

At a Glance

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STEM Night revived to showcase Jr. Bills' summer research and activities



Freddy Laux delivering his presentation at STEM Night. photo | Shawn Gothra

BY ALEX PREUSSER AND AUSTIN WALD
STAFF, REPORTER

The Jr. Bill (Nye)'s are back at it again! On Monday night, the best and brightest of the St. Louis U. High's science community convened to put on this fall's STEM Night, showcasing the achievements and endeavors of several Jr. Billikens. Ranging from one student's cancer research to the activist funding of another, the event provided a fuller view of the Science Department's objectives.

Science teacher Mary Russo spearheaded the event, recruiting the students and organizing their presentations.

After a one-year hiatus, Russo wanted to revive the platform for students to display the diverse personal research they have worked hard on.

"With the pandemic we couldn't do it last year, but this year we've tried to open up the experience a bit," said Russo. "I reached out to the Counseling, Math, Computer, and Science Departments as well as the whole school to make sure we captured the best work from our students."

In the past, STEM Nights have focused on students' work with the Students and Teachers as Research Scientists program, or STARS. This program strives to expose students to a

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Admin weighing possible Quarter 2 Covid plans

BY JACKSON COOPER AND LUCAS HAYDEN
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

With the first quarter of the 2021-22 school year coming to a close, the administration of St. Louis U. High has been hard at work deciding on its Covid plans for the second quarter, which are set to be announced in the Oct. 17 Parent-Connect email.

SLUH has been successful so far at limiting student and faculty cases and quarantines, with, as of this past Tuesday, Oct. 5, only 15 students and faculty testing positive, and only 20 student close-contact quarantines having been needed. All of this has come under the administration's Condition III guidelines, which have been in place since school began in August.

"I think all of our work last year has put us in a really good position to do well," said Director of Health Scott Gilbert. "It's been a good first quarter. We have had some Covid cases, and we have had some quarantines, and we expected to have them."

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Strategic summit's five charters to impact 2022-23 school year from top to bottom

BY JACK FIGGE AND ELLIOT MOORE
EDITOR IN CHIEF, REPORTER

The students of St. Louis U. High are all too familiar with the importance of revisions, examining and reviewing to point out flaws and make changes, whether it be examining their own life in the daily examen, revising English essays, or reviewing class notes. However, what students may not realize is that the school that teaches these skills is undergoing its own review process in what has been deemed the Strategic Summit.

Like every other organization in the world, the faculty and staff of SLUH were thrown for a loop when the pandemic hit in March of 2020. One of the hardest changes was the constant revisions of the schedule and having to adapt to new teaching styles.

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No phone zone: OAC takes on the currents of the Current River

BY MARK WAPPLER
REPORTER

This past weekend, 11 ambitious Jr. Bills embarked on the St. Louis U. High Outdoor Adventure Club's (OAC) annual Fall trip.

Staying close to home, the group drove two and a half hours Saturday morning through Southern Missouri into the foothills of the Ozark Highlands to the shore of the Current River, where they planned for a 20-mile excursion downstream. There, the group of voyagers divided themselves into their canoes and began their trip down the river. After overcoming natural obstacles and a fair share of spelunking, the group finished the day inside the humble abode of their cabin, and returned to Oakland Avenue Sunday morning.

Longtime OAC moderator Patrick Zarrick had been planning for the club's Fall trip since the start of the school year. Typically conducted at the end of first quarter exam week, Zarrick had to adjust his agenda when planning the trip according to the new school curriculum of not including designated quarter exams. Finally settling on the weekend of Friday, Oct. 1 to Sunday, Oct. 3, Zarrick thought he was in the clear until he was forced to pivot to make his first change to the itinerary due to poor weather projections.

"Our original plan was to depart from SLUH after school on Friday, camp Friday and Saturday night, and

Students hope to see more Hispanic Heritage activities

LUKE DUFFY AND DREW HAWLEY
WEB EDITOR, REPORTER

Taking place from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 each year, National Hispanic Heritage Month has long been a time to celebrate Hispanic and Latino culture. In years past, St. Louis U. High has acknowledged Hispanic Heritage Month with a week of morning prayers for the Hispanic community. Although many Hispanic and Latino students hoped to see more celebration this year, SLUH was unable to do any more than the week of morning prayers and a bulletin board.

Hispanos y Latinos Unidos, a club dedicated to providing a voice for Hispanic and Latino students, was central to planning the events for Hispanic Heritage Month. They wrote thoughtful prayers about people of importance in the Hispanic community

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OAC at the rental shack. photo | Mr. Patrick Zarrick

Campus Ministry set to offer full slate of events throughout school year to help students’ faith lives

BY DREW FIGGE AND VINCENT WEINBAUER REPORTERS

Everyone knows Campus Ministry as the room in the center of the school with the comfy couches and the place to take a nap, but not everybody realizes the extent to which Campus Ministry serves the school.

Throughout the year, campus ministers invest a lot of time and effort into developing school activities to grow students’ spiritual lives, from class Masses to the Food Drive and everything in between.

This year, Campus Ministry is really excited to get back to some normalcy that the Covid year has taken away. One of those things that is going to be coming back is all school Masses. With the Mass of the Holy Spirit having to be split into two separate Masses because of weather factors, Campus Ministry is trying to prepare for All Saints Mass, scheduled for Nov. 1.

“We really hope that All Saints Mass will be a full school Mass,” said Direc-

tor of Campus Ministry Fr. Matthew Stewart S.J. “After 18 months, we will be able to have the entire school attending one Mass, which is really exciting.”

One new Campus Ministry initiative that arose from the pandemic was the Food, Formation, Fellowship (FFF) events that gave people a chance to safely hang out with their friends after school on a Friday evening and to get some spiritual formation in their lives. After much success, Campus Ministry has decided to have FFF’s make a return this year. “FFF is going to be coming back strong,” said campus minister Stephen Deves. “It will probably become part of who Campus Ministry is.” FFF is a great opportunity for students to meet new people, especially for the freshman, and also play games, eat dinner, and learn about your faith life.

Another initiative that was developed by Campus Ministry last year was the Grande Project for the senior class. The Grande Project was developed to replace the senior service project which

could not happen due to complications. This year, the seniors again cannot do the regular senior service project because many of the service programs are not currently accepting volunteers.

“It’s going to be a different experience for the seniors,” said Deves. “We are trying to do as much as we can that is normal, but we still have some challenges with that.”

Campus Ministry is working to make some changes to the program. Although some seniors are disappointed that they won’t get the typical senior project, Campus Ministry has high hopes for it to be successful.

Campus Ministry is excited to start this school year and combine ideas from before and during the pandemic year.

“Ultimately our goal is to draw people closer together and draw people closer to Christ,” said Deves. “We do for the spiritual betterment we are bringing new opportunities to serve students in their spiritual and personal development.”

More late starts added to accomadate faculty meeting time



art | Colin Schuler

BY CHARLES TURNELL AND DANIEL TICE REPORTERS

The students of St. Louis U. High are taking note of the frequent late starts that have happened during the first quarter. Late starts are scheduled twice a month on B days, and have more significance than just letting students get a needed extra hour of sleep. Assistant Principal for Academics Kevin Foy provided the *Prep News* with insight into what happens while students are sleeping in.

“It is very difficult to carve out time for the adults to get together, meet, do their research and make decisions when students are in the building because we want to help students run clubs and help students with academics,” said Foy.

Late starts are the perfect solution for this problem since the school is mostly

empty during the morning of late starts. This does not mean that the teachers can do whatever they want; however, they are busy with other commitments.

“Every month, one late start is for the full faculty to get together and meet, and the other is for separate departments to get together and meet,” said Foy.

Another option to doing late starts is the early dismissal schedule used in past years. Upperclassmen who are fans of the early dismissal schedule might be wondering why they have been non-existent so far this year. Foy warns that they are becoming a thing of the past.

“If we’re going to have a late start or early dismissal, we think late starts make more sense. Everyone likes to sleep in or have breakfast, and with so many guys being student-athletes, early dismissal really puts coaches in a bind

or gives these students nothing to do,” said Foy. “During early dismissal, (librarian Lynne) Casey has the library closed for meetings and the Commons is closed for meetings, so there’s nowhere for students to go, whereas coming to school a little bit later typically works better.”

The consensus of most students is that late starts are very beneficial. Having homerooms start at 9:45 instead of 8:30 gives students more time to sleep, catch up on homework, eat a big breakfast, or anything else with the extra time.

“The extra hour of sleep does make a difference in my energy at school. In a crazy week, it can be very refreshing to have a night where you can sleep more. Instead of nearly falling asleep in the first period, I am able to engage more in class discussions,” said junior Cal Kreuter.

The extra hour that students get in the morning results in no Studium on late start days, and even though late starts give kids an extra hour of free time in the morning, some would rather skip the late start and keep the schedule the way it is.

“The fact that there is no Studium on late start days forces me to do my homework at night, which can be overwhelming. I’d rather just wake up at the same time so I have less work to do at night,” said junior Parker Guthrie.

The next late start is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 19.

Fun Days are back! More brotherhood to be built with the return of class programming days



AJ Thompson leads the Class of 2022 in a chant at their 2020 Fun Day photo | Kathy Chott

BY MICHAEL BAUDENDISTEL AND BEN CROAT REPORTERS

Class fun days will make an appearance in the SLUH schedule for the second year in a row as an integral part of the class unity process. The class fun days emerged in the 2020-2021 school year, when bonding and forming class identity experiences became challenging due to Covid restrictions.

“The class fun days came out of this Covid world we’re living in, and especially last year with having half only half of your class on campus every day. Having one day set aside where only that grade is on campus, when everyone is there, and where you’re not focused on academics was very important,” said junior class moderator Tracy Lyons.

The fun days have been a smash hit so far, and some faculty members believe that they are here to stay, even though Covid regulations are slowly starting to disappear.

“And who’s to say the class fun days couldn’t be here for a while, they have been so fun for the students and have helped to build up some spirit that definitely has been hard to create in a world of Zoom, masks, and Covid,” said Lyons.

“It started out with me and the sophomores that are on the class council,” said sophomore class moderator Frank Corley of the planning. “They go back to their homerooms and tell them what we’re thinking about, and ask if they have any ideas that they would like to see. And then we’ll come back and have another meeting, and throw some more ideas around.”

“The class moderator really spearheads the effort and sends the email out to either the whole class or, in the case of the seniors, the senior Student Council and the senior class moderators,” said STUCO president A.J. Thompson. “Then we meet periodically to go over what we’re thinking and what we think the class will enjoy.”

The council members will eventually sort out practical details, such as faculty proctors and meals, just prior to their class fun day.

Corley believes that the sophomores will have a lot to look forward to for their upcoming class fun day on Nov. 5. While no plans are set in stone yet, he made sure to commend the creativity of the class council members in coming up with ideas.

“It sounds like a great big children’s birthday party,” said Corley. “They want to have a hypnotist or magician, they want to have a petting zoo, or maybe even a guy named Serengeti Steve that brings out an 11-foot python that you can hold. These guys want to have root beer float stations around campus where you can get a free root beer float in your free time. They want to play some kickball or dodgeball, or some other type of intramural sports, maybe trivia.”

One thing is for sure, the fun days this year are going to be more developed and refined than what students’ participated in last year. Corley feels like the faculty and students have a better idea of what to expect this year, and a better idea of how to plan it out.

“I think last year we were sort of just figuring it out,” said Corley. “We had all the Covid restrictions last year,

so there were certain things that were off limits. This year I think it will be more developed, and a bigger deal. Last year we didn’t really know what we were doing with it, and the students didn’t know what this thing even was, this fun day or this programming day.”

The student-planning aspect of the fun days is vital to the class fun day’s success. These events are unique in that few other events at SLUH have members of each class plan it for their peers. While STUCO events are always a student body favorite, the fun days are unique in this sense.

The fun days have also continued to be a key part in the formation of classes, especially for the underclassmen who haven’t had many chances to bond as a class. Their inclusion last year was vital to class unity so many are glad to see its return.

“Some people saw friends they haven’t seen since freshman year, so the fun days were a way to bond us closer since we had drifted so far apart over quarantine,” said junior Chandler Flowers. “I hope there could be more sports activities and more class interactions. I think there was too much time spent on personal reflection and time with God and not enough of us spending time and bonding together.”

“I think that it’s important to build that sort of a brotherhood with people that you don’t have classes with or that person in your homeroom that you’ve never talked to that much before,” said Thompson. “Just to build bridges throughout your class and our community is really important and hopefully it continues.”

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PN Puzzle: “Tear Up”

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62						63					64			

crossword | Paul Baudendistel

ACROSS
1. The farm _____ kept their chickens in a _____.
5. The seamstress and _____ fell into a _____.
10. Catching sight of the cat, the _____ _____ into a bush.
14. Bullets and bombs
15. Jack, in a card game
16. Star Wars species that is the syllabic reverse of another
17. Dynamite singer Cruz
18. Attached the oxen
19. A, B, C, D, E, F, or G

20. The _____ to the castle was enough to _____ the suitor.
22. The _____ put his pencils and paper in the _____.
24. “Yuck!”
25. Take sustenance
26. Without any markup
29. The insurance of the _____ was _____.
33. Like ice cream, but with bacteria
34. Forest view blockers
36. One, in a card game
37. Preps for feathers

38. He _____ the bandage around the _____.
39. Up to a certain time
40. Nickname of the pitcher who amassed 361 starts and 390 saves
41. Took sustenance, in the evening
42. Breakfast option
43. While she was _____, the same bee tried to _____ her.
45. Certain ellipses
46. πr^2 , e.g.
47. Overly meticulous
48. After a _____ of ice packs, her hand felt _____.
51. Santa _____ _____ every year.
55. Assigner of video game ratings
56. End of a classic Sherlock quote
58. Achy
59. Something often redundantly described as straight
60. When the flood got _____, they had to _____ the road.
61. Huge amount
62. Running like he had _____ in his shoes kept him from the _____.
63. Name for an entitled woman
64. The _____ was too strong to _____ the sail.
6. Father of Methuselah or Cain’s oldest son
7. Get up
8. Cain’s mother
9. Blushed or flushed
10. Spanish response
11. Stubbing response
12. Choose a candidate
13. One who squeaks by
21. In addition
23. Guns the engine
25. Demon
26. Beyond a certain time
27. Tiny amount
28. Certain bottle tops
30. The world’s second-most famous plumber, after his older twin
31. Cove
32. Barbara Millicent Roberts and friends
34. South Pacific kingdom
35. Wish undone
38. Cellar item
39. Bench with a spinning blade
41. Extremely serious, as circumstances
42. Running like he had _____
44. Moved from one cell to another
45. Fifty to two
47. Got up
48. Gimme a Break! actress
49. Modern group pic
50. Transcription product that moves within a cell
51. Broke
52. Last Supper query
53. 1982 movie which was the first to use CGI
54. Deliver, as an e-mail
57. State with the fourth-largest economy (abbr.)

DOWN
1. Actress Blanchett or swimmer Campbell
2. Country at the mouth of the Persian Gulf
3. Leave out
4. Long sandwiches with often shortened names
5. AI antagonist of the Terminator films

Week 4 Fantasy Football Recap

BY CHARLIE VONDERHEID
REPORTER

After Week 4 of the NFL Season it’s time to look towards next and get you ready for your Week 5 matchup.

The Studs
Daniel Jones-26.7

While the Giants have not been playing well this season, Daniel Jones somehow has. Currently sitting at QB6 on the year, Jones has used his legs and his turnover reduction to put up numbers that no one expected him to put up. I would still be cautious knowing his track record of being turnover prone, and because of the fact that the Giants themselves are not the best football team.

Cordarelle Patterson-34.6

One of the most interesting fantasy players this year, Patterson is usually a utility man who is known for his speed and kickoff return ability. The Falcons, however, have made him a focal point of their offense. Scoring three touchdowns last week and getting plenty of work in the passing game as a running back, Patterson is sitting at RB3 on the season. It will be interesting to see if Atlanta keeps giving him touches or if he fades back to his days of simply being used for his speed.

DJ Moore-31.9

Sam Darnold has found his new favorite target in Carolina. While many thought that Darnold would favor throwing to Robby Anderson because of their previous chemistry in New

York, DJ Moore has quickly taken over his spot. With plenty of volume in a pass heavy offense, DJ Moore is poised to continue his production so far and be a WR1 the rest of the season.

The Busts
Travis Kelce-6.3

Don’t overreact. Kelce is still the best tight end in all of fantasy football by a fair margin. Defenses have to pick and choose who they want to eliminate from the Chiefs offensive attack and the Eagles chose to eliminate Kelce. Hence, Tyreek Hill erupted for 47 fantasy points. Kelce should undoubtedly be started in every league no matter what.

Dalvin Cook-6.4

While Dalvin Cook was back on the field and active for Week 4, fantasy managers were disappointed to see him rack up just six points. The Vikings limited his usage due to the injury he suffered two weeks ago. Be cautious of his volume until he is fully healed. The Vikings do not want their star running back to be injured long term and will resort to utilizing Mattison for the time being.

Injuries
Joe Mixon

Mixon is listed as questionable and is looking very doubtful to play Week 5. If you own Mixon, it might be wise to pick up his backup in Samaje Perine as the Bengals run a slower, run heavy offense. Also, a matchup against the average Packers defense will be helpful in giving Perine lots of looks.

BY ROARKE UNRAU AND
JACK EVANS
NEWS EDITOR, REPORTER

The SLUH faculty is one of the most driven and knowledgeable bodies of educators in the state, but just like the student body they teach, they must complete a lengthy educational process during their own journey at the school. The program by which this orientation happens is known as the New Ignatian Educators (NIE).

Assistant Principal for Mission Jim Linhares is the main coordinator for the NIE and the process of introducing the new teachers to SLUH and helping them throughout their first few years, which is essential to the school’s identity.

“We believe that being an excellent teacher at St. Louis U. High is particular to St. Louis U. High,” said Assistant Principal for Academics Kevin Foy. “We want to make sure that everybody who’s teaching here understands, as well as we can put it forth, what it means to be a great teacher here.”

The transition to SLUH for educators is a big one and requires them to adapt to the ways of SLUH and learn about the teaching styles of a Jesuit high school.

“So, (NIE covers) everything from the Catholic faith to the Jesuit order to St. Ignatius to our unique approaches to prayer and to education. I can’t give them (new educators) all that, but in that first

year, I tried to give them some acquaintance with it. What I’m trying to do is to make sure they know ‘you’re okay, we’re with you,” said Linhares.

Starting over the summer before the school year begins, the new teachers meet and begin to learn about SLUH.

“The New Ignation Educators have a couple days of meetings in prep prior to when everybody else starts in the fall,” said Foy. “(We) did some prep work for all the new teachers about what teaching at SLUH is like. I talked about Canvas and PowerSchool and then we talked about our curriculum program and how all that stuff is going to go.”

Not only do the new members meet for four days in the summer, but they have quarterly check-ups throughout the first year, and then multiple times over their next four years at SLUH.

“It isn’t a super ambitious first year, given they only have the four quarterly meetings, and the two retreats. It’s not like I overload them; mostly what I want to do is make sure they’re okay. And there’s hospitality out there for them as they learn about this place. And then that journey kind of continues in years two, three and four,” said Linhares.

Led by Linhares, the new faculty go through an academic training process that fosters their own individual goals and teaching styles into it.

“I’m also responsible for continuing to ring the bell

to the departments and individuals and say ‘hey you know we’re behind you, get out there and develop yourself,” continued Linhares. “My office tries to create a culture in which people feel like they can (pursue their interests).”

All these adult formational procedures are vitally important to SLUH’s mission and further testify to the school’s academic prowess. Yet, the strong set of Ignatian values Linhares and his office work to infuse the faculty with makes their teacher initiation process something that is unique to SLUH.

“The Jesuit charism is an important one, and it fil-

ters into everything we do, whether we’re teaching theology or math or English or running our clubs and activities or coaching our sports,” said Foy. “All of those things need to be seen through the lens of what it means to be a Jesuit educator.”

The new faculty members become fully immersed in the Jesuit philosophy through retreats and personal meetings with Linhares, and the four-day orientation set up by the NIE. Through these events and encouragement to pray the Spiritual Exercises, new teachers come to see the values which define SLUH.

October Sisyphus

Sisyphus climbs out from under his rock this week, and, look, he brandishes paper (or its electronic facsimile). As we all know, pretend paper covers pretend rock, and this paper maps out a tidy treasure of literature and art blooming from the rocky outcroppings of the SLUH community. Follow the QR code to mount the wondrous mountain path of Sisyphus, SLUH’s Magazine of Literature and Art.



STEM Night revived to showcase the diverse undertakings of various Jr. Bills



Speakers pose for a group photo.

photo | Shawn Gothra

(continued from page 1)

variety of scientific fields of study through direct work with successful professionals in research institutions. Though there were several students this time who were involved in STARS, the group of presenters shared a variety of more diverse experiences this year.

The event opened up with a presentation from science teacher Bill Anderson, who explained the Science Department’s first longitudinal program at SLUH, the STEM weather balloon, which he created years ago. With the added benefit of a longitudinal study, students can use data from years preceding them, and the study will continue for years ahead.

“One thing that I had wanted to do for quite some time was the launch of a weather balloon, which would be just a tremendously exciting science project for our young men to undertake,” said Anderson.

In these launchings, Anderson’s main objectives were to provide students with a

chance to learn about the structure and function of the atmosphere, to study seasonal changes, to observe long term patterns, and to develop collaboration with students and teachers across different fields. The project itself is made possible by the partnership between the Science and IT Departments, with the help of Director of Information Technology Jonathan Dickmann in orchestrating the launch.

“Launch day finally comes along and everybody’s got a task,” said Anderson. “Others have a variety of tasks—getting the payload ready, making sure the instruments are working.”

Once the balloon is launched, Anderson and Dickmann chase it as it gathers its data of temperature, altitude, and even photography.

“I can’t say enough about the magnitude of this accomplishment,” Anderson said. “We’ve got these young men having an extremely rare opportunity to venture that far into the atmosphere. It’s just mind boggling, and I’m

amazed every time that we can pull this off and we get the data, and we’re seeing the relationships and the patterns that we’re supposed to see.”

Anderson was followed by a presentation from senior Angad Gothra, who worked with the STARS program in a cancer research project.

“I was actually lucky enough to be assigned to a wet lab (experimental lab) and view what my mentor did and do what I was researching for the summer,” said Gothra. “I was paired with Dr. (Angela) Hirbe at Washington University.”

Gothra studied the Neurofibromatosis Type 1 genetic disorder, specifically the tyrosine kinase two, or TYK2 protein. Through his research, he worked to find whether TYK2 could serve as a biomarker for malignant tumors, and if this could serve as a viable strategy in treatment of these tumors.

“I think the program was great in the sense that I was able to get exposed to laboratory discipline and actually wit-

ness how to conduct research on something so serious as cancer,” said Gothra. “I think I benefited most from this program in the sense that I can later apply the knowledge that I learned in college and hopefully in medical school as well.”

Gothra even received special recognition in the Research Paper Award for his excellent STARS manuscript outlining his research.

Senior Xavier Jallow followed Gothra, chronicling his experiences working in a mobile clinic in Cadet, Mo. There he served those who could not afford medical insurance, providing basic medical care that would not be available to them otherwise.

“We got to see a plethora of cases, and so mainly what the medical van does is they serve acute care like your cold, flu, and minor injuries,” explained Jallow. “They also do physicals and psychiatric things like depression and anxiety, to chronic diseases like diabetes and heart and pulmonary diseases.”

This shadowing stint opened Jallow up to an expanse of medical experience, providing a framework for his future in medical careers.

Next, senior Robert Mize explained his research on amyloids, which are self-constructing proteins that often are found in tissue abnormalities.

“Through my summer project, I got a deeper understanding of scientific research because I had never really worked in a lab or with an actual lab before. It also offered insight into dozens of speakers, from experienced doctors to a dual MD/PhD student, and that kind of gave me a lot of good ideas on where I might want to go and college and beyond,” said Mize. “It just gave me connections with other students interested in similar careers, and it also is a chance

to be responsible and independent.”

Junior Freddy Laux worked with a Pre-Med advisor at Washington University, and shared the work he did to aid in the treatment of schistosomiasis in Uganda. It was recently discovered that this parasitic disease is completely preventable with the drug Praziquantel.

“I worked with these other high school students and WashU students to adapt to very unique methods of fundraising,” said Laux. “We really had to convince them that the money they were donating was impactful.”

Laux is currently trying to plan an internship in which he can actually visit the clinic in Uganda that he was helping to fund from here in Saint Louis.

“I think my biggest takeaway is that your ability to reach out and use the resources that are there provided in front of you is very powerful, and that’s going to determine the type of experiences that you have,” said Laux. “So as you think about your future here at SLUH, think about your future involving making the most of what you’re passionate about.”

Moving into a more abstract concept of STEM, senior Richard Taylor discussed the similarities between physics and time in chemistry.

“I would definitely recommend (the program) if you’re interested in medical research,” said Richard Taylor. “All of this will be really helpful when I get to do undergrad research and college.”

After Taylor’s presentation came the final presentation of the night, as seniors Leight, JP Torack, and sophomore Thad Berta shared their work on aviation and robotics. Leight and Torack both participated in an extensive aviation engineering class taught by science teacher Bradley Mueller at SLUH over

the summer.

“The class covered the basic principles of flight from a physics perspective, engineering design and then accumulated in building an RC plane,” said JP Torack. “We also had the opportunity to visit several aviation related sites including the airport which was neat to gain that first hand experience.”

Leight and Torack, along with Berta, also gave insight to SLUH’s robotics program. The Robotics Club encompasses a range of talents and skills that come together into one cohesive masterpiece.

“Everyone has different interests and different talents. Thad is really good with programming electronics. Matthew is great with CAD and designing, and my specialty is more on the building side,” said Torack. “But when we all come together and use our different talents and communicate we’re able to produce functioning robots and functioning planes. It’s really cool.”

Following a long night of student and teacher representation of STEM, Science Department chair Tim O’Keefe couldn’t have been more proud of the outcome of the event. The event served its purpose of inspiring and educating attendees through the sophisticated research of members from the SLUH community.

“I think our Science Department is very strong for helping our students develop the fundamentals in biology, chemistry, and physics, during freshman through junior year and then having all the different possibilities that they can take in senior year,” said O’Keefe. “One of the coolest things for me is always seeing the guys show the great things they do in life, and I can tell they are all going to do amazing things, and the STEM night just solidified that belief.”

OAC takes a trip to the Ozark Highlands for a canoeing trip down Current River

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deered a single-person kayak to be more nimble and flexible on the river.

“I had to assure the safety of the group,” said Zarrick. “By being in a kayak, I was able to jump between the front and back of the group in case an accident occurred. Fortunately, for me and the group, there were none.”

The group touched water shortly before 9:30 a.m., planning to spend the rest of the morning and the afternoon reaching their destination by 4 p.m., which lay 20 miles downstream. Only running into several other groups throughout the voyage, the group was able to experience the transcendental beauty that the Current River has to offer in almost complete serenity.

“The weather was ideal,” said senior Sam Kean. “It was not too hot and not cool and there was this awesome mist that was coming off of the water. It truly was a phenomenal experience.”

Tragedy struck however when Zarrick, hoping to save the beautiful sights of the group on the river, reached

for his phone to take some pictures. Unbeknownst to him, there was a large rock that was sticking out of the water at the wrong place and at the wrong time. Zarrick collided with the rock, jolting his kayak. Zarrick regained his balance, but unfortunately lost his iPhone during the process. Though he lost all his photos, Zarrick did not lose hope.

“The woman at the campground said that scuba divers will swim along the river in order to find various items,” said Zarrick. “I am hoping they will comb through the riverbed and come across my phone.”

In the meantime, Zarrick has joined a Facebook page where lost and found items found in the Current River are posted for their owners to see.

Shortly after losing his phone, Zarrick decided to take the group on a lunch break as the clouds above them began to darken. Luckily for them, right as the rain started, they took shelter in Cave Spring Cave, which was located in an enclave right on the river. Some of the seniors utilized their downtime, and extra breadcrumbs and leftovers, to

fish inside the cave.

“We had extreme luck fishing in the cave,” said senior Colin Bryan. “We caught about two dozen rock bass from the depths of the pool. As soon as we released one, we caught another one.”

Following their lunch, the group continued at a leisurely pace down the river. They enjoyed a couple hours of being on the river, still mostly isolated from other canoe groups. Though they had lost some time waiting the storm out in the cave, the group was confident they would reach their rendezvous point by 4 p.m. However, when the group reached their halfway point at Pulltite Campground shortly after 2 p.m., Zarrick faced a dilemma. The skies were darkening and getting more ominous by the minute but they were still 10 miles from their destination. He was forced to pivot a second time to change the group’s itinerary.

“I had to use the campground’s emergency telephone to contact Aker’s Ferry to pick us up and take us to our A-frame ASAP,” said Zarrick. “If we wouldn’t have done that,



Students canoeing.

photo | Mr. Patrick Zarrick

we wouldn’t have gotten off the river until 8 p.m.”

When they arrived at the A-frame house, the group relaxed as the sky erupted with thunder and lightning, which would have paralyzed their excursion if they were still on the river. Though upset they could not complete their maritime journey, the boys still had a good time playing cards, hanging out, or listening to music as there was no reception on the property. All the while, Zarrick cooked burgers, brats, and a salad for the group to feast on. Once all the rain and food disappeared,

the group got the opportunity to explore the property and the woods nearby.

“We found an abandoned Chris McCandless-type bus that we got to explore,” said senior Thomas Ziegler. “After that, we went back to the A-frame and fell asleep at 8 o’clock. Needless to say, we had an extremely long day.”

“It was unfortunate that we could not complete the trip and camp, but it was still a phenomenal experience,” said Kean. “We all learned a lot of new things about each other, especially the fact that we all suck at canoeing.”

“I just want the guys to be able to disconnect from their screens every once in a while to see the beauty of the nature around them that they so often take for granted,” said Zarrick. “I have seen some proud seniors grow in leadership over these past years in the club and can see how the younger guys look up to them as mentors. It proves to be an incredible experience that keeps me running this club.”

Next up for SLUH’s OAC club is a President’s Day Weekend ski trip to Colorado, from Feb. 18 to 21 for upperclassmen.

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“The pandemic forced us to do two things: Number one, delay a bunch of projects and initiatives that were underway, because we had to do all these other things to take care of,” said Assistant Principal for Academics Kevin Foy. “Number two, it also forced us to change, and, and do things that we probably never would have done if we weren’t forced to.”

As last year progressed, Foy, principal Ian Gibbons, SJ and a group of other faculty members realized that SLUH needed to have a plan in place. It became obvious last year that SLUH would not be able to return to the “normalcy” of the first semester of the 2019-2020 school year and therefore needed to develop a plan to help the school establish a vision for the next several years.

“There is no going back to the fall of 2019 semester,” said fine arts teacher Sean Powers. “That’s not going to happen and now we need to look forward to the years to come.”

“Now is the time to prepare for the academic year 2023,” said Gibbons. “The purpose of the Summit is to help prepare for the exit of the pandemic. The Summit will provide the plan for SLUH going into the next three to five years.”

With the creative juices still flowing, the school leaders decided that it was the perfect opportunity to take a full 360 look at the school and its policies.

This is the first project

of its scope to take place at SLUH. Some have tried to draw comparisons to the 2018 Imageining 18 campaign when the school administration developed a strategic plan for the coming years in celebration of SLUH’s 200th year anniversary. The Strategic Summit, however, is aimed at the school level, not on the administration level.

“This is intentionally smaller in scope. We already have a strategic plan that came out of the Go Forth campaign, the school has a lot of those administrative things kind of already figured out,” said Foy. “This is designed to be about the school level, not so much the institution level.”

To help foster and encourage initial ideas and goals for the summit to accomplish, a retreat was held last May. During the retreat, 14 faculty participants had the opportunity to meet in groups and talk about areas of the school that need to be revisited.

“We were a blank slate,” said Gibbons. “What we decided to do was to have this retreat, we found a wide variety of faculty that would be a part of this process, and we spent time looking at key documents of SLUH. We basically asked the question of where we should go and why?”

At the conclusion of the retreat, five charters were developed; each charter was tasked with examining some key facet of the school and then researching where and how that area could be im-

proved. The five charters that emerged were: Graduation Requirements, Schedule, Grading Policy and Communication, Grade Level Guides, and Faculty Formation. Each one of these charters is assigned a committee of faculty members which meets regularly to discuss specific ways that each charter focus can be addressed.

“Having five charters allows a group of dedicated people to dig really deeply into research,” said Foy. We are able to do the due diligence that is important and necessary. When you’re making big changes and big decisions, it is essential to have a lot of voices. The smaller that group gets, the more voices you miss, the more ideas you miss, which we don’t want to do.”

Each of these charters is dedicated to help adjust SLUH life to the new normal. Over the coming months the various charters will continue to meet on a regular basis and develop specific changes that they are suggesting to be made. In January, each of the five charters will deliver a summary of their findings to the Strategic Summit executive group and present to the faculty as a whole.

An essential aspect of the Summit is that it is meant to include a wide variety of voices from both within the faculty and the community as a whole. With instructions to hear a wide range of voices, each charter was commissioned to form a large committee of various faculty members. Already, over half of SLUH teachers

are participating in one of the five charters, and there have been multiple channels for the whole faculty to express their views.

“What excites me the most isn’t the final outcomes, it’s the process by which we’re coming to those outcomes,” said Powers. “I have always hoped that SLUH could be a more collegial, collaborative place. And I agreed to be a member of the executive committee, precisely with the hope that this process would make our institution just that.”

While the charter teams are already hard at work, students won’t see these changes until next year. By the time the next academic year rolls around, many of the changes will be evident across the campus. These changes will include everything from the credit requirements to graduate to what the daily schedule looks like.

While many students may not be aware of the significance of the Strategic Summit, in practice this is a huge undertaking for the SLUH community. SLUH is one of few schools in the St. Louis region that is actively working on developing a plan for the post-pandemic era.

“Some of my colleagues at other Jesuit schools around the country see what we’re doing, they’re really impressed and they think we’re a little bit insane,” said Gibbons. “I’m really proud of us as a school because we’re a school that can take on projects like this and be a real leader in education.”

SLUH prepares adaptation to COVID guidelines

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We didn’t go into this saying ‘Hey, we’re going to have zero.’ We knew we were still going to have cases. But with the things that we had in place, we knew that they would probably be pretty minimal, and they were.”

Though Condition III has been evidently effective, the administration is actively considering a move to its Condition II plan for the second quarter. This new condition would still require morning temperature checks and contact tracing for positive cases, but would also see the school’s indoor mask requirement removed. Instead, the requirement would be changed to a mask recommendation for non-vaccinated students and faculty, with the vaccinated no longer required to wear a mask in any scenario.

Per the administration’s guidelines, a move to Condition II would require a regional test positivity rate of lower than 10 percent, regional case rates of lower than 1.2 percent, single-digit monthly cases, and a student and faculty vaccination rate of above 85 percent. As of now, three of the conditions—regional positivity rate, regional case rates, and vaccination rate—have been met. However, the past month has seen 11 positive tests in the SLUH community, surpassing the double-digit case limit, but still low enough for the administration to consider

going ahead with Condition II regardless.

“I wish everything could be completely where the metrics were all indicating Condition II or Condition III, but it just isn’t,” said principal Ian Gibbons, SJ. “And so most of the conditions that we have met would suggest Condition II. We do have one metric that would push us into Condition III, and that’s the case numbers per month, we had double-digit case numbers in September. So that’s our big question of ‘Should we be moving toward Condition II or III?’ We’ll have an answer on October 17.”

Just last week, it looked as though a possible switch could be jeopardized by a gradually inclining regional case rate and, perhaps more worryingly, six new student cases reported in the span of just a few days. However, in the last week, the regional case rate has leveled out and no further student cases have emerged.

“About a third of our 15 cases happened around a week and a half ago within a six day period, and the question of if this was a significant new trend was begging to be answered,” said Gibbons. “As it turns out, there wasn’t any link between the cases, they just so happened to all pop up at the same time. We’ve not had any further cases in the past six days, so I feel pretty good about that.”

After nearly 20 months of mask-wearing and Covid protocols, students and faculty alike are all undoubtedly suffering from “Covid fatigue.” As with many things, opinions differ greatly, as students are forced to weigh their personal preference against public health concerns.

“I obviously hate wearing a mask, I just want to put that out there,” said junior Giuseppe Abbate. “But when you look at it, it isn’t really the worst thing that we could do. Everything is just still so uncertain, so I think it is probably just best if we keep wearing masks through at least the second quarter.”

Others viewed the situation in a different light.

“The way that (the pandemic) is right now, I think it’s time to move past mask mandates and truthfully most of the Covid protocols that we have here,” said sophomore Leo Fitzmaurice. “Pretty much everyone who wants to be vaccinated can be vaccinated and has already been vaccinated, and if you choose not to be vaccinated then that is a risk that you are willing to take on.”

However, it is important to keep in mind that a significant risk does still linger, no matter your age or vaccination status.

“I think all of us have kind of grown to the fact that being outside is pretty darn safe,” said Gilbert. “The weather’s going to change. It’s going to get cold.

And so now we’re all indoors, not only here at school, but also with our sports teams, everybody in the home, families are going to be in close quarters.”

As winter approaches, schools around the country are conflicted over how to approach their safety measures.

“What I feel is very important is that the safety not only goes out to you guys, but it also goes out to beyond that. Certainly to the faculty and staff as well, but even beyond that. It’s looking at the safety of a student’s home and family,” said Gilbert.

Unfortunately hospitalizations are still occurring with relative frequency in the younger age groups, not only people of high school age but also people in their 20s and 30s, which the new variant seems to be hitting hard. This concerns the administration of SLUH, who has been collaborating with Wash. U., SSM, and the city health department to decide the right time to start easing guidelines off.

It seems for now, the future of masks is uncertain. The same is true for having senior advisors in Freshman homerooms, which has been a particular sore spot for the class of 2025.

“I wish I could predict the future, but I can’t,” said Gilbert. “No one can, and so we just have to play our cards and hopefully plan right.”

Students frustrated at lack of recognition for Hispanic Heritage month



art | Courtesy of Hispanos y Latinos Unidos

(continued from page 1)

nity and put together a bulletin board outside Campus Ministry addressing questions to consider during this month. Still, students felt like this was not enough to acknowledge such an important month for the Hispanic and Latino community.

“I’m extremely disappointed in what SLUH has done, specifically with regards to Hispanic Heritage Month this year,” said senior Ismael Karim. “This is the largest month for Latinos and we’ve been asking for recognition for over four years now.”

Hispanos y Latinos Unidos tried to plan more activities for Hispanic Heritage Month this year. but for a variety of reasons, the plans did not come to fruition.

“Why couldn’t the school do more to celebrate this year? I will take responsibility or blame for that,” said Director of Equity and Inclusion Frank Kovarik in an email to the *Prep News*. “I didn’t think ahead to reach out in advance to the students and collaborate with them on a celebration that would more closely match with their hopes. I hope they hear my regret and will forgive me for that lapse.”

In addition to the miscommunication between the club and school leaders, the lack of more Hispanic Heritage Month celebration can also be attributed to scheduling conflicts. With so many other school-sponsored events taking up time during the school day, the concept of any mandatory activity for this purpose seemed improbable.

“It’s not easy to feed all of these events into the school schedule,” said Hispanos y Latinos Unidos moderator Javier Moreno.

While promoting diversity and inclusion at SLUH, ACES leaders also hope to promote equity, which involves impartiality to any particular group. Therefore, they try to make sure each minority group is given equal opportunity to share their culture and history with the school.

“I think with careful planning and if you think about creative ways so it doesn’t become a repetitive event, if it’s some sort of activity or some sort of workshop, you know, that can at least be a reminder for us to be more aware of what’s going on,” said Moreno.

Nevertheless, as Karim points out, Hispanic Heritage Month is still receiving far less attention this year than Black History Month.

“We’ve always been limited to doing something on the intercom, it’s never been anything major, and seeing what was able to be done for Black History Month, we were expecting that something after asking for it could be done for us as well.

But nobody acted on that,” said Karim.

This was the only all-school acknowledgment of the month, but the Foreign Language Department has done some work behind the scenes to increase awareness of Hispanic culture during this time.

“It’s also becoming a more important part of our curriculum for Spanish classes,” Moreno said. “We’re trying to raise awareness about the contributions of Hispanics and Latinos to the United States, so we’re trying to make that become a more permanent piece of our curriculum as opposed to something that is optional, and that is up to every teacher.”

While steps are being taken to progress toward better representation for Hispanic students and their culture at SLUH, Hispanic students feel that this month should be a higher priority for the school administration.

“I think it was failed leadership in terms of like, equity and inclusion in those who sit up top,” said Karim. “We’re the largest minority group in the country and for us not to be recognized this whole month is unacceptable. There’s a white supremacy idea that minority groups should be against each other. In terms of the minority groups, the Black Student Union, Latino Student Union, Ongoing Conversations, I feel like we’re always competing for attention.”

“We felt that this certainly did not represent our culture, it did not represent us as Latinos, and so we just felt, you know, definitely underrepresented,” said sophomore Sam Hernandez. “We felt like we weren’t being heard and that we weren’t being given the respect that we felt that we deserve.”

Hispanic Heritage Month is an important time to recognize the roles Hispanics and Latinos have played in this country’s history.

“It’s a celebration of my culture, of my roots. It’s a time to recognize Latino excellence, both in and out of classrooms. It’s a time where I get to share a bit of my culture with everyone and I get to learn about others’ cultures,” said Karim.

Younger members of Hispanos y Latinos Unidos hope to use this opportunity to brainstorm how to better celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in future years.

“Though I am sad to have disappointed these students, in a larger sense I feel hopeful because they are speaking up for themselves instead of feeling silenced. They are presenting us with an opportunity for growth,” said Kovarik.



SLUH defenders line up against Lift for Life.

photo | Michael Urbanski

IN SPORTS

BY COBY SPRATTE
CORE STAFF

Coming off last week’s tough loss against CBC, the Jr. Bills rebounded significantly against the Lift for Life Academy Hawks while also celebrating the contributions of the many seniors on the football team. SLUH controlled the flow of the game in a dominant fashion, winning 48-20 on their final home game of the season.

“We had a great week of preparation, so when game time came we knew our assignments and we executed them. The score was a by-product of that great preparation and us doing our jobs,” senior wide receiver Chris Brooks remarked.

The Jr. Billikens received the opening kickoff and immediately made a statement on the opening drive, marching down the field and lighting up the scoreboard in less than two minutes.

Senior Andre Tucker punched it into the end zone

from 5 yards out for his first rushing touchdown of the season and the second of his career, making it 7-0 Jr. Bills with 10:07 left in the first quarter.

The defense came out sharp as well. With some help from the Hawk penalties, they were able to force a punt and hand the ball right back to the offense.

Starting their drive at mid-field, SLUH manufactured a seven play scoring drive, capped off by a 4-yard touchdown rush from senior runningback Derrick Baker. With 4:36 still left in the game, the Jr. Bills found themselves up by two touchdowns.

The defense remained sturdy on the Hawks’ second drive of the game, forcing another punt formation. After Lift for Life fumbled on an errant snap, they turned the ball over on downs and the Jr. Bills were set up with prime field position at the 20-yard line.

They were quick to capitalize as Baker scored his second touchdown of the day, a 5-yard rushing touchdown. The Jr.

Bills mishandled the PAT snap, though, and for the first time this season they couldn’t convert the extra point, making the score 20-0 with 11:36 remaining in the second quarter.

After another Hawks punt, it seemed as if Lift for Life might finally record a stop on defense. However, senior quarterback Luke Johnston connected with Brooks for a huge third down gain to set them up in the red zone. SLUH punched in their fourth score of the night with a 13-yard touchdown pass from Johnston to star sophomore receiver Ryan Wingo which widened the margin to 27-0 with 6:01 remaining in the second quarter.

It seemed SLUH was on its way to a landslide victory, but the Hawks finally gained some momentum and responded to the Jr. Bills’ first half onslaught.

In the final minutes of the first half, the Hawks drove down the field and put six points on the board after scoring a passing touchdown on a

jump ball to the back right corner of the end zone. Lift for Life was unable to convert the two point conversion, narrowing the score to 27-6.

SLUH was looking to answer the Hawks’ counterpunch, but Johnston threw an interception over the middle of the field which gave the Hawks the most momentum they had felt all night.

Lift for Life took a shot to the end zone and got incredibly lucky. The SLUH defensive backs who were covering the play batted the ball backwards, directly into the hands of a Hawks’ receiver who was able to dive into the end zone for a touchdown. The Hawks converted the two-point conversion and narrowed their deficit to 13 points.

The bad luck didn’t end there. On SLUH’s next drive, Johnston overthrew his receiver and the Hawks had their second interception in as many drives.

The Jr. Bills’ defense stood up the Lift for Life offense inside their own 20, though, and

got into the locker room with a 27-13 lead.

“I think we could’ve had better ball security during the game. We took the ball out of our hands way too many times,” said Brooks, “The only times Lift for Life scored were after we turned the ball over and gave them great field positioning.”

After honoring the 22 seniors on the varsity team at the half, the Jr. Billikens returned from the locker room and were faced with the task of responding to adversity, something they weren’t able to do consistently last week in their loss to CBC.

They did just that. SLUH held Lift for Life to just one touchdown in the second half, while adding three more of their own. Baker, Brooks, and Wingo all carried the ball into the end zone in the second half, bringing the final score to 48-20.

Johnston finished the game 16 of 20 passing for 262 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions. His receiver

corps was anchored by Brooks with 6 catches for 121 yards and a touchdown, Wingo with 4 catches for 81 yards and two touchdowns, and junior Zach Ortwerth adding 3 catches for 30 yards.

On the ground, Baker continued his standout season, adding 116 yards and a 6.4 yards per carry average. Brooks added two carries for 36 yards and Tucker put the Bills on the board first with his loan carry of five yards.

The Jr. Billikens will travel to South Kirkwood Road for their first away game of the season, against the Vianney Griffins (0-6) tonight at 6 p.m. Vianney surrenders an average of 53.5 points against per game, so the SLUH offense will look to pounce on them early.

“In order to prepare for Vianney we’ve been taking the same approach as we have during other weeks,” Brooks said, “We’ve been pushing each other extremely hard during practice in order to make the game on Friday easier.”

XC showcases unparalleled depth in strong showing at Parkway West

BY JOE LABARGE AND
SEAN KELLOGG
REPORTERS

The SLUH cross country team was able to show off its incredible depth for the second week in a row by sweeping all but one division at the Parkway West Dale Shepard Invitational this past Saturday and taking home an abundance of medals. While the varsity squad had some mishaps, the rest of the team was able to clearly separate themselves from the rest of the field.

The varsity team kicked off the day, finishing second out of 20 teams. With 78 points, the team fell only to Rock Bridge (32 points). Although the varsity squad may not have raced to its full potential, they were still able to

medal five runners.

Leading the way for the Jr. Bills was senior Sean Kellogg who finished in 8th place (16:37.8). Grant Brawley (17:01.8; 14th), Baker Pashea (17:03.1; 15th) and Joe LaBarge (17:05.9; 16th) followed. Justin Glass was the Jr. Bills fifth finisher, coming in 25th place and running 17:29.5. Juniors Wyatt Seal (27th) and Nolan Meara (55th) rounded out the varsity runners on the day.

Even though the varsity team struggled by their own account, the team is still confident that they can tighten things up and be much closer to Rock Bridge during the postseason.

“Even though we may not have had the best day as a team, I’m still very confident in our racing capabilities and

think that we can improve significantly over the next few weeks,” said Pashea. “With a little work over the next few weeks on running together and helping each other during races we will be in a much better position when the post-season arrives.”

JV certainly picked up the slack for SLUH in the next race, placing seven runners in the top nine, and taking home nine medals. For the second week in a row, junior Tim Greiner led the way for the Jr. Bills, this time winning the JV race in a time of 17:48.9. Will Riggan (17:54.9; 2nd) and Francis Alford (18:14.3; 3rd) finished just behind Greiner. Rounding out the scoring for the Jr. Bills was senior Tad Gray (18:27.7; 5th) and junior Brendan Jones (18:35.4; 7th), which helped tighten the 1-5

gap down to 46.5 seconds.

The JV squad scored an astounding 18 points, plowing through their next closest competitor, Webster Groves, by 64 points.

“Even with four guys not racing due to injury, we were still able to put seven guys in the top nine, which is incredibly impressive and shows just how deep our team is this year,” said head coach Joe Porter. “It really shows just how good our runners are when you put them on the line against some of the top JV’s in the state and they can come away with a win by that big of a margin.”

With the inclusion of a sophomore race at the meet, the Jr. Bills were also able to demonstrate their dominance across the 10th grade level. Charlie Murray destroyed

the competition, winning the race by over 15 seconds and running a time of 17:51. Mason Scargall (18:07; 2nd) and Anthony Zangara (18:09; 3rd) continued the sophomore dominance. Charlie Gray (18:23; 5th) and Gabe Sullivan (18:55; 7th) rounded out the scoring five. The five sophomores scored 17 points allowing them an easy victory over the second place team, Webster Groves who scored 60 points.

“The race really came down to confidence and closing,” said sophomore stud Charlie Murray. “As a team, we really had to race to win and work together and we did just that. We are an extremely talented team and if we continue to race like it, we are going to see results.”

At the freshman level,

SLUH came out on top of its fierce competition with five runners in the top fifteen finishers. Gus Talleur (18:45) led off the scoring in 3rd place followed by George Donahue (19:10) in 9th place. Following just behind were Patrick Jones (19:37; 10th) and Logan Phillips (19:41; 11th). Mason Lauber (19:43; 13th) and Gavin Smith (19:46; 15th) closed out the scoring and brought SLUH to its third team win of the day.

After a strong day across the board at Parkway West, the cross country program’s sights are firmly set on the upcoming Hancock Invitational on Oct. 16. The meet takes place on what is typically a very fast course at Jefferson Barracks Park, giving runners of all levels a chance to run personal record times.

Soccer takes Jr. Billiken Classic, loses first game to Chaminade

BY NATHAN RICH AND
CHASE HATCH
SPORTS EDITOR, REPORTER

Chaminade has tormented SLUH soccer for years. Last year, it was the Red Devils who knocked the Jr. Bills out of the District Tournament with a 1-0 win. That same season, Chaminade took the regular season match against SLUH by the same score. Two years ago, it was a 5-1 loss. In fact, it's been years since SLUH has topped Chaminade in soccer. This year, even the star-studded roster of the Jr. Bills fell victim to the Chaminade curse in a close 1-0 loss. Now, with a single loss eating away at their record, the Jr. Bills (11-1-1) are trying to stay positive with their sights set on late October.

The Chaminade game marred what was an otherwise successful week for SLUH. Dominant shutout wins against O'Fallon and St. Mary's in the opening games of the Jr. Billiken Classic as well as an important win against state powerhouse Fort Zumwalt South last Saturday propelled them to their second tournament win of the year. Senior Stephen Saladin was one of four SLUH players selected to the All-Tournament team, and for good reason. Saladin notched a hat trick in SLUH's 4-2 win against Fort Zumwalt and had a goal in each of the two prior games. His speed and aggressiveness with the ball at his feet continues to be a significant asset for the Jr. Bills. When Saladin's presence was lacking a few days later against Chaminade, for example, it showed.

Capping off SLUH's week was yet another piece of good news: the national ranking had been upped. After sitting at No. 10 in the country the week before, United Soccer Coaches now lists SLUH at No. 4 in the country in their most recent poll.

Without much time to celebrate their new hardware or recognition, though, the Jr.

Bills were thrown quickly into a game with significant ramifications for the end of the season on Tuesday. Chaminade is the only other MCC school in SLUH's district bracket and they are shaping up to be SLUH's biggest competition in the hunt for that title. Perhaps the biggest obstacle for SLUH is Chaminade's defense. From the start, it was clear they had done their homework.

"I thought Chaminade played a great game," said coach Bob O'Connell. "I've seen them a couple times recently and I thought they played very well. They were organized and they seemed to have the energy of somebody who was going to come and try to prove something. They clearly did that."

Despite the solid presence of the Jr. Bills through the middle of the field, none of their typical offensive tricks worked. Saladin was frequently schemed out while outside forwards Johnnie Ferrara and Tyler Van Bree struggled to get to the ball into the box, especially in the second half. Sophomore Grant Locker did have a breakaway chance in the first half, but no goal to show for it.

Once Chaminade opened the scoring on a restart ball that got past sophomore keeper Chris Lewis, it seemed to be quite an uphill climb for SLUH.

"The goal was frustrating. Nobody was aware enough," said O'Connell. "There was a lot of ball watching and even as we threw players forward we could never find the space. The soccer decisions in the final third (of the field) were just not there."

As time expired in the second half, desperation grew for the offense, who frequently found themselves chasing after balls cleared by Chaminade defenseman. With five minutes to go in the second half, Ferrara took a pass through the top of the box and SLUH fans were on their feet. Just like the rest of their opportunities that night,

though, Ferrara's angle was cut off before a shot materialized and a goal kick was the result.

SLUH walked off the field Tuesday night disappointed. After more time to process the loss, though, some positive takeaways emerged.

"It was a tough loss," said senior defender Matt Kluba. "It's not something that's pretty, it's not fun, but we learned from it. I think the pressure's off now. There's no undefeated record we have to chase after, and like Coach said, that's not the goal. The goal is to win districts."

Kluba referenced O'Connell's unwavering dedication to the district title, an accomplishment he's been chasing for a long time.

"This is just part of soccer. We never said we were going undefeated, we never said we were going to be top five in the country, that was nothing anybody ever talked about. What we wanted to accomplish was the district championship at the end of the year and all of that is still on the table," O'Connell said. "We'll be better because of (the loss)."

Now, SLUH looks to rebound in the coming week during a tough stretch of games. Following their mercy rule 8-0 win last night against Helias, the Jr. Bills face Quincy Notre Dame, an Illinois team with a strong 12-4-3 record, this Saturday and the formidable CBC on Tuesday night. Fans of SLUH Soccer will remember Ferrara's last second heroics against the Cadets the last time they played. Unfortunately, so does CBC.

"We'll use this week to train and get better because the CBC game will be a test," said O'Connell. "They're going to come out flying and the question is how will we respond from our loss. I think it will focus us. They feel that they didn't give us their best effort last time so it'll be a heck of a game."

SLUH will take the field at CBC on Tuesday night at 7:00.

MC Hammer helps propel swimmers in intensive practice

BY ALEX WENTZ
REPORTER

After many battles, the St. Louis U High swim team had an uninterrupted week to hammer away at their raw skills and forge themselves into new weapons as sharp as shark's teeth. Last week, the swim team had the rare opportunity of having a week with no meets, but that certainly did not make it a rest period.

"We had the opportunity of six days of practice, which doesn't really get to happen much mid-season," said head coach Lindsey Ehret.

The week was dubbed "Hammer Time Week," inspired by the great MC Hammer. Each day was influenced by a different song or album from MC Hammer. For example, Monday's muse was "Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'Em," a reference to the fact that the practice was more of a recovery day, coming off of the team's second place victory at CoMo. Tuesday's practice was introduced with "Here Comes The Hammer," marking the start of the swimmer's grueling formation into speedy swordfish, sharpening their blades each day.

"Hammer week was inspired by (the Columbia meet)," said Ehret. "I was looking ahead and being very optimistic about how good we can be ... and so I wanted to come up with a theme that would get guys motivated, and MC Hammer is the ultimate motivator."

Wednesday finally revealed the classic "U Can't Touch This," alluding to the SLUH swimmer's sheer speed in the water, making them completely untouchable by even the hungriest of piranhas.



Inflatable props for MC Hammer week. photo | Lindsey Ehret

Thursday was simply titled "Pray," an ominous word when placed alone, and certainly appropriate for the events that followed.

A special aspect of Hammer Week was that every day each swimmer was working on his specialty, meaning all of the backstrokers were in a lane with their own unique workout, all of the breaststrokers in another lane, and so on. This separation and specialization allowed for the boys in blue to hone their craft and begin flowing through the pool as an otter flows through a lake.

"I created three different workouts for each of the four days, so that took a lot of time," said Ehret. "But (the team) is worth it, and I know that it is really important to specialize and that doesn't happen very much in high school swimming, (especially) to the level that we do it. I think it really ends up paying off."

The conclusion of Hammer Week came on Friday with a practice titled "2 Legit 2 Quit," designed to test the team's endurance after a tough week of practice. While the week was physically exhausting, it evoked new highs of collective energy from the

swimmers. At the end of each day Ehret would ask, "Did you bring the hammer?" The idea of "bringing the hammer" was concurrent throughout the week, and became a mantra that motivated everyone to reach new heights. As compensation for their immense efforts, each swimmer was awarded an inflatable hammer with his name on it.

"We were actually way more energetic (as a team)," said senior Brody Nester. "Whenever you are doing some hard sets and you finish those hard sets, you feel really good. So, near the end you are more inspired to (motivate others) by saying something like 'Let's go boys, one more,' to finish the rest of the set. Overall it creates a team bonding experience by just working hard together."

With only 16 practices left for the St. Louis U. High swimmers, each lap carries even more weight as they approach the end of the season. After exhaustively hammering away at their resources in the forge, the swimmers have emerged with brand new tools as they prepare to soon conquer the entire state.

SLUH tops Nixa in weekly Rocket League match

BY ROARKE UNRAU
NEWS EDITOR

The SLUH Esports team took on Nixa high school on Tuesday night in a Rocket League battle for the ages.

After school in the Science Center's game lab, the team won an intense competition. Their competition was Nixa, a public high school in the Ozarks. To set up the match, the schools didn't meet in person, but set up a match virtually so that both teams could stay in their backyard.

Nixa put up a tough match for the Jr. Bills, even though the stat line didn't make the

match seem that close. The match, which was a best of five in Rocket League, turned out to be a clean sweep for SLUH, winning 3-0.

"It was a big step up, playing players that were actually on our level of skill. And I think that hit us and this week we came back down to earth with this game," said senior player Cam Gegg.

Looking towards the future, the Esports team is ready to keep the momentum up.

"We're just focused on winning games week by week and keeping the good times rolling," said Gegg.

The home arena of the

Esports team is something of note as well. Few other teams at SLUH can boast off campus facilities as nice as the Esports team.

"We go down a level of the Science Center and there's a little place called the Dino Den by that big dinosaur, on the lower level. And they have all of our computer setups, PCs, all of our equipment, all of our controllers, and all that good stuff," Gegg explained.

Fans that want to stop by the Dino Den and support the Esports team are encouraged to meet with the players in the J-wing after school on Tuesdays.



Sophomore Christian Thro (2) against Chaminade.

photo | Nathan Rich

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Around the Hallways

PSAT Testing

Next Wednesday, Oct. 13, sophomores and juniors will take the annual SLUH-offered PSAT. They are to bring #2 pencils, TI-84 Calculators, their thinking caps, and a great attitude. It is also suggested that they bring a water bottle. The students should be at SLUH no later than 7:45 a.m. Testing should be finished around 12:30 p.m. Good luck to the junior and sophomore classes and to freshman, enjoy the day off.

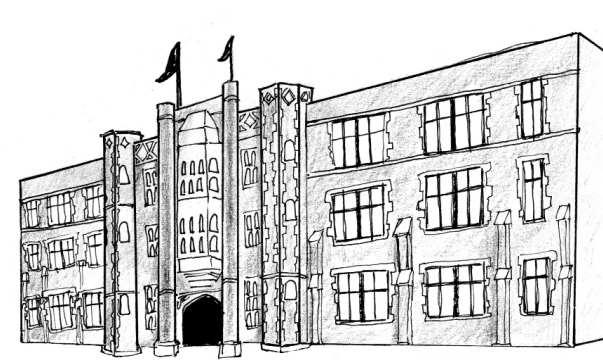
Sign-up for Fall Ball

On Tuesday, Oct. 5, STU-CO dropped the ball. No surprises there, though. They sent out an email with the sign up

form for the SLUH fall ball. With many students excited to sign up, their excitement was cut short when the sign up form didn't work. Surprisingly, STUCO quickly realized their mistake and sent out a new, working form. Costing \$15 per person, or \$30 per couple, freshmen and sophomores have their dance in the teacher parking lot, while juniors and seniors have theirs in Drury Plaza, all from 7:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. on Oct. 16. The deadline for the form submission is Oct. 15 at 12p.m.

Senior meeting during Studium

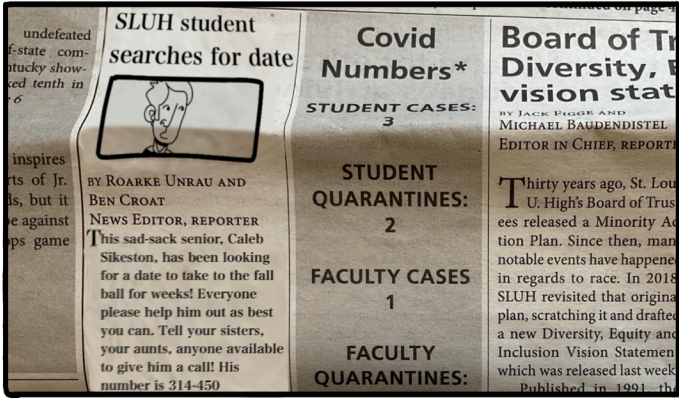
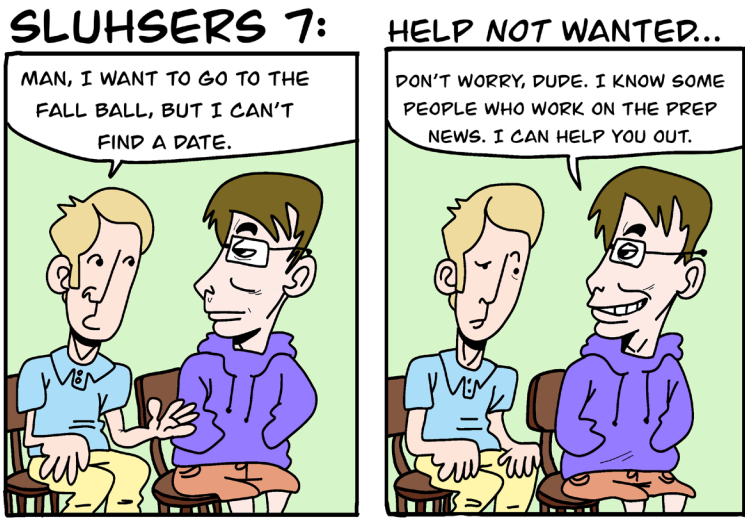
On Thursday, Oct. 7, the senior class met in the Com-



mons to discuss their Senior Fun Day on Wednesday, Oct. 13th. On top of that, a representative from Jostens came to discuss graduation plans and packages with the group. However, the meeting ran on longer than expected due to

the rowdy nature of the hungry seniors.

—Compiled by Roarke Unrau, Mark Wappler, Charles Turnell
News Editor, reporters



art | Jude Reed

Calendar

Friday, October 8

A Day

LUNCH	Special - Baked White Fish with Lemon Butter Vegetarian - Spanish Quiche
4:30PM	C Team Soccer vs FZS
6:00PM	Varsity Football vs St. John Vianney

Saturday, October 9

10:00AM	JV Soccer vs STL United (Varsity)
11:45AM	Varsity Soccer vs Notre Dame (Quincy, Il)

Sunday, October 10

No Events

Monday, October 11

B Day

LUNCH	Special - Homemade Meatloaf Vegetarian - Spinach Portobello Cap
4:15PM	Swimming vs Parkway Central
5:00PM	B Team Football vs St. John Vianney

Tuesday, October 12

A Day

Studium	Washington University (St. Louis)
LUNCH	Special - Chicken Wing Trio Vegetarian - Stuffed Bell Pepper
4:00PM	C Team Soccer vs CBC
5:00PM	JV Soccer vs De Smet
5:30PM	B Team Soccer vs CBC
7:00PM	Varsity Soccer vs CBC

Wednesday, October 13

PSAT Testing

Art Retreat
PSAT Testing Day (So and Jr)
Senior Programming Day
4:15PM JV Soccer vs CBC

Thursday, October 14

B Day

Art Retreat	
Activity Period	University of Missouri
LUNCH	Special - Santa Fe Chicken with Chipotle Cream Vegetarian - Eggplant Parmesan
4:30PM	B Team Soccer vs Gateway Legacy (JV2)
6:30PM	JV Soccer vs Gateway Legacy (JV1)
7:00PM	Varsity Soccer vs St. John Vianney
7:00PM	Prospective Parent "Back to School Night"

calendar | Ben Croat

The SLUH community mourns the loss of longtime history teacher Mr. Steve Aylward, who died in a tragic accident yesterday.

The staff of the *Prep News* sends our condolences to the family, friends, and former students of Mr. Aylward.



Alyward (left) and a student.

Prep News

Volume 86, Issue 7

Credits

"Who are you taking to the Fall Ball?"

Editor in Chief

Jack "not my ex" Figge

Editor

Nathan "a Jim Santel essay" Rich

News Editor

Roarke "1 of 34 contenders" Unrau

Visual Editor

Charlie "Jack's ex" Bieg

Web Editor

Luke "Bantr date" Duffy

Core Staff

Jackson "not my Nerinx date" Cooper
Louis "Selena Gomez" Cor-nett
Jack "Zub" Rybak

Staff

Coby "Jennifer Lopez" Spratte
Alex "rmfk enterprises" Preusser
George "Elastigirl" Henken

Reporters

Drew "my friend's friend" Hawley
Austin "Matthew Sommers" Wald
Charlie "I guess my girlfriend" Vonderheid
Thomas "What ball? Racquet-ball?" Juergens
Micah "blind date" Doherty
Elliott "my friend's friend's friend" Moore
Jack "still working on it" Evans
Charles "a new labrum" Turnell
Daniel "ummmm" Tice
Drew "won't tell" Figge
Vincent "it's past my bedtime " Weinbauer
Michael "I'm not spending \$30" Baudendistel
Ben "Alberto Garduno" Croat
Lucas "myself" Hayden
Mark "my Tinder match" Wappler

Alex "Katie Ledecy" Wentz
Chase "I forgot her name" Hatch
Joe "I'm sorry for missing you in the credits last week" LaBarge
Sean "Colleen Quigley" Kellogg
Joe "it's between Kamala and Hillary" Simeri

Artists

Alex "idk I don't use Snapchat" Deiters
Jude "a Lemons superfan" Reed
Will "Toni Morrison" Blaisdell

Photographers

Mrs. Kathy "Dmitri Mendeleev" Chott
Mr. Patrick "my phone" Zarrick
Ms. Lindsey "Strayer" Ehret
Mr. Stephen "junior homeroom 222c" Deves
Shawn "Marie Curie" Gothra

Moderator

Steve "Julie" Missey