



## Snow days go asynchronous in age of virtual learning

BY NICK CAMPBELL AND  
ANGAD GOTHRA  
STAFF, REPORTER

Rumors of snow days and questions about schedule changes were spreading across the Backer Memorial this past Tuesday and Wednesday. With the possibility of a snow day looming, and with SLUH teachers and students becoming more proficient in learning remotely, principal Ian Gibbons S.J. and his staff decided the time was ripe for updating the school's snow day policy. As announced in last week-end's Parent Connect email, snow days will feature asynchronous work, with teachers assigning work via Canvas and no synchronous class meetings. Students can complete work on their own time, giving them the chance to do other things that may come with a snow day. Gibbons and other faculty began to look into the update when SLUH first began online school last year, citing new technologies that would allow for improvements.

"With our pandemic response, all the technologies we put in were to allow us to more seamlessly support (remote) education," said Gibbons. "We now have the tech to do it."

The group first had to decide which structure they would go with when deciding the new protocol. The first option was a standard snow day, where school is out and no homework is assigned. The administration also looked at different options of synchronous classes, but decided against it, citing unneeded complexity.

"Those options got really complicated, and just keeping it simple in the pandemic is important," said Gibbons.

Instead, a decision was made to go with an asynchronous schedule, where assignments are given via Canvas and there are no set class times. This decision was made after realizing that, with the crazy-

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## Start to semester seems promising, Covid cases kept at minimum

BY CARTER J. FORTMAN AND  
LUKE MISSEY  
EDITOR IN CHIEF, REPORTER

Three weeks removed from St. Louis U. High's full return on Jan. 11, SLUH leaders continue to be confident in their measures taken to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 on campus. As of press time yesterday, the school had just five active cases and 62 quarantines.

One concern regarding the return to full-time classes this semester was that it would cause a rise in cases and quarantine numbers within the SLUH community. However, there are currently only five active students in isolation because of positive tests (with most of them set to return by early February), and there have been only six positive cases in total since the return on Jan. 11—including some carrying over from the end of winter break. This came even after doctors warned that decreasing the space could lead to more quarantines and Covid cases. Positive tests have been coming in at a very low rate, and

are a far cry from the spike that SLUH saw back in November.

"Our numbers are very good right now, but we did, and have seen some pops in quarantines because of the three feet," said Carruthers, referring from the change from six to three feet of distance between students in classes. "We go from a very small number of quarantines associated with each positive case to, you know, 15 to 45 with each particular case which, very rapidly, could be problematic for keeping everyone in teachers and students alike."

"I have no doubt that our families and our students are deeply committed to being back," said principal Ian Gibbons, S.J. "That commitment has paid dividends so far, and has allowed for a successful return."

In addition to having a low number of cases overall, none of the positive tests have produced any evidence of spread occurring on campus.

"If we start to see another case in this class, and another

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photo | Mr. Giuseppe Vicellaro

Freshmen play in first snowfall of year. See more photos on [page 8](#)

## Advancement team reassesses Go Forth strategy in pandemic

BY JACK FIGGE AND ELLIOT  
MOORE  
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

When the coronavirus pandemic threw the world into utter chaos last March, forcing all businesses to revisit their financial plans, members of the St. Louis U. High advancement team had to readdress their plans for the Go Forth Campaign and how to fund major Go Forth renovation projects such as the Dill Center for Academic Success. Launched publicly in

2018 after years of strategic visioning, SLUH set an ambitious goal of raising \$70 million dollars to sustain the Jesuit mission of SLUH and usher the Backer Memorial campus into the 21st century with new renovation projects.

"Go Forth was envisioned to raise the most amount of money that school has ever done in a single campaign, which at that point was \$70 million," said SLUH president Alan Carruthers.

Over the past three years,

over \$60 million of the \$70 million has been pledged already, meaning that donors have committed money and are giving their donations in increments over a period of time.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March, it forced the Advancement office to reassess the Go Forth campaign and their strategy for finishing major construction projects like the Dill Center; a project transforming the Old Cafeteria into

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## COMMENTARY Homophobic language at SLUH should not be tolerated

BY JACOB SPROCK  
NEWS EDITOR

*Editor's Note: This article is part of a series of articles addressing the difficulties of life at SLUH for members of the LGBTQ+ community in an attempt to raise awareness of their daily struggles and start a conversation on ways that we as individuals and as a school can change our habits to be more inclusive of LGBTQ+ individuals. This article focuses on the use of speech to isolate and/or belittle the LGBTQ+ community.*

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## Million dollar donor leads to St. Louis Scholars

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL  
AND PETER JAMES  
STAFF, REPORTER

Over the last several years, St. Louis U. High's financial aid has tripled, demonstrating that SLUH's commitment to affordability is a core value. With the pledge of one million dollars by an anonymous donor to the Presidential Scholarship, the SLUH administration has continued its commitment to supporting SLUH students and has created a St. Louis Scholars, a new program meant to recognize students who benefit from financial aid and exemplify SLUH values.

The Presidential Scholarships are awarded to students who fit the criteria made by the donor, criteria which could be based on academics, passion for a certain curricular, or a particular interest of the donor worked out in conversation with the school.

Sophomores through seniors who receive financial aid are able to apply for the St. Louis Scholars. The students who are selected will be publicly recognized as scholars associated with the St. Louis Scholars and will have opportunities to represent SLUH and possibly connect with the donor who created

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## Admin adds special programming days to encourage class unity

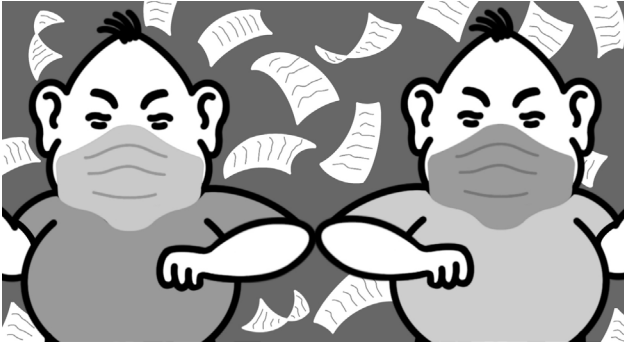
BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL  
AND JACK POLANSKY  
NEWS EDITOR, REPORTER

Next week on Friday, Feb. 5 marks the first programming day in St. Louis U. High history—a new tradition in the making. There are four programming days—one for

each grade level—and will be designed to be filled with both fun and spiritual activities to help bond the class together.

The order of each class's programming day is based on need. This first one is for the sophomore class followed by the seniors on Friday, Feb. 12.

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art | Charlie Bieg

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### NEWS

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### SPORTS

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## Okohson-Reb wins MLK award for contributions to social justice

BY LUKE DUFFY AND  
RYAN PINEDA  
STAFF, REPORTER

Senior Ocean Okohson-Reb won the MLK Model of Justice Award, an award that recognizes high school students from across St. Louis for their service in racial justice.

The award is presented by the Archdiocese of St. Louis each year, and winners are chosen from several schools across the St. Louis area. To win, students must demonstrate a commitment to serving humanity in the broader community, make justice a central part of their life, and commit themselves to the noble struggle

for equal rights, according to the archdiocese. This year, there were 29 winners of the Model of Justice Award. “It kind of came as a surprise to me, getting this award, and I’m really humbled and grateful for the thought and the recognition,” said Okohson-Reb.

The awards ceremony took place on Sunday, Jan. 17, at the Cathedral Basilica. It was “a highlight of the 45th annual Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice” according to a recent article from the Archdiocese. The Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice was established to honor Dr. Martin Luther King

Jr.’s legacy.

Okohson-Reb was nominated for his dedication to justice and equality during his time at SLUH.

“When I first came to SLUH, I had two very amazing senior advisors, Nico Hernandez and Trevor Jones, and they were the main reason that I started applying myself and putting myself out there when it comes to social justice,” said Okohson-Reb.

Since his freshman year, Okohson-Reb has been heavily involved in the Association for Cultural Enrichment at SLUH (ACES) and the Student Teachers Association for

Racial Studies (STARS), two clubs at SLUH that promote justice.

Director of Equity and Inclusion Frank Kovarik said that Okohson-Reb’s leadership in those two groups contributed to his winning of the award.

“They kind of helped create a community for me that was welcoming, that was informative, that inspired me to try to share that knowledge with others,” said Okohson-Reb of his work with ACES and STARS.

Over the duration of his time at SLUH, Okohson-Reb has contributed greatly to informing others about social

justice.

“Last year he planned and facilitated a series of discussions with STARS on understanding racism,” said Kovarik. “He’s helped out with some of the other diversity activities at SLUH; he helped out with the bulletin board about praying for the canonization of the first African American saint.”

Because of his many leadership roles in antiracism at SLUH, Okohson-Reb was voted by his teachers to win the Model of Justice award.

“I think Ocean is a great leader at SLUH, and I was delighted to see him among the

award winners at the Mass,” said Kovarik.

At the ceremony, Okohson-Reb was inspired by all of his fellow high-schoolers who won the award and their work in social justice.

“I got to know some of the people that I met at the ceremony, asking them about what they’re involved in and their niche when it comes to justice,” Okohson-Reb said. “It’s really inspiring when I see other people my age that care about these things, that are working towards educating and informing their communities around them.”

## Admin shares plans for snow day protocols

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ness and chaos associated with communicating snow days and family situations, synchronous classes were no longer feasible.

“A big concern for us was families. You don’t know whether a sibling’s school is open, or having transport problems, or running last minute errands, or the other hectic things that come with a snow day,” commented Gibbons. “Plus, we have a lot of our faculty and we want to support them.”

This schedule also comes with the added benefit of students being able to stay home and enjoy the snow during the day.

“That is such a big part of snow days and why they are so great,” said Gibbons. “They are just fun.”

The new snow schedule will seem very familiar to any returning students, who took asynchronous classes to close out last year’s fourth quarter.

“It is precisely like last year’s asynchronous, except that it is not all seven classes in one day, but rather the classes you would normally have on that block day,” said Gibbons.

While having classes on a snow day may seem like

a monumental change, or a crime against some unwritten snow day code to some, it is important to note that SLUH has had a similar assignment-based snow day schedule preceding this new change.

“Pre-pandemic, faculty would contact their students and direct them to Canvas and stuff. They were still making forward progress on their classes,” explained Gibbons.

As with the last snow day procedure, snow days that go unused do not take days off the end of school, as students are still able to learn from home.

“We are a private school, and therefore don’t have to have specific ‘snow days’ built into our scheduling like public and charter schools are required to have,” explained Gibbons. “We did build the schedule on the assumption of something like four possible snow days, but whether we have them or not does not affect the overall schedule.”

So next time all that flushing ice cubes down the toilet and checking the weather forecast every five minutes pays off, make sure to allot time for some schoolwork between the sledding and resting up near the fireplace.

## Corley’s exhibit blurs the line between art and math, shares sabbatical experience with students

SAM TARTER AND NOAH  
APPRILL-SOKOL  
FEATURES EDITOR, NEWS  
EDITOR

An exhibit of works done by math teacher Frank Corley during his sabbatical will open after school today in Saint Louis U. High’s art gallery. The exhibit, called Art Imitating Math, is meant to show students the intersection of math and art.

To the left of the exhibit’s entrance are two photography displays. Trying not to focus on the architects or buildings themselves, Corley took photos that truly depicted his own perspective and where he saw certain shapes, angles, and vertices in the architecture, and how that displays geometry.

“The idea for both of these displays is that architecture is cool because it’s math and art, but in particular, if you focus just on the shape you’re looking at, what do you see? Forget what it is ... but just look at its geometry,” said Corley. “The goal was to take pictures of artwork that manifested geometric concepts for me. I wanted to feature just a little bit of math that I see in each piece of art.”

The first of these displays was inspired by the work of architect Frank Lloyd Wright. As a longtime fan of Wright’s, Corley used his sabbatical to visit certain galleries and houses designed by Wright that were on his bucket list (including Fallingwater, Taliesin, Ebsworth Park, and Dana-Thomas).

“I tried to take pictures where you almost can’t even identify what it’s a picture of. It’s just geometry, it’s just shaped. So that display is called Wright Angles.”

To the left of Wright Angles is a smaller display called Non-

Wright Angles, which depict pictures of various art museums that Corley visited within driving distance of St. Louis. Corley decided to include photos that focused on shadows and light projections that come from the architecture and their relationship with the world around them.

“For this display, the question is ‘what sort of projection or shadow can you get?’” said Corley. “Could you get a square projection, or a parallelogram or rectangle or rhombus or even an isosceles trapezoid? I invite the viewer to play with that and to interact with these photos.”

More photography displays can be seen outside the gallery’s entrance in the hallway to the Art Wing, in a two-piece display entitled Haystacks. Inspired by Claude Monet’s series of paintings (also entitled Haystacks), Corley took photos of a haystack at his country home during last year’s quarantine. From different angles, at different seasons and at different times of the day, Corley would try to depict that Haystack in a unique way each time, changing his “x, y, and z coordinates” as he put it.

“In the lobby stairway is going to be a collection of I think 39 images of this haystack from different angles at different times a day,” said Corley. “I got it in the rain, I got it in the snow. I got to try noon on the summer solstice, and I got it at sunrise of the winter solstice. I got it on New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day. Just various images that depict the fourth dimension of time.”

Described as his biggest work during the sabbatical, Corley made a 52-page book entitled Flips, Turns, Slides, Shrinks which he describes as

an interactive children’s book. Every two pages features a work of art, accompanied by a page of text written by Corley, inviting viewers to view each piece of geometry-infused art and to learn more about the interconnectedness of math and art. Many of the art pieces are interactive just by looking at them multiple ways, but others can be turned, twisted, or folded.

Two smaller displays are featured near the window of the gallery. The first is a three-part series of encaustic paintings, which are made from melted beeswax and colored pigments are added. Corley is fascinated by the geometry and the working of bees to make their hives, and owns and takes care of multiple beehives at SLUH and at his home. For these paintings, Corley wanted to display the texture and layerings that come from beeswax while using organic, all-natural materials.

The second smaller display is Jack Kerouac’s Scroll, with a twist which depicts an interconnected, never-ending Möbius strip of printer paper built into a Remington typewriter. Corley invites viewers to sit down at the typewriter, be creative, and continue the story he has written on the paper, and once the strip of paper is fully covered with text, it will result in “a story which begins at any point on the paper and continues on forever.”

Ultimately, Corley has discovered that the art that he made, and the sabbatical as a whole, has allowed him to fully discover and experience God, and to find the connection between truth and beauty, and how they coexist and live in both math and art.

“Somewhere deep inside of me, there’s something that grabs at that truth is beautiful,

and that which is beautiful is true. And we tend to put beauty into art and truth into mathematics, right? But one of the things I want to do is reject that split between that which is beautiful and that which is correct or that which is subjectively true and that which is subjectively wonderful,” said Corley. “Many mathematicians will tell you that when they see beauty in a proof. For instance, a good proof will flow, a good proof will be simple, a good proof will be structured and will have a nice structure to it. So it’s easy as a math guy to see that that which is true is beautiful. I don’t know enough about art to say that that which is beautiful is true, but what I am willing to say is that when we respond to art, we’re not just responding to it because it looks cool, but because there’s something deeper there, and that it gets at something which is eternal, something which is true. When I see a piece of artwork that is beautiful it touches something inside of me that’s lasting. So if I start with beauty and truth, and if I say that down deep they’re somehow the same thing, well that’s where we find God, because they both flow from the transcendent; they both flow from the eternal, and that’s God.”

The opening reception of the Art Imitating Math gallery will be this afternoon from 3:30 to 9:30. Students or faculty members can register for a time slot on the email that Corley sent out to the whole school. Following the opening reception, the gallery will be open every school day until the first week of April. All are welcome.



photo | Carter J. Fortman

Some of Corley’s hay stack photos.

## New St. Louis Scholars opens up more financial aid opportunities

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the scholarship.

“SLUH is unique in that we meet 100 percent of demonstrated need, and we conduct need-blind admissions. We are extremely proud of this tradition. Recognition with a Presidential Scholarship will not affect a student’s

financial aid package, but it will honor a deserving student who represents the best of SLUH in some particular way,” said Agniel.

The new St. Louis Scholars will be further announced and explained in the upcoming issue of the SLUH Magazine. There will also

be a corresponding webpage dedicated to scholarship and those selected as St. Louis Scholars.

“We are very fortunate, very blessed, that so many of our alumni, parents, and friends believe in the mission of SLUH: what SLUH has been, what we’re do-

ing today, and where SLUH might go in the coming years. Presidential Scholarships will be a way for these believers in SLUH to honor deserving Jr. Bills and ensure that our tradition of financial aid will be a part of SLUH’s character for a very long time,” said Agniel.

## COOKIES!

The mothers club will be selling cookies on Wednesday and Thursday in the Commons for 50 cents a bag



PN “Baker’s Dozen” Puzzle

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	52	53	54								55	56		
57									58					
59							60	61	62					
63					64							65		
66					67							68		

crossword | Paul Baudendistel

- ACROSS
1. Proper’s partner

5. Uber, as violet

10. Machu Picchu civilization

14. Teen trouble

15. Either Justin, musically

16. Warm, in a sense

17. \*Desire new dental laws?

20. One push-up, e.g.

21. Larry Bird’s alma mater

22. \*Tired of flutes, Frozen

- reindeer ingested?
31. From \_\_\_\_\_ Z
32. “Don’t \_\_\_\_\_, bro!”
33. Call when all 10 cards are in melds
34. Precursor to this puzzle’s theme
36. \*Almost mean?
39. African antelope
41. Some frontline workers
42. More foxy
43. Ill-behaved
46. Mar
48. Ethnicity of the world’s most famous carpenter
51. \*Added yeast?
55. The March King
57. Tannenbaum twine
58. What one does by reading the theme entries quickly
59. \*Recovered high schooler with plumage?
63. One Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time
64. Trial
65. Sparse, in Spain
66. Pam’s fiancé before Jim
67. High school in Grease
68. Remove from power
12. Horseless carriage
13. Prepare frontline workers
18. Trial
19. Direction from the zoo to SLUH
22. Confuses
23. “What did \_\_\_\_\_ you?”
24. First attempt
25. CBS franchise that expanded from Las Vegas to Miami and NY
26. Small barrel
27. Unbelievable, in text-speak
28. Grows old
29. One of four on a fork
30. Means justifier, sometimes
35. Start of this puzzle’s theme
37. Brazil, e.g.
38. Attempt
40. Uber-worked?
43. Han’s son
44. Carly \_\_\_\_\_ Jepsen
45. Word for two or too
47. Logs of “ants on a log”
48. Northernmost state capital
49. Sweet-smelling chemical compounds
50. Expansion of a contraction
51. State when frontline workers are needed
52. Stretch the truth
53. Dental filling (archaic)
54. Wherein a fist means S
55. Counterpart of a frat
56. It often has a decrescendo
58. Unit of prison or life
60. Possible operation for this puzzle’s theme
61. Prop for something with dimples
62. 2001 antagonist

DOWN

1. Commonality for cats and dogs
2. Company that founded NBC, and namesake of the former Colts home
3. Where there was no room for the parents of 48-Across
4. London length
5. Ideal, as a society
6. August constellation
7. Explosive standard
8. “Ruh-\_\_\_\_\_!” (Scooby-Doo quote)
9. Inherit
10. JK
11. The Matrix protagonist

GRANDE PROJECT:  
Seniors Harrold and Hernandez write a song to honor their cultures

BY JACKSON COOPER  
REPORTER

After hearing about the switch from Senior Projects to Grande Projects, seniors Albert Harrold and Camilo Hernandez knew what topic they wanted to focus on for their projects: musical representation. Harrold, who is Black, and Hernandez, who is Latino, wanted to bring a voice to their respective communities. In addition, both Harrold and Hernandez are musicians, and wanted to help inspire younger people

to find their voices through music. Harrold and Hernandez chose to combine those two interests and create a song, focusing on different aspects of the Black and Latino experience in America while also hoping to inspire others. “We’re writing a song about the things Black and Latino people experience, and also about how we found our voices through music,” said Hernandez. “We want to try to inspire that in younger kids.” “We are both musicians, so we wanted to do some-

thing that would resonate more with us and help kids who are like us and went through some of the same challenges that we went through,” said Harrold. In order to learn more about songwriting and how to best express what they want to convey, Harrold and Hernandez plan to talk to several professional musicians. They also plan to advocate for funding music programs in poor communities around the St. Louis area.

SATIRE:  
Admin waiting to “see how things turn out” after blizzard buries school in 7 feet of snow

JACOB SPROCK AND  
NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL  
NEWS EDITORS

The administration reported on Wednesday, Jan. 27 that they were still waiting to “see how things turned out” before deciding on whether or not to cancel school following the gentle suffocation of St. Louis U. High by seven feet of soft, powdery, harmless snow. “Driving to school really gave me a chance to practice my drifting on the roads,” said senior Alex Bollini, who has been hospitalized after attempting to Tokyo Drift his way home on his bicycle. “I understand why they wanted us to come to school. I’m sure anyone would pick driving through seven feet of snow over a Zoom class any day.” Despite multiple weather forecasts predicting the pile-up of snow and the local weather advisory, the SLUH administration thought that persevering through tough situations, no matter how perilous they may be, is exactly what SLUH stands for. “I really feel that risking our lives and car insurance



SLUH students in the snow storm art | Nathan Rich  
by making the trek to school really highlight the Jesuit ideals of putting others first,” said senior Carter Fortman via a Zoom interview from the safety of his own home. “We’ve already endured a deadly pandemic that threatened to take the soul of our nation, so what could some wimpy ice do to us?” At press time, administration representatives struggled to climb the steps to the mic stand, slipping and sliding on the three inches of ice that had accumulated from that morning.

Food, Formation, and Fellowship

@ The Commons, Upper Field, and Field House

Dinner, Fun, and Community Building!

5:00-7:30





## GO FORTH

courtesy of SLUH communications department

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new administrative offices and new offices for both college and school counseling, which had begun last year.

“Like every organization across the world right now, we’ve had to take a long sober look at the (economic) environment that we’re operating within,” said Agniel. “And, that’s made us a lot more cautious and conservative in terms of how we want to move forward with major projects like (the Dill Center).”

While reassessing SLUH’s current budgetary status and how to proceed with further renovation projects, the Board of Trustees determined they would pay for the Go Forth projects when cash was in hand, in order to ensure SLUH’s long-term viability and ensure that the school would not have to worry about debt in the future.

“With the kind of demographic realities we’re facing in St. Louis—a relatively stagnant population with a smaller population of boys, both in parochial and in public schools, particularly in the 2008 (and) post-2008 birth dates period—we realized that we should be very careful with funding any projects by utilizing debt financing,” said Carruthers. “We’re really shying away from debt financing at this moment, particularly with the shift in demographics and us not knowing how many kids will attend in the future.”

Avoiding debt financing means that SLUH will wait to have all of the money necessary to fund a project in hand before beginning it.

“It is a very cautious approach, but we feel like the current circumstance demands prudence,” said Agniel.

The pandemic has also made fundraising difficult, with the economic downturn and tumultuous market that the world has experienced, especially in the early days of the pandemic last March.

“It (the pandemic) created uncertainty with a lot of people. It created uncertainty with individuals, but it also created uncertainty in the market,” said Carruthers. “We have our endowment, plus many of our donors’ investments are in the market in equities or bonds, and so through the pandemic we have been on quite the ride. We’ve had, you know, some of the biggest lows that we’ve seen since 2008, and we’ve also had some of the biggest highs.”

Despite the initial decrease in financial gifts, with almost a 30 percent drop

during May and June, the SLUH advancement team has seen an uptick in the number of donations in the past three months.

Because of the financial strain on many SLUH families due to the pandemic, the advancement team decided to divert more Go Forth funds to the financial aid program in order to help SLUH families who are struggling.

“We budgeted more for financial aid than we had in previous years, and made plans to provide extra support to families who might confront the crisis,” said Agniel.

Despite having to put the Dill Center on pause and push back the start date of other key projects, the advancement team is hopeful that work will begin again on 4970 Oakland Avenue in the very near future.

“We are actually going to start a major part of the project this spring we believe, which is the roof,” said Carruthers. “I know that doesn’t sound as romantic for students, but as you can see if you go in the chapel when it’s raining, there is leakage.”

Already, funds that have been secured through Go Forth have been used throughout the SLUH building, starting initiatives such as the College Counseling Department, building the Innovation Lab, funding the Arabic program and creating the Director of Global Education position.

“The Go Forth fundraising is directly responsible for the creation of my department,” said head of College Counseling Kevin Crimmins. “It has allowed us to provide the resources we need in order to best serve the students.”

The relatively quick return to construction, and the continued success of the whole Go Forth campaign would not have been possible without the generous support of many donors. Without their gracious support, SLUH would not be able to sustain its mission.

“Many people give to SLUH because the trajectory of their life was positively altered by what they experienced when they were students here,” said Agniel. “It shows that the great spirit and power of SLUH that you feel today is something that is decades and centuries old. And, it’s something that our alumni and donors are supporting generously today, so that spirit and power of SLUH will be maintained and grown in the future.”

## Class programming days to provide students with class bonding opportunity

(continued from page 1)  
No classes will meet on these programming days.

“When we were looking at each class like sophomores, for example, it was very noticeable that they didn’t have any chance to come together as a class in the fall, so it was seen as more important to get (their programming day) in as soon as possible,” said science teacher Megan Menne. “Same thing for seniors. Seniors have had their retreats, and they have a lot of stuff towards the end of the year like graduation. So we decided to get them in earlier as well.”

The programming days were created as a response to the lack of unity-building activities this past year and the difficulty of cultivating class brotherhood while in the midst of a pandemic. They also offer for many students a much-needed break in the monotony of the school daily routine.

“When looking at the spring, we decided that it might be a good thing for classes to have a day to relax with each other, especially

given our current schedule,” said Menne. “You also don’t have a lot of opportunity to just hang out with each other. Some of your classmates haven’t had a chance to hang out with each other since the beginning of the pandemic.”

“We’re trying to put together a day that will ultimately be a day of brotherhood and community, something that we lacked a lot in the first semester,” said Kesterson. “We have missed a lot of the big community-building activities that would have happened this last year. Even now with everyone back, with clubs going on, with sports and retreats, there is still a bit of that connectedness missing.”

The idea of the programming days came out of the Freshman Fun Day that occurred earlier this year in late October. The freshman event featured fun activities, prayer, and group breakout sessions, and it has been a model for how these programming days will look.

While each programming day will have a similar structure, each will also be tailored

to meet the needs and wants of each class. Committees with teachers and a few students who are familiar with the specific class have been formed to help design these events.

“The sophomores, for example, don’t know some of their classmates. So, some of the activities are going to be geared towards just getting to know their classmates more,” said Menne. “Whereas, the senior day will be more about spending time with each other.”

Although the planning committees for these events will have their own vision for what these days will be like, all of the committees have prioritized safety when developing the plans for these events, implementing a series of safety measures to stay in line with SLUH’s Covid-19 protocols.

“We have to be a lot more organized when planning this,” said Menne. “They’ll be divided into groups and you just have to keep track, to create pods so we kind of know where everybody is at all times and who they’re around.”

With one day scheduled for each class year, the sophomore class is kicking things off and setting a precedent for what the other programming days will look like in the months ahead. Menne and a committee of other sophomore teachers have been meeting weekly since December and are excited for the day.

“I am really excited for the day,” said Menne. “A lot of planning has gone into this day, and I think it will be a good day.”

Both Kesterson and Menne believe that these programming days demonstrate how SLUH is more than simply an academic institution. It is a place where students are taught to be loving individuals and are a part of a community.

“The teachers are not focused on the class, students are not only focused on their schoolwork, but we’re genuinely trying to figure out like this is a pandemic. How do we take care of each other’s right now? I think that is what the programming days are supposed to help answer this question,” said Menne.

## Encouraging early data on three feet spacing

(continued from page 1)  
case on the sports team, that’s where it gets concerning,” said Gilbert. “But that’s just something we have not seen, and the doctors that we consult agree that when we have positive cases they’re coming from outside the school.”

Gilbert has been at the center of the Covid-19 response, fielding phone calls and emails to trace back to where positive cases originated or informing parents when their son needs to go into quarantine. The cases and quarantine data are then all stored in a master spreadsheet which keeps track of positive tests, quarantines, and release dates for both students and the faculty and staff.

Although isolation due to positive tests has been down, the full return and its three-foot distancing measures have brought more quarantines overall. The “worst case scenario” according to Gilbert would be 25 to 30 quarantines created by a single case. Of the 62 quarantines, 13 were caused by cases not relating to SLUH. The rest relate to the 5 active cases. Of those five active cases, only four necessitated quarantines. One required 19 quarantines, another case 18 quarantines, and the other two created 11 quarantines each.

“It certainly bears some pain for our community, having to be in quarantine while the results of tests are coming in,” said Gibbons. “I was calling some families at like 9:30 on Saturday night, which is not a great call when you have to hear your son has to go into quarantine.”

While the increase in quarantines isn’t fun for those who are having to stay isolated off-campus, it was an expected cost of the full return.

“On the administrative side of this we have all acknowledged, even before the holidays, that when we came back at three feet (distance) in the classroom, that there are going to be instances where more kids are going to be pulled out of the classroom and put into quarantine,” said Gilbert. “Communication I think was key ... just making everybody understand that part.”

One of the largest complexities created by the full return was the quarantines for athletes.

“It (being full capacity) has certainly created some complexities,” said Carruthers. “With athletic testing and quarantines while awaiting test results, it is a very challenging logistical reality that impacts current athletes. We’re certainly still trying to figure out how that’s going to work with spring sports, which have a much larger population of athletes, so that’s still a question mark that hasn’t been fully resolved.”

Another question mark is vaccines. According to data compiled by the New York Times from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Missouri ranked last in the rate of distribution for the initial vaccine doses. These difficulties have challenged administrators like Carruthers who look to get vaccines for their faculty.

“By and large I think most people have been very responsible and understand that this is a collective effort, we just have to keep it up until we get enough vaccines distributed,” said Carruthers. “We of course are communicating with health systems and the St. Louis Department of Health, and we’re trying to get our faculty and staff vac-

inated as soon as possible. They are in Tier One B, but ... vaccine distribution in the state of Missouri is lagging behind some other parts of the country, so we have some challenges there.”

Even with the complexities, Carruthers believes that it has been well worth it and is encouraged by declining numbers within the metro area and precautions taken by students.

“I think we can all agree that it’s been wonderful to be back and see each other in the hallways and classrooms every day and be with our peers,” said Carruthers. “That’s wonderful; it just does create issues when there are positives (cases). Fortunately, the numbers in the city are declining and are in good shape right now and right now in the school itself. We’re very low so I hope people continue to be responsible.”

Carruthers stresses that now is not the time to let up on precautions to stop the spread of Covid-19.

“It is a collective responsibility to maintain our in school reality,” said Carruthers. “Symptoms ... even if they’re minor, should not be ignored. Many of the young men are expressing almost like allergy, runny noses, low grade soreness, etcetera; those are symptoms. If there are any symptoms present, they need to honestly report them on their pre-screen or simply not come to school, call in, take the virtual option until they get a test result back and know whether they’re positive or negative, because the cost is so big for a much larger group than just oneself at this point.”

Overall, though, Carruthers and Gilbert have been happy with how careful members of the SLUH com-

munity have been and how healthy the overall population has been.

“I’m so grateful to all the parents and students,” said Carruthers. “Our mask wearing has been great. I think the guys in the various different lunch locations have done a great job trying to maintain that six feet. I think our teachers are doing a great job and showed a tremendous amount of hard work to keep the system going. We still have some kids in virtual and running those two systems is much more laborious and they’ve done a tremendous job. EVS, maintenance folks, support staff continue to do a great job ... and as a school we’re quite healthy.”

“I didn’t study pandemics,” said Gibbons, “It’s not a thing I ever thought I’d need to be an expert in. But 2020 made us experts.”

“I’m really impressed with how the students are handling this, I’m really impressed with their ability to distance, I’m impressed with their mask wearing for the most part,” said Gilbert. “I think it’s a tough thing to do, and to ask if you know a teenager and even kids younger than that but they’re doing a phenomenal job.”



art | Nathan Rich



# Two students share passion of music by releasing songs on Spotify

BYNATHAN RICH  
CORE STAFF

Senior Robby Brooks and Junior Jude Fucetola are wasting no time pursuing their passions. Over the past few months, they have taken their soundwaves from homemade studios to Spotify, a platform with over 170 million users, and made a significant splash on the St. Louis high school community in the process.

For both musicians, it always seemed a matter of when, not if, their music would make it big. Brooks and Fucetola both began playing instruments at a very young age and from the start, they fell in love with the craft, although each in their own way.

Brooks's journey to Spotify was unsurprising, given the inspiration all around him. A drummer since before middle school, Brooks's house was full of musicians growing up. Both his brothers played the drums and his oldest brother Peter, '15, even had his own band, The Plywood Inspectors, in high school.

"They were amazing. I grew up going to see their shows," said Brooks. "My brother is my biggest influence. I loved seeing him make his own music."

Following in his brother's footsteps, Brooks and a trio of friends joined together to form a band at the beginning of their own high school career. Calling themselves The Scamps, they had very humble beginnings.

"When I look back on The

Scamps, it's pretty crazy thinking about how far we came from where we were freshman year playing covers and some of my bandmates not really knowing how to play their instruments," said Brooks. "We were just messing around."

Playing primarily out of the upstairs of a band member's garage, The Scamps began slowly perfecting their craft. After playing at high schools around the St. Louis area, like Viz and Priory, Brooks quickly noted the growth of the musicians around him. Eventually, the band started to play its own songs, an important switch for the journey towards music streaming.

"We came up with these ideas, and we really liked them," reflected Brooks. "The first song we wrote sophomore year, that turned into an original that we played at shows."

Even after the group started making its own songs, it still wasn't until last summer that they decided to go public.

"It took way too long to happen," said Brooks. "We'd been a band for too long to not have anything out there. We had people that liked our music and we knew our music was good enough to present it."

Last summer, The Scamps recorded the first of their two originals in a homemade sound studio, the same room they'd practiced in since the start. The new room, now fitted with insulating foam and noise-proof curtains installed diligently by a band member's parents, was an important sign of the support around them.

"We had a lot of outside encouragement," said Brooks. "We had people like my brother who had real experience recording music and wanted to hear us record."

Their two singles: "Beach Yu" and "Hold (My Own)" are classic garage band hits, featuring tantalizing guitar licks, driving drums, and soothing background vocals. Together, their two songs have well over 40,000 streams on Spotify, an impressive number that Brooks credits to the community around him.

"(The streams) mean we're doing something right," said Brooks. "It's a combination of people, kids at SLUH who I am friends with, kids at SLUH who I don't even know—which is awesome—and also people from other schools in St. Louis picking up on our music and liking it."

Collaboration has played just as important a role in Fucetola's music, even though he isn't part of a band. Writing under the name J. Anthony, Fucetola is still a newcomer to Spotify. His first and only single so far, "I Don't Wanna Be Your Lover Anymore," dropped at the beginning of this year. From even its first day on Spotify, it's success was apparent, garnering 500 streams and littering Instagram stories with it's bright orange single cover.

"It's something that I feel like a lot of musicians, especially teenagers, want: to get noticed and put yourself out there, but it's such a process," said Fucetola. "To even write

a song and then record it and put it out on Spotify and market it becomes so much more real when you actually do it."

His song, written on a sleepless summer night, is straight out of the 80's with an electrifying synth groove and classic guitar samples recorded by two of Fucetola's friends at De Smet. While a typical Scamps recording session can take a whole day, Fucetola recorded the piano melodies and vocals for his track in just three hours thanks to help from a friend who oversaw production. The song was dropped shortly after recording and Fucetola was incredibly grateful for the response it earned.

"It's really awesome. Part of me is like 'Oh I want more, let's get to this number,' but I mean there was almost 500 (streams) on the first day, which is crazy. It's been really humbling," said Fucetola. "I'm glad people reacted to my stuff."

The positive reactions to his music have been a relief for Fucetola, who at first was hesitant to share his voice.

"I'm still taking vocal lessons because I could not sing at all," said Fucetola. "Just recently I was like 'Okay, I can fake it.' Putting my voice out for people to hear me sing, it was really nerve-wracking."

One thing that was never questioned, though, was both artists' skill on their respective instruments, skills they credit to SLUH's own band program.

"When I got here freshman year I didn't really know how to play jazz drums. That

was uncharted territory for me," said Brooks. "Very much thanks to Mr. Pottinger knowing what to place me in and what to recommend to me, that helped me branch out. That made me a way better drummer."

Fucetola agreed, and appreciated the connections he made through the band program.

"Someone who inspires me a lot currently is Robbie Brooks. We became really good friends, and I definitely wouldn't have met him if it wasn't for SLUH band. The Scamps are going crazy right now," said Fucetola. "Learning jazz music, both in and out of school, has definitely helped me be more creative when I'm writing stuff."

As for the future of these two, it remains bright. The Scamps have plans to release several songs over the summer and an EP, or a type of mini-album, as well.



art | Nathan Rich

# Homophobic language is a shortcut to discrimination



(continued from page 1)  
community.

Language, in the hands of someone who knows how to use it well, is the ultimate instrument. It can be used to build roads and to level buildings, to discipline and to console, to buy a hotdog at a baseball game and to deny your mooching friend one too. But one of the ugliest aspects of language is its ability to devalue.

The idea behind a derogatory comment or slur is pretty simple: a word is associated with a certain group of people; that word is used in a negative sense and thus given a negative connotation over time; through common consensus of a word's negative connotation, slurs and derogatory terminology can be used as a shortcut to discriminate against the targeted group of people.

In my time at SLUH, I have been witness to more than a few slurs. Each time, it's been

about as pleasurable as stepping on a nail and more of a mood killer than a pop quiz over a reading assignment I didn't do. As an underclassman, they would paralyze me because I would never see them coming. But it was only through almost a dozen interviews with members of the SLUH community, some alumni and some still in high school, that I learned the impact they have on LGBTQ+ students.

A commonality in the interviews was the feeling that using words like 'gay' and the f-slur only create distance between LGBTQ+ members and their peers and inflict serious psychological damage.

"I felt excluded," said Nicholas Dalaviras, '20. "I felt like there's this population of the school and they didn't want anything to do with me because I'm somehow less of a man than they are."

"It's very hard when you hear people saying every once

in a while, 'Oh, that's gay' and calling people fags in a joking way. That implies that being gay is a negative," said Alex Seidel, '10. "That impacts people in a lot of different ways because, psychologically, they're hearing, 'being gay is bad,' and it reinforces that worldview that being gay is bad and being gay is unnatural or something, and it makes it harder for people to come out and makes it harder for people to embrace who they are."

In my conversation with Komlavi Adissem, '20, he pointed out that oftentimes assumptions are made about people who have certain characteristics. Even though the idea of high school kids breaking up into separate social groups is oftentimes a cliché one, it sometimes feels like SLUH is doing just that.

"The bigger assumptions (about gay people)—those are hurtful," said Adissem. "And you don't know me just because I'm gay. You can't make inferences about me like that."

Though the common consensus on homophobia at SLUH was more on its subtlety and closed-door mentality, the instances of blatant homophobia at SLUH were numbing to say the least.

"I was sitting at the switchboard with someone who I thought was like my best friend at the time and out of nowhere he said 'you're a faggot and you're gonna burn in

hell,'" said Francesco Galante, a former student at SLUH who left mid-way through his sophomore year due to his increasing discomfort at SLUH. "I hear people saying those things and I'm still trying to come to terms with who I am at the time. And so that compounded and made my mental status not great."

Fitz Cain, '20, described in detail a scenario where he was called the f-slur by one of his classmates at a party in his senior year. Following the event, the friends of this classmate, though willing to admit that their friend was in the wrong, decided not to address it beyond that.

To Adissem and Seidel, it's this refusal to hold people accountable for the things they say that perpetuates such an exclusive culture at SLUH.

"We need to un-normalize the use of homophobic slurs," said Adissem. "I can't tell you the number of times even in a non-homophobic context, just like joking around with friends, that I've heard people use fag or faggot or whatever. That is not okay and should never be okay."

"If you let everyone get away with being able to talk their way out of calling someone a fag jokingly or something like that, you're not promoting equality and tolerance of the LGBTQ community. You're unconsciously permitting that type of intolerance,"

said Seidel.

Unfortunately, these experiences are not uncommon in Missouri and in the United States as a whole. According to GLSEN, a pro-LGBTQ+ organization focused on creating schools a safer environment for LGBTQ+ individuals and an organization that has been conducting surveys on school climate for over twenty years, 98.8 percent of students across the nation have heard the word 'gay' used in a derogatory way in their school while 95.2 percent reported hearing words worse than this used. In Missouri, the numbers were reported at 93 percent, and 85 percent, respectively.

For me, this was the hardest part to come to terms with because I too was someone who, as a freshman, used the word 'gay' with a negative connotation. At the time, it felt normal. All of my peers were doing it, and it made me feel more accepted. It felt good to be accepted.

But something Cain said about the response to him being called the f-slur impacted me.

"It just sucks to feel like people don't have your back," said Cain. "And I think especially with the student body, when it comes to LGBTQ issues, people are so uncomfortable with it that they just back away. And I think it's kind of on SLUH and it's kind of on just everybody to make it less

"We've had discussions about what it would take for all of us to not go to college—something like a million streams on Spotify," joked Brooks. "Do I think that will happen? No, but our goal is to still play some shows over the summer and keep releasing music."

Fucetola, after hearing several requests for new music, has similar plans for taking music with him after high school and beyond.

"My dream is to own a music studio one day," said Fucetola. "Music is definitely going to be part of my life in the future."

In the meantime, though, Fucetola aims to collaborate with other teenage artists in the St. Louis area, who continue to inform his craft.

"I'm inspired by all music, man," said Fucetola. "I think anyone who makes music has some sort of gift."

uncomfortable or to confront the discomfort and have the tough conversations."

By using this type of language, we are turning our backs to all the LGBTQ+ people at SLUH. By choosing to talk about them in a demeaning way, we say that acceptance by our peers is worth devaluing the lives of others.

Dalaviras made a point in our conversation that, in reality, the only way to make a society that is tolerant is to refuse tolerating bigotry, a bit of a paradox in and of itself.

"You have to promote a culture of acceptance," said Dalaviras. "There's got to be a culture where their friends hold them accountable. And once you can get your friends and community to hold you accountable for your shortcoming, that's the way we would do it."

Language, in the hands of someone who knows how to use it well, is the ultimate weapon. It can lift people up and drag them through the mud, foster a sense of inclusivity and push others to the fringes of society, command a community of hatred and discrimination and inspire a revolution of acceptance and tolerance.

I do not expect this article to change anyone's mind or fix SLUH overnight, but for the time being, this conversation is ongoing.





# Hockey loses final two games of the season against Marquette, Vianney; looks ahead to Challenge Cup

BY LOUIS CORNETT  
CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High hockey team played its final regular season game of the 2020-21 year last weekend. With a game on Friday and Saturday, the Jr. Bills faced off against the Marquette Mustangs and the Vianney Griffins. With seeding in the playoffs determined by the results in the two contests, SLUH hoped to win its last two games to secure the third or fourth seed. However, a 3-1 loss to Marquette and a 5-3 loss to Vianney put a stop to their plans. Now heading into the postseason, the Jr. Bills will face Chaminade, Rockwood Summit, and CBC this weekend and Monday in the postseason round robin which begins the road to the Challenge Cup.

Friday night, SLUH traveled to Affton to take on Marquette. Scoreless for the first five minutes in the first period, neither team was unable to break through the other's defense. However later in the period, Marquette kicked off the scoring with a goal, and SLUH was down 1-0 at the end of the first.

"The players are trusting the system that we are implementing," said head coach Steve Walters. "We were doing the right things, and we just made enough mistakes, and they put the

puck in the back of the net."

With 5:14 remaining in the second period, a fast break by Ryan Spinner gave the Jr. Bills their best scoring chance of the night. A toe drag around a defender at the blue line gave Spinner a one-on-one with the Marquette goalie, who shrugged off Spinner's backhand shot to preserve Marquette's one-goal lead.

However, just 30 seconds later, the Jr. Bills finally put one in the back of the net. After a successful faceoff, the puck was passed to Will Peterson who hit a shot from just inside the blue line. Through a screen, the puck went between the legs of the goaltender, tying up the game with 5:08 remaining in the second period.

"We went with the second unit on the power play," said Walters. "It took less than 10 seconds for them to get that goal. They moved the puck well, went out, and Peterson hit a shot, the goalie never saw it. It was a good goal."

The rest of the second period was scoreless, and the Jr. Bills were tied with the Mustangs heading into the final 15 minutes, and outshooting them 27-17.

But Marquette scored twice in the third period and went on to win 3-1.

"We played fairly well just with a couple defensive breakdowns and we struggled to get the puck on net," said

junior Maxwell Sextro. "The bottom line is that we have to score goals."

SLUH fell to 5-6-4 on the season.

"The coaches were positive after our loss to Marquette," said Sextro. "They thought we had played well against them and had the same problem as the rest of the year, not putting pucks on net."

Following a disappointing loss, SLUH turned its attention to MCC rival Vianney, hoping to end their regular season with a win before heading into the postseason. Taking on the reigning state champion Griffins, the Jr. Bills looked to secure the season series against their rivals, as they had bested the Griffins in a 3-2 victory on Dec. 21. This time, however, SLUH lost 5-3.

Just over five minutes into the first period, Vianney scored the first goal of the action-packed game. A breakaway by a Griffin attacker left senior goalie Jake Buttice all alone. A high backhand shot went over the Buttice's shoulder, and Vianney took a 1-0 lead.

But the lead was short-lived, as SLUH came right back with a score of its own. A backdoor tap in by junior Ryan Spinner tied the game up at one heading into the second period. The shots on goal were pretty even at 9-8

in favor of Vianney.

With 11:34 remaining in the second period, Vianney regained their one-goal lead. Another breakaway, this time a two-on-one, allowed the Vianney attacker to close on net before lifting a high forehand top left corner to beat Buttice.

"We just need to limit the big mistakes that cost us," said Walters. "I feel confident we are in the right position."

Needing goals and a strong backline to secure the third period comeback, the Jr. Bills were looking to tie the game up at two apiece with a quick goal against the defending state champions.

The Jr. Bills slotted home their second goal of the night on a power play with 7:48 remaining in their regular season. Moving the puck around with ease on their man advantage, the puck found its way to Brock Massie, who shot the puck through a screen on net. It slipped by the left side of the goalkeeper before slamming into the netting, tying the game up at two.

But only a few minutes later, Vianney added another goal, a low shot past the right pad of Buttice to regain the lead. Then, with 2:32 left in regulation, Vianney added one more to go up 4-2, and the Jr. Bills looked well out of the contest.

However, less than a minute later, Sextro redirected a puck shot on net, which



photo |courtesy of @SLUHHockey  
Players Saturday night after 5-3 loss to Vianney.

slipped by the Vianney goalie to cut the lead to one.

"It felt really good to score against Vianney," said Sextro. "It was a really tough game and it was getting rowdy, with energy high on both sides. It was fun to start the comeback but unfortunately, we couldn't complete it."

Down 4-3, the Jr. Bills pulled their goalie to give them a man advantage heading into the final minute of the third period. But they couldn't score, and then Vianney gained possession

with only a few seconds left and scored on the empty netter with two seconds on the clock, making the final score of the game 5-3.

Finishing their regular season with a record of 5-7-4, the Jr. Bills will head into the postseason as the No. 6 seed in their division.

"We are not scoring right now but I think it will come," said Walters. "If we limit the big mistakes, we look pretty strong going into the playoffs."

# Fourth quarter surge, Kramer's 28 points push Jr. Bills past Eureka

BY CARTER SPENCE  
WEB EDITOR

Behind a late fourth quarter push, the St. Louis U. High basketball defeated Eureka 49-36 in a non-conference matchup on Saturday, Jan. 23. With the win, SLUH improved to 5-4 and handed Eureka just its third loss of the season.

Eureka had no answer

for junior Nick Kramer, who tied his career high with a 28-point performance, shooting 11 for 15 from the field. Kramer, who is now averaging 18.6 points per game, has scored more than 20 points in each of the team's last three games.

"Nick's been vital, not only scoring but his rebounding, his leadership have been really good this

year," said head coach Erwin Claggett. "That mentality has been infectious and the fact that his teammates allow him to be him and still play their game has helped out a lot."

SLUH fired on all cylinders early, starting the game on an 8-0 run. Sophomore Zachary Ortwerth stuffed the stat sheet on the big run, pitching in a layup, block, offensive rebound, and assist to help build the Jr. Bills' lead.

On Eureka's next trip down the court, sophomore Aaron Walker Jr. poked the ball from Eureka guard Trace Ruckman into the hands of junior Luke Johnston, who converted on the other end with a Euro-step layup to put SLUH up by eight before Eureka called an early timeout.

After the timeout, Kramer connected on a deep three-pointer to extend SLUH's lead to 11, the largest it would get on the afternoon. Ruckman answered with a three of his own to give Eureka its first points of the day, but Kramer drained a mid-range two before the

end of the first quarter to put SLUH up 13-3.

Eureka trimmed the lead with an improved second quarter performance, outscoring SLUH 10-5. Just seconds into the quarter, Eureka guard Clayton Guntli collected the loose ball off a quick Walker Jr. turnover and converted a layup on the offensive end. On the next possession, Eureka forward Alex Wangerin found a mismatch in the post with SLUH junior Jaden McClain guarding him, putting in the layup off a lob-pass from the perimeter and prompting Claggett to use his first timeout of the game.

After the timeout, Wangerin sank a corner three for Eureka off a baseline pass from guard Luke Laudel that cut the lead to just three. After a back-and-forth end to the quarter, SLUH took an 18-13 lead into the half.

In a much faster-paced third quarter, Eureka outscored SLUH 17-12 to tie the game heading into the fourth quarter. Eureka took its first lead of the game on a deep

three from guard Caiden Rellig, the team's third of the quarter, that made the score 22-20.

SLUH's defense had no response for Eureka's three-point barrage, as Eureka went on to nail two more threes and extend their lead to 28-24. But SLUH closed the quarter on a 6-2 run, capped off by a buzzer-beating, alley-oop layup by Nick Kramer off the inbounds pass.

"We had a couple breakdowns as far as when we were supposed to switch on shooters and we didn't get that done," Claggett said. "(Eureka) hit us right away."

SLUH's defense completely dominated the fourth quarter to secure the victory. Eureka, which had connected on five three-pointers in the third quarter, failed to convert on any of its three-point opportunities in the fourth, shooting a dismal 0 for 8 from deep. SLUH outscored Eureka 19-6 in the fourth en route to the team's victory, and Kramer led all players with 10 points in the quarter.

"Our offense really helped our defense get back in transition and find shooters," Claggett said. "But I think the main thing was just patience and execution."

Twenty-six of Eureka's 41 field goal attempts—a whopping 63 percent—came from beyond the arc, but they converted on just eight of those attempts. In the end, SLUH forced Eureka to a season-worst 0.688 points per possession, Eureka's worst offensive performance of the season and SLUH's best defensively.

SLUH will face its toughest challenge of the season with a home matchup vs. Chaminade, the top team in the MCC thus far at 8-1 overall and 4-0 in MCC play. Led by standout juniors Tarris Reed Jr. and Damien Mayo Jr., Chaminade owns impressive wins vs. DeSmet, CBC, and Cardinal Ritter, with its lone loss coming in a three-point loss vs. Vashon. The game will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be broadcast on the SLUH Sports Network.



art | Nathan Rich



# SLUH wrestlers grapple with non-contact practices

BY LEO WAGNER  
REPORTER

One of the most significant changes the Saint Louis U. High wrestling team has grappled with during the '20-'21 season has been adapting to the non-contact practices that follow their biweekly Covid-19 tests. As a precautionary matter established to combat team-wide quarantines after a negative test, the team has practices that involve no contact in the two to three days following a test.

“Obviously the lack of mat time has stopped some of the wrestlers, especially the freshmen, from getting as accustomed to the mat as we would like,” said coach Espen Conley. “But coach (Jon) Ott has definitely helped the freshmen make up some of this lost time by putting in

practices while the varsity and JV have been at competition. As far as the Varsity and JV levels go, it has definitely given us the opportunity to focus on the more physical aspects of wrestling, which we have taken as a positive.”

While it was tricky for the team to adjust to the warped schedule, the wrestlers have begun to reap the benefits of such non-contact practices, as it offers them an opportunity to work on their conditioning and get a workout in the weight room.

At a point in the season where the wrestlers can have 10 matches in the span of a week, the extra time running and lifting can pay dividends. Helping to fuel them through long overtime bouts or get the final takedown to seal a match in their favor, the non-contact practices have presented the team with a

unique opportunity to take time away from the wrestling room yet still improve their ability to win matches.

Additionally, thanks in large part to the extra time spent in the weight room, the Jr. Bills have been able to ward off the common injuries, such as a tweaked knees or ankles, which often result from the physical toll competitions and the duration of the season take on the athletes.

“We’ve preached as a program that the offseason is necessary,” said Conley. “If guys can wrestle in the offseason, they can focus on their physique and conditioning a little more during the season itself, and so I think this year is just an example that we need to come into the season well prepared as far as mat time goes, because you never know if it’s the technical or physical aspect of your weight class that your gonna be battling during the season.”

While the no-contact practices originally appeared to offer more drawbacks and obstacles than benefits and opportunities, the wrestling team has been able to make the practices work in their favor, further boosting their chances of a successful post-season during February and March.



art | Alex Deiters

# Rifle team’s inconsistency leads to mediocre performance against Missouri Military Academy

BY JACK RYBAK  
CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High rifle team is beginning the second part of a two-part matchup with the Missouri Military Academy. SLUH and MMA have had an annual competition for the past several years, and Covid is not halting that tradition. While the Jr. Bills did not shoot as well as they could have in the first part of the competition, the team has been getting better and plan

to shoot their best this weekend. Last weeked the Jr. Bills shot a postal match, sending their scores into MMA while they did some on their end. The Jr. Bills were not up to par and couldn’t seem to find the consistency they needed to achieve a high enough team score.

The top shooter of the match was senior Nick Storer with a 198 prone, 183 standing and a 191 kneel, adding together for a 572 total score. The number two shooter was sophomore Michael

Lumetta with a 568, followed by sophomore Tommy Zlotopololski with a 563. Sean Madden followed fourth with a 560.

The total team score of the top four shooters for SLUH was 2263/2400. The Missouri Military Academy’s scores are pending, so the winner is still undetermined.

“The team shot poorly due to an extensive time off of shooting a 60-shot match,” said team captain Ryan Janson. “We did not have the mental stamina to go 60 shots.”

This weekend is the second part of the match; the shooters will travel to the Missouri Military Academy for their second match outside of SLUH. The Jr. Bills have been shooting several practice matches that have progressively gotten better in an effort to recover from last week’s scores. But, there is still room for improvement.

“We can all improve by continuing to trust the process and staying focused for 60 shots,” said Janson.

SLUH’s rifle team has several more matches in the works and they plan to travel to Ozark High School for another competition. The scheduling for several other matches has not yet been confirmed, but team members are hopeful that they will be able to travel again this season.



Senior Ryan Pineda.

photo | courtesy of Jack Rybak

# Wins agains Kirkwood, Lafayette position SLUH at top of standings

BY JARED THORNBERRY  
REPORTER

This past weekend the Saint Louis U. High School racquetball team competed in the first ever bragging rights doubles tournament. They competed against Kirkwood High School on Saturday and defeated them 18-1. All of the JV teams competed with the varsity teams and each person played the same seed as them but just on the opposite team.

After a short break, they participated in their eighth regular season match this Monday against Lafayette High School. The Jr. Bills came out again with another strong performance, moving their overall record to 7-0 and maintaining their first place spot in the division.

“I think our strongest skill has easily been our serves,” said coach Stephen Deves. “Nobody serves as good as we do, but as far as our team just our intentionality of how we play the game based on percentage racquetball.”

After a long hike out to Vetta West in Saint Peters, the SLUH racquetball team started its matches. In the

first match of the day, senior Danny Juergens (No. 1) lost a close match to Will Sherman of Lafayette 15-10, 15-7. It was a hard-fought game for Juergens against the currently number one-ranked player in the city of Saint Louis.

After Jeurgens’ tough match, senior Oliver Allen (No. 2) and juniors Max Telken (No. 3) and Jared Thornberry (No. 4) all won their matches by forfeit due to Lafayette players having to quarantine (or otherwise being unable to make the match). Due to the non-attendance of Lafayette players, Allen, Telken, and Thornberry played against lower-ranked substitutes, winning their matches by significant scores.

Fortunately for junior Danny Philips (No. 5 seed), his match was not won by forfeit but instead he defeated Andrew Balice 15-2, 15-4. Sophomore Nick Heinlein played for varsity on Monday as well due to the absence of senior Nick Peterson; Heinlein also played a sub and his match ended with another win for SLUH.

Finally, the doubles team of Will Shorey and Ben Har-

mon cruised to an easy 15-0, 15-1 win to maintain the No. 1 seed in their doubles division.

With only three regular matches left—against Parkway West, De Smet, and Lindbergh—the team looks to continue its domination in the standings and is in a very good position to return to State. Every player is working hard at practices every Sunday night so SLUH can win state again.

“Everyone has something they need to focus on,” said Deves. “In general we have not been able to play as many games this year so we just don’t have the endurance of playing many matches in a row so we haven’t had a chance to push ourselves to the limits this year.”

The team’s next match next Wednesday, Feb. 3 against Parkway West. SLUH took the win in its first matchup with Parkway, but this match is important because Parkway is second to only SLUH in the standings. With a win against Parkway, SLUH would be in a very good place to finish in first place.



photo | courtesy of Mr. Stephen Deves

Racquetball team after tournament victory against Kirkwood.

# Wrestling drops two narrow matches to Ladue and Oakville

BY LEO WAGNER  
REPORTER

With the regular season coming to an end, the Saint Louis U. High wrestling team is focused on concluding its final dual meets of the season on a high note. Facing Westminster Christian Academy this past Wednesday, hosting a tri meet with Ladue and Oakville yesterday, and preparing themselves for the MCC tournament at CBC tonight, it’s a great chance for the wrestlers to build momentum before the postseason.

Wednesday night, the Jr. Bills traveled to Westminster in what was originally supposed to be a quad meet. However, due to the mid-morning snow, both Timberland and Fort Zumwalt South decided to drop out of the competition. Fortunately SLUH’s lineup matched well with Westminster, allowing for all wrestlers to have a match, while some even wrestled another exhibition match at the end of the night.

SLUH wrestlers Will

Coovert, Bobby Conroy, Gio Loftis, Logan Nuemann, and Cayden Owens all pinned their opponents, while Jack Onder won his match by decision. Additionally, Connor Whalen received a forfeit. Tallied up, the Jr. Bills bested the Wildcats 39-24.

One day later, SLUH competed against Ladue and Oakville for their Senior Night. With seven seniors on the team, including Coovert, Leo Wagner, Cam Perry, Conroy, Loftis, Lenny Madalon, and Nuemann, coach Todd Clements led the ceremony meant to appreciate the leadership and experience which the seniors have brought to the team.

After the ceremony honoring the seniors, SLUH wrestled their first dual against Ladue. Perry, Conroy, and Owens all pinned their opponents, while several other Jr. Bill wrestlers received byes from open Ladue weight classes. Unfortunately, due to a strong start from Ladue, the Jr. Bills fell 35-33.

Next, SLUH faced Oakville. Nuemann pinned

his opponent early in the second period, while Coovert and Loftis each won by decision. SLUH lost again narrowly, 34-30, despite the strong individual performances from many of the wrestlers.

Regardless of the team losses, Thursday’s tri meet at SLUH not only served to highlight the seven Jr. Bill senior wrestlers, but also gave the team a final boost of confidence prior to the MCC tournament on Friday and district tournament during the second week of February. With several impressive performances spanning from freshman to seniors wrestlers, it displayed the hard work which the team has dedicated to wrestling since the first week of November.

With the MCC tournament Friday afternoon, the Jr. Bills will have one final opportunity before the end of the regular season to get a few more wins and carry some momentum with them into the district tournament on February 13th.



Around the Hallways

PASE Visit

Provincial’s Assistant for Secondary Education (PASE) Ron Rebores visited SLUH this week to discuss aspects of Jesuit education in the context of the pandemic. Part of Rebores’s job is to make an annual visit to the regional Jesuit institutions. He met with administrators, teachers, and StuCo members on Wednesday and Thursday. He will continue his meetings on today and conclude with President Alan Carruthers.

Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!

On Wednesday, Jan. 27, the St. Louis’s metro area was dusted with over 2 inches of snow. It was the first snow shower of the 20-21 Winter season. Throughout the day, students could be seen throwing snowballs at each other and even making a snowman. While the administration did not cancel



in-person classes or call for an early dismissal, they did advise students to drive safely and with caution on their way home from school.

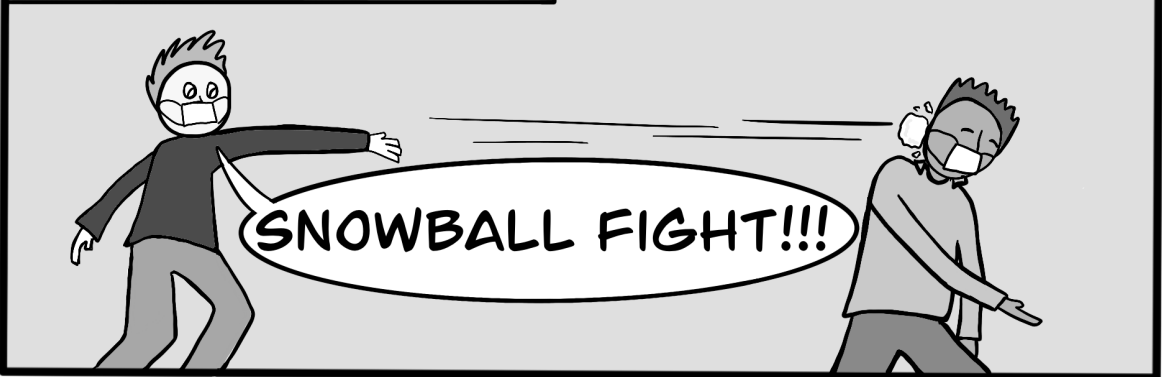
— Compiled by Luke Duffy and Noah Apprill-Sokol

SLUHSERS

“AS A JESUIT SCHOOL...WE CHALLENGE THIS GROUP OF YOUNG MEN... TO CULTIVATE LIFE-AFFIRMING VIRTUES,...CRITICAL MINDS, AND COMPASSIONATE HEARTS.”

—SLUH MISSION STATEMENT

MEANWHILE ON THE UPPER FIELD...



SLUHSers | Nathan Rich

SNOWBALL FIGHT!

Students enjoy first major snow of 2021



photos | Mr. Giuseppe Vitellaro

Students built snowmen, threw snowballs (some at Dr. Kesterson and Mr. Schulte), and had a blast.

Calendar

Friday, January 29

A Day

March For Life  
AL      Snack - Sweet Pretzel  
  
LUNCH    Steak & Cheese  
2:45pm MAGIS Parents Prayer Group  
4:00pm V Wrestling - MCC Championships  
4:00pm Varsity II Racquetball vs Kirkwood  
4:15pm @MICDS/C-Team White Basketball  
5:30pm B-Team Basketball vs MICDS  
7:50pm Challenge Cup Game 1 - Chaminade

Saturday, January 30

9:00am @De Smet/C-Team White Basketball  
11:00am @De Smet/C-Team Blue Basketball  
1:00pm JV3 Racquetball Singles

Sunday, January 31

6:40pm JV-Blue Hockey vs Ft. Zumwalt North  
8:00pm JV-White Hockey vs De Smet Jesuit Maroon

Monday, February 1

B Day

AL      Snack - Chicken Bites  
  
LUNCH    Chick Fil A  
1:55pm Black History Month Event  
3:15pm Freshman Service  
4:00pm C-Team White Basketball vs Priory  
5:45pm B-Team Basketball vs Miller Career Academy  
7:30pm Varsity Basketball vs Miller Career Academy  
8:45pm Challenge Cup Game 3 - CBC

Tuesday, February 2

A Day

AL      Snack - Mini Corn Dogs  
  
LUNCH    Spicy Chicken  
7:00pm Senior Parent Informational Meeting

Wednesday, February 3

B Day

AL      Snack - Cinnamon Rolls  
  
LUNCH    Hand Breaded Chicken Tenders  
4:00pm Varsity I Racquetball vs Parkway West  
4:30pm B-Team Basketball vs Chaminade  
6:30pm Varsity Basketball vs Chaminade

Thursday, February 4

A Day

AL      Snack - Biscotti Sticks  
  
LUNCH    Papa Johns  
8:30am Senior Moms Cookie Sales  
3:15pm Freshman Service  
3:30pm JV1-1 Racquetball vs Kirkwood (A)  
3:30pm JV2-2 vs Vianney  
3:30pm Varsity II Racquetball vs De Smet  
5:00pm C-Team White Basketball vs Hancock Place

Friday, February 5

No Classes

Sophomore Class Mass  
Sophomore Course Registration Chapel  
Sophomore Programming Day  
7:50am SLUH Community First Friday Mass  
1:30pm Senior Moms Cookie Sales  
2:45pm MAGIS Parents Prayer Group  
4:30pm @CBC/C-Team White Basketball  
4:30pm B-Team Basketball vs CBC  
6:30pm @CBC/C-Team Blue Basketball  
6:30pm Varsity Basketball vs CBC

calendar | Roarke Unrau