

Musicians and Artists explore their mediums on the annual Art Retreat



Musicians collaborate on the retreat.

photo | Courtesy of Sean Powers

BY ALEX PREUSSER AND
ANDREW HUNT
STAFF, REPORTER

Last week, the artistic and musical prodigies of St. Louis U. High convened at a retreat, sharing in their talents to bring forth new work and to reinforce their spiritual connection with God.

The Art Retreat began last Wednesday and ran through Friday afternoon, giving ample time to reflect individually and in a group setting. It took place at the Madonna Della Strada Retreat Center, SLUH's newly constructed location for offsite retreats. In fact, this was the first overnight retreat to take place there.

"The Art Retreat is a gathering of upperclassmen—juniors and seniors—from all

different disciplines of art, as a chance for them to create art and pray together for a two-day period," explained art teacher Sean Powers, who spearheaded the event.

Fourteen students attended the retreat—12 juniors and two seniors. These students' disciplines of art spanned painting, drawing, poetry, singing, and an array of instrumental talent.

"This year the biggest group was of visual artists, and in addition to that we also had a few different musicians to come and play, and some songwriters," said Powers.

The retreat offered a chance for community-building based on similar interests and talents. Though these students have made connections with each other

at school through various arts classes and extracurriculars, this allowed them to exclusively come together and focus on the spiritual side of art.

"I think the community and environment really helped to foster my spiritual growth during the retreat," said junior Alex Deiters. "Just being together helped get those creative juices flowing."

"Even though they tried to create this importance of being ourselves in individual meditation, I think this really served to bring us closer as classmates during the retreat," agreed junior Will Blaisdell.

The Art Retreat also allowed for individual reflection and connection with God through the retreatants' talents. Most of the retreat

consisted of each student independently contemplating his relationship with God and creating an art piece that reflected this. This reflective time was spent in both hard work and prayer.

"We got a lot of time to work alone in silence, and there's not much time for that in normal life," said junior Isaiah Hinkebein. "Setting time aside helped me to really focus on my work."

This individual art could be anything from drawing a picture to playing music. The purpose was for students to free themselves and create something that had a deeper, personal meaning to them.

"Some of the pieces were explicitly religious," said Powers. "Most of them probably were not, but they all had significant spiritual and personal connections to

them."

The retreat concluded with a 'show and tell' presentation in which each student showcased his creation, explaining his experiences and what the art means to him.

"It was really cool to see everything my cool artistic friends, and my friends who are almost as cool as me, had made," remarked junior Leo Smith.

In particular, this year's retreat brought forth a unique experience. In the spirit of collaboration, almost half of the students on the Art Retreat joined forces in an impromptu band, playing a partly-improvised jazz piece. The instrumentalists included drummer JT Emke, bassist Leo Smith, guitarist Joey Hanks, flutist Isaiah Hinkebein, and saxophonist Nathan Rich.

"A bunch of the music guys just went into the chapel and we just kind of had a jam session," said junior Keller Anderson. "Then it turns out one of the things that we were just jamming on actually turned into a song, and we performed it at the very end, which was really fun."

On Friday afternoon, SLUH's artists packed their bags and headed home. Like all retreats, though, they did not leave unchanged. This impact left its mark on the students, just as it was intended to.

"I realized we have such a huge community of really talented, creative people and just kind of like relaxing with them and taking a step back from the outside world and it was just really nice to get back into art," said Deiters.



Charlie Bieg presents his work on the Art Retreat.

photo | Courtesy of Sean Powers

Clavius Project joins forces with NHS to serve local middle schools with robotics

BY MICAH DOHERTY AND
THOMAS JUERGENS
REPORTERS

The Clavius Project is one of the many ways St. Louis U. High has assisted our community. This academic program helps middle schoolers learn the fundamentals of both robotics and STEM while also introducing them to the brotherhood of SLUH.

The Clavius Project is an initiative that focuses on helping young students grow their knowledge in STEM projects. The schools that SLUH are serving are typically in areas of St. Louis that lack the resources needed to support a robotics program. The activities in the program assist these middle schoolers by preparing them for a future that could be heavily based on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, all of which are major components to the project.

"The purpose is to introduce grade school kids to robotics because STEM is the future," says moderator Lynne Casey. "So, if we get them interested in practicing it and doing it, maybe they would want to do it when they come to high school."

These competitions are not just limited to only boys' Catholic schools in Missouri, but are in fact, open to any

school interested in joining the program. This means that a large number of middle schools in the St. Louis region are allowed to sign up to have their students participate in the Clavius Project.

The name Clavius Project comes from the German Jesuit mathematician and astronomer Christopher Clavius, who throughout his life came up with great creations like the Gregorian calendar and supported the heliocentric theory of the universe. His works help to inspire other young protégés to continue to innovate and grow throughout their own lives and gives the kids inspiration while they learn and build their creations.

The middle schoolers are assisted in learning the basics of robotics with help from members of the National Honors Society, who volunteer as mentors to help educate them along with their teachers. These advisors and their supplies are crucial for these kids, since many of their schools do not have the proper support for a robotics elective.

"Some of these schools do not have the funding for this and we help provide them that. Then, it also gives our students a chance to get outside the walls of SLUH and give support to other communities and really bring

the Jesuit mission to their school," said Casey.

Additionally, NHS members help to form relationships with each student, which also helps with the students' learning.

"I think one of the most important things about Clavius is that it's not just robotics," says President of NHS, senior Gavin Lawhorn. "It's also about being an important figure for these kids, someone that they can look up to, because a lot of these kids don't have a prominent parent figure or anyone like that."

The typical Clavius Project season begins in the fall along with the beginning of the school year. The middle schoolers are given challenges to complete that range from programming code on their laptops to testing their robots. All of this is done under the supervision of a lead teacher, educators at SLUH, and NHS members.

Moreover, the students that are a part of the Clavius Project come together with their classmates for the annual Jamboree at the Danis Field House. There, they compete against other schools and try to figure out how to solve each challenge presented to them with their prior knowledge. These competitive events are extremely friendly, as shown by the fact

that they can go back and fix their previous mistakes and not have the fear of being eliminated.

"It's all about positive reinforcement," says Casey. "It's not like one shot and you didn't make it so you're out of the competition. The kids just keep on coming back until they are successful."

Last year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Clavius Project had to unfortunately cut short of its plans, making its entire program temporarily canceled. Yet, this season is preparing to start small and continue to expand upon itself as time goes on while still including big events like the Jamboree on Jan. 19, 2022.

"It's a shorter season and has fewer challenges, so our goal is to try to do it again. Hopefully, we will also start the momentum for next year to have more schools participating and to start earlier," Casey says.

"Personally, I've never done it because of the pandemic both last year and this year; there hasn't been as many opportunities. However, the Clavius Project is starting to open up again, and it's gonna be really good this year," says Lawhorn.

With the events of the Clavius Project returning, students are excited and look forward to what this year has to offer.

Visit the SLUH art gallery during the school day!



Check out all the designs, drawings, and prints produced by SLUH students and alumni, now on display in the J-Wing Art Gallery!



PN Crossword: “Full Spectrum”

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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69				70								71		

crossword | Paul Baudendistel

Congrats to the SLUH Crossword Club on finishing last week’s PN Crossword first!

ACROSS

- 1. First name related to 40-Across
- 4. The northwest portion of Africa
- 11. League headquartered in Princeton, New Jersey
- 14. Before, in verse
- 15. Subject of *E.T.* and *Independence Day*
- 16. Actress Long or Peeples
- 17. The Cowboys, on scoreboards
- 18. Transparent, informally

19. Vin in *Fast & Furious*

- 20. One of the MLB quarterfinals
- 22. Doug’s partner in commercials
- 23. Not good
- 25. Prototypical lab assistant
- 26. Year of Jesus’s conception, maybe
- 28. Like wine and cheese
- 30. Cardinals owner Bill
- 32. Attention-worthy
- 34. Chicken _____

- 36. Sheltered from the wind, on a ship
- 37. Shape of 40-Across
- 40. This can be a full circle when viewed from an airplane
- 42. This answer is appropriately found at the end of 40-Across
- 44. This answer is appropriately found at the end of 40-Across
- 46. Messy streak
- 47. Masking, e.g.
- 48. Waves away
- 50. Android alternative
- 51. Transparent item famously used by 52-Across
- 52. He identified the components of the name including 1-Across and 71-Across
- 55. State confidently
- 57. Not much
- 60. Barracks bed
- 61. Chicken _____
- 65. NASA research center in Pasadena
- 66. Synonym for 27-Down
- 67. Locale including Oakland, San Francisco, and San Jose
- 68. NFL practice before training camp
- 69. Goof up
- 70. Question by an unimpressed museum patron
- 71. Last name related to 40-Across

- 10. Sad
- 11. _____ Girls, 1990’s folk rock duo
- 12. Dashiell Parr’s sister
- 13. Thanksgiving starch
- 21. Plumbing problem
- 24. It has a silhouette of a rooster, often
- 25. Items for pets or soldiers
- 26. Others, in Oaxaca (fem.)
- 27. One of seven starting in the top row of this puzzle
- 29. Prepare grapes
- 31. Pine product used by hitters ... and pitchers
- 33. Not many
- 35. Imitate
- 36. Humiliate
- 38. “Ruh-_____!” (Scooby-Doo cry)
- 39. Actually the courtyard in a monastery, not the monastery itself
- 41. Very bright version of 27-Down
- 42. New coat for a car
- 43. Black _____
- 45. Prescribed amount
- 47. Star Trek: TNG counselor Deanna
- 49. Mufasa’s widow
- 51. Watercraft for war hero John F. Kennedy
- 53. Titan whose name was adapted for an ocean
- 54. Fishing boot
- 55. Heart or tooth issue
- 56. Like Warheads
- 58. Root for words relating to vision, including the study performed by 52-Across
- 59. Public Enemy number one? (with a clock necklace)
- 62. Acronym meaning “just so you know”
- 63. Remy or Emile
- 64. Pitching triple crown stat

SATIRE

Students and faculty outraged over new mask policy, now forced to see students’ ugly faces

JACK FIGGE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Last Sunday, the administration of St. Louis U. High announced a new change to their current Covid protocols, sparking much outrage among the students and faculty of SLUH.

Initially, faculty members were excited about being able to see their students’ faces, hoping to be able to better gauge their understanding of content. However, many faculty quickly realized that it wasn’t as great as once thought.

“You know, I was initially really excited to be able to see my students’ faces again,” said

AP physics teacher Paul Baudendistel. “But I forgot just how ugly SLUH students are.”

Other faculty members also expressed their dislike for the mandatory mask, but in a more explicit manner.

“Holy crap you kids are ugly,” shouted Asst. Dean of Students Dan Schulte as freshmen timidly walked by him in the hallway. “Please, for the love of everything SLUH, put your masks back on!”

Students also were quick on Monday morning to express their disgust for the new mask policy, citing that now they are forced to see their fellow classmates full face.

“It’s disgusting,” said senior Nathan Rich whimper-

ing in a corner. “These sophomores are now smiling at me and it’s scaring me, I was terrified to go up to them before, but now I am even more frightened.”

Teachers and students alike are hopeful that the administration will hear their pleas and retract the current policy. They believe that retracting the policy will be the only way to solve the current crisis on hand.

“I am spending every single class contemplating why God made so many ugly students in this world,” said Baudendistel. “It distracts me from my teaching and I feel that I am a lesser teacher now because of these distractions.”

Week 6 Fantasy Football Recap

BY CHARLIE VONDERHEID
COLUMNIST

After an eventful Week 6 of football action, it’s time to look at the fantasy implications to prepare your team for next week.

Studs

RB- Leonard Fournette, 30.7: Fournette is clearly the strongest running back in the Tampa Bay backfield. He gets lots of volume in a high powered offense. Tom Brady is also able to find Fournette lots of touches in the passing game, leading to even more points in a PPR league. Fournette has been consistently putting up solid fantasy numbers, and as long as he is healthy, he should be able to continue this production all season long.

WR- Donovan Peoples-Jones, 26.1: Since Jarvis Landry got injured and Peoples-Jones returned from one himself, he has seen an increase in his targets from Baker Mayfield. Although Odell Beckham Jr. is back from injury, him and Baker have never clicked on the field. Baker and Peoples-Jones have a much stronger connection and the Browns

lack wide receiver depth at the moment. If you are in a deep league and need a flex play, it might be worth rostering Peoples-Jones down the line.

WR- Jaylen Waddle, 29.0: After a solid Week 1 and 3, Waddle has struggled to produce much since Tua got injured. However, now that Tua is back he bounced back with 29 fantasy points against the Jaguars. The connection between Tua and Waddle is real, and in an offense with limited wide receiver depth, Tua should rely on Waddle on a weekly basis in the air game.

TE- Ricky Seals-Jones, 15.8: Seals-Jones has been a great replacement while Logan Thomas has been sidelined. He has essentially presumed all of Thomas’ work and put up solid numbers last week against the Chiefs. It might be worth adding him to your team as he is widely available in leagues, especially if you have Logan Thomas or do not have a top 3 or 4 tight end on your team.

Busts

WR- Tyler Boyd, 1.7: After a solid fantasy season last year, managers expected

much more out of Tyler Boyd to start the year. After initially putting up solid numbers, he has greatly declined and has seen a reduction in targets. Joe Burrow has reunited with Ja’marr Chase and seems to throw the ball to Chase and Tee Higgins a lot more than Boyd. With a loaded receiving corps it will be difficult for Boyd to find lots of consistent touches.

RB- Miles Sanders, 8.6: At this point in the season I would honestly drop Miles Sanders. There have been plenty of opportunities for the Eagles to feed Sanders and every time they fail to do so. A huge disappointment so far, I don’t see Miles Sanders’ fantasy value going up from this point on.

Injuries

RB- Kareem Hunt: With Kareem Hunt and Nick Chubb both sidelined, D’Ernest Johnson would be a great pickup this week. Even looking past this week, Hunt is out for an extended period of time and Chubb could easily miss more time as well. If you didn’t get the chance to pick up Johnson, Damien Williams might be a viable option to pick up as well.

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After a studious first quarter, students and faculty offer their thoughts on new studium period

BY MICHAEL BAUDENDISTEL
AND BEN CROAT
REPORTERS

In the midst of multiple schedule changes over the past two years due to the pandemic, Studium has emerged as a successor to the Academic Lab of the 2020-21 academic year. Some uncertainty surrounded the endeavor heading into the 2021-22 school year, but it seems that students and faculty alike have gotten a feel for the Studium period over the course of the first quarter.

The main goal of Studium is to give students more time to build personal relationships with teachers and to get extra help in their courses when needed, somewhat similar to the Academic Lab and Activity Period in years past.

“I have heard that (Studium) is doing a nice job of getting students more opportunities to meet with their teachers,” said Assistant Principal of Academics, Dr. Kevin Foy. “It is giving teachers more opportunities where students have fewer conflicts to meet outside of class. I have also heard that teachers are able to do things that they have never been able to do before.”

“I think that Studium is a well-implemented academic benefit to the students that has made teachers more accessible than ever,” said junior Ryan Carpenter.

Along with implementing Studium this year, the administration also decided to keep a separate slot of time on B Days for Activity Period, splitting time for school-related endeavors and club-related activities into two parts. However, without strict rules dictating what activities should take place when, it is left to the students to decide how to spend their time during the two periods.

“Instructional Council is going to take on the project of evaluating Studium in the very near future,” said Foy. “One of the things that I’m going to do is take a look at how many scheduled meetings we have during Studium versus how many scheduled meetings we have during Activity Period. So, obviously there are some things that are very clearly Activity Period worthy, and some things that are very clearly Studium worthy and we always knew that at some point on the continuum there would be this gray area, so getting a better sense of that is important.”

Using data collected from observations around the school of how students spend their time during both Studium and Activ-

ity Period, the Instructional Council hopes to get a better grasp on the usage of the two periods.

Some teachers use Studium every day, working with students that come to their classrooms on a regular basis, while other teachers use it only on certain occasions for deeper dives into their lessons.

“I use Studium pretty much every time,” said math teacher Don Steingrubby. “And mostly it’s kids that drop in and need help with whatever math they’re working on at the time, so I stay pretty busy. I generally have a pretty steady flow of kids in (my classroom) that get help.”

“I normally use Studium for group projects, occasionally meeting with teachers, and completing homework,” said freshman Rudy Reitenbach.

Overall, the implementation of Studium has provoked mixed responses from faculty members and students alike. On the one hand, students are given the opportunity to get the extra help they need when they need it; and on the other hand, questions loom as to whether or not the period takes up the right amount of time, whether or not students are using it effectively, and whether or not teachers are using it effectively.

“I think that there’s always going to be students who use it to their advantage for learning,” said Steingrubby. “And then there will also be times where kids might not use it the way it was intended. But I think having the period is important just to give everybody some flexibility.”

One major critique of Studium is the difference in time slots between A Days and B Days. On A Days, students are given 30 minutes for their academic pursuits, while that time is expanded to 60 minutes on B Days.

“The little mini Studium (on A Days), it seems to me, is kind of hard to get traction for,” said Steingrubby. “It’s a sticky wicket, but I still think it’s a good thing. And then the B Day Studium is a little more productive because the kids have longer time windows to see me.”

“With Studium, I can work with others on collaborative homework or meet with teachers when I need help with a certain concept. Not only does Studium provide academic pursuits, but it also provides a break during the day, especially on A Days,” said junior Joe Abbate. “For me, Studium has been an essential part of my schedule, especially when taking difficult classes that require more outside help.”

Linhares set to release new episode of *Insignis* podcast, “Ignatius Cannonball”



art | Charlie Bieg

BY AUSTIN WALD
REPORTER

St. Louis U. High’s very own podcast host extraordinaire, Assistant Principal for Mission Jim Linhares, is back at it again with a new episode coming soon about Ignatian education and lifestyle.

Linhares is the mastermind behind St. Louis U. High’s Insignis podcast, which seeks to reflect the school’s mission through the experiences of members of the school community.

“Insignis means worthy of note, in Latin, and so that’s the idea,” said Linhares. “It is a podcast about SLUH, but a little more broadly about Jesuit education, and maybe even more broadly than that about

the whole project of forming young men”

The next episode of the podcast is called “Ignatius Cannonball.” This episode will use the journeys of Fr. Matthew Stewart, S.J., former Dean of Students Mr. Eric Clark, and SLUH parents Hap and Mary Burke, to exemplify the richness of Ignatian teaching and formation and celebrate the 500-year anniversary of Ignatius’s cannonball incident. Other content in the episode will feature student experiences including the balloon launch, Mass of the Holy Spirit, and Campus Ministry.

“It’s a story about a year of conversion and finding vocation and I was able to share my vocation and how I ended up as a Jesuit priest,” said Stewart. “I think it’s important to expose

ourselves to different ways of how vocation and conversion come to light, and mine is going to be different than anybody else’s but it’s just another perspective on it.”

The Ignatian Cannonball episode will be followed by two more episodes planned for this academic year. Linhares plans on making an episode in the winter about school athletics and how it relates to the formation of young men, and an episode in the spring which highlights alums who have been successful in entertainment and production in and beyond SLUH.

Linhares is always on the lookout for interesting topics for the podcast.

“The very first thing I do is pick a topic and a subject, and then I map out how to engage some voices that would be entertaining and educational to listen to,” said Linhares. “It’s there for people who want to learn more about SLUH and celebrate SLUH, but also kind of wider Jesuit education and topics that are important to it.”

While Linhares is the host and head of the podcast, the production wouldn’t be possible without the help from his technical engineers. They are integral to the process and effectively handle the editing and engineering aspects of the pro-

duction.

“Over the past few years, the job of editing has been passed to (Director of Information Technology) Jonathan Dickmann, (former ASC volunteer) Giuseppe Vitellaro, and finally this year 2010 alum Will Linhares, who runs his own company in video and audio editing, has taken over the job,” said Linhares.

In addition to adults around SLUH spearheading the podcast, Linhares is seeking student involvement. He frequently uses music from past and present students to compliment his episodes and bring an authentic feel to his school-based podcast.

There are a multitude of other opportunities to contribute, such as helping with the production side for those who are into radio, video, or technical production.

Most importantly, Linhares wants to increase the popularity of his podcast for the purpose of inspiring and giving students and adults real opportunities to share their skills and ideas.

“I’d like to raise the profile of this thing so that people know that it is out there,” said Linhares. “My ultimate vision here would be to get students that are interested in radio, or interested in audio to learn how to edit the show to take their own segments and be a part of producing Insignis and kind of taking it on.”

Peretz leads trapshooting team to victory at Lake of the Ozarks

BY ROARKE UNRAU
NEWS EDITOR

On Oct. 8, senior John Peretz went down to Lynn Creek near Lake of the Ozarks for a trapshooting competition, with nothing more than the clothes on his back and his browning citrini 725. He came back to St. Louis U. High with a medal in his back pocket.

Peretz has been trapshooting for five years, but it was his sophomore year of high school where he started shooting competitively.

“It was new being around all the people with all the same experiences as me. I had gotten used to shooting with my dad and his buddies, but being surrounded with kids my age with my level of experience was a change of pace, but I got used to it,” said Peretz.

Trapshooting is a sport where the shooters line up and a machine releases clay birds into the air for the shooters to hit.

“So, the way trapshooting works is you get a squad or team that has five guys on a line 16 yards away from the trap house. The machine

throws birds 16 yards away at 35 miles an hour, and the competition is just to see who could hit the most, which squad can hit the most of them,” Peretz said.

The whole competition had 196 teams, and out of all of them Peretz’ team placed second, only missing 14 shots out of 500.

“So my squad took second place in the collegiate division. We had a final score of 486 out of 500. And the first place team had 490. So out of five guys we missed 14 birds a piece which is almost 3 a person,” said Peretz.

For Peretz’s team, this competition is always one of, if not the biggest, of the season, so to place second in it was a big deal for his team.

“This is the last big shoot of our season. And it’s always the largest or the second largest one we go to. It just so happens that this was the first one that we took the podium.”

For this event, many experienced shooters travel to the Ozarks for this competition. In addition to the event consisting of many veteran shooters, for many rookie shooters, this is their first ex-

posure to a big tournament.

“This event is huge because it’s part of the Scholastic clay target program. So a lot of it is about getting new shooters into it. And those kids, some of them are 10 years old, some of them are my age just getting into

shooting,” said Peretz. “And so to be there and be able to teach and mentor, being able to talk with them about getting into the sport is a lot of fun for me and a lot of fun for the guys on my team who have been doing this for four or five years.”



John Peretz with his award.

photo | Courtest of John Peretz

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for the *Prep News*?

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EDITORIAL

News 4 piece would not have made it in *Prep News*

An often overlooked part of our masthead each week is a phrase that has become synonymous with the *Prep News*: “If Nothing Else, Value the Truth.” It may seem pretentious for a high school newspaper to be stressing the truth above all else, but it’s a standard we strive to live by. Even in our small(ish) SLUH community, the difference between a true story and a ‘mostly’ true story can be significant. Take, for instance, the report of the first Covid case transmitted on campus last year. Accuracy on reporting that issue was important for students, faculty, and parents alike.

Without a doubt, the decision to move to mask recommended is a contro-

The recent News 4 piece seems to aim for outrage and shock, which is unproductive for both sides.

versial one, with significant ramifications for both those who support continued mask-wearing and those who don’t. Both sides deserve to be heard on this issue, as it is a divisive one. Unfortunately, the recent News 4 piece seems to aim for outrage and shock, which is unproductive for both sides. As editors for this paper, we agree that the KMOV piece would not have made it in the Prep News because it lacks context and therefore comes off as biased.

First, the story lacks proper context. At the first writer’s workshop we held for prospective writers this fall, our editorial staff stressed the importance of context for stories around SLUH. Otherwise, the

details in them are meaningless. The original News 4 report neglected to mention several important factors that led to the decision to go mask recommended. First, there is no mention of the fact that the administration had been open about the possible shift from the very start of this year. Fr. Gibbons’ weekly Parent Connect emails have consistently been clear about deadlines and what the requirements would be for going mask recommended.

More importantly on the issue of context, though, is that not enough details are included about the factors for making the decision. Sure, both reporters in the story mention a “high vaccination rate,” but neglecting to include the specific number misses a big part of the decision. Ninety percent of SLUH students have been vaccinated. Even though it’s not as high as we might wish, that stat is significant. It does warrant consideration for mask recommended given current CDC recommendations regarding the efficacy of vaccines. That number is not mentioned. As the English Department would so eloquently put it, what is the name of that dog?

As a result of the lack of context, this story’s bias is quite clear. The original story completely neglects one side of the issue and the fact that a second story needed to be published following the first is proof of this. Every time students approach us with letters to the editor, or we read an article, we try to ensure that the writer has done their due diligence. Rantings about issues, as cathartic as they may be to write, mean nothing if they are not factual and complete. The News 4 story shared the concerns of one group, but

failed to acknowledge that a large majority of students, teachers, and parents are happy with the change.

Without a doubt, hesitancy and fear still exist in the SLUH community and these voices deserve to be heard. However, to miss the rejoicing of many other students distorts the picture. The claim made by the reporter that no parents who celebrated the mask recommended announcement were willing to comment seems unlikely given the sheer number of students now without masks around the building. If that truly was the case, then the editorial team could have delayed the piece until a voice was found. Even a day later, this story would have still been relevant.

Truthful journalism is vitally important at this time in our country. As misinfor-

At the *Prep News*, we aim to facilitate discussion, not dominate it.

mation spreads like wildfire around social media, accurate, unbiased reporting upon which readers can build sound opinions is hard to find. At the *Prep News*, we aim to facilitate discussion, not dominate it, and the easiest way to do that is through contextual reporting. As students read and consider our reporting on the mask debate this week, we encourage feedback. If this standard of truth and representation is not met, it is the right of our readers to let us know.

The *Prep News* strongly encourages underclassman involvement, and our office on the second floor of the Jesuit Wing, room J220, is always open for involvement, criticism, praise, or suggestions. Contributed student opinions are also welcome under the *Prep News* Editorial Policy. Without student reaction and feedback, the *Prep News* could not function.

If the *Prep News* is inaccurate, we will correct any significant error in the following issue and on our web site as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the editors assume sole responsibility for the text of news and sports articles, features, and editorials. We ask faculty or students who take issue with the manner in which the news was reported or find an error to bring it to the attention of the editors, not the individual reporters.

This is the platform of the editors of Volume 86 of the *Prep News*.

COMMENTARY

Love is more than a feeling, it is a call to action

JACK FIGGE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Last week, I concluded reading the Great American Novel in my American Lit class: The Great Gatsby. Gatsby is a riveting novel commentating on the culture of American society in the 1920’s and while it was written almost a century ago, many of those central themes still resonate in our current culture today.

One such theme is love and marriage. Throughout the novel, the author showcases various marriages, each one tainted with infidelity and brokenness. The depiction of love and marriage within the novel is a grim one, leaving the reader to ponder what love truly is, and how it acts within marriage. And that is exactly what I began doing. Over the weekend, I began to reflect and pray about what love and marital love means to me as a Catholic. As I began to reflect and read about love, I began to see how it is a critical component of the phrase that we hear so often: Men for Others. I began to reflect on how I am being called to love as I am forming myself as a Man for Others.

When we reduce love to merely a feeling, we lose the action of love.

Love is a very broad topic, it encompasses a great deal and there are many definitions, each one ranging in scope. For many, including myself, we think of love as something like: “to feel a deep affection for someone or something” (Oxford English Dictionary). Our society has greatly warped this definition of love, degrading love to merely a feeling. This definition of love is true but only partially. The experience and action of loving another is often accompanied by feelings of affection, but deep feelings of affection alone do not constitute love, instead falling under the definition of infatuation. Taken on its own, this is a naive definition of love, a childish definition of love. When we reduce love to merely a feeling, we lose the action of love. Love is an action, it is a calling, it is a response. The great Catholic theologian and philosopher St. Thomas Aquinas defines love as “the choice to will the good of the other.” While this definition lacks the romanticism that we often associate with love, it much more fully encompasses and expresses what love is in its fullness. Love is an action, it is a selfless action, that seeks to lead others towards a relationship with God and, eventually, heaven.

This definition of love is completely countercultural, for two reasons. First, it re-

quires acting in the interest of the other. We live in a society where we are told that we should do everything for our own benefit, whether that be going to party with friends on the weekend rather than spending time with our family, buying the newest iphone for ourselves when we have a completely functional one, or a variety of other things. When reflecting on this selfless action of love, I realize that often I do not live this out. While I desire to live out my life in a manner of love, so often I fall short when I put my own desires above that of others.

The second countercultural part of St. Thomas Aquinas’ definition of love is rooted in the good we will for the other; the greatest good of the other person is God himself. For a person to attain the good of union with God, one must trust that God’s commands will bring about his happiness, which at times requires discipling his felt desires for the greater good of true love. God has our best interests because He created us, He formed us and He knows our deepest desires. We move away from God through sin, so to be truly loving requires helping those we love to live a life detached from sin. A Man for Others, a man of love, is to not be afraid to lead others to Christ and show them the way to the heart of Christ. We should do this most often through our good actions, for St. Francis of Assisi tells us to “Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary use words.” Yet sometimes it is necessary to use words, sometimes we must call our friends, our companions on this journey, to repentance, while admitting that we too have faults. This is where we find our definition of love going against the grain of modern society. Our society tells us that in order to truly love, we must accept everyone’s actions blindly, and allow them and even encourage them to pursue a life of sin. However, we as Catholics know that to “bear witness to evangelical charity (love)” (CCC, 2306) at times requires that we live out Jesus’ command: “‘If your brother sins, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother” (Mt 18:15, NABRE) When we approach a brother inviting him to “live the truth in love” by turning from sinful actions, we must do so with great gentleness and humility, acknowledging our own brokenness and need for conversion (Eph 4:15). Yet love itself does not permit us to be indifferent to any person, to merely ‘tolerate’ them without inviting them to embrace Jesus’ full call to holiness.

Love/charity is the foundational virtue. It is the keystone virtue. All of the other virtues we have are rooted

in love. One of the most important virtues that is rooted in love, and one that is often misconceived, is the virtue of chastity. When you hear the word chastity, you most likely think back to your 8th grade religion class where your religion teacher said that chastity means that you cannot have sex until marriage, when I googled it the definition that appeared was: “the state or practice from refraining from extramarital sexual intercourse”. But like our society’s definition of love, this definition of chastity too, is insufficient. Chastity is integral to living out love: “Charity is the form of all the virtues... Self-mastery is ordered to the gift of self. Chastity leads him who practices it to become a witness to his neighbor of God’s fidelity and loving kindness.” (CCC 563) The virtue of chastity is rooted in self-giving love. Sex in the eyes of the Church is one of the most sacred acts between a husband and a wife, it is an act of giving oneself completely to their spouse and the creation of new life. In marriage, it is as if the life giving love of a husband and wife is saying, “I so deeply respect and admire you that I desire for there to be more people like you on this earth, and I will dedicate my life to making this good a reality.” Striving for the virtue of chastity means working towards sexual integration within oneself. This means that one is striving to preserve one’s gift of sexuality for one’s future spouse. Chastity also call us to protect the sexual dignity of all whom we encounter not because they are being forced, but out of love. Chaste love wills the good of the other person by respecting the dignity of their human sexuality.

A man for others, a man of love, is to not be afraid to lead others to Christ and show them the way to the heart of Christ.

So often the world asks the question “what would happen if we loved everyone?” But I pose the question “what would happen if we willed the good of every person we encountered?” If this happened, we would live in a world where evil was decimated, where we valued all life from conception to natural death, a society that recognized the beauty and sanctity of the sexual act, a world dedicated to bringing others to Christ. We would live in a world filled not with hatred and despise but of love, a world where people unconditionally willed the good of others, where they acted in love.

Prep News 86 Platform Policy

As the student-run newspaper of St. Louis University High School, the *Prep News* is a weekly publication that strives to inform the SLUH community about events and people, with its focus on those pertaining to the school, primarily through the written word.

The *Prep News* is neither the voice of the administration nor the students. Rather, the newspaper serves to gather and distribute information for the entire school. The *Prep News* editors and staff members make every effort to be objective in their news coverage and editing.

The members of the editorial staff are co-workers and share equally the duties of writing, copy-editing, layout, and staff management. All of the editors share responsibility and leadership of the paper. The editors are supported by a core staff of regular reporters as well as artists and photographers.

It is the role of the editors

to seek out and facilitate the reporting of all significant news at SLUH. While any faculty member or student is welcome to submit suggestions to the editors for potential articles, the *Prep News* is never obligated to publish any article idea.

Our primary emphasis as editors of the *Prep News* is upon clear and accurate writing and careful editing. We also attempt to include visual expression—photography, drawing, technical aids, etc.—in every issue and on our web site. Despite our desire to make the paper visually appealing, we commit ourselves not to allow form to supersede substance.

The editorial staff will use social media to communicate with the paper’s readership and to update students about SLUH events and highlight the paper’s content. The editors will not allow their goal of speed and accessibility online to weaken their commitment to accuracy and depth.

Saturday night lights, students mosh like there is no tomorrow

(continued from page 1)

In late September, Stuco-moderators Meghan Menne and Bradley Mueller decided to change their plans that began with the dance being at Windows on Washington and changed it to being on campus due to mask protocols.

“We realized it would be better if it was outside,” explained Menne. “So that we didn’t have to worry about

more compared to previous dances.

“Honestly, it seemed like the students enjoyed it even more than in past years,” said Menne. “And I don’t know if it was just because we haven’t had dances in almost two years, it seemed like the environment and it being the first dance back was awesome.”

For the seniors, the dance was very enjoyable consider-

onto the SLUH campus proved a difficulty, but the students still enjoyed it just as much. The inclusion of snacks, lighting draped around the plaza, and other exciting additions created a memorable environment.

“Drury Plaza was a great venue, the lights were very nice and they had some good refreshments and some nice tables set up creating a good venue. Obviously, you wish it could be inside but you take what you can get. And I’m just happy we had it,” said Christanell.

Overall, the dance can be labeled as a success, with all the students left satisfied about the music, the dancing, and the brotherhood created that night.

“My favorite part was just seeing everybody get together and just have a good time and I feel like a lot of people participated, it wasn’t just one group of guys or one friend group, everybody really came together and just started dancing and having fun,” said Christanell.

“I was just somewhat divinely inspired to create my own dance. It’s just, up, up, down, down, left, left, right, right.”

-Jack Christanell

“My favorite part was the unity of the grade. In the past two years we’ve gone through a lot with COVID, I mean we didn’t have a sophomore year dance and junior year dance was definitely different. And starting senior year the senior fun day on Wednesday and the dance on Saturday I feel like we were the most united the class has been in a while, if not ever. It was really nice to spend my Saturday night with my classmates,” said Wiegers.

“My favorite part was seeing all my friends’ dates and seeing everyone has a date. It’s kind of like the high school experience,” said junior Matthew Sommers.



Students and their dates taking a 360 photo. photo | Jack Figge

masks and other protocols.”

Once they made this decision, they had to completely redesign the layout of the dance. Members of Stuco, Director of security Dan Schulte and Director of Theater Operations Tim Moore all stepped in to plan the Fall Ball.

“Thank goodness Mr. Moore stepped in, he helped a lot. He was up here all day Saturday as well, and so was Mr. Schulte. It was awesome that they were both here and we couldn’t have done it without them helping either,” said Menne.

After moving it away from Windows on Washington, the planning committee decided to step it up and add several fun elements. The most enjoyed addition to the dance was the 360 photo booth. Sophomore Kodi Cade along with other STUCO members found the photo booth and brought it in.

“I’ve never seen anything like it before. I thought it was really cool and innovative and seeing the video after I did it, I thought that it was definitely super unique,” said senior Sean Wiegers.

With bringing the dance back onto campus, STUCO also decided to use SLUH’s own DJs instead of the normal company.

“We had Mr. Schulte’s nephew and Mr. John Kavanaugh as the two DJs, and I think that was kind of fun,” said Menne. “Once we switched dates to Saturday and had both dances on Saturday TKO was booked, and so we had to go elsewhere for DJs but I think, the feedback I’ve heard from the seniors and juniors at least was that Mr. Schulte’s nephew was a hit, they liked having him as a DJ.”

The only positive about not having dances in almost two years is that the student body had much more anticipation for it, and everyone was looking forward to it

ing it was their first official SLUH dance in over a year, it also helped that the DJ created a fun environment for everyone dancing.

“Yeah, I had a really fun time. It was a great dance. There was lots of energy. The DJ was fantastic. And that really helps when you have a really good DJ. The dance is just so much more fun,” said senior Jack Christanell.

“There were a lot of times when I felt the unity of the grade, when we were all singing along and dancing. They said no moshing, but we ended up doing some moshing, which was also super fun,” said Wiegers.

Students in particular were very excited to see Christanell bust out his signature dance move. Still without a name, all students now know the official dance of the senior class.

“I love that I was able to break it out, it originated in BTSM 2019 and you could say I was just somewhat divinely inspired. Just, up, up, down, down, left, left, right, right, it’s pretty easy, it goes to any song,” said Christanell.

Bringing the dance back



Students enjoying Fall Ball.

photo | Jack Figge

Bashball, Chick-Fil-A and Bond movie dazzled seniors on fun day



Seniors prepared to watch the new Bond film.

photo | Brock Kesterson

(continued from page 1)

weather would be good so that we could be outside most of the day,” said Becvar.

Planning for the day started last month with the election of new senior classroom representatives. Together with several senior STUCO members, the ten representatives took on their initial task of preparing an activity-filled day that the seniors could enjoy given the fact that they, along with the rest of the school community, had not received an off-day since Labor Day. Becvar, the faculty facilitator of the group and Senior Class Moderator, framed the planning of the day based off of the successful Junior Programming Day that happened last May.

“We were planning on the morning component being more of like a homeroom competition,” said Becvar. “We tossed around ideas of playing bubble soccer, or steal the bacon, a popular game played last year.”

However, a week before the fun day was set to happen, weather predictions estimated a high possibility of rain on Wednesday, tossing the idea of an outdoor-based fun day out the window. Becvar knew that he had to act quickly to change the agenda of the planned fun day. However, members of the planning committee conceived the idea of watching the new James Bond film as a class, which was an instant hit. With the help of STUCO moderator Megan Menne and the school administration, they were able to make that happen.

“Mr. Schulte sent me a contact from the Science Center who could help us access the OMNIMAX Theater,” said Menne. “They were so easy to communicate with. I just emailed them and then one of the people in charge of the OMNIMAX called me and agreed to carry through with our request.”

Furthermore, the planning committee seemingly hit a jackpot because, the Science Center was closed to the general public on Oct. 13 and the OMNIMAX Theater would be vacant. After being open to the idea of hosting the senior class, the Science Center agreed to run the

projectors for a 10:30 showing of *No Time To Die*, which was released to US theaters Oct. 8. Having to make the decision before Monday, the committee decided to accept the Science Center’s generous offer regardless of what the weather was projected to be like Wednesday.

“We thought it would be a cool opportunity and an appropriate change to the plan,” said Becvar. “It was something that doesn’t come along all the time and we knew most of the boys would enjoy the movie.”

After the strenuous planning, the day was set to begin at 10 in the morning in the Si Commons, where donuts, coffee, and music was awaiting the Seniors. At 10:30, Becvar corralled the herd of seniors down the turnaround to the Science Center, where

Consultants, consisting of Chick-Fil-A, fries, and cookies. This meal was similar to the one the seniors enjoyed six months ago at junior fun day, and many were more than happy to partake in the familiar meal.

“It was a great meal for a great day,” said senior Charlie Bieg. “I even got to sell one of my chicken sandwiches to a junior.”

Following the late lunch, the decision was made by the planning committee to cancel a homeroom karaoke competition that was going to be held in the commons, rather letting the seniors have an option to either play bashball, or participate in a Kahoot in the Commons.

A vast majority of seniors made their way to the Field House to battle in SLUH’s favorite game. Despite the



Seniors playing video games on funday.

photo | Jack Figge

the class was escorted by Science Center employees to the Omnimax Theater to watch the ultimate finale in the Daniel Craig’s series of James Bond films.

“Seeing the new Bond movie was a truly incredible experience,” said senior Jack Christanell. “Just being able to watch it with my brothers was so much fun.”

The whole class was as quiet and attentive as ever towards the movie (besides the occasional rounds of applause), because this series holds a special place in the hearts of many.

“I am a die hard fan of the James Bond films,” said senior Matthew Kluba. “I watch them with my father and brother all the time. My favorite one has got to be *Skyfall*.”

Immediately following the film, the seniors returned to the commons to enjoy a delicious lunch beautifully organized by Food Service

fact that the senior class had not played an organized, classwide game of bashball for two years, the rules had not escaped the minds of any one, as they jumped right into their beloved game. The courts were packed with players and spectators alike as the boys fought their way to the goal.

“I had forgotten how fun giant games of bashball were,” said senior Patrick Mooney.

The energy in the gym was overwhelmingly positive as people were reminded both why they love bashball, and why they love their class so much.

“(It) allowed us to get together as a class for the first time in a while. It allowed us to see people who we do not often get to see or spend time with,” said senior Ismael Karim. “Overall, I think it was a good bonding experience going into the second quarter.”



Stephen Saladin goes up for a head ball against St. Dominic

photo | Nathan Rich

On a roll again! SLUH soccer back to winning ways, poised to set SLUH record tonight against MICDS

BY NATHAN RICH
SPORTS EDITOR

The magic is coming back at just the right time for SLUH soccer. In the six games they’ve played since their heartbreaking loss to Chaminade, they’ve scored 28 goals and allowed just one: an unprecedented ratio, even by SLUH standards. Now, with 7 straight wins under their belt, the Jr. Bills (21-1-1) are gearing up for districts and preparing to make history in the process.

Following the scoring drought against Chaminade, SLUH came out swinging in its next two games against Helias and Quincy Notre Dame. Eight goals in each game propelled the Jr. Bills to two straight mercy rule victories, a special milestone for head coach Bob O’Connell.

“That was the first time we’ve merced anybody in my four years,” he said. “I thought on Saturday against Quincy Notre Dame especially we were really sharp and played really well.”

All of the stars were on display for both games. Senior Stephen Saladin led the team with 4 goals, followed closely by sophomore Grant Locker,

with 3. Juniors Sam Tieber and Kevin Cooney as well as senior Jared Thornberry all added to their goal totals for the year while senior Will Broun and junior Joe Olascoaga each notched their first goals of the season. The wins were exciting, but they certainly felt hollow compared to the dominant victory the following Tuesday against CBC.

Widely regarded as one of SLUH’s top competitions for the state title this year, the Jr. Bills were expecting a grueling match against the Cadets. In a stunning display of goals, though, SLUH beat their MCC rival 5-0.

Senior Tyler Van Bree played a big role in the win. His aggressiveness in the box led to two goals in the first half, including one that flew right between the legs of CBC’s keeper.

Junior Lucas Hammond rocketed another shot from 20 yards into the back of the net and SLUH went into halftime up by 3, a difficult outcome to have predicted. After another goal from Cooney and a successful penalty kick from Saladin (his 7th of the season) in the second half, SLUH took the CBC game by a significant margin.

O’Connell was impressed by his team’s play against the Cadets.

“The game against CBC was probably our most complete game we’ve had in my four years (as coach). I thought the kids were sharp from the beginning and they fought the entire game. Defensively we were strong and smart and I think the score reflected it,” he said.

In just three games, SLUH had racked up 23 unanswered goals, their best streak of the season by far. Although it’s uncommon for high school teams to be scoring so easily, the goals didn’t surprise O’Connell.

“(The goals) are who we are (as a team). We have good players and it’s really fun to watch. We make teams pay for mistakes even as they’re attacking,” he said. “We can score a goal on you in two or three passes and that’s a pretty unique thing in high school soccer.”

The offense struggled a bit more in their next match against Vianney, though. After the first half, the Jr. Bills found themselves tied 1-1 against the Griffins, who had scored off of a corner kick. Even after many chances in the second

half, Locker’s first half goal was the only success SLUH could find in front of the net. As time expired in the second half, it seemed SLUH would have to settle for their second tie of the season. Unless, of course, they could muster their second last minute goal of the season.

Consistent with their season’s magic so far, though, that’s exactly what happened. With 30 seconds left, Locker struck again, scoring off an assist from Saladin and giving SLUH the win.

“Grant’s goal at the end was just an example of just how tough they are and how they fight until the end,” reflected O’Connell. “It was a fun way to win that game.”

After the offensive dominance that ruled the games following Chaminade, the quiet but consistent play of SLUH’s defense was easily overshadowed. On last Saturday’s match against St. Dominic, though, it was the defense that stepped up. Sophomore keeper Chris Lewis was tested right away. Lewis blocked several fast shots early in the first half and had to face three straight corner kicks from the Crusaders. All three failed to find the back of the net.

With the Crusader offense covered, SLUH’s forwards could begin chipping away at their defense. SLUH’s first goal came off a Saladin break-away. Senior defenseman Ben Ridgway shot the ball upfield to a wide open Saladin who sprinted through the box and easily put the ball away. Riding high after Vianney, Locker also scored twice after Saladin, bringing the total score to 3-0. It was another decisive win against a tough team for SLUH.

After chugging through a difficult stretch of games, many Jr. Bills got more of a rest this past Tuesday against Eureka. With his mind firmly on Districts, O’Connell was committed to letting his starters rest. Even with newer faces on the field, O’Connell was impressed with the team’s consistent play and depth. SLUH went on to win 4-0, with goals from Saladin, Tieber, Cooney, and Hammond.

“I made a decision as we prepare for this week in districts to limit the minutes of some guys. Everybody we brought in really contributed and the level didn’t drop. It was really a great performance, I think I ended up getting 25 kids in the second half

and it was a good game for us. I hope it prepares us well for Thursday,” said O’Connell.

After last night’s 2-0 win against De Smet, SLUH now prepares to face MICDS tonight for their Senior Night in a game with potentially significant outcomes. No team in the history of SLUH soccer has lost fewer than 2 games. If the Jr. Bills can pull out a win tonight against MICDS (a team they beat earlier this fall in the preseason Jamboree), this year’s team can post one of the best records in program history. Even with a loss, they join an esteemed company. Two of the three teams that lost only two games went on to win the State Championship.

After MICDS, the team will head into a week of practices aimed at fine-tuning their skills and recovering after the recent wins.

“We strategically don’t play that week. Getting some of that fitness back can be a huge advantage in these cold November games if you make it a priority and we will,” O’Connell said.

In the meantime, players and fans alike wait with great anticipation to see how this year’s postseason will go.

Football splits with De Smet and Vianney, gears up for district play

BY COBY SPRATTE AND
JACK RYBAK
CORE STAFF

St. Louis U. High easily handled Vianney in their first road game of the season, trouncing them 55-6. The game was a first half fireworks show, highlighted by standout plays and stat lines on both sides of the ball.

SLUH demolished Vianney in the first half, leading 48-6 at the break, able to rest their starters in the running clock second half.

Sophomore Ryan Wingo logged a career game, needing only one half to do so. Wingo finished with 3 catches for 101 yards and three touchdowns, 1 rushing attempt for 55 yards and a touchdown, and a 60 yard passing touchdown to senior Chris Brooks on a fake punt. Wingo touched the ball a measly five times on offense, but still managed to contribute towards 55 percent of the team's total offensive yards.

Senior quarterback Luke Johnston added 181 yards and 4 touchdowns on a 5 for 8 passing clip, and senior running back Derrick Baker carried the ball 8 times for 66 yards, averaging a healthy 8.25 yards per carry. Brooks led the receiving core with 3 catches for 139 yards.

The Jr. Bills were just as efficient on defense as they were on offense, continually shutting down any sort of traction or momentum Vianney gained.

Junior linebacker Louis Kertz tallied the Jr. Billikens' lone sack of the contest, and junior Zach Ortwerth recovered a fumble.

The Griffins' passing at-



Senior Derrick Baker scores against De Smet

photo | Nick Sanders

tack was largely stymied, in large part due to interceptions from senior safety Tommy Etling, senior cornerback Andre Tucker, senior linebacker Tavion Sullivan, and sophomore linebacker Kyle Wright.

The special teams unit dazzled just as much as the rest of the team, as senior kicker Connor Greninger went a season best 9-9 on recording touchbacks on kick-offs.

Yet, the following week posed a much tougher challenge for the Jr. Bills, a road date with De Smet.

The first drive was an immediate implication for the Jr. Bills that this game might've required just a little bit more to escape victorious, as they went three-and-out after trying but failing to establish the running game.

To add insult to injury, the Spartans blocked Wingo's punt and started their posses-

sion on the SLUH 24. On their first play from scrimmage, De Smet threw a fade ball and scored a touchdown, breaking the tie and making the score 7-0 with 9:33 remaining in the first quarter.

SLUH was able to manufacture a drive that pushed them into De Smet territory, but they were unable to convert a short fourth down and gave the ball right back to the Spartans.

Yet, on the first play of the Spartan drive, Kertz forced a fumble, setting up the Jr. Bills in prime field position.

The Billikens shot themselves in the foot with penalties, but remained diligent and Brooks put the Jr. Bills on the board, tying the game with a rushing touchdown out of the wildcat formation with 4:19 remaining in the first quarter.

SLUH looked like they were really starting to gain

some momentum, as the defense stood up and forced a turnover on downs.

Yet, the offense couldn't capitalize or get anything brewing, as SLUH had to boot the ball right back to De Smet, who was able to convert this time.

Spartans' quarterback Chris Cotton scored his first rushing touchdown of the night on a quarterback counter to the right edge which made the score 14-7 with 8:45 to go in the second quarter.

SLUH compounded their defensive letdown and fumbled on a pitch attempt to Wingo inside their own 5 yard line. This set up another rushing touchdown for Cotton which widened the score to 21-7 with 7:30 remaining in the first half.

The Jr. Billikens and the Spartans exchanged a couple empty drives apiece, but De Smet was able to cash in with

0:47 remaining in the half with an 8-yard passing touchdown to make the halftime deficit a daunting 21 points for the Jr. Bills.

De Smet received the opening kickoff of the second half and picked up right where they left off, adding to their total and making it a 34-7 game with 9:33 left in the third quarter after a 15-yard touchdown pass from Cotton.

This was the lone score of the third quarter, as both defenses began exchanging blows, continually forcing turnovers on downs or punts.

Entering the fourth quarter, it may have seemed as though the game was over, but the Bills weren't done fighting.

Brooks ran in his second touchdown of the game from the wildcat formation with 10:22 remaining in the game to cut the deficit to 34-14.

The Jr. Bills continued to resiliently fight and forced another turnover on downs for the Spartans which set SLUH up in prime position for another score.

Johnston connected with senior wide receiver Craig Ortwerth for the first touchdown of his varsity career which cut the deficit to two scores for the Bills.

Yet, the defense finally bent for SLUH, and De Smet put the final nail in the coffin with Cotton's third rushing touchdown of the day.

This made the score 41-21 with 5:18 remaining, and De Smet would go on to win 48-21 in the contest, dropping the Jr. Bills' record to 4-3.

"I think we played an extremely good second half but we didn't start off well and allowed De Smet to step on our

toes a little bit... We didn't finish drives like we knew we could," said senior Craig Ortwerth.

Johnston was limited to 130 yards on a 15/22 clip, and Baker was held to a still respectable 14 carries for 78 yards.

Brooks led the receiving corps with 6 receptions for 59 yards, followed by Wingo who tallied 3 for 40 yards and Craig Ortwerth who hauled in 3 passes for 17 yards.

On the defensive side of the ball, senior Cayden Owens impressed with 2 sacks and 7 tackles, as seniors Sullivan and Pierston Sanders added a sack. Senior Philip Bone recorded a game high 14 tackles, but it wasn't enough to beat the Spartans.

St. Louis U. High will travel to Florissant tomorrow for their final game of the regular season, a 2:30 start against the McCluer Comets (7-1).

"We're working extra hard to bounce back and even though some would say McCluer isn't a very talented team, we're not taking them lightly at all and we're preparing like it's the playoffs," Owens remarked.

The Jr. Bills currently sit in sixth place of District 1 in Class 6, but, pending the results of this week, could improve their position to fifth place.

CBC (7-1) has clinched the top spot in the district, followed by Marquette (7-1), Lindbergh (7-1), De Smet (6-2), Kirkwood (5-2), SLUH (4-3), Northwest Cedar (4-4), and Vianney (1-7).

The District Quarterfinals will kick off a week from today, on Oct. 29.

JV Soccer record just as strong as Varsity, excited to close out season next week

BY MICHAEL ROBINSON AND
LOUIS MILLER
REPORTERS

Playing in the shadow of the nationally ranked varsity team, JV Soccer has managed to maintain an impressive record of 11-3-2 in the fall season. Led by coach Tom McCarthy, the team has performed beyond many players' expectations.

"We didn't expect much," said junior winger Emmett Gallardo. "The team has im-

proved drastically over the course of the year"

Gallardo, a third year member of the program, has been one of the team's top performers.

"Nobody has particularly dominated stat wise. It's been a pretty well rounded effort from everyone" said junior Jack Hullett. "Gallardo and Prosbt have done a lot offensively, but guys like George Keyrouz and Nick Malpiedi have really held it down in the back. Goals are only one

part of the game, and Coach has really emphasized playing both sides of the game."

Efficiency on both offense and defense helped the Bills beat MCC rivals DeSmet 5-0, while teams like Chaminade and Liberty fell to a similar outcome. The biggest wins of the season came against Gibault (8-0) and STL United (7-0). Their only losses have come against CBC, Jackson, and Lindbergh.

"We all obviously want to be on varsity at some point."

said right back Peter Hase-meier on the team's goals. "It's disappointing to not make it, but we understand just how unreal varsity is, and we have enjoyed playing in a more loose environment and still being able to be a part of the program."

The team faces John Burroughs and Parkway South to finish out the season.

"It has been a great time," said Hasemeier. "Hopefully we can finish strong."



Junior Noah Probst against Gibault.

photo | Kathy Chott



Freshman Niko Vojicic dribbling.

photo | Kathy Chott

Freshman soccer pushes through season highs and lows

BY NATHAN RICH AND
THEO AGNIEL
SPORTS EDITOR, REPORTERS

The SLUH Freshman soccer team has many bright spots in a season filled with ups and downs, led by spirit and teamwork. The team is hovering just above .500 (11-9), coming off a strong win against Chaminade last Wednesday. Leading scorer on the team, striker Nico Vojicic, scored his 13th goal of the season, leading the Bills to a 1-0 win.

Vojicic credits his scoring success to his team's hard work.

"(My teammates) do a great job of getting the ball to me," said Vojicic. "My positioning and skill have helped put the ball into the back of the net."

The win against Chaminade showed the skills of both the offense and defense. Keeper Thomas Skoby made a stellar diving save as time expired against Chaminade, sealing the win for SLUH.

Prior to the win against Chaminade, the Jr. Bills have also had some big wins against notable high school teams. The freshman team beat Fort Zumwalt South 6-1 and Priory 2-0, showcasing

their toughness. Against more MCC schools, though, the results have been mixed.

The freshman team dropped both games against Vianney's two freshman teams early in the season. CBC proved tough competition as well, as the team lost three times to CBC's freshmen team this season.

"CBC has been our hardest team because all around they are a good team, each player knows how to finish and move the ball around the field," noted Vojicic.

The one bright spot with-in the conference has been against De Smet's White

team. SLUH beat them 4-1 on Oct. 7. Still, regardless of their tough conference, the freshmen are winning enough games to stay afloat. Through it all, the team has stayed positive, building a strong team camaraderie.

"I love the spirit of (the team) and the spirit and willingness to come out and have fun," said head coach Brock Kesterson. "It's been a lot of fun working and I want to make sure that we are better than when we started and because of the effort."

XC dominates MCC and shows off impressive depth at Hancock

BY SEAN KELLOGG AND
JOE LABARGE
REPORTERS

Over the past two weeks the SLUH XC team traveled twice to Jefferson Barracks to run in both the MCC and Hancock Invitational, and brought back just as many team titles. Despite having to deal with sloppy conditions the Jr. Bills were still able to flex their incredible depth in both meets.

Just like every other year, the SLUH XC team went into MCC's with the goal of winning the meet on every level and this year they did not disappoint. With team titles on all levels the Jr. Bills dominated their competition and won their 18th consecutive Varsity title.

The Varsity race kicked off the day with a torrential downpour just as the race began. SLUH was unfazed however and put their 7 runners all at the front of the race from the very beginning. Senior Sean Kellogg came away as MCC Champion, holding off a Chaminade runner. Coming in after the front two runners were seniors Baker Pashea, Joe LaBarge, Justin Glass and Grant Brawley, placing 3-6 and rounding out the varsity team scoring, putting up an impressive 19 points. Juniors Tim Greiner and Wyatt Seal also finished in the top 10 to finish out a great day for the Jr. Bills.

On the JV level SLUH displayed utter dominance, finishing 15 runners before any other teams first runner and taking home 22 of 30 possible medals. Sophomore Mason Scargall won his second race of the season to become JV MCC Champion. Finishing less than six seconds behind Mason were junior Will Riggan and senior Francis Alford, both running impressive races. The JV scoring was closed out by sophomore Anthony Zangara and junior Carter Lowe who both helped to solidify their perfect score (putting 5

runners in places 1-5).

"MCC's is one of those meets where we really just focus on running fast and showing off our depth as a team and we did that very well. To be able to win 18 varsity titles, 5 JV titles and 20 freshman titles consecutively is very impressive and really shows the payoff of all the hard work and dedication we put in," said head coach Joe Porter. "It's a testament to how the team operates and how it's not just the seven guys on the line for varsity but that its a group effort."

The freshmen closed out the day with an impressive team win, scoring only 19 points. Leading the way was Gus Talleur, who made an impressive move at the beginning of the race and never let up. Chasing him down quickly though were his classmates Logan Phillips and George Donahue, who made great strides to close the gap on Talleur over the second half of the race and finished in second and third place, respectively, both earning PRs. Ethan Bogner (6th) and Mason Lauber (7th) closed out the scoring for the freshman, leading to a landslide win over the rest of the field. In total the freshman took home 15 of 25 medals.

"I felt confident in myself and just tried to stay in the race the entire time and make sure that I wasn't slowing down," said Talleur. "It was great to see Logan and George start to challenge me at the end and I think we just had a great team race all together."

Last Saturday, at a meet that SLUH has been attending since 1972, the Jr. Bills posted their first varsity win ever at the Hancock Invitational while holding out the top five runners. With 46 of 70 runners gaining new personal records at Hancock, SLUH once again showed off both the depth of the cross country program and talent that SLUH has across all grade levels.

In the varsity race, the Saint Louis U. High runners held a tiny 1-5 scoring gap of



Varsity celebrates MCC win.

photo | courtesy of Brian Gilmore

just 11 seconds, allowing for a first place finish out of 28 teams. Junior Will Riggan led off the varsity finishers with an 8th place finish and an impressive PR to run a time of 17:08. Finishing just behind was Junior Tim Greiner with a 9th place finish and an almost as impressive time of 17:08.1. Junior Wyatt Seal (11th) also earned himself a medal with a time of 17:14. Closing out the scoring five were sophomores Anthony Zangara (12th) and Charlie Murray (15th) running times of 17:16 and 17:19 respectively. Senior Francis Alford and junior Nolan Meara also put up strong times and closed out the varsity win with medals.

"All the guys brought competitive energy and the contagious team spirit to the race on Saturday," Will Riggan remarked. "And that's the key to having similar success in the future. If we can continue to run together as a pack and push ourselves and our teammates, we are going to become a very intimidating team."

Across the JV level, the performance was no less impressive, placing 12 runners in the top 15, including the top 9 overall. Without a freshman level race at the meet, the JV race included 63 SLUH runners who all ran exceptional races. Sophomore transfer Mason Scargall led the charge for SLUH with his second consecutive individual win with a

time of 17:14. Finishing close behind in second and running a massive season best of over a minute was Carter Lowe with a time of 17:20. Tyler Barks (3rd) and Lucas Rammacher (4th) also both raced large PRs to run 17:45 and 17:48 respectively. Senior Flynn O'Connell closed out the five scoring runners as well as the top five individual runners, logging a time of 17:55. After taking 12 of the 15 medals and perfect scoring yet another meet on the JV level, SLUH earned its 2nd team win on the day.

"We put 12 in the top 13. In the JV race, which is just absurd and a testament again to the depth of the team, Porter noted. "Everybody was dropping almost a minute in time from the same course a week apart which just said the guys really came to play. I'm really excited about how they raced and hopefully we'll continue that momentum until the last couple meats of the season."

As the cross country runners near the end of the season, they prepare to get a final few races in before the top seven take on the top team in the district next Saturday. While the coaches scramble to finalize the top seven runners of a team that has demonstrated its incredible depth week after week, the Jr. Bills look to see themselves continue to improve at the Big River Invitational and the Clayton Invitational this afternoon.

Varsity Esports drops close match to CBC

BY JACK KUHLMAN
REPORTER

SLUH's Varsity Blue team lost a tough matchup against CBC Black this past week, losing the series 3-2 while struggling with controller issues.

The team, consisting of Hunter Mueller (TJ74), Zeke Esswien (MrPanda), and Cam Gegg (Viznari), have been looking to make a big impact in the program's first year at SLUH. They faced a tough opponent in CBC's 4-1 team in their 6th week of competitive play. The team came strong out of the gates, scoring 4 goals within two minutes into the first game. SLUH applied excellent pressure and left CBC in a tough position to start off the match. The teams traded a few goals throughout the middle of the game, but SLUH took back the reins near the end, scoring a few extra goals to take game 1 9-2.

"Game 1 we came out flying. We were really hyped up about playing against CBC," team captain Hunter Mueller explained.

Game 2 looked to be headed the same direction. SLUH was once again in the lead within the first minute, applying intense pressure and taking a 3-1 lead early on. However, the CBC team started to adapt to SLUH's aggressive play style and began to hold their own on defense. SLUH was kept scoreless throughout the rest of the game while CBC scored 2 more goals to take the game to overtime. SLUH managed to keep CBC out of their net on multiple great opportunities but ultimately fell 4-3 after a minute of overtime play.

Game 3 also went back and forth as both teams played tight defense while still managing to capitalize on offensive opportunities, pushing the game into overtime tied 2-2. This time, it was less than a minute before CBC was able to close it out on a nice shot that slipped between SLUH defenders.

It wouldn't be long before SLUH found their stride in game 4. They took a 2-0 lead only 16 seconds into the game off a great passing play followed by a botched kickoff by CBC. SLUH was able to expand that lead throughout the game and ended up cleanly winning 5-1.

"Our rotations were super strong, we were getting pressure on them, and they couldn't get good chances to get the ball out of their zone," Mueller commented in response to their dominant wins in games 1 and 4. "We

did really good on stealing boost, and that just didn't allow them to build up a defense and get powerful clears when they needed it."

Unfortunately, they weren't able to find that sort of success in game 5. The team went down 1-0 early on and were never able to make a recovery. While they held a great defense for the rest of the game, they were unable to find any success on the offensive and lost 1-0, making CBC the winner of the match.

While SLUH lost the match, they were also having some technical issues behind the scenes, namely Zeke Esswein's controller. While warming up for the match, the trio was playing online ranked matches when something strange began to occur. The button on his controller that controls boosting the car suddenly stopped working. Because of this problem, Zeke needed to switch to an older generation controller supplied by the Science Center. While Zeke was able to play with this controller, it seemed to have some connection errors.

"It used a different cable to connect to the PC," Mueller remarked. "This connection with that cable is not as secure, it's not as strong, it's not as tight." While the controller only lost connection for a brief moment now and then, any disruption of the inputs on the controller can make a drastic difference while attempting the difficult tricks these players can pull off.

"Zeke had about 3 opportunities where he could have had easy goals in game 5 alone," Mueller said. "He is a very good mechanical player and probably has the best mechanics on the team. He doesn't make those mistakes. That's not him."

Despite the issues, CBC did play and adapt well to SLUH's playstyle, ultimately winning the series and dropping SLUH to a 4-2 record. With the playoffs coming up in mid-November, this was a crucial match for both teams. While SLUH isn't out of it by any means, it will take some important victories for SLUH Blue to make the playoffs. Even through a tough loss like that the team remains hopeful for a playoff run.

"We're gonna be in the playoffs, and we're gonna make a deep run," said captain Mueller. "I hope everyone can at least try to make it to the Science Center Omnimax theater on November 13 to come spectate. We're gonna show you how good of a Rocket League program the U-High has in its first year."

Swim improves before tough Invitationals

BY ALEX WENTZ
REPORTER

As their most momentous battles approach, the water warriors have been relentlessly honing their skills, inadvertently dulling their blades for the altercations in the meantime. Over the past two weeks the St. Louis U. High swim team has faced off against MICDS, Parkwest West, and Vianney, all in the midst of their training for the upcoming invitationals—the swimmers' last chances to qualify for state.

"We are just at the point of the season where (the swimmers) are worn down and it's time to rest, and they know that," said head coach Lindsey Ehret, alluding to the great conflicts on the horizon.

The Parkway and MICDS dual meet ended up being a tri-meet, which meant the

number of entrants was limited to only two per event. With this limited number of swimmers, each race held even more weight than usual. Yet, even with the raised stakes, MICDS had a myriad of technical difficulties. Among other smaller things, the strobe was not working (meaning that the swimmers only had an audio queue for starting as opposed to an accompanying flash of light being present, resulting in slower reaction time all around). The synthesis of these inconveniences had drastic consequences, contributing the the fact that senior Jonas Hostetler was disqualified from his 100 butterfly race, all the while actually finishing first.

"I didn't like Jonas' DQ," said Ehret. "On a sprint (the strobe) is very important, so things could have gone a very different direction (had it been

fixed)."

Though the Jr. Bills' blue cape had no effect on the P.West Longhorns' temper, many swimmers stepped up to improve in a tough circumstance. Sophomore Gavin Baldes catapulted himself to a first place finish in the 100 fly with a time of 54.75.

Hungry for redemption, the boys in blue pounced on the Vianney Griffins, blowing them away 139 to 44. While SLUH did walk home with the W, the squad was certainly not at peak performance, with nearly no best times achieved at the meet.

"Overall, what I saw was consistent swims, but similar to our MICDS, everyone was worn down at (the Vianney meet)," said assistant coach Jason Chumley. "We are about ready to finish the hardest part of our season and start locking into tapers, so it's showing

in our meets. The few good swims these guys will have left won't happen at these dual meets. We are going to start to see some good stuff hopefully at the John Burrows Invitational this weekend, and then we are back at MICDS for another invite, so that's a great time for us to get out there and swim in some fast pools to get (qualifying times for the State meet)."

This Saturday, the St. Louis U. High swim team will be competing in the John Burroughs Invitational, then the Friday after that the squad will look to dominate the MICDS Invitational. Both invitationals take place at fantastic facilities that provide great opportunities for time improvement. After months of traversing the tempered ocean waves, land is finally visible, yet many more swimmers still need to board the boat before arrival time.

Prep News Athlete of the Week



Grant Locker
Sophomore forward, Varsity Soccer

- 5 goals in past 4 games
- Game winning goal against Vianney

Be Curious: *Ted Lasso* could change your life

BY LUKE DUFFY
WEB EDITOR

Throughout the turbulence of the past two years, people have turned to various coping methods to ease their struggles. One witty, quotable, feel-good show that has made noteworthy impact at St. Louis U. High and across America during the pandemic is Jason Sudeikis’s *Ted Lasso*.

The series, an Apple TV-exclusive, is based on an extended commercial Sudeikis produced for NBC Sports when the network started airing English Premier League Soccer. The commercials were entertaining, but the thought of a short promo turning into an Emmy-winning TV series seemed preposterous.

Ted Lasso is about an American high school football coach from Kansas City who is tapped to coach AFC Richmond, an English Premier League soccer team, despite having no experi-

ence coaching soccer. The show will make you an immediate fan of this fictional team. However, it ascends far above the soccer pitch, cleverly capturing the complexity of human relationships, empathy, and self-confidence.

“It was a model for kind of emotional empathy and emotional regulation, and how those are skills that are so necessary for success in this world but unacknowledged by so many in a competitive context,” said Director of the Learning Center Tim Curdt. “It was just nice to see them doing an exploration of this kind of journey, that seems on the surface of it so ridiculous.”

From the closed-minded, angry-faced team captain Roy Kent to the narcissistic top scorer Jamie Tartt, each character on the show is on a journey of self-improvement. By focusing holistically on each character’s development, the show ensures that its audience is

always captivated no matter who is on screen.

“It’s the perfect balance of comedy, like there are moments that Roy Kent makes me laugh out loud, but also the story and characters you care about,” said English teacher Adam Cruz. “My main selling point is that there are no bad characters in the show, and I don’t mean morally bad because there are some, but there’s nobody in the show that you’re like, oh damn, it’s a scene of so and so I don’t care about this person.”

Ted Lasso strikes a perfect balance between comedy and reality. Any given episode will have you laughing until your sides ache while also teaching you life lessons.

“It always leaves me with a layer of complicated emotional responses in really powerful ways,” said Curdt. “It’s not afraid to unpack complexity to you and be damn funny all along.”

For an ambitious show like this, it would be easy to burn out after one season. However, the second season, whose finale aired on Oct. 8, introduces new characters, expands the story arcs of additional characters, and dives deeper into the complexities of human relationships.

“What I also think is pretty courageous about the show is, it took season two, and it was not afraid to deconstruct its own hero myth,” said Curdt. “The journey Ted goes on in season two, and is still on, includes lessons everyone has things to learn, and every message gets complicated and challenged, and it’s not just simplistic.”

In the era of the internet, many shows have been judged on whether their characters are quotable, or say lines that are memo-

rable. *Ted Lasso* might just be the most quotable show out there. One of the central ideas of the show is to “believe” and the notion that we should encourage each other to believe in ourselves.

“Ted talks about believing and it’s introduced in a really dramatic way in season one, that first initial quote when he quotes Whitman, ‘be curious, not judgmental.’ It’s a really powerful lesson: what do I have to learn in the system situation, instead of just reacting on autopilot to whatever has emotionally triggered me in this moment,” said Curdt.

Ted Lasso’s wisdom has not only spoken to SLUH English teachers. Many students have also latched onto the show and its complex lessons.

“The overall comedy of *Ted Lasso* draws me to the show,” said junior Cal Kreuter. “Ted Lasso taught me to go for what your heart tells you to do. Act on what you truly want or need, and don’t just make a big decision because you’ve got people pressuring you to do so.”

“It’s a good perspective on mental health,” said junior Harrison Freihoff. “It helps me to be open, and it helps you relate to other people’s experiences because you don’t know what other people are going through.”

Perhaps you have heard chatter among peers about *Ted Lasso*. Perhaps a teacher has quoted Ted in class or referred to a moment from the show. *Ted Lasso* is making a big impact on the SLUH community, and I encourage everyone to give it a try. It might just change your life.

“You will laugh, you will learn more about yourself than you think, and you’ll be a better person because of it,” said Curdt.

Students construct model plane to display iLab capabilities



Plane in the iLab. photo | Courtesy of Theo Agniel

BY MICAH DOHERTY AND
THOMAS JUERGENS
REPORTERS

said Schaffer.

The students, with their trial and error method, are trying to make the aircraft fly, and to include add-ons, or tiers, as they go along. In this way of learning, the students will brainstorm after they complete a significant portion of the aircraft to think of an interesting accompaniment that could go along with the design of the plane.

These add-ons are also an essential part because of the uses that the iLab is planning for the plane in the future. They hope to use the remote-controlled aircraft during football games, Running of the Bills, and pep rallies to help gain more support and enthusiasm from the crowd. These things could be made possible with things like a waving banner in the sky reading “Let’s Go Bills!” or deploying rubber bracelets from its bomber bay to show SLUH spirit.

The plane project is not only an opportunity for SLUH students to help with the Innovation Lab, but also for middle schoolers shadowing SLUH’s campus to experience one facet of the school. The shadows, on their shadow day, get to either pick to go on a tour of the grounds or have the iLab Experience where they are able to help develop the plane and discover the features of the iLab.

“Connecting with shadows can be really difficult because many of them are a bit timid,” said Haefer. “However, when you are forced to solve a problem with them, you gain a sense of friendship and teamwork that shows what SLUH is all about.”

“What we’re trying to do is showcase the possibilities of what the iLab creates for our student experience here,” said Admissions Coordinator Jennifer Thomas. “We also try to show the potential in the iLab that is, in our opinion, pretty far advanced for an innovation lab space in a secondary school setting.”

By showing the different machines in the Innovation Lab, and involving the shadows in the plane construction experience, the Admissions team and the iLab team are encouraging shadows to come to SLUH to help inspire their innovative potential and showcase SLUH’s ability to bring their creations to life.

“We designed this project to help give a hands-on experience to the shadows touring SLUH so that they can feel included in a real life project happening in real time with our design team,” said Haefer. “I am especially proud to be a part of the team because I feel that I can relate to the shadows.”

The Innovation Lab is creating an eight-foot model of a Martin B-57 Canberra bomber plane that was used in the Vietnam War to help showcase the iLab’s possibilities to visiting shadow students. This project also gives members of the STEM program a problem to solve: how to make the plane fly. “We decided to choose the B-57 to show off our iLab’s many machines and printers because it is very complex and you really can’t just go buy a builder kit for it; making this aircraft unique to SLUH,” said iLab ambassador PJ Haefer.

Though this aircraft was originally made to drop missiles and bombs, the iLab’s team has, obviously, needed to make some changes to it in order to have an appropriate size and use for it. Their re-engineered plane is intended to be ready by February, which is no small task for the group being faced with challenges such as making the plane fly for longer periods of time, deciding what materials would best fit the plane’s flying mechanics, and dozens of other issues.

“We’ve got the overall original specs, a couple of reference images, and some ideas of how we want the plane to turn out,” said Innovation Lab Director Jeff Schaefer. “From that point, we are learning how to scale the whole thing down and recreate the geometry of the B-57.”

Schaefer has been helping the students progress in making the plane with his expertise on the subject. Using his teaching philosophy of being able to fail and make wrong decisions to learn from your mistakes, he has helped his students develop their engineering capabilities.

“I like to try to push the creativity level of the students in ways of saying, ‘Well that is doable and feasible but what if we made it a little bit harder? What if it was more realistic-looking?’ and that keeps the conversation going for brainstorming,” said Schaefer.

Failure is not looked down upon in the Innovation Lab, but rather celebrated. Messing something up in the iLab shows that the student is going outside of his comfort zone to try something new.

“Down here, we like to try to push boundaries, and failure is a safe turn to take. That may be scary to people, but, at the same time, you learn the quickest through failure. So, we need to be able to embrace that failure is part of the learning process,”



art | Colin Schuler

Around the Hallways

Mothers Club Cookie Sales

One of the highlights of Jr. Bills’ year is when a group of smiling moms strides through the doors with armfuls of cookies. The spread featured everything from delectable chocolate chip, to melt-in-your-mouth peanut butter. With their stomachs and mouths full, students returned to class, their hearts equally as fed.

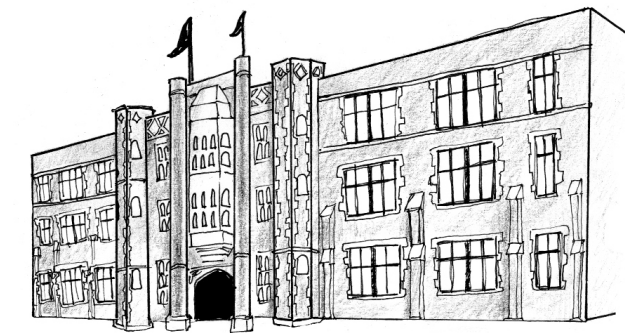
Senior Class Mass

This week, members of the senior class gathered together in the Chapel for Mass, the first time that they had done so as a full group since they were sophomores. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Matt Stewart, SJ, and

reading roles were filled by the Senior Pastoral Team. The seniors’ main takeaway from this Mass was to spread gasoline across the world and set it on fire, which was surely Stewart’s intention.

Drive for the Homeless

This past Wednesday, the Junior Pastoral Team kicked off Campus Ministry’s annual Drive for the Homeless. As part of the Drive, students are encouraged to bring in items like blankets, winter hats, and fresh socks that can be used to keep homeless members of the community warm during the winter. Also, just like the recent Food Drive, there is a competition between classes, so, if for no



other reason, bring in items so that the freshmen don’t win this drive AGAIN.

McKenna’s Mandolin

Those who have walked around the second floor of the Backer Memorial in the mornings before homeroom would have been hard-pressed not to have noticed

a bearded man walking the halls, strumming a stringed instrument. This mystery man is school counselor Ken McKenna, and his instrument is a mandolin, which is played similarly to a guitar.

— Compiled by Jackson Cooper and Alex Preusser

Have any spooky and scary Halloween stories or hilarious jokes? Email them to prepnews@sluh.org to be featured in next week’s *Prep News*!

Students respond to KMOV story with some mixed reviews

(continued from page 1)
said Oden. “We felt that the only way to get them to even consider making everybody wear a mask again we were going to have to go to some real media.” During the segment, one parent and six students, including Oden, were interviewed, all anonymously. Additionally, an anonymous email from a SLUH teacher was included in the report. Each of the interviewees expressed their dislike for the school’s mask recommended policy, each stating their frustration and anger at the school and its policy.

“The majority of us wanted to stay anonymous only because going up against an administration that usually is good to the students isn’t something that looks good on you in the eyes of the administration and we didn’t know if it was on the grounds for possible disciplinary action,” said Oden.

The initial KMOV piece did not include any interviews or opinions from students who were in favor of the policy change. This seemingly one-sided reporting sparked discussion amongst students on Tuesday, many of whom felt that the article was an unfair representation of the entire student body’s feelings towards the policy.

“I think the report had too small of a sample size of six students and I don’t think it accurately portrayed what most of the students think about the mask policy,” said sophomore Ethan Herweck.

“The report only looked at a specific group of people and didn’t look at the larger percentage of the student population, which I thought was problematic,” said junior George Mikalas. “However, it showed well how one group of students viewed the problem and it was a good look at how one group can look at the mask policy.”

The initial story indicated that the administration would not answer questions in regards to the school violating the mask policy, yet the article explained that Principal Ian Gibbons S.J. was unable to be reached for comment.

“They reached out to my office on Monday but I was on the way to the airport so I was

unable to talk,” said Gibbons. “I have spoken to my administrative team, and none that I know of were contacted. The only attempt I know of made by KMOV to contact the administration was that one attempt and I was not available.”

The original report left administrators and students alike feeling disappointed and frustrated.

“I was very very disappointed in the report,” said Gibbons. “The representation that was presented in that story was very one sided and was really an unfortunate framing of the realities of what we’ve been doing and was not representative of our efforts to curb the pandemic at SLUH.”

Despite some accusing KMOV of one-sided reporting in the original report, other students felt like was an excellent way to bring to light a group of students and parents who felt like their voices were not being heard by the administration.

“I think that the report was purely subjective and did not report on the school’s feeling as a whole but it provided a great insight into the marginalized populations in SLUH,” said senior Xavier Jallow. “I felt like the story was directed for those marginalized people at SLUH and to tell their story.”

Following the release of the original news report, KMOV’s Facebook post was swarmed with critical comments both from members of the SLUH community and from St. Louis

residents. Students took matters into their own hands when many either emailed the reporter or called KMOV’s newsroom, imploring that they more accurately report the story.

“It was a blindsided attack against SLUH and I think a lot of students, alumni, teachers, and parents felt as though it was a misrepresentation of the majority opinion of the school,” said senior Ethan Steingrubby.

After receiving the outpouring of support for SLUH’s mask policy, KMOV aired another story Tuesday night, this time interviewing five anonymous students in support of the schools mask recommended policy and a named parent also in support of the policy. Also included in this report was the school’s official vaccination and transmissions rates.

“They ran story A, people are upset, then they came back with story B, people are in support. Then there is a story C, which is what I’m most interested in, which is what is happening that is newsworthy and what can we do to educate and inform the public,” said Linhares. “But that story C didn’t air in either of the KMOV stories and I wished it had.”

Even after both stories aired, administrators and students alike felt like the story did more harm than good. Many felt like instead of helping to ease tensions already found within the school, both of the stories caused tensions to flare to even greater extremes.



The St. Louis City Health Department told News 4 private schools are required to follow the city-wide mask mandate that was reinstated on October 1.



KMOV.COM
St. Louis University High parents, students and teachers outraged after school relaxes mask mandate

256
272 Comments 19 Shares
KMOV’s facebook post. photo | courtesy of KMOV facebook

Explore! SLUH Night showcases various aspects of school community

(continued from page 1)
beginning of the pandemic.

As many upperclassmen will recall, past Octobers at SLUH have featured an event known as SLUH Night, which welcomed prospective families to campus and allowed for faculty and students to share presentations on various aspects of the school. While typically well-attended, SLUH Night often received mixed feedback due in large part to the fact that the time duration was often longer than expected- in 2019, for example, the event ran nearly an hour past the scheduled end time. Due to Covid concerns, SLUH Night was cancelled last year, and when the time for planning came around this year, the decision was made to scrap the concept altogether and instead adapt to create Ex-

plore! SLUH Night.

“Over the summer, we sort of looked at everything that we were doing, and we talked about how we could maybe improve off of SLUH Night. We sat down and talked about what it could look like in terms of giving people a chance to move around the building, and not just sit there for a couple hours,” said Director of Admissions Ann Murphy.

Explore! SLUH Night started at 7:30 on Thursday night, as prospective families gathered in the Si Commons, which was partitioned due to the going-away event being hosted for the Chilean exchange students in the other half. Families then sat for a 30-minute presentation by Principal Ian Gibbons, SJ and Assistant Principal for Academics Kevin Foy, which was cen-

tered largely on the academic and student life aspects of the SLUH experience.

From there, families then continued on to a series of 20 minute presentations focused on a variety of topics, including Athletics, Student Life, Fine Arts, STEAM, and Campus Ministry, of which they attended three. In the sign-up process for the event, registrants were asked to rank the presentation topics by order of choice, allowing them to learn about the aspects of the school that they were most interested in.

In order to give families the best possible overview of each subject area, each individual presentation was put on by faculty members. The Athletics presentation, for example, was hosted by Athletic Direc-

Ahhhh! A breath of fresh air as SLUH lifts its mask policy

(continued from page 1)
metrics,” said principal Ian Gibbons. “We’ve been evaluating very carefully what at what point if we could shift, potentially down to Condition 2. And our numbers have been very very low.”

The school began the year in the Condition 3, which dictated that all persons on campus must wear a mask when indoors. The plan stated that when the school had a large number of the student body vaccinated and a regional positivity rate of less than 10 percent, and R₀ less than 1.2, then the school would shift to Condition 2. Currently, 90 percent of students and 92 percent of staff are vaccinated, and the regional positivity rate is 4 percent. A defining quality of Condition 2: masks are no longer mandatory, but recommended.

“We are doing an amazing job in the region and at SLUH,” said Gibbons. “We’ve had one case in 19 days, which is simply remarkable, and a testament to the strong commitment our community has had. So, you know, by all of those metrics, that was the plan.”

After the announcement, members of the school community began questioning if the school was defying the city’s mask mandate that went into effect on Oct. 3. Administrators interpreted the Health Commissioner’s Order No. 3 as saying that the mandate only applies to public places such as a library or restaurant and that SLUH does not qualify as a public space.

“We are a closed community, and everyone who is in this community has to go through a strict process for screening them daily,” said Gibbons. “We know their vaccination status. We know that they’re willing and able to comply with our safety policies, and that’s restricted to the building.”

After the announcement was made in Gibbons’s weekly Parent Connect, students immediately began discussing the new policy and sharing their thoughts about SLUH going mask recommended.

“I enjoy the new mask optional policy, I think it is a good way to start out a new quarter

and bring some new life to the school,” said sophomore Charlie Gray.

“I am really happy that SLUH is letting students choose if they want to wear their mask or not because I know that a lot of people have different opinions about masks and coronavirus and so I think this was just a really good move by the administration,” agreed freshman Gregory Clemons.

While many students expressed their joy at being able to discard their masks, the announcement was met with sharp criticism from a small group within the student body.

“I feel that, although a lot of people were excited to get their mask off, and I kind of felt the same way last year, looking at where the school is now, I feel like the numbers were low because of masks,” said sophomore Courtney Lucas. “I feel like that doesn’t exactly mean that the next step should be to remove masks, because that was the main procedure that was keeping the numbers down.”

Outside of the student body, teachers began to also weigh in on the administration’s decision to switch to a mask recommended policy. Some voiced support for the change, while others voiced concerns in regards to their personal health and well-being.

“I agree with it 100 percent, even though I am still wearing a mask,” said theology teacher Dick Wehner. “I just got my third Pfizer yesterday, so I’ve got my booster. I believe in the science. I believe it’s been tested. I think it ensures that I have a high level of tolerance now.”

“I’ve got a bad heart valve which concerns me, mostly because I’ve got stage four cancer, and I get treatment every three weeks,” said science teacher Bill Anderson. “It makes me a little bit more vulnerable, as somebody who already has health issues. Also this morning I was at the doctors and I looked at all the people around me that are in way worse condition than I am. Thinking about the possibility of carrying something from here with all these unmasked individuals into a setting like that is terrifying.”

With tensions rising in the

school Monday, many students felt caught within the culture wars, unable to fully comprehend how they should personally address the new policy announcement.

“At first I thought it was a big change, and a good change at that, but I kind of see both sides now,” said senior Jack Feise. “I know a lot of my friends are strongly for and strongly against the new policy but at this point I am unsure.”

“I want to wear my mask, but sometimes I feel pressured to not wear it and feel awkward if I have it on,” said sophomore Declan Richards. “We either have to put ourselves at risk to fit in, or feel really awkward wearing a mask and sometimes people make fun of you if you have a mask on.”

Despite some criticism and confusion swarming the school, many students are appreciative of the sense of normalcy that the change in policy has brought. Many feel that the change allows the school to feel more connected and personable.

“I feel like it has broken down another barrier that has prevented me from really connecting with other people,” said senior Sam Quinlivan. “There is something just really nice about seeing people smile in the morning. While the policy might have its drawback, I think overall it is positive.”

“The mask optional policy brings back nice nostalgia to my freshman year,” said junior Daniel Irvine. “But it is also a weird feeling to see students without masks and not wearing one around the building.”

While the transition will undoubtedly be awkward or difficult for members of the SLUH community, the decision to go mask recommended is based solely on data points and not student or faculty opinions.

“We’ve lost our ability to talk about safety and rational ways that we as a community can protect ourselves in regard to public health,” said Gibbons. “Are there going to be people that are upset by the wearing of masks or not wearing masks? Probably, but that sentiment has been out there for quite some time.”

Student photos from Fall Ball



Top left: The Crossword Club taking photos before the dance.

Top right: Seniors Gus Tettamble and Ned Mehmeti dancing in the moshpit.

Bottom left: Senior Jack Christanell leading the seniors in the official senior dance.

SLUHSERS 8:



BRIGHT, SHINING
FACES



SLUHSers | Jude Reed

Calendar

Friday, October 22A Day

- Drive for the Homeless
- Senior Mom Cookie Sale
- Mix-it-up Lunch
- StudiumCase Western Reserve University
- 3:45PMBig River Country Invitational (JV/V2)
- 3:45PMClayton Cross Country Invitational (JV/V2)
- 5:30PMJV Soccer vs John Burroughs
- 7:15PMB Team CBC Soccer Tournament (vs Francis Howell)
- 7:15PMVarsity Soccer vs MICDS

Saturday, October 23

- Drive for the Homeless
- Cross Country District Race
- 9:00AMJohn Burroughs Swimming Invitational
- 9:00AMC Team SLL Soccer Tournament Game #1
- 10:30AMC Team SLL Soccer Tournament Game #2
- 12:00PMC Team SLL Soccer Tournament Game #3
- 1:30PMC Team SLL Soccer Tournament Game #4
- 2:30PMVarsity Football vs McCluer

Sunday, October 24

- Drive for the Homeless
- 10:00AMMother/Son Mass and Brunch

Monday, October 25B Day

- Drive for the Homeless
- StudiumUniversity of Mississippi
- 1:00PMMother/Son Mass and Brunch
- 4:00PMSwimming vs Chaminade
- 5:00PMB Football vs McCluer
- 5:30PMC Soccer SLL Tournament Game #1
- 7:00PMC Soccer SLL Tournament Game #2

Tuesday, October 26A Day

Wednesday, October 27B Day

- Drive for the Homeless
- StudiumBrandeis University, University of Toledo, Rockhurst University
- 9:00AMBlood Drive
- 4:15PMFindley Memorial Cross Country Invitational (C/JV)
- 6:00PMC Soccer SLL Tournament Game #1
- 7:00PMC Soccer SLL Tournament Game #2

Thursday, October 28A Day

- Parent-Teacher Conferences (after school)
 - StudiumProvidence College
- calendar | Ben Croat

Pop out to Senior Night tonight at 7:15 as the fútbills take on MICDS and make history!

Prep News

Volume 86, Issue 8

Editor in Chief

Jack “had a Catho-lit time” Figge

Editor

Nathan “I don’t remember” Rich

News Editor

Roarke “lived a dream” Unrau

Visual Editor

Charlie “when is fall ball?” Bieg

Web Editor

Luke “cried about Ben” Duffy

Core Staff

Jackson “evaded the police” Cooper
Louis “making curfew” Cornett
Jack “hit the gym” Rybak

Staff

Coby “got a good night’s sleep” Spratte
Alex “ate an entire cookie cake” Preusser
George “House Tours and ate pretzels” Henken

Reporters

Mark “ate a slinger” Wappler
Jack “spent 200 dollars” Polansky
Andrew “ironed my suit” Hunt
Charles “partied with one arm” Turnell
Austin “solved quadratics” Wald
Lucas “did all the reporters’ reads” Hayden
Thomas “racquetball in my suit” Juergens
Micah “drank a 32 oz milkshake” Doherty
Michael “made crosswords” Baudendistel
Ben “cried about Luke” Croat
Drew “did not talk to my date” Figge
Theo “dunked” Agniel
Charlie “cried” Vonderheid

Credits

“What did you do after Fall Ball?”

Artists

Alex “asked Jackson for PSAT answers” Deiters
Jude “made SLUHSers for the next 72 weeks” Reed
Will “returned my rented suit” Blaisdell

Photographers

Mrs. Kathy “worked on the server” Chott
Dr. Brock “looked for Keegan” Kesterson
Nick “made model planes” Sanders

Guest Moderator

Mr. Stephen “listened to Taylor Swift” Deves

Moderator

Steve “graded essays” Missey