

# STA STUDENT BUCKET LIST

*#1 go to a football game!*



**CONTINUED ON CENTERFOLD (8-9)**

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We asked the new faculty the following questions...

## Meet the new teachers & faculty!



**Ms. Alfaro** teaches Theology I: Old Testament/ Judaic History & Theology II: Christology/ Sacraments.

She attended the Franciscan University of Steubenville. She is looking forward to growing with her students and seeing their growth as well as her fellow faculty!



**Mr. Bhat-tacharya** teaches Physics/Lab & AP Calculus BC. He attended Seton Hall University.

His favorite TV shows are "Breaking Bad" and "The Boys." He is looking forward to getting to know the new students & teach subjects he's passionate about!



**Mr. Bianchini** teaches English I & English II. He attended Rutgers University. His favorite TV

show is "Community." He is most looking forward to teaching, getting to know his students, & engage them in reading and writing.



**Mr. Brady** teaches Algebra I & Algebra I Honors. He went to Glassboro State College. His

favorite shows are "Cobra Kai" or "Jeopardy." He is looking forward to a new chapter here at STA!

What subjects do you teach?

What college(s) did you attend?

What is your favorite TV show?

What are you most excited for this year?



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ALEX SARDIS

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**Ms. Ghosh** is the new Biology teacher here at STA. She attended Presidency College in India. She enjoys watching National Geograph-

ic or Music reality shows. She is looking forward to seeing her students become more confident!



**Mr. Gioffre** teaches AP Psych and US History I. He went to Uni Of Notre Dame, then Montclair State, followed by Kean. He enjoys watch-

ing Sunday night football. He most looks forward to saying the Hail Mary to start every class!



**Mr. Gronske** teaches Calculus AB & Pre calculus. He attended Rutgers University. His favorite show is "Daredevil." He is most looking

forward to seeing the upcoming school play, "Little Shop of Horrors!"



**Mr. Herbert** teaches CP biology, Honors biology, & AP biology this year. He went to Rutgers University. His favorite show is "Peaky Blinders."

He is looking forward to performing labs with his students and increasing their knowledge!



**Mr. Knapp** teaches English I Honors and English III CP. He attended CUNY Hunter College, majoring in Classical Archaeology. His favorite show

is Seinfeld.



**Ms. LaSala** teaches US History I Honors, US History I, & US History II. She went to Monmouth University. Her favorite type of

show is any form of reality TV. She is most looking forward to teaching history to her students, being a club advisor, and having a great school year!



**Ms. Miller** is the new SAC Counselor here at STA. She graduated from The University of Scranton. Her favorite show is Big Bang Theory. She is looking forward to

working with her students!



**Mr. Palomares** teaches Spanish II Honors and Spanish II. He went to Universidad de Guadalajara/ Law School. His favorite show is

"Dark." He is looking forward to hearing his students speak Spanish!



**Mr. Spach** teaches English II Honors and English III Honors. He went to the City University of New York - College of Staten Island. His

favorite show is "The Twilight Zone." He is most looking forward to getting to know the students and faculty!



**Mr. Tavera** is the new Chemistry here at STA. He graduated from Rutgers University. His favorite show is "Extraordinary Attorney Woo." He is most looking forward to

winter break right after his birthday!



**FR Ronal Vega** teaches Service Opt for Seniors. He attended Católica del Norte Fundación Universitaria & Seton Hall Univer-

sity. He is excited about his priestly ministry!



**Mr. Kane** is the new president here at STA. He attended the NYU Stern School of Business. His favorite shows are "Jeopardy" and "Yellowstone." He is most looking

forward to being a Cheerleader, Fan, and Supporter of the STA Trojans!

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## The Satoma NEWSMAGAZINE

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# Hot coffee is the way to go!



Every morning I wake up to my dreaded alarm at 5:30 AM. I hop out of my bed and shuffle down the stairs in search of the one thing that will get me through my day. I groggily stumble into the kitchen and make myself some hot caramel coffee. Instantly, I am awake, relaxed, and ready to conquer the day.

A lot of people tell me that they prefer iced drinks over hot drinks. They'll say things like, "You can't drink hot drinks all year!" or "I hate having to wait for my drink to cool down!". Well, they're being ridiculous. If you can't drink hot drinks in the summer, then how can you drink cold drinks in the winter? It

# Be bold and drink cold!



Whether it is the hottest summer day or the dead of winter, you will never catch me drinking hot coffee. Iced drinks have seen a huge spike in popularity in recent years, and this is well-deserved, as they provide a much more pleasant drinking experience overall!

While hot drinks serve their purpose, consuming them is usually more out of necessity rather than enjoyment. A steaming cup of tea is good for soothing an aching throat, but is otherwise a pain to try and enjoy. Hot chocolate is great for warming up after a day in the snow, but not many would choose it as a casual beverage. Hot drinks come out boiling, and take an excruciating amount of time to cool down, meaning you can't enjoy them quickly. Then, when you have

simply makes no sense. There is nothing better than relaxing after a long stressful day with your favorite hot beverage. When you drink something cold, you get jittery and chilly. None of that happens when you're enjoying some hot cocoa under the Christmas tree, or in my case, a hot caramel coffee at 5:30 in the morning.

Sipping your favorite hot drink when it's cold out just feels right. Why would anyone want to drink something cold in the chilly weather? If you're outside, drinking an iced beverage can be painful. Your hands are touching the cup, which is filled with ice. You're already cold because you're outside, and now your hands are going to go numb because you're touching the freezing cold cup. If you were holding a hot beverage outside in the cold air, it would be like a natural hand warmer.

finished drinking it, you start sweating from the heat of the drink. Even worse, if you happen to be an avid hot drink enjoyer, you can burn your tongue with the hot liquid in your excitement to guzzle it down, which ruins the taste of not only your hot drink but anything else you may want to eat for the rest of that day.

Iced drinks, on the other hand, offer none of these problems. You can pick up an iced coffee and instantly enjoy it without waiting around for it to settle at the ideal temperature. Waiting around for your hot drink to cool won't help you get the quick rush of energy needed before a long day of school, work, or practice. Iced coffee also usually has a more pleasant taste, as you are able to enjoy the flavors without being overwhelmed by the hot temperature.

While a hot drink might seem ideal in the colder months, I would argue that this idea only further proves the appeal of iced drinks. Hot

Having a warm body temperature outside is imperative for everyone's health, especially during this time of the year. Fall is the birth of the cold and flu season. An age-old remedy to soothe colds and coughs is drinking hot herbal tea. When you're sick, warm drinks can be a great way to boost your energy and make you feel comfortable and relaxed. It is said that hot liquids loosen secretions in the chest and sinuses, making them easier to expel and clear up congestion and sore throats.

What it all really comes down to is personal preference. Would you rather be cold or hot? Personally, I'd rather be warm and cozy, but I know people who would brave the chill and pick an iced drink first. In my opinion, it isn't fall without a nice hot drink to warm you up and calm you down.

drinks are only had when they are needed to warm someone up on a frigid day, rather than being chosen because of their taste. However, iced drinks are not really used as a way to cool down, meaning that they are consumed purely as a means of pleasure.

Iced drinks come in a wide variety of flavors and options. Most recreational beverages are iced, which is very telling about their quality and popularity. Whether it is lemonade, iced tea, iced coffee, or even just water, people tend to choose iced drinks over hot drinks in a casual setting.

Overall, iced drinks are much easier to consume and enjoy, as they provide a quicker experience and a better flavor. Hot drinks are simply too much of a hassle, between waiting for them to cool down and grappling with burnt tongues. Because of this, regardless of the season outside, iced drinks will always be my beverage of choice... and they should be yours too!



## Wasta day welcomes new students

BY: AMANDA STADTMILLER

On September 16, 2022, the school held the annual WASTA Day, which stands for “We Are Saint Thomas Aquinas.” During this day, upperclassmen welcomed the freshmen to the school. They were so excited to meet the new class of 2026.

This fun filled experience started off with the upperclassmen going to their freshman’s homeroom, where they introduced themselves. After that, there were three fun activities planned for the day. First, students went to the gym, where they met the student council board. The board consists of school President Annika Zavalla, Vice President Emily Wall, Secretary/Treasurer Nick Basilico, Athletics Chair Danielle Suter, and Social Events Chairs Grace Farrell and Kayla Foley. They talked about the many clubs and activities students could join to get involved. They made clear how to make this the best school year possible.

After the student council spoke, the whole student body showed the freshmen their school spirit by sharing their traditional songs, “Trad-

ing My Sorrows” and “Big House.” The school is a “big big house with lots and lots of” school spirit. These songs were led by the music director, Joseph Cullinan.

*“I had a great time getting to know the freshmen and welcoming them to the community.”*  
~Melody Cadet

Next, students were sent to either the theater or a classroom. In the theater, they received instructions for a big scavenger hunt that would take place all around the school. They had to go to various classrooms using the hints on the sheet of paper given, and scan the QR code in each room. Each QR code had a letter that students would then write down on the sheet. After going to all of the rooms on their paper and finding all of the letters, students had to unscramble the letters to find a hidden message.

This year, the message was either “Red and White” or “Flynn O’Hara.” The freshman had a lot of fun learning where some of the classrooms were around the school, and the upperclassmen enjoyed running around trying to use clues to find the classes.

In the classrooms, there were about two or three upperclassmen who planned and ran games. The freshmen and their upperclassman came in and took part in the games. For example, they participated in “Get Off the Bus” and “Telephone Charades.” The various games helped students get to know one another better and find out who had similar interests. After the games, they all received snacks to get their energy up for the next activity. They headed back to the gym for one of the students’ favorite games, “Dragon Tag.” Students were split into groups and had to run around the gym in a line. At the end of each line of people, one person had a bandana, or “tail,” tucked in their pants. Teams had to try and grab the opposing team’s tails, and the last team standing won.

By the end of WASTA Day, students showed the freshman class how

important school spirit is to them. The freshmen got a proper introduction to the school community. They learned the school’s favorite songs, played traditional games, and most importantly had fun. This was just the beginning of a great new school year!



JUNIORS NICOLE ROBINSON AND SYLVIA RIVERA ARE HAPPY TO BE WELCOMING ALL OF THE NEW FRESHMEN TO THE SCHOOL.

## Celebrating school spirit and pride

BY: ELIZABETH BERA

On Friday, September 23, 2022, the students and faculty gathered in the gym for the annual Aquinas Celebration Day. It started off with morning Mass led by Father Mike and Father Ronal. Everyone showed their school pride by wearing team jerseys and school shirts. The choir, led by Joseph Cullinan, set the mood for the day with songs like “Trading My

Sorrows” and “Peace I Leave With You.” As soon as Mass was over, preparation for the pep rally began!

Athletics chairperson and senior, Danielle Suter, exceed the pep rally. Within minutes, the gym was filled with excitement from the freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior classes.

All of the fall sports were represented and acknowledged for outstanding achievements and goals, as



SOPHOMORES VIVIANA RODRIGUEZ, ELIZABETH BERA, AND SENIOR ABIGAIL BERA TAKE PART IN SINGING “HALLELUJAH” AT MASS.

(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)



STUDENTS RAISE THEIR HANDS HIGH WHILE SINGING “TRADING MY SORROWS.”

well as captains and senior players. As each sport was called up, they were asked what their goal for the season was. These fall sports included girls tennis, girls and boys cross country, girls and boys soccer, gymnastics, cheerleading, volleyball, football, color guard, and the marching band. The event was highlighted by the marching band’s video game themed performance, a routine from the cheerleaders, some impressive tumbling from the gymnastics team,

and finally, a competitive game of volleyball between the volleyball team and football team. The volleyball team won. To conclude this fun-filled day, students were brought outside to enjoy some pizza.

Aquinas Celebration Day was a great way to start off the school year. The energy and activities planned set everyone up for a day full of memories and excitement. Students cannot wait for the year ahead, and all of the other events to plan.



# Screaming for stars and spaghetti

BY: EUNICE MBAWA

On October 6, 2022, Math chair Linda Czajkowski succeeded Sister Cyndi as the head of the annual Aquinas Star Spaghetti Dinner.

Like previous years, guests were invited to dine in the school cafeteria and enjoy a classic spaghetti and meatball meal, as well as coffee, cake, and STA's signature Roche cookies. This delicious meal was to support the two Aquinas Stars of the year.

Anthony Zaccaria is a charismatic 25 year old with a knack for theater and games. He was born with cerebral palsy. Brandon Barbarite, an outgoing, passionate sophomore, was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. The two Aquinas Stars were accompanied by their families as they enjoyed their meal as well as gifts presented to them by Aquinas

Star chairpersons Kylie Lucas and Alex Cocuzza.

*"It was so great seeing everyone come out and support the Aquinas Stars."*

*~Kylie Lucas*

Students were excited to volunteer at the dinner. They served as greeters, table monitors, take-out helpers, servers, or cake/drink table helpers. The greeters lined up in the main lobby, ready to welcome guests and bring them down to the cafeteria to seat them. The servers then got all of the food and brought it to the tables. These tables were monitored by students and teachers, who would assist guests with anything they needed.



STUDENT VOLUNTEERS GIVE A BIG THUMBS UP TO HELPING AS SERVERS AT THE AQUINAS STAR DINNER.

Over in the parking lot, take-out helpers prepared and brought food to cars who went through the "drive-through."

Alumni and former faculty also attended the dinner, such as Father Keith Cervine and Kevin McCarthy. Previous Aquinas Stars such as James Fucci, with his parents, also enjoyed

this year's dinner. Sports teams such as soccer and football also stopped by to show their support by eating some spaghetti with their teammates.

The night ended with guests and volunteers signing posters with the Aquinas Stars' smiling faces on them, which they got to take home! It was a wonderful night for all involved.

# A week of Homecoming

BY: DIANE YEO

In the second week of October, the event that all students look forward to every year had finally arrived—Homecoming week. Also known as "spirit week," the week was filled with fun and excitement for all students. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday were themed dress down days where both students and teachers alike displayed their best fits from their closets, bringing school spirit into the classroom.

On October 7, students attended the Homecoming game against the Rahway Indians. Before the game began, however, the Homecoming princes

and princesses were announced for each grade, as well as the senior Homecoming court. Alex Cocuzza and Emily Wall were announced as Homecoming king and queen. The student body cheered loudly for all of the Homecoming court. When these exciting announcements were over, the football game began. The most memorable moment of the game was when sophomore Chase Young caught a 45 yard pass. The game ended with the Trojans winning 33-0.

Though the football game had come to a close, the week still had not. On October 8, the school launched its final event of the week. The Homecoming Dance invited all grades to

come together for something other than school. Students came dressed in their best. The event began at 7:00 and lasted until 10:30. Students first reported to their designated room to store any unneeded items so nothing would be lost during the dance. After, they checked in with faculty members and finally were able to meet up with their friends in the gym.

Snacks and water were offered by the front door. With the help of dedicated faculty and student volunteers, the main gym was decorated with confetti and school colors. The school hired a DJ who showered the entire gym with enthusiasm. He brought liveliness to the party with exciting commentary, good music, and a mesmerizing assortment of lights. Halfway through the dance, line dancing music played and all of the students danced together, gathered in the middle of the gym. At times, students formed a dance circle showcasing their own dancing abilities to the school, sometimes even surprising their friends with their unknown skills. There were also conga lines formed with almost the whole student body one behind the other.

Photoboosts were provided at both ends of the gym. One had a selfie stick in front of some decorations, accompanied by several posters for students to pose with. Students took



SENIORS BRIANNA BARBARITE, LEA BRAGG, ELLA FEDERICO, AND SOPHOMORE KATE HALL HAVE BIG SMILES FOR THE HOMECOMING DANCE.

photos together to showcase their outfits, and occasionally teachers would help take the pictures in order to grab the best angles. Some groups also decided to take pictures in the hallway because the ceiling was decorated with lanterns.

As the dance came to a bittersweet end, students returned to their designated rooms to collect their belongings and wait until they were called to be dismissed in order to ensure everyone's safety.

The homecoming dance offered time for students, friends, and faculty to discover more about each other beyond academics.



THE ENTIRE HOMECOMING COURT GATHERS TOGETHER ON THE TRACK AFTER WALKING TO THE 50 YARD LINE AND RECEIVING THEIR FLOWERS AND SASHES.



# 'Love on Tour' sells out in seconds



■ HARRY STYLES POINTS TO A FAN IN THE AUDIENCE

BY: KATERINA XON

From being a 16-year-old British boy in a band to making history in the biggest city in the world, Harry Styles is truly an international pop star. He announced he would be going on tour on May 5, 2022, about a month after he performed at Coachella. Around twenty days later, he announced the addition of five more shows at Madison Square Garden. Overall, when it concludes, Styles is going to have played forty-two shows in the U.S. and Canada on the North American "Love on

Tour." Over August and September, he played 15 consecutive shows at Madison Square Garden. His most recent album "Harry's House" was the center of the setlist. Styles also joins the "King of the Garden" Billy Joel, with the hanging of a banner showing the 15 shows he played.

A main component of this tour's excitement was the fashion. Feather boas are considered a huge part of the dress code. A New York Post article titled, "Harry Styles-fueled feather boa shortage wreaks havoc on NYC: 'We're completely sold out,'" states a Party City store on West 34th Street was out of stock of all feather boas.

The employee of that Party City said "We are completely sold out because of Harry Styles" and "We had at least 50 in each color, within the first two or three days, we sold out."

Many fans have even made their own outfits to copy Styles' previous outfits. They copy attire from past shows, Halloween costumes, or outfits Styles has been spotted wearing on the streets. They even dressed up as sushi for his song titled "Music for a Sushi Restaurant" and one fan dressed up as a banana. All over TikTok, many fans have shared their outfits with the world and are causing more fans to be inspired by their outfits. Madison Square Garden is filled with boas and colorful clothing. From colored trousers to glittery tops, Harry Styles fans are reshaping fashion for concerts.

Styles' show can be very emotional for all fans, new and old. "Good evening, New York. My name is Harry," and "Please feel free to be who you always wanted to be in this room tonight," are his opening lines and it makes the crowd roar. His opening video is the source of ovation and when it turns into the song "Daydreaming," a certain emotion comes over you and you feel entirely free.

He plays songs from all three of his albums, from a more emotional song "Matilda" to his punk rock song "Kiwi." "The crowd was mostly captivated, though, during the intimate moments, hanging on to every word of tender ballads including "Love of My Life." An article from Page Six titled "Harry Styles' Madison Square Garden residency proves he's the greatest showman" states. He even goes back years and sings "What Makes You Beautiful," from his One Direction days. One fan said, "I felt safe. The people were amazing, everyone's energy was positive." The environment of his concerts range. You can hear sobs, cheers, screams, and claps. You can see people on ground floor dancing and jumping, and see fans in section 200 doing the same. All people in attendance are having an amazing time listening to Styles sing. Many positive and funny posters grab Styles' attention. He is very involved with the well beings of his fans and he interacts with them regularly. Styles is exceptionally entertaining; watching the show and being there feels like home. All sides of Madison were screaming out the words and dancing, openly being whoever they want to be.

## The Emmys: entertaining and exciting

BY: MADISON PACCIANO

The 74th Primetime Emmys aired on September 12th, 2022 at 8:00 pm, while the *Primetime Creative Arts Emmys* aired September 3rd-4th. The difference between the two is that the *Creative Arts Emmys* are more for acknowledging the hard work that goes on behind the scenes of your favorite TV series that some may not notice, while the *Primetime awards* are for the actors/actresses themselves and their talents. *The Primetime Emmy Awards*, hosted by Kenan Thompson, had about 5.9 million people tuned in to watch, acknowledge, and applaud the hard work and talent that goes into the television industry. Although 5.9 million is a lot, this year's Emmys viewers were actually a new record low, down 25% compared to 2021.

The evening was jam-packed with extraordinary firsts and quite a few unexpected big winners along with the expected sweeps.

*Squid Game* was a very popular show this year with 111 million people watching it on Netflix. The lead actor, Lee Jung-Jae, became the first Asian Actor to win Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series at the Emmys. For the Lizzo fans, glad to say she took home her first Emmy Award for her show, watch out for *The Big Grrls*. For those who loved the tv series *The Dropout*, lead actress, Amanda Setfield, also took home her first Emmy. For the show's second season in a row, *Euphoria*'s Zendaya once again won Outstanding Lead Actress in a drama series. This makes her the youngest person to have won 2 Emmys for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama series. Fans of *Succession*, *Ted Lasso*, or *The White Lotus*, were excited to see that each series won the award for outstanding series in its category.

All of these great shows have extremely talented actors, so why is it that more people seem to be uninterested this year? One reason is



■ ZENDAYA, ???, AND ANDREW GARFIELD SHOW OFF THEIR STELLAR LOOKS ON THE RED CARPET.

(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

that some people said they weren't even aware of the Emmys. A reason for this might be that a lot of people these days seem to be mainly using streaming services, where there's usually an option to pay a little bit more for an ad-free experience. There were some people though who were very aware of the Emmys but chose not to watch. Ultimately, they feel the Emmys and other similar

award shows aren't aimed towards them and are only relevant for the people of Hollywood. Others dislike the voting process and feel that viewers should be able to vote. Perhaps voting would make them feel like they have a say and take away that stigma that all award shows are rigged, which is another reason why many people don't watch the Emmys.



# Taylor Swift's new album resonates with fans

BY: NICOLE ARANGO

Taylor Swift announced at the VMAs that she would release her newest album, *Midnights*, on October 21, 2022. She described this album as “the stories of 13 sleepless nights scattered throughout my life.” *Midnights* is Taylor’s tenth studio album with thirteen tracks. A few of her songs include: “Lavender Haze,” “Maroon,” “Anti-Hero,” “Snow on the Beach (feat. Lana del Rey),” “You’re on Your Own, Kid,” “Midnight Rain,” “Question?” “Karma,” “Sweet Nothing,” and “Mastermind.”

After dropping the album, *Midnights* at midnight, she surprised fans with seven additional songs for her *Midnights* (3am edition). The tracks in this album include: “The Great War,” “Bigger Than The Whole Sky,” “Paris,” “High Infidelity,” “Glitch,” “Would’ve, Could’ve, Should’ve,” and “Dear Reader.” Many fans were disappointed to hear her song “Snow on the Beach,”



TAYLOR SWIFT ON THE RED CARPET AT THE MTV MOVIE AWARDS  
(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

which featured Lana Del Rey. Taylor overhyped this specific song, which is why people were disappointed that Lana was only a background vocalist.

Taylor’s fans claim that her song “Would’ve, Could’ve, Should’ve,” is the darkest song she has ever writ-

ten. Taylor sings about her “regret” in some of her relationships. Her song “Anti-hero,” is about her insecurities and the things she dislikes about herself.

On Taylor’s Instagram story, she explained that she likes this song because it’s honest. “We all hate things

about ourselves. It’s all of those aspects of the things we dislike and like about ourselves.” *Midnights* was Taylor’s reflection of the heartbreak, love, grief, and desire that keeps her up at night. This album reveals both her insecurities and emotions.

She is well known for putting her life on display throughout all of her songs and not holding anything back about who she is and how she feels about what she has experienced. Taylor Allison Swift was born on December 13, 1989. She was the youngest person in the company’s history to sign a music deal with Sony/ATV. Her first song ever released was “Tim McGraw.” The MTV award-winning singer has ten studio albums which are: *Taylor Swift* (2006), *Fearless* (2008), *Speak Now* (2010), *Red* (2012), *1989* (2014), *Reputation* (2017), *Lover* (2019), *Folklore* (2020), *Evermore* (2020), and *Midnights* (2022).

Fans look forward to more honest music from Taylor; hoping she will continue to inspire them.

# The Sanderson sisters resurrected again

BY: MARIA GIANNOTTO

What does everyone think of when they think of October? Is it candy, the crisp fall weather, the scent of pumpkin spice and apple cider, or is it watching a spooky movie by the fireplace? October is known as “spooky season” because it marks the official end of summer and Halloween is near. People also love October because there are several spooky movies to watch that stimulates serotonin. One thing that’s for sure, is that *Hocus Pocus* will find its way to make a comeback during “spooky season.”

The first *Hocus Pocus* movie was

released by Walt Disney Pictures on July 16, 1993 as a humorous movie about witches. It gained popularity throughout many years and is known as one of the most popular Halloween movies that brings back nostalgia every time it’s watched.

Almost 30 years later, the second one was released for people to enjoy on September 30th to officially kick off fall and the start of the Halloween season. For those who have never watched it, *Hocus Pocus* is a movie about three evil witches, the Sanderson sisters played by Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Kathy Najimy, who are brought back to life by a teenage boy, played by Omri Katz,

on Halloween night when he lights a black flame candle. While it sounds basic, there’s much that goes on that leaves everyone laughing or at the edge of their seat, from the witches trying to terrorize children to a plot of two characters falling in love throughout.

The second movie is a spinoff of the first. The Sanderson sisters are again resurrected by a 16-year-old girl (Becca) played by Whitney Peak, when she accidentally lights a black flame candle given to her as a birthday gift. Becca did not know that it was the same candle that had the ability to bring the sisters back to life. What’s interesting is the beginning of the movie shows a flashback revealing how the sisters got their powers. The ending surprisingly leaves some people teary-eyed, but just like the first, it will always leave everyone laughing and gasping because of the plot twists.

*Hocus Pocus 2* differs from the original *Hocus Pocus* by the modern conflicts that occur. In the second movie, it’s not just about the Sanderson sisters. Becca experiences conflicts with her old best friend, Cassie because she distanced herself when she got a boyfriend and considered all that Becca, Izzy, and she did was



BECCA AND IZZY CONJURE THE WITCHES IN THE WOODS

weird. The things that they did together are all similar things in modern day that have become a trend, like manifestation. This movie is a mix of conflicts many experience in high school, while still leaving the movie a spin off of the original. Just like all the other coming-of-age movies, Becca, Izzy, and Cassie become that trio like they used to be in grade school.

*Hocus Pocus 2* gets everyone in the spirit for fall and never fails to gain a reaction from anyone. The ending is what mostly gains reactions, but no spoilers! All that needs to be said is if many enjoy the original *Hocus Pocus* and Halloween movies in general, watch the sequel right away.



SARAH, WINIFRED, AND MARY SANDERSON RETURN AFTER 30 YEARS



# CHECK OFF THE ULTIMATE

EVERYTHING YOU SHOULD TRY

COMPILED BY ABBY



Go to a football game



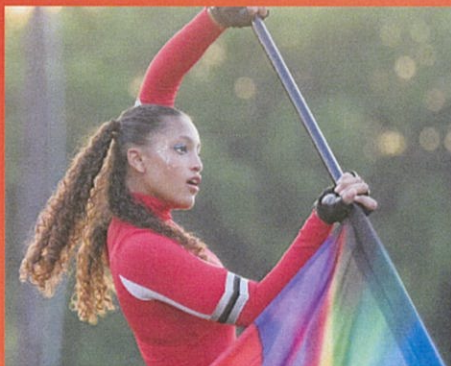
Join a club



Volunteer at the Spaghetti Dinner



Watch "Little Shop of Horrors"



Write an article for the Satoma



Serve or read at Mass



Dress up for Spirit Week





# LATE STA BUCKET LIST

## TO DO AT SCHOOL THIS YEAR!

BERA & MORGAN RYAN



Take the Polar Plunge



See a school concert



Be a creator for the Maker Faire



Go to a school dance



Watch the spring musical



Participate in Tournament of Champions



Play a sport



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS



# England bids fond farewell to their Queen



QUEEN ELIZABETH II POSES FOR A FORMAL PHOTO IN HER JEWELS  
(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

BY: RAJASVI PATEL

On September 8, 2022, it was announced by the Royal Family that Queen Elizabeth II passed away at age 96 in the Balmoral Castle, in Scotland. She was the female monarch of the United Kingdom for over seventy years.

Shortly before the queen's death, she was placed under "medical supervision" because her health was deteriorating. The reason for her death appeared to be her old age, according to her death certificate.

Her passing initiated a time of national mourning for Britain for at

least ten days. The period of mourning began from the moment of the announcement of her passing until her funeral. During the period of mourning, all activities were canceled and replaced with news about the Queen. Her funeral was held on September 19, 2022 at Westminster Abbey. It was declared a public holiday for the United Kingdom, so most places were closed. Before the queen's coffin reached its final resting place, the national anthem was sung, and a two minute silence was carried out as a nation in honor of the Queen.

Queen Elizabeth II took her role as Queen very seriously. After World War II, she helped the United Kingdom adjust to new normalcy, having lost territories around the world. Queen Elizabeth II was well-known for involvement in political matters and the government. A good example of this was that she was the first British monarch to visit China

in 1986. In this way, she made a distinct change to the traditional duties of a monarch, from the ceremonial duties to a committed focus on foreign affairs and relationships. She traveled the world to fulfill her duties until she died. Just a couple of days before her death, she met the new Prime Minister Liz Truss of the United Kingdom.

Following the death of the queen, the ascension of the new British monarch is inevitable. King Charles III became King as he was next in succession to the throne. King Charles is the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II, at age 73. His wife Camilla Parker Bowles was named the Queen Consort of the United Kingdom after King Charles III became monarch.

The death of Queen Elizabeth II marks the start of a new era for the U.K. As England continues to mourn the death of their Queen, the country awaits the reign of King Charles III.

# Another flood season demolishes Pakistan

BY: SUHANI PATEL

Villages have been washed away, crops have been destroyed, and homes have been demolished. Pakistan is currently struggling to cope with the effects of the severe flooding as thousands are left homeless in a country nearly submerged. Since the beginning of monsoon season in mid-July, the poverty-stricken country has faced torrential rainfall, impacting around 33 million people. According to Bilwal Bhutto Zardari, the damages of the flood will exceed \$30 billion and the government will need a \$1.1 billion loan. So far, 1,717 people have died and 12,867 have been injured.

In the Pakistani nation, about 1.5 million homes have been damaged or destroyed leaving millions displaced as they are forced to survive without the basic necessities. The Medical Emergency and Resilience Foundation has reported that 70% have no access to hygiene supplies, 55% have no access to water, and 66% have no access to toilet facilities. One flood-victim with no clean water access says, "We know it can sicken us, but what to do, we have to drink it to stay alive." Due to the lack of healthcare as well as hygiene access, many have also contracted diseases.

In the flood-affected areas, around 44,000 cases of malaria have been reported and 113,000 cases of respiratory tract infections. In some areas of the Sindh Province, makeshift healthcare camps have treated more than 78,000 patients with malaria in 24 hours, however with more cases being reported daily, there is a desperate need for more medicine and test kits. As food insecurity spreads through the country, the death toll rises and people lose hope. So what is being done by the Pakistani Government to get back up on its feet? So far, medical facilities have been set up all around Pakistan and neighboring countries. Food supplies as well as basic hygiene supplies have also been dispatched. According to Shahbaz Sharif, "Those who have lost homes and crops will get compensation from the government."

As one-third of Pakistan is currently under water, authorities think it will take around 6 months for it to dry up. But the question still remains, what caused such extreme flooding? Although flooding is not uncommon in Pakistan, this kind of monsoon season has never been seen before as some call it the "monsoon on steroids." Because Pakistan, which is home to over 7,000 glaciers, has had concerns of global warming



FLOOD WATER COVERS THE CITY STREETS AS PAKISTAN STRUGGLES TO COPE WITH THE DAMAGE.

since 1938, one can add two and two together and say that the South Asian country experienced such extreme flooding due to global warming. Pakistan is one of the countries that is most vulnerable to climate change, this flood being one example. Some call the floods, "a wake-up call," so that people realize how real threats of global warming are. Although 2,000 people were rescued from Pakistan, many have no home to go back to and everything they lived for has been destroyed. Many families

are forced to live in tents on camps. Could these deaths, destructions, and traumas have been prevented? Can this be prevented from happening to other vulnerable countries?

The disaster puts Pakistan into question of how they will pay for their country's adaptation to the ravages of global warming. Pakistan was already in severe financial distress when the disaster struck. The government is now arguing for large-scale aid to build in preparation for their next inevitable disaster.



# Hurricanes devastate the Caribbean coastline



**HURRICANE FIONA CAUSES CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE IN PUERTO RICO (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)**

BY: MADISON BREW

The Atlantic hurricane season begins on June first and ends on November thirtieth. Although there are six months in the hurricane season, the most activity happens towards late August through late October.

This season was forecasted to be dead based off of the first couple of months with no activity. However, in September there was a lot of unexpected activity. At the end of September alone, four named storms

were formed off of the coast, Fiona and Ian included. These storms were formed by an event called La Nina. La Nina is an annual recurrence of warm water from the tropics up the Pacific coast, which affects the atmosphere in a way that makes it unstable and unpredictable.

Hurricane Fiona was the first destructive hurricane this season, ripping through most of the Caribbean and Nova Scotia. As Fiona reached Puerto Rico, it had been catego-

rized as a storm upon landfall and became a 1-2 category hurricane. Puerto Rico was devastated by the storm, getting a new rain record of 24 hours- the longest it has rained since 1985. Many of the areas with low elevation got up to 30 inches of rain. Almost the whole island lost power and thousands are still without power. The island's economy is struggling due to the damage from Fiona and its recovery from Hurricane Maria in 2017.

Fiona continued to gain power coming up the Atlantic and continued to move until it made landfall in Nova Scotia. By the time Fiona was near Nova Scotia, it had become a category 4 hurricane. The Canadian government said Fiona was one of the region's strongest storms. The storm was not forecasted to hit them; the only way they knew was from a tide buoy a mile or two off the coast. In the middle of the night on September 24th, the buoy reported hurricane level wind gusts. Many houses, businesses, and lives were lost, and hundreds of coastal town locals were rescued.

The second destructive hurricane of the season, Hurricane Ian is the strongest storm of the 2022 hurricane season and has been ranked as the 50th strongest hurricane in the country, the most consequential storm in modern US history. Florida was devastated by Ian. The storm made landfall in the Fort Myers and Sanibel Island area as a category 4 storm. There were 2.5 million evacuation orders all over the state. 3.4 million people lost power, and 6,000 flights were canceled before, during, and after the storm due to destruction. 66 billion dollars have been lost from businesses, houses, cars, and everything that was in Ian's way. The storm took many lives due to drownings and situations involving the conditions. The storm surge was 15 feet in certain coastal areas along with gusts of wind up to 150mph.

The effects these storms will have on beaches would be a change in sandbar and tide patterns. With these changes there are more unpredictable ways the ocean will move.

# World's oldest heart found in prehistoric fish

BY: AKASH SHIVA SWAMY

Scientists recently discovered a 380 million-year-old heart preserved in a fossilized prehistoric jawfish. This discovery was made by a team of researchers from Curtin University in Perth, Australia and later published in the Science journal. Prof. Kate Trinajstic, the lead researcher at Curtin University, is a vertebrate paleontologist and the co-author of the prehistoric jawfish findings.

The 380 million-year-old fish heart was found embedded in Australian sediment known as the Gogo formation. The Gogo formation is well-known for having an immense fossil record from the Devonian period of the Paleozoic Era, a large interval of geologic time that began 541 million years ago with the Cambrian Explosion and ended 252 million years ago with the Permian Extinction. Surprisingly, more soft tissue was found in the rock formation, such as the liver, stomach, intestine, and heart.

Researchers were astonished by the condition that they found all these organs considering only bone is usually preserved in the rock formation. The soft tissue of an animal

this old had never been discovered before, making it an even more landslide case. The fish has been dubbed the "Gogo fish" based on where it was found. The Gogo fish belonged to an extinct species of armored, jawed fish called the arthrodires (arthrodires can also be referred to as placoderms). The Gogo is potentially the first arthrodire/placoderm in the world. The arthrodires were alive during the Devonian period. Placoderms were the ruling lifeform on Earth for around 60 million years.

3D scans of the fish's heart showed that it consisted of two chambers: the upper chamber and the lower chamber. Scientists believe that this evolution is what allowed the Gogo fish to be an efficient predator. Another important characteristic was that the heart of the Gogo fish was placed more forward than other prehistoric fish. Scientists believe that the placement of the heart is what allowed the development of lungs further down the line since space was created in the organism. Dr. Zerina Johanson of the Natural History Museum in London described the discovery as incredibly significant since it explains

why the human body is like what it is today. It could bridge the gaps in our evolutionary lineage, the gaps that scientists have been trying to fill for decades. This discovery showed that the body structure we currently have had started to come to fruition very early on. Evolution is usually regarded as minor changes over a long period, but this discovery shows a large leap between jawless and jawed organisms. Surprisingly, the Gogo fish has many anatomical similarities to the sharks of today. The Gogo fish's

liver was large, which allowed the fish to remain buoyant. This is the same mechanism modern-day sharks use to aid in travel. Even though the Gogo fish was alive a couple hundred million years prior, it still has its lasting effects on modern species.

The Gogo fish was an incredible discovery that is slowly helping scientists fully map out the timeline and the creatures that made us who we are today. It was the first organism to give us our most important organ - the heart.



**THE OLDEST KNOWN HEART FOUND PRESERVED INSIDE OF A FOSILIZED FISH**



# Little shop, big plant!

BY ABBY BERA

On November 18th, 19th, and 20th, the Little Theater will be transformed into the streets of Skid Row as the Drama Department presents its fall production, "Little Shop of Horrors."

This sci-fi musical tells the story of a boy, a girl, and a plant that changed everything. Seymour Krelborn (junior Michael Corradino) lives a sad and mundane life as an orphan in urban Skid Row. Audrey (senior Abigail Bera) is a sweet but troubled girl from the wrong side of the tracks. They both work at Mushnik's Skid Row Florists, the only flower shop on Skid Row, run by Mrs. Mushnik (senior Morgan Ryan). Seymour is in love with Audrey, but unfortunately,

she is in a toxic relationship with Orin (junior Sean Lacko), a dentist who enjoys causing people pain.

One day, Seymour discovers a strange and interesting plant which he names Audrey II (senior Jackson Boomer), after his coworker. Instantly, this new breed of fly-trap attracts people to the shop, and the business begins to boom.

The only problem is that the plant keeps wilting, and after trying practically everything, Seymour can't figure out why. When he accidentally cuts his finger on a rose's thorn, the plant perks up. Seymour realizes that it will take more than a little plant food to feed this killer flytrap.

The production features performances by juniors Gabriella Morelli,

Viviana Rodriguez, and Jasmine Torres, as well as sophomore Elizabeth Bera. They play the Urchins, a group of teens that hang on the streets and cut class. The Urchins act as a Greek chorus, foreshadowing the gruesome and unfortunate events that will occur later in the show.

Boomer has a very unique role in the show. He doesn't appear onstage, but provides live vocals for the plant from backstage. Boomer provides the voice of Audrey II, the plant that is being puppeteered onstage. "I think it's really cool because my character is a puppet, and nobody else's character is a puppet," Boomer says.

With a soundtrack stacked with music that will have audiences bopping along in their seats and a



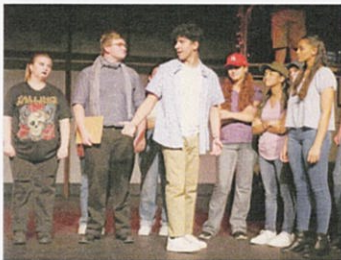
(PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSIC THEATER INTERNATIONAL)

story that they'll be sure to remember, "Little Shop of Horrors" is not a show to miss. Tickets are on sale now, get them before it's too late!

**Show dates & times:**

Friday, 11/18 @ 7pm  
 Saturday, 11/19 @ 7pm  
 Sunday, 11/20 @ 2pm

# Theater curse forms basis of original play



TAYLOR INSPIRES THE CAST AND CREW TO COME BACK TOGETHER. (PHOTO COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

BY MORGAN RYAN

On September 23rd, the drama department opened the 2022-2023 season with "Don't Say M@\*83+#!," an original comedy written and directed by english chair Amy Kate Byrne. The play follows the story of Taylor (junior Michael Corradino),

a young man who has taken a new job at the *Better Strangers Theater Company* during their production of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet." Taylor soon confesses that he has never worked in a theater before, and doesn't know the rites and customs of the drama world. The company's stage manager, Sam (senior Morgan Ryan), guides Taylor through his new job while also leading a wacky cast of characters as they struggle towards opening night.

The director, Ray, (senior Abigail Bera) and lighting designer Mo (junior Gabriella Morelli) constantly bicker, stalling the production. The egotistical Julian (junior Sean Lacko) and the flirtatious Sunny (junior Jasmine Torres), who portray the title lovers of the play, prove difficult to work with. The principal cast members of "Romeo and Juliet" is completed with Noel (senior Jack-

son Boomer), a method actor who only speaks in Shakespearean verse, and Logan (junior Grace Mandy), an actress new to her craft who rarely knows what is going on.

Taylor experiences the full insanity of his new coworkers when he unknowingly says the word, "Macbeth" during his first rehearsal. The company's cast and crew tell him that the word curses any theatrical production. Taylor has a hard time believing in the legitimacy of this curse, until shortly after, when a freak accident renders Sam unconscious, leaving the company in pandemonium. Assistant stage manager Alex (junior Viviana Rodriguez) battles a caffeine addiction while trying to take up the mantle as leader of the chaotic crew. Amidst the chaos following Sam's accident, Taylor is forced to help the members of the company come to terms with their

differences and agree to work together to save the show. Though the company faces internal and external conflicts alike, everything comes together in the end; teaching Taylor the valuable lesson that despite what life may throw at people, the show must go on.

The play was a hilarious yet touching ode to theater, perfectly capturing the balance of chaos and love that can be seen in theater companies everywhere. Despite the closeness that theater fans would likely feel with this story, the play was also applicable and entertaining to people from all walks of life, even those who know next to nothing about the dramatic arts. Like Taylor at the end of the play, the audience was able to come away having learned a valuable lesson about teamwork, acceptance, optimism, and why one should never say "Macbeth" inside a theater.

# Trojans at the ready!

BY MISHA HERCULES & MORGAN RYAN

The band and color guard features several talented upperclassmen in a range of leadership roles. Junior Ava Aure and senior Victoria McLean lead the marching band as field majors. Senior Jared Jardiolin heads the drumline, while junior Celeste Popola and senior Jackson Boomer are section leaders of the bass and trumpet sections respec-

tively. The color guard is led by rifle captain Jasmine Torres and first guard officer Annika Schmidt, both juniors, as well as senior Captains Gabriella Hamm and Morgan Ryan. The entire marching band is brought together under the leadership of senior drum major Mason Farrell and the direction of Mr. Joseph Cullinan.

The theme of this year's field show is songs from video games. The marching band's setlist consists of the "Halo Theme," a song from

*The Legend of Zelda*, the "Chocobo Theme" from *Final Fantasy*, and "Hikari" from *Kingdom Hearts*.

One surprise is a dance break at the end of the theme from *The Legend of Zelda*. Later in the field show, the "Hikari" performance starts with a wonderful senior solo which includes color guard seniors Kylie Barrett, Hamm, and Ryan. The band themselves have a few cool tricks such as forgoing their instruments in favor of singing the "Halo Theme" a

cappella to kick off the field show.

Even while they are not on the field performing their set, they make their support for the football team well-known, playing a variety of hit songs during the game. This setlist includes "Eye of the Tiger," "Seven Nation Army," "Rocketman," and many other familiar tunes. "We always want to hype up the crowd as much as possible," said drum major Mason Farrell, "to help the football team have the best season possible."



# Sports Spotlight

**Name:** Jinelle Negri

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Soccer

**Position On Team:**

Forward or center mid

**Favorite Athletic Memory:** When I scored the winning goal this year against Sayreville. Everyone was really happy and excited after coming from a lose the day before.

**Favorite Warm-Up Song:** *Till I Collapse* - Eminem and Nate Dogg



**Name:** Aren Melendez

**Nickname(s):** king-wicked

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Soccer

**Position On Team:** Right Back

**Favorite Athletic Memory:** 2-0 Win against Red Bank Catholic on last game of the season sophmore year

**Favorite Warm-Up Song:** *Self Care* - Mac Miller or *CORSO* - Tyler, the Creator



**Name:** Isabella Danner

**Nickname(s):** Bella

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Cross Country, Track & Field

**Position On Team:** Captain

**Favorite Athletic Memory:** I ran a PR on my birthday in April of 2021

**Favorite Warm-Up Song:** *Lose Yourself* - Eminem



**Name:** Alexander Pasquale

**Nickname(s):** Alex

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Soccer

**Position On Team:** Goalkeeper

**Favorite Athletic Memory:**

Blocking my first penalty

**Favorite Warm-Up Song:** *Vivir mi vida* - Marc Anthony



**Name:** Brianna Herrera

**Nickname(s):** Bri

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Soccer

**Position On Team:** Defense/Midfield

**Favorite Athletic Memory:** Junior year scoring my first varsity goal

**Favorite Warm-Up Song:** *Don't Stop the Party* - Pitbull



**Name:** Rajoshi Basu

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Tennis

**Favorite Athletic**

**Memory:** When we knew that we won the division after winning the match against Mother Seton 5-0

**Favorite Warm-Up Song:** *Make You Move* - Rudimental



**Name:** Nicholas Tricoles

**Nickname(s):** Nico

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Football

**Position On Team:** Guard

**Favorite Athletic Memory:** The last drive of the Cranford game ending in a walk-off touchdown

**Favorite Warm-Up Song:** *Write Your Name* - G Herbo



**Name:** Najee Lovejoy

**Nickname(s):** Naj

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Football

**Position On Team:** DB/WR

**Favorite Athletic Memory:** When we went undefeated in the regular season last year

**Favorite Warm-Up Song:** *Krazy Krazy* - Nardo Wick



**Name:** Morgan Ryan

**Nickname(s):** Morgz

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Color Guard

**Position On Team:**

Captain

**Favorite Athletic Memory:** Performing in a black-out in the rain

**Favorite Warm-Up Song:** *Level Up* - Ciara





## Kicking off the season right

BY: KAYLA FOLEY

The girls varsity soccer team looked to make an impressive season after coming off a strong season last year. The season didn't go exactly as they had hoped but they continued to always make the best of it. While they were faced with many adversities, they never let their heads down and continued to play for each other.

Led by senior Captain Grace Farrell and Junior Captains Francesca Corea and Kayla Foley, the team continued to work hard and never



CAPTAINS GRACE FARREL AND KAYLA FOLEY CELEBRATE AFTER A SUCCESSFUL GOAL

let the challenges they faced get in their way. Starting the game with the signature Hail Mary and Trojans on 3, the girls ran out on the field to play with everything they had for 80 minutes

The team consisted of 7 seniors, 7 juniors, 6 sophomores and 2 freshmen. After a tough opening loss against South Plainfield, the team bounced back for a dominating 6-3 win over New Brunswick. For the team's final game of the season, their senior night, they went up against the North Plainfield Canucks. The Canucks led 1-0 until senior Carmella Sordillo tied the game. The game went into overtime where there was the most perfect ending, the team's leading goal scorer, senior Jinelle Negri landed the golden goal on a free kick.

Farrell said: "This season has been filled with a lot of ups and downs but overall I wouldn't trade it for anything. I am so proud of how hard the girls have worked and how much everyone has improved throughout the season. It was such an honor to be named captain of the team and have the girls look to me as a role model on the field."

## Running towards success

BY: CATHERINE FROST

The 2022 cross country season has been a very good so far with many personal records. Throughout the summer the team had been training for the upcoming season. Everyday after school, the team continues training for the rest of the season. The cross country program is led by Tim Miller and is assisted by Coach Tonzola. The girls captains are senior Emily Wall and senior Isabella Danner. Seniors Neal Choksi and Alex Cocuzza are captains of the boys team.

This year there are five seniors throughout the program. While some have not been in this program their entire highschool career, they have made so much progress. The seniors lead the team with their high spirits and competitiveness. Hall said a few words regarding the seniors: "Even though I have only known them for two years it truly feels like forever."

So far this season the team has had many accomplishments. On September 24th, Danner competed in the Stewart Memorial Invitational girls

varsity 5k race and came in 20th place, earning a medal. On October 12th the team ran at the GMC White Divisional Championship 5k. Choski and junior Beniamino DiCocco finished top 10 in the boys varsity race. While Wall, freshman Adriana Torres, sophomore Kaitlin Hall and sophomore Samantha Denion all came in the top 30 for their race. Just 10 short days later, the team competed in the Greater Middlesex Championship 5k race.

Torres ran in the girls freshman race, smashing her goals. Her finishing time was 25:23, landing her in top 10 for the freshman girls. Despite how many talented runners there were in his race, Choksi managed to come in 23rd place with a time of 17:25, earning a medal. Runners Cocuzza, DiCocco, and Choksi made all-division. Choksi also made all-county.

The team is proud of the accomplishments they completed this season and the progress each individual runner has made. They look forward to building the team throughout the course of the year.

## Making memories



JUNIOR JACK JOCYE PUNTS THE BALL TO THE OPPOSING TEAM (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

BY: WILLIAM OWENS

The football team has had a season that can be described only as electrifying and exciting. Overall, they have gone an astounding 8-1, and 4-0 in their league, while being ranked as the 41st best team in the state of New Jersey and being ranked first in the United Gold division. Every opponent faced has met the immovable defense and unstoppable offense that the Trojans have to offer.

The team's pure commitment and concentrated efforts have skyrocket-

eted them to where they stand. Perfecting their craft and fulfilling the "grind" has been their focus. Head senior captains are Najee Lovejoy and Jayden Young, but they rotate the captain role between the seniors throughout the games.

In terms of individual stats: offensively, Benjamin Bussiere, a senior WR, has led the team in receiving yards per game at 84.1, and has led the team in total TDS at 8, scoring 48 PTS total. Alternatively, on the defensive side, Isaiah Marelis, a senior DE, has achieved the most sacks, at 7.

Despite the strong presence of individual talent with skilled players on the team, winning would be impossible without the individuals that work tirelessly off the field. This includes the head coach, Tarig Holman, assistant coaches, team coordinators, conditioning coaches, recovery personnel, and overall, everyone that has been involved in any way with the team. The players remain extremely thankful for their efforts and for pushing them to places they never thought they would be able to reach.

## Flying spirits



CAPTAIN ANNIKA ZAVALLA COMPETES ON FLOOR AND LEADS THE TEAM TO ANOTHER WIN

BY: AMELIA YUEN

"Good luck girls, do it up Trojans!" can be heard throughout the gymnasium during every gymnastics meet. Last season they went undefeated 8-0. Resuming that excellent performance, the girls have a perfect 6-0 record this season, dominating all their meets.

The team is well-versed in agility and coordination from the professional training by head coach Brant Lutka and assistant coaches, Sam Obolsky and Amanda Cleveland-

Miller. They opened the season with a win over Old Bridge, and continued the streak by outdoing South Brunswick, South Plainfield, East Brunswick, and Piscataway. Redeeming themselves from placing second behind East Brunswick in last year's GMC Champions, the team added another GMC Championship title to their reservoir, receiving a medal in all events and moving up the ranks as third in the state.

In the GMC, junior captain Nina Sanguiliano took fourth place All-Around. Joining her on the podium was freshman Sophia Bertocci taking fifth place, and fellow freshman Supriya Moore was named the All-Around Champion. Moore also attained the Vault Champion medal with Bertocci in fourth. Moore took second place on the floor and Bertocci took fifth. Adding onto the achievements from the GMC, the gymnasts set a new state record high score of 112.275. The team won its Division and the Greater Middlesex Conference Championship and the NJSIAA North II Sectional.



# Game, set, match!

BY: EMMA FLYNN

The varsity girls tennis team had a very successful season. They finished the year with a 9 and 1 record in addition to winning their division. Their only recorded loss was against the Somerville Pioneers.

The team was led and coached by Coach Duncan Merriman-Mendez. Together, Merriman-Mendez and the 2022 captains led the girls to victory. The captains were Sara Asdhir, Jessica Kubiak, and Sophie Hardy.

The team has excelled far past what they thought was possible in the past and they have each other to thank. The girls always showed their team spirit and love for each other and the game. The team spirit the girls exhibited during games, practices, and even off the court was inspiring and the driving factor for their successes. Asdhir said: "Tennis without a doubt is one of my top memories, and the activity that made me feel most part of a community at school. Being a captain this year was such an honor, and I'm so grateful for all the fun and special memories



CAPTAIN JESSICA KUBIAK PREPARES TO RETURN THE BALL TO THE OPPOSING TEAM (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

I made with my teammates through tennis. They will always be my family!!"

*"I'm so grateful for all the fun and special memories I made with my teammates through tennis. They will always be my family!"*

- Sara Asdhir

# Loud and proud

BY: LAUREN MULLEN

"Let's go Trojans!" is a phrase heard at many sporting events throughout the school year from a special group of people, the cheerleaders!

The cheerleaders can be found cheering on the football and basketball teams during their respective seasons and participating in competitions of their own. Whether it be under the Friday night lights or sitting courtside, the girls are always showing off their Trojan spirit. The cheerleaders have attended every football game thus far this season and cheered the teams to victory alongside the Trojan Army, the best fans in the GMC!

On October 23 the Trojan cheerleaders took the mat at their first in person competition since the pandemic, and their performance showed just how much hard work and dedication went into preparing. They used their skills to put together a routine to compete at this year's GMC game day competition. They

earned the fifth place spot in the GMC white division. Now that they have passed GMC's and the football



SOPHOMORE TABITHA APOLLON CHEERS AT THE HOME-COMING FOOTBALL GAME

season is coming to a close, the team is gearing up for the basketball sideline season, breaking out the cheers and stunts the crowds all know and love. The girls are starting to prepare a new routine for their very own competition season which is set to start this winter! The girls put so much effort into giving the Trojan Army an amazing game day experience. Now it's time to show up and be 'Loud and Proud' for the rest of the year to give them support!

# New 'goals'

BY: AREN MELENDEZ

The boys soccer team was composed of mostly underclassmen and they all played with their hearts, not caring how big the opponent was. The team tried their best every single game and left it all on the field. They played every game like their last and always stood up for one another.

The captains were seniors Cyrus Erachshaw, Charles Maxi, and Yash Vakil. The other seniors on the team were Julian Buitrago, Aren Melendez, Alex Pasquale, and Rudra Patel. These seniors dedicated all that they could to this team and were excellent leaders, captains or not. They all played a part in giving what they could to have the underclassmen's buy-in and follow them in playing for the team. They were fundamental in changing the culture surrounding the team and are leaving a team that easily has the potential to become more competitive in the near future.

A duo that has not been named yet that deserves plaudits were the two new head coaches for the team, Dylan Jorge and Edwin Umazor. They started with intense pre-seasons and an actual training regime that last year lacked. They immensely changed the pace of the season by introducing an aggressive and high-intensity soccer program. The relationship between the players and the coaches was stronger than ever and created an important foundation to maintain going forward. They were a huge part in the team's successes.

Now, looking back on the season, the top goalscorer for the team was Maxi. His overall tally included an insane goal from about 25 yards out, against Middlesex, which alone could contend for some goal highlight awards.

This season might not have been the best on paper, but it laid the foundation and building blocks for many years to come.

# Dominating on the court

BY: DANIELLE SUTER

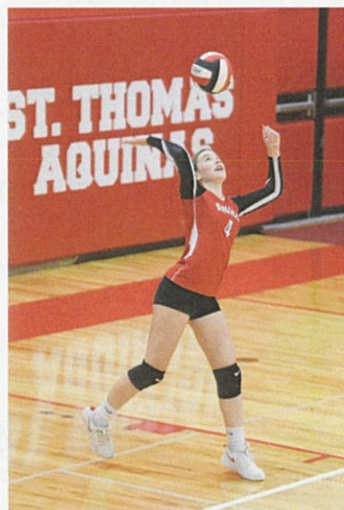
"It's not about how you start, it's about how you finish. Remember that." This was the quote that everyone stood by, and the 2022-2023 volleyball team has shown that. The starters for this season were setter, Danielle Suter, outside hitters, Oliv-

ia Alicante and Kylie Ferber, middle blockers, Brianna Wynn and Ella Federico, right side, Esperanza Mojica, and libero, Alyssa Miel. These starters worked so well together and had great communication with each other. If one person had a bad day, the others knew what had to be done in order to win the game. Senior captain, Suter, and junior captain, Alicante, showed everyone what true captains should look like.

Overall, there were many accomplishments that happened throughout the season. Suter conquered 500 assists in just about a year and a half. Alicante also conquered 500 kills in her career starting as a freshmen. Lastly, Alyssa Miel achieved 300 digs in her career as well.

The season ended with their overall record of 9-8, and 8-4 in their conference. The top girls with the highest stats were Suter with 284 assists and 60 aces, Alicante with 235 kills, and Miel with 158 digs.

These girls have given everything they have since they stepped foot into the gym, and the seniors can't wait to see what the next season has in store for the Trojans volleyball team



SENIOR KYLIE LUCAS SERVES THE BALL TO THE OPPOSING TEAM



SPONTANEOUS  
EVENTS



FEB. 5

POLAR  
LUNGE

AQUINAS  
STAR MASS



DEC. 15

STARS DRAMA DEPARTMENT PRESENTS  
LITTLE SHOP  
OF  
HORRORS

NOVEMBER 18-20

CHRISTMAS  
Concert

DEC  
10 & 11