

At a Glance

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CASHBAH RAISES \$1.4 MILLION

photo | Kathy Chott

First hybrid auction combines in-person and online donations to fund financial aid

BY LUKE DUFFY AND
BILL ALBUS
WEB EDITOR, REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High Si Commons was transformed into an extravagant dining room this past weekend. Seniors wore

elegant tuxedos as they greeted guests, juniors and sophomores sported Billiken blue bow ties and carried platters of food, and freshmen lined the surrounding halls collecting dirty dishes. At the 53rd annual Cashbah, St. Louis U. High raised more

than \$1.4 million, marking tremendous success for the first in-person auction in three years. “Being back on campus, being together, the energy in the room was fantastic,” said SLUH President Alan Carruthers. “There was just a real vibe in

the room that was super positive, and I think that helped us to be successful in the evening because when people feel good about something, they want to support it.” Cashbah spent the past two **continued on page 4**

Chura spends spring break helping Ukrainian refugees

Works with Jesuits in Poland to offers services

BY AUSTIN WALD AND
CHARLIE DOUGHERTY
STAFF, REPORTER

Russian Teacher and Director of Global Education Rob Chura traveled to Poland over spring break as part of a personal service project to aid refugees displaced in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Chura had originally planned a spring break Cold War Eastern Europe trip with students which would partially take place in Poland. However, the decision was made in December to cancel the trip as the situation regarding the Covid-19 pandemic made the trip too unpredictable. Despite the cancellation, Chura decided **continued on page 5**

Sophomores bond on return-to-normal retreat

BY DREW FIGGE AND
VINCENT WEINBAUER
REPORTERS

While the rest of the school was enjoying the first day of their four day weekend, the sophomores were able to experience two days of activities and fun. From watching How to Train your Dragon to writing out journal passages, the sophomores worked on growing individually and as a group during their sophomore retreat last Thursday. To begin the retreat, the class was divided into around two dozen classrooms and began with several icebreaker activities along with breakfast. “Especially for my small

group, I think that they enjoyed the icebreakers,” said senior leader George Henken. “It was at the beginning of the retreat and there were lots of nerves and after the icebreaker I could tell that my entire group wanted to be there.” A group of around 20 seniors were recruited to help lead the retreat. There, they had the chance to experience sophomore retreat for the first time also since their own retreat was a victim of the shutdown in 2020. “We recruited a great group of seniors to lead the retreat along with a few faculty members to chaperone over it all. I think the seniors did an amazing job of shep- **continued on page 5**

Voices of SLUH provides insight into life during the pandemic



Dr. Gunn speaks to students during the Voices of SLUH assembly. photo | Nick Sanders

BY JACKSON COOPER AND
PATRICK BUSCH
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

Many people, from students and parents to administrators and teachers, were affected mentally and socially by the pandemic. Hoping to ease the St. Louis U. High community out of the pandemic, Voices of SLUH hosted an assembly on March 29 to give students a chance to hear from a diverse range of perspectives. Since its inception in 2017, Voices of SLUH has been an organization dedicated to providing a forum for students to discuss complex issues outside the walls of SLUH. In the past,

the group has held assemblies on topics such as sexism, stress, and anxiety, and most recently, conducted an eight-part docu-series entitled “SLUH Values Black Lives” in response to the May 2020 killing of George Floyd. After over two years since Voices of SLUH’s last school-wide assembly series, a pandemic-based discussion seemed a perfect way for the group to return to activity. “Our main goal was to have a community-wide conversation about the pandemic,” explained Voices of SLUH moderator Kate Toussaint. “So just to have an opportunity to hear different people’s experiences, from a parent and administra-

tor to different students, and then a chance to reflect on those talks and then to also reflect on everyone’s own experience and possibly share if they felt comfortable.” In order to account for the event, the day featured a B-Day assembly schedule, similar to February’s Black History Month presentation. The assembly was planned for just the first hour to be taken up by speeches, allowing for the final 30 minutes of the period to be saved for small group reflections in homerooms. As a faculty leader of Voices of SLUH, Toussaint opened the morning’s discussion with **continued on page 5**

IPCC releases climate report, gives glimpse of dark future

Read a brief summary of the report and SLUH’s current sustainability efforts on page 6.



Mock Trial narrowly loses to Clayton in Semifinals match

BY BEN CROAT AND
LUCAS HAYDEN
STAFF, REPORTER

SLUH's Mock Trial team competed in the Missouri High School Mock Trial Competition in St. Charles this past weekend, where they faced off against many of the top teams from all across the state in a judicial jostle.

Mock Trial is an activity organized through the Bar Association of St. Louis where students take on the role of someone participating in a trial, from witnesses to attorneys. Missouri has an incredibly strong set of high school programs, regularly placing in the national top 10. As a result, SLUH certainly had its work cut out.

The assigned case this year revolved around a wrongful termination case, in which a talent agent was defending his client from a rogue reporter. The encounter left the reporter with a concussion and severed retina, and the talent agency fired the agent, which the agent responded to with a lawsuit.

Normally the club would practice once a week, and then as the case was released they would increase to twice a week schedule. The team creates witness testimonies, questions, and has attorneys examine or cross examine witnesses, which later turn into full scrimmages.

"In January, you complete one side of the case. We have two squads, and they both

compete. One of our squads will run the defense of the case, one of our squads will run the prosecution of the case, and they flip the next month in February," said club moderator Anne Marie Lodholz.

Depending on the number of points the team amasses, they're ranked in the state. The top 32 schools move on to Regionals, where Tuesday night the team runs one end of the case, and Thursday night the team runs the other end. Then once the teams are whittled down to 16, they move on to State Finals which was slightly different this year as 18 teams went to State instead of the regular 16.

State competitions began Friday night, March 25 at the St. Charles County Courthouse, and a second round was hosted Saturday morning. In the first round, SLUH went up against Rockhurst on Friday night, and Excelsior Springs on Saturday morning.

"I think that we were able to show a lot of independence from scripts. Normally you'll have a script that you'll develop and will practice with your witness," said senior Tag Arens. "Now and then you'll read off of that script when you're doing your direct or your cross interrogation, but for the most part we were doing it mostly off of script, which was something that I think distinguished us from the other teams during that match."

By this point the teams still competing had been carved

down to eight; the semifinals. Ultimately, SLUH's final match was hosted Saturday afternoon, in which SLUH went up against Clayton, a match SLUH ultimately lost as Clayton went on to take second place in the finals.

"We faced off against a spectacular team. Specifically their movie star witness, who when approaching the stand questioned whether the seat was genuine leather so you know there's a lot of character and effort going into these witnesses," said Arens. "So that was something that was really awesome to see on both sides, but we lost that trial, sadly. It was definitely a great run, especially since it was my first year, so I was very excited about it."

"The teams at SLUH always do really well. They always know their objections, they know the nuts and bolts of their character, they think on their feet really quickly," said Lodholz. "What was really impressive to see was how this team grew over the arc of the competition. They were setting up their own practice schedules, practicing outside of core class. They were rewriting scripts, looking for new details. And they were still having fun with their character development. They really came together as a team, they really gelled as a team. I'm so happy for them that they had the opportunity to go deep into State."



Mock Trial students participating in a trial.

photo | Courtesy of SLUH Twitter

Robobills FIRST competition ends in tough loss

BY JP TORACK
REPORTER

The SLUH Robotics team capped off three months of hard work with the FIRST robotics competition at Chaifetz Arena last weekend.

The Robobills have spent the past three months designing, building, and testing their robot. The robot was built with the competition specifically in mind; many of the components were designed to complete a specific part of the course. It consists of a swerve drive train, a ball intake and shooting system using combinations of wheels and belts, and a climbing system that uses springs and pneumatic pistons to place 3D printed hooks on a bar and winches with nylon straps to pull the robot up.

Once the robot was mostly finished, the Robobills took it to the theatre loge to test it with parts of the playing field they had made. During their week and a half of testing they made many small adjustments and modifications.

Last Wednesday, the Robobills loaded their robot, some of their tools, and all the spare parts they thought they might need into their cars and drove to the SLU campus. They unloaded and set up their pit, a 10-foot by 10-foot area that would be their workspace for the next three days.

Thursday morning the Robobills were back at Chaifetz to begin practice matches. In the FIRST Robotics Competitions, each match has three red alliance bots and three blue alliance robots who play each other. The alliance with the most points wins. There were three ways to score points this year: shooting into a ring (there was a high and low ring), moving during the autonomous period, and climbing a bar.

Friday brought the beginning of qualification matches. Between 9:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. the team played eight qualification matches. After each match there were repairs to be made and programming issues to be fixed. The team

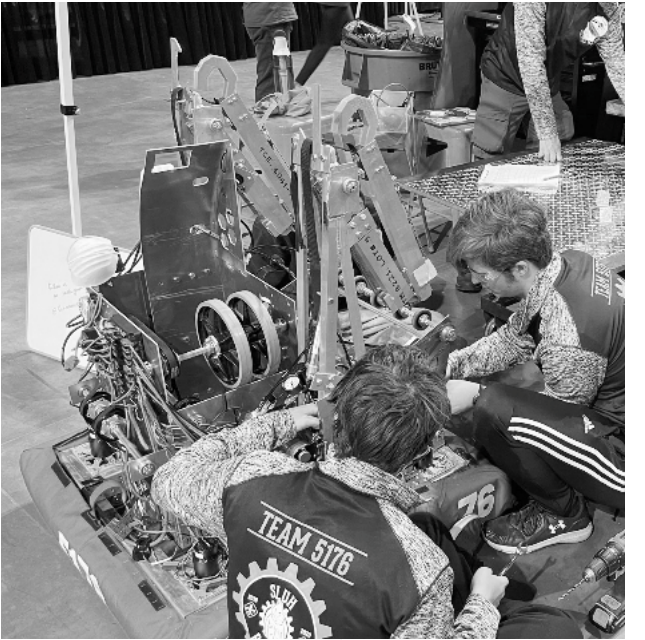


photo | Courtesy of SLUH Twitter
Robotics club members working on their design.

also spent time scouting other teams to see how they built their robots and what their robot's capabilities were as well as promoting SLUH's own robot. By Friday evening, the team was ranked last, behind 36 other teams. "We had some issues the second day, but we still performed really well," said senior and Robotics Club president Matthew Leight. "But we got unlucky with our matchup pairings. Even though we did decently in most matches, we were let down by alliance members."

On Saturday morning, the Robobills played four more qualification matches, but failed to rise in the standings. While they were still struggling to rise in the standings, they had been in communication with one of the top teams.

"One of the best teams there had been watching us. They saw that we had just been getting unlucky matchups and that we were much better than our ranking showed. They really wanted to be in an alliance with us," said senior Henry Ledbetter, one of the club's vice presidents.

During alliance selection, a process where the top eight teams select the teammates they want in the playoffs, the whole team was on the edge of their seats. Only 24 of the 37 teams would make it to the

playoffs. With the third-to-last pick SLUH was picked to join the third-ranked alliance.

"It wasn't the spot we thought we would get picked, but we got picked. It was amazing knowing that people saw the hard work we've put in and that our robot was much more capable than the rankings said," said Leight.

Saturday afternoon, the quarterfinal rounds began. The Robobills and their alliance lost the first match in a best two out of three versus the sixth-ranked alliance. After a brief strategy discussion with their alliance, the Robobills won the second match and forced a tiebreaker. Unfortunately, the Robobills could not win the tiebreaker and were eliminated.

"It was disappointing to lose, especially since two of our shots bounced out and if they had gone in we would have won, but we won a play-off game and that's something. We showed that we have a solid team and that we are a competitor and shouldn't be counted out, despite what our standing said," said junior Peter Roither.

"These boys put in a lot of work," said moderator Craig Hinders. "It was great that they didn't get too down on themselves because of their ranking. Mrs. Wellen and I are very proud of the work they've done."

Dance hall days return for SLUH Mom Prom providing memorable night

BY MARK WAPPLER
CORE STAFF

SLUH Seniors waltzed into the Si Commons with their mothers for SLUH's annual Mom Prom on Sunday, March 27. The epitome of the mother-son activities hosted by the SLUH Mothers Club, this dance brought together a wonderful group of seniors and their moms under the beat of the same drum from musical guest Dr. Zhivegas. Though filled with a fair share of embarrassing moments of moms dancing in front of their sons, and beignets, the group nevertheless danced the night away together for one last time.

Planning for the event began back in January when Mother's Club President Chris Mittendorf approached the school administration to gain permission to plan for a "normal" dance to take place. As Covid cases began to drop in the late winter, Mittendorf

was feeling confident, and optimistic, that the Mothers Club could pull it off once the school approved. However, Mittendorf had nowhere to start, so she had to do some digging.

"We had to go all the way back to 2019," said Mittendorf. "In 2020, Mom Prom got canceled and we didn't have it and in 2021, it took place outside in May. So, we tried our best to get it back to as normal and original as possible."

After being given the green light to schedule the prom, the Mothers Club worked together in a coalition to make it a night worth remembering. First off, the Mothers Club had to make sure that they would have a musical act to stage. Luckily, Mittendorf had a perfect group in mind who she had been communicating with months prior to the dance.

"I had fortunately booked Dr. Zhivegas last summer," said Mittendorf. "With them

you really have to get on their calendar early. So, with them scheduled to perform, a very big piece was finished."

Mittendorf was not alone in her endeavors. She was joined by parents Gina Trammelli and Jennifer La Presta, who both spent much of their time organizing the night and the various activities, including a new head-spinning addition.

"We really wanted to have a 360 camera this year," said Mittendorf. "We decided that we wanted to change photographers. I'm just glad that Jennifer and Gina were able to work all of that out."

After the planning of the prom was complete, the Mothers Club sent out invitations to the senior mothers. Though they were sent out later than originally planned, mothers were overjoyed at the renewal of the long held SLUH tradition and could not wait to hit the dance floor with their

sons. However, some of the boys did not share their enthusiasm at first.

"I wasn't looking forward to the dance going into the weekend," said senior Nick Fischer. "I was just going to make my mom happy but, at the end of the night, I was glad that I went."

When the night of March 27 finally rolled around, the seniors put on their Sunday best and arrived to a transformed Si Commons, decked out in lights and festive aesthetics, arranged by the Mothers Club. Once the mother and son duos got their pictures taken and settled down at their tables, SLUH President Alan Carruthers surprised the seniors when he instructed them to get on one knee in front of their mothers.

"I just told my mom how much I appreciate everything she does for me," said senior Alex Grucza. "I always think about it, but it's not every day

that I tell her that explicitly. I could tell my mom was very emotionally moved."

After rubbing the dust off their dress pants, dinner began. The group enjoyed a delicious chicken dinner prepared by Food Service Consultants. However, the dinner was not over after the plates were cleared away. Waiting for the group in the Schulte Theater lobby were fresh (fried) beignets for dessert. The seniors, who followed the aroma from the Commons, flocked to get their hands on some of the French-style donuts.

"They were so gas," said senior Patrick Young. "They were quite possibly the best donuts I've ever had."

After getting their fill of deep-fried treats, the seniors waded onto the dance floor with their mothers as Dr. Zhivegas kicked off their performance. Though it is in a SLUH student's nature to "mosh" with their class-

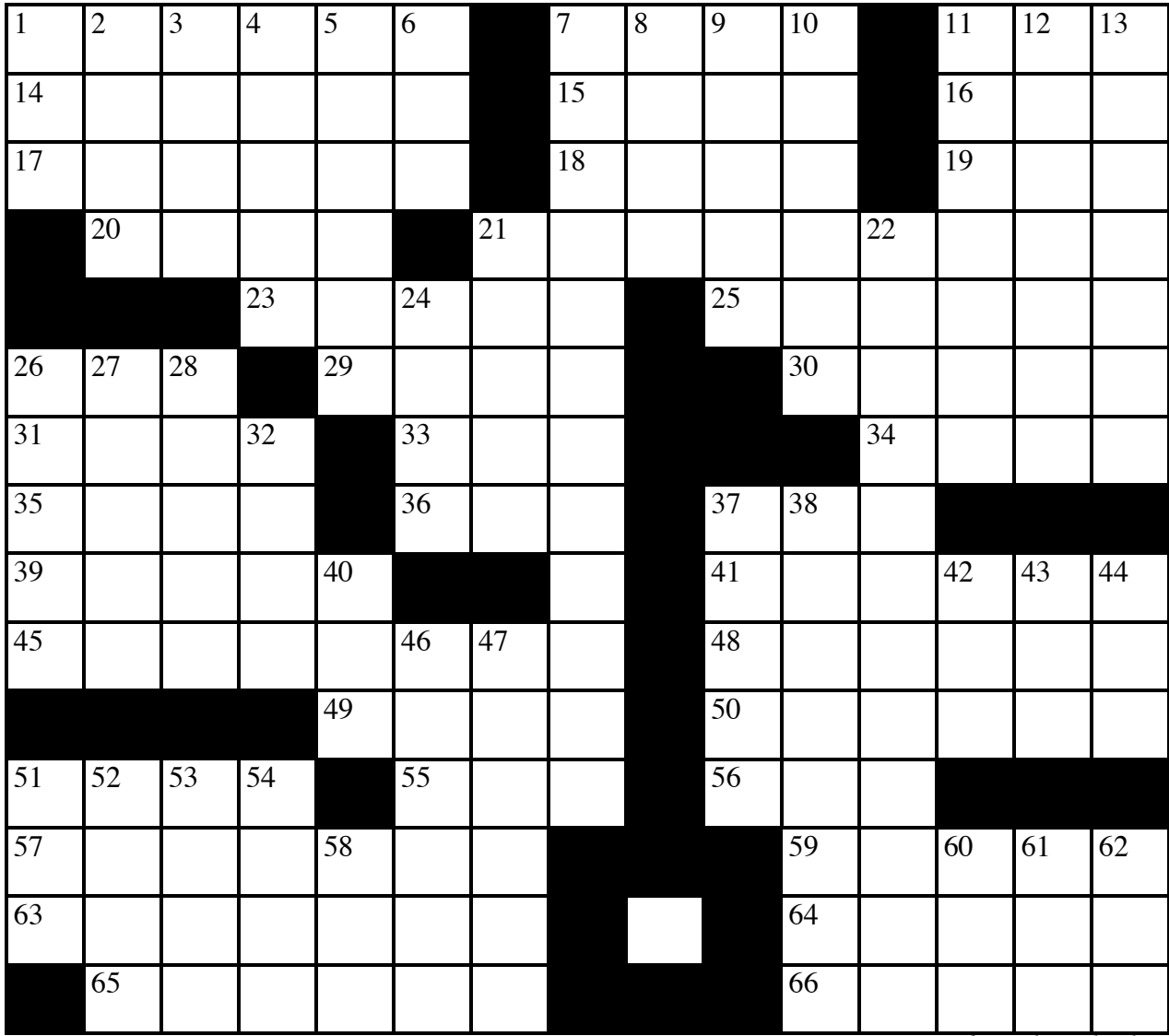
mates, mosh pits were kept to a minimum as many of the boys danced with their moms, some probably against their will.

"I just felt kind of obligated to dance with my mom," said senior Tony Mruckovski. "I have to admit, it was a different kind of feeling to be on a dancefloor with our mothers when we are so used to mixers like the BTSM."

All in all, Mom Prom turned out to be a great success in the eyes of the Mothers Club and the crowd on the dance floor proved it.

"From the mother's perspective, it's a lasting memory shared with our sons," said Mittendorf. "It is a time for us to spend one on one time even if it's just driving there or driving home. It's time to talk about something other than school or college decisions. It's just a time to be together, mother and son."

PN Puzzle: Different Strokes



Crossword | Paul Baudendistel

- ACROSS
1. *NASCAR participant (first stroke)
7. Deflating sound
11. Maple product
14. Promised, as a vigil candle
15. French friend
16. 30 compressions and 2 breaths
17. Unchained slave
18. Running in place
19. Pseudonym of one who became a Pro-Life activist, ironically
20. Fairy tale starter
21. *Soaring seabird
23. Halved
25. Scores, as when playing the game depicted here
26. Six-pointers
29. *De-creaser (second stroke)
30. *Bald symbol
31. Chops, as a tree
33. Authorizes, briefly
34. “No Good _____” song from Wicked
35. 51 is a famous one
36. Drink that Ted Lasso can’t stand
37. Relating to another topic, in textspeak
39. *Serving of cheese or lettuce (third stroke)
41. Planet tipped on its side
45. Another game in which one puts a round object in a hole
48. Raymond, of Everybody Loves Raymond
49. Margarine
50. *Bye Bye _____
51. Abbr. for monthly fees after buying a car
55. *Four, most often
56. The Greatest
57. Pave the way
59. *Enemy aircraft
63. Cooking gas
64. Performed the next step after 21-Down
65. *Muck about (last stroke)
66. Response cards
8. Acronym of a popular review site
9. Paul’s traveling partner
10. Simmer with anger
11. He saw three ghosts
12. Title for Paul, though he was not an original one
13. Used a 29-Across
21. Stopped sleeping
22. “Mad” Max Rockatansky and others
24. Gait between walk and canter
26. Defrosts
27. Yankees’ career hits leader, with 744 more than Lou
28. Greta Thunberg or Zlatan Ibrahimović
32. Cooking herb for the wise?
37. Boyish nickname, as for two-time Masters champion Watson
38. Hiking snack
40. Sister Mary Antona, SLU grad and candidate for sainthood
42. Silent assent
43. Hockey sweater or soccer kit
44. View
46. Downhill skiing
47. Worth two points in horseshoes
51. Baby shark, e.g.
52. Abbr. for sticker information when buying a car
53. Commandment starter
54. Appropriately-named house of worship for the Faith of the Seven in GoT
58. Remy or Emile
60. Web address ending

Sophomore conversations return for students to reflect on and set goals for time at SLUH

BY JACK EVANS
REPORTER

Beginning this Monday, sophomore conversations have once again returned—and this year, they are back in person. The conversations, which will last until the end of this month, will give the Class of 2024 a valuable check-in halfway through their individual SLUH journeys.

Sophomore conversations are 45- to 60-minute talks

between a St. Louis U. High sophomore, his parents, and a teacher. During the guided conversation, sophomores are encouraged to reflect on the first half of their SLUH experience and pinpoint areas of growth for the rest of their high school life and beyond.

“We sit with the sophomore and figure out how his first couple years have gone, but most importantly we talk about how he wants the next two years to go,” said teacher

and sophomore class moderator Frank Corley.

The more than 30 teachers who volunteer to conduct the conversations primarily focus on the five attributes of the ideal Grad at Grad (graduate and graduation): intellectually competent, loving, religious, committed to doing justice, and open to growth. Each of these pillars are then discussed specifically, and goals to improve or maintain the student’s capacity of each throughout the rest of their

SLUH experience are clearly laid out.

Beyond simply being a checklist for students to reflect upon and plan with, sophomore conversations are also a vital means of providing advice and assistance to sophomores at such a pivotal moment in their time at SLUH.

“The conversation helped me to realize that I was not alone in the things that I was struggling with both academically and socially,” said

sophomore Keller Maher. “It helped me to remember that I wasn’t the only person who had to transition into high school during the pandemic.”

Sophomore conversations can also serve as excellent catalysts for more honest conversations between students and their parents.

“When (sophomore conversations) are going well, they are like the conversations that parents would like to have with their child but where the child never says

anything back,” said Corley. “These things like sophomore conversations, in a sense, are not really about SLUH but are ways parents and families help their sons grow up.”

The conversations have been and will continue to be a key milestone in the journeys of SLUH students.

“Sophomore conversations helped me put into perspective things that are happening now and how far I’ve come,” said sophomore Nicholas Rottman.

SLUHSERS 23: APOLOGIES TO WILLIAM GEORGE



SLUHsers | Jude Reed

SATIRE

SLUH community currently in shock at five-day week

NICK LA PRESTA
REPORTER

Upon looking over the weekly school calendar last week for his weekly ParentConnect email, Principal Ian Gibbons, SJ noticed, to his dismay, that school was scheduled to take place this Friday. If you’re in the building today, you understand Gibbons’ reaction: that makes this SLUH’s first full week of school in—well, no one is really sure when the last one was.

Once the initial shock had passed, students, teachers, and faculty alike began scrambling to make the pivot work. Teachers hastily threw together lesson plans, students pretended to do their homework, and the underclassmen worked on scrounging up rides.

As the sun rose on this morning, trouble was already brewing. With most of the school unaccustomed to driving in Friday morning traffic, there were 22 minor car acci-

dents involving SLUH students before 8:10. As the late crowd funneled in around 8:45, the number had risen to 93. (Editor’s note: please take a moment to marvel at the unbelievable—LITERALLY—deadline reporting in those last two sentences.)

“The roads were a hot mess,” said an anonymous sophomore holding a bandage to his head. “It was an eventful morning.”

When Studium finally began (Editor’s note: trust us), hungry students came to a rather disappointing realization: no one had let Food Service know that a fifth day of the school week could even exist. Stomachs still grumbling, they carried on to second period. As first reported by Core Staff member Mark Wappler (Editor’s note: proud owner of a Time-Turner), “I noticed how quiet the hallways were during my two-minute stretch break provided by Mr. Steingrub. What threw me off-guard next was the total absence of lanyards from those I saw in

the halls. I knew immediately something was wrong.”

Wappler’s hunch was correct, with word coming from Dr. Kesterson shortly after that Mr. Schulte was absent. “He scheduled an early practice for his water polo guys and didn’t hear about the extra day this week. I’m trying to get him in as soon as I can.”

Unfortunately, the word of Mr. Schulte’s absence leaked out just as lunch began for the juniors and seniors (Editor’s note: just wait). The doors of the servery were forced open and the place was ransacked. The library and spirit shop fell next. A state of emergency would have been called, but unfortunately Fr. Gibbons had forgotten to set his alarm. The few teachers that did not flee formed a peacekeeping force led by Mr. Garavaglia. Prep News will make sure to post an update when we receive more information on what’s going on (Editor’s note: we know but just don’t want to spoil everything).

Fund-a-Need raises record-breaking \$477,000 in first hybrid Cashbah auction

(continued from page 1)

years online as Covid prevented in-person gatherings of such crowds. This year, the planning committee prepared for the worst and hoped for the best. In the end, they got the best of both worlds: a hybrid experience with nearly 680 guests in the room and about 750 guests joining online for silent auctions.

“We could never have 1400 or 1500 people at SLUH, so that’s almost doubling the size of the event, just by being able to share Cashbah on a link,” said Director of Alumni and Parent Giving John Penilla.

Cashbah was founded in 1969 by then President Richard Bailey, SJ. Bailey turned his passion for restoring antiques into a fundraising opportunity for the school, and Cashbah was born. As the need for financial aid has increased over the past decade, Cashbah has become a major source for financial aid donations.

“We keep doing it because the need keeps growing,” said Carruthers. “Ten years ago, we were probably in the high 20 percents of boys receiving financial aid. Now we’re in the high 40s.”

At its heart, Cashbah aims to raise money for the 47 percent of Jr. Bills who receive financial aid as part of SLUH’s need-blind admission process. In addition to auctioning off items, Cashbah includes the Fund-A-Bill program, where attendees can directly donate to the Financial Aid program. This year’s Fund-a-Need raised over \$477,000, surpassing its goal of \$450,000.

“That’s mind-blowing,” said



Senior Brody Nester carrying a tray of dinners at Cashbah.

photo | Kathy Chott

Carruthers. “That’s spectacular, and it’s a true testament to how much our greater community and alumni really believe in what we’re doing here.”

Due to the drastic changes that Cashbah was forced to make quickly and nimbly, the Zoom option of participation was utilized to its fullest extent this year.

“Some years we’ve had way more than 680,” said Penilla. “That wasn’t necessarily a Covid thing, Covid gave us the change where we had to do two years of virtual, giving us the opportunity to think about what we would do differently when we come back. What will Cashbah look like? Almost 700 people in the room is still a really full room, but it’s not everybody squeezed in the room.”

In addition to the hybrid option, other changes were made for the first in-person Cashbah

since the pandemic struck in early 2020. One of these changes consisted of decreasing the total number of live auctions from approximately 35 in 2019 to only eight live auctions this year. In turn, the cut down on bidding time led to a broader window for attendees to socialize, increase fellowship, and have fun in a more informal manner than what was previously experienced.

Cashbah attendees were greeted by hospitable SLUH students, upperclassmen along with underclassmen, and welcomed by the jovial MCs of the event: Fr. Matt Stewart, SJ, Spanish teacher Kate Toussaint, and Penilla.

“It was a really fun night, there was really good energy in the room and everyone is there for really good reasons and a good cause—it just felt

like a really wonderful event,” said Toussaint.

Dinner followed the welcome ceremony, and the auction aspect of Cashbah was followed by presenting the first five live auction items, which ranged from Labrador puppies to weekend getaways in Innsbrook and were generously bid on.

Proceeding the initial live auctions, a group of Jr. Bills enthusiastically ran onto the stage painted in Jr. Bill blue and sporting the SLUH flag, led by Prep News Editor in Chief Jack Figge and Student Body President A.J. Thompson.

“They helped us by running into the room and I hope that was a memorable moment for the attendees, which was awesome,” said John Penilla.

After the abundant donations to the Fund-A-Bill program, the remaining three live auction items were put up for bidding. The night then concluded with a party where attendees had time to talk amongst themselves and rejoice in the rich SLUH community.

A successful Cashbah would never be possible without the tireless efforts of parent and student volunteers, as well as the various sponsors for Cashbah.

Co-chairs Nancy Tice and Sara Buehring coordinated an extremely complete and successful Cashbah despite the short window of time to prepare due to the school’s recent shift to condition one in its Covid protocols.

“One of the biggest responsibilities is just making sure the team works and has fun along the way,” said Tice. “We really tried to make sure that everybody had fun. Parents are finally back at SLUH, so going into it, a lot of people had never, especially freshmen and sophomore parents, even been able to volunteer at SLUH. We wanted to just make it a great experience for everyone.”

Bringing this vast network of parents, friends, alumni, and sponsors together paid off. After a hectic and scattered two years, the 53rd annual Cashbah was once again a success for SLUH.

“It takes a village, right? It takes all those people. None of us are an island, we don’t do this by ourselves,” said Carruthers. “Cashbah really is a collective exercise at St. Louis University High, and it always has been.”

“He’s very impressed”

Jesuit Provincial Tom Greene, SJ visits SLUH for annual

BY MICHAEL BAUDENDISTEL
AND ANDREW HUNT
CORE STAFF AND STAFF

The Jesuit Provincial from the United States Central and Southern Province, Fr. Tom Greene, SJ, visited SLUH for a routine visit last Monday.

As the Provincial for 13 Jesuit high schools and five Jesuit universities in the United States Central and Southern Province, Greene is responsible for making an annual visit to every community of Jesuit priests in the region. SLUH, being both a Jesuit school and having an on-campus community of Jesuits from SLUH and De Smet, is an important stop for Greene.

On Sunday, Greene met with SLUH president Alan Carruthers, principal Fr. Ian Gibbons, SJ, and Director of Campus Ministry Fr. Matt Stewart, SJ in regards to SLUH’s Jesuit faculty and the school’s overall educational and religious standards.

“This visit is just to check in and ask: what’s the state of the school?” summarized Carruthers. “What’s the state of the Jesuits that are in the school who are assigned here? What are our strengths, what are our weaknesses, and what are our opportunities? Those types of conversations.”

Greene had hosted an hour-long meeting with each Jesuit priest residing in the SLUH community the day before, on Saturday. This gave the opportunity for the priests to share their experiences as a Jesuit, both personal and professional, over the past year.

Populations were an important subject at this year’s visit. With a smaller national demographic of high-school aged children, admissions are a concern. There are also declining numbers of Jesuit priests in the 13 schools of the province. However, Greene saw that SLUH was ahead of

the curve on these issues.

“He’s very impressed,” observed Gibbons. “Two of the past three years, we’ve had between 260 and 270 students, which is way over our goal. That’s tremendous. It shows the great things that we’re doing.”

SLUH will also be adding to the staff two Jesuit regents and one ordained Jesuit priest next year—bringing the numbers up to five full-time Jesuits at SLUH and one part-time. Regents, like former SLUH teacher Michael Mohr are Jesuits in formation who teach classes for three years at SLUH before moving on in the process to becoming a Jesuit.

In addition, the Provincial had significant conversations about Jesuit identity and formation at SLUH, and how SLUH’s mission aligns with what it teaches students.

“The formation of Men For Others isn’t simply about giving people a really good education and getting them into Ivy League schools,” said Gibbons. “The point of it is to make future Catholic leaders for the region and for the world.”

Greene left SLUH on Monday with a positive outlook about the school.

“At the end of his meetings here, he told us that we are in a good place. People are happy; financially, the school’s in a good place; and the missions are strong. He was overwhelmingly very happy,” said Gibbons.

Due to such positive feedback, the Provincial’s visit will most likely not result in any necessary changes or action at SLUH. Nevertheless, even with this success, there are still areas that need to be monitored, noted Gibbons. The importance of student and faculty diversity, as well as costs and tuition in the 21st century economy are ever-present areas of caution.



Senior Connor Buehring delivering a Shihpoo puppy to its new owner.

photo | Kathy Chott



Spanish teacher Kate Toussaint making her debut as a Cashbah MC.

photo | Kathy Chott

The *Prep News* staff sends their condolences and prayers to the Chura family as Student Support Services Assistant and Russian teacher Marina Chura travels to Russia after her father’s passing.

Voices of SLUH combines five testimonies to allow community to reflect upon pandemic

(continued from page 1)
an overview of her personal experience in the early days of the pandemic. Toussaint talked about her struggles with mental health and depression throughout 2020, inviting a sense of openness and vulner-

to make the best out of the difficult situation.
“I wanted to share my story because I hadn’t yet reflected on what my time during Covid was like, and I figured this was the perfect opportunity to do so,” said Hammond. “I wanted

discussion about their personal experiences of the pandemic. While in homerooms, students were treated to a small snack while they filled out a sheet of personal reflection questions. After completing the sheet, students were given the opportu-



Sophomores work on reflection sheet after the assembly.

photo | Nick Sanders

ability that set a tone for the rest of the discussion.

Following Toussaint was a speech from SLUH principal Fr. Ian Gibbons, SJ, who offered a brief overview of SLUH’s response to the pandemic, congratulating members of the school community for their resilience and relative success in dealing with Covid-related difficulties.

After Gibbons’s remarks, the microphone was then handed off to Dr. Dolores Gunn, mother of freshman Monroe Terry. As an emergency room physician at a small regional hospital in Illinois, Gunn reflected on the difficulties of the pandemic through her perspective as a Black female doctor.

Next on the list of speakers was freshman Nicholas Hammond, who recalled the support shown by his family

to look back at the time of the shutdown to remember how thankful I was to have a supportive family by my side for the two years of the pandemic. Additionally, I knew this project would be fun to do, and I knew that it would be cool to talk in front of the school.”

Hammond was followed by senior Indranil Kar, who discussed his and his family’s difficult experience in dealing with the pandemic. Kar—whose mother was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer in October of 2020—has had to exercise extreme caution for much of the past 18 months, remaining entirely virtual for the of the 2020-21 academic year, and continuing to wear a mask after the removal of SLUH’s mask mandates.

After Kar’s speech, students were then dismissed to homerooms, where they were led in a

nity to share their perspectives on the pandemic.

“Personally, I felt like the homeroom reflections were great,” said junior Patrick Brennan. “I hadn’t really thought much about how the pandemic really affected things for me, so it was nice to look back on that. I also really appreciated the opportunity to hear what some of my classmates had to say once we got back to our homeroom.”

Added junior Nathan Spengemann, “Now that we’re pretty much at the end of the pandemic, it was definitely a good time to reflect on a lot of the difficulties that Covid brought. The speeches were really well done, and overall I think the whole assembly was just a great time to step back and see the whole picture of Covid.”

Chura’s previous travel plans to Poland become humanitarian trip to aid Ukrainian refugees

(continued from page 1)
it would be useful to alter his plans to a solo trip for the purpose of visiting and communicating with St. Louis U. High’s Jesuit partner schools in Poland.

The conflict between Ukraine and Russia forced him to adapt once again. This unexpected conflict put Poland on the forefront of human displacement caused by the war, so Chura pivoted again.

“When the crisis in Ukraine began, I kind of realized that I’m going to be right on the frontlines of this whole experience,” said Chura. “I thought: why don’t I see if I can actually do some service while I’m there and help out with the refugee situation in Poland?”

Working with Jesuits in Poland, Chura was tasked

with using his fluency in Russian, Ukrainian and English to help refugees travel and find safety. In one such interaction, Chura met a high school student whose professional plans and aspirations were torn asunder by the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

“I talked to a girl who was finishing up high school, and asked what her hopes were and she said that she dreamed of being a doctor all her life. She doesn’t know if that’s ever going to be a possibility anymore because the plan was for her to go to medical school in Kiev, Ukraine but now it will be a huge challenge to find a place where she can speak the language,” said Chura. “I mean, we see on TV the physical disruption, and the horrors of having to flee your

country, but lives are put on hold as well, with all their hopes and dreams.”

In lieu of Chura’s experience in Poland, he hopes to aid these refugees even more by financing the Jesuit aid organizations.

“We are hoping to, through the efforts of One World Club, put together a campaign when we come back after Easter to raise funds to support refugees from Ukraine,” said Chura. “I think that one of the most concrete ways that we really, truly can have an impact is by supporting the efforts of the Jesuit refugee services financially. There’s a large amount of support that’s coming in already, but it’s going to take a long sustained effort to fix this.”



photos | Courtesy of Rob Chura

Sophomores grow in spirituality at class retreat last week

(continued from page 1)
herding, leading, and discussing within their small groups,” said campus minister and coordinator of the retreat Julie Lewis.

Despite masks being optional and the school remaining in Condition I of its safety plan, there were still parts of the retreat that had to change due to Covid protocols. However, Lewis believed that these changes improved the experience of the retreat for the sophomores.

“With Covid, we had to reconstruct a few aspects of the retreat and so with the reconstruction we also decided to reformat the schedule of it also,” said Lewis.

One change involved making Thursday’s part of the retreat follow regular school day hours, and Friday a half day. The overnight part of the retreat from previous years was cut.

“We felt it might be a stronger retreat if we do one full day and one half day,”

said Campus Minister Si-monie Anzalone. “We found success in the new schedule, the students were not as tired from a full day of school. People seemed more alert and the flow of the retreat worked a little better.”

Another change was that the entire sophomore class watched the same movie, however it was viewed in the individual classrooms.

The sophomores watched *How to Train to Your Dragon*. In the movie, Hiccup struggles to find out who he is and what his purpose is, and has to conquer challenges that sophomores were able to relate back to their own lives.

“In the past we have played several different movies in homerooms,” said Lewis. “This year we decided to have everyone watch the same movie and found that it was really simple and also effective because we could all discuss themes.”

While watching a movie was fun and relaxing, the

sophomores had time to look deep into their lives and listen to English teachers Adam

honest in their talks with the sophomores,” said Anzalone. During his talk, Cruz

ence as a sophomore at SLUH and how he is very relatable with his own experiences,”



Sophomore Luke West speaks in a small group on sophomore retreat.

photo | Courtesy of SLUH Twitter

Cruz and David Callon recall moments from their lives that led them to grow as people and as Catholics.

“I think that it was great to see Mr. Cruz and Dr. Callon be so vulnerable and

dove into his life as a sophomore at SLUH and his experiences that shaped who he is today. His speech was moving to many of the sophomores.

“Cruz’s talk was great because he shared his experi-

said Lewis.

While Cruz was able to relate his past to the present of the sophomores, Callon reminisced about when he truly saw God for the first time, and his journey on be-

coming who he is today. He was able to touch the sophomores with his passionate speech and powerful words.

“Dr. Callon is a force that can do it all,” said Lewis. “We were so grateful that he was willing to give a talk. We love the energy and passion that he brought to express who God really is.”

“I really enjoyed the talks,” said sophomore Colin Graham. “I did not know how much I could relate to somebody else. The talks opened my eyes and made me realize how much I am like my fellow classmates.”

Overall, the retreat helped create an open opportunity for the sophomores to open up about their faith and past experiences.

“This retreat allowed the sophomores to pick each other up,” said Anzalone. “It was especially good after some really dark years of the pandemic that put a strain on their freshman year.”



WHAT INSPIRES HOPE AMID GRIM CLIMATE CHANGE WARNINGS?

BY JACK FIGGE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

IPCC releases climate report with grim outlook, SLUH sustainability leaders contemplate where school should head

“Soon, we will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.” This bleak sentence appeared in the second part of a three-part report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the current state of climate change around the globe. The report painted a grim picture for what the future could hold for the inhabitants of Earth if measures are not taken soon to address these pressing climate change issues.

This past Monday, the IPCC released the third part of their sixth Assessment Report; a report released every five to seven years by the United Nations examining global climate change and the effects it has on

the livelihoods of people. The report was released in three parts: the first concerning the physical science behind climate change, the second dealing with impacts and the vulnerability of populations to climate change, and the third acknowledging how climate change can be mitigated and treated.

Rising sea levels, an intensified water cycle, and thawing permafrost are three areas of concern that were highlighted in part I of the IPCC report, released August 9, 2021. The report stated that human beings are the main cause behind the 1.1 degrees Celsius warming

change that has occurred since the Industrial Revolution. The report states that, over the next 20 years, unless drastic changes are implemented, the earth’s warming will exceed 1.5 C. Previously, scientists had stated that once global warming surpasses 1.5 degrees C, extraordinary natural disasters will become much more prevalent, heat waves will become much more frequent and winter seasons will be shortened, all of which would have a negative effect on the earth’s natural ecosystems.

In February, the IPCC released the second installment

of its report, which focuses on specific impacts that global warming could have on the environment and on human beings. The report painted a grim outlook on the near future of the planet. By 2100, a date in which some students but certainly students’ children will be alive, the earth will look starkly different from the environment that we currently live in. Four times the number of extreme weather events (i.e. harsh tornadoes, hurricanes and flooding) will occur in 2100 and beyond if the average temperature is raised by a few tenths of a degree; bringing the potential

for great harm and damage to human life and livelihood.

With the release of the report, media attention has highlighted the report’s findings and sparked renewed interest and concern from governments and corporations. Within the St. Louis U. High community, administrators, faculty members and students have recognized the need to address climate change and sustainability issues within the school community.

“When I think about sustainability, I think about my daughter and the fact that I want to make sure that she can feed her children, that there’s fresh water and that there’s a source of energy that she could access and that she’s not threatened physically because everyone is fighting for the resources,” said social studies teacher Anne Marie Lodholz.

So far, 3.3 billion people have been affected by climate change in some capacity, the report states, the majority of whom live below the poverty line. This trend of global warming having the greatest impact on the already marginalized is going to continue to worsen as more and more people will die from natural disasters and heat waves caused by global warming.

“Half the world’s population is in a dire state of being severely impacted by climate change, and that’s bad. That’s a lot of folks that will suffer,” said AP Environmental Science teacher Bill Anderson. “The marginalized are the ones that

are really going to take—and have taken—a hit early on.”

Financially, corporations and governments will continue to spend more and more money as they build back and clean up from these natural disasters and restore the communities that were affected. A majority of this money will come from taxpayer dollars and insurance.

“Let’s say you have a flooded community where water damage is, and FEMA has to come in to help. The funding that FEMA uses is costing taxpayer money. It’s not a free handout from the government,” said AP Economics teacher Rob Hill, a retired financial investor who worked as a clean energy finance professional. “If we don’t address it, and we get to a tipping point in regards to climate change, it’s only going to get costlier when we use fossil fuels versus really investing in renewable energy.”

Hope is not lost, however, as the third report, which was released on Monday, discusses what measures can be taken in order to address climate change and how to slow down global warming. The report cites that the best means to curbing global warming is to transition to clean, renewable energy sources as soon as possible. Coal consumption must be slashed by 95 percent and natural gas usage must be cut by 60 percent. While this seems daunting, over the past decade, renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar energy, have become increasingly more affordable, and measures are being taken by governments to create infrastructure by implementing more wind farms, purchasing solar panels, and limiting deforestation.

Government politics and overall reluctance to change

continued on next page



The solar panels on top of the roof, installed in 2013.

photo | courtesy of Anne Marie Lodholz



Above: A sign in the Commons instructing students on how to dispose of food waste. Right: Wind turbines built by the Enviornmental STEM course. photos | Above: Anne Marie Lodholz; Right: Jack Figge

are proving to be the greatest foes in the struggle to limit carbon emissions and curb global warming. The report warns that unless governments and corporations stop climate change disinformation from spreading and begin investing more money into researching and purchasing renewable energy resources, then change is unlikely to happen.

To an individual, the report may appear to be a gloomy, daunting portrait of a situation that they have no control over. Yet, each individual has the opportunity to respond to the report and begin to implement small changes in their lives and actively try to learn about the environment and global warming.

“This is a problem on a global scale. Often we think the choices we make as an individual in our daily lives are probably not going to have a big impact,” said Anderson. “The biggest thing one can do to address this issue, I think, is to make sure that all of us get educated and stay educated on the issues and on the science.”

While the responsibility of proper education falls on the individual, St. Louis U. High is beginning to recognize and reevaluate how the school addresses climate change and global warming within the student body. As a Jesuit institution, the school seeks to abide by the four Universal Apostolic Preferences set by the Society of Jesus, one of which is Care for our Common Home.

Currently, the school has a Sustainability Committee which meets periodically throughout the year to discuss SLUH’s sustainability efforts and how the school can improve to become a better steward of the earth and its natural resources.

“We’ve created commissions at the school for people who are responsible for leading efforts in those areas, and there’s been a fair amount of work that’s been done,” said Jim Linhares, Assistant Principal for Mission. “While we have done some great work, we also have to ask: where are we heading and what is next?”

Within recent years, the committee has made progress in securing new sustainability measures to be undertaken by the entire school. The most recent shift: reimaging SLUH’s

wastestream, specifically in regards to the cafeteria.

“Recently, Food Service Consultants (the company that provides SLUH’s catering) has also shifted their waste stream in a giant way. That was because President Alan Carruthers told FSC that he wanted the waste stream to be reduced because there’s absolutely no reason that we should be throwing so much away,” said Lodholz.

Over the past two years, the cafeteria has undergone major shifts in its handling of food waste and the containers it serves meals in. As a result of the pandemic, FSC was forced to serve meals in separate containers. In an effort to reduce waste, FSC chose containers that were either recyclable or compostable, allowing students to dispose of their food containers in a sustainable fashion. This effort to use sustainable containers has continued into this year, allowing the school to send less trash to a waste facility.

“FSC has worked very diligently because the waste stream has shifted, just from a supplier standpoint,” said Lodholz.

The cafeteria is not the only space being examined into how the school can limit food waste and promote sustainable food production. In 2013, the school opened the Backer community garden. Over the past years, the garden has developed into a thriving space that is being used to grow a variety of vegetables and plants by SLUH faculty. Classes such as Anderson’s AP Environmental Science class will make periodic treks to the garden to plant and harvest the vegetables, while learning about the importance of sustainable farming practices and the growing need for urban agriculture.

Outside of the realm of food and food waste, SLUH has taken initial steps to adjust to renewable energy sources, conserve energy, and limit its dependency on fossil fuel sources for powering the school.

In 2013, the school installed solar panels on the roof. While these solar panels do not produce enough energy to power the entire school, it is a start on the path to making the SLUH campus completely dependent on renewable energy sources. Administrators and faculty members alike hope that SLUH will continue adding more so-

lar panels in its effort to create a sustainable campus.

“We have some solar panels but I would really like to see us really increase our solar energy generation on campus,” said Linhares. “We have a lot of roof space and the roof just got fixed, so I would love to see us take a big step (in increasing solar energy generation).”

While adjusting the cam-

pus to be more dependent on renewable energy is perceived as a righteous move to help protect the longevity of the earth and be good stewards of the globe, it will have its monetary costs. Even as renewable energy sources are becoming more widely available and cheaper, a hefty price tag remains.

that will turn off the lights automatically when people aren’t in them,” said Hill. “It will cost some money and I don’t know what our funds are for that. But I personally think when you’re going to do it, it’s a good idea to do it kind of holistically, kind of have a game plan for doing all of that stuff at once.”

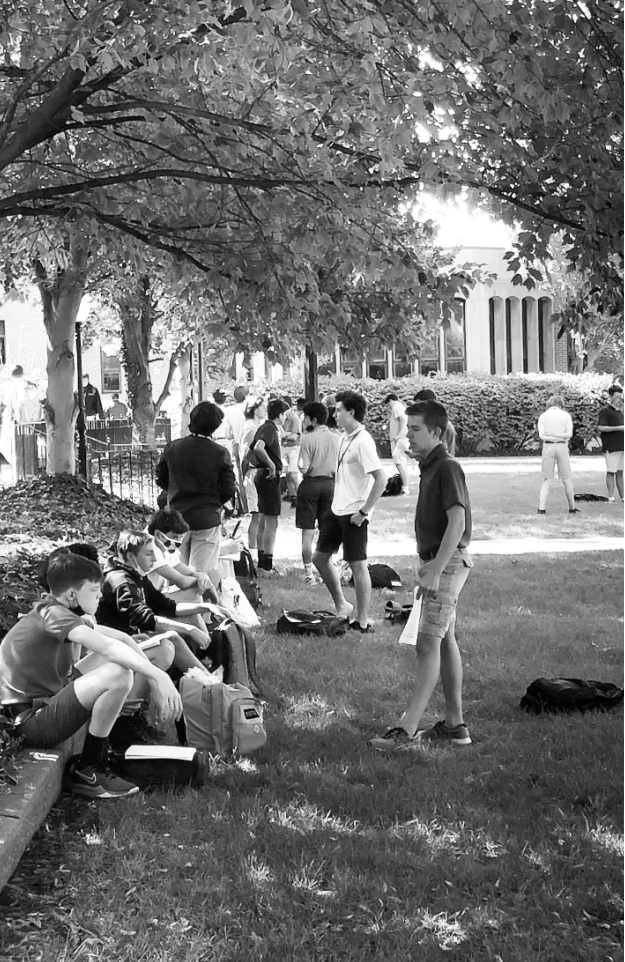
The climate report stated that carbon emissions must

“SLUH should be doing things in the sustainability field that make it easier for other schools to do the same. We should be leading the way. But we are not there yet.”

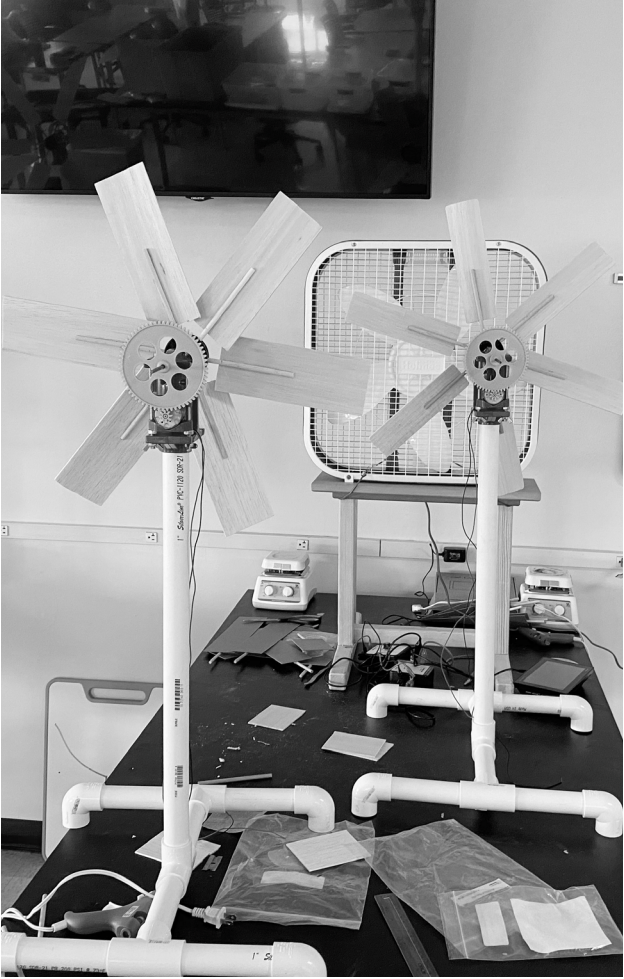
-Jim Linhares

There are a lot of opportunities here to upgrade our facilities to be more sustainable, which I think is the right move. We can move to double pane windows, we’ve talked about solar panels, we’ve talked about HVAC systems, controls

be reduced if nations want to keep the global temperature from surpassing 1.5 degrees C. One of the most effective ways to remove carbon from the atmosphere is to plant more trees and increase greenspace. SLUH’s campus lacks trees and natural landscapes with the majority of SLUH’s outdoor campus containing large open fields. One solution that has been proposed to help SLUH achieve its sustainability goals is to utilize the vast swaths of SLUH’s available green spaces by planting more trees and gardens. The hope is to transform



Students enjoying SLUH’s green space. photo | Kathy Chott



more parts of the outdoor campus to resemble the courtyard by the upperfield.

“One hope I have is that the campus just reflects the natural outdoor beauty that it should have,” said Linhares. “We don’t have much of nature itself on our property. I would love for us to do a strategic plan for the planting and sustainable footprint of our outdoor spaces.”

While reexamining the school’s energy policy and utilizing its free green space could lead to costly expenditures, a cheaper route that the school can take to addressing climate change is implementing educational material more deliberately into the school’s curriculum. One solution is to make sustainability a prominent part of a freshman year course in order to better educate students at a young age.

“Some teachers do a really good job placing climate change issues into their curriculum,” said senior Lucas Navarro.”But placing more education about sustainability and climate change into the science and social studies classrooms would be great. I think those are great places where some of those lessons can fit in really well, just as part of the natural learning process.”

“The only people that really get the message and importance of sustainability are seniors in AP Environmental Science, and that’s 24 kids on their way out the door, which is great for those 24. But it’s a message that should be part of the freshmen curriculum,” said Anderson. “We need to be teaching sustainability from the get go. Sustainability is an important message. It’s obvious it’s a message of importance, because we’re hearing that message over and over from the Pope.”

Despite sustainability having little presence in the overall curriculum, groups of students are taking great passion in raising awareness for these issues and bringing environmental matters to the forefront of student life.

“The young people give me great hope,” said Anderson. “I think the passion is there. The concern is there. The willing-

ness and openness to learn is there. And that’s what it’s going to take and I think that’s going to make all the difference in fighting climate change.”

One such student is Navarro, who since freshman year has taken great interest in sustainability efforts around the school and is actively involved in the energy team.

“For me, it’s been a lifelong passion. My mother used to work in a corporate environment, nonprofit, and being around her really kept me informed about issues of suitability, and about what is happening to our planet,” said Navarro. “That kind of led me in freshman year to contact Mrs. Lodholz, sustainability chair. I joined the energy tema and that has let me become even more involved with sustainability efforts.”

As nations and companies around the globe begin to come to terms with the stark portrait painted by the IPCC report, the question of who will be a leader in this sustainability movement has arisen. At SLUH, administrators and faculty alike aspire to making the school a model of sustainable practices and environmental education. But they recognize that the school has not achieved this status yet. Without deliberate, intentional actions and decisions, the school will not be able to take its place as a leader in ecological justice.

“We should be doing things in the sustainability field that make it easier for other schools to do the same. We should be leading the way,” said Linhares. “But we are not there yet. I would like us to be there. I would like us to aspire for this goal. This might be setting lofty goals or thinking about implementing very specific things, like what kinds of machines might we have in the cafeteria to grind food, or should we add solar panels? It might mean things like, having a designated person in a leadership role, who has a decent stipend to lead these efforts. That’s where we need to go. We need to decide where to lead here in order to create a more sustainable world.”

SET, SPIKE, WIN

Off to 6-0 start, SLUH Volleyball is eying another historic run

BY GEORGE HENKEN
CORE STAFF

For weeks, the St. Louis U. High volleyball team geared up every afternoon in their practice attire: knee pads, a t-shirt, shorts, ankle braces, and, for some, headbands. However, that everyday habit ended two weeks ago when the Jr. Bills began to gear up in their game-day attire: knee pads, ankle braces, white shorts, a white jersey, a blue jacket with last names across the back, and still headbands for some.

With game-day attire now a recurring sight for the volleyball team, SLUH opened their season with a dominating 6-0 record. The six wins came from games against Lutheran St. Charles, Belleville East, Mehlville, St. Mary's, Parkway Central, and Marquette.

The Jr. Bills traveled to Lutheran St. Charles for their first match of the season on March 24. Most players on the team have had previous experiences with a SLUH varsity volleyball match, and all but sophomore outside hitter Jack Krausz have had an experience with a SLUH volleyball game. The Kirkwood transfer startered in the match, so when his name was called by the announcer in the starting line-up, Krausz was ready for battle.

And battle he did. Leading the team with nine kills, Krausz started off his SLUH volleyball career in the best way possible, blazing the path for a 25-13, 25-13, 25-5 victory. From the very first point of the match, Krausz was poised and focused. His 6-foot-5 frame offered intimidation at the net and his quick reflexes in the back row contributed to digs that kept intense rallies going.

"I think the contributing factor to my success in my first game was me being more smart about my play," Krausz said.

His teammates have appreciated Krausz's contributions so far, and they are happy with how he has grown into his role so early in the season.

"I think Jack is starting to really transition into how we play. He is sort of really becoming a part of the team, part of the family," said senior outside Phillip Bone.

"I also found that having confidence in myself led me to go through with better decisions to ultimately score more points throughout the match," Krausz added.

The Jr. Bills' next opponent was Belleville East on March 30. The home-opener consisted of a loud Danis Field House, a rowdy bench, and focused players from both sides of the court. However, the focus of the Jr. Bills outweighed that of the Lancers, ultimately leading to a 25-7, 25-15, 25-13 win for SLUH.

Notable from this match

were the contributions from the middle of the court. Junior middle blocker Will Blaisdell had seven kills and junior middle blocker Victor Lazzaretti had five. These middle contributions are also a testament to the passing from the leaders of the back row, senior liberos Tanner Dougherty and Craig Ortwerth. Their in-system passes allowed for senior setter George Henken to set middles from the very start of the match, giving Blaisdell and Lazzaretti the success they had.

The home opener came with a very energized atmosphere. With this match being the first full capacity volleyball match in the Danis Field House since May 2019, the fans and players were ready to be as loud as possible. The majority of the noise and energy came from the SLUH bench. They cheered on their teammates from the sidelines and did so relentlessly.

"The energy on the bench is always insane. Regardless of if we win or lose the point, there is a lot of noise coming from the bench, whether it is praise to the people on the court or if they are eager to pick someone up when they are down," said Dougherty.

Next up was Mehlville on March 31. The Panthers proved to be a challenge to the Jr. Bills at the start of the match. However, once the defensive efforts of SLUH began to dominate, the Jr. Bills swiftly won the 25-18, 25-19, 25-12 match.

The defense, led once again by Dougherty and Ortwerth, was what put SLUH over the top against Mehlville. The digs from the entire back row, including Bone, Krausz, Henken, and senior right side hitter Michael Yemm, frustrated the Panthers and allowed for the Jr. Bills to slowly build a large lead.

With some of the best defenders in the state, SLUH understands that defense is what can win games.

"Defense in volleyball is the most overlooked part. Everyone focuses on the hitting, but when it comes to mentality and effort, defense is the most important," said Dougherty.

This match also marked an important landmark for the SLUH volleyball program. With the win over Mehlville, SLUH became the first program in Missouri history to win 100 straight sets. The streak began against De Smet in May 2019, continued throughout the entire 2021 season, and has continued with the first six matches of the 2022 season.

The Saturday match at St. Mary's on April 2 allowed the team to run some fun, different lineups. With confidence in the team's ability to still win with lineup changes, head coach Jeff Cheak put players in positions they are not used to and some players who don't

often see playing time. Liberos Dougherty and Ortwerth played on the front row, contributing a combined four kills. Meanwhile, freshman outside hitter Luke Schall, a JV player, was called up to join the varsity squad because multiple juniors taking the ACT opened up vacancies on the roster. Schall tallied six kills, the most from any Jr. Bill the entire match against the Dragons.

The changes to different lineups had little impact on the dominance of SLUH. The final scores were 25-11, 25-20, 25-8.

SLUH hosted Parkway Central next on April 5. The Jr. Bills easily handled their opponent in a 25-12, 25-8, 25-19 win, but Cheak was overwhelmed with the team's sloppy play for the first portion of the first set, citing the team's lack of ability to create a larger lead.

"We did not look focused and ready to play. We were waiting for the amazing play and not working hard and battling point to point," said Cheak.

However, after the first set slump, SLUH found their rhythm and caused chaos on the Colts' side of the court. Leading the way, Yemm had 11 kills.

In their final match of the past two weeks, the Jr. Bills welcomed the Marquette Mustangs to Oakland Avenue. The toughest match of the season thus far, the SLUH team had to find their rhythm early.

"I thought (Wednesday) was the first night where I think we were challenged pretty hard by the other team. I think we played really well with the pressure that they brought us, and we flipped the switch on," said Bone.

Bone made his presence known during this match. With 21 kills, 4 aces, and 1 assist, Bone led the Jr. Bills to a 25-17, 25-18, 25-16 victory.

However, Bone attests much of his success to his teammates around him.

"I think (my success) is a testament to the team. There are still two other touches before my attacks, so that really shows that we are getting the ball up and we are putting it in play," he said.

The team knows that improvements can still be made for the remainder of the season. With a state run in the forefront of much of the team's mind, making these changes is a key focus for the team moving forward.

"For the rest of the season, we need to be more consistent by eliminating some of our mental errors as well as battling for each point," said Cheak.

SLUH's next game is today in St. Charles against Fort Zumwalt South.

photo | Kathy Chott

Junior Victor Lazzaretti and Senior Phillip Bone go up for a block.



Senior Cooper Scharff winds up for a shot.

photo | Joe Fennewald

SPLASHING THROUGH CHICAGO

Jr. Bills split matches in Chicago Tournament, clutch overtime play secures victory against reigning state champs

BY ALEX WENTZ
REPORTER

While the water polo warriors of SLUH were abroad shredding the champion of Chicago, their native waters were stolen right from under their noses.

Two weeks ago the U. High water polo team traveled to Chicago looking for a challenge, and a challenge they got. While they finished the tournament with a 2-2 record, their final pair of games both went to overtime sudden death. In the end the Jr. Bills defeated the No. 1 ranked team in Illinois, Stevenson, 11-10. And in the weeks since the tournament, the squad has not dropped a game, defeating both Marquette and Lindbergh by over ten goal margins.

Despite the overwhelming success in the water, their season has yet again been put into jeopardy. Forest Park Community College has closed down their pool due to building construction, meaning the boys in blue are left stranded.

“We kind of knew there was going to be some interruption, so it’s good to have been able to be prepared for it,” said head coach John Penilla.

MICDS has graciously allowed the SLUH JV and Varsity teams to practice Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4:00 to 5:30. While this significantly reduces the amount of time in the water, it is far better than the experience of 8:30 to 10:00 p.m. practices last year.

“We’re fortunate that we’ve got MICDS, that they’ll share their pool with us,” said Penilla. Prior to the new logistical complications, the water polo team was on a hot streak. The squad took some time to gain their footing at the York Invite, losing the first game 13-6 against the tournament’s hosts, the York Dukes.

After a good night’s sleep and a classic hotel breakfast, the boys in blue were on the attack bright and early, this time claiming victory. In their first game of the day, the squad took down Loyola Academy 15-5, boosting morale and en-

ergy for the remaining games to come.

Just as David took on the gargantuan challenge of facing off against Goliath, and stunning the crowd with his victory, so too did the U. High water polo team vanquish Stevenson. Not only had they beaten York the previous day (a team that beat SLUH by a decent margin), but they were also the No. 1 ranked team in all of Illinois, having come fresh off of a State Championship victory last year. Despite Stevenson’s accolades, the Jr. Bills were determined to strip them of their perfect tournament record.

“The biggest thing was that we just played hard the whole game,” said Penilla. “We got up big for that game. It was 4-1 at some point, so obviously having that momentum early was important. It showed us that we could play with them. It’s hard for any team to go into a new place and play against a team that is unfamiliar to them, but is also very good.”

With immediate team-

work from the likes of junior captain Joe Zarilli, junior Brandon Harris, and senior Cooper Scharff, the SLUH squad had a propulsive start to the match.

“There was a little bit of fear factor, so for us to get up early was really important,” said Penilla. “After that it became the game we thought it would be, a seesaw back and forth.”

And a seesaw it was, with each side trading blow after blow. By the fourth quarter Scharff had scored three, Zarilli one, senior Zach Brugnara two, and Harris four. Unfortunately these goals were not quite enough, with the buzzer going off at an all-square 10-10.

The overtime rules for the tournament were sudden death, or as JV head coach Paul Baudendistel insisted, “sudden victory,” meaning the first team to score wins. Utilizing the unmatched speed of Cooper Scharff, the swimoff was easily won and the Jr. Bills had the ball right away. In a swift play involving a brief series of perimeter passes, the ball ended up in the palm of Harris, who

mercilessly fired the game-winning shot into the back of the net, securing SLUH’s dominance and ensuring the team’s best played game was resolved in victory.

“(We brought the) intensity,” said Zarilli. “We wanted to win and we had that fight in us. It really showed. We were all fighting as one team playing for our brothers.”

While the goal scoring was certainly important, perhaps even more impressive was the goal denying. Senior goalie Nick Figge cemented himself as an iron wall with a staggering 13 saves to earn himself the “Player of The Game” title.

The final game of the tournament took place merely an hour after the bout against Stevenson, meaning the boys in blue were exhausted. With a combination of respiratory struggles and vision impaired officiators, the game against Michigan’s Pioneers ended up going to overtime with both teams tied 6-6. Unfortunately, lightning did not strike twice and the Pioneers scored the

final goal for the win.

Despite the last game being a loss, the tournament as a whole was an immensely positive experience in which the team got to not only prove themselves against the best in Illinois, but also grow alongside and closer to each other.

This weekend the Jr. Bills will have another tournament, the De Smet Invite, in which teams from Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis and a variety of other areas get an opportunity to face off. The squads had one game yesterday, then they have another tonight, and three more on Saturday. After conquering Illinois at their last tournament, despite having no pool to call their own, the U. High water polo team now hopes to rule Missouri as well.

“(We) don’t know anything about the out of town teams, so we don’t know what to expect,” said senior captain Sam French. “I hope we put up a fight. Our goal is always to play to our best ability, no matter the competition.”

Ultimate Frisbee claims first victory of the season against Clayton

BY JP TORACK
REPORTER

The Saint Louis University High Varsity Ultimate Frisbee team picked up its first win of the season last week, beating Clayton High School 15-6 to move their record to 1-2. After a rough start to the season, the Jr. Bills came into this game hungry and ready to capture their first win of the season.

“Our first two games against Lindbergh and Parkway were tough losses coming on the bookends of spring break,” said head coach Ben Clark. “However, these games were tremendous growth opportunities. We

improved our match-up defense point after point against Parkway.”

Another area the frisbee team struggled with was the number of players that showed up to the first two games. The game against Clayton was a possible jump in the right direction with nearly three full lines showing up to play. After the first pull of the game by SLUH, there was no slowing down as they took a quick 5-0 lead over Clayton.

“I thought we looked really good offensively and defensively,” said captain Jared Thornberry. “Everything just seemed to click between our handlers and our cutters and we were able to find

the open spaces.”

As the first half went on, however, Clayton started to crawl back from the five-goal deficit. The score going into half was 8-4.

The second half for the Bills went as well as it could, as they let up just two points. The varsity team came out on top 15-6 and showed positive improvements after their first two contests of the season.

The Jr. Bills hope to continue their win streak next Tuesday against Priory. Priory is currently ranked the number one team in the state, so it would be a huge win for the Bills if they come out on top.



Sophomore Brendan Wienecke jumps for a catch.

photo | Nick Sanders

Despite struggling in Jesuit Classic, baseball still off to hot 8-4 start

BY COBY SPRATTE
CORE STAFF

After dropping two of their three games in the Jesuit classic last week, the St. Louis U. High baseball team rebounded strong, winning their last two non-conference games over Oakville and Webster Groves.

This was the first time in three years that SLUH has hosted the Jesuit Classic, a long-standing tradition dating back to coach Steve Nicolle's days as manager.

They opened up the tournament at GCS Ballpark in Sauget with a 12-8 loss against MICDS. Playing in sub-freezing weather, the Jr. Billikens kicked the ball around too much to give themselves a fighting chance against the Rams, tallying four errors for the game. The Jr. Bills' pitchers were never able to get going either, still surrendering all of their runs as earned.

SLUH dug themselves a 12-2 deficit, but never gave up fighting. They notched six runs in their final two innings, thanks to RBIs from senior Mikey Floretta, senior Tommy Etling, junior Garrett Shearer, and sophomore Dean Lyon.

The Jr. Billikens dropped the next contest of the tournament 5-2 to Creighton Prep from Omaha.

SLUH flipped the script from the night before, as they came out of the gates competing, and actually sustained a 2-0 lead for the majority of the game, thanks to junior Parker Guthrie's two RBIs and a stellar start on the bump from Shearer.

Yet, the wheels began to spin off for the Jr. Bills in the fifth inning when Creighton legged out an inside-the-park home-run to trim the deficit to one run.

SLUH's offense couldn't produce any more run support and the Jr. Jays were finally able to figure it out at the dish, as they tacked on four runs in the bottom half of the sixth to take a commanding 5-2 lead.

The Jr. Billikens ultimately took the loss, but they managed to largely subdue a Jr. Jays team that was producing double digit runs per game and ended up winning the tournament, including a 16-0 win in the championship over St. Dominic.

Despite picking up their first consecutive losses of the season, SLUH left the Jesuit Classic on a high note, knock-

ing off Brebeuf Jesuit (Indianapolis) 10-4.

The Jr. Bills were swinging hot sticks from the get-go, totaling 12 hits as a team. They also received multi-RBI contributions from seniors Liam Newbold and Patrick Mooney, as well as Lyon and fellow sophomore Charlie Isom-McCall.

They gave plenty of run insurance to sophomore starting pitcher Andrew DuMont, who threw five masterful frames, tallying nine strikeouts, and allowing just four hits and no runs. DuMont lowered his ERA to a sharp 0.78 mark in the young season.

"My key to success was being able to mix speeds and movements with my pitches," DuMont said. "As a pitcher, you need to be able to change speeds and I feel as though I was able to do that well."

Another key takeaway from the tournament was the discovery of senior Alex Shelton behind the dish. Forced to step in when all the catchers on the depth chart had to be away for retreat days, Shelton wowed, throwing out two runners and allowing no passed balls. He is now slated to start behind the plate for the near future.

"I've caught a lot in my past, so the transition has been pretty smooth so far," Shelton said. "I also owe a lot of credit to our pitching staff because they have been great and have made my job a lot easier."

The Jr. Billikens also picked up a hard fought win 3-1 over the Oakville Tigers.

The offense was slow to get going, but the pitching picked up the slack for SLUH. Senior Tucker Thomas got the nod for the Jr. Billikens and shined in his first home start of the season. He threw 4.2 no-hit innings, only walking one and striking out six.

"A big part of my game is working breaking pitches into my sequencing and figuring out which pitches are on during any particular outing," Thomas said. "In terms of the Oakville game, I was able to get a lot of use out of my slider and curveball which helped get me to six strikeouts."

When Thomas got himself into a bases loaded jam, thanks to a walk, a hit by pitch and an error, senior Coby Spratte came on in relief.

Spratte worked the batter to a 2-2 count, but couldn't get two borderline calls, ultimately walking in the go-ahead run for the Tigers.

Yet, Spratte bore down and recorded the following six outs, including a couple strikeouts.

The offense finally sparked to life in the sixth inning, spurred by a pinch hit RBI double from Shearer which tied the game. Etling and Floretta also knocked in runs to give enough insurance for Spratte to pick up the win and McArthur to come in for the final out and pick up his first career save.

SLUH bolstered their record to 8-4 with a 13-2 mercy rule win over the Webster Groves Statesmen.

Junior Michael Baudendistal started the game on the mound for the Jr. Bills and picked up his first career varsity win. He finished with 3.0 innings, one earned run and five strikeouts. Senior John Loretta and junior Max Adelman each contributed a scoreless frame out of the pen.

On top of the stellar pitching performances, SLUH was humming at the plate, as they notched a season high 13 runs in just five innings.

Floretta went 2 for 2 at the plate and drove in one run, extending his hitting streak to six games, a team high.

"Hype from the team off

the bench has made me comfortable at the plate," Floretta remarked.

Junior Henry Zenor is also on a hot streak as he went 2 for 3 with an RBI, while Shelton plated three runs with a bases clearing double, Lyon extended his hit and RBI streak to four games and drove in his eighth run of the season on a 2 for 2 night, and Mooney went 2 for 2 with three RBIs to add to his team-leading total of eight.

"I've tried to change my approach the past couple games to attack the ball early in the count," Mooney said. "My goal has been to put the ball in play any way I can, and I've been able to find some holes recently which I'm hoping to continue."

SLUH will compete in the afayette Tournament this week; they faced Lafayette yesterday and will face Westminster today at 4:15, St. Dominic at 9:00 tomorrow morning, and Marquette at 11 a.m. Next week they will begin their quest for an MCC Championship with their first conference game against the Chaminade Red Devils on April 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Track kicks off season with second place at Festus, win at Lindbergh

BY JOE LABARGE AND
SEAN KELLOGG
REPORTERS

Just like that, the track season is off and running. In the past two weeks, the track team has already competed in three different meets with another one just around the corner. The SLUH JV/C 1 meet kicked off the season on March 23 followed by the annual McCullough-Douglass meet on the 26th, and just this past Saturday, the Jr. Bills took home the team trophy at the Lindbergh Invitational.

The JV and C teams made their debut on March 23 in a competitive meet that featured teams such as CBC, and De Smet. On a cold and damp day the Jr. Bills competed well against their MCC rivals and came away with some impressive results. On the distance side of things SLUH managed to win both the 4x800 meter relay as well as have the top three finishers in the 3200. They also put six runners in the top eight in the 1600.

The middle distance squad also had similar results, taking four of the top eight spots in the 800 and a 6th place finish in the 400. The sprints team also performed very well, especially considering the cold conditions of the day, putting many runners near the front of each race.

The field events were a little more difficult to pull off in the conditions, however. Due to the rain, the pole vault was called off for the safety of the athletes. That didn't stop the other field events, though, and SLUH competed well in the other events. Freshmen Will Martin and Nathan Lepak took charge of SLUH's jumps for the day competing in the high jump,

long jump, and triple jump. To finish out the field events, SLUH also had good performances in all of the throwing events, giving many new members of the team a chance to compete for the first time and ultimately rounding out a good starting meet for the JV and C teams.

The SLUH Varsity squad began its season at the McCullough-Douglass invitational against the top Missouri talent on a cold and windy March 26. Despite conditions that were far from perfect, several athletes put up elite performances that ranked them in the top 10 in the state in their event. Among these performances were sophomore Jacobi Oliphant, who won the 110-meter hurdles by about half a second, running a time of 15.86 seconds, and sophomore Ryan Wingo who won the 200 in a time of 22.60 seconds. Along with these two strong individual performances, the 4x400 (first place) and 4x200 (second place) relays put up top times, ranking themselves near the top Missouri talent so far this season.

Along with the strong sprint performances, varsity jumpers seniors Eric Piening and Andy Harris put up respectable results, earning themselves top three spots in their events. Piening started the day off at the high jump where he kicked off his season jumping 1.88 meters (or about 6-feet, 2 inches for our American friends) earning himself a second place finish and a great first performance of the year. Over on the triple jump, Harris also hopped his way to a second place finish, jumping 12.65 meters (about 41.5 feet) in the triple jump. This pair of second place finishes made a statement about the strength of the jumping duo this year going

forward.

Across the middle distance and distance events, the Jr. Bills were able to go up against the top state competition and, though they were missing a few key parts of the squad, many of the former XC Bills, now Track Bills, got led to fast times and PRs setting them up for many fast times throughout the season.

After their success at the McCullough-Douglass Invitational, the Varsity squad traveled to Lindbergh High School to compete last Saturday. With high wind speeds and a bit of a colder temperature, the conditions weren't ideal but that didn't stop the team from having a day and taking home the team trophy by over 50 points.

Despite the windy conditions last Saturday, the flowing hair of the distance and mid-distance squad returned to avenge what seemed to be a slow start the previous week. Starting off with the 4x800 relay, the Jr. Bills seemed to be much more comfortable earning themselves second place finishes on both the JV and Varsity levels. After respectable performances in the 4x800 relay, the Jr. Bills hit their stride in the 1600 race, going first and second on both the JV and Varsity levels.

With strong performances from senior Grant Brawley (4:27) and senior Sean Kellogg (4:30) the Varsity team took 18 points from the 1600. Although he was not in the Varsity race, sophomore Mason Scargall set the meet record for the JV 1600 (4:40) and would have finished fourth in the Varsity 1600.

The dominance carried over to the 400, where Wingo won the race with a time of 50.72. Later on in the day, the squad would again finish in the top

two in the 800, with Nicholas Purschke winning the JV race with a time of 2:14.6 and Justin Glass placing second in the Varsity race with a time of 2:08.4.

The team once again showed its dominance across the JV and Varsity levels in the distance medley relay (1200-400-800-1600) where the JV team finished first (12:04) and Varsity took a second place finish (10:51). The team then closed the day out with another strong relay with a first place finish in the Varsity 4x400 with a time of 3:33.8.

The sprints team had a very impressive day, coming away with three meet records on the varsity level and scoring 64 points. To kick off the day for the sprints team, Oliphant set a meet record in the 110 hurdles, running a time of 15.30, followed by senior Connor Greninger, who tied for third in a time of 15.80.

Just minutes after that, Wingo set the meet record in

the 100-meter dash in a time of 10.64, which broke the meet record by 0.35 seconds. In the 300 hurdles, senior Keshon Parker (fourth place) and Greninger (fifth place) closed out the day for the sprints team.

Wingo followed up his first meet record with another one in the 200, running a time of 21.84, followed by Oliphant, who placed third in a time of 22.57. Overall, the sprints team had a very impressive day and look to continue to ride this train of success into the later parts of the season.

The field events team made their presence known through multiple great performances throughout the day. Piening once again had a great day, placing second in the high jump with a height of 1.90 meters (6.23 feet), falling only to the state champion from last year who could only make it five centimeters higher than Piening.

Piening also came back for the triple jump where he and

Harris managed to grab second and third place respectively. Harris also had an impressive fifth place finish in the long jump with a distance of 5.54 meters. In the pole vault sophomore Elijah Smith placed third with a height of 3.05 meters, and senior Eli Dernlan finished sixth with a height of 2.44 meters. The field events team scored their final points in the javelin, where senior Andrew Renaud finished fourth and senior Corey Luaders finished fifth.

The team's success over the last two weeks has been a good sign of things to come as the team enters the heart of the season. The Varsity team will compete at the Eureka Invitational today after school. The V2 squad is set to compete on the varsity level at the All Catholic Invitational hosted by Chaminade and give many athletes on the team some good competition this weekend.



photo | Kathy Chott

Senior Alex Mittendorf and sophomore Noah Evers race De Smet.

With full, healthy roster, tennis team hopeful for successful season

BY NATHAN RICH
SPORTS EDITOR

It's not even mid April and the SLU High tennis team is already facing state level competition. After weeks of practice and facing inclement weather, the Jr. Bills began their season last week with a whirlwind set of four matches, a two-day tournament, and, most importantly, redemption from last season's District loss to John Burroughs. After the intense start, the Jr. Bills sit at 1-3, preparing for more action packed weeks ahead.

This year, SLUH welcomed back its entire varsity roster, a team that finished 6-4 and 5-0 within the MCC conference in 2021. On paper, the Jr. Bills' top six are fine-tuned and experienced, featuring four seniors and two juniors, all with varsity experience. However, the realities of Covid and last year's injury battles means that this roster is yet to have a normal season together. Led by seniors Gus Tettamble and Henry Dowd at the top two spots, though, this year's team has the chance to capitalize on the lost success of the Covid era.

It began last Tuesday, in the Jr. Bills' season opener against Marquette, a team whose depth and consistency has troubled SLUH in the past. Last year, missing Tettamble and Dowd, SLUH lost all nine singles and doubles matches to Marquette. This time, though, with a full roster, the team was prepared to come out swinging.

On court one, Tettamble and Dowd quickly made their presence felt at No. 1 doubles. After battling their way through the opening games, the duo eked out a 7-6 lead right before it was Tettamble's turn to serve. At that point, needing only one game, the set could just as easily have been handed to SLUH. Tettamble's massive serve easily overpowered Marquette's top team and won the set for the Jr. Bills.

Dominant play from Tettamble, a commit to the Univer-



Senior Gus Tettamble lunges for the ball against Marquette.

photo |Kathy Chott

sity of Tulsa's D1 tennis program and a strong favorite for the state singles title, will be a theme for the season this year. After winning in doubles, he beat Marquette's one seed in straight sets 6-1, 6-1.

Even if tennis isn't your thing, it's worth stopping by the courts at Dwight Davis sometime this season to see one of the best junior players in the country in action. A ripping serve and an awe-inspiring forehand means the team can expect a near automatic victory from Tettamble in singles. The challenge will be getting four other wins to seal out the best-of-9 matches.

That proved a significant issue against Marquette. After losing both No. 2 doubles, played by senior Niko Nadreau and junior Luke Gund, and No. 3 doubles, played by senior Jake Marison and junior Josh Lombardi, in closely contested matches, no other singles player could see real success against Marquette. Dowd, after dropping the first set, had a brief glimpse of hope in the second set but even after

pulling ahead by a few games, he struggled to finish out points and ultimately lost the second set as well.

The Marquette loss was disheartening, but it did give a glimpse of SLUH's potential when the top six players are all active and healthy. Having a full team means a lot to this year's varsity squad.

"I'm really excited because last year was the first time in my life I've really been hurt and that was really tough for me," said Tettamble, who battled a wrist injury on his non-dominant hand all of last season. "Having Dowd back and everyone being healthy and ready to go is extra nice. Everybody's taking it a little more seriously this year because we know what it was like to not be at full force last year."

The normalcy quickly faded last weekend, though, as SLUH headed east to compete in the Edwardsville Tournament, which featured teams from St. Louis, western Illinois, and the Chicago area. Missing Dowd, Marison, and Gund, the Jr. Bills

headed into match play on Friday needing a strong start against Jackson High School, a school from Chicago.

Tettamble once more led SLUH's varsity depth chart with an inspiring win against Thomas Nelson, a 6-foot-5 senior with an overpowering serve well over 100 mph. After losing the first set 6-1 (an uncharacteristic start from Tettamble), he rallied back to win the second set 7-5 in a tiebreak and the match overall in a 10-1 set tiebreak.

"That was a good player so coming back was good for me and hopefully it inspired the team a little bit too," Tettamble reflected.

Bolstered by singles wins from sophomore Jim Holcomb at No. 5 singles and freshman Noah Butler at No. 6, the Jr. Bills advanced to the next round to face John Burroughs. Last year, Burroughs soundly beat the Jr. Bills twice, so the SLUH team hoped to show their singles improvement.

After dropping his No. 3 doubles match with senior Na-

than Rich, Lombardi clinched the win for SLUH with a tiebreak win in his No. 5 singles. His opponent had a frustrating spin serve, but Lombardi's forehands and smart approach shots were enough to take home the win.

Further up the courts, singles wins from Dowd and Tettamble as well as wins in the top two doubles matches sent SLUH into the finals of the tournament. There, the Marquette struggles returned. Facing Hersey, another Chicago school, the Jr. Bills found themselves outmatched on the courts below Tettamble.

Tettamble won his singles match 7-5, 6-1 against a grueling opponent whose stubborn baseline play prolonged many rallies, but no other players could muster a win. Nadreau, again at No. 5, was three points away from winning in his set tiebreak, but fatigue set in and Nadreau's opponent capitalized on the momentum, winning the tiebreak 10-7.

The second place title was an impressive accomplishment, even though it was overshadow-

owed slightly by the faltering finals play.

SLUH was able to rebound in their next regular season match against John Burroughs, played at Dwight Davis this past Monday. The Jr. Bills beat their rivals from last season 6-3, their second win against Burroughs in just three days. Marison, whose strong performance in No. 6 singles sealed the match for SLUH, noted the energy shift during the match.

"Coming into it a lot of us weren't very energized," he said. "I started out a little slow losing the first three games but I started coming back and everyone started to bring up the energy."

The very next day, the Jr. Bills, wasting no time with rest, took the courts against the Ladue Rams. SLUH fought valiantly against Ladue, a favorite for the team state competition this year, but they ultimately lost the match 3-6. Stacked with consistent, talented players all the way down to JV, Ladue will be a powerhouse this year. SLUH got off to a hot start against them, winning both 1 doubles and 3 doubles but again, singles proved to be the Achilles Heel. The Jr. Bills struggled to close out games against the Rams despite playing spectacular points, especially Gund (3) and Lombardi (4), who stayed neck and neck with their opponents the entire match but struggled to put points away at the net.

After losing against Priory last night, the Jr. Bills sit at 1-3 to start the season. Still, players are staying positive.

"I think the season has had a good start," reflected Tettamble. "We've been thrown into some tough matches right away and that can be hard for a team, to have all your hardest matches at the beginning of the year but I think big picture it's only going to benefit us."

SLUH is set to play Rockhurst next at Dwight Davis on Saturday. The Kansas City team consistently has a strong program, so the Jr. Bills are preparing for another tough match.

After rough start to season, rugby team hopes for more success

BY BEN CROAT
STAFF

The Rugby team has battled through brutal weather conditions, a multitude of injuries, and two tough losses over the past two weeks, all in preparation for this weekend's SLUH Catholic Rugby Invitational Tournament.

"We'll be hosting 5 other teams (4 from out of the area) for two days of what we expect to be very competitive rugby," said head coach Brian Corrigan.

Two weeks ago, SLUH Rugby faced off against La Salle, a private boarding school team from eastern Illinois, in an intense match in Springfield. The match took place parallel to a few hundred acres of cornfields and the pitch was extremely uneven and bumpy, giving way for a very abnormal game. On top of the pitch condition, there were also

wind speeds reaching up to 25 mph creating a very drastic situation for the Jr. Bills, even so they got out to a very quick start but were not able to capitalize on many early scoring opportunities.

"It was a cold and very windy day, which isn't ideal, but part of the deal if playing a sport in spring," said Corrigan. "We had a lot of opportunities to score in the first half, but weren't able to convert, which happens sometimes."

The game eventually opened up, and the first half culminated with a last second try by La Salle and two SLUH yellow cards, which meant SLUH would be starting the first 10 minutes of second half with only 13 men versus the 15 of La Salle.

"We seemed to veer off of the game plan when we were close to scoring a try, which led to unforced errors as we were within five meters of

scoring. For the third game in a row, we struggled at our goal line defense at the end of a half and conceded a try," said Corrigan. "From there, we committed 5 or 6 penalties resulting in 2 yellow cards—10 minutes in the Sin Bin."

This would prove disastrous as La Salle capitalized scoring two tries in the first 15 minutes of the second half to put the Jr. Bills down by a few scores. Even so, SLUH would go on to score twice in the last 10 minutes of the game but would end up falling short 19-13.

"There really is no way to sugar coat it, we let La Salle off the hook. Not capitalizing in the first half and giving up two tries down two men proved too hard to overcome. I would argue both of those were self-inflicted wounds," said Corrigan. "Let's commit to fixing these easy areas of the game, so we can start

winning these games moving forward. It's hard enough to beat good teams, but making these undisciplined mistakes makes it very difficult to beat good teams. This is a disappointing loss that we need to learn from as a team."

Last week's game saw SLUH face off against Lindbergh on Oakland Avenue and once again the weather was not very favorable, with sub-40 degree weather and occasional spurts of hail. The game saw the second Varsity roster play, which included most of the regular varsity roster plus a few other juniors and seniors.

The game started off quickly as Lindbergh's ground and pound style of offensive attack wore down the SLUH defense up the middle and led to early scoring opportunities. The Jr. Bills responded swiftly, scoring a couple tries of their own and even had an opportunity

to go ahead heading into the second half before they faced an untimely penalty.

After an early SLUH try, the second half didn't go as smoothly as Lindbergh's physical attack began to gain ground and the Jr. Bills couldn't respond as they again ended up falling 17-33.

"Lindbergh was a big, physical team and we just weren't able to meet them at the line and get our tackles down," said junior Amon Binder.

"Quite simply, we are still losing the physical battles," said Corrigan. "We aren't getting low enough in our tackles, we aren't securing our ball fast enough in the rucks and we are knocking the ball on way too much. Simple things that make a big difference in the outcome of games."

This year's season has not gone as planned; looking forward, there are still a

multitude of improvements needed to be done to take advantage of the talent and skill of this year's rugby roster. After Wednesday's practice, one of the coaches spoke on the season so far and on the importance of "mental toughness" as being a pillar and core value to the sport of rugby. This value will be key in turning the season around for the Jr. Bills as they face multiple matches over the next few days.

"I feel like we're really close to turning it around and getting back to winning," said Binder. "It's just hard given the number of players that are new. It starts with changing our mindset and wanting to win."

"The season hasn't begun the way we had hoped, but don't worry," said Corrigan. "If you are willing to put in the required work, I am positive that we'll get the season turned around."

SLUH4GE group seeks to educate student body on gender equality issues

BY ALEX PREUSSER AND
ELLIOT MOORE
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

Students in an all-boys school can have a limited perspective when it comes to gender equality, but the SLUH for Gender Equality (SLUH4GE) club is working to combat this limitation.

The student-led club meets weekly to gain a deeper understanding of gender disparities and the inequalities that women face.

“As guys in an all-male school, we’re kind of sheltered from all the issues that women go through,” said junior Ethan Lee. “So by bringing up issues like period poverty, we can help raise awareness around our school to things that guys might not know about.”

SLUH4GE began a few years ago as an informal space to discuss issues such as toxic masculinity and gender expression, but now the club is expanding in ways to spread more awareness in the SLUH community.

“I want to say the club was founded six years ago,” said senior Luke Pierson. “It became a safe space for a lot of the openly gay students, but as Ongoing Conversations kind

of split off and formed their own, this club kind of like started to simmer down.”

With the revival of SLUH4GE, they have begun to take on new projects and continue to gain more new members.

“A lot of times our main aspect that we were talking about was toxic masculinity, ways we’ve experienced it, and ways we want to try to challenge it,” said Pierson.

Student members often offer their own ideas and proposals for future projects for the club to take on.

“I like to get their opinion, because there’s no right or wrong way to look at stuff in this club,” said club moderator Annie Hilmes. “I want the guys to feel comfortable talking about stuff that maybe they wouldn’t be able to talk about with other people. As a teacher, I love hearing the conversations the guys have because it’s kind of cool to see the different perspectives and agreements and disagreements.”

“I didn’t know what I expected when I was joining the club,” said junior Grant Skube. “But this is the most rewarding and fun club at the school.”

One current project that SLUH4GE is working on is a

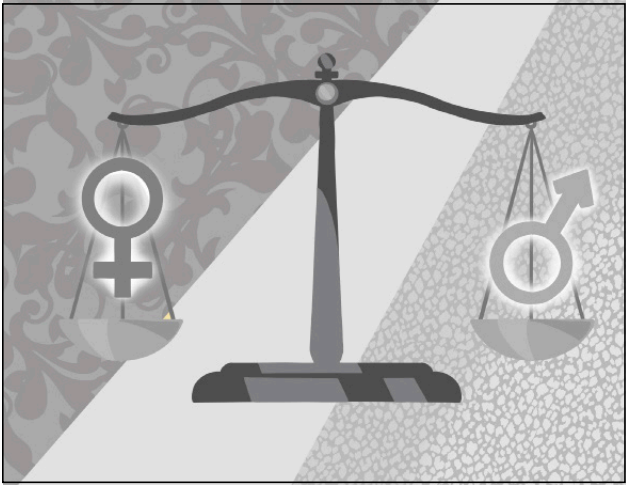
collaboration with St. Joseph’s Academy in a drive to raise money and awareness for period poverty.

“Period poverty is basically when a female cannot afford female hygiene products,” said junior Michael Niklawski. “The club’s way of combating it was by doing a drive against St. Joe to collect the most products. It was also a twofold event that was meant to break the stereotype that men are afraid to buy female products, and it was a way to encourage men to face their fears and buy them.”

The primary objective for all of SLUH4GE projects and meetings is to help to increase gender equality and make steps toward improvement

here at our school.

“What I found for most of us when we found this group was there’s a lot more barriers that are unspoken of that we come across in our everyday lives, especially when talking with female teachers about their experiences working with young men,” explained senior Joe McGroarty. “I think it was important just because we are in that all-male environment. And because of that, although it has so many benefits, we miss out on a lot of pure interactions with women. So coming here, at least talking about it, discussing, putting ideas out there is really important.”



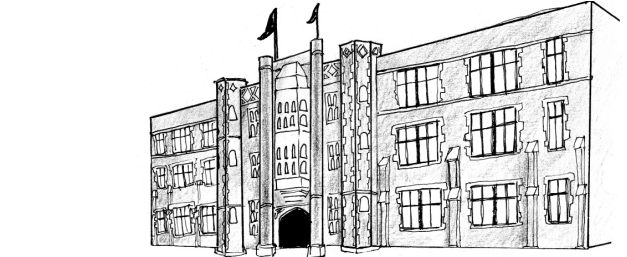
Around the Hallways

ACT
On Tuesday, April 5, the junior class gathered in the Danis Field House where the test takers were surrounded by utter silence. There, the juniors completed the ACT, sponsored by SLUH College Counseling. After completing the test, students were able to leave and go home after a morning filled with concentration.

4v4 Tournament
Wednesday, during Activity

period, STUCO sponsored a 4v4 basketball tournament in which students from all classes could form a team and register to compete against their fellow Jr. Billikens. The victorious team was composed of seniors Jack Christanell, Kevin Hogan, Tommy Etling, Ben Ridgway, and Alex Shelton, who will be treated to a lunch of Imo’s pizza for their efforts.

Huge Bird Spotted
Overtaken by the boredom of



a five-day week, members of the *Prep News* staff were overjoyed on Wednesday when News Editor Roarke Unrau spotted a gargantuan avian creature flying above the upper field. Editors and Core Staffers alike pushed aside their computers and flocked to the windows to admire the

beast. Initially, the members of *Prep News* were engaged in hotly contested civil discourse about what type of bird was flying high above the SLUH campus. Upon further conversation, it was agreed that the bird was a medium-sized hawk.

Prep News

Volume 86, Issue 24

Credits:

“If nothing else, value _____.”

Editor in Chief
Jack “the Catechism of the Catholic Church” Figge

Editor
Nathan “tasteful fonts” Rich

News Editor
Roarke “4’s” Unrau

Visual Editor
Charlie “the masthead” Bieg

Web Editor
Luke “another day, another slay” Duffy

Core Staff
Jackson “not bringing a phone on Kairos” Cooper
Louis “showing up to PN (not)” Cornett
Jack “the gym” Rybak
Alex “mon petit chou” Preusser
Coby “barbeque brisket” Spratte

George “elastigirl” Henken
Michael “making meaning of the universe” Baudendistel

Staff
Ben “the birthday girl” Croat
Micah “JULIUS” Doherty
Mark “opening day W’s” Wappler
Andrew “Cinnamon Toast Crunch” Hunt
Thomas “The Holy Roman Empire” Juergens
Austin “the links” Wald
Charles “boogies” Turnell

Staff Artists
Will “Jackson’s foreign exchange student” Blaisdell
Leo “bells” Smith

Reporters
Bill “camels” Albus
Jack “open-toed sandals” Evans
Elliot “Phillip Zimbardo” Moore
Charlie “the boys” Dougherty

Drew “Uzbekistan tangerines” Figge
Vincent “fluffy blankets” Weinbauer
JP “my rights as an American” Torack
Lucas “change” Hayden
Nick “the noun grid” La Presta
Michael “quotes in articles” Robinson
Louis “the griddy” Miller
Joe “Communism” LaBarge
Sean “Joey B’s on the Hill” Kellogg
Alex “liquid water” Wentz

Artists
Alex “the Billiken” Deiters
Jude “poems” Reed

Photographers
Kathy “the periodic table” Chott

Moderator
Steve “the purple pen” Missey

Calendar	
Friday, March 4	B Day
Sophomore Conversations Domestic Violence Awareness Week Varsity Water Polo - DeSmet Invite Mix-it-Up Lunch	
4:00PM	Track & Field/Eureka Invitational (V/JV)
4:00PM	Volleyball (C/JV/V) @ Ft. Zumwalt South
4:15PM	Varsity Baseball - Lafayette Tournament vs Westminister
10:00PM	JV Inline Hockey vs Oakville @ Midwest Sport Hockey
Saturday, March 5	
Sophomore Conversations JV Rugby - Catholic Tournament Varsity Catholic Rugby Tournament Varsity Water Polo - DeSmet Invite	
9:00AM	Track & Field-All Catholic Invitational (V2) @ Chaminade
9:00AM	Varsity Baseball - Lafayette Tournament vs Marquette & St. Dominic
9:00AM	Tennis (V) vs Rockhurst @ Dwight Davis Tennis Center
10-2PM	(JVW, JVB, V) Lacrosse @ De Smet Jesuit (Fr. Marco Cup)
5:00PM	JV Inline Hockey vs Seckman @ Fenton Forum Ice Arena
7:00PM	JV Inline Hockey vs Timberland @ Fenton Forum Ice Arena
9:00PM	Varsity 1 Inline Hockey vs Seckman @ Midwest Sport Hockey
9:00PM	Varsity 2 Inline Hockey vs FZE @ Vetta 70
Sunday, March 6	
Sophomore Conversations JV Rugby - Catholic Tournament Varsity Catholic Rugby Tournament	
7:00PM	C Team Inline Hockey vs Holt @ Fenton Forum Ice Arena
Monday, March 7	
Sophomore Conversations	
8:00AM	Varsity Golf vs Bulldog @ WinggHaven Country Club
3:30PM	Freshman Golf vs Chaminade @ Four Seasons Country Club
Tuesday, March 8	
Sophomore Conversations Senior Manresa Retreat	
3:30PM	Varsity Golf vs Westminster @ Forest Park Golf Course
4:30PM	(B Team, V) Baseball @ Chaminade
4:30-5:30PM	(JV, V) Water Polo vs Kirkwood
5:00PM	Varsity Ultimate Frisbee vs Priory @ 500 S Mason Rd
8:00PM	JV Inline Hockey vs Parkway South @ Fenton Forum Ice Arena
Wednesday, March 9	
Sophomore Conversations Senior Manresa Retreat STUCO Elections	
9:00AM	JV Lacrosse vs Vianney
3:30PM	Freshman Golf vs Vianney @ Four Seasons Country Club
3:30PM	JV Golf vs DeSmet @ Forest Park Golf Course
3:30PM	Varsity Golf vs DeSmet
4:00PM	Track & Field/SLUH JV/C #2
4:00PM	Tennis (JV/V) vs Duchesne @ Dwight Davis Tennis Center
4:30PM	(B Team, V) Baseball @ Belleville West
4:30PM	C Team Baseball vs CBC
5:00PM	JV Ultimate Frisbee vs CBC @ Compton Drew Field
5:00PM	Varsity Rugby vs Chaminade @ Lou Fusz
7:00PM	Varsity Lacrosse vs Vianney
Thursday, April 14	
Holy Thursday Sophomore Conversations Senior Manresa Retreat	
11:00AM	Volleyball (C/JV/V) @ Chaminade
12:00PM	C Team Baseball vs Vianney (DH) @ Boeing Aviation Baseball Field 1
12:00PM	Varsity Baseball @ Chaminade
12:00PM	Tennis (JV/V) vs CBC @ Cadet Park(JV), Dwight Davis Tennis Center(V)
3:30PM	JV Golf vs McCluer @ Forest Park Golf Course
4:00PM	B Team Baseball vs Chaminade
6:00PM	Varsity 1 Inline Hockey vs Vianney @ Fenton Forum Ice Arena