in the Snack Shack, period products, which are just as vital for half the student body, can only be accessed with coins from metal dispensers in the bathrooms. New bathroom policies integrated into our classes that require us to leave our phones may unintentionally discourage students from taking backpacks or other bags to the bathroom.

The question is: How are students supposed to carry with them either period products or exact change to buy these products when they might not have realized they have gotten their period? In public schools throughout California, period products are free to students, and this should be upheld in our private school. Menstrual products are available in SI bathrooms, but not always accessible. As a reflection of its commitment to social justice, SI owes its students the security of fulfilling this basic need.



ARTS AND LEISURE

EMBODIED LANGUAGE

Maddie Dela Rama '27

Contributing Editor

As November rolled into the school year, the Fall Dance Concert came into fruition. This semester, the theme was "Embodied Language," which inspired the dances, songs, and the overall feel of pieces. Ms. Calalo Berry both directed the Fall Dance Concert, and took on the role as Stage Manager behind the scenes.

Throughout the semester, Ms. Calalo Berry was able to experience both the directing side of her role, along with bonding with the range of dancers who took part in the concert. The best part for her was that she had the chance to watch how the dancers would embody the piece for themselves, saying, "Preparations for 'Embodied Language' were intense at times, but ultimately so rewarding, as I got to see the dancers come together through the rehearsal process." The inspiration behind each of the dances in the concert was "inspired by the written word, whether a poem, literature, or song lyrics." For each of the dancers, these performances were also a chance for them to respond "to the themes by reflecting on their personal experiences, and in many cases, creating some movement to contribute to the choreography."

After all the hard work, long hours of practice, and creating the choreography, she said, "Seeing it all come together in the end made me so proud of the dancers, their artistry, and their hard work." The beauty of everyone coming together captures the spirit of the arts community at SI.



Above: several dancers perform a piece. Right: Kristen Patricio '24 & Sophia Alva '25 dance.



(Photo courtesy of ShckPic)



BLOODY MURDER COMES TO BANNAN

Contributing Editor

Julian Ozaeta '25

A blood-curdling shriek echoes throughout Bannan Theatre. The audience, at the edge of their seats, has their eyes glued to the actors on stage, whose expressions confess a frightening new development: there's been yet another murder. The death tally continues to rise, and tensions and fears heighten as the remaining characters—and the audience—ask themselves: Who committed the crime? Could the murderer be standing in the same room as everyone else at this very moment?

These questions were raised and resolved during SI's fall theater production of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*, which ran from the 8th to the 10th of November and made for a thrilling play rich with horror, mystery, and even a few laughs. The play opened with eight strangers being invited to an isolated island off the Devon coast and welcomed by two butlers to a house owned by hosts Ulick Morman Owen and Una Nancy Owen. Abruptly, each of the ten characters is accused of murder, catapulting the group into a desperate search for the truth behind their enigmatic summoning to the island. In a violent course of events, each visitor is murdered one by one, following the lines of a nursery rhyme displayed on one of the house's walls.

“ I was in the freshman play with seniors who had their performances cut off from the larger SI community due to the pandemic, I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to share my work with a full house of friends and family. —Oliver Raber '24 ”

No SI theater production is possible without the efforts of the tech crew. From a production team perspective, Griffin Legg '25 communicated his awe at the success of the show: “It's always amazing to watch everything come together. From new actors to a blank stage, it all comes to fruition in a wonderful set during show week, a manic and hectic time that somehow, every time, works out great! [And Then There Were None was] one of the best shows we've had while I've been here!” Additionally, after attending both Friday runs of the murder mystery, Jodie Rivera '25 praised the impressive performances of her peers from an audience standpoint. She exclaimed, “I went to see both casts for the play, and all the actors were outstanding!”

Above all, *And Then There Were None* certainly made for an entertaining and heart-stopping spectacle for the SI community to enjoy.

The performance, made possible by SI's remarkable students, faculty, and staff in the drama and theater tech departments, helped showcase the vibrancy of performing arts at our school. The play's success—taking shape in the packed house and crowds of family and friends waiting to greet and congratulate the cast members after each show—can only be attributed to months of student dedication and passion in and outside of rehearsal to bring the script of this murder mystery to life. Students, both on stage and off, recounted their experiences leading up to and during show week.



Photos courtesy of SlickPics

Naomi Ko '24, who played Mrs. Rogers, recalled her own enjoyment during show week. She referred to the play's double-casting system—when two actors are cast as the same character and take turns playing that role during alternating performances. Ko expressed that, “Since we're double-cast, I think one of my favorite things about show week is that I get to sometimes sit backstage and see my double go on, so I can see the ways that she plays the scene. I think that's really cool.”



Sophia Dekermenjian '24 & Alexander O'Neil '24 face off.

CHRISTMAS POLL

Ava Murphy '25 & Rachel Gray '24

Managing Editors

Christmas Edition:

**WHAT'S IN
S'S**

AIRPODS?

Last Christmas

Wham!

33.8%

Santa Baby

Eartha Kitt

7%

Rockin' Around the
Christmas Tree

Brenda Lee

16.9%

Underneath the Tree

Kelly Clarkson

8.5%

All I Want for
Christmas is You

Mariah Carey

28.9%

Jingle Bell Rock

Bobby Helms

4.9%

NOW & THEN: MUSIC HAS NO EXPIRATION DATE

Ava Murphy '25

Contributing Editor

Music is an integral part of each generation. It grows with a person from when they are young until they are old. Grandparents pass their favorite tunes down to their children and those children do the same. The cycle continues on and on, creating new memories for the next generation of listeners. After all, music is its own unique language.

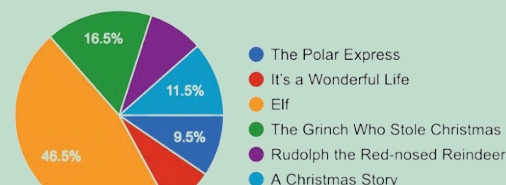
Over the years, Gen Z has fostered an ever-growing sense of nostalgia. With the music renaissance on tiktok and the resurgence of record players, all the trends of yesterday seem to be trickling into today. There is a yearning for simpler times and what better way to seek this out than through music. TikTok is one of the most obvious forms of this new era of music sharing. The app acts as a forum to create and post videos to people's favorite songs, old and new. Cassie Doerner '25 said, "I have found so many songs from the past on there and I always seem to discover something new." Through these outlets, the next generation gets the unique opportunity to adopt many of the favorites of the past, adding new variety to their playlists.

Similarly, record players have created a new way to connect to the past and listen to music in a new way. Gen Z is able to use their parents' and even their grandparents' old vinyls or can choose to buy vintage ones from thrift stores. Almost all new music released today is also produced into vinyls, creating an everlasting trend across the group.

Finally, many songs of the past have been sampled or re-made into new works of art to be enjoyed by a whole new generation of people. Songs like "Cold Heart" by Elton John and Dua Lipa and "Now and Then" by the Beatles are just some of the many songs that have been recreated.

Music is a language that everyone can understand. It crosses both time and boundaries.

**What's Your Favorite
Christmas Movie?**



THE BUCKET LIST

Penelope Cheun-Tolley '24

Contributing Editor

(CONT. FROM P.1)

As someone who hates seafood, it's ironic that I love aquariums so much. I would always wander off at the Academy of Science's lower levels, staring into the glass walls of the tank at the jellyfish floating about or the colorful fish flitting to and fro. I feel like a little kid again, just blinking up at the water. I'm always amazed at the variety of aquatic life that inhabits the Pacific. So many creatures from both saltwater and freshwater habitats are on display, but the areas about the deepest depths of the ocean are the best. Low lighting and the faint glow from the deep sea creatures are more of a comfort to me than a fright. Watching the fish just swimming around and their markings faintly lighting up the pitch black water brings me a serenity that feels hard to come by now.

I plan to try and visit the Academy of Science a few more times before I leave for college since it's a place I hold close to my heart. It'll be hard finding a museum that can match the variety the Academy offers in its exhibits, and it will definitely remain one of my favorite places for years to come.

The planetarium was one of my favorite parts of the museum. I can recall how my classmates would get dizzy watching the domed screen spin with the constellations, a booming narrative voice echoing inside the theater telling us about the history of the stars, but I loved every second of it. I always wanted to see any of the space related shows, and if they were not playing that day I would ask to see any of the ocean shows.



FROSH



Holiday Special 2023!

CLOSE-↑

Kate Quach '25

Associate Editor-in-Chief

I'VE BEEN CHALLENGED ACADEMICALLY, ATHLETICALLY, AND SPIRITUALLY. I'M BEYOND GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF THE OPPORTUNITIES I HAVE HAD THUS FAR.

MY FAVORITE TIME OF YEAR IS WHEN MY FAMILY COMES TOGETHER FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

I WANT TO CONTINUE MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH, MAINTAIN GOOD GRADES, AND MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE JV SOCCER TEAM.

Christmas 2023

Ami Mora

AS WE DECK THE HALLS TO THE END OF 2023, FOUR FROSH SHARE THEIR HOLIDAY CHEER & FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCES — JOIN US DURING THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME TO CELEBRATE THEIR UNIQUE GIFTS!

MY FIRST SEMESTER WAS BOTH EASIER AND HARDER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.

MY FAVORITE CHRISTMAS TRADITION IS OUR FAMILY'S 4 CHRISTMASSES (YES THAT IS THE PLURAL OF CHRISTMAS)!

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO CREW & ROBOTICS SEASON, MOCK TRIAL, JCL'S LUDI, AND TRACK, SPECIFICALLY SHOTPUT.

1995

Georgia Parr

MY FIRST SEMESTER AT SI HAS BEEN A ROLLER COASTER, BUT MY FRIENDS HAVE MADE IT MORE MEANINGFUL AND WORTH TRYING!

MY DAD AND I LOVE TO MAKE CARDS FOR HIS CO-WORKERS THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS. IT IS A FUN TRADITION WE LOVE TO DO TOGETHER!

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO CHOIR AND ART PROGRAMS THAT WOULD HAPPEN IN THE SPRING.

1995

Geraldine Segura



THIS FIRST SEMESTER AT SI HAS BEEN AN AWESOME EXPERIENCE FOR ME. I'VE MET MANY NEW PEOPLE THROUGH SPORTS AND ACADEMICS.

MY FAVORITE CHRISTMAS TRADITION IS WHEN WE FLY OUT TO THE EAST COAST TO VISIT OUR FAMILY.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO TRYING NEW THINGS, LOCK IN NEXT SEMESTER, AND FINISH THE SCHOOL YEAR STRONG.

Christmas 2023

Max Bruno

THE LATEST RULING: MOCK TRIAL UPDATES

Sierra Murphy '25

Managing Editor

Mock Trial is a team assembled of students who compete with different schools to crack criminal trials. The students receive a case with a fact pattern, case law, and witness statements and they present the case to a judge. They are divided into different roles in the trial: the prosecution and defense teams. There is a scorekeeper who assesses points to each competitor on their performance and decides who wins the competition, thus simulating a trial in real life.

Recently, the SI Mock Trial team traveled to Menlo College in Atherton to compete in a scrimmage with various schools. Although it was just a scrimmage, the SI team got a sense of the tough competition they will face this year. Later in the school year, the team plans on traveling to Santa Barbara and San Jose. Eventually they will compete in a real courtroom in San Francisco to show off their skills in this county competition. Marty Murphy, a coach of the pre-trial teams shared, "I think our students have done a great job digesting a lot of written material and have improved in their ability to formulate arguments in support of their positions." A litigation lawyer himself, Murphy sees Mock Trial as a great opportunity for students who are interested in becoming better public

speakers, debaters, or even lawyers. "Mock Trial helps the students develop the skills of a future lawyer, by learning to think on their feet, responding quickly to arguments from opposing attorneys and questions from the judge," said Mr. Murphy.

This is only the third year of the Mock Trial at SI, but it continues to grow every year. This year about 50 students tried out for a spot on the team and around 35 students are on the team currently. Mock Trial helps foster a sense of friendly competition; Angelica Chu '24 said, "Mock trial is a super fun experience, and what excites me the most is seeing what real-life court would be like in a high school setting. Getting a taste of the law world in high school is truly a great experience."



Photo c/o Sierra Murphy '25

The Mock Trial team gets energized for their upcoming competitions.



COURTSIDE WITH COACH MAL

Sebastian Fisher '25

Contributing Editor

Jamal Baugh is an assistant coach of the men's varsity basketball team here at SI. Anyone who has been to a game has likely noticed Coach Mal – with his 6'6" frame and frequent mohawk he is a standout on the bench. He is also a native San Franciscan, graduated from Riordan in 1994, and has been involved with the WCAL for over 20 years. Coach Mal has worked the bench at SI under three separate head coaches, with the current head coach Jason Greenfield calling him "the face of SI basketball." With the 2023-24 basketball season upon SI, *Inside SI* sat down with Coach Mal to ask him some questions about the team's readiness, the main goals for the team, and what he finds special about the SI community.

WHAT HAVE YOU SEEN FROM THE TEAM DURING PRESEASON THAT YOU ARE EXCITED ABOUT?

I am excited because this is the first year our team has really been in the weightroom before the season started. We have been in the weightroom for the last 6 weeks, and when we play against our first opponent, we will look stronger and faster. I am excited to see how far that will take us as far as lifting and being in the weightroom.



Coach Mal shares his great smile!



WHAT ARE THE AREAS WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IMPROVEMENT?

I think more cohesion team wise. Our kids don't communicate that often, and part of my job is getting them to not only communicate within themselves, but team wise off the court and on the court. I think it's one of our big improvements that we need during the season.

HOW DO YOU MAKE SURE THE TEAM IS PREPARED TO FACE THE COMPETITION IN THE WCAL?

A lot of film work and preparation. Our coaching staff breaks down film from the other team and really brings that to practice so we can practice against it. We share it among the coaching staff and bring the team together to show them the different concepts and strategies to help us beat certain teams.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT BASKETBALL AT SI?

What I like best is just being around the kids. I consider myself more of a mentor and leader to really kind of point our student athletes in the right direction, on and off the court. I am loving to each and every player but I am also hard on them. I also have a lot of expectations for each player so they know how to be prepared when they graduate and go to college and the real world.

HOW DOES THE BASKETBALL TEAM CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT AT SI?

It contributes a lot. We have a lot of big games in our season. Our league is one of the top leagues in Northern California, and we draw a lot of attention to our games. When we play Riordan it's a big turnout, we have the Bruce Mahoney Game... and the Beach Game. I think the more successful we are the more we can bring the community together for their support.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE PLAYERS' GROWTH?

I expect a lot of growth. I expect our guys to come in prepared, ready to go, focused, and engaged. I am prepared for each individual to be successful this season.



Nick Luongo '25

Managing Editor

Winter sports are here! With Winter Sports Media Day on December 4 and plenty of preseason games on campus, Men's and Women's Varsity Basketball and Soccer look to start their seasons off strong. Go 'Cats! Records as of 12/8/23.

Men's Soccer Record: 3-2



Team captains speaking during media day

"We're 3-2... we've got a lot of potential to win the WCAL."
—James McFadden '24

Women's Soccer Record: 0-1-2



Women's Soccer heads into the Firebird Classic Tournament to get their season going.

Men's Basketball Record: 3-1

The Varsity Men's Basketball Team is in the middle of pre-season and played a big game against University on December 9th.



Luke Miller '25 goes for a rebound

Women's Basketball Record: 3-3



The Women's JV and Varsity Basketball teams gather for a photo

With a solid start to the season and a successful Media Day, Women's Basketball aims to finish pre-season strong.

(Pictures c/o SlickPic)

FOCKEY SEASON RECAP

Leena Feeley '25 & Logan Mitchell '25

Contributing Editors

The Saint Ignatius Field Hockey team held a great season this year, with an impressive record of 15 victories and 6 losses. The girls showed unwavering determination and passion against their opponents. Under the guidance of their great coaches, the team consistently demonstrated their commitment on the field, practicing five days a week. Their hard work laid the foundation for their success throughout the season. A significant highlight of the season was the Wildcats' participation in a tournament held in San Diego, where they competed in a total of three games. The team showcased consistent effort in each match. Beyond the competitive aspect, the trip to San Diego proved to be a memorable experience for the team, providing valuable opportunities for growth. Despite facing some tough losses, the team demonstrated resilience in using the setbacks as learning opportunities. They identified areas for improvement and set higher goals, allowing them to progress and evolve as a team. The Wildcats' dedication and tireless training ultimately paid off, as they reached the CCS Finals against Los Gatos for the first time in program history. They won multiple times in a 7v7 overtime to secure their spot in the championship.

This significant accomplishment, according to the team, undoubtedly became a high point in the season, serving as a reward for their work as a team. The Wildcats concluded an incredible season filled with growth and lessons that have fueled them to strive for success. One player, Sienna Pachla '25, said of the team, "The team got a lot closer over the course of the season and you could definitely see it reflected in our playing. The season was really enjoyable and made better by our close comradery and communication on and off the field. We managed to remain competitive and excelled all the way to the championship."

Beyond the outcomes on the scoreboard, the Wildcats continually displayed immense effort. The Saint Ignatius Field Hockey team's season will inspire each player to continue striving for greatness in future seasons.



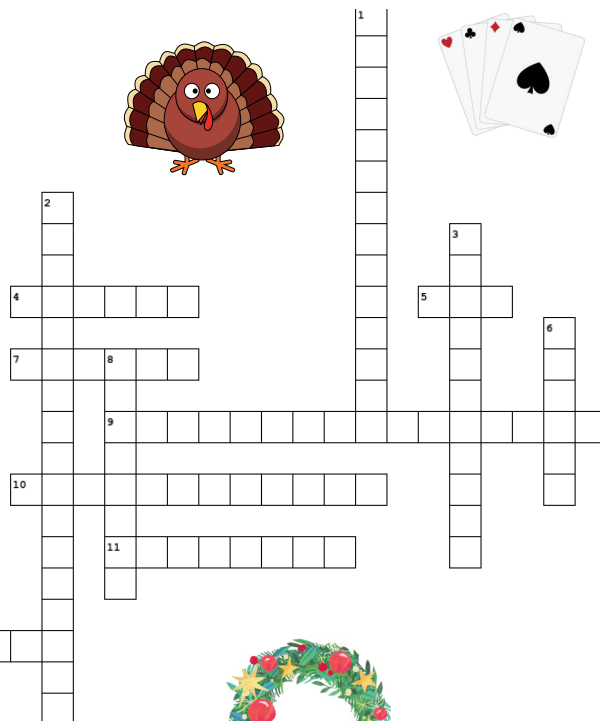
SI's Fieldhockey team huddling up before a game

Photo c/o Slickpic



Justin Lin '24 & Justin Lo '24

Contributing Editors

**Across**

4. A live sketch comedy show performed and written by the students of SI
5. What is the abbreviation for the affinity group for African-American students?
7. A ring-shaped leafy decoration for Christmas
9. The performing arts event that took place on November 16 and 17.
10. What holiday did we have one week off for in November?
11. What day of the week does finals start this semester?
12. What did the wise men give Jesus? Gold, frankincense, and -----

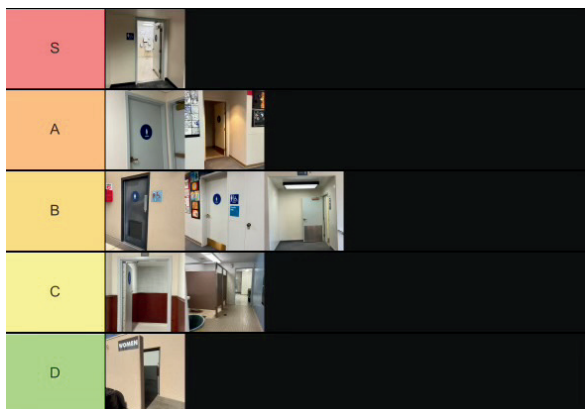
Down

1. The Arrupe Social Justice Council uses this to fundraise during late November and December
2. A Senior-only event run by the Ignatian Guild that takes place every spring.
3. A schoolwide event that took place on December 1.
6. Retreat for Seniors
8. What section of Inside SI writes about Affinity Groups?

Kayla Hoy '24

SI GIRLS BATHROOM TIERLIST

Contributing Editor

**S Tier**

-2nd Floor Red Side: convenient; close to most classes

A Tier

-Outside Pool: clean (smells like chlorine); usually empty
-1st Floor Hallway: convenient; long lines; always crowded

B Tier

-Outside Weight Room: clean; empty; inconvenient for many classes
-1st Floor Hallway Faculty: clean; small; faculty only :(
-Foyer: big mirror; few stalls; always clogged toilets; convenient during lunch

C Tier

-Commons: floor is always wet; always very crowded or awkwardly empty
-Locker Room: big; many stalls; idk I don't do sports/use this bathroom

D Tier (Go at Home)

-Field (Visitor's Section): Winners don't use dirty bathrooms

Richard Ng '24

CALAC CLIMBS

Contributing Editor



CONNECTIONS

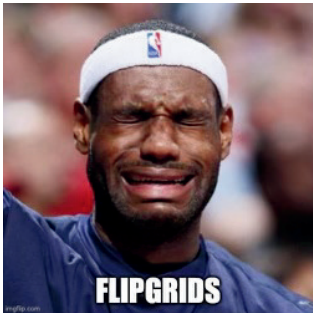
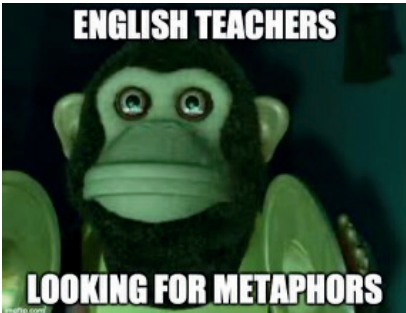
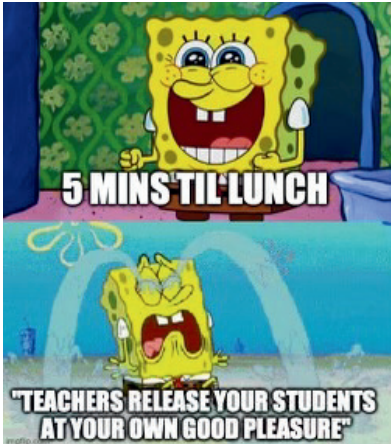
SI MEMES

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INSIDESI CONNECTIONS
FIND GROUPS OF 4 ITEMS THAT HAVE A COMMONALITY

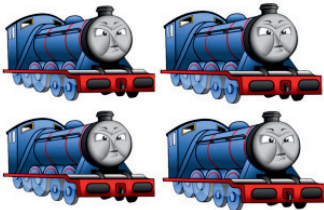
BRUCE MAHONEY	BAPTISM	SNOWMAN	WILDCAT WHISPER
HANUKKAH	PRESENTS	EXAMEN	THANKSGIVING
MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	CONFIRMATION	NEW YEARS	RECONCILIATION
SANTA	CHRISTMAS	HOLY COMMUNION	CANDY CANE



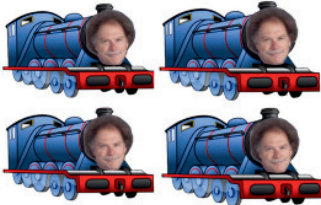
QUATTRIN QUAD-TRAINS

Andrew Wong '24

Contributing Editor



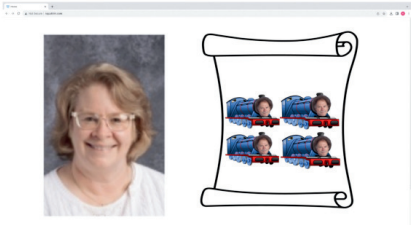
Quad-Trains



Quattrin Quad-Trains



Quatrain of Quattrin Quad-Trains



Ms. Quattrin reading a Quatrain of Quattrin Quad-Trains on Kquattrin.com

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