



At a Glance

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Moving Right Along

Admin announces transition to Condition I of safety plan

BY JACK FIGGE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The St. Louis U. High administration announced two weeks ago that the school would be transitioning to Condition II, most notably signifying that masks were no longer mandated but recommended. On Tuesday, the administration determined that the school could transition to Condition I of its safety plan, marking the first time since the beginning of the pandemic that SLUH has gone below Condition II.

On July 25, 2021, the school outlined its safety plan

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Travel

Groups of SLUH students travel to D.C. and to Colorado. *Pg 2*

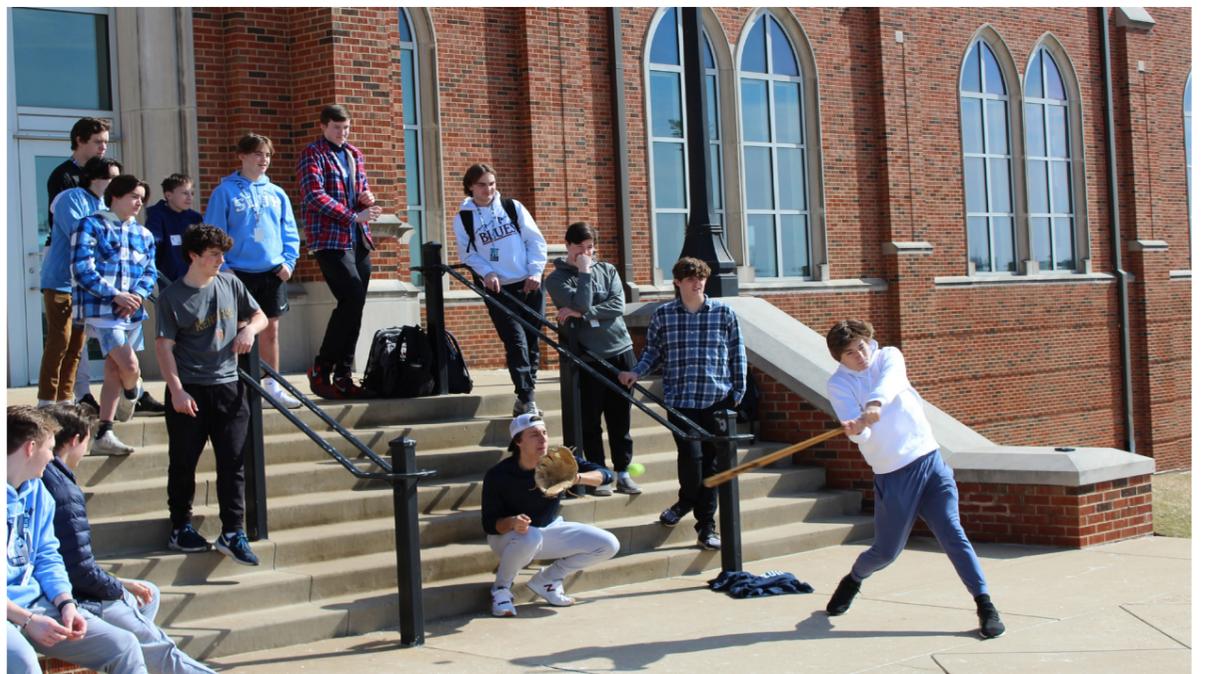


News

Prep News defeats STUCO in Mission Week victory. *Pg 7*

RAISING MONEY WHILE HAVING FUN

STUCO supports Covenant House in annual Mission Week, raises \$6500



Students attempt to hit Steve Missey's fastballs during the faculty festival.

photo | Jack Figge

BY ALEX PREUSSER AND
MATTHEW MUSIAL
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

Did you go watch Prep News beat StuCo in an epic basketball game or enjoy Bridge Bread in the

turnaround? Or perhaps you decided to partake in both activities. These two events were just a couple of the components of Mission Week, an annual week-long campaign to raise money and awareness for a particular cause,

this year: youth homelessness. SLUH partnered with Covenant House, an organization that helps homeless youth in the St. Louis area, to combine school spirit-related activities to garner donations from students to benefit those

in need.

"I think there's a lot going on in terms of issues with housing, homelessness, food insecurity, access to education, access to hygiene products," said student body Vice

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We rise again from ashes: school celebrates first Mass back in Commons

BY DREW FIGGE AND
VINCENT WEINBAUER
REPORTERS

This week's Ash Wednesday Mass kicked off the Lenten season for the SLUH community. For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, the school celebrated Mass with the entire student body in the Commons.

"Having everyone together in that very beautiful space is something that I have deeply missed since the beginning of the pandemic," said principal Fr. Ian Gibbons, SJ. "Being in the Commons compared to the Field House makes the entire liturgy feel more sacred and respected."

In order to comply with

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Dancing the Night Away

Sno-Ball provides upperclassmen with relaxing, fun evening

BY JACK FIGGE AND
WILL RIGGAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF, REPORTER

Sweat dripping from the ceiling, energetic teenagers bouncing up and down, students visibly grinning from ear to ear: it may sound like a snapshot from a different era. But after two years, students relished a night of moshing

and dancing the night away at the annual Sno-Ball.

Sno-Ball has been a SLUH upperclassmen tradition for many years now. However, the Covid-19 pandemic forced the dance to be cancelled last year. This year, the dance made a full return, giving the upperclassmen an evening of enjoyment and fun as the long winter

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Dauphin Players ready for Addams Family



The opening number of the musical. photo | Jack Figge

BY LUKE DUFFY AND
ANDREW HUNT
EDITOR IN CHIEF,

Ghouls, ghosts and ghouly love: all of these elements contribute to the St. Louis University High's Dau-

phin's Players production of the Addams Family.

The Addams Family has a longstanding history in pop culture. Originally appearing as single frame cartoons in The New Yorker drawn by

Musical shares comical story of a ghastly family, sure to entertain

cartoonist Charles Addams, it was quickly adapted into a TV series (1991) and later a movie. The story follows a family of monsters as they attempt to confront the world of humans. Even though it is a show focused on the lives of monsters, the SLUH production team knew that this would be the perfect show, the first one in front of an

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Senior Jack Andrew is lifted above the moshpit. photo | Jack Figge

Pow = Shredded: Ski Bills get gnarly on the slopes on annual OAC trip

BY MARK WAPPLER
STAFF

During the extended President's Day weekend, a group of 15 Jr. Bills from SLUH's Outdoor Adventure Club embarked on their annual voyage to the Rocky Mountains. Being able to go gliding down the slopes of Vail, Keystone, and Breckenridge in a full "Tour de Colorado," the boys had an eventful, and exhausting, three and a half days at altitudes that sometimes reached 10,000 feet high. Navigating icy slopes and plane difficulties, this motley crew of skiers and snowboarders was led by history teacher Bob O'Connell, ASC volunteer Chris Stahl, and PE teacher Patrick Zarrick, the faculty leader of SLUH OAC.

The group's journey kicked off early Friday morning when they boarded a Southwest Airlines flight from Saint Louis to Denver. There, the group split accordingly into three vans and headed straight to Keystone to hit the slopes to make the most of their time together. After obtaining their gear and setting it down in their two condos, the Jr. Bills spent the rest of the afternoon and evening skiing under the mountain lights, something that sets Keystone apart from the other ski resorts in the state. Blessed with short lift lines, the boys were able to enjoy multiple rides at altitudes unknown to many St. Louisans.

"The runs weren't too icy and you could see the snow powder in the trees along the run," said senior Flynn



(Left to right) Seniors Nico Schmidt, Thomas Ziegler, Flynn O'Connell, and Colin Bryan. selfie | Colin Bryan

O'Connell. "It was a different experience skiing in the dark; the shadows made it a lot harder to judge the snow, so it would have probably been a bit easier, and more beautiful, to ski during the day."

One worry that Zarrick had before taking off for Colorado was the sheer change in elevation that the group would experience after leaving from St. Louis. Most travelers to the Centennial State experience symptoms of altitude sickness after difficulty acclimating to the change in elevation. Zarrick feared that the SLUH students would be no exception.

"It was definitely one of my biggest concerns going into the trip," said Zarrick. "A rapid rise from basically 600 feet in St. Louis to 10,000 up on the mountains can cause some issues. Surprisingly, the guys did a good job hydrating before the trip and we didn't have any major issues."

The following morning, the caravan departed west from their condo headquar-

ters in Keystone for an hour-long road trip to the nationally famous slopes at Vail. Though dressed for the bone-chilling Colorado winter, the students found themselves unzipping their coats and taking off some layers as the temperature at the summit reached almost 50 degrees. These surprising temperatures, combined with short lift lines once again, created an enjoyable day in Vail for the group.

"The temperatures were in the high forties when we got there," said senior Nico Schmidt. "Even though I had a rough time skiing with some of the more advanced skiers in the group, the weather definitely made up for it."

After their experience at Vail, the boys once again packed into the vans Sunday morning and headed out to Breckenridge, a 20-minute drive from their condos in Keystone. There, they put on their ski boots only to be met with the cold Colorado wind hitting their face and new crowds of

skiers and snowboarders that they, up to that point, had not had to experience yet.

"It was a holiday weekend, so it was generally expected to be crowded," said Zarrick. "We thought there would be big crowds at all the resorts, but they were quieter than expected. At Breckenridge, however, I'd say we had to wait 15 to 20 minutes to get up onto the mountain from the lift at ground level."

Despite dealing with some flight cancellations Sunday night due to inclement weather conditions, the group was able to enjoy their last day in Colorado on the slopes at Keystone near their condos. After saying goodbye to the heights of the rolling Rocky Mountains, the boys were forced to stay grounded in the Denver airport as their flights were late coming in. Losing some luggage along the way, the group finally made it home at around 1 a.m. Monday was definitely the longest day for the company.

"I was extremely exhausted from skiing all weekend; my legs were sore and that, mixed with all the rushing around, left me very jet lagged and tired," said senior John West. "I was just ready to sleep in my own bed."

Throughout the expedition, the snow Bills were forced to come out of their comfort zones to face the daunting slopes of Colorado. Several members of the group, including senior Tad Gray, were new to skiing and were baptized by fire out on the rides. After taking some lessons, and some

falls, he and the other new skiers were confident in going down black diamonds with the rest of the conditioned skiers.

"I had no clue what I was doing that first Friday night," said Gray. "So I found myself plowing my face into the snow a lot. But I feel like it helped me learn what it was like to fall when I took lessons the next day."

A proper ski trip could not go without some failures and wipeouts out on the rides. O'Connell, a new skier who was performing flawlessly throughout the weekend, injured his shoulder when he fell on the last day of the expedition. Zarrick, however, attained his injury not on the slopes but rather in the group's seemingly safe condo when he jammed his big toe on a rogue ski boot.

"I also dinged up my right shoulder, but I was distracted by my toe pain from my shoulder pain, so it all worked out in the end," said Zarrick.

All in all, the OAC ski trip succeeded in achieving

the original goal of the club: getting SLUH students to go outside and smell the roses, or, in this case, shred the pow together. Through the literal low and high points of the weekend, this special group of Jr. Bills were able to grow a closer bond with their fellow classmates and faculty members on a trip that bore some scars that will force them never to forget it.

"So many of us spend so much time in front of screens and it makes us get disconnected from the outdoors and nature," said Zarrick. "Taking part in these experiences gives the students an opportunity to do an athletic and recreational endeavor in just some gorgeous scenery with a group of friends and classmates."

The SLUH Outdoor Adventure Club will be doing some local outings during the spring, but is planning to go on another hiking and camping trip this summer. Keep a lookout in your inbox for more information in weeks to come.



OAC after a long day on the slopes.

photo | Courtesy of Patrick Zarrick

Jr. Bills have gone Washington

Students explore politics and law in DC, speak with alumni in various fields

BY LUKE DUFFY
WEB EDITOR

Presidents' Day weekend is a time to remember and celebrate George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, two of the greatest presidents in U.S. History. It was also a time for ten Jr. Bills to travel to the nation's capital to learn about careers in politics, law, and journalism and consider how they can shape the future of the United States.

The trip, chaperoned by social studies teachers Sarah Becvar and Tom Zinselmeyer, included seniors Tag Arens, Will Broun, Eli Dernlan, Ethan Evans, Xavier Jallow,

Peter James, Ismael Karim, and Luke Pierson, and juniors Amon Binder and Luke Duffy. Each of the students demonstrated a particular interest in government and/or law and a desire to explore professions in these areas.

From their early morning flight on Thursday, Feb. 17 to the moment they landed back in St. Louis on Saturday night, Feb. 19, the students on the trip imitated politicians and lawyers through their attire and packed schedules. In three short days, they met with dozens of alumni of various ages and occupations and presented the alumni with questions over their ca-

reers and how they have accomplished their goals.

"I heard a lot of what I needed to hear," said Pierson. "I'm very interested in going to law school. And hearing the tips, like, 'Hey, this is what you want to do. After undergrad you want to take a gap year or two.' Or you know, 'you want to go to undergrad for as cheap as possible' was very helpful. These are things that I've heard before, but to hear it from guys who are working in big firms, you know, or from people who are doing exactly what my dream jobs are, it means a lot more."

From Mark Grider '90, a lawyer in the Congressional Investigation practice at a private law firm, to John Wagner '87, a long-time political journalist for the Washington Post, to Mike Frueh '87, who works in Benefits for the Department of Veterans Affairs, the trip exposed students to alumni in a wide variety of fields.

"It kind of reaffirmed my aspirations to go into either law or politics and learn how they kind of intersect with medicine," said Jallow. "I think I'm really steadfast on my medical journey, but

just linking up with alumni, it kind of reaffirms the many opportunities and new windows for me to pursue my career and more tangible fashion."

The students had their first meeting with Grider in his office at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft. They then went to the office of Ed Krauze '87, CEO of the D.C. Association of Realtors to meet with D.C. Vote, an organization that fights for D.C. statehood, and Wagner.

On Thursday night, the students participated in an alumni reunion where they had the opportunity to strike up more casual conversations with alumni living in D.C. The reunion drew alumni from the class of 1963 to the class of 2018, a wide array of men who took a variety of different paths after graduating from SLUH. The gathering gave students an opportunity to learn about the career choices of Jr. Bills before them, and the alumni a chance to learn about the changes and continuities at the Backer memorial campus.

Students spent the bulk of Friday in meetings with more alumni. They met with Greg

Stohr '86, a Supreme Court reporter for Bloomberg, and Pete Driscoll '87, the former Director of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Division of Examinations. After that, they had a lunch meeting with Jim Brown, a Chaminade grad who has worked as a lobbyist for the city of St. Louis for decades. They then headed to the Washington National Cathedral and spoke with Chris Calsyn '95, the Cathedral's Chief Legal Advisor. After touring the Cathedral, they met with Frueh at the Veterans Affairs Department.

After two long days of meetings, the students were able to spend the last day acting more like tourists. They visited Arlington National Cemetery and watched the changing of the guard, had lunch in Georgetown and toured the campus of Georgetown University with Connor Worley '18, and finished the day at the Smithsonian Museum of American History before they had to catch their flight home.

"I find our government and our politics to be both really interesting and really important," said Stohr. "The more people are exposed to

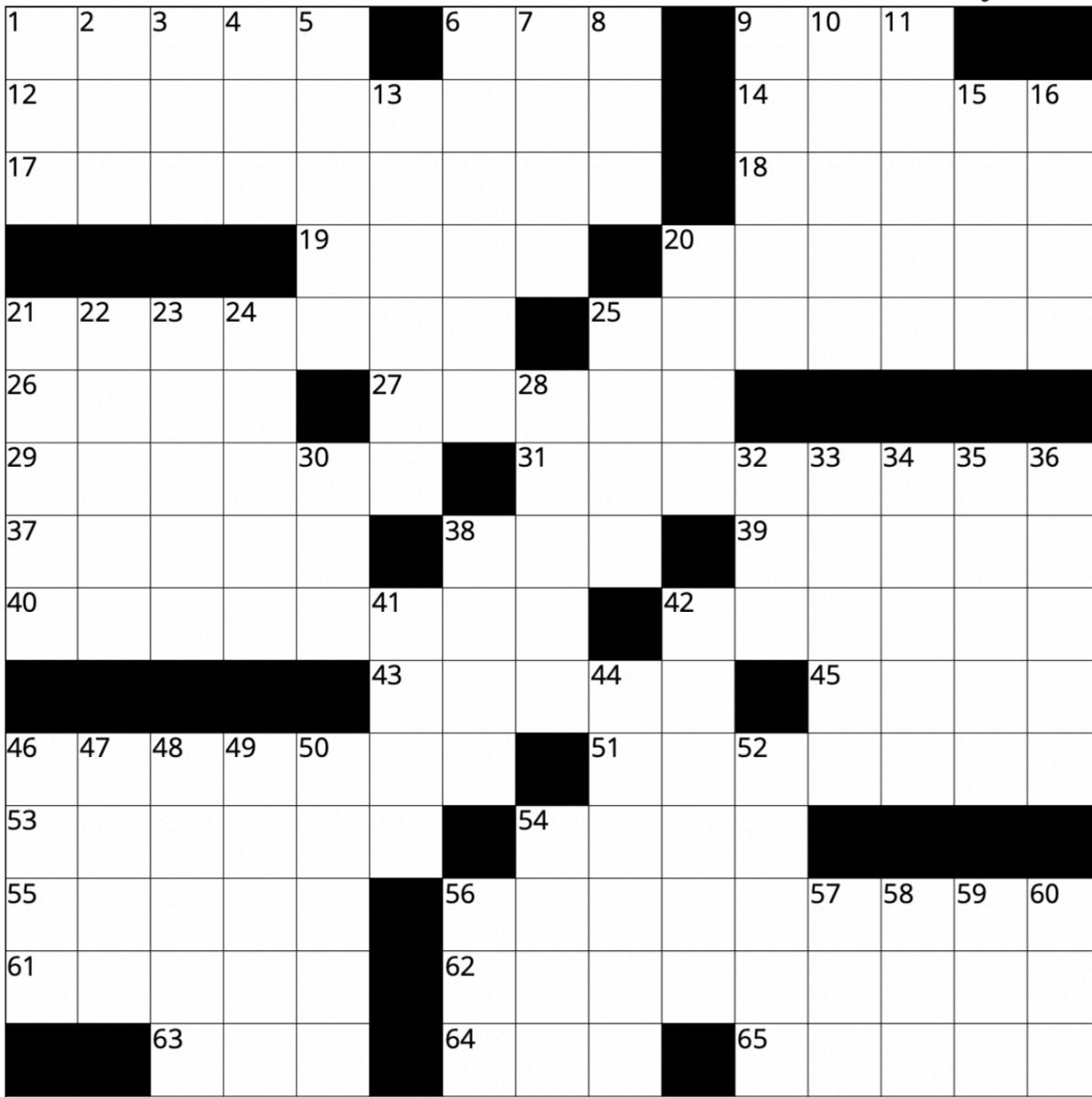
them and learn about them, it can only be a good thing for our country, especially at a time when civic education is not at its best. It's just a chance for you guys to see something new, learn something more, and maybe it will spark an interest in what you want to do, whether it's in D.C. or elsewhere."

"I couldn't be happier with how the trip went," said Becvar. "This year, many of our students seem to be very interested in law school. I think the themes that emerged from our meetings included whether to take a gap year between undergrad and law school, how to choose your undergraduate university and law school, and how to choose a career path that is rewarding and also mission-driven. Our students had many discussions about working in the private vs. public sectors since we met with alums in both spheres. I couldn't be more proud of our students; they were prepared with great questions for all our alums and therefore I think they came away with some great insights and ideas about their futures."



Jr. Bills posing in front of the Lincoln Memorial on their first night in DC. photo | Sarah Becvar

PN Puzzle: Geometry Dash



Crossword | Paul Baudendistel

- 25. *Dead end
26. They're never "civil"
27. Homer Simpson, e.g.
29. Vitamin used to treat high cholesterol
31. *Yield
37. Confederacy counterpart
38. Creator of the first YouTube video to achieve one billion views
39. Pamplona runners
40. *School
42. Critics who can't be satisfied
43. Lose slowly, as support or soil
45. John who played Peacemaker in The Suicide Squad
46. *No passing zone
51. Every rotation of Earth
53. *Do not enter
54. Lenny's best friend, on The Simpsons
55. Review the books
56. *One way
61. Pasta drainer
62. *RR crossing
63. Image quality, for short
64. Raggedy redhead
65. Consumer products giant, in brief

DOWN

- 1. Cardinal letters
2. ____ la la
3. Break fast
4. Tarzan parent
5. Troubleshoot a program
6. Most Catholic major country in Europe (~ 91%)
7. Fish feature
8. Commercial spots
9. Barack's oldest
10. Sleep stopper
11. YMCA genre
13. Focus (on)

- 15. Pottery oven
16. Barely managed, with "out"
20. ____ Field, home of the Mets
21. Come clean
22. Michael who played Alfred in The Dark Knight trilogy
23. Teach an old dog new tricks
24. Wide tie
25. Fish with anterograde amnesia
28. " ____ big deal."
30. One ____ million
32. One ____ time
33. Tally mark
34. Midas's undoing
35. ____ Doone, a novel or cookie
36. Writing assignment
38. Left, on a boat
41. Trait transmitter
42. They are broken, in life and some card games
44. Priest's aide
46. Noncommercial spots
47. Geometry prefix meaning "same"
48. Less clothed
49. One who looks up "gullible" in the dictionary
50. Partner of ciencias
52. Fastener
54. Builder of the world's most expensive machine
56. Electronics giant for most of the 20th century
57. Org. with shots
58. It takes shots
59. TI screen type
60. Test for 42-Down

- ACROSS
1. Lieu
6. Org. with shots
9. Insane
12. *National Forest route
14. Same
17. Tardy markers
18. Corrective eye surgery
19. Russian river or mountain
20. *RR crossing ahead
21. *Stop

Good Luck Hockey Players in the Challenge Cup! - Your favorite Newsies



Satire Food Review: Bean Boozled

IAN GIBBONS, SJ PRINCIPAL

Greetings, ladies and gentlemen! Hesitantly, I admit that I have become a little bit carried away with the Bean Boozled challenge for Mardi Gras. After consuming the entirety of the dish of gourmet jellies, I have acquired quite a few opinions of the flavors, both scrumptious and repulsive. As we pivot into this blessed Lenten season, I would like to share with you my humble reactions to the contrasting flavors of the Bean Boozled Game.

Tutti-Fruitti

With notes of persimmon and brambleberries, this complex jelly delight explodes with flavor in your mouth. "Tutti," coming from the etymological Latin root, "Totus," means total or complete. Thus, Tutti-Fruitti indicates an omnipotence of fruity goodness, reminding the taster of the dawning of spring. 9/10.

Dead Fish

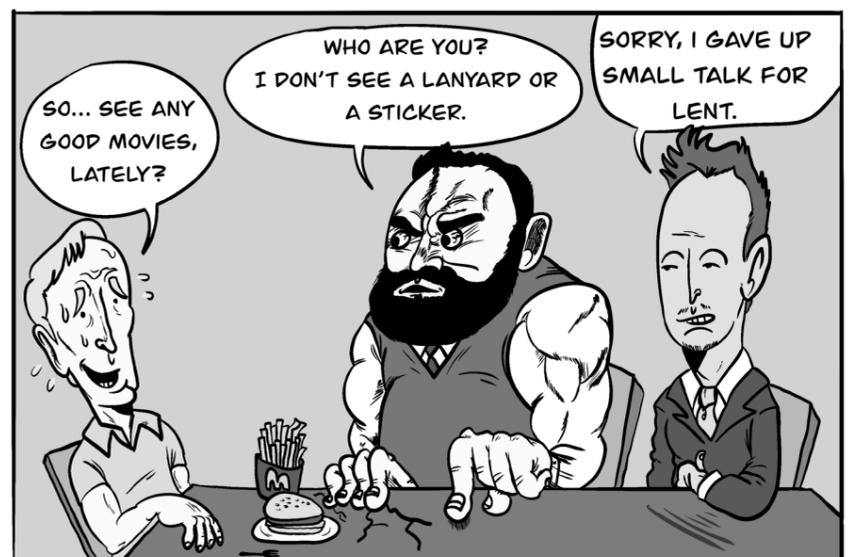
Absolutely ungodly and unfathomable. The flavors produced by this jelly, while piscine, bear no resemblance to the fish of the Sea of Galilee which Jesus multiplied in front of the masses two millennia ago. I would rather fast in the desert for forty days than experience the burst of horrid flavor from this bean. 2/10.

ago. I would rather fast in the desert for forty days than experience the burst of horrid flavor from this bean. 2/10.

Berry Blue

This delightful flavor brightened my taste buds with memories. While the color blue is very close to my heart due to it being the home color of St. Louis University High, it also transports me back to my days at Rockhurst High School, or Jockhurst. Just as I took joy in serving the pleasant young men of Jockhurst, I was rejuvenated by the bright blue flavor that filled my mouth when I consumed this flavorsome bean. 10/10.

SLUHSERS 20: RAFFLE REWARD... SCHULTE-KESTERSON LUNCH



art | Jude Reed

SLUH enters Lent with first Ash Wednesday Mass in two years

(continued from page 1)

the social distancing regulations during the pandemic, all-school Masses have been held in the Field House.

"It is very difficult for us to make the Field House feel any less like a gym, whereas in the Commons it is a place where you already eat there and we are just sharing a meal in the Eucharist," explained Campus Minister Fr. Matt Stewart, SJ.

The Commons offered a more reverent setting for Mass to take place. Being in a respectful and more church-like environment can also make the students feel more engaged, so the campus ministers believed that having Ash Wednesday Mass be the first one there was fitting.

"We have a beautiful stage in the Commons and a wonderful stained glass window behind the altar," said Stewart. "This just gives a more

want to keep it simple and reverent but also beautiful at the same time and they did a great job with the music."

In an effort to make the Mass more reverent, Campus Minister Simionie Anzalone and members of the junior pastoral team struck a chime while students processed from their homerooms into the Commons.

"I loved the somber entrance into the Commons," said Stewart. "The Junior Pastoral Team did a great job ringing the bell. It's so different from how we would normally walk into the Field House and start a big chant or everyone is talking, and it's so much more powerful to enter in silence."

Members of the senior class distributed the ashes and Communion. Although these seniors have been distributing the Eucharist at different Masses all year, this was a new

to make any additional effort outside of school.

Despite offering several options for students to engage in their faith during the time of Lent, Campus Ministry has made one thing mandatory for students to participate in. For the entire day on every Tuesday during Lent, the Campus Ministry office will be entirely free of all electronic devices.

"In Campus Ministry, we are going to be doing No Tech Tuesdays," said Stewart. "Get out a board game, play cards, talk to each other, we don't really care, we just want to be entirely unplugged for the day."

To get students into the season, Gibbons has made up a fun challenge that involves risk and reward. Outside the main office he has placed a dish of bean boozled candy. A student could get a nice tast-

SLUH meets all goals to advance to Condition 1 of safety plan

(continued from page 1)

for the 2021-2022 school year in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The administration outlined four conditions which the school could pivot between based on regional and school metrics. In order for the school to migrate to Condition I, it would have to have a high vaccination rate and single-digit monthly cases. In addition, the city would have to report a positivity rate of less than 5 percent and an r-naught factor of less than 1.

"The metrics are what drive this process. For us to say we're below the waterline for condition one, but we're going to go ahead and wait an extra three weeks, that's not the nature of having a plan like this," said principal Fr. Ian Gibbons, SJ.

As reported previously, SLUH has a high vaccination rate, with over 90 percent of students and nearly 100 percent of faculty vaccinated. Within the past month, there have been two positive cases communicated to the school, with both cases occurring at the beginning of the month. Within the city of St. Louis, the positivity rate is at 5 percent and the r-naught factor is

0.58. As outlined by the Covid safety plan, the school has met all metrics to make the adjustment to Condition of I and will do so today, March 4.

"There has been so much suffering within our community and within our world caused by this pandemic, so I'll take this victory anytime,"

"There is not a message or a political piece to this decision to move to Condition I whatsoever. It's simply our plan."

- Ian Gibbons

said Gibbons "There is not a message or a political piece to this decision to move to Condition I whatsoever. It's simply our plan."

In the initial days of Condition I, few aspects of a student's day to day life will be impacted. However, visitors to the school will no longer be required to wear a mask. In addition, events with a mixed group of students and visitors, such as mother-son trivia, the

play and sporting events, will no longer require masks.

For the time being, the school will continue the onboarding process of temperature screening and VisitU check in process. Students that travel or participate in a retreat may continue to be required to show proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test.

As Covid cases continue to decline across the nation, Gibbons and the rest of the safety team remain hopeful that the pandemic will soon enter into the endemic stage. Next week, the safety committee will reconvene to discuss plans for after spring break in terms of where to move after Condition I.

"Condition zero, so to speak, would be to get rid of the safety plan and move away from having to put those safety pieces into place," said Gibbons. "I expect that as cases continue to decline within our region that we'll be able to shift away from some of those safety pieces like the daily health surveys and the temperature screening."



Fr. Stewart distributing ashes on senior Alex Mittendorf's forehead. photo | Ryan Doyle

respectful space of worship."

The Mass required several different people to help set it up. Campus Ministry played a large role in organizing the Mass, with the help of all four pastoral teams.

"Us in Campus Ministry had to do a lot of work with the pastoral teams on finding kids to do the readings, write the petitions, serve, and carry up the gifts," said Stewart.

Campus minister Brian Gilmore and school counselor Walt Kempf, along with the choir, helped orchestrate the music for the liturgy.

"The choir was extraordinary," noted Gibbons. "You

experience for them to be able to also do the ashes.

This year, SLUH is encouraging students to create some sort of Lenten commitment for the next 40 days. Campus Ministry has opened up and is encouraging students to attend daily Mass, go to confession, adoration, and stations of the cross and are providing these as options during or before the school day for students to engage in their faith. They wanted to bring these in so that students could fulfill their Lenten commitment or just attend one of these options during the school day, without having

ing popcorn jelly bean, or you might end up with a rotten egg flavored bean.

"My Bean-boozled game is a great activity that combines thinking about what you should do for Lent with an activity that is fun, but also a little disgusting," said Gibbons.

Students and faculty who participate in the game fill out a card of their Lenten commitment and all will be posted on a bull item board outside the office to remind the community that we are all in Lent together.

New SLUH schedule waves goodbye to beloved homerooms

BEN CROAT AND
THOMAS JUERGENS
STAFF

Following the release of next year's schedule two weeks ago, there were a multitude of new questions proposed by the student body that were not able to be answered due to one of many snow days. Most questions had to do with the seemingly pointless removal of the homeroom period and the switch up of junior/senior and freshman/sophomore lunch.

While homeroom has been recognized to be highly useful for numerous basic functions, it also takes up precious time with the use of a passing period in between homeroom and the first period class. The elimination of homeroom would therefore allow the administration and the school to better use those minutes for educational purposes.

"Transitional time periods are sort of like dead minutes in the course of a schedule, and while obviously you have to get from point A to point B, the more you can cut down on those periods the better," said principal Ian Gibbons S.J. "The way you can do that is to have longer periods but also to cut off things you don't necessarily need that require people to be moving."

"We're not getting rid of homeroom per se, but we're putting homeroom in the first period of each day," said Gibbons.

Next year's schedule follows a snake format where every day will start with a new class as there will be a rotation of five classes per day. Because of this, the homeroom time in the first class will be different

every day.

"That's simply a reality, and we're fine with that, for a couple of reasons. One, we're going to be adding an advisement program. We are going to have a base set of students that you work with for that, and that will be times that you gather and will replicate some of those functions of homeroom but also expand it into a wider curriculum of different presentations and programs that homeroom could never be able to do," explained Gibbons.

Everyone will meet with their first class of the day for daily homeroom, but for homeroom activities and competitions, students will have a standard group to work with.

"These homeroom groups will be for things like senior advisor groups, intramurals, where you sit for different assemblies and Masses, things like that," said Gibbons.

This new schedule model will be tested for the next two to three years, to see if the administration would want to keep it for longer. This schedule puts the priority on the time spent in the classroom as the maximization of that time was one of the top priorities.

"We're coming out of a pandemic, and there's a lot of things we've learned, we lose a lot of pieces that we want to restore, and we've realized our priorities we didn't even know were priorities before this," said Gibbons. "So, I'd call it a three year commitment that we have now, and at the end of the three years we could be doing a little bit of tinkering, we could be looking at a whole new schedule process, or we might say, 'You know what, we just absolutely nailed it'"

While the new changes in the homeroom have their downsides, they have many more benefits. While the schedule does fluctuate from day to day, overtime it will become more predictable and regular.

"We're also gonna have the function of homeroom in the first period of each day, which will be an extra 10 minutes that are built into that class. You won't have that transition time at the end of the homeroom period into your first period class that we had before, so we save some time there," said Gibbons. "Every few days, it's going to be back to those guys again, in that group, and then tomorrow will be a slightly different one. The next day is slightly different, and we'll keep coming back to it, so it'll be pretty predictable."

Another question students had about the new schedule was the switch between freshman/sophomore lunch and junior/senior lunch. This year, the freshman/sophomore lunch was first, then the junior/senior lunch, but the new schedule has the juniors and seniors first, with the freshman and sophomores last.

"This is just what worked the best for the overall schedule and moving people around. We didn't flip a coin; we didn't do a study of who gets hungrier at times, but certainly, it had to fit into a wider structure, and one thing we wanted to avoid was the very late lunches that we would experience with the juniors and seniors, like this year on assembly days. It could have been the freshmen/sophomores, it just worked out it was the juniors and seniors," said Gibbons.

Congratulations to all 2022 National Merit Scholarship finalists!

Francis Alford
Jack DuMont
Tim Gunn
Matthew Leight
Lucas Navarro
Luke Pierson
Nathan Rich
Brendan Stein
Richard Taylor
JP Torack
Nicholas Unseth

AMDG

Environmental STEM class, led by Anderson and Dickmann, launches 12th annual weather balloon

BY ANDREW HUNT AND BILL ALBUS REPORTERS

If you've taken Freshman English, you know every hero in literature follows a common template known as the hero's journey. The same is true for the biannual journey of the SLUH weather balloon—it feels a call to venture into the unknown, but always makes it home. Last week, chemistry and Environmental STEM teacher Bill Anderson and his Environmental STEM class launched the balloon, which collects data that the class can then analyze.

Weather balloons are used by scientists and meteorologists to soar high into the atmosphere to collect weather data with their payload of data-collecting technology.

This is the fifth year Anderson's class has launched a balloon.

"For the fall class, we start in August as soon as we start school ... and then for the class that starts in January, we want to get a launch in winter," explained Anderson.

On the day of the 2022 launch, the group trekked out to the grassy field by the Field House with the balloon set, ready to contribute their part to an over five-year class project. The balloon, soaring



photo | Cooper Sadlo

into the air, would see the end of its marvelous mission less than 24 hours later. Its payload landed later that day in Coalmont, Ind. This location is in part due to the season the balloon was launched in, winter. A common trend found among winter weather balloon launches is that the winds are stronger and more eastbound than the spring/fall launch.

"In the winter, it always travels farther," concluded Anderson.

Data collected about the balloon's journey includes altitude, speed, and atmospheric pressure.

Over the years, SLUH has released 12 balloons. Each flight has given the class a wide range of data points; classes can then compare the most recent flight's data to previous flights to gauge how the atmosphere changes between seasons and over the course of an extended period of time.

"Our 12 launches is a very narrow window ... (but) we're starting to see patterns in the structure of the atmosphere that I think are very surprising to the students," said Anderson.

With the data these flights have provided, the students have taken on tasks like graphing and analyzing the patterns, even tying their data to the threat of global warming. Their final task is to make a video about the data they've found.

"It's such an interactive experience where we're not just sitting down and taking notes," said senior Ben Ridgway. "I like applying all the learning in class to the real world."

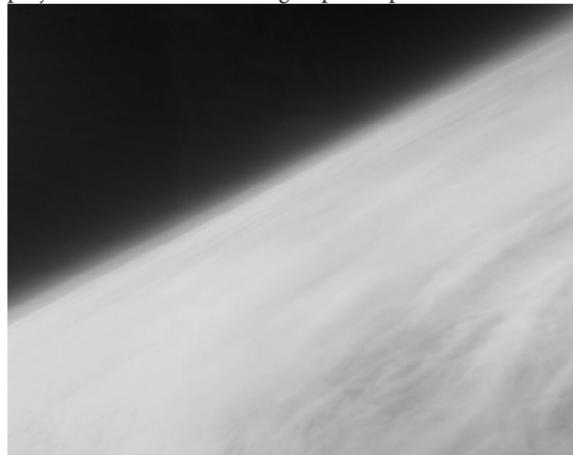


photo | Courtesy of Bill Anderson

Earth, as viewed from the weather balloon's max altitude.

Mock Trial finishes middle of the pack, still advances to state finals

BY MICHAEL BAUDENDISTEL AND JACK EVANS CORE STAFF, REPORTER

SLUH's Mock Trial team took to Zoom this past week for a late-season competition and finished eighth out of sixteen schools, good enough for a bid to regionals in early March.

Mock Trial is composed of a team of students who study a case and are assigned a specific role to play, such as witness, lawyer, or judge. The team then competes against other schools, where they are judged on their performance and knowledge of the case.

The varsity squad swept its opponents, taking all three ballots in each of the two rounds, while the JV squad was able to maintain a high enough overall score for SLUH to advance to the

regional finals, in Clayton.

"That's a really strong ranking for us going forward," said Mock Trial moderator and coach Anne Marie Lodholz.

The JV squad faced off against a very good Viz team with high-quality lawyers and witnesses, while the varsity squad took on a less-prepared Chaminade team. The matchups were decided at random from a pool of over 25 schools, most of which have multiple teams as well.

"Missouri has a really advanced Mock Trial (program)," said Lodholz. "Missouri has done an excellent job, and St. Louis is by far the most prolific city."

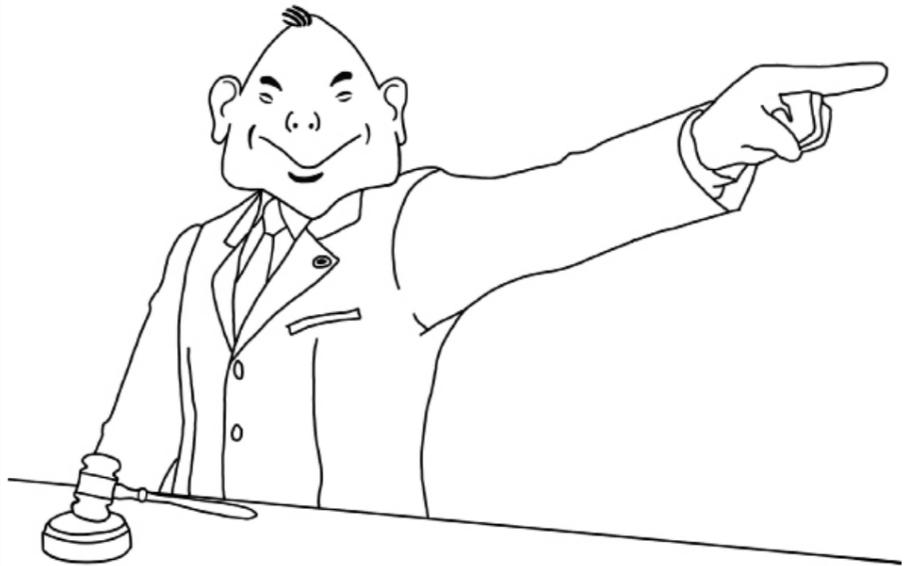
Following their performance last Tuesday, the SLUH Mock Trial team is now looking ahead to the regional competition on March 8 and

10. For this competition, each school is allowed to field just one team.

"We've always collapsed our squads into one because I'm trying to get as many people as possible to experience (trials) on the state level," said Lodholz.

The condensed squad that is sent to regionals will first prosecute against Francis Howell North, a notably strong team according to Lodholz, on March 8; then the team will turn around and act as defense against Maplewood on March 10.

"It's interesting," said Lodholz. "You look at the rankings, and we are all right there. So those will both be really good matches. It will be interesting to see who moves on past regionals and to the state competition."



art | Thomas Bock

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SLUH teams up with De Smet and Loyola to restore a piece of Saint Louis history

BY CHARLES TURNELL REPORTER

During last week's weather freeze, a group of SLUH students still made the effort to collaborate with De Smet Jesuit and Loyola Academy students and parents to do an annual cleanup of the historic Greenwood Cemetery located in North St. Louis.

The cemetery's rich history focuses on the many Black Americans who served in America's armed forces throughout the nation's history.

"It is predominantly an African American Cemetery that's been around since the mid 1870s," said school President Alan Carruthers. "There are numerous military vets buried in the cemetery, ranging from World War One through the Korean War."

The cemetery was very well kept under the watch of the veterans' families. It was used as a community park as well as a resting place for

the men who sacrificed their lives. But as the families who once helped to maintain the cemetery passed away, the cemetery saw a steady decline in maintenance and care in the 1980s. The cemetery was eventually sold where it was left to essentially rot.

"The cemetery grew went feral, and grew over with weeds, bushes and vines," said Carruthers. "So in the early 2000's to the mid 2010's, a man named Rafael had started to do the clean up of the cemetery with his wife as a voluntary act."

Eventually, SLUH and De Smet agreed to collaborate to help clean the Greenwood Cemetery Annually. The day of service required coordination across the schools, especially in light of new leadership.

"There's been some leadership change over at De Smet. But the good thing is that the new president at De Smet is actually my spiritual director, Fr. Ronny O'Dwyer, also a graduate of Regis Jesuit

High School in Denver which I was previously principal of," said Alan Carruthers. "Then I approached Fr. Matt Stewart and pitched the idea to him. He came on board and we started running with it."

The cleanup was green lit and took place on a Saturday weekend. What could have been a much longer endeavor, was turned into a few productive hours thanks to the great teamwork displayed by all three Jesuit schools.

"It was very refreshing to work alongside not only my SLUH brothers, but also guys from De Smet and Loyola who we see as separate because of school rivalry," reflected sophomore Archie Carruthers. "It helped me remember that we are both Jesuit schools with the same mission to serve God as men for others. Everyone was really nice and happy to be there to help their community"

Before heading to the cemetery, the volunteers from SLUH, De Smet and Loyola congregated for a

Mass in the SLUH chapel.

"We coordinated and got everyone there around 8 in the morning and we worked until 12," said Alan Carruthers. "In total, there were around 80 to 85 of us."

The efficiency of the process of how everyone worked together is what made the cleanup work so well. The students worked impressively together in order to achieve the goal of successfully completing the cleanup by noon. There were several steps involved in order to make it possible.

"It was a cool experience being able to help restore this historic cemetery that clearly means a lot to the community," said Archie Carruthers. "We split up into groups, most of the work was cutting down trees to clear the area, we cut the trees down and chopped them up with chainsaws while other groups cleared brush and put it all in piles."

Once the group was done they decided to enjoy a treat

by going to eat a meal as a group.

"A lot of the SLUH folks, as well as some from Loyola and De Smet, joined us for a meal at Chuck-A-Burger afterwards," said Alan Carruthers. "It really drove home the idea of having a shared experience especially after our work."

In the end, the cleanup was a success, and many SLUH, De Smet and Loyola volunteers were glad to participate in the cleanup.

"The project was really meaningful to the people involved because we were helping to conserve and restore the beauty of the cemetery," said Archie Carruthers. "Just the sheer amount of people that came and helped out, made it clear how strong the Jesuit mission is with our community. I personally feel great just to have helped out."

"I think this project exposed us to a part of Saint Louis history that has been too easily forgotten," reflected Alan Carruthers. "Going to

North Saint Louis and just seeing the graveyard with many veterans. I spent a lot of time at a couple World War One veteran gravestones, it served as a reminder for the selfless service to the country."

For the volunteers, the symbolism of cleaning a cemetery filled with military vets also drives home the bigger picture of being Men for Others.

"We also have to remember that the United States military was not integrated until after World War 2," said Alan Carruthers. "It's a reminder of this shared history and in reality, it's no accident we did this project during Black History month. It is a way of not only celebrating Black History in our community, but in fact bringing it back to life. We look at the world around us right now and we see on the geopolitical stage that we have to be more loving. It's good for us to come together, we are not different, we are all the same."

Faculty Festival, Bridge Bread and basketball game headline STUCO's Mission Week

(continued from page 1)

President Ismael Karim. "So we really wanted to team up with an organization that took care of all those a little bit."

Covenant House aims to tackle the issue of youth homelessness from all angles, aiding victims of human trafficking, those struggling with mental health, and those who remain unsupported by the foster care system. Current statistics show that, within the

opportunity for people to get back and do the activities that they wanted to do before," said Karim. "So I think this week is super important both for standing in solidarity with the (homeless) community, but also just ramping up school spirit."

Running all week long was a raffle for a variety of prizes, including Cardinals game tickets with math teacher Stephen Deves or a

roared as senior Coby Spratte drained three-pointers and Figge used his height advantage to tower over his opponents beneath the basket.

The festivities continued on Wednesday with a visit from the Bridge Bread truck. Bridge Break is a non-profit organization committed to employing homeless individuals in order to provide them with a stable income and the skills needed to find future employment opportunities.

Thursday was set to feature the Faculty Festival, a much-anticipated event where various faculty members would offer different challenges and events for the students to take part in. However, as Wednesday approached, it became evident that inclement weather was on the horizon.

Additionally, STUCO had planned a Sleep-Out for Thursday night to place students in the shoes of the homeless teens to whom Mission Week was dedicated.



A ritual: students prepare Frank Corley's cheesy pancakes.

photo | Jack Figge

"This week is super important both for standing in solidarity with the (homeless) community, but also just ramping up school spirit."

-Ismael Karim

United States, about 41,000 unaccompanied youth ages 13 to 25 are currently homeless and living on the streets.

"I hope that people are aware of how big the problem of youth homelessness really is, you see statistics about homeless people but you never get the fact that every night in the so many are suffering,"

dance workout session with Spanish teacher Kate Tousseint and math teacher Tracy Lyons. The winners were announced on Wednesday, and *Prep News* editor Nathan Rich won an alarming number of prizes.

The real fun started with the *Prep News* vs. STUCO basketball game on Tuesday



Students line up to purchase BridgeBread.

photo | courtesy of SLUH Twitter

said sophomore class Vice President Archie Carruthers.

For this week, STUCO was actively working to get the student body engaged in the cause through a series of activities.

"There's a lot more of an

during Activity Period. Jr. Bills from all classes crowded into the Field House bleachers in their various multi-colored jerseys to watch editor in chief Jack Figge go head-to-head with student body President A.J. Thompson. The crowd

"The Sleep-Out is to support the Covenant House and spend one night in solidarity, simulating the experience of the homeless population here in St. Louis," explained Thompson. "So obviously, to raise money as well, but more

so to gain perspective and see what it's really like to live out there on the street."

An email Wednesday afternoon confirmed StuCo's worst fears: school was moving to online synchronous Zoom classes, and their planned activities would have to shift. While the Sleep-Out was completely canceled, the Faculty Fest was quickly rescheduled for the following Monday, spreading the hype over more days and allowing the students to go head-to-head in competitions with various teachers.

"You could see people developing a better relationship with their teachers that transcends the classroom through just having a good time with them," said Carruthers. "I think it was a good way for teachers to show that they can be chill and it gives a student a chance to be one on one having fun with the teacher."

There was a wide range of activities for students to take part in, from challenging Chi-

nese teacher Yude Huang in ping pong to facing off against ASC Chris Stahl in *Guitar Hero*. Students even had the opportunity to take a swing at English teacher Steve Missey (who was pitching fuzball) or try Virtual Reality with math teacher Craig Hinders. By far the most popular station, though, was math teacher Frank Corley's cheesy pancakes.

"The return to the cheesy pancakes was a hit," said spirit leader Tim Browdy. "Mr. Corley assembled a dream team of pancake flippers, and we sold more than I could count. Someone asked how many pancakes we sold, but it was so many that we ran out of batter."

With the extension of Mission Week into the beginning of March this week, StuCo was able to add a quick and easy money-raiser at lunch yesterday. The upperclassmen and the underclassmen competed to see who could donate the most money, with

the winners claiming a dress down day today. The week ended up prevailing with \$6500 as of March 3, 2022.

Finally, the Mission (two) Week concludes today with the Switch Bar at the old switchboard, where STUCO members will be serving up more Bridge Bread baked goods and root beer. Make sure to stop by before class to offer a few dollars before the festivities end.

"I'd like to say that it's important to keep in mind why we're doing what we're doing: just to be generous," said Thompson. "To bring your money and just spend it even if you don't get anything in return, because that's when you realize how fortunate we are to be able to attend the school and to give back to a good cause that helps out people that we can't always necessarily relate to, because to whom much is given, much is expected."

Hockey provides Sno-Ball attendees with unique alternative to an after party

(continued from page 1)

months begin to wind down.

"(Sno-Ball) has always been an off-campus dance for the juniors and seniors in the middle of winter. It is designed as a way to give some life in the dead of winter," said STUCO moderator Megan Menne. "January and February are long, cold, and dark months, so Sno-Ball provides some life for the upperclassmen."

Sno-Ball has always been hosted at an off-campus location in an effort to provide students with an escape from the monotony of the SLUH building. This year, the dance was hosted at the Majorette, a wedding venue located in Maplewood. With a wide dance floor, plenty of appetizers, and even a bar serving alcohol free beverages, the atmosphere was set for a perfect evening of moshing and enjoying one another's presence.

"The Majorette was great that you could come down and mosh on this huge dance floor, or if that wasn't your cup of tea you could go up on the mez-

zanine and simply observe," said senior Matt Kluba. "The vibes it provided were just incredible."

When planning the dance, STUCO encountered many scheduling issues. The racquetball team was competing in state and hockey was facing off against Vianney later that evening. Wanting to have a strong turnout at both the hockey game and the dance, the moderators decided to move the dance to 6:30 instead of the usual 7:30.

"We had to maneuver a little bit more this year in regards to scheduling with hockey, basketball and racquetball, but I think in the end that probably turned out well," said Menne. "A lot of people were able to go to Sno-Ball and attend the athletic events, so it seems like everybody was having a lot of fun during all of it."

After taking photos in dashing outfits with their dates and enjoying nice dinners, students headed to the Majorette, where they were greeted by the friendly faces of teachers and breathalyzed before entering

the venue.

"My favorite part of the dance was getting breathalyzed by Mr. McKernan because I love Mr. McKernan and I didn't know he was going to be there so I was so excited to see him," said Senior Class President AJ Thompson.

Once students had cleared the notorious breathalyzer and

upperclassmen simply danced the night away, showcasing moves ranging from the worm to the splits.

"It was extremely fun, I could not have thought of a better way to spend my time surrounded by friends," said junior Cody Cox. "Also doing the splits multiple times has left me very sore so don't expect to

ery ticket, nearly maxing out the venue's 500 person capacity. This was the largest Sno-Ball crowd in recent memory, showing the desire that students have to be part of a community once again.

"Selling so many tickets just shows how connected we are," said senior Ismael Karim. "You had a really diverse group

together and enjoying each other's company."

As the night began to wind down and the students' dance moves had imprinted sweat stains inside their jackets, people started filing for the exits, their fleeing briefly interrupted when Thompson overtook the mic and led the upperclassmen in a classic 'O' When the Bills chant.

But once the energy of the chant died down, the crowds once again flocked to the exit. However, they were not in a rush to drive to an after party. Instead, many were headed to Centene Arena in St. Charles where they witnessed the hockey team defeat Vianney 3-2 and advance to the Challenge Cup.

"Even if we have a dance and a hockey game on the same night, we don't have to choose one event over the other. We can have a strong student presence at both," said Kluba. "It was awesome seeing so many people in formal attire and watching the hockey bills take the win and advance to state."



Students singing O When the Bills with their dates.

photo | Jack Figge

checked in, they were greeted by the rambunctious sounds of laughter and moshing. For the remainder of the evening, the

see that again."

Inside, the Majorette was packed with students and their dates. STUCO sold almost ev-

of people that go to the dance, from so many different clubs and sports, and you just see them all having a good time

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

Prep News defeats STUCO by 18 points in second annual Mission Week game



STUCO President A.J. Thompson attempts to block Coby Spratte to no avail while PN Editor in Chief Jack Figge makes a futile call for the ball.

photo | Alex Preusser

BY ROARKE UNRAU
NEWS EDITOR

40-22, it wasn't even close. STUCO never stood a chance. A demolition, an expedition, whatever you're gonna call it, *Prep News* easily won against STUCO at this year's annual *Prep News* vs STUCO basketball game. Held on Feb. 22 in the Danis Field House, the stands were packed with students and teachers excited to see the biggest rivalry in St. Louis.

Leading up to the game, both STUCO and *Prep News* built the hype for the game as a legendary opener for the Mission Week.

"I think the video that STUCO made on Monday, Presidents Day, I thought was very funny. When the video was released on that evening I was like, alright, this is real, we're actually getting into it. And when I had my shirt off and channeled my inner A.J. Thompson, it was really kind of just like, Wow, all right, we're actually going to do this now. And it was awesome. It was also great because I think in the SLUH community, you're either STUCO or you're *Prep News*," said STUCO Spirit leader Matthew Kluba.

Though Monday was a dress down day, both STUCO and *Prep News* dressed up in formal attire for game day.

After lunch, both teams headed to the Field House to check out the court and their locker rooms. As the stands were filling up with students, it was hard not to feel the pre-match jitters in warmups.

"I've never played a basketball game at SLUH before, I only played in grade school. So I never had an actual basketball game that I played in front of a big crowd before. And I was just like, man, this

is intense," said Kluba. "I was worried every shot that I put up everybody would heckle me and stuff like that. So there were definitely some pre-game jitters."

As players hit their last few warmup shots, they jogged to the line to have each time be announced by Fr. Matthew Stewart, SJ. As well as announcing the teams, Stewart also sang an impeccable national anthem that left everyone energized and ready for tip off.

"I think it might have been that morning, actually when the STUCO guys and the *Prep News* guys were like, hey, you're gonna announce our starting lineups, right? And I was like, okay, sure. And so then during the junior pastoral team leadership meeting is when we came up with those names, like Jack Figge, a man who taught Jesus the Our Father, that kind of stuff that kind of came together that morning, basically," said Stewart. "And then the national anthem, I've sung the national anthem so many times, that it was just one of those things where it's like, Alright, here we go again."

Following the anthem, STUCO and *Prep News* sent their starting five out onto the court with President A.J. Thompson and editor in chief Jack Figge gathered in the tipoff circle as the refs, juniors Zach Ortwerth and Daniel Tice made their final checks.

The *Prep News* won the tipoff and went down and scored on the first possession, marking the beginning of a long afternoon for STUCO.

As the game went back and forth, *Prep News* built themselves a pretty 20-5 lead heading into halftime.

"Going into halftime, we had a pretty hefty lead, but I told all the guys in the locker room to keep their foot on the gas because STUCO will come out swinging. That's exactly what we did and we were able to win in landslide fashion," said the people's MVP senior Coby Spratte.

Coming out into the second half,



STUCO turned it on quickly and scored 7 quick points, making it 20-12. That was the last push STUCO made all game as *Prep News* pulled away further in the second half, thanks largely to Spratte's big game. Spratte alone outscored the entirety of STUCO.

"I knew Coby was good, but I was surprised at how good Coby was," said game commentator and English teacher Adam Cruz. "The crowd chanting MVP at Coby Spratte after he made a couple of shots was also pretty cool."

"As a team, I expected us to play a pretty evenly matched game with STUCO, but even I didn't see that much of a slaughter coming," said Spratte. "As an individual, I dropped 49 between my last two games for the Rim

Runners Elite in CYC, so I was pretty hot coming into the game, but I think I still surpassed my own expectations."

Finishing 40-22, *Prep News* even put in Nathan Rich at the end of the game. Still in formal attire, Rich finished the game with 3 turnovers and a missed layup, all while being on the court for

only the final 30 seconds of the game. Even though the score line wasn't close, it was still a very entertaining game for all the fans.

"Yeah it was a very interesting game. The first half was kind of back and forth. Coby went off, Louis was not very good. And then in the second half the gap was just so big it was amusing to see people mess around, because the game was over at that point," said senior Nico Schmidt.

The game was commented over by the much-loved "the coach and the collar" duo of Stewart and Cruz.

"It was Fr. Stewart and I, the coach and the collar, because last year it was Mr. Mohr. It was really fun. I mean, it's always really fun, you'll hear on the telecast. No offense to Mr. Mohr but Fr. Stewart had a lot more basketball knowledge than Mr. Mohr did, and Fr. Stewart had, perhaps because of his dating history, perhaps because of his SLUH history, he had a lot of good color commentary to provide," said Cruz.

"It was fun though because Cruz is just a mile a minute. You know, he's so good at play by play. I was more of a color commentator. But we're throwing

shade at Corley and Missey and Archie Carruthers. It was just good-natured fun," said Stewart.

Overall, this year's *Prep News* vs STUCO basketball game was one to remember for all participants, win or lose it's something that everyone looks forward to every year.

"When people think of the greatest group at SLUH, they of course think of Student Council and rightfully so. When people think of the most overhyped and shady group at SLUH, they think of *Prep News* and rightfully so. Because of this, a rivalry has begun to brew between the two groups, probably to two groups who have the most power. What better way to settle this beef than with a good old fashioned game of basketball? Unfortunately, *Prep News* came to play this year. They were not messing around. My guys put up a good fight but in the end could not pull off the comeback. I am proud of the effort and I look forward to seeing the rivalry grow even deeper," said STUCO president A.J. Thompson.



The *Prep News* team relishing its victory.

photo | Stephen Deves

Conversation

“It’s just all too real”: Marina and Rob Chura talk about the Ukraine crisis

BY LUKE DUFFY
WEB EDITOR

Editor’s Note: Last Wednesday, Feb. 23, Russia launched a seemingly unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. As the week has progressed, stories have been emerging about life in these warring countries. Prep News Web Editor Luke Duffy sat down with SLUH teachers Marina Chura, a native of Russia, and her husband Rob to better understand the complexity of the war in Ukraine and its impact on various populations.

Luke Duffy (LD): I guess we’ll start with how did you feel when Russia invaded Ukraine? What was your initial reaction?

Marina Chura (MC): Very shocked. We really had not anticipated that outcome, just like a lot of people in Europe thought that this was just Putin kind of bluffing and that this was a big political chess game. We really did not expect that this was going to happen. He seemed to be more rational to me than somebody that would lead these two countries to something like this.

Robert Chura (RC): Yeah, I’ve probably heard 25 different versions of the same thing that I felt. People who are experts and were close to the situation, everybody felt like, we haven’t seen this before, but these things always kind of follow the same pattern. There’s a lot of emotion and threats, but in the past there has always been some way to avoid a major conflict like this. I was confident that this might be prolonged, this might be really uncomfortable, this might create a lot of fear in the world, but I just could never imagine that we would get to this point where Russia is actually invading Ukraine

LD: Between the US, other NATO countries, and Russia, there has been a lot of tension over the past few weeks, and the Russian government has a lot of control over communication. I’m assuming you have some friends and relatives in Russia. Have you been able to contact them at all?

MC: Yeah, I had some pretty extensive conversations with my brother and with my mom, and then I was a witness of (Mr. Chura’s) conversation with a teacher friend that we have over there and we’ve been in contact with some other friends. These are all people that represent our side, who are pretty disgusted by the whole thing and have always been kind of anti-Putin. I guess I haven’t actually spoken to somebody who supports this. But from what I understand there are a lot of people in Russia that do.

LD: So you get the sense that there are people who disagree with what Putin is doing, but there are also people who buy into his rhetoric?

MC: Right, and the people who buy into it, I just want to

emphasize that, for the most part, they are not bad people and they don’t want an actual war. However, the way it’s presented in Russian news is that it’s in no way war, that there are no attacks going on. In fact, their news media is prohibited from using the words “war” and “attack.” It’s presented as a special military operation that is meant to defend the independent republics of Luhansk and Donetsk and to protect the Russian people who are being viciously attacked in Ukraine.

RC: People are people. The Russian people and the Ukrainian people are some of the greatest people that I know. This is not about the Russian people or the Ukrainian people, it has nothing to do with that. The fact that people are on board with this is because they’ve been led to believe that this is something that they are called to do: to protect

their rhetoric is all skewed.

LD: Have you been able to visit Russia at all during Putin’s presidency?

MC: Oh, we go every year.

LD: What have you observed? Has there been any change in Russian culture and society under Putin?

MC: Well, he has been in charge for the last 22 years. Russia became a much more prosperous society under him and that’s a big part of why he is so well-liked. When you talk about Russian election results a few years back, those weren’t skewed elections. I mean, those were, for the most part, legitimate results. People felt like he brought Russia out of the chaos of the ’90s, that the economy was strong, the Russian middle class was growing.

forward?

MC: I don’t think I have any fear as far as political persecution or anything like that. Number one, my main fear is that I don’t know when I’ll be able to go back because, right now, there is no travel to Russia. Number two, I’m just mostly concerned about the welfare of the people. Because the sanctions that started have already had a huge effect, and it could lead to an economic disaster. Russia cannot survive without the rest of the world. That’s just what the modern world is like. And it seems like they’re going to go back to being an agrarian society. This is a very negative prognosis if that were to happen.

RC: My main concerns are just the amount of human suffering on all sides of this. It is already happening, and it will continue

of the things that I’ve always really tried to focus on is for us to understand how we really are a global community. We’re all global citizens, more so than we are citizens of our own nations. More and more in this world that we live in, everything that happens everywhere touches everyone. We saw that with the pandemic. When those types of things happened 10 or 20 years ago, it was like, ‘I’m glad I don’t live in that part of the world.’ But now we’ve seen that it’s everywhere, we all are a global community. And Ukraine is yet another example. We can use that as a positive to rally us and bring us together and for us to find those common threads. In my email tagline you see I quote, Maya Angelou, “we are more alike than we are unlike.” When things go wrong, there’s the other side of it where it really impacts everyone negatively in so many ways.

in and promote. We’ve had our relationship with our Russian partners for decades, and that’s been a big part of our school community. So much good has come from that human contact. Politics is politics, and those are things that happen beyond our control, but focusing on that one-to-one human interaction, to me, is the only way to really put things back in order.

MC: I feel like it’s true also for people in Russia interacting with people from Ukraine because there are so many connections there. Both he and I are half Ukrainian, ethnically. One of my mom’s best friends lives in Ukraine, and she actually happened to be in London when this was happening and wasn’t able to get back to her city. It was interesting because she was very upset about that, that she couldn’t get back even though she knew a war was going on. My mom’s cousin also lives in Kiev. So there are so many connections that people have like that.

LD: Finally, from your perspective, Mr. Chura, is there anything SLUH students can do to show their support?

RC: I think one of the major points of this is to commend our student leaders of One World Club and Mrs. Campos and Mrs. Alvarado. We have One World Club as kind of like our in house SLUH Global Ed experience. They look at how we can focus efforts in the school, not just to do things externally, but internally to really build those global competencies and perspectives.

When this all began, it was the leadership of One World Club that came together and said, “what can we do, let’s put together some kind of SLUH-wide response.” We’ve been working on that for the past couple of days, and we have some things planned next week to raise some support for the relief effort. I’m in touch with the priest who’s in charge of the Jesuit response in Poland right now. He’s given us some ways that we can financially help their efforts to ease the suffering because they’re obviously dealing with the refugee crisis right now, with all the Ukrainians fleeing to Poland.

On March 10, we have planned a roundtable after school with SLUH alumni experts as well as some people who are right there in the middle of this: a friend of ours from St. Petersburg, and then some other people who are very close to the situation. The focus is going to be on educating everyone about this situation, how it came about, then also on the human experience, like what’s really going on. We obviously see that we’re bombarded with all kinds of different information. The positive that we hope to come out of this is to do what we can as a community and just as individuals to ease the suffering and to bring it to an end and see that it doesn’t happen again. That’ll be Thursday, March 10 after school.

MC: I wanted to add, when you asked about my initial feelings, that I definitely did feel some guilt and shame. I am a citizen of both countries of Russia and the US. And it just felt like it can’t be happening, my country cannot really be doing that. (Pauses, choked up.) But then I have to remember it’s not my country. It’s not Russia, it’s one person. Of course you can say that the country is behind that person, and that’s where I guess the guilt and shame is coming from, but people being misinformed is, I think, the main reason that it had led to this point.

Of course, there are a lot of measures being taken against Russia and it hurts when I hear about athletes being banned from participating in sporting and sporting events, musicians not being allowed to participate in musical events. To me, it kind of transcends the situation. But on the other hand, I understand that some things have to hurt really bad before things can change.

RC: Those are the things that I hope we can continue to engage



art | Will Blaisdell

people that are close to them, and to protect their brother Slavs and Ukrainians who are being suppressed and are in danger. That’s the way that it’s being presented.

I think that tells you a little bit about the Russian soul. They’re not going to get on board with something that they believe is wrong. They believe it’s right because of that emotional tie to these people that they identify with, that they believe are in danger. When it’s explained to them that way, they think, “We’ve got to do something to help these people that are like brothers to us.” Obviously we see it in a different way, it’s depicted much differently to us.

MC: It also depends on where in Russia you are. In big cities like Moscow and St. Petersburg especially, there are more people who are a little bit more worldly and well-educated and who have access to many other sources of information, so they don’t trust the Russian news. My brother, for example, has said that he has not watched state television in about 10 years. Because he knows that

From some of the reading and listening to podcasts that I have picked up, that growth kind of ended in about 2013. Instead of focusing on those economic problems to make sure that that stagnation stops, he chose this way of looking for an external enemy, and that’s how he tried to rally people behind him. As far as just everyday life I mean, what do you think?

RC: I mean the Russia that we’ve experienced is very stable, and has a very good standard of living. From that standpoint, those are all things that I think contributed to his popularity.

LD: Would you say Putin’s way of running the country has not directly affected you or Russia until the past few years?

MC: Well I would say not until just five or six days ago, really.

LD: So, looking toward the future, do you have any fears about returning to Russia, or for your friends and relatives in Russia? What do you think life is going to be like going

to happen. As you said, this is going to be felt everywhere, and some places are going to feel it more than others, but when you watch the news reports on TV, I’m sure to your eye it looks like someplace very, very far away. It is foreign to you. To me, it’s too familiar. When I see the bombed out buildings and the things happening in the streets, I know those places all too well. It’s like it’s happening in my backyard, it’s like it’s happening in my neighborhood, because I’m so close to that experience and that setting.

Talking with relatives and friends and colleagues about what they’re experiencing, it’s just all too real. It currently is and has the potential to be so horrific for those at the epicenter of it, but it will also have ripple effects that we all feel even if it’s not so much financially, but psychologically, this is scary. This is the first time we’ve seen something like this in our lifetimes. It’s very difficult to imagine and think about some of the possibilities. (Eyes well up with tears.)

You know, in my role as Director of Global Ed, that’s one

SPORTS

RACQUETBALL DOES IT AGAIN

Only a few things in life are certain: death, taxes, and racquetball being dominant. This year, Varsity depth leads SLUH to its 22nd state title

BY CHARLIE VONDERHEID
REPORTER

After wrapping up the regular season about a week ago, the racquetball team spent the last week in preparation for the State Tournament last weekend. All the work that the team has put in throughout the season has led up to that point, and it all paid off. SLUH Varsity won state for the 22nd time in program history, scoring 520 points as a team, about 100 more than second placed Kirkwood. While winning state is a team accomplishment, each individual player was able to medal in their respective brackets, further showing off SLUH's potential before the National Tournament this week.

Placing second in the best bracket, Will Shorey played his best racquetball all year. He started off by cruising past Varsity-2 teammate Charlie Vonderhied in the first round, allowing three points all match and completely dominating on serves. After an easy warmup match, Shorey had to face off against CBC rival Jake Schmidt in the semifinals. Although Shorey was neck and neck with

Schmidt throughout the year, Shorey controlled the game easily and won 15-9, 15-11.

"I was super happy with the way I played against Jake," said Shorey. "I took him down in two and played super well." After defeating Schmidt, Shorey faced off against Adam Lancia from Parkway West in the second place game. Shorey knew going into the tournament that Lancia was the guy to beat, and he was playing up to his potential, winning the first game 15-8.

"I started off super strong," said Shorey. "I smoked him in the first game."

In the second game Shorey got out to a 12-7 lead but could not capitalize on his momentum and lost the match 14-15. In the third game, it was clear that Shorey had already given everything he had and ran out of steam, losing the tiebreaker 0-11. He finished second in the first bracket.

"I was a little bit exhausted after (the second game) and he destroyed me in the tiebreaker," reflected Shorey. "I was very happy with the way I played and I am excited to see what tough matches I get to play in at nationals."

Max Telken had to face off in a very challenging second bracket. Telken's first round match was also against a Varsity-2 teammate, Robert Naumann. Telken handled Naumann easily, winning 15-2, 15-4.

"I have played him a decent amount over the years and I just knew how to play against him," said Telken.

After cruising past Naumann, Telken faced off against Sam Neunritter from Kirkwood in the semifinals, a player he split matches with in the regular season. The game went back and forth with neither opponent giving up.

"We were both diving for a lot of balls and playing really well," commented Telken.

The match went to three games, but Telken could not squeeze out a win, losing 10-15, 15-13, 9-11.

In his third place game, Telken won by forfeit as his opponent suffered an ankle injury early in the match. Instead of dwelling on the loss to Neunritter and not getting a chance to face off against CBC rival Gabe Collins, Telken is instead looking forward to facing those players in Nationals.

"I'm really looking forward to it honestly," Telken said proudly. "If I am able to beat them in the last tournament, in the most important games of the year, that would be really exciting"

In the third bracket, Jared Thornberry was able to place second, making it all the way to the finals. He received a first round bye courtesy of his performance in the regular season and was automatically placed in the semifinals. In the semifinals, he faced off against Jack Frederickson from Lindbergh. Frederickson had given Thornberry trouble in the past but Thornberry ended Frederickson's championship hopes by defeating him swiftly 15-5, 15-12. In the finals match, Thornberry had to forfeit due to a family emergency, finishing state by placing second in his bracket.

Danny Phillips competed in the fourth bracket and also received an automatic spot in the semifinals by achieving a first round bye in the regular season. Phillips also faced off against a SLUH teammate in Flynn O'Connell. Although previous Varsity players handled their Varsity-2 counterparts with ease, Phillips had to prepare a little bit more when facing off against O'Connell.

"I had to strategize because he's a really good player," said Phillips. "He's got a really powerful forehand and really good ceiling balls."

His strategy paid off as he defeated O'Connell 15-7, 15-8 to move on to the finals. In his finals, he faced off against Connor Sims. In their first game, Phillips got off to an extremely slow start, losing 15-5.

"I played pretty horribly," lamented Phillips. "I was skipping a lot of stuff and my leg kind of hurt after rolling it in in the semifinals."

Despite his poor performance in the first game, Phillips caught fire in the second game and won 15-6. In the tiebreaker Phillips was leaving everything on the line after going down 1-7.

"I was just diving for everything," said Phillips. "I wasn't paying attention to what my body felt like and I could barely feel my leg the next day but it was worth it."

Phillips' grit and effort allowed him to storm back and score ten unanswered points against Sims in the tiebreaker, winning 11-7. Now crowned champion of the fourth bracket, Phillips looks towards Na-

tional.

"I think State is a good mini-run of Nationals," stated Phillips.

"It's important to play high-percentage racquetball because (O'Connell) and Sims are really good players."

Nick Heinlein at No. 5 became the second SLUH player to place first in his bracket. Heinlein had a fairly swift route to the championship match. He also earned a first round bye, and in his semifinals match against Andrew Balice from Lafayette he allowed a total of six points all match, winning 15-2, 15-4. In the finals he played against Chris Plants from Kirkwood. He won the first game easily 15-3, but received more trouble in the second game.

"He was getting to a lot more balls and shooting better shots," said Heinlein.

Despite Plants' extra effort in the second game, Heinlein defeated him 15-12, capping off a perfect season from the first year varsity junior. Even though he is a junior, this week will be Heinlein's first time playing in a National Tournament.

"It should be fun," exclaimed Heinlein. "It'll definitely be different playing people from Oregon and not playing the same people from Saint Louis."

The final singles player left on the varsity squad playing in the sixth bracket was senior Clark Martin. Martin's path was similar to Heinlein. He received a first round bye in the regular season and in the semifinals match against Sam Kallaos from Parkway West he won decisively by scores of 15-5, 15-7.

The finals, however, proved to be much more difficult. Timmy Markee from Kirkwood took Martin to a tiebreaker after defeating Martin in his first game 15-13. Martin was able to regain momentum and defeat Markee in the next two matches by scores of 15-13, 11-9. This was Martin's closest contested game all year and should prove to be great experience for Nationals this week.

Despite losing their perfect season in their final match against Kirkwood, the doubles team of Luke Dannegger and Max Adelman were poised to

Senior Danny Phillips prepares to strike the ball in his finals match.



photo | Nathan Rich

make a run of redemption at state. They joined the long list of SLUH players to receive a first round bye and then joined the other list of SLUH players to face off against their Varsity-2 counterparts. They made quick work of Niko Nadreau and Matt Windler, defeating them 15-5, 15-2.

Dannegger and Adelman faced off in the finals against the same opponents that spoiled their perfect season: Tyler Kraichely and Nicholas Whittington from Kirkwood. They battled in the first game but lost by one point, 14-15. In the second game, however, Dannegger and Adelman rallied back and won 15-9. And in the tiebreaker that only came down to a few points, Dannegger and Adelman could not earn the victory and lost 9-11, finishing second in the doubles bracket.

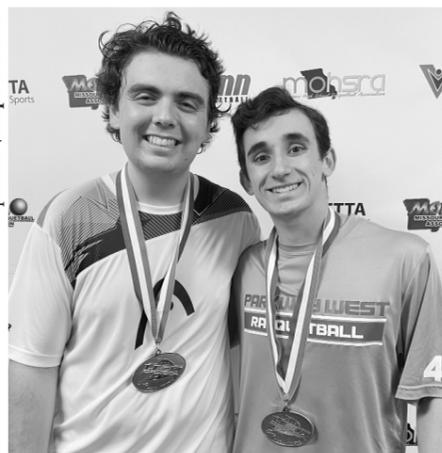
After many great finishes by individual players, SLUH racquetball are state champions once again. After many doubted SLUH's abilities to stay at the top of the pack this year, SLUH was able to silence the doubters and claim their 22nd title in school history.

"Going into the season, there was a lot of speculation that SLUH would be a weaker team this year," said coach Stephen Deves. "I am really proud of the ways that they responded to some of the setbacks and challenges throughout the year."

After winning state, the RacquetBills hope to achieve the same feat at this year's National Tournament, which could make it the eleventh national title in a row for SLUH. Matches will be held from March 2 through March 6.



Junior Nick Heinlein (right) poses with gold medal.



Senior Will Shorey (left) and Lancia after the finals match.



(Left to Right): Will Shorey, Max Telken, Nick Heinlein, Max Adelman, and Danny Phillips celebrate the state title.

photo | Stephen Deves

STATE FINAL, HERE WE COME!

Hockey downs Vianney 5-3, 3-2 in strong two-game semifinal series, readies for shot at fourth State title tonight against De Smet

BY JACKSON COOPER AND
LOUIS CORNETT
CORE STAFF

Over this past weekend, St. Louis U. High's varsity hockey team squared off in two games against the Vianney Griffins in the Challenge Cup Semifinals. After winning both games, the Jr. Bills have punched their ticket to tonight's Cup Final, where they will look to take down the archrival De Smet Spartans to claim the program's fourth state title.

For both SLUH and Vianney, the path to the semifinals was relatively straightforward. The Jr. Bills, as the No. 2 seed, faced an easy quarter-final matchup against Francis Howell (in which they scored 15 goals and allowed just three over two games), while the third-seeded Griffins handled sixth-seeded Chaminade without much trouble, winning by a combined score of 7-3.

The regular season series between Vianney and SLUH was split, as Vianney took a 2-1 win in the teams' first matchup of the season, and suffered a 3-0 defeat to the Jr. Bills in a rematch less than a week later. Although the Jr. Bills dropped one game against Vianney, their comfortable win over the Griffins in the second regular season matchup, as well as their utter domination of Francis Howell in the previous round, had SLUH coming in with confidence. As the higher seed, they expected to win, but not without a fight.

Game 1 was played at 7:20 last Friday night at Centene Community Ice Center, and, from the beginning of the first period, it was evident that the series would feature strong, back-and-forth play from both teams. With just under three and a half minutes left in the first, SLUH got on the board first thanks to a nice goal from senior co-captain Max Sextro. That lead held strong all the way to the buzzer, but didn't last much longer after that, as Vianney tied up the game just 23 seconds into the second period.

"We knew Vianney was going to be a tough opponent," said head coach Steve Walters. "We were trying to pressure them through the neutral zone, not letting them get into a groove. It was tight for a while but then we were playing all 20 players on our bench, and they only played half their bench. We just tired them out."

Perhaps spurred on by a momentum shift from the early goal, Vianney dominated the Jr. Bills in terms of offensive zone time in the early half of the second, allowing just one shot on goal in the first seven minutes.

But with just under six minutes left in the second, SLUH reclaimed their lead when an ill-timed Vianney line change allowed junior defenseman Luke Gund to find a wide-open Daniel Sendobry surging into the offensive zone, who promptly beat the Griffins' goalie in a one-on-one. A third SLUH goal—this one scored by junior forward Henry Serafin with 90 seconds left in the period—gave the Jr. Bills a 3-1 lead going into the final period.

Badly needing two scores, the Griffins came out very strong to kick off the third, and, after a Jr. Bill penalty, they went on the power play just after the 12-minute mark. With one minute and 15 seconds left on the man advantage, Vianney put a second goal of the night past junior goaltender Max Bely to cut SLUH's lead in half.

The Jr. Bills didn't have to wait too long to reclaim their two-goal lead, however, as a puck cleared out of the SLUH defensive zone found the stick of senior forward Zach Petlansky, who flipped it over to senior forward Nick Lyons for the team's fourth goal.

As the minutes ticked away, an increasingly desperate Vianney team began pushing more and more numbers up on offense, which culminated in an even-strength goal scored with just under five minutes remaining.

Now playing for a tie, which would have effectively made the second game a winner-take-all, Vianney held pos-

session of the puck for much of the remaining time, and in that time placed some dangerous chances on net. However, any nerves amongst the SLUH contingent regarding a Vianney comeback were dissipated with 43 seconds left in regulation, when Lyons scored his second of the night to seal a final score of 5-3.

In an evenly-played game on all parts of the ice, Vianney actually topped SLUH in the shots department, registering 27 to the Jr. Bills' 23. Still, SLUH emerged from the game with more confidence, as they capitalized on their scoring opportunities, and provided quality defensive play in front of Bely in net.

"It was a really good game," said Wieggers. "We played sound defensively. Vianney is a pretty chippy team. We aren't very fond of them and they definitely try to get us off our game. We stay out of the box and we can beat them 5 on 5s.

For the second installment of the series, which took place the following night at 9:30 and was also played at Centene, the Jr. Bills came in needing a win or tie to claim their spot in the final. Per Mid States' rules concerning the semifinals, if a series is split, the teams take part in a 10 minute sudden death mini-game. Perhaps in a bid to keep scoring at a minimum, both teams came out slow and defensive, with just eight total shots registered in the entire first period.

Vianney struck first with two and a half minutes left in the first, on a shorthanded goal that occurred when the Jr. Bills were actually on their first power play of the night.

The score remained unchanged going into intermission and into the second, where SLUH began to dominate offensively. Finally, with a little over seven minutes' time elapsed, just seconds into a power play opportunity, a slapshot uncorked right off the faceoff by senior defenseman Mario DiMaggio was deflected by the Griffins' goalie, and, in the commotion that ensued, Wieggers knocked the puck in



Daniel Sendobry (20) celebrates a goal in game one against Vianney

photo | Kathy Chott

to knot the score at 1-1.

"Our power play unit goes out. I win the faceoff, back to Mario, Patrick Vogl tips it off the goalie and I was just there for a backdoor goal," said senior Sean Wieggers. "After I scored, I was ecstatic, went over to the student section and did a little bow and arrow. I also gave a salute as I went past the Vianney bench.

As the game progressed into the third with the score still at one all, physicality ramped up as both teams continued their quest for an elusive second goal. Eventually, with six minutes left on the clock, the Jr. Bills reached that milestone, as a great breakout pass into the Griffins' offensive zone was tipped to the stick of Wieggers, who slid the puck over to a wide-open Vogl to maneuver the puck into the net.

With increased desperation, the Griffins began throwing pucks on net, and, with just over one minute remaining, they finally got their equalizer. On the power play due to a tripping penalty taken by Caplin, a Vianney forward fired a puck on net that was saved by DiMaggio, which, while a necessary and instinctive play

that prevented a sure goal, was an illegal play of the puck. The Vianney player was accordingly awarded with a penalty shot, which he tucked over the goalie's shoulder to tie the game at 2-2.

Now needing only a goal to force the mini-game, Vianney pulled its goalie and sent all men forward for the final minute to try and overpower the still-shorthanded Jr. Bill defense. However, worries of Vianney stealing a goal in the final minute were nullified by a goal fired into the empty net from the blue line by sophomore forward Logan Petlansky, which fully assured SLUH a chance at winning a first state title in three years.

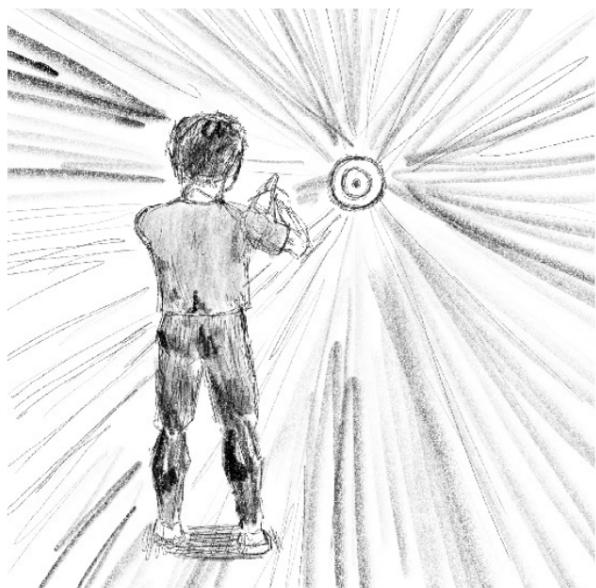
Now moving on to the final, the Jr. Bills will take on fourth-seeded De Smet at 8:30 tonight at Centene. Though SLUH's path through the semifinals was relatively smooth, the Spartans clinched their spot in the final thanks to a dramatic comeback victory over the top-seeded CBC Cadets. After losing the first game 4-2, De Smet took a 3-1 win in regulation to force a sudden-death minigame. After that period ended without either team

scoring, the Cadets and Spartans then commenced upon a penalty shootout, where De Smet saved all three CBC attempts and scored one to secure their spot in the final.

"We have a lot of respect for De Smet," said Wieggers. "But we don't like them, they don't like us. I think if we play our game we have a really good shot of winning this game and winning state."

For SLUH and De Smet, the final will mark the end of just one chapter in a long-storied rivalry on the ice, one which has most recently seen the Jr. Bills dominate in both postseason and regular season play. Although both teams have been consistent state title contenders for much of the past decade, SLUH has won seven consecutive Jesuit Cup titles over the Spartans, and even beat them in the Challenge Cup Finals in both 2018 and 2019. This year in particular also saw similarly strong play against De Smet, as the Jr. Bills rolled to a 3-0 victory in the Jesuit Cup over Thanksgiving Break, and notched a 3-1 win in the teams' second matchup of the season in January.

Rifle struggles out of town; team still holds hope for a run at Nationals



art | Leo Smith

BY JACK RYBAK
CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High Rifle team has been hard at work in the past few weeks, qualifying three teams for regionals and coming just shy of qualifying a team for Nationals. However, not all hope is lost, as the Jr. Bills will have another opportunity to qualify a team for Nationals in their upcoming matches.

Backtracking to Presidents Day weekend, the team traveled to Nashville to compete against two schools, Harpeth Hall and Montgomery Bell Academy. The first match was against the la-

dies of Harpeth Hall, the Jr. Bills fell short by a mere ten points, 2278-2268.

Sophomore Nicholas Bull led the team with a 573, followed closely by sophomore Alex Eckert. The Jr. Bills held second through fourth place with all shooters shooting a 570 or higher. However, Harpeth Hall's Isabella Baldwin stole the show with a 596 total score.

The following day, the Jr. Bills shot in a tournament against MBA. The tournament consisted of two events, first a 60 shot three position match followed soon after by a 60 shot all standing match.

Again, the team lost by just ten points, this time

2276-2266. Junior Michael Lumetta led the team with a 573, giving him third place in the three position match. After a short break the team entered the range again for a 60 shot stand match, already down by 10. To win would have required a strong victory, which SLUH couldn't muster. They did score enough to tie, though, scoring 1673 points to match their opponent.

The following weekend, the Jr. Bills competed in the 2022 Missouri State Junior Olympic Championship. This was the last match of the regular season and an opportunity to qualify a team for Nationals. To automatically

qualify, a team would have to shoot a 2280, with the average score for each shooter being a 570.

Senior team captain Sam Quinlivan shot first in the morning relay, earning himself a score of 577 and giving the other three shooters wiggle room in their scores. Senior Sean Madden (570) and Bull (563) shot in the second relay. In the final relay, Lumetta came just shy of necessary 570 to qualify the team, shooting a 567. Fortunately, the team will have another opportunity to qualify for Nationals, something the coaches think is absolutely possible for the team.

AMDG

Basketball begins State title quest with easy wins over Fox and Oakville in Districts

BY COBY SPRATTE
CORE STAFF

St. Louis U. High's varsity basketball team rebounded from its end-of-season loss to De Smet with two District tournament wins—beating Fox 83-33, and a 48-33 victory over Oakville.

SLUH came out of the gate pretty flat against De Smet, and never really got into a groove against the Spartans. They scored the first four points of the game, thanks to baskets from junior AJ Walker Jr. and senior Jaden McClain, but they played from behind for the remainder of the night.

The Jr. Bills kept it close in the opening quarter, trailing just 16-13 heading into the second. Yet their offense remained largely stagnant, and they were unable to manufacture any sort of consistent offense.

Saint Louis University commit Nick Kramer was only able to manufacture 10 points in the game, with 6 of those points coming from the charity stripe, as he finished with just half of his single game average. On top of Kramer's disappointing night, the Jr. Billikens only made one three-pointer. One of the team's strengths in the early portion of the season was the deep ball, but it has faltered as of late.

The Jr. Bills' offense continued to sputter in the second quarter, and they took a 29-21 deficit into halftime. SLUH played to a close margin in the second half, but they could never close the gap, as they dropped their final regular season contest 58-51.

"The fight was there," said senior center Kevin Hogan. "But things didn't go our way with our execution on offense.

The biggest offensive force for the Jr. Bills was Walker who dropped a game-leading 18 points. His performance was supplemented by Hogan's stellar performance on both ends of the floor: 13 points, 10 boards, and 5 blocks.

"Most of my shots were not very difficult since our guards made some really good plays to get me the ball," Hogan humbly said.

The Jr. Billikens followed their rough end of the season stretch with a commanding 83-33 win over the 3-19 Fox Warriors.

SLUH opened up a 27-5 at the end of the first quarter, dominating in the paint and in transition. They held a 47-12 landslide lead heading into the halftime break.

Kramer scored 15 points and Walker added another 12 to lead the initial force.

Yet junior Zach Ortwerth led the way with a standout performance of 18 points, 7 rebounds and 5 steals, most of his production coming in the first half.

The continued one-sidedness in the second half allowed some of the Jr. Billiken bench players and younger guys to make some contributions to the scorebook and garner some playoff experience.

"We knew going into the game we were going to have to play tough defense, and offensively we knew we were going to have to finish in the paint," Ortwerth remarked.

Freshman Landon Pace scored his first six career varsity points, junior Cayman Butler added another six, senior Jack Christanell scored five in his first multi-bucket game of the season, junior Trey "Diesel" Philips contributed four, senior Charlie Stewart con-



photo | Jack Figge

Jaden McClain takes a three against Oakville.

nected on a 3-pointer for his lone bucket of the night, and juniors Dwayne Chatman and Cal Kreuter each added two points of their own.

The reserves were able to close it out, and SLUH advanced to the District semifinals against the fifth-seeded Oakville Tigers, who knocked out the Lindbergh Flyers 55-54 in a nail-biting quarterfinal.

The one-seeded Jr. Billikens seemed to enter the game as hefty favorites, but the Tigers made it known early that they were not going to go down without a fight.

Oakville got out to a scorching hot start, raining in three pointers early. They outpaced, outworked and out-hustled the Jr. Billikens en route to a 17-7 first quarter lead.

Yet, SLUH remained resilient and locked down on defense, allowing less points in the final three quarters than

they did in the first.

Walker led the offensive charge with 20 points and Kramer added another 16, as they were the only Jr. Bills to score more than 7 points, continuing to reign as the main scoring duo for SLUH.

The defense carried the Junior Bills to victory, as they were able to string together stop after stop en route to their 48-33 win.

The Jr. Billikens will look to carry this spurt of momentum into the Class 6 District 1 final against second-seeded Jackson, winners over third-seeded Poplar Bluff by a score of 70-49, at 3 p.m. on March 5 in the Danis Field House. SLUH will have to execute start to finish to knock off the sharp shooting Jackson team.

"Limiting Jackson's three-point attempts and limiting them in transition will help lead to a win," Ortwerth added.

Commit's Corner: Double Football

Johnston heads to WashU in pursuit of new relationships

BY NATHAN RICH
SPORTS EDITOR

Next year, fans of SLUH football will recognize a familiar face at Washington University in St. Louis. Senior quarterback Luke Johnston will be continuing his football career with the WashU Bears next year and continuing to pursue his passion for the sport.

"Sports have been a big part of my life for as long as I

can remember, especially basketball," said Johnston. "But all of high school I really fell in love with football."

With Johnston at the helm, the Jr. Bills posted a strong 7-4 record this past season and even had a few standout wins in the postseason. Johnston looks to bring his winning ways to WashU's program, which also went 7-4 last season.

When deciding on his college, though, Johnston was

first and foremost looking for a place to learn.

"I want to play football, but the main thing is I want to go to a good school that will help me succeed," he said. "WashU has a great reputation for that."

The football benefits were clear too. The Bears are coached by Aaron Keen, who instantly made a good impression on Johnston when he toured. Keen, although he's only been with WashU for two years, has plenty of experience

as a former D1 coach. Plus, he played quarterback for WashU in the early 90's, making him a perfect mentor for Johnston.

And as for what he can bring to the team, Johnston hopes it's similar to what he offered the Jr. Bills.

"I hope I can bring leadership, as a quarterback that's kind of a big deal. You have to be a leader and be able to control situations," he said. "You can't just be a good athlete, you have to be a good person too."

Greninger to kick for strong SBU football program

BY NATHAN RICH
SPORTS EDITOR

Senior Conner Greninger is taking his leg to Southwest Baptist University next year to kick for the SBU Bearcats' football team. SBU is located in Bolivar, Mo. just north of Springfield. For Greninger, it represents the perfect mix between his home town of Bentonville, Ark. and SLUH, his home for the past three years.

Before deciding where he was taking his kicking talents,

Greninger had to decide if it was worth playing in college. That was a remarkably easy choice for him.

"I love football," he said. "When I was thinking about whether or not I wanted to play (in college), I was like: 'can I imagine myself not playing football?' and I honestly couldn't. It was a pretty easy decision (to play) after that."

A busy summer filled with tours and football camps narrowed down his selection to

just two schools: SBU and Truman State, both located in Missouri. In the end, SBU's nationally ranked D2 program won him over.

In going to SBU, Greninger is reuniting with the kicker from his old Bentonville team, which was a big plus for him. Already having a connection to the team was exciting for Greninger, but it wasn't his only reason for picking SBU. He was persuaded by his time at SLUH as well.

"I really liked the people at SBU and I like the Christain culture there as well," he said. "It gives me SLUH vibes a little bit."

With the decision already sealed, Greninger will now prepare for an important test at SBU, which had a tough 4-7 season last fall.

"It's going to be real deal football and I'm super excited," he said. "I hope I can bring a big leg."

Rugby finally starts season this weekend after ice delay

BY BEN CROAT
STAFF

After five weeks of freezing practices, St. Louis' premier high school rugby team, the Jr. Bills, will take the field this Saturday against Germantown, out of the Memphis area, at Lindenwood University. This follows the cancellation of last week's game against St. James high school from Kansas City because of ice covering the turf.

"Mother Nature isn't always on our side," said junior Nick Devoti. "But this extra week gave us a little bit more time to work out some kinks for this weekend."

Head coach Brian Corrigan tried to secure other fields in the area last week and even offered to have his team clear the fields themselves, but to no avail. Thankfully, the Jr. Bills didn't have to wait long for the next match, thanks to a well-organized schedule that includes trips to both Cincinnati and Springfield, Ill.

SLUH's first match this weekend will be far from the familiar turf here on Oakland Avenue. The game will be part of a larger Lindenwood Tournament that also sees collegiate level action.

"We could have played our matches versus Germantown at Forest Park, but instead, we chose to join the Lindenwood Tournament several weeks ago as it will be a fun environment," said Corrigan. "There will be six strong high school programs competing on campus that day and that environment will create a nervous tension that will be good to get familiar with."

After a loss of 23 seniors from last year, SLUH's rugby squad has done a good job regrouping and gathering new talent as they await their first matchup. With the new faces

comes more opportunities to grow and adapt to the SLUH rugby tradition and embrace this year's motto of "Enjoying Being Uncomfortable."

"As a whole team we're pretty young in both age and experience, however over the past few weeks we've looked amazing," said sophomore Archie Carruthers. "The Varsity first 15 squad is gonna be solid, we're fast paced and we make up for our lack of size with aggression."

"The team has come a long way in the past five weeks we've been practicing," agreed Devoti. "The guys have handled the discomfort of learning a new sport really well, and are going to do a great job in their first game this weekend."

Luckily enough, the Jr. Bills will not have to face Mother Nature this weekend, only St. James. Looking forward to the rest of the season, SLUH Rugby aims to replicate an impressive set of accomplishments from last year. With a national tournament and state championship appearance, the program is hoping to grow their national recognition.

"Over the last several years, we have had very good teams, but we were under the radar somewhat. Last year, due to some great play as well as some lucky breaks, we earned the opportunity to play in the Nationals Tournament in KC, making it harder to fly under the radar moving forward," said Corrigan at the beginning of season. "Our program is in a position to take steps forward this year."

"We think a state championship is very achievable," said Carruthers. "I think I speak for all the players and coaches when I say we want to go to nationals, and we have the ability to compete at that level."



Johnston looks downfield against CBC.



Greninger (center), among friends, signs to kick for SBU.



Senior Donovan Meachem (Puggsly) enjoys a medieval torture device.

In first performance in front of a full audience, Dauphin players perform whimsical, ghastly comedy

(continued from page 1)

extended audience.

"We are in a rebuilding year; for two thirds of our cast this was their first show," said artistic director Kathryn Whitaker. "It was funny because none of us were very familiar with the show. It was a lot to have taken a year off in between and to come back with this difficult of a show. I'm glad we did, though, because we wanted to do something very character-driven and fun, which the Addams Family is."

A light layer of smoke fills the dark theater, the curtains open and there, center stage, is the center of all of the drama, Wednesday Addams (Nerinx senior Maclean Blanner). The adaptation being performed by the Dauphin Players follows the story of Wednesday falling in love with Lucas Beineke (sophomore Jack Janson), a young boy raised in a typical American family in Ohio. Wednesday decides to host a dinner for the two families to meet, revealing the central

tension within the plot that causes a great amount of drama between the characters.

"It was about celebrating differences," said Whitaker. "This was really a family like all of ours, except they explored and embraced the dark side of things. But they have huge family values: they love one another, they stick together. I think it's a lovely piece with a good message."

With a healthy dose of humor, the play also examines the mature themes of relationships, honesty, and what it means to be normal. Three couples: Wednesday and Lucas; Wednesday's parents, Gomez Addams (freshman Paul Thibodeau) and Morticia Addams (played by Sarah Henderson); and Lucas's parents, Mal Beineke (sophomore Tim Browdy) and Alice Beineke (played by Sophia Weis) struggle with different issues in their romantic relationships. Through extravagant musical numbers and punchlines that will have every audience member laughing out loud,

the Players tell the story of the eccentric family.

"We read the script and it was just so clever," said choreographer Simonie Anzalone. "It was witty and had that dark side but was so lighthearted at the same time, so it felt right."

For the past two months, the cast has been meticulously preparing for the show through many long, after school practices. Yet, within these long after school practices, the cast has found a great amount of joy in preparing for the musical together.

"In the preparation for a show, the cast and crew form a family for that month and a half or two months that you're rehearsing together for eight to ten hours a day," said senior Donovan Meachem (Puggsly). "We have created a bond with each other that is just like nothing else and is incredible."

Preparing for this musical has taught the actors a great deal about the theater. For some, it taught them how to

step outside of their comfort zone, for others: how to learn a new skill.

"Playing my character, Fester Addams, has given me a lot of room to play around and experiment, which really helped improve my acting," said junior Andrew Marty. "I was also obviously pushed by having to play that banjo, which I had to completely learn from scratch, but I'm starting to get the hang of it."

"I've had to learn how to really trust myself in making decisions, but also trust the production team by listening to what they have to say, and incorporating it," said Thibodeau. "I have learned that flexibility is really important."

The performance is open to the public with three shows remaining, tonight and Saturday night at 7:30 and a matinee production on Sunday at 2:00 pm. Tickets can be purchased at the SLUH box office website for \$10.



Sophia Weis (Alice Beineke) confesses her feelings in a game of full disclosure.



Junior Jack Jansen (Lucas Beineke) sings to his love.

Calendar

Friday, March 4

B Day

B Day - Late Start Schedule
Department Meetings

AP F3 Workout

7:50AM SLUH Community First Friday Mass

1:15PM Football Meeting

7:30PM Spring Musical

8:30PM V Ice Hockey - Challenge Cup Final (vs De Smet Jesuit)

Saturday, March 5

6:00PM Mother/Son Trivia

1:20PM Varsity Rugby vs Germantown

3:00PM Varsity Basketball vs Jackson (Class 6, District 1 Final)

3:30PM C Team Rugby vs Germantown

7:30PM Spring Musical

Sunday, March 6

10:30PM Mother/Son Trivia

9:30AM C Team Rugby vs St. Thomas Aquinas

2:00PM Spring Musical

Monday, March 7

A Day

4:30PM Class of 2026 Virtual Academic Orientation

6:00PM Class of 2026 Virtual Academic Orientation

Tuesday, March 8

B Day

Lenten Ignatian Evening and Dinner

12:55PM National Latin Exam

5:00PM Lacrosse vs John Burroughs (JV/V)

Wednesday, March 9

A Day

Thursday, March 10

B Day

NHS Meeting

7:00PM Varsity Rugby vs Force

calendar | Ben Croat

Prep News

Volume 86,
Issue 21
Credits

"What are you giving up for Lent?"

Editor in Chief

Jack "making fun of Jenna Rae with Cooper" Figge

Austin "talking golf" Wald
Mark "doing homework" Wappler

Editor

Nathan "being Jack's Editor" Rich

Staff Artists

Will "making distasteful art" Blaisdell
Leo "doing the assassin on people" Smith

News Editor

Roarke "Wallball features" Unrau

Reporters

Bill "private" Albus
Jack "swimming with sharks" Evans
Andrew "the musical" Hunt

Visual Editor

Charlie "cliff diving" Bieg

Web Editor

Luke "masculine pants" Duffy

Core Staff

Jackson "making fun of Jenna Rae with Figge" Cooper
Louis "hitting out of bunkers" Cornett
Jack "still not showing up to Prep News" Rybak
Alex "tennis" Preusser
Coby "gambling" Spratte
George "Elastigirl" Henken
Michael "my Dad's crosswords" Baudendistel

Drew "my brother" Figge
Vincent "also my brother" Weinbauer
Will "track hard workouts" Riggan
Charles "PN Style" Turnell
Charlie "late night Facetimes" Vonderheid
Alex "attending class" Wentz

Artists

Thomas "going to Mass" Bock

Photographers

Kathy "the periodic table" Chott
Stephen "cutting my hair" Deves

Moderator

Steve "staying up late" Missey

State Hockey Final.
Tonight.
8:30 pm.
Centene Ice Center.
Be There.
Bring this paper.
Read it when De
Smet's team is being
announced.

The *Prep News* Staff sends their thoughts and prayers to the family of Jeannie Thornberry.

May she rest in peace.

Visitation: Monday, March 7 from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Schrader Funeral Home

Funeral Mass: Tuesday, March 8 at 11:00 am at St. Peter Catholic Church