



At a Glance

NEWS
Intramural Bashball
There are few things the Jr. Bills have created that surpass the popularity of bashball. Freshmen and sophomores are now being introduced to the camaraderie and competition of this much-loved sport. *Page 2*

NEWS
Senior Advisors Return
The cold loneliness of Senior Advisors' absence is usually only felt by freshmen when they leave in the second semester. But now, this despondency ends as the advisors return to the freshman home-rooms, an experience not yet enjoyed by the Class of 2025. *Page 2*

FEATURES
Top 20 Candy Brands
In probably the most controversial piece of *Prep News* work this year, the staffers of this fine paper, after much deliberation, are ready to announce their top 20 Halloween candies to the public. *Page 3*

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Soccer
Soccer takes Senior Night victory over MICDS to cap off one-loss regular season ; varsity confident that post-season play will yield similar results. *Page 7*

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SLUH steamrolls McCluer in record-setting offensive showcase



Ryan Wingo (1) celebrating a touchdown. Read about the huge victory on pg 6.
photo | Courtesy of Baxter Southern

SLUH's annual Drive for the Homeless collects 500+ donations

BY MICHAEL BAUDENDISTEL
AND BEN CROAT
STAFF, REPORTER

Campus Ministry has been hard at work promoting and running the annual Drive for the Homeless this past week. The junior pastoral

team, with the help of Fr. Matthew Stewart, S.J., has taken hundreds of donations from all classes in an exciting competition format similar to the recent Food Drive.

All of the donations that the Drive for the Homeless brings in go to one of two

places. SLUH has established close partnerships with two Jesuit homeless organizations for many years, and will send all proceeds to them.

"St. Francis Xavier College Church has something called Winters Inn, which is a place
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Strategic Summit update: Grading Policy Committee

BY ROARKE UNRAU AND
AUSTIN WALD
NEWS EDITOR, REPORTER

Editor's Note: Three weeks ago, the Prep News published an article about the school's Strategic Summit initiative. The Strategic Summit is focused on five areas of the school and seeks to understand how that area can improve. Over the coming weeks, the Prep News will publish a more comprehensive overview of

each of those five charters. The following article concerns the Grading Policy and Communication charter of the Strategic Summit.

Grades are never far from the front of students' minds during the school year. Now, with the help of the Strategic Summit Grading Policy and Communication, SLUH is looking to update its grading policy for the first time in over 30 years. Led by
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Annual Mother-Son Mass raises appreciation for SLUH moms; two seniors give moving testimonies

BY ALEX PREUSSER AND
ANDREW HUNT
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

Do you know who never gets enough praise? Moms. No matter how much is given, they always deserve more, and the students of St. Louis U. High had the opportunity this past Sunday to properly thank their moms for all of their hard work and love.

On Sunday, Jr. Bills from
continued on page 5

~~Back to normal?~~ Admin and city enter partnership, move back to Condition III

BY JACK FIGGE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m., families of St. Louis U. High were once again notified of a change to the school's Covid response policy. Beginning on Monday, Oct. 25, the school would shift to Condition III, most notably signaling that the school would once again require all students and faculty members to wear masks while indoors.

A week before, the school had announced a momentous change to its Covid protocols, the school would be transitioning from Condition III of its Covid response plan to Condition II. This signified that the school moved from a strict masks mandatory policy to masks recommended.

"I liked not wearing a mask a lot better than now because it is just great to be able to see everybody's faces and see the smile on their faces," said sophomore Mathew Peretz.

The switch was made pos-

sible after the school had met certain benchmarks in regards to Covid that had been outlined in the school's Covid response plan for academic year 2021-22 that was sent out to families at the beginning of August and in every preceding Parent Connect. With 100 percent of teachers vaccinated, 92 percent of all staff, and over 90 percent of students, SLUH surpassed the vaccination requirements to make the transition. In addition, low positivity and transmission rates within the school and greater St. Louis region also met the necessary requirements to make the transition.

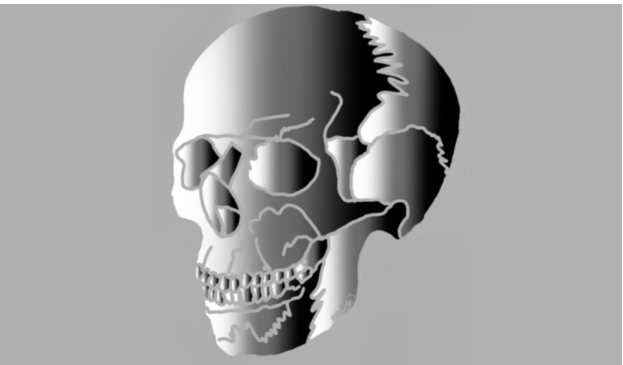
"We are truly exceptional. Missouri has about 48 percent of people who are vaccinated and we are above 90 percent vaccinated. We have collected great amounts of data and built a thorough process that is honestly next to none," said President Alan Carruthers. "We have been able to manage this thing in an intelligent

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Mother-Son Mass photo | Courtesy of Mothers Club Facebook

Halloween sparks joy in hearts of students and faculty



art | Alex Dieters

BY LUKE DUFFY AND
ALEX PREUSSER
WEB EDITOR, CORE STAFF

Whether it was watching the scariest movie that

your parents would allow or trick-or-treating until your pillowcase was practically bursting with candy, Halloween is a time of rich memories for students and faculty alike. Since

this school year's theme is joy, the *Prep News* gathered stories from around Backer Memorial Campus to highlight the various joy-inspiring experiences of this beloved holiday.

Many are familiar with the time and effort that gets put into costumes every year. Many are also familiar with the plethora of stories that flow from theology teacher Dick Wehner. His mind went straight to his childhood escapades on Halloween with his friends, which were always meticulously planned beforehand.

"About the last week in

September, we would go over to somebody's house, and we'd sit outside and we'd build a little fire in his backyard," Wehner recalled. "This is before fire pits, and we were talking about what we were going to be on Halloween. If you're going to be a mummy, then he can't be a mummy. And if I'm going to be the Wolf Man, then you can't be the Wolf Man."

Costumes are an integral part of Halloween for the family of math teacher Craig Hinders, who has gotten very creative in costume planning since he had kids.

"My wife and I both love

Halloween, and now that we have kids, we get them in on the act," said Hinders. "We do family costumes (yes, we're one of those families). I know it won't last forever, because our kids will eventually stop putting up with it. But we've really enjoyed getting to pick costumes together as a family."

Junior Campbell Cornett was introduced to the atmosphere of Halloween practically from birth. Born on Oct. 27, Cornett was brought home for the first time on Halloween, and immediately he was swaddled in a white onesie

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Intramural bashball annual tournament kicks off with a bang

BY MICAH DOHERTY AND
THOMAS JUERGENS
REPORTERS

St. Louis U. High’s annual bashball tournament started this week, with games during Activity Periods on B Days. This competition is aimed at bringing Jr. Bills together as homerooms to fight against one another for the glory of the bashball trophy. The tournament began last Thursday, when the freshman homerooms played each other in a bracket-style tournament like March Madness. By the end of Activity Period last Thursday, M105 and M107 were the top freshman homerooms, set to face each other in the class championships. Sophomore homerooms M205 and M209 proved victorious over all other sophomore homerooms, while junior homerooms 216C and M218 dominated their class. Meanwhile, the senior homerooms are still waiting to take to the court, with their matches set to occur in the next few days. “We’ll take the two fi-

nalists in each class, and on one day, we’ll play class championships,” said physical education teacher Patrick Zarrick. The winners of the class championships will receive the glorious prize that is medals and doughnuts. After this, the overall SLUH championships will ensue, with the freshmen class champions taking on the seniors and the sophomore class champions taking on the juniors. Subsequently, the two winning teams will bash it out in the finals for the ultimate prize of the renowned bashball trophy. STUCO Intramural Representative Chandler Flowers and Zarrick sought to recreate the bashball tournament this year. This required plenty of work to schedule each game and deciding who would face who. “Bringing back bashball this year, we just wanted to bring back that iconic SLUH feeling in brotherhood that was in others’ including my own freshman year,” said Flowers. “And that was the

whole concept of the eagerness and urgency of getting bashball back.” Bashball has been an important tradition throughout SLUH’s history in helping to connect Jr. Bills with their classmates. Some freshmen, like Jesse Heater and Brendan Kelly, believe that the bashball tournament has definitely helped to form a brotherhood with their classmates. “It was really exciting playing with the guys and a really great bonding experience with the rest of my classmates,” said Heater. “The tournament really did help me grow closer in brotherhood with my fellow freshmen.” The bashball tournament has long been looked upon by many as a great brotherhood experience for SLUH students, as bashball has been a SLUH tradition since former teacher Jim Murphy invented it for the purposes of a fun activity to play during PE. “Part of the reason I think it’s so successful in PE is be-



Junior homerooms battling it out on the court photo | Jack Figge

cause students don’t grow up playing select or club bashball, so everybody comes in with the same experience level,” said Zarrick. All in all, the harmony of SLUH students that is formed during bashball has greatly helped in keeping the game entertaining throughout the years and creating a

joyful atmosphere within SLUH’s walls. The bashball tournament has brought together many homerooms with teamwork and cooperation. “The games brought our team together, for we experienced triumph as well as defeat and handled both with positivity. Overall, our class

had a blast and can’t wait for the next game,” said freshman Brendan Kelly. “Everybody can run, everybody can tag, and everybody can throw a ball. I think that’s part of what brings the magic to bashball and makes it so much fun,” said Zarrick.

SLUH Esports team takes down Lafayette

BY JACK KUHLMAN
REPORTER

The Varsity White Rocket League team fell in a game five overtime loss to Lafayette High School in a heated matchup, eliminating them from playoff contention last Tuesday. The team, consisting of sophomores Owen Callon (AdBlocker), Nolan Sanders (nsanders1617), and Alec Arnold (Blueso), had a 3-3 record entering into their week seven matchup, meaning they had to win to have a shot at the playoffs. After a short delay, game one began with an opening goal from the SLUH team. Despite the early lead, the teams battled back and forth throughout the game, ultimately pushing the game into overtime tied up at two. After some offensive pressure from Lafayette, Arnold hit a pass over to Callon, who redirected the ball past two defenders and into the net, securing a game one victory. SLUH again took an early lead in game two, leading by two goals entering into the second half of the game. However, Lafayette found their footing on a shot that cleared the top of Sanders’ car and sailed into the goal from midfield. They struck again as one of their players launched the ball into the air and followed it themselves to get a second hit, putting it past SLUH defenders. Lafayette soon found another goal on some very aggressive play, but Sanders capitalized on the kickoff, sending the game to overtime tied at three. SLUH immediately found some traction on the offensive, but were stopped when their shot was saved on the goal line. Lafayette capitalized on the clear and scored shortly after the save to take game two of the series. The team failed to find any momentum in game three, losing 3-1 as Lafayette won after

taking an early lead in the game. That negative mindset carried over into game four, where Lafayette looked intent on taking the series when they took a two-point lead early on. Things wouldn’t go their way however, as Lafayette started committing some easily avoidable errors. The team ended up scoring on themselves twice by mistake, as well as letting SLUH capitalize on two kickoff mistakes. Coupled with some good offense, the game ended 6-2 in favor of SLUH. Game 5 would turn out to be the most tense game of all. “We had a lot more communication going and we were a lot more spirited in that match,” Callon commented. With the series on the line, teams resorted to playing tight defense and ended up in a complete stalemate, sending the game into overtime without a single goal on the scoreboard. In the end, it would be Lafayette who found their opportunity. They scored on a high hit from their own territory, getting another hit in the air to put the ball over Arnold, closing out the series with Lafayette as the victors. “It was really tense, and I think we played that game really well,” Callon said. Though the team played strongly throughout the series, Callon believed they could have upped their game. “Keeping the balance of attack and defense with those aggressive plays and those passes and shots as well as being able to get back and make that save is something we struggled a lot with,” he remarked. While this is the end of the playoff dream for the Varsity White team, Rocket League fans can now look to the Varsity Blue team as the one that could make it. Next week will be the biggest game of their season: a must-win for making the playoffs. Be sure to check out the livestream at twitch.tv next Tuesday.

BY MARK WAPPLER AND
JACK EVANS
STAFF, REPORTER

Senior Advisors returned to their designated freshman homerooms on Monday for the first time since Direction Days. A longtime SLUH tradition, Senior Advisors live in freshman homerooms from the start of the school year until the end of the first semester. However, due to COVID precautions, this year’s Senior Advisors could not join their freshman homerooms during the first quarter. Their return marks the first time in almost two years that the Senior Advisors are present in freshman homerooms. Each year, the Senior Advisors are selected in the fourth quarter of their junior year to guide freshmen during the summer and their first semester to help them develop study skills, provide guidance, and assist them in transitioning from middle school to high school. After being chosen, each advisor is assigned to a group of three to four freshmen to mentor and is responsible for being present in the homerooms every morning during the first semester under normal circumstances. Campus minister Stephen Deves believes that it is one of the most crucial relationships a freshman can make during his first couple of weeks at SLUH. “Having someone older to look up to, to trust, to rely upon when you need help is just a valuable thing,” said Deves. Along with freshman moderator Tim Curdt, Deves plays an integral role in facilitating the Senior Advisor program at SLUH. By both

training and working closely with Senior Advisors and also being directly familiar with the Senior Advisor experience during his own time at SLUH, Deves gets a direct view of what makes the program so beneficial for freshmen and seniors. “In my experience as a freshman, as a Senior Advisor, and as someone who works with freshmen and Senior Advisors,” said Deves. “(I have seen that homeroom) is the time where you really get to know each other.” While it is something previous freshman classes may have taken for granted, the absence of Senior Advisors in homerooms last year exposed just how crucial the program is for freshmen. “Even though (homeroom) is simple and quick and very loose, it’s just an easy way to get to know each other and build that relationship,” continued Deves. “It’s much easier to have deeper, trustworthy conversations when you just know them every single day.” The extraordinary circumstances of the last school year coupled with homeroom time simply not being built into the schedule made the Senior Advisors being in freshman homerooms unfeasible. This caused a disconnect between the freshmen and their Senior Advisors. “That was a real bummer last year,” said Deves. “The Senior Advisors didn’t feel like they really knew their freshmen because they weren’t in homeroom with them every day.” The program was not fully ready to be implemented during this year’s first quarter due to lingering Covid class occupancy concerns, but after much deliberation, the

decision was finally made to reunite the freshmen and Senior Advisors during homeroom. “We really wanted them to be together since the start of the year,” said Deves. “When the question was raised, however, all mutual parties agreed this was a good, beneficial move.” The students’ responses to the decision have been largely positive, with seniors excited at the opportunity to help further lead the group of SLUH freshmen that they watched grow over the summer during Direction Days, eager to better their relationships with them during their first semester at SLUH. “I remember my freshman year always looking up to the Senior Advisors to ask questions or ask for advice,” said senior Nick La Presta. “I’m glad that I can now be in that position for my freshmen in their homerooms.” For many Senior Advisors, being present in freshman homerooms during the morning transports them back to the different times of their freshman year. Some Senior Advisors cannot believe that they stand in front of the homerooms where their Senior Advisors once stood three years ago. “It’s definitely reminiscent of my freshman year,” said senior Baker Pashea. “I remember looking up from my desk when morning announcements came on and would just look at the way seniors reacted to them. It’s interesting to experience both viewpoints now as a Senior Advisor.” The freshmen also enjoy the company of their familiar Senior Advisors in the morning during homeroom, viewing them as moral and academic models that stand at

the front of their homerooms. “They always give advice,” explains freshman Luke Gill in regard to the Senior Advisors in his homeroom, “(They) tell us to really work hard freshman year so we don’t regret it senior year when we’re filling out (college) applications.” The Senior Advisors are often a freshman’s greatest help during the initial weeks of high school, especially the first day of organized classes. However, without the Senior Advisors’ guidance at the beginning of this school year, some freshmen found themselves under fire on the first couple days of school. “I struggled that first day of school,” said freshman Owen Roth. “I could have used my Senior Advisor to guide me to my classroom.” At the end of the day, the Senior Advisors are overjoyed to be back in the freshman homerooms, filling the shoes of their Class of 2019 counterparts. It’s the little things, like being in freshman homerooms in the morning, that makes being a Senior Advisor worthwhile. “It’s so fun being that Senior at the front of the homeroom,” said Pashea. “You just want to connect with your freshmen because they see everything so differently.” While the Senior Advisors will still be leaving the freshman homerooms after the first semester as they have in previous years, Deves and Curdt are looking for new ways for the freshman and their Senior Advisors to better stay in touch during semester two. The work, however, never stops for the Senior Advisors throughout the first semester. They will be leading their freshmen next month for the annual Freshman Retreat on Nov. 22.

For the first time since 2019, senior advisors return to starting the day with their freshmen

Gibbons and Carruthers go to Houston for JSN conference

BY JACKSON COOPER AND
LUCAS HAYDEN
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

Eagle-eyed students may have noticed two high-profile faculty absences in the early days of last week: Principal Ian Gibbons, S.J., and President Alan Carruthers. The reason for their absence was a Jesuit Schools Network (JSN) conference in Houston, which allowed the principals and presidents of all 63 American Jesuit high schools to gather together for the first time ever.

Plans for a JSN conference uniting all of the nation’s Jesuit high school principals and presidents under one roof were initially set for the 2019-20 school year, but, due to complications brought on by the pandemic, the conference was postponed nearly two years. While individual schools meet regularly with other schools in their respective Jesuit provinces, they rarely get

the opportunity to interact with schools outside of their local area. With the goal in mind of allowing top leadership from schools across all provinces to share and take in ideas, the conference was rescheduled for October of this year.

“This was the first time in the history of the JSN that we’ve done this. It was supposed to happen two years ago, for the 50th anniversary of the JSN, but obviously that couldn’t happen because of the pandemic. This was our first opportunity to do it and bring everyone together, and it was an incredible experience. To catch up with what our schools are doing, with the great projects, but also to share resources in how we’ve overcome some of these challenges,” said Gibbons.

Though Jesuit high schools are spread throughout the United States, Houston emerged as an obvious choice largely in part to the fact that it is home to two

Jesuit schools: Strake Jesuit and Cristo Rey Jesuit.

Starting on Tuesday, Oct. 19 and ending Friday, Oct. 22, conference attendees were hosted at the Hyatt Regency Houston, one of the city’s finest hotels. While there, members of the group listened to keynote speakers such as former SLUH President and current President of Rockhurst High School David Laughlin, who spoke on the topic of lay leadership in Jesuit schools, as recent years have seen diminishing numbers of Jesuits in top leadership roles—currently, only three school principals and 15 school presidents are Jesuit.

Another keynote speech was given by the global Secretary of Education for the entire Society of Jesus, who traveled to Texas from Rome to talk about future endeavors regarding secondary education and the overall religious priorities of Jesuit high schools. This included the promotion of the spiritual exercises,

the training of young people for leadership roles in society, and care for our common home.

The presidents and principals also engaged in group discussion focused on a wide range of topics, including challenges with college admissions, social media, and social-emotional learning.

One area of the discussion in which St. Louis U. High featured prominently was in global education, as the school’s seven foreign language programs and abundance of foreign immersion offerings have come to serve as somewhat of a benchmark for Jesuit schools around the world.

“It’s really inspiring because one school keeps coming up over and over again in these discussions about global initiatives, and that school is SLU High,” said Gibbons. “Mr. Chura and so many others are a part of this, with the partnerships that we’ve built, and the programs

that we’ve led with, not only other schools in the United States, but also with schools all over the world. We really are in the minds of not only Jesuit (schools), but schools around the world in general.”

In addition, the principals and presidents also had the opportunity to visit both Strake and Cristo Rey, something of particular importance to Gibbons, who served as Assistant to the President at Strake before his time at SLUH.

“I used to work at Strake Jesuit, and I lived with the Jesuit community down there. So that was definitely a treat, to be back there for the first time in about eight years and to see my former school,” said Gibbons. Also of particular importance to the SLUH delegation was the ability to catch up with former SLUH administrators, such as Gibbons’s predecessor John Moran, who now serves as President of Cheverus Jesuit in Portland,

Maine, as well as Laughlin, who was president of SLUH before Carruthers.

In the end, the major takeaway was an overall sense of gratitude for the enormous value that a Jesuit education yields, and a sense of confidence in taking on the challenges of education today.

“Jesuit education is a powerful force for good in the world, and we take that seriously,” said Gibbons. “It isn’t a secret (that our graduates have so much success), and there’s a reason for that. A big part of that is the leadership development that our schools provide, so we’re very proud of what we do. We’ve still got a lot of work to do, but having that time to share with our brothers and sisters from the other 63 high schools around the country, it was very inspiring and really brought us back to our mission and all the great things that we are doing here.”

PN Puzzle: Cross Words

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14				15							16			
17				18							19			
20							21				22			
23					24	25				26				
				27					28			29	30	31
32	33	34	35				36				37			
38							39				40			
41					42					43				
44					45					46				
				47					48			49	50	51
53	54	55					56				57			
58							59				60	61		
62							63						64	
65							66						67	

crossword | Paul Baudendistel

ACROSS

- 1. Catch, as a line drive
- 4. _____ Cannonball, song that gave its name to a train
- 10. *With 65-Across, what you

get when you cross a snail with a porcupine

- 14. Flub, as a line drive
- 15. Hanging water
- 16. Half, of a sphere

17. *What you get when you cross a chick with a cat

- 19. Sound in MGM’s logo (from a tiger, not a lion)
- 20. Feed the kitty, in poker

21. *What you get when you cross beetles with a rabbit

23. Additional payments by delinquents

26. One of five (nuts) on a wheel

27. Raggedy doll

28. Dispensed candy

29. The Simpsons Disco _____

32. Most healthy

36. Certain trampoline parks

38. Praise, in church

39. “Every dog has _____ day.”

40. Work the dough

41. Plumps the pillows

43. Party, in Panama

44. Apple TV’s _____ Lasso

45. Unit of resistance

46. Luna’s partner

47. Sulley’s girl in Monsters, Inc.

48. *What you get when you cross a yellowjacket with a zebra

53. *What you get when you cross an ox with a sloth

57. The Big Easy

58. Likely apartment no. for a building superintendent

59. *What you get when you cross a tortoise with a giraffe

62. Died from drugs

63. Take _____ of absence

64. Pinocchio’s bane

65. *see 10-Across

66. Hutus’ rivals

67. Abbr. for the Mormon Church

DOWN

1. Home to eight of the ten tallest mountains in the world

2. Former Blues home near Oakland and Hampton

3. KC Royals HoF George

4. Nintendo game console of 2006

5. Marketing company at the center of a lawsuit against Donald Trump

6. Great Bell in Elizabeth Tower

7. _____ reus, partner of mens rea in establishing guilt

8. Toil endlessly

9. Actor Sherman who played George Jefferson 1971-1985

10. [Whatever]

11. St. Louisan Spinks who upset Ali

12. Sultanate at the end of the Arabian Peninsula

13. Lean and muscular

18. The second of April and the third of September

22. *What you get when you cross a wasp and a king cobra

24. *What you get when cross a cheetah and a chicken

25. Tolkien tree herder

28. Unsatisfying end to a soccer game

29. Nintendo game console of 1991

30. One of four or more on a cow

31. Org. that grades cows

32. Weight

33. One of two on a car

34. Praise, in public

35. Will Ferrell Christmas movie

36. Small drink

37. Smallest Roman numeral

39. How to play a kazoo

42. Aim for a target

43. Friend or _____

46. Certain mattresses

47. Front tool of a 53-Across

48. Headwear for an artiste

49. Red Roof _____

50. A B C D E F G H I J K M - N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

51. Medieval Spanish folk hero

52. Follower of land or goodness

53. 1930’s cartoon Betty

54. Command-Z on a Mac

55. Soup vegetable related to chives eaten in ancient Egypt

56. Last letter of the NATO phonetic alphabet

60. Super Bowl of 2022

61. Some Missouri S&T grads

PN’s Top 20’s List: Halloween

Top 20 Candies

- 1. Any king-sized candy bar
- 2. Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups
- 3. Skittles
- 4. Kit-Kats
- 5. Snickers
- 6. Reese’s Pieces
- 7. M&M’s
- 8. Smarties
- 9. Twix
- 10. Sour Patch Kids

- 11. Swedish Fish
- 12. Tootsie Roll Pop
- 13. Milky Ways
- 14. Butterfingers
- 15. Starburst
- 16. Dots
- 17. 3 Musketeers
- 18. Apples
- 19. Candy Corn
- 20. Toothbrushes

SATIRE

Werewolf loose in the building!

ALEX PREUSSER
CORE STAFF

This year has been a turbulent series of unprecedented events, and Halloween has brought yet another. During the second period last Friday, the halls were filled with a cacophony of frightened screams, alerting the student body of a possible danger.

“I was just walking through the halls during my free period when I saw it,” explained frightened junior Joe Abbate, trembling in the corner. “I thought I was gonna need a new pair of pants after that.”

As Abbate ran through the halls, flailing his arms and screaming at an oddly high

pitch, he gained a few other confused students trailing in his wake.

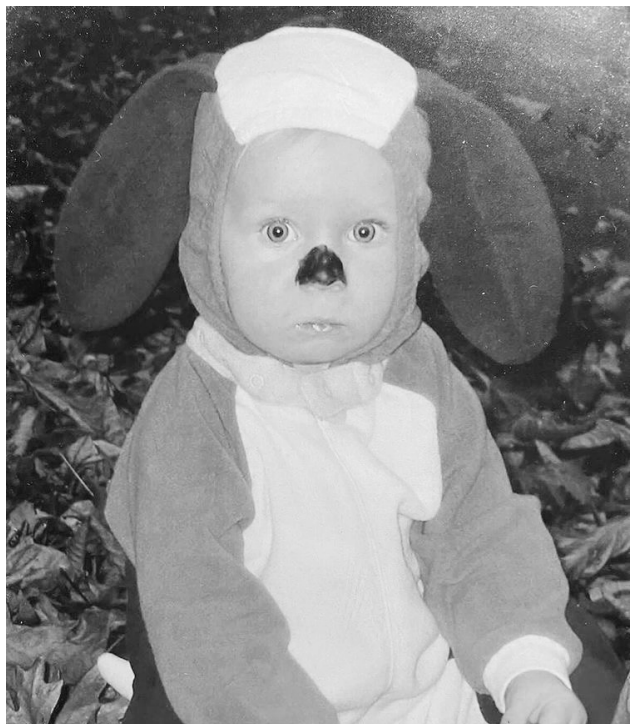
“I had no idea what was happening, so I followed him,” said another helpless bystander. “You never know what he could’ve been running from.”

After the classrooms had emptied into the hallways to observe, school nurse Scott Gilbert was able to calm down Abbate, and the source of this incident was revealed.

“It was a werewolf,” said Abbate. “I’m sure of it.”

Once the cameras were reviewed and the werewolf tracked down, it was revealed that the terrifying monster was simply a senior who had neglected shaving during the mask mandate.

SLUH community shares fond memories of past Halloweens



Senior Ben Harmon. photo | Courtesy of Ben Harmon

(continued from page 1)
with the words “My Little Pumpkin.”

Others recalled specific memories of past costumes or Halloween experiences. Junior Alberto Vushaj spoke of the Superman costume he sported as a youth. As Superman was his favorite superhero, Vushaj took this very seriously.

“It was really awesome for me, but I didn’t have a cape,” lamented Vushaj. “And every other kid that wore a Superman costume had a cape, so I was really jealous.”

“I was like eight and I was dressed up as a red Power Ranger for the third year in a row and my mask had really small eyes,” said junior George Mikhail. “When I was trying to go and get all the candy, I was racing my cousin to get to the next house, and I ran into a mailbox.”

Sometimes, cape jealousy and mailbox-induced injuries are just the price to pay for a top-tier Halloween experi-

ence.

Sophomore John Posey maximized his holiday by using his mathematical skills and graphs.

“After trick-or-treating, me and my dad would always make a pie graph of what percentage of each type of candy I got,” explained Posey.

Most trick-or-treaters are used to collecting as much candy as possible, but some houses require more than just the phrase “trick or treat!” to earn it.

“My parents in the proud South City tradition demand entertainment from those who come to the house for treats, but happily encourage performance of any sort as an alternative to telling a joke,” said English teacher John Kavanaugh. “We’ve had many songs, dances, instrumental performances, juggling, even poems recited!”

Other students have found joy in frightening younger trick-or-treaters. Fear for the

sake of amusement is a commonplace on Halloween, and some take the opportunity to break out their scariest costumes and tricks.

“When I was a kid, my brothers and I would hide in the back of my mom’s car,” said junior Michael Robinson. “When trick or treaters would come by they’d have me scream, and then they’d throw the candy out, that was pretty fun.”

“My friends and I were walking in our neighborhood, and we saw a group of kids with candy,” said junior Mark Faulkner. “So we thought, we should scare them for Halloween, right? So we went back to my friend’s house and got all these ghost face masks. Eventually, we saw the kids again walking, so we hid in a bush. They were so scared.”

Wehner remembers how his father used to scare the

trick-or-treaters coming by his childhood home.

“My mom would answer the door and the kids would come in, and my dad would be sitting in a chair with a real scary mask on,” Wehner said. “The kids didn’t see him at first, and then they would see him. My dad just loved Halloween. I don’t know why he wanted to scare the little kids, but he just loved Halloween.”

In other instances, students remembered most vividly when they were the ones on the opposite end of the jump-scares. Junior Harrison Freihoff shared a peculiar story in which he escaped a frightful encounter with a circus clown.

“I was turning the corner with my friends and I was a blueberry, and there’s this dude in a bush but I don’t see him and he jumps out with a katana and he’s like, ahhhhh (!!!),and then I’m so scared,”



The Joker and his Henchmen. Photo | Mark Wappler



Junior Campbell Cornett. Photo | Courtesy of Campbell Cornett

said Freihoff. “He starts chasing me as I run away. And then I trip over a sewer. And he trips over the same sewer, and then we’re both laying down, face to face, eye to eye on the sidewalk, right? And this dude is biking down the street, and then he bikes over the clown’s face. And then he starts crying. So then I get up

and walk away. That was my favorite Halloween.”

Members of the SLUH community have had a vast array of unique adventures on Halloweens past, but in the end, sophomore Murphy Daly summed up the essence of the holiday in one succinct phrase.

“Eating candy until I throw up,” said Daly.



The Hinders family. Photo | Courtesy of Craig Hinders

Admin hopes school will return to Condition II in near future

(continued from page 1)
process for an issue that can be incredibly divisive.”

This announcement was met with mixed reviews throughout the school. Many applauded SLUH’s tremendous efforts at handling the Covid-19 pandemic and being a leader within the greater St. Louis region. However, a small number of SLUH students responded negatively to the announcement, believing that it was a premature move by SLUH. Outraged students turned to the news channel KMOV, which had aired a one-sided story detailing the frustration of outraged students after the first switch.

Last Wednesday, Principal Ian Gibbons S.J., and Carruthers met via Zoom with city health officials to discuss SLUH’s transition from a mask mandatory policy to a mask recommended. When told that SLUH had reached all of their requirements, the city officials were surprised.

“The Department of Health was deeply impressed by what we’ve done here at SLUH in regards to controlling the virus,” said Gibbons.

“They asked us to stay the course a little longer, and also to work with them to help, study, and communicate how schools can effectively overcome the pandemic.”

This meeting was the first of two official meetings held between the city and SLUH administrators. At the conclusion of the second meeting, SLUH and the city agreed to a partnership. This partnership would mean that SLUH would help advise the city on how to best help other schools overcome pandemic hurdles and continue to collect data within SLUH.

“This is a deeply complex virus that nobody has been able to out-think,” said Gibbons. “The city wants to be a part of our project of looking at what we did, and look toward ways that we can move forward. They also want to evaluate what we’ve done and be able to promote that at other schools and other institutions that have not been able to achieve the levels of safety that we have.”

At the request of city health officials, SLUH reinstated its mask policy until the city releases updated Co-

vid safety guidelines. In addition, the school consulted with the archdiocese of St. Louis and talked with Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski on how they should proceed with the school’s policy.

“(The city) had no understanding of the things that we’ve been doing in this regard to collecting data and the safety measures we have in place,” said Gibbons. “They want us to be able to align with their process for going forward as well.”

“We said that we’d like to be in that partnership, and that in good faith we will do this,” said Carruthers. “The Archdiocese also encouraged us to engage in and maintain that partnership. So I see this partnership as a very positive thing.”

Upon announcing the shift in policy, students began to hypothesize about why the sudden switch in policy happened. Some believed that it was due to pressure from the recent KMOV story or due to pressure from the city.

“I think SLUH switched its policy because the (KMOV) article was against people not wearing masks

and that reached the city, who began to get on us about our mask policy,” said junior Ben Hopcraft.

However, the administration is adamant that neither of those things happened, but that the quick shift in policy was due to conversations had with the city and the mutual partnership that has been established between the school and the city.

“The KMOV story and all the social media pieces that have been swirling had nothing to do with this switch in policy,” said Gibbons. “There have been comments made that SLUH simply listened to a couple of loud voices and just made a decision in that regard, but that is not so either. We are good citizens, we are good partners with the city, with the diocese, and are simply wanting to work with them to help the greater St. Louis community.”

Similar to last week, students were abuzz at school, sharing their thoughts about the change in policy that some saw as a positive gain, others as a step in the wrong direction.

“I believe that when you

consider the high vaccine rates of the school and you consider how low our case numbers are, you have to ask yourself the question of when will the line be drawn for when we can take off our masks again,” said senior Joey Weinbauer.

“It is a good thing because Covid is not over yet,” said senior JP Torack. “We need to continue protecting the most vulnerable within our community.”

However, many students understood where the school was coming from, and agree with this switch in policy.

“I wasn’t surprised about the switch just because of all of the things that happened last week,” said junior Freddy Laux. “I don’t feel too strongly either way, last week it was kind of nice to be without masks but obviously I am so used to wearing a mask by now that it doesn’t even faze me to be wearing one.”

“I am a little disappointed that we had to switch back to wearing masks, but I understand that we have to take the safety of others seriously,” said senior Matt Windler. “I get that we have to look to

the city and archdiocese for guidance and that we can’t stray off that path.”

While students may be frustrated, the administration, through constant conversation with the city, is hopeful that in the near future, the school will be able to return to normal.

“There are no exact dates moving forward for when we will switch back,” said Carruthers. “I think that the Nov. 1 Covid update from the city will be important. I think we’re talking about a matter of weeks here, not months.”

While the administration recognizes the frustration and anger of some students, they want to clarify that the decisions they make are not political. The decisions are made based on how they will best help the formation and learning of students.

“We are trying to be non-political, as a school,” said Carruthers. “We deal with faith, growth, formation and learning. My goal is to make sure you guys have the best possible experience you can have in the context that we live in.”

AMDG

Drive for the Homeless raises donations for groups that help homeless

(continued from page 1)
where homeless men can come to stay overnight,” said Stewart. “And they hand out things like toiletries, coats, and blankets. The second place is called St. Louis Winter Homeless Outreach, and we donate blankets and money to them and they will distribute the items.”

Donations are more essential this year than ever before after the pandemic, which hit homeless populations especially hard. These donations will go directly towards helping homeless men and women within the St. Louis area to endure the looming winter.

“We’re accepting coats, blankets, backpacks, hand warmers, and toiletries like soaps, conditioners, and any of those things,” said junior Brock Johnson. “We’re not setting a specific goal because anything really helps them right now, especially coming out of a pandemic where they did not get a lot of support because everything is really isolated.”

The Drive has been entirely run by the Junior Pastoral team who voted, organized, and planned out the week as a constructive way to raise money and goods for the homeless.

Their hard work over the last two weeks has helped to assist the most needy within our community and to impact the greater St. Louis community.

“We presented ideas within the Junior Pastoral Team and then we voted on them, and that was the voting process,” said Brock Johnson. “We organize it with tables out in the hall where the items are collected each day for each class. Then someone during their free period counts up all the items and then adds it to a sheet which calculates the points for each class.”

At the end of the drive yesterday, the Drive had raised 60 blankets, 40 jackets/sweaters, 35 hats, 45 gloves, 32 scarves, 76 pairs of underwear, 223 pairs of socks, 246 hot hands, 634 toiletries, and \$3,160 towards Winters Inn and St. Louis Winter Homeless Outreach. Each item had a different numerical value, with blankets and jackets/sweaters being worth 5 points; hats, gloves, and scarves being worth 3 points; underwear, socks, hand warmers, and five dollars all being worth 2 points; and toiletries being worth 1 point each.

With all the points tallied in, the freshmen stood on top with 999 points to win this year’s Drive for the Homeless over the juniors (846 points), the seniors (493 points), and the sophomores (370.4 points).

The event has been important because it raises money, gathers donations, and helps out the St. Louis community overall. It is fitting that Campus Ministry takes control of the Drive because serving others is an essential aspect of SLUH’s Christian identity. Fr. Stewart points to the Bible to convey the importance of SLUH having a Drive for the Homeless.

“Matthew 25: ‘Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, and sisters, you do to me.’ The parable of ‘When did we see You cold? When did we see You hungry? When did we see You thirsty? When you help the least of my brothers and sisters.’ So I think it’s essential if we’re going to be Christians, people of the gospel, that we have a connection with and help out people who are those least folks in our society,” said Stewart.

Strategic Summit grading group looks to update policy

(continued from page 1)
committee chair Steve Missey and co-chair Mary Russo, the group also includes fine arts teacher Addie Akin, theology teacher Mike Lally, college counselor Kate Kindbom, and math teacher Nicholas Ehlman. The committee’s work involves creating a new grading policy that accuracy, fairness, and student motivation.

The first thing the committee noticed was that SLUH has never not done a school wide review of the grading policy in over 30 years.

“The strategic summit was struck by the fact that we have never done an assessment or review of how grading is done,” said Lally. “We’re assessing how everyone grades right now, and looking at the strengths of how we grade, the independence and flexible nature of it, but also the weaknesses of doing it.”

The committee’s work will involve several main points.

“The official goal of the committee is to create a grading policy grounded in a shared understanding of academic rigor that promotes accuracy, fairness, and student motivation and ownership,” said Russo. “We want to frame out a plan for associated practices of communicating grades that are clear and understandable to teachers and students as well as parents, counselors, administrators, colleges, and other community partners.”

It has been over 30 years since the last time there were institutional conversations about or consideration of the current grading policy. Teachers institute their own grading strategies, which can create inconsistency between classes.

“The way one teacher

grades is radically different from how another teacher grades, and that can be a confusing and disorienting experience for students,” said Lally. “Unfortunately, what sometimes happens is students have very varying and different experiences across their seven classes.”

Between different classes, the rules regarding late work, test grades, and how much each assignment is worth are often different, and the committee is looking to find some common ground for every teacher and every class to understand.

“These things are very open to interpretation,” said Kindbom. “And so I think the idea behind the Grading Policy committee is to help give teachers some kind of unified understanding about what the grading scale is, what it means, and to possibly have some language around that.”

Over the summer, the committee members read and a book called Grading for Equity and discussed how the ideas they encountered there could be adapted to fit into SLUH’s context.

“We spent the summer reading Grading for Equity and deciding what it is that fits us best. We are a unique place and we need to figure out what’s going to work best for us. What are the wonderful parts of our current grading policy, and what are the parts where we could be more clear, more so to promote accuracy or more fair and that will relate to student motivation,” said Russo.

The committee members are exploring how grading practices and policy can work to help make students better learners so they can have more

success after they graduate.

“We’re not doing this because we’re looking to inflate grades because we want you to get into better schools. Getting into the schools is great, but it’s more about the success you’re having when you’re at the schools,” said Russo. “It’s what a high functioning school does, and it’s what we’re doing.”

The committee is also exploring how grades and grading affect the relationship between students and their teacher.

“What’s more important in the end is trying to build a place of authentic learning, where grading happens in the end to assess if you’ve done the authentic learning, but that it has not made the relationship between student teachers so oppositional where it’s like the student feels like they’re trying to take as many points as they can from the teacher,” said Lally. “Rather, we want to see cooperation and collaboration and learning between teacher and student.”

For most SLUH students, effort revolves around their grades and GPA, because that is what will have the greatest effect on where they attend college. The committee hopes that if the emphasis moves from grades to learning, students and teachers will be more satisfied with their academic work, and students will have the opportunity to be more successful in and beyond high school.

“I think if we can go from being a points culture to a learning culture, where you can still get a good grade by failing, I think that would be a game changer here,” said Kindbom. “It’s gonna take a long time, but we’re working on it.”

Mother-Son Mass and brunch provide bonding opportunity



Sophomore Jack Seamands and his mother reading the petitions.

photo | Courtesy of Mothers Club Facebook

(continued from page 1)
across all four classes and their moms gathered to celebrate Mass and a delicious brunch. This event was hosted and organized by the Mothers Club, and as expected, it went well.

“I think it’s important to recognize how much your mother does for you and how much she sacrifices,” added freshman George Donahue.

As with many events in the past year and a half, the Mother-Son Mass was modified in 2020 to fit Covid protocols, but this year’s Mass and brunch resembled that of events in years past. The Mothers Club adapted the Mass to take place in the Field House, providing enough space to accommodate all of the guests, and the brunch was split into two—freshmen and sophomores before the Mass, and then juniors and seniors afterwards. This way, all mothers and sons who wanted to attend were able to do so safely and enjoyably.

“Given our spacing restrictions, we’re very happy with how it turned out and we got lots of very positive feedback from moms,” said Mothers Club president Chris Mittendorf.

The other large portion of preparation for the event came from Campus Ministry, with the likes of Fr. Matthew Stewart, S.J., Brian Gilmore, and seniors taking on various roles of the Mass. Students ranging from freshman to seniors, as well as a few moms, sang in choir for the Mass, and seniors took on the roles of altar servers and Eucharistic Ministers.

Stewart presented yet another dynamic homily, relating his own maternal experiences from his childhood to Sunday’s Gospel reading.

“The church always begins at home,” said Stewart. “The church is called the domestic church because mothers and fathers are the first teachers of the faith to their children. And so to have a Mass that recognizes that I think is incredibly important, but also just to celebrate with moms and the important role that they have in the lives of their kids.”

In what many called the morning’s most special moment, Mass was followed up by a pair of speeches from seniors George Henken and Gus Tettamble, addressed to their moms. Both were heartfelt and personal, and they both brought tears to many eyes, particularly the mothers in attendance.

“I started out talking about how I used to think of her paying for everything, and her driving me everywhere was the main thing that she did for me,” explained Henken, referring to his speech. “But then I wanted to talk about how she’s a really good friend of mine, and how her company over the years has really been important to me.”

Henken spoke about his daily walks around the neighborhood during quarantine, a time to get away from the world of asynchronous learning and screen time. In these moments, his mom was his best friend, the one there for him through it all, listening to every minute detail of his life.

“I have the privilege of knowing Carol and George (Henken) personally, so that one was especially meaningful and touching to me to hear George speak about his mom,” said Pam Barks, mother of Tyler Barks ’23. “I think they both did such a great job. I’m always impressed with the quality of speeches at these events and just how professional and mature the students sound during them.”

Tettamble spoke very intimately of his own emotional journey with his mom, through the good and the bad. His tribute to his hard-working, “jack of all trades” mom touched everyone at the Mass.

“I wanted to make it as good and as possible, because she deserves a good speech,” said Tettamble. “She liked it, so that’s all that I really care about.”

For many moms, this was the most important part of the event.

“Well, the two senior boys who spoke to their moms directly and talked about their moms to all of us, definitely made me tear up,” said Lisa Dougherty, mother of Charlie Dougherty, ’25. “I thought the things they said about their moms were just wonderful.”

After the Mass, and for underclassmen, before, a delicious brunch took place in the Commons. This provided an opportunity for moms and their sons to enjoy a brunch of eggs, waffles, and fruit, as well as spend some quality time with each other as well as catch up with friends and classmates.

“One of the great things about it was having the opportunity to meet new moms that I didn’t know,” said Dougherty.

“I think it’s a great opportunity to just have more one-on-one time with both the sons and the moms of his friend group, so I really do enjoy those moments and making those types of memories,” agreed Barks.

“It’s been a while since we’ve had these little events so it was nice to get back to it,” said senior Charlie Vonderheid. “It was just good to see everybody smiling.”



Matthew Barnes, Ryan Kellogg, Jaylen Morris and their moms.

photo | Courtesy of Mothers Club Facebook



Defenders swarming around a McCluer player.

photo | Baxter Southern

Football cruises by McCluer with record score, looking ahead to district matchup against Lindbergh

BY COBY SPRATTE AND
JACK RYBAK
CORE STAFF

St. Louis U. High wrapped up the 2021 regular season with a commanding 76-36 win against the McCluer Comets last Saturday. The game was an offensive spectacle as the Jr. Bills scored their most points in a single game since September 29, 1921 and featured the most combined points (112) scored in a single game in SLUH football history.

In total, the two teams combined to run 209 plays, by far the most in a game this season. The Jr. Bills scored early and often last weekend, torching the Comet defense for 647 total yards on offense, a season high.

“I think coming off of De Smet, we all had something to prove, not only to ourselves, but to each other,” said senior line-

man Pierston Sanders.

Midway through the second quarter, the Jr. Billikens led 42-6. The Comets scored twice before halftime, though, and converted both two-point conversion attempts to narrow their deficit to 42-22

McCluer, led by senior receivers Kameron Gillespie (9 catches for 199 yards) and Dennis Keyes (8 catches for 203 yards), didn’t go out quietly in the second half either, scoring twice more and forcing the Junior Bills to continue to keep their starters in and light up the scoreboard until the Comets were finally put away.

SLUH’s defense, particularly the secondary, struggled in spots against the Comets, who put up 620 offensive yards of their own, which, combined with the Jr. Bills’ staggering number added up to a total of 1,267 yards, the season high in a

SLUH game. Luckily, the offense came to play.

Senior wide receiver and Yale commit Chris Brooks led the charge for the Jr. Bills, as he tallied 7 receptions for 106 yards, 2 carries for 10 yards, and 5 touchdowns from scrimmage, three receiving and two rushing. Brooks was one touchdown short of the single game record held by Ronnie Wingo (2008) and Raymond Wingo (2012).

Senior running back Derrick Baker continued his stellar senior season with 101 yards on an 8.42 yards per carry clip and two rushing touchdowns, bringing his season touchdown total up to 12.

Once Baker took a seat, senior cornerback and running back Andre Tucker got into the game and made an immediate impact. Tucker exploded for an 85-yard touchdown run, going completely untouched by the

defense. He finished the game with 5 carries for 107 yards.

Complementing Baker and Tucker, junior running back Kam Bailey ran 5 times for 35 yards and sophomore Kodi Cade added 3 carries for 7 yards.

Senior quarterback Luke Johnston dazzled through the air, completing 20 of 25 passing attempts for 301 yards and 4 touchdowns. Johnston’s other receivers contributed in big ways as well. Sophomore wide receiver Joe Harris (6 for 97 yards, 1 touchdown), junior tight end Zach Ortwerth (3 for 64 yards) and senior receiver Craig Ortwerth (2 for 20 yards) each posted strong performances.

Meanwhile, sophomore Ryan Wingo continued his standout season with 82 total yards, 51 rushing and 31 receiving, and two rushing touchdowns.

Head coach Mike Jones commented on the team’s keys to their offensive success this season.

“We got talented kids, we got a quarterback who gets the balls to the right guys, we got two really good running backs, and the offensive line played well, so I think it’s just a combination of everybody playing well,” he said.

On the defensive side of the ball, seniors DonTavion Sullivan and Philip Bone each had an interception, while seniors Cayden Owens and Pierston Sanders each recorded a sack.

Junior linebacker Louis Kertz contributed a whopping 23 tackles, a season high for any Jr. Bills’ defender.

The McCluer Comets put up a valiant fight, but the Jr. Bills simply overpowered them, winning by a score of 76-36.

SLUH was able to hold Mc-

Cluer (7-2), winners of the St. Louis Suburban Blue District who came into the game averaging 54 points per game, to their fewest points of the season.

The Jr. Bills wrapped up the regular season with a 5-3 record, securing their first winning season since 2016. Each of their three losses came against a top ten team in the state.

Overall, SLUH finished sixth in their district and will face the Lindbergh Flyers, the No. 3 seed, in the District Quarterfinals tomorrow at 7 p.m.

If the Jr. Bills can beat the Flyers then they will play the winner of the game between No. 2 seed Marquette and No. 7 seed Northwest Cedar Hill. The opposite side of the bracket features CBC (No. 1 seed) going against Vianney (No. 8 seed), and De Smet (No. 4 seed) matching up with Kirkwood (No. 5 seed).

Swim snags John Burroughs Invitational; seniors shine against Chaminade

BY ALEX WENTZ
REPORTER

After four full years of fighting, the SLUH swimming elders have claimed victory in their final duel, and look to soon walk home from their last war in triumph. The squad dominated at the John Burroughs Invitational last Saturday, securing first place while leaving the second place team with a 196-point deficit. On Monday, the seniors got their last hurrah at the last dual meet of their high school careers, this time against Chaminade. The boys in blue blew the Red Devils away, winning 134-50.

“We had a great week of competitions,” said head coach Lindsey Ehret. “The boys dominated the other six teams at the JBS Invite on Saturday with a score of 397, which was 196 points more than the second place team. (There were also) a lot of time drops.”

The John Burroughs Invite provided the long-awaited opportunity to swim at a good pool, complete with wedges on the blocks, as well as constant warmup lanes. As the remaining number of meets before State drops to three, each swim at the invite was instrumental in bolstering the team’s standings

in Missouri. Freshman Greyson Mueller (152.16) and Jaden Yarbrough (152.48) astonished in the 200 free. With a nearly four second time drop, Mueller slid into 32nd in the State, right on the cutoff line for State qualification. After a two second improvement, Yarbrough is currently at 35th, sitting just outside of qualification, but leaving it well within reach at the final few meets.

“If I had to choose a favorite race to watch, I would say the 200-yard freestyle,” said senior Brody Nester. “That was an event where people were pretty far from qualifying for state, then Greyson and Jaden both did insanely well to drop (a lot of time).”

Moving to the 50 freestyle, sophomore Henry Unger pierced through the pool with the speed and efficiency of an electric eel, shocking all his competition. Shaving off 0.27 seconds, Unger broke the 23 second barrier, swimming a 22.87, and seating him at 32nd in the State. Furthermore, senior Jonas Hostetler and junior Jason Cabra snagged first and third, respectively, at the meet, asserting SLUH’s sprinting superiority.

In the 200-yard individual

medley, seniors Cooper Scharff (gold) and Ned Mehmeti (bronze) mounted the podium. Additionally, junior Gavin Baldes rocketed into the wall just over two seconds faster than he ever had before, earning a 6th place ribbon.

The 100 breaststroke was one of the team’s strongest events of the meet, seeing all four entrants finish in the top six. Freshman Evan Zimmerman had the largest time drop, shattering his previous best by over two seconds, and making him the youngest Jr. Bill to take home a medal, earning third place. Following just behind were sophomores Aidan Brawer (4th place) and Christian Lawrence (6th place). Senior Brody Nester glided into the wall as gracefully as a water bug on a lake top, claiming the silver in second place.

“Everyone did very well,” said Nester. “We now have four swimmers in a row (on the State rankings). We are 34th, 35th, 36th, and 37th, meaning if we can all drop a bit of time we may have all four breastrokers swim at state.”

Overall, the John Burroughs Invitational displayed both how far the SLUH swimmers have come as a team, and

showcased the individual work of many, and though John Burroughs may have been the more significant meet to the team, Monday’s meet against Chaminade was the seniors’ time to shine. Having experienced two State Championship wins while on the team, this year’s seniors know the taste of success, and know what it takes to achieve it.

The meet itself saw a shake-up in events people were swimming, as the seniors got the opportunity to choose what events they swam. Some used it as a chance to try out certain races they hadn’t ever swum before, while others wanted to end their high school dual meet career on their signature events.

Just as fire ants unite their strength to slide across water, the swim team seniors merged their speed to become unstoppable in their relays. The first stupendous senior squad was utilized in the 200 yard medley relay, and consisted of Scharff on backstroke, Hostetler on breaststroke, Mehmeti on butterfly, and Nester on freestyle. Even while having three-fourths of their relay swim irregular strokes, the team of elders still claimed first place. The other star-studded senior exclusive relay squad consisted of Hostetler,

Scharff, Nester, and Alex Wentz. The team nearly evaporated the pool away with their sheer speed, easily earning first place.

The fourth year swimmers performed similarly well in individual events. Senior Cooper Scharff walked away with only first place finishes at this meet, swimming the 50 free and 100 back as well as two relays. Senior Dennis McDaniel shaved off 0.59 seconds from his 100 breaststroke time, and contributed an impressive split in the 200 yard freestyle relay.

Meanwhile, Mehmeti used the meet as an opportunity to flex his skills in some events that he does not regularly swim. In the 100 free, Mehmeti

obliterated his previous best by three seconds, going a 51.26. Furthermore, he revealed his 100 breaststroke prowess, getting third place with a 1:06.76. Nester further cemented his butterfly and breaststroke skills, earning second in both the 100 fly and 100 breast, his two main individual events.

In the end, the Jr. Bills vanquished Chaminade 134-50, affirming the team’s dual meet dominance. As the season wanes to leave only two substantial meets before State, the MICDS Invite tomorrow and the Varsity MCC Meet next Tuesday, the boys in blue are carefully working to hone their skills.



photo | Aidan Brawer

Senior Alex Wentz and sophomore Joe Zarrilli celebrate

XC splits up: JV places second in Clayton Invitational, Varsity dominates at Buder Park

BY JOE LaBARGE AND
SEAN KELLOGG
REPORTERS

The SLUH XC team stretched itself across the city last Friday to compete in their penultimate meets of the season, showcasing all levels of the team. The seniors and a select group of other runners headed to the Big River Invitational at Buder Park while the rest of the team competed at the Clayton Invitational at Shaw Park.

At Shaw Park, SLUH ran their 11-17 in the varsity race and filled the JV race with all non-varsity seniors. Even with the top 10 runners at Buder Park, the team was able to show off its skills and come through with a second place team finish. Leading the way for the Jr. Bills were junior Carter Lowe (6th) and senior Francis Alford (7th), who both ran impressive races. Following close behind them were juniors Nolan Meara (13th), Tyler Barks (19th) and Lucas Rammacher (20th), who all helped contribute to an impressive 65 points, falling short only to Lutheran St. Charles, who ran their top 7.

Rounding out the varsity runners were senior Flynn O’Connell (30th) and sophomore Gabe Sullivan (36th). In total SLUH grabbed 6 medals in the varsity race.

Keeping with tradition, SLUH ran only seniors in the JV race at Clayton, but even with some of the usual JV scorers at Buder Park, SLUH took home the team title. Senior Alex Mittendorf ran an 18:31 to win his second ever race, becoming race champion. Tad Gray finished close behind him running 18:49 to secure second place, followed by Gavin Lawhorn (5th), Peter James (6th), and Tag Arens (14th), giving SLUH a winning score of 28 points. Jack Weremeyer (19th) and Joe Nesser (23rd) both finished strong as well, becoming the sixth and seventh man for SLUH. Eli Dernlan (39th) and Sam Quinlavin (90th) finished out the SLUH runners. Both James and Arens PR’d at the winding course, with Weremeyer also getting a season best.

“Tad and I talked before

the race and decided to run together and after running just behind the top guys for a while we made the move to the front and eventually both finished with very good races,” said Mittendorf. “I think it was a great opportunity to show off just how good our team actually is when you take out a lot of the usual top guys and still have great success on both levels of the meet.”

In total, SLUH brought home 13 out of 16 possible medals with both Tag Arens and Joe Nesser earning their first ever medals.

Just off of Highway 44, the rest of the Jr. Bills prepared for a historically very fast course at Buder Park. With the great conditions, six of the top seven varsity racers, along with a large number of JV racers, ran PRs. With the large number of PRs, SLUH increased the number of runners running under 18 minutes to 23, blowing the preseason goal of ‘18 under 18’ out the water.

In the varsity race, SLUH narrowly defeated its competition, Rock Bridge, by three points with three runners in the top 10. Senior Sean Kellogg led the SLUH finishers with an impressive 30-second PR, running 15:51 and taking home the third place medal. Seniors Baker Pashea (5th place; 16:11) and Joe LaBarge (7th place; 16:14) each earned himself a medal. Seniors Justin Glass (16:26) and Grant Brawley (16:39) rounded out the scoring five and secured the win despite Brawley’s persistent coughing during the race. Junior Tim Greiner (16:39) and sophomore Charlie Murray (16:57) also both ran impressive Varsity races earning themselves spots for the District meet this Saturday.

As the JV1 race was about to kick off, sophomore transfer Mason Scargall looked to make MHSAA pay for refusing to let him run in a varsity race. Unfortunately for Mason, another transfer from Hillsboro was also looking to coast home for the easy win. As the two fought for first place all race, the Hillsboro runner pulled away in the final 400 meters of the race, but not before bringing Scar-

gall to a strong second place finish and first sub-17:00 time of 16:50. Sophomore Charlie Gray (10th; 17:41) and junior Brendan Jones (11th; 17:42) also found themselves running impressive times. Freshman Gus Talleur (17:46) and sophomore Noah Evers (17:52) rounded out the scoring five to cement a second place finish to Webster, who only ran five in the Varsity race compared to SLUH’s ten varsity racers. SLUH finished the race with all five scoring racers getting medals and PRs.

“Going into the race, I heard that it was historically fast. I knew that I could get a large PR and maybe even get myself a blue shirt (sub 17:45),” said Gray. “I really relied on my teammates and I knew that Brendan was going to set a good pace, so I shouldered him for most of the race until he got a gap on me in the last 1000 meters. Coming around the last turn I saw everyone screaming at me to kick it into high gear, and I ended up passing a bunch of guys and securing the blue shirt at the end. I felt like I had just won a crazy bet coming across that finish line.”

In the JV-2 race, freshman Joe Stoeckel went out with the leaders of the race and managed to hang on to a fourth place finish, earning himself

his first sub-19:00 time and shaving 1:19 off of his previous PR. Juniors Spencer Johnson (7th; 19:00.5) and Conner Coolbaugh (8th; 19:00.7) became the Jr. Bills’ second and third finishers in the race while sophomore Joel Miller (11th; 19:07) and freshman Alex Bendaña (12th; 19:09) rounded out the scoring five to earn a prized piece of candy instead of a medal. Juniors Lionel Moise and Nick “The Dawg” Purschke also ran impressive and gutsy races, finishing in the individual top 20. With all of these great times, SLUH placed second to Webster’s JV2 and wrapped up a great day of fast times and PRs.

“Team spirit really showed this race, all the guys gave it their all and held their teammates accountable,” Purschke said. “The varsity guys really inspired me to really go into that hurt locker and it ended up giving me a nice ambulance escort out of the meet, so overall it was a great day.”

As the regular season wrapped up last night at the Finlay invitational, the varsity seven now look forward to a fast day at the District meet this Saturday. The top seven hope to carry their upward trajectory through into State next Friday where they will be pitted against rival teams from across Missouri.



JV runners lead the way at Clayton.

photo | Brian Gilmore

After strong Senior Night win, soccer team reflects on incredible season

BY NATHAN RICH
EDITOR

As the 2021 regular season enters the history books, players and fans alike can confidently say that it has been one of the greatest in the history of SLUH soccer. With a total of 21 wins, 89 goals and 14 shutouts, this year’s Jr. Bill team boasts an incredible stat line. They now head into Districts confident they can make a deep run in the State Tournament.

The regular season ended last Friday in the Drury Plaza, where dozens of students showed up to watch SLUH’s seniors take on MICDS in their final regular season match as Jr. Bills. This year’s roster features 15 seniors, and all 15 of them earned playing time against MICDS.

Midway through the first half, it was senior captain Tyler Van Bree who opened the scoring with a volley into the net off a header assist from sophomore Grant Locker. Senior Stephen Saladin also notched a pair of goals against MICDS. His second came off a beautiful assist from junior Sam Tieber, who lobbed the ball over the heads of the defense for Saladin to corral and then finish in the back of the net. SLUH went on to win the game 3-0, finishing their season in typical fashion: a dominant shutout.

The win also sealed SLUH’s incredible regular season record at 21-1-1, an incredible win-loss ratio for a team that played all around spectacular this year.

“It’s a special group. I love the culture of the group, to watch them play soccer is truly a privilege. If I could pick any team and play whatever style I wanted, it would look a lot like this,” said head coach Bob O’Connell. “It’s been so fun to be around.”

The record may seem surprising for many, but senior captain Evan Yalavarthi and his teammates knew from the first few games that this team would defy expectations.

“At first we were a little worried about how the season would end up,” Yalavarthi reflected. “We thought it could go a lot like last year where we started out good and then fell off. The first game against Marquette was kind of a statement game, though. We came out and scored two goals quickly and we saw our capability of being able to score quick and attack. That progressed throughout the season.”

Indeed it did. This year, the Jr. Bills became synonymous with scoring. Eight of their 21 wins were by four goals or more. This year’s scoring title unsurprisingly goes to Saladin, who seemed

to score in every game. He finished the season with 25 goals and had just seven games without a goal. Saladin’s impact was significant, but O’Connell was hesitant to name him MVP, instead praising the whole organization behind him.

“I really think this group is better than any one person and it makes us so dynamic and different,” he noted.

Saladin’s sophomore counterpart, Grant Locker, also put on quite a show this season with 19 goals. Overall, Locker’s presence demonstrates the immense role that underclassmen played on the team. Juniors Sam Tieber and Lucas Hammond created several opportunities through the middle of the field this season while sophomore defenders Christian Thro and Gabe Hafner helped anchor the defense.

Sophomore Chris Lewis, the starting goalie, is another example. A strong presence in net, Lewis’s many saves late in the season allowed the Jr. Bill offense to truly shine. Lewis and fellow senior goalkeepers Brian Critchfield and Brendan Stein led a defensive unit that also defied expectations this year.

“Our defense we thought was going to struggle at first, but over time they have really developed into strong defensive backs and now they barely let anything in,” noted Yalavarthi. “I loved how that developed, it really feels like we are at the culmination of our soccer abilities. We’re proud of where we are.”

The Jr. Bills aim to carry that pride with them to their first round district match against Hazelwood Central tomorrow. After their incredible regular season, it seems the Jr. Bills have a lot to prove. Yalavarthi feels up to the challenge, though.

“This is what I’ve been hoping for. After the past two years, losing in the first game of districts was really tough and now that it’s my senior year, it’s my last chance. It seems like I have all the guys around me to win the State Championship that we’re hoping for,” he said. “It’s exciting and it feels like I’m getting reimbursed for the past two years.”

“We’ve had success in the past, but there’s something different about our team this year that gets us over the humps we’ve struggled to get over in the past,” agreed Van Bree. “I can’t put a finger on exactly what it is, but it takes everyone. Everyone plays their role and everyone has their part on this team.”

District Schedule

Football

Oct. 29, 7:00 pm @ Lindbergh

VS

Lindbergh

Swim and Dive

Nov. 2, MCC Prelims

@ Forest Park

Community College

Soccer

Oct. 30, 10:00 am @ SLUH

VS

Hazlewood Central

Cross Country

Oct. 30, 10:15 Districts

@ Hillsboro

J-wing Art Gallery showcase self portraits of current students and alumni

BY CHARLES TURNELL,
DANIEL TICE, AND
AUSTIN WALD
REPORTERS

Have you been to the J-Wing art gallery recently? If so, you might have noticed the impressive work done by the St. Louis U. High Art Department. The exhibit contains close to two dozen self portraits that exemplify a depth that pushes further than just the face.

“The art is saying ‘this is who I am, this is how I see myself, this is how I want others to see me,’” said art teacher Joan Bugnitz. “It is more deliberate and thoughtful and maybe even an intro-

spective look than just ‘this is who I am, deal with it.’”

The concept of self portraits have more meaning than face value. There is a long history of depicting a deeper meaning in a simple portrait of a face, which has inspired gallery exhibits like the one currently on display.

“Since the invention of mirrors in the 1500s, self portraits kind of became a way for artists put themselves out there,” said Bugnitz. “People your age can do the same thing: expressing themselves by getting their work out there and using the gallery to get people looking at their artwork.”

The existing meaning of

self portraits becomes deeper based on the artist’s layers of personal depth. All of the portraits showcased were created by SLUH students, both current and alumni.

“All of the art is designed by students and consists of drawings, designs and prints,” said Bugnitz. “They span from last year to as far back as 20 years, and some are done by former students who went on to get their advanced degrees in art, and they now work as artists.”

Since the majority of the pieces in the gallery were created by alumni, the art has the opportunity to inspire current SLUH students. The intention of this showcase is

to help Jr. Bills realize that they could possibly make a career out of their hobby.

“I feel honored to have my work be hung up with all these great SLUH artists of the past,” said junior Leo Smith.

“I’ve always loved seeing the shows in the gallery,” said senior Charlie Bieg. “Now that I’m part of one, it’s a much more special experience for me.”

The art gallery is open during school hours and the current exhibition will be up for the next three weeks. The Fine Arts Department invites all students to take some time to visit.

SLUHsERS 9:



THE PROPHESED RETURN



SLUHsers | Jude Reed

Calendar

Friday, October 29

No Classes

Football District Quarterfinal
NO CLASSES-PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
5:00PM MICDS Swimming Invitational

Saturday, October 30

Soccer District Tournament
Cross Country (V) at District Race
Cross Country Sectional Race
10:00AM V Soccer District Quarterfinal #1
10:15AM V Cross Country Districts
12:00PM MCC JV Swimming Meet

Sunday, October 31

Soccer District Tournament

Monday, November 1

B Day

Assembly Schedule
Soccer District Tournament
ADV - All Saints Day Mass - Heritage Society
All Saints Day Mass-Formal Attire
Start of MSHSAA Winter Sports
LUNCH Special—Homemade Meatloaf
Vegetarian—Spinach Portobello Cap

Tuesday, November 2

A Day

Soccer District Tournament
LUNCH Special—Chicken Wing Trio
Vegetarian—Stuffed Bell Pepper

Wednesday, November 3

B Day

Late Start Schedule
Soccer District Tournament
Junior Retreat
Department Meetings
Activity Period College Visits—Milliken University
LUNCH Special—Chicken Alfredo
Vegetarian—Roasted Vegetable Pasta
12:20PM Junior Class Meeting
4:30PM V Soccer District Semifinal #1
5:00PM MCC Swimming Finals
7:00PM V Soccer District Semifinal #2

Thursday, November 4

A Day

Soccer District Tournament
Junior Retreat
LUNCH Special—Santa Fe Chicken with Chipotle Cream
Vegetarian—Eggplant Parmesan

calendar | Ben Croat

Check out the new *Prep News* bulletin board outside of Campus Ministry!

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