

At a Glance

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Christmas Feature

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Catholic Charities Concert

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Ho Ho Ho! STUCO's 12 Days of Christmas bring holiday cheer to Oakland Avenue



Students eagerly take photos with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. photo | Nathan Rich

BY JACKSON COOPER AND PATRICK BUSCH
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

With Advent underway and Christmas rapidly approaching, St. Louis U. High's Student Council is helping

ing to cultivate some good old-fashioned holiday cheer with a new rendition of its annual 12 Days of Christmas event.

In terms of planning, STUCO began weighing ideas for planning each of the 12 days weeks in advance. Factors

that needed to be considered included days off school, the rotation of A and B days, previously-planned school events, and sports games. The hope was to reinstate some beloved classics, as well as to introduce some newer ideas to engage

students.
"We are hoping to establish a light-hearted atmosphere heading into the Christmas season," said Student Body President A.J. Thompson. "Sometimes the looming ex-
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Strategic Summit: Faculty Formation

BY LUKE DUFFY AND MICHAEL BAUDENDISTEL
WEB EDITOR, STAFF

Editor's Note: This is the fifth and final installment in a series about the school's Strategic Summit initiative. The Strategic Summit is focused on five areas of the school and seeks to understand how that area can improve. This week's article concerns the Faculty Formation charter.

Following the Strategic Summit meetings last spring, five separate committees were tasked with examining a certain aspect of SLUH and making improvements to this area. One of the five charters that emerged was the Faculty Formation charter, co-chaired by Math Department chair Julie Moeser and theology teacher Brian Gilmore.

According to Gilmore, the committee is focused on the question, what does it mean to be an Ignatian educator at St. Louis U High?

The Faculty Formation charter, made up of eight faculty and staff members, has been meeting monthly for
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Campus Ministry, Mothers' Club aid St. Louis residents through Adopt-A-Family Drive

BY AUSTIN WALD AND CHARLES TURNELL
REPORTERS

Every year, the SLUH community calls to mind the virtue of charity around December when participating

in the Adopt-A-Family Drive. Taking place this past week, the Adopt-A-Family drive is a Campus Ministry led annual event in which gift cards are collected for people in need to buy Christmas gifts or other
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art | Leo Smith

Silent night no longer! SLUH band fills Si Commons with beautiful music

BY THOMAS JUERGENS AND MICAH DOHERTY
REPORTERS

A melody of chords could be heard from the Si Commons over the past week, as all of SLUH's bands took to the stage to perform in their annual Christmas concerts. Last Thursday featured the Fundamental Band, Lab Band, both jazz bands, and several combos while Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Chamber Orchestra played on Tuesday.

These concerts serve as the semester culmination for the many groups led by band director Jeff Pottinger.

Thursday night's concert, while labeled as the jazz concert, was really much broader in style. While Lab Band and Fundamental Band kicked off the night playing jazz standards, the combos, which are primarily student led, dabbled in 90's indie music, Pink Floyd, and even original songs by performers. One such original was composed by junior

Keller Anderson, whose work on Spotify has been featured in the Prep News. Called "Lonely,"

the song is an emotional piano ballad with steady background
continued on page 11



Band concert in the Commons. photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

Admin seeks new options for mask study as Cole Co. decision impacts Mo.

BY NATHAN RICH
EDITOR

As the recent surge in Covid cases due to the Delta variant continues to infect more people throughout the country, SLUH has been forced to put its Covid study with St. Louis University on hold for the time being. Principal Ian Gibbons, SJ, President Alan Carruthers, and other SLUH administrators met with Dr. Terri Rebmann, a professor at SLU and the Director of their Institute for Biosecurity, this past Wednesday via Zoom to discuss the next steps in the plan for their protocol study, which was covered by the Prep News three weeks ago.

Ultimately, the meeting ended on a disappointing note, as it was decided that the study would be put on the back burner until infection rates in the region have declined. SLU, because of its leading role in medical research and care in the St. Louis area, has been forced to turn their attention elsewhere.

"They have very little bandwidth to actually run a study to look at our safety plan, so right now we're still in a holding pattern," said Gibbons, who expressed disappointment in the announcement.

The study in question could have been a significant step for the SLUH community in regards to safety protocols. It would have allowed the school to switch back to Condition II, which features mask-recommended learning, and examine if and how the disease spreads. Gibbons again was keen to point out that SLUH's uniquely high vaccination rates
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Students and faculty share their favorite Christmas traditions

BY ROARKE UNRAU
NEWS EDITOR

Ask anyone, any age, when Christmas is, and they will tell you Dec. 25. But ask them when the Christmas season starts, and that can be a little more tricky. Some people get in the Christmas mood before Thanksgiving, others wait until after, but by Dec. 1, everyone has got Mariah Carey’s “All I Want for Christmas is You” on their playlist. That is what makes Christmas so special: everyone has their own way to celebrate it. Whether it’s a favorite part of the holiday or a Christmas tradition they do every year, everyone has a different way to do Christmas right.

“I think what I like most about the holiday season at SLUH is that, I love what the school does during the

holiday season, but I think what I love most is that each individual has their own traditions that puts them into the holiday spirit. And when around one thousand people are all in the holiday spirit and they are joined together and united through the school and through the Christmas season, it makes it extra special,” said senior Gus Tettamble.

Around the building as the Christmas season begins, students and faculty alike start to notice subtle changes in the air. The trees on Oakland are lit; wreaths are hidden throughout the building. Apart from physical decorations, good tidings can be felt throughout campus.

As the senior class approaches their final Christmas together at SLUH, everyone has their own

memory of Christmas traditions that they have enjoyed during their time here.

“I remember at the winter pep rally my freshman year, they had a slam dunk contest with the trampoline. People jumped off the trampoline and dunked the ball and I thought that was really funny and pretty cool,” said Tettamble.

Outside of school everyone has their own Christmas traditions, either as a family or individually, that are meant to cherish the holiday and to get into the Christmas mood. The special thing about these traditions is that they don’t have to be big every year, they can be something small. Christmas traditions, just like Christmas presents, are more about the meaning behind them than the actual act.

“So we do Thanksgiving

Day with our family, then Thanksgiving night with family friends, and then when we come home late at night, we always watch the movie Elf. And that’s the start of our Christmas season after we watch that,” said Tettamble.

“Me and my mom, we put up ornaments that I made in preschool and it’s real fun and then we’d go through all the ornaments and look at the pictures of me and I was like a goofy little boy and it’s like these cool little pictures of me and it’s real fun. And every Christmas morning my mom makes pecan rolls,” said senior Nick Kramer.

“My favorite thing about Christmas is that you get a step back from the school routine and you get to be with family,” said senior Ricky Vuylsteke.

For faculty, the Christmas season is special for various reasons. Whether it is an at-school tradition or just the Christmas mood in the building during December, teachers love Christmas too.

“My favorite is probably teacher karaoke, because it’s fun to see all the teachers, and I like to participate, and I’m a little competitive so I also like to win,” said math teacher Tracy Lyons.

“I think that, not to be the cliché theology teacher, but I think the nativity scene we have is very nice. I do enjoy the trees along the turnaround. I think those are quite beautiful and yeah, I like the Commons, it kind of generally has a fun holiday feel to it, I feel like the Commons is always a fun festive place,” said theology teacher Mike Lally.

Lally also enjoys all the movies and songs in Decem-

ber that spread the Christmas spirit around for everyone to enjoy.

“It’s a Wonderful Life. Charlie Brown Christmas. And yeah, Home Alone is the third best with Santa Claus coming in a very close fourth to Home Alone. But it’s in that order,” said Lally. “Definitely best Christmas song is ‘Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.’ I think it’s hard to improve on the classic performances sometimes, ‘Oh Holy Night’ is a classic. And yes, I enjoy the memes where it talks about how Mariah Carey gets defrosted at this time of year to perform and that it goes back into hibernation.”

One of the biggest Christmas debates is when should people begin listening to Christmas music, and for Lally, the proper time is Dec. 1, with after Thanksgiving being the earliest acceptable time.

“Certainly after Thanksgiving at the earliest, and I could even be stretched to say I think Dec. 1 is also not a bad day. I think that the shorter you listen to it, the sweeter it becomes. And if you stretch it out too long, like the stations that play Christmas music right after Halloween are morally bankrupt, and they should be known as such,” declared Lally.

For Lyons, one Christmas tradition that she enjoys every year is buying a series ornament. The tradition, started by her grandmother, is based on the Hallmark series ornaments that come out every year with certain designs on them. Now every year Lyons buys the new ornament to decorate her Christmas tree.

“The series that started

the year I was born was a little set of angels, so every year there’s a new angel ornament, and they are still making new ones. So I have some number of angel ornaments, that’s undetermined. And now that I have my own tree and my own Christmas decorations, my tree is only angel decorations, because I have all these cute angel ornaments. So that is a fun tradition that I like,” said Lyons.

In the greater St. Louis and Midwest area there are many Christmas traditions and events going on that people enjoy. Some of the most notable are the winter wonderlands around town that have Christmas lights set up for people to drive their cars through and admire with friends or family.

“My family lives in Kansas City so we go to a place that shows movie symphony performances, they will play a Christmas movie at a large symphony orchestra place but they will play the soundtrack to the movie live. So they do like Home Alone, It’s a Wonderful Life, Nightmare Before Christmas,” said Lally. “And so that’s something we go to every year and we really enjoy.”

“It’s fun to do all the Christmas lights things, in the past couple of years I’ve always gone to the Garden Glow at the Botanical Gardens. I live in South City, so right across Hampton is Candy Cane Lane, so being able to walk over there and not having to be in the crazy car line is nice, being able to do all that fun stuff with family and friends is one of my favorite things even though it is on the colder side in St. Louis in the wintertime,” said Lyons.



Mike Lally performing *Hamilton* at 2019 Teacher Karaoke.

photo | Andrew Munie

All four SLUH choirs shine at Catholic Charities Concert

BY ANDREW HUNT AND
LUCAS HAYDEN
REPORTERS

Every Who down in SLUH-ville, the tall and the small, was singing last Friday night ... center-stage at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis.

All four of St. Louis U. High’s choirs recently performed at one of their biggest events of the year, the Catholic Charities Concert, hosted by the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The concert, titled “Joy to the World: A Christmas Concert,” featured performances from the choirs of SLUH, Cor Jesu, and Visitation.

“It was a really cool experience to sing in such a sacred space,” said freshman Jaden Yarborough.

The concert also featured an organist, a violinist, and the handbell choir of the Cathedral Basilica. All the proceeds from ticket sales and donations were given to the Catholic Charities of St. Louis, an umbrella organization of eight different Catholic charity groups.

The idea for the concert was first brought up to SLUH Choir Director Addie Akin back in July, since it was a big event and required a lot of preparation. All four of SLUH’s choirs worked tirelessly throughout the second quarter on their various Christmas songs, many of which will also be performed this Sunday at SLUH’s annual Christmas choir concert.

Jr. Bills only had one practice run-through at the cathedral, held after school on Monday, Nov. 29. Students figured out how the concert would run and where to enter, in addition to becoming adjusted to the massive scale of the Cathedral.

“The space definitely adjusted the audio and the acoustics because you could hear the reverb (for so long),” observed senior Alex Mittendorf. “It just made the sound blend into one swirl of sound.”

“Singing in the cathedral is unlike anything that I’m sure these kids have done before,” added Akin. “It’s just a wild acoustic to get used to,

so I was really proud of them for that.”

After arriving on Friday evening, students were able to socialize with members of other choirs before heading down into a building next door where they waited for the audience to filter into the Cathedral and get settled. Once the clock hit 7:45 p.m., all of the choirs walked back into the Cathedral and settled in the side wings, waiting for their call time.

Nerves only increased when, just as the concert began, it became apparent that about 1,000 people were going to be in attendance, with many more watching the live-streamed version.

“It was definitely intimidating because you look back and almost every single seat was filled,” said sophomore Tim Browdy. “I’ve never sang on a stage that grand.”

In the Christmas spirit, the various SLUH choirs sang “Patapan,” “What Child is This,” and “Christmas Angel.” They had the opportunity to be conducted by Cor Jesu choir director Kathleen Pottinger, wife of SLUH band

director Jeff Pottinger. And once all of the ensembles had sung or played their pieces, every choir member from SLUH, Cor Jesu, and Visitation joined in singing a triumphant rendition of “Joy to the World,” a particularly special moment because of the expanded range of lower and higher voices made possible when the single-gender choirs were mixed.

“I love doing collaborations like that ... so that our singers have the chance to sing with sopranos and altos,” noted Akin. “That’s really important to sing mixed literature and not just (tenor and bass music).”

“It was breathtaking to hear even when singing. I couldn’t imagine what it’s like to listen to,” said Browdy of the collaboration.

The Jr. Bills were excited about the performance overall.

“I think a lot went well,” said Mittendorf. “There was a lot of work done in the days leading up to the concert to get them to the level that we wanted them to be at to be performed and I’m proud of

what we did.”

“I was impressed with what we were able to accomplish with only eight singers,” said Browdy. “We did put a lot of work in, considering we had to learn seven songs in like the span of two months.”

Since these Christmas songs will be repeated at the SLUH Christmas Concert on Sunday, the choirs will be able to assess what worked

well and what didn’t to further improve.

“We definitely have some things that we can improve upon and make Sunday even better,” explained Akin. “So it’s great to have that experience to perform and then build on that.”

For those that were not able to be in attendance, an edited version of the concert will be aired on KSDK Christmas morning.



SLUH choir singing at the Cathedral.

photo | Courtesy of SLUH Twitter

PN Puzzle: “Shopping List”

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Crossword | Paul Baudendistel

- ACROSS
1. Pear partner (x12)
10. Sign of peace (x22)
14. Movies like The Truman Show and Dead Poets Society
15. More certain
16. Hydrant plug-ins
17. 60’s singer Lopez or Power Ranger Kwan
18. Two words that follow
- 1-Across
19. Beyond vast
21. One feeling cooped up (x30)
23. Only NBA MVP, Coach
- of the Year, and Executive of the Year (x36)
27. Olympics symbol (x40)
28. Many Missouri S&T grads
30. “’Tis the _____” during which one might buy or hire these items (in total)
32. Analogy words
33. Pins the king
34. Sicilian volcano
38. Type of bump or pimple (x42)
40. Becvar, Schulte, and See
41. The Ugly Duckling (x42)
42. O of XOX
43. Gangnam Stylist
45. Washington Monument, e.g.
47. _____ loeil, style of some amazing sidewalk art
49. Blue item in the Commons
50. “I’m good”
51. Meter reading
53. One pull-up or push-up
55. Old card (x40)
58. Medieval partner of 60-Across (x36)
60. Medieval partner of 58-Across (x30)
64. Like many volunteers
66. Like 1-Across or certain multivitamins
69. Hand gestures meaning all is well
70. Offensive to the sense of smell, not hearing
71. Famous killer of rats ... and possibly children (x22)
72. Ringo, e.g. (x12)
- DOWN
1. Common file style
2. Grande nickname
3. Prepared
4. Feds who captured Capone
5. Post-surgery program
6. Vow resulting in a united state
7. Insult
8. A letter and a mild swear
9. Two letters and a gas com-
- pany
10. When repeated, 80’s band that won the first Best Music Video award
11. Gasket that caused the Challenger explosion
12. Start of Caesar’s boast
13. Guitarist Clapton or politician Greitens
15. Big mug
20. Horizontal beam
21. 10 feet in football or 8 feet in fútbol, for 20-Across
22. Acidify
24. Set of beliefs, informally
25. Prepared
26. Science staple
29. Popular Morse code sequence
31. Mister in Mexico
34. Course for a Mexican, maybe
35. Gemini
36. Org. that sponsored Gemini
37. Hieroglyph meaning “life”
39. Actor Omar of House
44. Prevent from leaking
46. Storm center
48. “Dessert” made of dirt
49. Coach Lasso
52. Wanders around
54. Suffix meaning “life”
55. L-Q connector
56. Golfer Isao or actress Devon
57. SLMPD rank
59. O’er there
61. Actor Leslie or college football coach Barry
62. Ending for mac or ref
63. Textile worker
65. U.S. Cabinet Dept.
67. Neither’s partner
68. College two hours from SLUH, alma mater of Tony Romo and Jimmy Garoppolo

Genius freshman finds original Christmas gift for Snapchat girlfriend

JACK FIGGE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

This past Thursday, freshman Chad Janwoski eagerly ran to his lunch table and revealed that he had FINALLY found the perfect Christmas gift for his girlfriend. He bragged to all of his friends that he had the most original present out of anybody anywhere from any time period.

“You know I was just scrolling through my emails and the idea just hit me, what does every St. Louis high school girl want? An authentic St. Louis U. High hockey hoodie,” said Janwoski as he flexed his muscles, and ran his hand through his egregiously long hair.

His friends were stunned at his originality and brilliance. They see him as the model boyfriend and have all since purchased the same item for their Snapchat girlfriends, whom they assert are real people that they have met in real life.

“Man, Chad is just the coolest. He really knows what he is doing with this relationship thing,” said an anonymous freshman. “I hope that when I finally have the courage to ask out a girl, I will be able to handle the re-

lationship in the same mature manner.”

After Janwoski’s surprise announcement, freshmen rushed the Commons stage in a frenzy, attempting to secure a coveted hoodie. The hockey team says that sales have since skyrocketed due to the influx of Christmas shoppers.

“These generic, I mean genius boyfriends have really helped to boost sales,” said the Head of Hockey Hoodies inc. Jeff Maher. “I think all of their girlfriends are just going to love our product and become even more infatuated, I mean in love with their boyfriends.”

At press time, Prep News analysts were predicting that the number of single freshmen would increase in the coming weeks as girlfriends quickly realized that their SLUH boyfriends got them all the EXACT same thing.

“A lot of freshman will probably be very heartbroken when they return from Christmas break,” said senior PN analyst Nathan Rich as he crunched some numbers. “But my predictions show that they will quickly get over it. I mean all freshman relationships are basically a joke anyway. Right?”

PN’s Christmas List

1. The yearbook room

2. STUCO’s bulletin board

3. \$5000 for color issues of the PN

4. Free dinners

5. No Friday tests

6. No Monday exams

7. Another Lavar Ball cameo

8. Articles done by Wednesday @ 10 pm

9. The Robotics budget

10. The Currigan Room

SLUHber, STUCO rated 0/5 stars

Reviews: 1,000 • Bad

Excellent: 0% Great: 0% Average: 1% Poor: 3% Bad: 96%

“I was really looking forward to being greeted by one of Santa’s elves from STUCO and getting a nice, speedy drive up the turnaround from one of their SLUHber drivers. When I learned that STUCO had let us down again, I was extremely disappointed.”
-Jack Figge

What has happened to SLUHber?

Having experienced a very impressive SLUHber ride earlier this school year it’s quite stark how bad the service has become. Easily outperformed both in terms of atmosphere and service by my parents, who normally drive me to school. Despite me having a good review score and the journeys not being excessively far, I am repeatedly underwhelmed. This service was designed to save people time, not waste it. Avoid.
-AJ Thompson

Driver continuously quoting “SLUHber won’t pay me”

I never normally use SLUHber as my experience has been generally poor and this was no different. The driver continuously wanted to take a far less direct route through the parking lot and up the turnaround, repeatedly quoting “SLUHber won’t pay me” and all I wanted was to get to school. The vehicle was poor and in disrepair and overall not a pleasant experience.
- a Freshman

SLUHber used to be great but...nowadays it...

SLUHber used to be great but nowadays it is VERY unreliable. The drivers cancel at the last minute all the time. Even if you have scheduled a ride, they cancel at the last minute.
- a Sophomore

Sorry SLUHber, your service is total ly...

Sorry SLUHber your service is totally unreadable. Will be very reluctant to use you anymore. It’s not the first time lately I’ve been let down by your service, so from now on will be using another provider if possible.
- a Junior

Pro Skater to Amputee: How Cummings '88 overcame a life-altering leg injury



Cummings and his wife together after the amputation. photo | Courtesy of Dave Cummings

BY LUKE DUFFY
WEB EDITOR

On July 3, 2019, the life of Dave Cummings '88 changed forever. While skateboarding in Winter Park, Colo., he missed a landing and destroyed his left leg.

Cummings knew immediately that the injury was serious. A lifelong skateboarder, he had become accustomed falling the right way. In this instance, though, he came out of a handrail slide twisting and landed without bending his leg to brace the fall.

"It was like a bomb went off in my knee," said Cummings.

The impact of the harsh landing shattered his tibia

bone movement would be incredibly difficult to fix. He left Colorado with a long road of surgery and recovery ahead.

Prior to his injury, Cummings had led an incredibly active lifestyle. He was a skilled cyclist with multiple state titles. While attending SLUH, he found his passion for skateboarding, continued skating into his adult life, and eventually got to skate with notable pros.

"I grew up in the era of Tony Hawk and those guys," said Cummings. "I actually got to skate with Tony Hawk a couple of times, which was awesome."

When he and his wife, Wendie, went on vacation, they would usually engage in

cupational therapist, so even his day job is physically demanding.

"Literally everything I did before my injury was physical," said Cummings. "I work in acute care at Mercy Hospital. I worked there for five

sor mechanism transplant of meniscus and cartilage."

By late 2020, after nine surgeries, Cummings' left leg was still one and three eighths of an inch shorter than his right leg. In addition, the skin on his leg had become scarred and difficult to operate on. A tenth surgery would have tried to correct his tibia and add length to his leg, and require Cummings to face 18 more months on crutches—and it was possible the surgery wouldn't even work.

"It was like, where's the finish line? If you're an athlete and you run a long race you know where the finish line is. There are always people along the route cheering for you. Even if you've only done one mile of a marathon, you know where the end is. We didn't have any guarantees each time even if it would work," said Wendie Cummings.

Cummings was beginning to realize that his original fear of losing his leg could be his only way out. After consulting with doctors, he felt that an amputation would be his

out about a new amputation technique being studied at MIT that had the potential for more post-amputation leg function.

Cummings reached out to the head researchers of the project at MIT, but got no response. He kept waiting, and eventually received a call from MIT surgeon Matthew Carty about a consultation. Cummings' determination to work toward resuming his active lifestyle impressed the doctors at MIT, and he was accepted into the study.

"Doctor Cardy got back to me a week and a half before my surgery in Colombia," said Cummings. "He apologized profusely for taking so long and he said, 'Would you be interested in doing a Zoom consultation? I can explain the surgery. We can see if you're a candidate and go from there.' I said yes."

In the surgery that Carty performed on Cummings, the muscles and nerve endings of the lower leg are preserved. Then, theoretically, electrodes can be hooked up to the nerves and send movement signals to a computer model lower leg. With this information, researchers could create a prosthetic leg that responds to nerve signals.

"They're still working out the technology. It may not come of age for 10 to 15 years, but with his surgical technique, you'll potentially be able to put a leg on that you'll be able to control like you control your own leg, which would be amazing," said Cummings.

In the meantime, Cummings is using a prosthetic from Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. He has been able to resume some movements, going on longer walks and hikes, but is still unable to move his leg without looking at it. If he is walking on uneven ground, it is easier to trip and fall because he cannot feel the ground beneath him.

"You control everything with your hip, so you have no feeling," said Cummings. "The microprocessor knee that I have right now, it's a loaner, but the technology is really good. So if I'm walking on a flat surface with no cracks or anything, I can walk almost well enough that you can't tell that I have a prosthetic leg on, which is unbelievable to me. But if you're walking on the sidewalk or walking in grass, if your foot catches on something and you're not staring at your foot to see that it catches, you don't feel it."

"They're still working out the technology. It may not come of age for 10 to 15 years, but with his surgical technique, you'll potentially be able to put a leg on that you'll be able to control like you control your own leg."

- Dave Cummings

Cummings remains hopeful about the future. While the possibilities of the bionic prosthetics being developed at MIT are not completely known, Cummings is confident that he is on the path toward improvement.

"What can we do next to be our next adventure? We have to change our whole mindset," said Wendie Cummings. "It's hard to explain, like I have high hopes. I cannot wait until our next vacation. If all the timing works out, hopefully next summer we can go back to Winter Park."

"I knew how bad my break was. I actually said to (my wife) Wendie when I was laying on the ground, 'I hope I don't lose my leg.'"

- Dave Cummings

and dislocated his knee. In the shock of the moment, Cummings imagined the worst possible outcome.

"I knew how bad my break was. I actually said to Wendie (his wife) when I was laying on the ground, 'I hope I don't lose my leg,'" said Cummings.

Cummings was in and out of surgery on the fourth of July. His injuries were stabilized, but the tendon and ligament damage done by the

some sort of extreme, outdoor physical challenge.

"Our wedding was in Australia and we hiked straight uphill for an hour to have the ceremony," said Wendie Cummings. "Everything we do for fun together involves going to the mountains. It's not extreme sports, we just go to the mountains and ride really hard on our bikes or run really far."

Cummings is also an oc-



Cummings and his new prosthetic leg. photo | Courtesy of Dave Cummings

years and before that I worked at Mercy skilled nursing center for 12 years. And so basically my job was like manual labor as a therapist and acute care."

A leg injury of such caliber erupted Cummings' fitness-centered life. All he wanted was to be able to do some of the things he did before his injury again. The doc-

best bet to regain his physical abilities. However, an above knee amputation held significant risks.

"It was an above knee amputation, which is much more significant than a below knee, because you still have your knee so you have all the power of your leg and your knee. I was going to lose that," said Cummings. "So (the doctors)

"It was like, where's the finish line?"

- Wendie Cummings

tors tried their hardest to fix his knee and lower leg.

"I had nine surgeries and they basically fixed almost everything that was wrong with my knee," Cummings said. "I had all four ligaments repaired. They rebuilt my tibial plateau twice. They actually added bone to my femur. They did a whole exten-

did not want to do an amputation. And I knew the significance of it. But that's when we started thinking about it and then we made the decision."

After making the decision to go through with amputating his leg, Cummings had the date set for May 18, 2021. One month before the surgery, though, he found



Cummings biking before his accident. photo | Courtesy of Dave Cummings



Cummings on a hike with Wendie. photo | Courtesy of Dave Cummings

Senior advisors say farewell to freshmen

BY MARK WAPPLER AND
DREW HAWLEY
STAFF, REPORTER

From leading team bonding activities on the football field during Direction Days to conducting homeroom seminars on how to study for high school exams, the senior advisors of the Class of '22 have spent countless hours serving their younger SLUH brethren in the freshman class for the past six months. However, as the fall leaves' flamboyant orange colors fade, the senior advisors prepare to retire their classic orange shirts to their closets. After guiding the freshmen through the many ups and downs of the first semester, the senior advisors will depart their freshmen homerooms, leaving their freshmen to navigate the rest of their time here at SLUH not alone, but together, using their advisors as an example.

About 60 senior advisors are picked every year to serve the incoming freshmen during their summer and first semester and help them transition smoothly from middle school to high school. Oftentimes the first faces the freshmen see at SLUH, the senior advisors serve as role models and as examples of Men for Others.

"I see the senior advisors as older mentor figures who know their way in and around SLUH and are just guys you want to get to know as freshmen," said freshman Grayson Miller.

One of the first occasions where the entire freshman class is gathered on campus is the beloved Direction Days retreat early in the summer. Spanning over the course of two days, the freshmen are led by their enthusiastic senior advisors through a series of team-based activities where they are forced to work together as a class to overcome the obstacles they face. These activities help the students unite and build trust in each other so that they do not feel alone walking into school on the first day of classes.

"I almost had a panic attack when I pulled up to SLUH on the first day of Direction Days and saw STUCO pounding their drums outside," said freshman Mason Morris. "It was there on Direction Days that I met some of my best friends and first experienced the spirit of this place."

Despite leading the stampede of freshmen during the Running of the Bills, the senior advisors were placed on standby for the entire first quarter, not being able to go to their freshman homerooms, especially during the first couple crucial weeks of school when the freshmen needed their help the most.

"I feel like not being with all the freshmen at the start of the school year really took away from the traditional experience of being a senior advisor," said Louis Cornett. "We weren't able to see them grow with all their classmates in the first couple months and I just felt like I was never as close to my freshmen as I hoped I would be at the start of the

school year."

With the start of the second quarter, the picture changed. Now being allowed in their freshman homerooms, the senior advisors rejoiced in being able to bond with their freshmen again, either by engaging in controversial polls with them during morning homeroom, such as which is the best Supercell game, or just by asking what was going good or could be going better with their freshmen in one-on-one conversations.

"I loved it," said senior Ismael Karim. "Just being that person in the front of the room for the freshman to talk to, asking questions to, and share experiences with was a vital part for me as a senior advisor this semester."

One of the final events done with the freshmen and their senior advisors was the Freshmen Retreat, which was held on Nov. 22. A fitting end to the mentorship, the senior advisors reflected on their time here at SLUH and shared their experiences with their freshmen as they instructed the class on how to build a foundational brotherhood that would span outside the walls of SLUH. Using the retreat as a launching pad, the senior advisors hope that their lessons taught to their freshmen will help them grow stronger and more united as a class.

"It was a good way to meet some guys you never really got to talk to before even though you're in the same class with them," said freshman Nate Pini. "It was fun to do all the different activities with them throughout the retreat and was just a great way to grow closer as a class."

The main role of senior advisors throughout this first semester was just to be bigger brothers to their freshmen advisees. By helping them learn how to properly email their teachers or by sharing good study habits, the senior advisors made a lasting impact on their freshmen, who will remember their brotherly love and assistance throughout their time at SLUH.

"It was just so good to have someone who was so helpful because they'd gone through all the things I was going through," said freshman Nuri Guneyli. "I am very thankful for my senior advisor ... he helped me figure out formal attire because I was so confused with it but he made sure that I understood how to dress for next time."

Now as the senior advisors act on their final duty of instructing the freshmen how to approach their first semester exams next week, they will be finishing their role of holding one of the most honorable and rewarding titles a student can hold as SLUH: being a senior advisor.

"It's been a good ride," said Cornett. "It was an amazing experience to be in these orange shirts and I can't wait to see what kind of men these freshmen become through their time at SLUH. They truly are a special group of guys."

QuestBridge gives students path to selective colleges

BY PETER JAMES
STAFF

Thanks to the QuestBridge program, senior Ismael Karim recently found out that he has been awarded a four-year scholarship to Emory University.

QuestBridge is a national nonprofit that gives high-achieving, low-income students the opportunity to apply to the leading colleges in the nation with full-need scholarships guaranteed.

QuestBridge has over 40 college partners, including many renowned universities like Yale, Duke, Brown, and MIT. QuestBridge is continuously expanding with additional schools becoming partners every year.

"Basically, they say ... if you meet these income guidelines, if you apply through our portal and our process, our partner schools say we will cover your whole tuition and financial aid packages," said Director of College Counseling Kevin Crimmins. "It's great for the students. There's not a bad school on the list. So they know they're going to get into a good college and they know it's going to be free for them."

QuestBridge acts as a binding, early decision based on ranked choice. During the application process, the applicant will go through the QuestBridge affiliated schools and list their top schools. The applicant is limited to only ten colleges for the ranking process, but they aren't required to put ten.



art | Charlie Bieg

"It's like a draft pick. Every team is going their order, but you list the order that teams can consider you in," said Crimmins. "If one passes, two passes, three passes, four passes, but five says yes, you now have a binding agreement with number five."

Qualifying as a QuestBridge scholar does not guarantee that an applicant gets matched with one of the colleges.

"This year, I think there were over 35,000 applications, and only 1,600 actually got into a school. So I knew that before coming in, that most likely I wouldn't get in through QuestBridge. So I had prepared the Common App in advance, but I ended up not needing it," said Karim.

There are different ways

that students learn about QuestBridge. One way is a summer QuestBridge program that allows juniors to learn more about the college admissions process. Another is by word of mouth.

"A majority of the time it's word of mouth from what I've seen here at SLUH. Students see success stories and then share it with fellow students that they believe would be a good candidate," said college counselor Daniel Shields. "Friends, parents, guidance counselors, teachers, or people outside that know of a good student that is high achieving can recommend them."

QuestBridge requires a lot of supplemental essays and an early submission, but the potential rewards are extraordinary.

"I think it's an amazing opportunity to give students that may not have looked at highly selective schools beforehand this chance," said Shields "This program is something that really gives opportunities and pathways forward to more competitive schools, and I would recommend it to anyone that meets the requirement because the possibilities are limitless."

"I just opened (the acceptance letter), and I started to tear up," said Karim of getting the news. "I didn't think it was possible for me to be able to go to a school like that, a top tier school on a full, four year scholarship."

NHS's Teacher Karaoke set to return next week

BY BEN CROAT AND
BILL ALBUS
REPORTERS

As semester exams creep up on Oakland Avenue, students are likely to need an outlet to release stress and have some fun before a rigorous, three days of testing. This year, like years prior to the pandemic, Teacher Karaoke will seek to provide the entertainment every student needs while they prepare for a treacherous week of testing.

Teacher Karaoke is hosted by the National Honor Society as a fundraising event. The donations collected go to a SLUH-related charity of choice. This year, the donations raised will go towards the Parent Project

Muscular Dystrophy charity which works to accelerate the research of Duchesne Syndrome and aid those with the condition. This charity has made a significant impact on freshman Henry Diemler, who has Duchesne's Syndrome.

"I feel grateful that they have decided to work with a charity that raises money for muscular dystrophy because it is a disease that affects me and others every single day," said Diemler.

In recent years, the Teacher Karaoke has supported various SLUH causes, such as Variety STL, which works with junior Nick George, or Knockout ALD, which worked with junior Nick Purschke.



art | Alex Deiters

Teacher Karaoke has a somewhat competitive format that rewards whoever receives the most donations for their respective act. Every act on stage is judged by the amount of donations that they receive during their act, and whoever is left with the most after the period is crowned the winner. Although some teachers may receive more donations than others, all the donations go directly to the Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy Charity.

"We're just hoping to raise awareness and some money for a good cause to support a member of our community, but also to have a lot of fun," said NHS moderator Lynne Casey. "Some teachers can legitimately sing but some are just really good sports and are willing to get up and do this for a great cause. It just shows what a great community of teachers we have here that they are willing to make a spectacle of themselves to spread good cheer and Christmas fun."

Led by NHS leaders seniors Gavin Lawhorn, John West, and Peter James, the NHS is showcasing their annual Teacher Karaoke this year in the Commons. A key part of the event has always been the energy given off from the hosts, and this year does not look to disappoint.

"We're thinking A.J. Thompson will host and I might help out as well, sort of Oscar style," said Lawhorn. "It's going to be a big surprise, but trust me it'll be good."

In the past, Teacher Karaoke has been headlined by a variety of teachers spanning every department here at SLUH to bring together the most viable suitors for this great showdown of vocal performances. The set-list has not been finalized yet, but there are a few hints at possible participants.

"We don't have a concrete set-list at the moment, and even if we did I don't know if I could reveal it," said Lawhorn. "You can expect some great acts from some great teachers spanning from the Language Department to Social Studies and English."

Students interested in attending the event can find a fun, lively demonstration of what the holiday season is truly about in the Si Commons during the last activity period of the semester next Tuesday, Dec. 14.

"It's been a really long semester and a lot of us are worn out so it will just be a good time for us to come together and make fun of teachers while supporting an amazing cause," said Lawhorn.

Peace, Joy, Love and Hope: the SLUH community reflects on 2021

JACK FIGGE AND
ALEX PREUSSER
EDITOR IN CHIEF,
CORE STAFF

While the world hurriedly rushes to hang stockings with care and prepare for Jolly Ol’ Saint Nick, Catholics embark on the journey of Advent, where the Church asks them to reflect on four virtues as they prepare their hearts for the coming of Christ. As 2021 draws to a close, St. Louis U. High students and faculty have applied those tenets to reflecting on the past year.

Peace

2020 brought with it a great amount of uncertainty and stress. Students and faculty were forced to be separated from each other. Teachers were forced to adapt to teaching in an asynchronous format, a synchronous virtual format, a hyflex model, and then a block schedule, all within a matter of months.

“Last year was filled with a lot of not knowing. You were constantly switching between different sections of students, but never knowing which students are actually going to show up or who’s going to be quarantined, or if I’m going to be quarantined,” said math teacher Stephen Deves. “The whole year just left you feeling like you never knew what the next day was going to look like. And that can be an uncomfortable place to be.”

2021 quickly delivered a great sense of peace to administrators and teachers. Eleven days after the world rang in the new year, SLUH

welcomed both of the cohorts back to campus together. This was the first time that all of the students had been on campus together since March of 2020.

As the 2020-2021 academic year was drawing to a close, the school revised many of its age-old traditions in order to ensure that its students were still celebrated. The school hosted two Masses of Praise and Gratitude, a modified awards ceremony for the upperclassmen, and a Junior Ring ceremony where they effectively pivoted after two separate rain delays. However, the climactic event was graduation, when the members of the Class of 2021 processed onto the football field to receive their diplomas. These significant moments brought administrators great peace as they saw their students join together to celebrate and give thanks for a tough school year.

“All those moments where we saw people come together to celebrate each other and to celebrate St. Louis University High School at the end of the school year was really special,” said President Alan Caruthers. “Those were the moments that really brought me a lot of excitement and peace because they helped me to see that, hey, we can still do this.”

Witnessing the school community gather together again in the same place also gave school leaders a great sense of peace, after a year of having to plan multiple events that could usually occur as one function. The first time the whole student body came together occurred was

at the Spirit Week pep rally where STUCO gathered the entire student body together to rile them up for the upcoming football game against the Normandy Vikings.

“The pep rally brought me so much peace because it had been so long since I had seen that many SLUH students in the stands,” said STUCO president AJ Thompson. “I remember worrying beforehand, if people were going to engage in it. And people did engage themselves in it, and it was awesome. It’s always nice to see everybody in there having a good time, laughing or talking or whatever, it just gives me so much joy.”

Joy

With the news cycle seemingly continuously reporting about one negative event after another, in 2020, many found it hard to find joy in the midst of all that brokenness.

“As the year has gone on, I have just been reminded of the grace that is in front of us every single day. We were kind of blind to last year because of how much we were just trying to get by.”

-Stephen Deves

The new year brought with it many new opportunities to see joy within the world. For a lot of teachers, joy was brought to their lives when they saw their students return back for what they were hoping to be a more normal year.

“I had this overwhelming experience of joy, as all of the students walked into the building on that first day back in August,” said Deves. “By the end of the previous year all the teachers were burnt out. We all just wanted summer. And then having that rest had us hoping that okay,

2021 is going to feel a little bit more normal, so we were all just excited I will get to see all of our students in person.”

Often the greatest joy does not come in the big events of the year, like BTSM or a football game, but in the mundane, the ordinary. For two Jesuits, they found the most joy in teaching and being able to interact with students on a more personal level.

“I was able to travel with the cross country team out to Colombia for state and just being present and seeing our guys perform to new levels of

excellence brought me a great sense of joy,” said principal Ian Gibbons SJ. “The guys had so much joy out there as a team and representing our community. It may be a small event in the course of the year, but it was a very beautiful one to me.”

“I have found a great deal of joy in teaching this year,” said Director of Campus Ministry Matt Stewart S.J. “I have 24 guys in the class. They all have shown interest in the material at some point and they’ve kind of dug in. It is an outstanding learning community which is based in love, which just brings so much joy to me.”

Love

An important aspect of SLUH is the camaraderie and brotherhood between Jr. Bills, and with the separation of the student body between cohorts last year, this defining characteristic of the community was limited. Now that the SLUH family is reunited, that love has been fostered and cultivated in a variety of ways.

“Having things taken away for a little bit makes you realize how nice it is to have them,” said Assistant Principal for Academics Dr. Kevin Foy. “So then when they come back, and even when they come back in increments, it does make it a little bit sweeter. It makes us understand what we took for granted. The whole community, certainly from the student side but also from the adult community side, has been able to reclaim some of the great things that perhaps we took for granted

continued on next page



Freshman Nick Bendana (left) and Gabe Chambers (right) eagerly hold outstretched hands to receive paint.

SLUH Events

“I know a lot of people are getting upset with Mr. Schulte trying to keep them spread out, but you’ve got to give him props cause he’s doing his job.”

-Mac Southern

January 11

SLUH welcomed all students back into the building for the first time since March

February 1

SLUH ACE’S host a Black History Month to educate students.

March 11

The final freshman steps foot on campus for the first time.

photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott



Fr. Joseph Hill S.J. leads the Class of 2021 on to the football field for graduation

April 16

Cashbah raises over \$1million for the SLUH community.

May 30

The class of 2021 graduates to a salutation of fireworks.

June 6-7

The class of 2025 embarks on their SLUH journey at a “normal direction days”.

“Direction Days had alot of team building and time with our homeroom which allowed me to start building the brotherhood.”

- Rudy Reitenbach

January

February

March

April

May

June

World Events

January 6

Rioters storm the capitol building protesting the election of Joseph Biden.

January 20

Joseph Biden is inagurated as the 46th president of the United States.

February 7

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers defeated the Kansas City Chiefs 31-9 in Super Bowl LV.

March 26

Vaccines administered in the US reaches 50 million.

“My parents are significantly older so there was a lot of incentive for me to be vaccinated so when I was spending time with them I could feel more comfortable.”

-Jamie Cordia

April 17

The Covid-19 global death toll surpasses 3 million.

May 5

Elon Musk’s SpaceX completes its first successful flight.

June 30

Number of Covid vaccines exceeds 3 billion globally.



Art | Charlie Bieg



Sophomore Ryan Wingo shakes off a Marquette defender. photo | Baxter Southern

(continued from previous page) before.”

Since the reunion of cohorts at the beginning of the calendar year, all types of events—academic, athletic, musical, and artistic—have slowly begun to resume.

“I loved the Mass of the Holy Spirit kicking of the year,” said Stewart. “I really enjoyed seeing a lot of the sports, and it’s been awesome. A lot of soccer, a lot of football. I love teaching my class. I love getting to work with these people in this office and all the cool programming we do. It’s been hard work, but it’s been awesome.”

It’s not just the planned, scheduled events on the calendar or in the classroom that have brought the community back together. For some, it’s the smaller, more intimate moments that characterize the brotherhood and love of SLUH.

“I see students interacting outside of class when they’re in social scenarios, and for all

intents and purposes, there’s nobody who’s going to yell at them for misbehaving,” explained Foy. “And they’re generous and they’re happy to be with each other. So I think students are a little bit more natural, because I’m not their Econ teacher anymore, you know. So, I think when I see people interacting, it is probably a little bit more genuine and it’s wonderful. Everyone is as generous and kind and open to one another as I could hope.”

The loss of these connections in 2020 didn’t sever the bond between Jr. Bills, but rather in the brief absence of connection, the brotherhood was strengthened.

“Just as the year has gone on, just being reminded of the grace that is in front of us every single day, we were kind of blind to last year because of how much we were just trying to get by,” said Deves. “But now that we have a little bit more stability, and a little bit more consistency in our

days, I think we are much more aware of all those moments of grace or God’s presence where God speaks to other people, where someone brings you a smile, or a class just makes you feel happy, or

“(The end of the year events) were the moments that really brought me a lot of excitement and peace because they helped me to see that, hey, we can still do this.”
-Alan Carruthers

you’re just excited to be with your students.”

In the face of difficulty and hardship, Jr. Bills across the board have stayed resilient in their loving relationships with each other, upholding the unshakable community of St. Louis U. High.

“All the guys I’ve talked to say they are right at the end. That’s what it comes down to,” said Carruthers. “It comes down to ‘Are they learning?’ and ‘Are they enjoying it while they’re here?’ And I think generally the answer is yes. So that’s why I do what I do. When I see the boys in the morning and I’m standing in the hallway and they’re excited to be at school. They’re laughing with each other. Happy to see the teachers. That’s the whole point, and the fact that we’re moving forward as a school to make that experience better and better, incrementally better.”

Hope

While the relationships that students have strengthened after the pandemic have brought a great deal of joy and love to students and faculty, there is still more to be done. One action that SLUH must take to truly build up

its famous brotherhood is to build better relationships between students from different grades.

“One thing that I really hope and work for currently is inter-class interaction. I think that’s something that we, as a school, have struggled with in the past,” said Thompson. “The freshmen stick with the freshmen, sophomore stick with the sophomores, and etc. What I hope to see is more activities and care for more interaction between the classes.”

As the SLUH community has successfully begun to move away from the uncertainties and chaos associated with 2020, it will continue to progress forward in 2022. The further construction of strengthened community bonds and relationships, improved academic strategies, and updated campus facilities are all at the forefront.

“If we could all say that we were better friends in real life,

then that would be a victory to come out of something that honestly doesn’t have a ton of victories to it,” said Foy. “We’re going to look back at this and it’s not going to be easy to find victories. So if we can do a good job and find some of those victories that’ll be pretty great.”

Looking toward the future, administrators feel that they have created a model that will help the school to thrive and move out of the tunnel of darkness of the pandemic and into a new era.

“Evaluation, reflection, action, and you’ve got to keep going around that cycle,” said Carruthers. “Using your imagination and constantly improving and constantly trying to build the kingdom of God on earth. It’s not a moment. It’s a process. And I think St. Louis University High School is in a great position which gives me a lot of hope.”



The entire studentbody gathered for the first time at the Spirit Week Pep Rally. photo | Isaiah Hinkebein

“Last year was rough for everybody. For us to come together at BTSM, whether we were dressed up in jorts, moshing togher or drinking water in the back, I think it’s important that we were all together in one place.”
-Matthew Kluba

August 20

STUCO hosts the annual BTSM in the Drury Plaza.

September 3

The Class of 2025 completes its Running of the Bills but at a soccer home game.

October 16

SLUH students and dates dance the night away at Fall Ball 2021, the first formal dance after the pandemic.

December 1

40 students and faculty march through midtown protesting gun violence.



photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

August 27

The Class of 2024 participates in its Running of the Bills.

STUCO members enthusiastically hype up the crowd at BTSM on the Drury Plaza.

October 17

Administration announces that the school would go mask recommened, reverts back to mask manda-toy policy one week later.

November 1

SLUH celebrates the frist All Saints Day Mass, the first all school Mass since Ash Wednesday, 2020.

November 5

Football defeats Marquette 35-28 and advances to Districts for the first time since 2011, where they fall to CBC 42-21.

“I lost two of my cousins to gun violence in 2021. I came out to show my support for the people who have lost a loved one due to gun violence like I have.”
-Matthew Taylor

July

August

September

October

November

December

July 23

After being delayed, the 2020 Olympics take place in Tokyo, Japan where the US won 113 medals.

August 15

The Taliban capture Kabul. All US troops begin to complete troop evacuations.

September 11

The 20-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

October 29

Administration announces that the school would go mask recommened, reverts back to mask manda-toy policy one week later.

November 26

The World Health Organization classifies a new variant of Covid-19, the Omicron variant.

November 30

Four high school students were tragically killed in the Oxford school shooting in Michigan.

December 6

The United States announced a diplomatic boycott on the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics.

December 6

The United States becomes the first country to surpass 50 million Covid-19 cases.

“The Kabul attacks gave me an overwhelming sense of helplessness, of powerlessness. I had no way to affect the outcome in that moment.”
-Peter Lucier '08



Senior Max Telken goes for a backhand against Parkway West.

photo | Stephen Deves

Racquetball easily tops Kirkwood, send several players deep into Winter Rollout bracket

BY CHARLIE VONDERHEID
REPORTER

After cruising through its first match against CBC, the varsity racquetball team won its match against Kirkwood 6-0 and had several deep runs in the annual Winter Rollout Tournament.

Against Kirkwood, top seed Will Shorey (Sr.) beat Zach West in two games, each by a score of 15-9.

“I think the biggest thing was serving, like it was last week,” Shorey said. “I was hitting some good serves and he was giving me some cherries to hit back.”

At No. 2, senior Max Telken earned his first win of the season over Sam Neunritter 15-11, 10-15, 11-8. This is the second week in a row where Telken has played a match to three games; this time, he came out on top with a win.

Senior Danny Phillips coasted by Ryan Sanner with an easy win 15-8, 15-4 in his No. 4 singles match. The lefty has stayed undefeated and has

not faced much competition in the first two weeks of the season, winning each of his matches by a fair margin.

The highest seeded junior on the team, Nick Heinlein at No. 5, defeated Chris Plants 15-4, 15-13.

“I hit a lot of wide angle passes,” said Heinlein. “The guy was probably 6-foot-6 and that helped with the overall strategy of the game and being able to beat him.”

In racquetball, a pass is not your typical kill shot. The kill shot is supposed to be hit hard and low to the ground so the ball is dead by the time the opponent tries to return it. A pass, however, is hit softer and is more about placing the ball where your opponent isn’t. Heinleien exploited his opponent because taller opponents are typically slower and struggle to defend against well-placed passes.

Senior Clark Martin, the No. 6 seed, defeated Timmy Markee, 15-12, 15-10. While his games were closer than the others, Martin still played sol-

idly. He has the ability to ace anyone at any given point and has a natural feel for putting powerful shots down.

The doubles team of juniors Max Adelman and Luke Dannegger escaped with a close win over Tyler Kraichely and Nicholas Whittington as well. After falling down early, they adjusted the game plan and come out on top.

“We started serving to the weaker opponent,” said Adelman. “We just really bullied him the whole game and that’s how we got most of our points later in the match.”

After losing the first game 8-15, they adjusted midway through the second game and won 15-13. Adelman and Dannegger dominated in the tiebreaker, winning 11-3.

The only SLUH player to not win against Kirkwood was No.3 senior Jared Thornberry, whose match had to be re-scheduled.

After SLUH beat Kirkwood, they turned around quickly and they participated in the annual Winter Rollout

Tournament two days later. The tournament is divided up into six divisions, with the varsity team being spread between the 1st and 2nd divisions. Shorey, Telken, Thornberry, and Phillips were all placed into the 1st division while Heinlein, Martin, Dannegger and Adelman were placed into the 2nd division.

In the 1st division, a 32-man bracket, Phillips and Thornberry made it to the round of 16 before losing in tightly-contested matches. Phillips lost to CBC No.1 seed Jake Schmidt 11-9, 5-11, 3-11, while Thornberry lost to CBC No. 3 seed Spencer Keith 9-11, 11-5, 9-11.

Telken made it one round further, to the quarterfinals, before losing 2-11, 1-11 to Parkway West No. 1 seed and eventual champion Adam Lancia.

Shorey made it all the way to the finals against Lancia, losing in a back and forth match 10-11, 11-1, 2-11. Shorey played all day and was worn out by the end of the

tournament.

“The tournaments are a lot of fun, they push you really hard, I just ran out of steam towards the end,” he said. “I love them but they are much, much harder than when you are playing fresh.”

The bottom half of varsity dominated the second half of the bracket with three of the four semifinalists being members of SLUH varsity in the 32-man bracket. Danneger made it to the round of 16 before losing in three games to No. 6 Sam Kallaos from Parkway West, 11-4, 6-11, 6-11.

Martin and Adelman faced each other in one of the semifinals matches in a back and forth match. Adelman won the first game 11-8, surprising Martin. However, Martin came back firing and dominated the second game, winning 11-2. And in the tiebreaker, neither one would give up, with Martin narrowly edging out Adelman by two points to advance to the finals against another SLUH opponent, Nick Heinlein.

Martin and Heinlein went back and forth in the first game. Martin eventually snuck out an 11-10 win. With Heinlein possibly down to his last game of the tournament, he came back in the second game and won another closely contested game, 11-9. In the tiebreaker, Heinlein showed no mercy to Martin, not allowing a single point. After playing close matches and tiebreakers, Heinlein was just as worn out as Shorey.

“I was super tired at the end,” said Heinlein. “I had to bring multiple pairs of socks and my legs were really sore that day”

In all, SLUH had a very successful Winter Rollout Tournament. With Will Shorey making it to the finals of a very challenging 1st division, and sending three players to the semifinals in the 2nd division, SLUH maintained their dominance early on in the season.

Hockey handles business against Rockwood Summit, prepares for tough stretch of games

BY LOUIS CORNETT
CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High hockey team faced off against Rockwood Summit in their only game this week. In a game that was closely contested to the last period, the Jr. Bills slipped out of the Fenton Ice Rink with a 5-2 win, improving their record to 6-1-1. Trailing only CBC in their division, SLUH looks to capitalize on a strong second half of the season in order to claim the top playoff spot.

Rockwood Summit took the lead 5:21 into the first period. However, less than 30 seconds later, senior captain Max Sextro tied the game up with a backdoor tap in.

“We didn’t panic after they scored,” said Sextro.

However, the deadlock did not last for long. Rockwood Summit reclaimed the lead 7:26 into the first, and although it looked as if SLUH and Summit would be exchanging goals all night, Summit had just scored their last goal while junior Wyatt Gotschall played the final two periods like a brick wall, letting nothing in.

“After the first period, he literally yelled across the bench, ‘Those are on me. I am not letting up another goal,’” said Walters. “He was very focused after that.”

Trailing by a goal, SLUH turned on the jets in the remainder of the first, scoring two goals in the last few minutes. Junior Luke Gund tied the game up and then senior Zack Petlanksy put the Jr. Bills up with an assist from his brother, sophomore Logan Petlansky, and junior Curtis Bruen.

“We started out that game with a couple really good shifts,” said head coach Steve Walters. “We started taking some risks that allowed them to get some odd man rushes and scoring chances which they capitalized off. We took a break at the end of the first period and just simplified our game.”

After a lively start to the game with a five-goal first period, the second period appeared much less action-packed with no goals being scored.

“It was really just a back and forth game,” said Sextro. “There was a couple minutes when we would dominate and

then they would dominate. It was just an action-packed game.”

Heading into the third period up by one, the Jr. Bills added two more goals for good measure. Sophomore Daniel Sendobry added his goal 7:24 into the final period while sophomore Henry Unger scored his first varsity goal with only a minute left in the third to bring the final score to 5-2 SLUH.

“We had one roster spot left open, and Thursday night, the coaching staff decided to call Henry to fill the spot,” said Walters. “He was very excited and the way he played the whole game, the team got rallied behind him.”

Heading into the second half of the season, the Jr. Bills are looking to continue their run of success, hoping to secure the top playoff spot over CBC.

“We are happy with the way we have played,” said Sextro. “We have had some iffy games, but I think we know what we can do, and what we are capable of. We showed it in the De Smet game and are just trying to get to the point where we can

show that day in and day out.”

Before Christmas break, the Jr. Bills will take on Vianney twice, Chaminade once, and Francis Howell once before enjoying a few days break before the second half of the Road to the Cup fully gets underway.

“December is always a crunch,” said Walters. “They always load a lot of games in there. And we are in that stretch now. We have a lot of very important games. What we are focus on now, I know it sounds cliché, is just one game at a time.”

With all the hype surrounding the second half of the season, the Jr. Bills released their annual hockey hoodie this week. The hoodies have been on sale all week and will be again today at lunch. The student body has received the 2022 sweatshirts with positive reviews

“I really like the return of the baby blue color,” said senior Mark Wappler. “It is my favorite SLUH hockey color and I like the little pucks symbolizing the state titles the team has won.”

SLUHSERS Archive: Hockey Hoodies edition

AMDG

Volume 86, Issue 14

Wrestling opens with loss to Windsor, Owens leads rebound in Westminster Tournament

BY NATHAN RICH
SPORTS EDITOR

SLUH wrestling is finally back on the mats this season as they prepare to overcome the odds stacked against them. After losing a talented senior class last year, including state-contenders Bobby Conroy and Logan Neumann, the team now features a smaller but dedicated group of upperclassmen and a growing number of new wrestlers.

“This is definitely a rebuilding year for us, but it’s been great to see how our team has grown after we lost a lot of seniors last year,” said senior Alex Nance. “We’re having to teach a lot of new people.”

So far, the season’s start has been shaky. The team’s first meet against Windsor and Oakville on Dec. 2 had some disappointing losses. Against Windsor, the team failed to get a pin in any of their four varsity matches. Competing at the team’s highest weight class (182) was junior Pau Thang. Thang, in only his second match for SLUH, struggled to take any shots against his Windsor opponent. After surviving the first round with good sprawls, he was thrown to the ground midway through the second with a move that SLUH has come to expect from Windsor.

Further down the classes, the results were similar. Senior captain Jack Onder came

out with significant intensity in the first round, but also fell victim to a classic Windsor throw. Onder escaped the near pin, but was forced to stay on the ground for most of his match. Onder avoided a pin for the entire 6 minutes, but did not score enough points to win the match.

Nance and junior Conor Whalen, the final two varsity wrestlers, were also dealt strong throws that forced them to the ground and ultimately ended the match. That one move, which the team had overlooked, ended up being their downfall against Windsor.

The team rebounded slightly against Oakville on the same night, as Whalen earned a tough win on points and Thang pinned his opponent, establishing his first win on the varsity team. Overall, though, the team did not see much success in their opening meet.

That momentum shifted two days later, though, when the Jr. Bills took to Westminster to compete in their first tournament of the year. In a busy sea of 16 other teams, they faced significant opposition. In each 16-man weighted bracket, the top three wrestlers earned medals. That was the goal for SLUH going in.

“We obviously wanted to place. We really wanted to get back in the swing of things and rebound from our rusty match against Windsor as well. It was a great experience

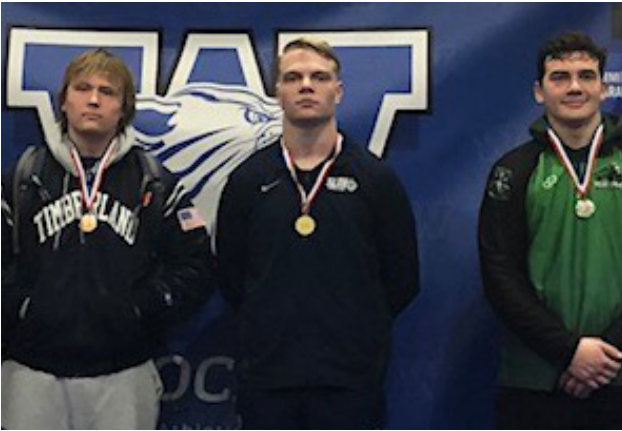


photo | Courtesy of @SLUHWres- Owens (center) claiming hardware.

for everyone,” Nance said.

Senior and Captain, Cayden Owens, who wrestled in the 220 weight class, was the day’s standout star. Owens qualified for state last year and was able to continue his success by taking first place in his group. To get there, Owens won against 5 other competitors. To make it more impressive, Owens weighed in at 195 lbs before the match, so the fact that he won against opponents some 30 lbs heavier than him is significant.

Thang (182 lbs.) and Onder (152 lbs.) also saw success in that tournament. Both wrestlers made it to the semifinals before ending their runs in hard fought matches.

“I was able to focus a lot more and work on my take-downs... It felt good to get those wins, while my coaches and team were cheering on the sidelines,” said Thang. “Supporting my teammates is the best as I always learn from the outcome, win or lose.”

The ups and downs of the first few events for the Jr. Bills is something they hope to iron out by midseason. The highs, though, do show a lot of promise for the team this year, which features several members with the skill to make it to state.

“We’re really excited this year because with this amount of people, things are really looking up for our program and we are happy that we can even compete in this pandemic,” Nance said. “Things should be promising for us.”

After a long break, the team’s next meet will be against Lindbergh and Fox on Jan. 4. Both teams feature strong competition. The Fox match should be especially notable for the team, as both groups work together often in off season practices.

—Alex Nance contributed reporting.

Underclassmen Briefs

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| B Basketball | Freshman Basketball (White) |
| 11/30-Cardinal Ritter | 12/1- Fort Zumwalt East |
| SLUH 48 | SLUH 32 |
| Cardinal Ritter 52 | FZE 31 |
| 12/1-Miller Career Academy | 12/2- Rock Bridge |
| SLUH 50 | SLUH 9 |
| MCA 46 | Rock Bridge 59 |
| 12/4-Gateway JV Tournament Championship Game(CBC) | 12/3- Oakville |
| SLUH 41 | SLUH 35 |
| CBC 51 | Oakville 60 |
| 12/6-Marquette | Freshman Basketball (Blue) |
| SLUH 48 | 11/29-Mehlville |
| Marquette 41 | SLUH 38 |
| | Mehlville 49 |
| 12/9-Northwest JV Tournament Championship Game(Webster Groves) | 11/29-Mehlville |
| SLUH 39 | SLUH 38 |
| Webster 52 | Mehlville 49 |
| JV 1 Racquetball | 12/1-U City |
| 11/1 JV1-2 vs. Kirkwood-B | SLUH 27 |
| SLUH- 1 | U City 24 |
| Kirkwood- 4 | |
| 11/11 JV1-1 vs. JV1-2 | 12/2-Lindbergh |
| SLUH JV1-1- 5 | SLUH 19 |
| SLUH JV1-2- 0 | Lindbergh 42 |
| 11/11 JV1-3 vs. Kirkwood | 12/9- Hazelwood Central |
| SLUH- 2 | SLUH 15 |
| Kirkwood- 3 | Hazelwood 44 |
| 11/29 JV1-1 vs. Lindbergh | |
| SLUH- 4 | |
| Lindbergh- 1 | |
| 11/29 JV1-2 vs. JV1-3 | |
| SLUH JV1-2- 3 | |
| SLUH JV1-3- 2 | |

—compiled by Thomas Juergens and Micah Doherty

Led by senior talent, rifle hopes to qualify for Nationals

BY JACK RYBAK
CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High rifle team opened the doors to the range in November to begin practicing for the team’s 77th season. The team consists of 34 total shooters, nine of whom are freshman. Recent positive changes to Covid protocols have created a spark for the team, and have the coaches eagerly awaiting scores and a trip to Camp Perry Ohio to compete in Nationals.

While the team is still masked up, shooters welcomed the removal of inter-point barriers and the ability to travel out of state for competitions. The removal of the barriers is the first step for the team to return to normalcy. However, there are still changes the coaches would like to see that would help the team reach Ohio in July.

“I think masks are ap-

propriate until we are on the line getting ready to shoot,” said team captain Sam Quinlivan. “Breathing patterns and cheek placement are essential to achieve a consistency necessary to succeed in shooting, masks interfere with both of these aspects.”

The team will be shooting in the US Army Junior Air Rifle National Championship Qualifier this weekend and will be playing host to seven other high schools. Should the Jr. Bills qualify, they will travel to compete Fort Wayne, Ind., a trip the team could not make last season.

Even as the season’s start approaches, the top team is still undecided. The abilities of all the shooters are very similar, which makes the top four positions up for the taking. With the aid of senior captains Grant Grabowski and Quinlivan,

the current senior shooters have shown the capability to score high and earn a spot both at State and Nationals.

“We have seen the talent in the senior class for the past three years,” said head coach Will Bresnahan. “This team can make it to Nationals.”

The junior class also has plenty of talent. Over the summer, juniors Mason Wodciker and Michael Lumetta each qualified for the Junior Olympics, and had a strong showing. Coaches are excited to see how they perform in the first in person match of the season.

“I think our juniors have a lot of potential as well,” said assistant coach Hayden Steingrubby, ’19. “I am excited to see their scores as we move through the season.”



art | Will Blaisdell

Commit’s Corner



Kramer cruises by a Cardinal Ritter defender.

photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

Kramer heading to SLU basketball

BY COBY SPRATTE
CORE STAFF

Senior Nick Kramer will be taking his basketball talents to St. Louis University next year, after announcing his signing with the Billikens this past summer. He represents the second member of the Class of 2022 to commit to SLU for athletics, joining Jack DuMont who will be on the baseball team.

Continuing his basketball career in college comes as no surprise to Kramer.

“Ever since I was a kid, my goal was to play Division One basketball,” Kramer said. “It’s been my goal my entire life, so it’s nice all the hard work has

finally paid off.”

Kramer, a 6-foot-4 guard, has been an avid SLU fan all his life, so the decision wasn’t too difficult.

“I’ve always been a fan of SLU. Big fan. I always went to their games. It was my best offer and Coach Ford really went in with the full court press and wanted me to commit that day, so it was really hard to say no to him,” Kramer said.

Throughout the decision process, Kramer took to heart the advice his previous coaches gave him in making this monumental decision.

“I was always told by my coaches, go where

you’re wanted and not where you want to go,” Kramer remembered. “I really want to go to SLU, but it’s really nice to see how much they want me, too.”

He will join an impressive Atlantic-10 program that finished 23-8 last season, and is 7-3 in the early going of the 2021-22 season.

Despite such an impressive track record, Kramer is confident he will be able to make an impact however he can.

“I’m just gonna do what they want me to do and be a good teammate. Hopefully, I will come in and get a good role,” Kramer said.

STUCO hosts 12 Days of Christmas festivities to much applause



Switch Bar on Day 4. photo | Jack Figge

(continued from page 1)
ams can hinder our ability to really celebrate Christmas while still in school, so we want to provide some concrete opportunities for students to really dive into the great joy that Christmas can bring.”

On Dec. 1, STUCO kicked off 12 Days of Christmas with a screening of the beloved holiday comedy *Elf* in the Commons during lunch. Later in the day, the schedule of events was released to the whole school, building up much anticipation within the student body.

“I was pumped to see all of the stuff that STUCO had planned for us,” said sophomore Jackson Dauska. “With Covid and everything last year, we weren’t really able to have anything fun around the holidays, so it was nice to see that there were fun things planned for this year.”

The schedule release also caused upperclassmen to

reminisce on memories made during 12 Days of Christmas in previous years, as many time-honored traditions made their return after a year-long Covid pause.

Said junior Brendan Jones, “Thinking back to freshman year, I really had a great time watching Teacher Karaoke. It was fun to see the teachers go up there and show off their talents, or lack thereof, and it was truthfully a defining memory of my freshman year, so I am looking forward to that event.”

Throughout all of last week, STUCO also sold 12 Days of Christmas merch on its online store, allowing students to purchase a “Schulte on the Shelf” shirt or a 12 Days of Christmas crewneck to get into the festive spirit.

On the second day, STUCO took advantage of the late start schedule to provide students with Chris’ Cakes, a breakfast catering service long-patronized by students.

The theme of nourishment to start off the day was continued into Friday, as STUCO handed out donuts to students and helped to encourage a strong showing at the optional Daily Mass.

On Monday, the late start schedule was once again utilized to provide students with early morning sustenance, as the J-Wing switchboard was made into the “Switch Bar” for the day. Before school, sounds of breakfast chatter and smooth jazz emanated from the Switch Bar, as some of STUCO’s resident bartenders served coffee and Fizz’s Root Beer to patrons. The Switch Bar was open not only before school but during lunch and activity period, meaning that the bar received traffic throughout the day.

“I had an excellent time at the Switch Bar,” said junior Giuseppe Abbate. “It was kind of chaotic, but it was fun to sip on some root beer and talk with

my friends before school. I think it would be fun if they made this like a more regular thing, but even if it can’t be regular I hope they bring the Switch Bar back for 12 Days of Christmas next year.”

Tuesday featured an Egg-nog Relay Contest at lunch, in which five students from each grade raced to see which class could down five cups of egg-nog in the fastest time, with the losing class responsible for stacking the winning class’s chairs.

“I personally find egg-nog repulsive, so I was content to just watch the contest unfold. You could kind of tell from the start that (my class) wasn’t going to win, but it was still fun to get caught up in the fanfare of it all. I can’t say I was too big of a fan of stacking the seniors’ chairs afterwards, though,” said junior Nathan Spengemann.

Wednesday gave students a chance to turn back the clock to childhood by taking pictures with Santa (Assistant Dean of Students Dan Schulte) and Mrs. Claus (English teacher Jamie Cordia). This opportunity was met with much excitement from students of all grade levels, who took pleasure in taking a break from school work to relive early Christmas memories.

“My picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus has definitely defined my whole week,” said junior Patrick Brennan. “Now that I’m older, it was just so fun to be able to sit on Santa’s lap and tell him what I want for Christmas. Since it was just Mr. Schulte under that beard, I’m not totally sure that my wish for neon green rims for my Chrysler minivan will be

conveyed to the North Pole, but it was still a great time regardless.”

STUCO members themselves have recognized the success of 12 Days of Christmas so far, as their goal of fostering school spirit and providing a fun outlet for students during the holiday season has been realized.

Said Thompson, “We have received some great feedback from our events already, whether that can be from faculty who happened to be walking by a certain event, students who participated fully in the event, or parents who saw some clips from the event on social media. It’s really refreshing to see our hard work being appreciated by so many, especially coming off a rough last year in terms of not being able to do any school-wide events.”

Last night, STUCO put on its long-awaited Open Mic Night, which was initially scheduled to happen during Spirit Week but was ultimately postponed. Student

turnout exceeded expectations, as some of St. Louis U. High’s most talented individuals put on a show for a small but rowdy group of around 25 spectators.

Going into next week, STUCO has three different in-person events scheduled to keep the Christmas spirit flowing into exam week. On Monday, the ninth day will be celebrated by giving back to the community and writing Christmas cards to decorate Children’s Hospital. Tuesday will see the return of the beloved Teacher Karaoke, which is planned and executed by NHS as a fundraiser.

Despite being a day off of school, STUCO plans to hold a social media event on Wednesday, helping to continue to expand the Christmas spirit even away from school. The twelfth and final day, which happens to be the first day of semester exams, will allow students to skip Starbucks and instead grab their coffee in the Currihan Room.



Open Mic Night. photo | Roarke Unrau

Campus Ministry collects gifts and monetary donations to help over 100 area families

(continued from page 1)
essential needs for their family. These gift cards are given to St. Francis Community Services, an organization who aids vulnerable people in the St. Louis region.

“I’m glad we have so many opportunities to share with the St. Louis community,” said junior Alex Deiters. “It’s nice we can spread a little Christmas cheer to people in need.”

The SLUH community has helped the St. Francis Community Services for around 20 years now with the Adopt-A-Family Drive.

“The Adopt-A-Family drive began as a STUCO drive in the early 2000’s,” said Campus Ministry coordinator Simone Anzalone. “In 2012, the Campus Ministry took over the drive with the help of the Mother’s Club.”

The SLUH Mothers Club was integral to advertising the drive. Members from the

Mothers Club stood outside every morning with signs and big cutouts of gift cards, hoping to remind students to donate to the drive. They were committed and didn’t let the freezing cold stop them from handing out candy canes and Hershey’s kisses to passing students.

“Seeing all the moms with signs in the morning has made it easy not to forget to donate to the drive,” said junior John Younger. “It motivates me to help spread the cheer.”

The Adopt-A-Family Drive has faced many challenges over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic. Rather than students purchasing essential needs, they had to resort to the purchasing of gift cards as it was the only safe way to preserve the drive. However, this challenge has brought a positive change in the eyes of campus ministry as the people receiving the cards now have

freedom in what goods they buy.

“Each homeroom would adopt a family and purchase requested items such as toiletries, household goods, toys, and clothing,” said Anzalone. “Covid ushered in a new way of proceeding with the drive, a gift card drive. Purchasing gift cards has been a positive change that allows the clients of St. Francis Community Services the dignity and autonomy to select more personal

gifts for their family members.”

These gifts create a greater sense of connection back to the purpose of the drive: helping families in need for the Christmas season.

“The purpose of the drive is to offer those in our community who live below the poverty line the opportunity to have a nice Christmas with their family,” said Anzalone. “This year we supported 227 members of the St. Louis community.”



Moms advertising the Drive. photo | Jack Figge

Faculty formation charter to help guide teachers

(continued from page 1)
the past four months. While the charter is not implementing any of the changes that they are making during this school year, faculty and staff can expect to see the changes coming within the next few years, including a loose version of the new mentorship program which is set to go into effect in August 2022.

“The biggest thing that we’ve been looking at is a more formal mentoring program for new teachers when they are hired,” said Gilmore. “It is broken into two tiers: a new hire who has a lot of teaching experience, versus a new hire who might be new to teaching.”

The goal of the mentoring program is to help the new teachers and faculty members get better-acclimated to life at SLUH.

“Our main goal is to make the experience of the faculty member better-known, supported, and more solidified so that everyone knows what to expect as a faculty member,” said Moeser.

While the revisions being made to the Faculty Forma-

tion aspect of SLUH are certainly significant in the eyes of members of the faculty and staff, students’ lives will not be changed too much by this piece of the Summit, but the small changes that students do see will be positive.

“To make new hires feel adjusted to this place and ready to be the best educator they can certainly has a positive impact on the student,” said Gilmore. “It will just make the classroom experience much more enjoyable and informative for those students.”

Moeser and Gilmore both feel that the Summit was a call to action to thoroughly examine the faculty life aspect of SLUH and formalize an approach towards making it better.

“We’re looking at the student experience on one hand,” said Moeser. “But the other piece of the school is, of course, the faculty experience, so we do not want to leave out that important part of, how are the faculty growing, changing, and improving from year to year?”

Interested in writing, photography or
creating art for the *Prep News*?
Email prepnews@sluh.org to get involved!

Band concert wows
SLUH community in
extraordinary performaces



Justin Glass plays violin. photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

(continued from page 1)
percussion.

“It was a great hit. (Keller is) a very good singer and piano player,” reflected Pottinger.

By the end of the night, the two jazz bands welcomed the Christmas season with jazzy Christmas songs. Jazz 2, under the direction of Joseph Koestner, played the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic “My Favorite Things,” while Jazz 1 played a version of “Go Tell it on the Mountain.”

The other Jazz 1 song, “Overjoyed,” was adapted from the Stevie Wonder hit of the same name and featured junior Cody Cox on tenor saxophone and senior Jude Fucetola on piano. Both artists ended the night on a high note with skillful solos that echoed through the Commons.

While the jazz concert was only mildly related to Christmas, no one could doubt the holiday mood on Tuesday night. After a moving cello solo on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” by senior Lauer Stix to begin the concert, members of all five bands encircled the audience in the Commons for the opening piece: “Fanfare and Processional on an Old English Carol.”

From there, Fun Band again kicked off the concert, this time playing such hits as “Christmas in Montego Bay” and “A Treasury of Carols,” which included all of the holiday classics.

After Fun Band, movie scores seemed to highlight the rest of the concert. Chamber Orchestra played a shortened version of Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker Suite.” While not explicitly from a movie, that piece featured classic lines that every audience member recognized. The Chamber Orchestra also played “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” which featured piano and percussion accompaniment. For orchestra and all the groups as well, these pieces, although quite difficult, came together because of the dedication of Pottinger and his team, which included Koestner and percussion specialist Michael Faris.

“The teachers did a great job of preparing us,” reflected viola player Jens Istvan. “They encouraged us to keep working hard but also helped us learn slowly, increasing the tempo

by a few beats per minute each practice.”

The Concert Band played next. Their closing piece was selections from The Nightmare before Christmas. That song’s percussion was a highlight for many as it featured some unique sounds that were made to sound like Christmas toys and construction noises.

After an encore performance from Jazz 1, a percussion ensemble that featured combined performers from Symphonic and Concert Band played “Carol of the Bells.” Conducted by Faris, the piece featured marimba, bell parts, timpani, and other drums. Finally, Symphonic Band closed out the night on a more thoughtful note. Freshman Patrick Jones led a short reflection on the birth of Jesus before the group started up on “O Magnum Mysterium,” a slow piece that aims to capture the feeling of being in the manger when

“There were reflections done by students on how much God works with music, which really added to the beauty within the concert.”

-Otto Reitenbach

Jesus was born. “I thought the reflections were a great add because it allowed the students to share what the music meant to them as well as what it meant to be a Christian during this holiday season,” reflected senior Jared Thornberry.

Of course, the Symphonic band did have to end with a fun piece as well. They played selections from Home Alone before all the groups reunited for a final send off. Overall, the night was a big success for Pottinger and the band program, which has endured significant adversity through the pandemic.

“I was really proud of the boys, and they played very well,” said Pottinger. “They’ve come so far in the last few years, because some of those guys even started online last year, and they’ve done a great job.”

SLUH looks for new partner in Covid study
after SLU drops out

(continued from page 1)
makes the school a perfect test subject.

“It would be a shame not to make use of our incredible (vaccine) numbers,” he reflected.

In the meantime, the administration is seeking a plan B.

“The next question (for us) is who else might have those (researching capabilities). Maybe at Wash U., maybe at UMSL or some other partner organization. We might move in a different direction with the city and our plan,” said Gibbons. “I wish we had clarity in that regard.”

Gibbons even suggested that technology could allow a university or group from outside the city to conduct a study on SLUH.

Dr. Frederick Echols, the Commissioner of the City of St. Louis Department of Health, was also scheduled to be at the meeting, but had to cancel due to an emergency CDC meeting. Echols, as a representative from the city, would have provided additional options for the school moving forward in their relationship with the city. After all, it was the relationship between SLUH and the city of St. Louis that prompted a study in the first place. Instead, Gibbons and the group from SLUH will meet with him early next week to talk about more options.

With the study on hold, students can expect little change in the coming weeks. “What that means is that in all likelihood there won’t be a shift (in safety protocol) for the start of next semester but we still continue to work through that,” Gibbons said.

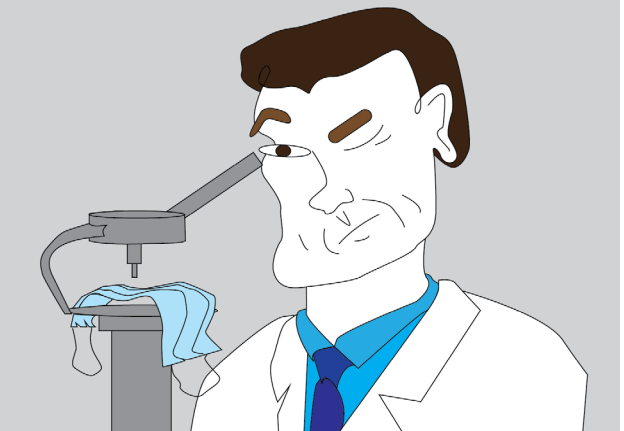
One potential challenge to that could be coming at the end of this year, though, when the verdict of Robinson v. Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services goes into effect. The case, which was decided in Cole County on Nov. 22, challenged the legality of public health mandates used to slow the spread of Covid-19 and ultimately held that the mask mandate put into place by St. Louis County Executive Sam Page had exceeded the power of his office. The decision is set to reverse that order and had significant ramifications for Missouri public

schools as well. In a letter from his office this past Tuesday, Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt stated that as a result of the case, public schools will no longer have the power to enforce mask mandates and suggested that public schools that continued to impose such protocol would be prosecuted.

As for the decision’s effect on SLUH, it remains to be seen. For one, SLUH is in the City of St. Louis, and the city’s mask policy was put into place by the city council, not a singular executive. This means the case does not explicitly impact the city’s ruling, although the case sets possible precedent that could be used

to overturn the ruling. “We’ll have to see,” put Gibbons simply. “We’ll start in Condition III and we still have some more conversations to have in that regard, but we’re running out of time (before the end of the school year).”

Editor’s Note: This story contains a correction of a previous article on the proposed mask study. It was reported that a study would take place while still in Condition III. However, if a study is to be conducted, it would mean returning to a mask-recommended protocol and studying the results.



art |Alex Nance

¡Felicidades!
Congratulations
to Spanish
teacher Maria-
Paz Campos
on becoming a
United States
Citizen!



Around the Hallways

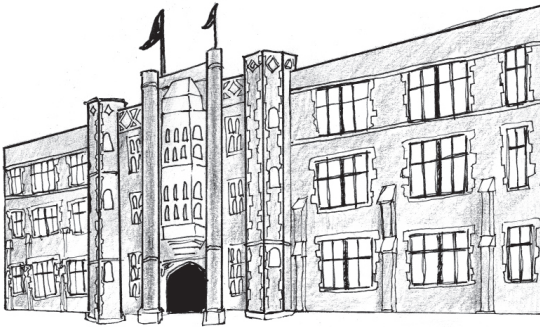
Immaculate Conception
On Wednesday, SLUH gathered as a whole school in the Danis Field House to celebrate the Mass of the Immaculate Conception. The mass was presided by Ralph Houlihan SJ, with help from Matthew Stewart SJ, and Ian Gibbons SJ.

Hockey Hoodies
Throughout the week SLUH’s famous ‘Road to the Cup’ hockey hoodies have been on sale in the Si Commons during lunch. They will be on sale today during lunch as well for the final time. If you haven’t

already bought one, make sure to bring \$20 for a baby blue hockey hoodie.

Eggnog Hero
Senior Ricky Vuylsteke has had an eventful week as videos of him preparing to chug eggnog have been shown in the Commons during junior/senior lunch. These videos came to an exciting peak yesterday as Vuylsteke chugged a container of eggnog shirtless in the Commons as students cheered.

—Compiled by Roarke Unrau



SLUH Celebrates Christmas!



Top: Luke Duffy, Alex Preusser, and Patrick Brennan with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Right: Nativity scene outside the Danis Field House.

Left: Students at the band concert.



SLUHSERS #14: Be Good For Goodness Sake



art | Will Blaisdell

Prep News

Volume 86, Issue 14

“What do you want for Christmas?”

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Nathan “Batman” Rich

News Editor
Roarke “what did Louis say?” Unrau

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Charlie “colored papers” Bieg

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Artists
Alex “pickle juice” Deiters
Jude “Rock-em Sock-em robots” Reed
Will “Leo Smith’s approval” Blaisdell
Leo “expensive hair gel” Smith
Alex “Octopus drop date” Nance

Photographers
Mrs. Kathy “a new element for the periodic table” Chott
Nick “chicken farm” Sanders
Isaiah “waffle maker” Hinkebein

Moderator
Steve “sleep” Missey

Calendar

Friday, December 10 B Day

LUNCH Special—Grilled Salmon
Vegetarian—Grilled Vegetable Pasta
3:30PM-7:00PM Racquetball (V2/JV1/JV2) vs Kirkwood
4:15PM-5:30PM C Team (White-Blue) Basketball vs DeSmet
10:00PM Varsity Ice Hockey vs Francis Howell

Saturday, December 11

Dance Tech
8:00AM High School Placement Test
9:00AM C/JV Wrestling @ Holt Tournament

Sunday, December 12

8:00AM High School Placement Test
4:00PM Dance and Choir Concert

Monday, December 13 A Day

LUNCH Special—Braised Beef Brisket
Vegetarian—Cheesy Lasagna Pinwheel
7:45AM Transition Program Social
8:30PM Varsity Ice Hockey vs Vianney

Tuesday, December 14 B Day

Gaudete Party
NHS Teacher Karaoke
LUNCH Special—General Tso Chicken
Vegetarian—Crab Rangoon
3:30PM Varsity 1 Racquetball vs Lindbergh
4:00PM Varsity 2 Racquetball vs Lafayette
4:00PM-7:30PM Basketball (C-Blue/B/V) vs McCluer

Wednesday, December 15 No School

NO CLASSES-EXAM PREP

Thursday, December 16 First Semester Exams

4:15PM-6:00PM Basketball (C-White/B) vs MICDS

Friday, December 17 First Semester Exams

Faculty Christmas Party
4:15PM-6:00PM Basketball (B/C-White/C-Blue/V) vs CBC
10:00PM Varsity Ice Hockey vs Chaminade

Saturday, December 18

5:30PM V Basketball @ Midwest Shootout (vs Confluence Academy)
8:20PM Varsity Ice Hockey vs Vianney

Monday, December 20 First Semester Exams

Tuesday, December 21 Exam Make-up Day

2:00PM-7:15PM Basketball (C-White/C-Blue/B/V) vs Chaminade

Friday, December 24 Christmas Break

10:00PM Christmas Eve Mass

Monday, December 27 Christmas Break

Winter Classic Basketball Tournament
2:00PM C Team (White) Basketball Cardinal Ritter Tournament
8:30PM Varsity Ice Hockey vs Kirkwood

Saturday, January 1 Christmas Break

7:40PM Varsity Ice Hockey vs DeSmet

Monday, January 3 A Day

Senior Grande Project Begins
Third Quarter Begins
4:30pm-5:45pm Basketball (C-White/B) vs Borgia

Tuesday, January 4 B Day - Late Start

Grades Due
5:00PM Wrestling (JV/V) vs Fox & Lindbergh

Wednesday, January 5 A Day

3:30PM Varsity 2 Racquetball (Varsity 2/JV1-3/JV2-1) vs Lindbergh

Thursday, January 6 B Day

Joplin Varsity Basketball Tournament
Junior Scheduling Meeting