



Celebrating Catholic Schools



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African-American club hosts prominent alum



place for everyone: opening doors to places you belong.”

“Success is a place for everyone: opening doors to places you belong.”

- Justin Dews

Due to the overwhelming number of students who were moved by Justin’s speech, students were invited to the Commons where they were able to ask any additional questions that they had. Newer faculty members were also present to meet with Justin as well as teachers that had taught him back in his high school days.

After the assembly, a luncheon was attended by his mother, President Peter Kane, Principal Harry Ziegler, alumni development head Deb Chippendale, African-American Heritage Club adviser Marie Smith, Mohabeer, and Cowherd. They debriefed about the successful day and presented some Aquinas gifts to Justin and his mother as a thank you for taking the time out of their schedules to make this event possible.

DEWS TALKS ABOUT HIS UPBRINGING AND HIS LAW CAREER TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS.

(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

BY: LISA MOHABEER

Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton where he worked with large financial clients.

Furthering in his career, Justin was a Senior Counsel in the Counsel’s Office of Governor Phil Murphy, where he advised the Governor on legislation and policies related to criminal justice, transportation, and elections. Most recently, Justin coordinated and participated in preparation sessions for Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson’s Supreme Court confirmation. He has also conducted legal research on and assisted with matters related to ethics and oversight, litigation, and racial and social justice.

As the vetting attorney on President Biden’s transition team, Justin vetted and interviewed potential Cabinet nominees and White House personnel for the Biden-Harris Administration. He then moved on to Associate Counsel in the White House Counsel’s Office where he focused on judicial nominations.

Currently, Justin is a Counsel at the multinational law firm King & Spalding where he now focuses on special matters and government investigations. Co-president of the

African-American Heritage Club, Lisa Mohabeer said of the event, “Having Justin speak in front of the school was so rewarding. His insightful experiences were something that I believe all of the faculty and students could benefit from, even more so because he is a BGA alumni that has turned into such an influential person.”

After the presentation, students were inspired by Justin’s accomplishments and ambition, which encapsulated his message, “Success is a



DEWS TAKES TIME AFTER THE Q & A SESSION TO SPEAK WITH SEVEAL STUDENTS INDIVIDUALLY.

On February 21, 2023, the African American Heritage Club presented “A conversation with Justin Dews.” Justin was accompanied by AAHC club presidents Lisa Mohabeer (‘23) and Malaysia Cowherd (‘24) who moderated the Q&A session. Students were able to join in on the conversation, ask their own questions, and learn from Justin’s insightful experiences.

Justin Dews is a BGA/STA alumnus of the Class of 2007. He graduated from Harvard University in 2011 and went on to graduate from Harvard Law School in 2015, where he was a member of the Harvard Law Review.

When asked how BGA/STA prepared him for his education, Justin responded that his AP History teacher Mrs. Carol Luzhak incorporated the government side into her teachings and it drove him to pursue the career he is in now.

Justin was a Political Law Associate at the law firm Perkins Coie and clerked for Judge Joseph Greenaway, Jr., in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He was then a Litigation Associate at the law firm

The Satoma

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Critical issues of social media



Social media was created to give people a platform to share their lives and experiences with others. It gave people the opportunity to connect with those they wouldn't be able to connect with in person. While social media had positive intentions during its earlier years, lately, it has caused more harm than good. The most prevalent problems of social media are found in today's teen and young adult culture.

During the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, social media activity reached an all time high. There was little to no in-person interaction, so social media became a main form of communication. Since then, social media has caused a decline in social skills that are essential for child development.

Many young teens missed out on learning how to form real conversations and building lasting relationships

The life and ethics of AI



Artificial Intelligence, more commonly known as AI, has prompted valid ethical concerns from many people. AI originated in the 1950s for the sole purpose of solving mathematical problems that humans could not, but it has now expanded to perform human functions. A few examples of this include: Alexis noting down your grocery list; AI programs writing papers for you; and a Roomba vacuuming your house on a schedule.

AI has instigated a worrisome sense of laziness in thousands of people worldwide. The idea of AI doing our everyday tasks is concerning to some people because AI, or robots, are not human and should not be tak-

face-to-face. For example, middle schoolers entering high school in 2022 struggled to adapt to an in-person educational and social setting because they were used to on-line interactions.

Social media provides instant gratification, making people more impatient and lowering their attention spans. Statistics show that the average person becomes frustrated after waiting 16 seconds for a web page to load.

Not only is social media creating this impatience, but it is also prohibiting teens and adults from making eye contact during in-person conversations. This is especially harmful to teens as they encounter real world experiences, like college and job interviews.

Social media is also taking a toll on the mental and physical health of young adults. The average study shows that people spend 2-3 hours a day on social media platforms. When people wake up, often the first thing they do is check their phone. The

National Bureau of Economic Research found that 31% of social media use is a result of a lack of self control. It presents a false reality. It's a facade of people's best, and rarely presents actual experiences and situations. The goal of perfection that social media promotes encourages a serious problem because it's unattainable. Many social media users suffer from mental illnesses because of this issue, and have to fight anxiety, depression, comparison, and body image struggles. Cyberbullying, another prominent issue of social media, only makes these problems worse.

In the last 15 years, these issues have become more of a concern, as social media has made it a lot easier for people to share content quickly. It is clear that when social media is used improperly, it can have extremely destructive effects on mental and physical health and social skills. Social media should only be used as a platform to connect and uplift others rather than a way to attack them.

ing over what we are meant to be doing.

One group that has particular concerns about AI are teachers. Specifically their concerns revolve around students not doing their own work but rather using AI to do it for them. This is enabling students to avoid the most important aspect of school, which is learning.

Another occurring ethical concern that many seem to have is that AI is unfair and biased. This concern was formed due to the fact that AI has now started to replace humans in the workforce and has enabled employers to pay their human employees less. Since AI has amplified existing societal biases, it has led to unfair treatment and discrimination within the workplace.

While AI has its cons, it also has its pros. The use of AI in surgeries makes the

process faster and more efficient, lowering risks that may be made by human surgeons. AI has been used in kidney transplants, brain surgeries and in orthopedic surgeries. This new technology is revolutionary for both surgeons and patients. The downside to this is that it could very well replace surgeons entirely.

Ethically it all comes down to how we choose to use it, whether that be for good or bad purposes. In today's society, many have used it to anonymously attack others online. The lack of human interaction appears to be linked to a lack of empathy between people.

Hopefully in the future people will choose to use it for good and not take advantage of it. It is important to maintain what makes us human rather than dismissing it in favor of instant gratification and laziness.

Holy Spirit meets school spirit



JOEL MARELIS, ARTIS RAY AND JALEN HINNANT CHEER ON NAJEE LOVEJOY IN THE TUG-OF-WAR

(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

BY: GABRIELLA RAMBAUD

The Catholic Schools Week celebrations started with the annual Catholic Schools Week Mass on Wednesday, February 1. Students, teachers, faculty, and staff all joined together to celebrate the school community. Each year, this Mass brings everyone in the school together and is a great way to connect with one another and God. The liturgical choir and band consis-

tently leads everyone by performing amazing music throughout every Mass, and this Mass was no different.

“Performing at Mass connects something I already enjoy with the religious aspect of the school, and I find that wonderful,” said junior Matt Guipo, a member of the liturgical choir. After the Mass, everyone recognized the milestones and achievements of people in the school community. The first group

to receive recognition were students who were honored by the Diocese of Metuchen for their examples as disciples of Jesus Christ. Seniors Isabella Danner, Donato Farid, Alyssa Ingram, and junior John Schilp were all honored with the St. Timothy Award. Senior Gabrielle Cruz was similarly honored with the Mother Teresa Award. Next, students from each grade level were recognized for their Outstanding Service in both the school and their local community. This included freshmen Savannah McGuire, Taylor Tavalare, and Adriana Torres; sophomores William Owens, Selena Catanzano, and Emily Pittari; juniors Sophia Llaguno, John Schilp, and Prutha Parikh; and seniors Allison Devitt, Sierra Smith, and Jessica Markert. Finally, teachers and staff were awarded for reaching milestone years within the school. The milestones ranged from several teachers reaching 5 years to Mr. Scott Runkel’s impressive 40 years.

The next part of the Catholic Schools Week fun was the iconic Teacher Swap on Thursday, a beloved tradition in which seniors attempt to capture the style of their favorite

teachers and teach their classes for the day. “It was so much fun to get to experience being Doc for the day. I had him for two years and I’ve always wanted to teacher swap with him because I’ve always enjoyed being in his class,” said senior Grace Farrell.

To wrap up the week was Friday’s Tournament of Champions. The ability of every class was tested in order to see which class would be victorious. In the athletic games taking place in the main gym, the senior class and the junior class competed against one another while the sophomores competed against the freshmen. Whether students were supporting their classmates or participating in one of the many games, everyone had a blast and showed off their school spirit. The events the classes competed in were crossfire, minute-to-win it games, volleyball, basketball, relay races, speedball, and tug-of-war. In the end, the sophomores took home the crown, while the seniors clinched in 2nd. The juniors trailed in 3rd place, leaving the freshmen in 4th place. Much thanks to the student council for all of their hard work.

Volleyball players show heart

BY: AMANDA STADTMILLER

On Wednesday, February 2, the Heart Heroes Volleyball Tournament took place, continuing a fifteen-year school tradition. There were a total of 10 teams that competed this year, including both faculty and students. Students, teachers, and parents came out to the game to support their favorite players.

The first game saw *The Legal Team* (Sean Lacko, Michael Corradino, Elizabeth Bera, Jackson Boomer, Mackenzie Cruz, Victoria McLean, and Landen Gonzalez) up against faculty team \$24.99 (Ms. Byrne, Ms. Strahl, Mrs. Gosset, Ms. Caporrino, Mr. Vigilante, Mr. Dama, and Mr. Cullinan). Although this was a very tight game, the student team won. Next was team *Hit ‘Em Up* (Alexander Cocuzza, Aren Melendez, Alyssa Miel, Kylie Ferber, Charles Maxi, and Neal Choksi) against faculty team *Mission Unblockable* (Fr. Mike, Mr. Merriman-Mendez, Mr. Zonkowski,

Mr. Herbert, Mr. Biancchini, and Mr. Bhattacharya). This time, the faculty team beat the student team. Next was student team *Air Traffic Control* (Olivia Dodge, Anthony Campora, Medina Forbes, Gianna Calora, Emely Rodrigues, Sophia Dominguez, Noble Forbes, and Theja Kalia) versus student team *The Stemgineers* (Kazimer Begonja, Sandra Abrantes, Natalie Mercado, Rachel Milewski, Prithvi Parikh, Anthony Carr, and Sierra Smith). *Air Traffic Control* won this round. Next were *The Leftovers* (Solim Khan, Brandon Fuentes, Jaser Azcona, Ryan Williams, Matthew Lowe, Daniel Cachola, and Miguel Rodriguez) against *Men In Slap* (Augustus Samuel Jr., Cyrus Erachshaw, Sam Villanueva, Thomas Schwegler, Ben Bussiere, Jalen Edwards, and Christian Magliacano). *The Leftovers* hailed victorious.

Then came the semifinals. *The Slickets* (Zach Diaz, Chris Santner, David Ryden, Ricky Delrio, Chris Fogarile, and Carlos Jimenez) went

up against *The Legal Team* and won. The next game featured *The Elite 6* (Donovan Epps, Tyler Nerges, Charlie Joyce, Lucas Cassino, Jack Joyce, Khalil Stubbs, and Louie Scaff) up against *The Leftovers*, in which *The Elite 6* won. *Air Traffic Control* faced *The Pink Bandits* (Jinelle Negri, Jayden Young, Gavin Sansone, Amya Hill, Seth McGhee, and Gianna Condito) and lost. Finally, *OTF* (Danielle Suter, Najee Lovejoy, Jalen Hinnant, Christian Scaff, Isaiah Marelis, and Joel Marelis) won against *Mission Unblockable*.

Then, it was time for the long-anticipated finale of the tournament, between *OTF* and *The Pink Bandits*. After a close competition, *OTF* came out on top as the 2023 champions. While everyone had a great time at the game, whether it was participating on the court or cheering on the sidelines, the real reason for this event was to support and raise money for the American Heart Association. The school raised

a total of about \$1,000 for the research of heart diseases this year.



MEMBERS OF STUDENT TEAM HIT ‘EM UP FIGHT FOR THE BALL

Junior class puts a ring on it

BY: AMELIA YUEN & MORGAN RYAN

On the evening of Wednesday, March 1st, the Class of 2024 celebrated their Junior Ring Day ceremony, a time-honored tradition that has been celebrated at the school for over five decades. This cherished tradition holds great importance for the entire school community, as it symbolizes the unity and diversity of each graduating class and their place in our history.

During this special event, the members of the junior class are honored for their achievements and

contributions to the school community, as well as their commitment to upholding the values and traditions of St. Thomas Aquinas. The ceremony is a reminder of how far they've come as a class during their years together, and a promise to support each other for the remainder of their time in high school. As the juniors are preparing to become seniors next year and graduate before they know it, this ring day ceremony is meant to celebrate the students as not only strong individuals who can take on future challenges, but rather part of a larger community that values unity, diversity, and excellence, and will

take on those challenges together.

The junior class has faced many challenges over their three years here, between entering their freshman year in the midst of a global pandemic and all the normal trials that come with the high school experience, but through their support of one another, they have emerged stronger and more united than ever. The theme of their ring day ceremony was "letting our lights shine," according to Mr. Vincenzo Dama, newly installed this year as the moderator of the Class of 2024.

Attending family members and friends of the junior class were welcomed to the ceremony by class officer Natalie Neno and junior student council members Nicholas Basilico and Kayla Foley. Father Mike led the liturgy, and the music was provided by Mr. Cullinan and junior members of the liturgical choir. The ceremony emphasized the special gifts of each member of the class and the bond between them, as well as honoring their accomplishments. Symbols such as the varsity letter, music note, and drama masks highlighted the different passions and talents of the students. Following the liturgy,

Principal Harry Ziegler spoke about the history of the class ring and the importance of its symbolism. Then, Father Mike blessed the rings. Each junior was then called by name to receive their ring from Mr. Turco and Mr. Ziegler, who handed them each the box with their respective rings and took photos with them.

Once everyone had received their rings, the juniors were tasked with finding as many friends, teachers, and classmates as possible to turn their rings around their fingers, a long-standing tradition for good luck during the rest of high school. The students and their guests enjoyed refreshments and posed for pictures after the ceremony, before going home with a bejeweled reminder of unity, memories, and what is to come for the Class of 2024.

This year's Ring Day Ceremony was an opportunity for the school community to come together and show their love and support for the junior class as they prepare for their senior year, graduation, and whatever else is to come in the next chapter of their lives. Best of luck to all of the juniors!



VIVIANA RODRIGUEZ LEADS THE CHOIR AND THE REST OF THE JUNIOR CLASS IN PRAYER
(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

Freezin' fundraiser

BY: SID REIMAN

On February 5, several buses of students left the parking lot at 10:30 in the morning, en route to Sea Bright for the tenth annual Polar Plunge. Students arrived at the beach about an hour later. The slight breeze made the forty-five degree temperature seem even colder. Students gathered on the beach to take photos and enjoy hot chocolate, Roche cookies, and donuts prepared by parent volunteers. At 1 o'clock, seventy students and twelve faculty members plunged into the piercing forty-two degree water. Family, friends, teachers, and dogs cheered on everyone taking the plunge. After the students dried off, the buses and cars left the beach, ending a successful day in Sea Bright.

It was the tenth year the school has participated in the Polar Plunge, which was created in 2007 by the Ancient Order of Hibernians to raise

money for Catholic schools. Our school's chapter of the Polar Plunge was arranged by Mrs. Deborah Chippendale, Director of Alumni and Development. Over sixteen thousand dollars were raised for tuition assistance, as well as the drama, music, and athletic departments. The Polar Plunge Committee, run by Mrs. Chippendale, worked hard during the months leading up to the event to get the word out about it, generating interest and excitement as more people heard about it and decided to sign up. Students are always incentivized to attend or even take the plunge themselves with the promise that some of their favorite faculty members will go in the water, some even promising to wear costumes while doing so.

The school's total amount of money raised comes from sponsorships from friends and family, as well as donations from alumni and benefactors. The students to raise

the most money from each class were recognized for their achievements via loudspeaker: freshman Alayshia McCutcheon, sophomore Madison Brew, junior Nicholas Basilico, and senior Anthony Carr.

The Polar Plunge is an exciting tradition that each year's freshman class gets to experience

anew. Many students are excited to take the plunge again in the future. "I would happily take the plunge next year," said freshman Savannah McGuire. "It's a great way to help others in our school participate in activities. People should at least consider coming to cheer on our school for the benefit of others."



STUDENTS STAY WARM BEFORE TAKING THE PLUNGE

Chiefs scrape by for the win



MAHOMES DASHES WITH THE BALL BEFORE BEING TACKLED BY THE DEFENDER (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

BY: EMMA FLYNN AND LISA MOHABEER

Superbowl LVII took place on February 12, 2023, with the Kansas City Chiefs vs the Philadelphia Eagles at State Farm Stadium, in Glendale, Arizona. Both teams finished the 2022-2023 regular season with a 14-3 record. There were just under 68,000 fans in attendance and another 113 million people live

streamed the game from home! This year was the Chiefs' third Superbowl appearance in the last four seasons and the Eagles' fourth Superbowl appearance. The Eagles' last appearance was in 2018, which was their first Super Bowl win in franchise history. This year fans anticipated watching brothers Travis Kelce, Chiefs' tight end, and Jason Kelce, Eagles' cen-

ter, play against each other to be named a Super Bowl Champion.

The Chiefs overcame a 10 point deficit after trailing 24-14 at half-time. The Eagles gave it their all, pouring on 17 points in the second quarter and refusing to back down even when the Chiefs turned the momentum in the second half. Kansas City went up 35-27 after a punt return by Kadarius Toney set up a Skyy Moore walk-in touchdown, but Philadelphia quickly answered. Jalen Hurts found DeVonta Smith for a game-changing catch and tied the game. Just when the Eagles had a glimmer of hope and appeared to force a field goal with plenty of time left, a defensive holding penalty came in on James Bradberry and allowed Kansas City to run the clock all the way down to eight seconds. Harrison Butker drilled a 27-yard field goal, Hurts' Hail Mary throw came up well short, and the Chiefs walked off the field as champions once again, coming out on top 38-35. Kansas City came away

with points on each of their drives to outlast the Eagles and capture their second championship in four years and their third franchise win.

This year's halftime show was headlined by Rihanna who took the stage for the first time in several years, performing a medley of songs while dressed in a bright red jumpsuit she wore unzipped over a coordinating red bodysuit. While performing on the biggest stage in the world, Rihanna debuted her second pregnancy belly. She hired 280 dancers who were dressed like marshmallows to accompany her as she sang many fan favorites including "Only Girl (In the World)," "We Found Love," and "Diamonds."

Patrick Mahomes, Chiefs' quarterback, was named Super Bowl MVP. He completed 21 out of 27 passes for 182 yards and 3 touchdowns, and rushed six times for 44 yards. Mahomes became the first player since Kurt Warner in 1999 to be named both NFL and Super Bowl MVPs in the same season.

A new decade brings a new generation

BY: FRANCES DANNER

Bringing back laughter, love, and all things 90s, *That '90s Show* was released as a spinoff of the infamous sitcom, *That '70s Show*. After it was announced in October 2021, devoted fans patiently awaited the spinoff in hopes to see their favorite characters back on screen again, and their wishes were finally granted in January 2023. Red Forman, Kitty, Eric, Donna, Michael Kelso, Jackie Burkhart, Fez, Bob, Leo, and Fenton all appear for at least one episode, catching the watchers up on their lives over the past fifteen years. Now, the show contains a brand new generation of children, resembling the roles and lifestyles of the original characters from *That '70s Show*.

Opening on the Fourth of July, Eric, Donna, and their daughter Leia travel to visit Kitty and Red Forman for the holiday. Leia is immediately greeted with a culture shock as Point Place, Wisconsin is extremely different from her home in Chicago. In

just one day, Leia is challenged to get out of her comfort zone through the help of her new friends: Gwen, Jay Kelso, Ozzie, Nikki, and Nate. Exposed to a brand new world of teenage life, Leia never wants to leave and begs her parents to let her stay for the remainder of the summer. Eric and Donna decide to let her stay, beginning Leia's summer of fun.

The spinoff was faced with mixed feelings; while some loved it, others were extremely disappointed. Despite being a Netflix Original Series, the show follows the outline of most Disney Channel Originals, as each episode contains a new adventure for the teens. Most notably, the show contains an exhausting laugh track that sounds off after almost every single line. Filled with forced jokes and cheesy moments, devout viewers were shocked to hear that a majority of the original writers returned for the spinoff. Fans wanted to see more of the characters develop individual personalities, as



NIKKI, OZZIE, JAY, AND GWEN ALL TOGETHER IN THAT '90S SHOW

well as a stronger distinction from the members of the original series.

While containing extreme flaws, the show did hold some redeeming qualities, as the 90s style and references did not disappoint. With strong references to the past, the show does an excellent job of balancing the old and new plots. As with most spinoffs, it doesn't compare to the original, but

That '90s Show does hold immense potential. With just a few more edits to the script, the show is on its way to perfection. Overall, nostalgia is the show's biggest factor, as for those that watched *That '70s Show*, it was definitely a blast from the past. Renewed for a second season, fans are patiently waiting for what the next set of episodes has to offer.

Music industry's biggest award ceremony returns



BAD BUNNY BRINGS THE LATIN SAZON TO THE CEREMONY WITH HIS OPENING PERFORMANCE

BY: RYAN WILLIAMS

The 65th annual Grammy Awards ceremony, the most prestigious music award show, aired on February 5, 2023. The ceremony awarded the greatest accomplishments in the music industry for the current year, with the Grammy award being one of the highest honors in the industry. The ceremony featured performances, with many people's favorite artists nominated. Over 91 different categories

were chosen this year. Some of the highlight artists of these awards include Album of the Year, which Harry Styles won with his album *Harry's House*. The Best New Artist award went to Samara Joy, the Record of the Year was won by Lizzo with "About Damn Time," and the Song of the Year was awarded to Bonnie Raitt with "Just Like That." Some of the other award winners were Adele, Kendrick Lamar, Bad Bunny, Taylor Swift, Dave Chappelle, Willy Nelson, and Beyonce.

These artists won Best Pop Solo Performance, Best Rap Album, Best Música Urbana Album, Best Music Video, Best Comedy Album, Best Country Album, and Best Dance/Electronic Album, respectively. Beyonce, with the couple of awards she got, now has the record for the most Grammy wins in a career, passing Georg Solti who had won 31 and had been nominated 71 times. Presenting these awards were Cardi B, First Lady Jill Biden, James Corden, Billy Crystal, Viola Davis, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Olivia Rodrigo, Shania Twain, and host Trevor Noah.

This year's performances consisted of Bad Bunny, Brandi Carlile, Harry Styles, Kim Petras, Lizzo, Luke Combs, Mary J. Blige, Sam Smith, and Steve Lacey. Quavo also had a performance but before he began there was a moment of silence for Takeoff, a Migos member, artist, and friend of Quavo, who tragically passed away in November last year. These artists performed throughout the show between certain awards and some even per-

formed the songs which they were nominated for. Some of the notable songs performed were "El Apagón" and "Después de la Playa" by Bad Bunny, who opened the show, "As it Was" by Harry Styles, and "About Damn Time" by Lizzo. At the end of the award show, one final performance shocked many people- DJ Khaled's song "God Did" which featured artists Rick Ross, Lil Wayne, Jay-Z, John Legend, and Fridayy. It was performed while sitting at a dining room table set up with each rapper singing their lyrics from the original song. This was by far the most surprising performance of the night, which many people were super excited to see performed by these artists.

Combined with the special presents and performances, the Grammys turned out to be very successful. It aired live on CBS and Paramount+ and had a large amount of views, totaling around 12.4 million people. Overall, the Grammys did not disappoint this year, with all the awards and nominees deserving to be recognized for the music and art they make.

Life-size AI companion turned killer

BY: ELIZABETH BERA

On January 6, 2023, Universal Pictures' *M3GAN* was released in theaters. In this unique and thrilling horror movie, the audience is taken into the lives of a robotics engineer, Gemma (played by Allison Williams), and her niece Cady (played by Violet McGraw). After a tragic car accident causes the death of Cady's parents, Gemma requests guardianship of Cady. She is having a hard time adjusting to this new lifestyle, so Gemma creates a life-size doll that she nicknames M3gan, which stands for Model 3 Generative Android. But before showcasing it to the world, she uses Cady to test it out. This AI doll is meant to be a companion for her: someone she can play with and trust. M3gan constantly states that she will do anything to protect Cady. But when she says anything, she really means it.

The character of M3gan is a very complex one, being played by two different actresses. Amie Donald

physically portrays M3gan, while Jenna Davis voices her. Davis describes her take on the character of M3gan to Teen Vogue saying, "I feel like with Cady, M3gan is more under her breath and very personal and can really feel that connection. But with other people, she's bolder and she's more outspoken. But she also is, in a way, like Siri. She has those moments where she just spits out very educational facts and different things like that where you can recognize that she is an AI. Because a lot of people think she's a doll. And she's not a doll - she's an AI robot."

Throughout the production of the movie, director Gerard Johnstone repeatedly told Donald and Davis that he wanted the character of M3gan to be really fun, and that is exactly what they did. Amie Donald even came up with a few of her "stunts" herself, like one memorable scene of her running on all fours. Producer James Wan showed a liking to the idea of having M3gan's physical appearance be both CGI and an anima-

tronic puppet. He wanted her to feel real, but still haunting. "But the fact that this plaything could have a life of its own is what makes it scary... It actually makes her feel creepy to be sort of in between real and not quite real," said Wan in an interview.

The M3gan doll is not something anyone wants to mess around with, due to her life-like qualities and characteristics. She has a mind of her own, and even treats a few

people like dolls with disposable parts. As the movie progresses and M3gan gets more protective over Cady, she is willing to destroy anything that gets in the way of Cady's happiness. But M3gan continues her mission even after she takes care of her first victim because no one suspects that she has done anything. How could a doll be capable of these crimes? Only time will tell when M3gan goes on her next rampage.

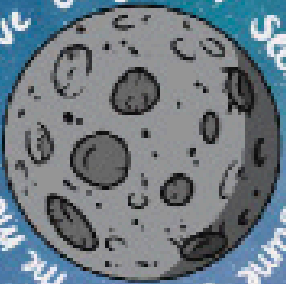


M3GAN STARES TERRIFYINGLY AT CADY THROUGH THE WINDOW
(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

Looking beyond our world...



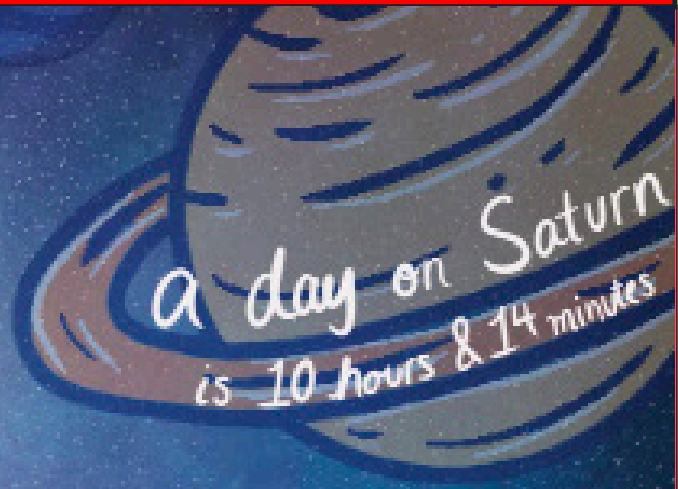
the moon
have only ever
seen the
same side of the moon



Space is Silent!



a day on Saturn
is 10 hours & 14 minutes



What did you say?!



Did you know...
SPACE
edition!

NASA space suit costs \$12,000,000



Shooting Stars
reach speeds
of 120,000 mph



stars in the Milky Way

By: Katie Barnett '23

First ever Filipino-American wins Miss Universe



MISS UNIVERSE R'BONNEY GABRIEL SMILES IN AWE AS SHE'S CROWNED IN FRONT OF MILLIONS

By: KATERINA XON

On Saturday, January 14, 2023, millions of viewers tuned in to see which contestant would take home the title of Miss Universe. The 71st Miss Universe beauty pageant was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. This was the first time New Orleans hosted the esteemed pageant and almost 90 women participated. The

2022 Miss Universe, Harnaaz Sandhu from India, passed on her crown to the new winner while Jeannie Mae and Miss Universe 2012, Olivia Culpo, hosted this year's pageant.

Throughout the pageant, the models showed off their ballgowns and swimsuits before many were eliminated. Only the top 5 delegates went on to answer the final question. This year's finalists were Miss Domini-

can Republic, Miss USA, Miss Venezuela, Miss Puerto Rico, and Miss Curacao. Once they were assessed, it was up to the judges to decide who would be crowned Miss Universe. The final question was, "If you win Miss Universe, how would you work to demonstrate this as an empowering and progressive organization?" Miss Dominican Republic's answer was about how she has dedicated most of her life to fighting for women's rights. Miss USA explained how her fashion has helped many women, and advocated for the importance of investing in one's own community. Finally, Miss Venezuela went on to say how she would follow the legacy of this organization, which chooses strong and empowering women.

The judges carefully examined each of the finalists' answers to the final question, to determine the winner. As the judges came to a conclusion, all 20 participants went onto the stage. Andreína Martínez, Miss Dominican Republic, was placed third. Finally, the top 2 candidates, Amanda Dudamel (Miss Venezuela)

and R'Bonney Gabriel (Miss USA) joined hands as they waited to hear whose name was called for runner-up.

The \$5.58 million crown was placed on R'Bonney Gabriel by Sandhu. This makes Gabriel the ninth American and the first Filipino-American to win Miss Universe. Her elaborate costume, and answers to the questions asked, pushed her appeal over the edge. Gabriel, at 28 years old, is one of the oldest women to win Miss Universe. Even though many people liked her responses, she faced allegations that the pageant was rigged for Gabriel to win instead of Martínez. Thankfully, Miss Universe Organization issued a statement defending the results of the pageant. Once this controversy calmed down, the new Miss Universe got to celebrate her victory. Now, the Houston native strives to finally travel to the Philippines. Gabriel retains the title of Miss Universe until next year, when a new Miss Universe will be crowned.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY TRADITIONS POPULAR WORLDWIDE

EVEN THOUGH ST. PATRICK IS THE PATRON SAINT OF IRELAND, THE DAY CELEBRATING HIM HAS BECOME POPULARIZED WORLDWIDE. IN FACT, THE FIRST ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE TOOK PLACE IN AMERICA, NOT IN IRELAND. MANY OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE ADOPTED THIS TRADITION, ALONG WITH THE TYPICAL FOODS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DAY.



- 1 - DUBLIN PARADE
 - 2 - IRISH SODA BREAD
 - 3 - COLCANNON (CREAMY POTATOES, GREENS, AND ONIONS WITH BUTTER)
 - 4 - AUCKLAND PARADE
 - 5 - BOSTON PARADE
- (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

Pope Francis pleads for peace in South Sudan

BY: SOPHIE HARDY AND NICOLE ARANGO

On February 3, 2023, Pope Francis visited South Sudan on a “pilgrimage of peace” with the intention of highlighting the decade-long problems that have consumed the country. Violence, corrupt leaders, famine, droughts, and, recently, floods have buried South Sudan from the Western eye. However, Pope Francis decided to call attention to these imperative issues by becoming the first Western leader to make a public visit to the country.

The pope arrived in the capital of South Sudan, Juba, after his visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The pope and his companions, Justin Wleby, and Ian Greenshiels, were greeted by President Salva Kiir at the Juba International Airport. Then, after leaving the airport they saw the colorful murals of Pope Francis that were painted along the streets, showing the South Sudanese excitement that had been rising for weeks in anticipation of his arrival.

Quickly, Pope Francis issued an appeal to the country’s leaders, calling to end the violence that began in 2013 with the eruption of the civil war. While sitting alongside President Kiir in the gardens of the

Presidential Palace, Pope Francis said, “No more bloodshed, no more conflicts, no more violence and mutual recriminations about who is responsible for it.” He then continued, “Leave the time of war behind and let a time of peace dawn!”

“Leave the time of war behind and let a time of peace dawn”

~ Pope Francis

Toward the end of his visit, Pope Francis celebrated Mass at the John Garang Mausoleum with tens of thousands of people. He implored the people of South Sudan to drop their weapons and to forgive one another. “In the name of Jesus and of his Beatitudes, let us lay down the weapons of hatred and revenge to take up those of prayer and charity.” He told the people, “This country, so beautiful yet ravaged by violence, needs the light that each one of you

has, or better, the light that each one of you is.” According to Pope Francis, to bring peace to South Sudan the people there need to overcome the dislikes that have become dangerous between each other.

After South Sudan gained its independence from Sudan on July 11, 2011, there was a 7-year civil war fought between the people and the government. In 2015 the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) collapsed and it took 3 years before the Revitalised Agree-

ment on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, (R-ARCSS) was finally negotiated. On August 4, 2022, it was agreed to extend the R-ARCSS another 24 months, beginning in February of 2023. 2022 documents revealed that in South Sudan approximately 310,000 people were displaced, 911 killed, and 1,173 injured as a result of the ongoing violence.

Ultimately, through these visits, Pope Francis hopes to bring attention to Africa’s most troubled, but forgotten, countries.



POPE FRANCIS BLESSES THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTH SUDAN, SALVA KIIR, BEFORE HE RETURNS TO ROME

(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

Blackjack Program hopes for global connectivity

BY: AMELIA YUEN

DARPA, the United States Department of Defense’s Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, is developing an ambitious project, known as the “Blackjack program.” This project aims to create a network of small satellites in low Earth orbit (LEO) that would be connected by lasers and managed by artificial intelligence algorithms.

The program is estimated to cost \$2 billion over five years and could revolutionize global connectivity by expanding internet access to areas without traditional infrastructure. The program’s primary objective is to provide speedy transmission for data, video, and other large-scale communications across the world and in space. The satellites would communicate with each other through laser beams, providing a secure and reliable

communication network that is not limited by geographic boundaries or susceptible to interference or censorship.

The development of the program will involve a partnership between DARPA, private industry, and the US military, with companies such as SpaceX, Blue Origin, and Lockheed Martin also expressing interest. The objectives of the project are optimistic, hoping to aid global connectivity, military operations, scientific research, and space exploration. The faster and more reliable communication network could provide significant advantages for the US military because it creates a more secure communication between troops and their equipment.

The program could also benefit commercial applications, particularly in the field of satellite-based internet communication. The improved communication network would provide a more robust platform for satellite-based services,

such as remote sensing, weather monitoring, and global positioning systems.

The development of the space laser communication network will be led by a team of researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), who have been awarded a \$10 million grant from DARPA. The project, known as the Direct to Digital Optical Link with Advanced Network In-space (DDLAS), will focus on developing a high-bandwidth communication network that can transmit data between satellites in outer space and back to Earth. The DDLAS project aims to address several challenges associated with space-based communication, including limited bandwidth and the susceptibility of existing communication networks to interference and jamming. The space lasers will use advanced optical technology to transmit data at high speeds and with high accuracy, making it pos-

sible to transmit large amounts of data in a short amount of time

The technology has the potential to not only bring high-speed internet access to rural areas, but also to ships at sea and aircraft that pass over remote parts of the globe. The program could also pave the way for new scientific discoveries and space exploration, providing a more reliable and secure communication network for spacecraft and satellites.



DARPA ARTIST MAKES DIGITAL SATELLITE CONCEPT

Movie turned musical opens this week

BY: MORGAN RYAN

On the evening of Friday, March 24th, the drama department will open this year's spring musical, *Legally Blonde*.

The musical, based on the iconic 2001 film of the same name, follows the story of Elle Woods (senior Abigail Bera), a perky sorority girl who loves fashion, fun, and everything pink. After she is dumped by her boyfriend, Warner Huntington III (junior Sean Lacko), Elle leaves her lavish life at UCLA and follows him to Harvard Law School in an attempt to prove that she is serious and smart enough for him. To Elle's horror, she finds that Warner has already started dating another girl: the offensively drab Vivienne Kensington (senior Morgan Ryan).

At Harvard, Elle's law career starts off rocky: she gets thrown out of class on her first day by the formidable Professor Callahan (senior Jackson Boomer) and makes a fool out of herself in front of Warner, Vivienne, and their classmates. Her tribulations almost make Elle lose sight of who she is, until she proves herself with the help of a kind-hearted Harvard graduate named Emmett Forrest (junior Michael Corradino). He teaches her the value of hard work, as well as her sorority sisters, Margot (senior Melody Cadet), Serena (senior Gabriella Hamm), and Pilar (junior Jasmine Torres), who encourage her to stay positive.

Elle's studying is put on trial when she is selected to be an intern at Callahan's law firm, where her team is tasked with defending Brooke Windham (sophomore Elizabeth Bera), a fitness enthusiast who has been accused of murdering her husband.

Throughout the events of the musical, Elle learns that staying true to oneself never goes out of style. The message of the story shows that women can be successful and smart without sacrificing their femininity or fun-loving attitude, and that girls should support and empower each other rather than drag each other down to impress men.

Elle is surrounded by several strong women who impart their wisdom on her and learn from her as she works her way through life, love, and law school. Besides Vivienne, Brooke, and her sorority sisters, Elle finds friendship with Paulette Bonafonte (junior Viviana Rodriguez), a hairstylist who learns to love herself and be confident with Elle's encouragement. She also meets Enid Hoopes (junior Amanda Ponik), a strong-willed feminist in Elle's class who finds sisterhood with her. The story conveys a strong message of girl power through its characters and relationships, shining the spotlight on many women in leading and featured roles.

"Elle's story teaches that you shouldn't have to change who you are to be respected by others," said Abigail Bera, who plays the lead



THE GIRLS OF THE DELTA NU SORORITY ARE EXCITED TO CONGRATULATE ELLE ON HER UPCOMING ENGAGEMENT (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

role. "Legally Blonde makes me proud to be a woman."

"Elle's story teaches that you shouldn't have to change who you are to be respected by others... [it] makes me proud to be a woman"

-Abigail Bera

Two weeks before opening night, members of the cast were presented with a unique opportunity: they met with Haven Burton, an actress who understudied for the role of Elle on Broadway from 2007-2008. Bera was able to speak to Burton about the nuances of the demanding and iconic leading role, while other members of the cast were able to ask her about show business and her experiences in professional theatre. They even got to showcase some of the numbers from the show for Burton and get feedback on their performance.

Legally Blonde is one of the biggest shows the drama department has ever produced. It involves a multitude of moving parts: elaborate set pieces, gorgeous costumes, even live dogs. This production also featured several upperclassmen in their first-ever stage performances.

"I found a very real passion for the art," said senior Landen Gonzalez,

who plays UPS guy Kyle in *Legally Blonde*, his first ever theatrical production. "It was super engaging and fun to learn from the ground up." It is never too late to get involved in the drama department, and participating in any production is an incredible and rewarding learning experience.

Ever since this past November's impressive fall show, *Little Shop of Horrors*, audiences have been very excited to see this year's spring musical, featuring many of the same actors as well as new talent. The show will run for two weekends, before closing on Sunday, April 2nd. Make sure to get your ticket orders in as soon as possible!

SHOW DATES & TIMES

Friday 3/24 @ 8pm
Saturday 3/25 @ 8pm
Sunday 3/26 @ 3pm

Friday 3/31 @ 8pm
Saturday 4/1 @ 8pm
Sunday 4/2 @ 3pm

Ticket Prices:
Adults - \$15
Students \$10

TICKET ORDER FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE UNDER "FINE ARTS - DRAMA DEPARTMENT" OR CALL THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT AT 732-549-1108 EXT. 630.



TOP LEFT: ELLE INTRODUCES HERSELF TO HER ORIENTATION GROUP ON HER FIRST DAY OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

TOP RIGHT: BROOKE WINDHAM GETS 'WHIPPED INTO SHAPE'

ABOVE LEFT: WARNER SURPRISES VIVIENNE WITH A PROPOSAL

ABOVE RIGHT: PAULETTE AND ELLE TALK IN HER DORM ROOM AT HARVARD

Sports Spotlight

Name: Samir Thomas

Nickname(s): Mir

Sport: Basketball

Favorite Athletic

Memory: Winning a county championship

Favorite piece of advice: "Never give up"

How do you prepare for a game?

Pre-game nap



Name: Vincent Gioffre

Nickname(s): Vinny, Vin

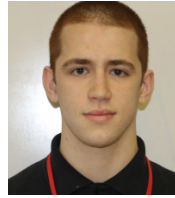
Sport: Wrestling

Favorite Athletic

Memory: Winning my first varsity match freshman year

Favorite piece of advice: "Diamonds are made under pressure"

How do you prepare for a game? Listen to music and drink a lot of water



Name: Natalie Neno

Nickname(s): Nat

Sport: Swimming

Favorite Athletic

Memory: Winning two relays at GMCs this year

Favorite piece of advice: "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard"

How do you prepare for a game? Listen to music



Name: Nazareth Pina

Nickname(s): Naz

Sport: Wrestling

Favorite Athletic

Memory: Becoming Division White Champions

Favorite piece of advice: "Enjoy training as much as you enjoy winning"

How do you prepare for a game? I treat every match the same to get rid of the nerves



Name: Victoria

Aldridge

Nickname(s): V

Sport: Bowling

Favorite Athletic

Memory: Laughing with the team, making splits, and supporting each other

Favorite piece of advice: "Just throw the ball and enjoy the game"

How do you prepare for a game? Listen to music



Name: Kayla Foley

Nickname(s): Kayla

Sport: Soccer

Favorite Athletic

Memory: Cheering for the seniors during Senior Night

Favorite piece of advice: "It's not what you go through that defines you as a person, it's how you respond to it that defines you"

How do you prepare for a game? Lighten the mood and listen to music



Name: Christopher

Fogarile

Nickname(s): Fogi

Sport: Baseball

Favorite Athletic

Memory: Beating South River at South River and driving in the go-ahead run

Favorite piece of advice: "Learn from others' mistakes to make it better for myself"

How do you prepare for a game?

Listen to music



Name: Peter Fizer

Nickname(s): Skeete

Sport: Baseball

Favorite Athletic

Memory: Winning our division after a 6 year drought

Favorite piece of advice: "Surround yourself with those on the same mission as you"

How do you prepare for a game?

Practice and listen to music



IMAGE COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES
(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

PAGE COMPILED BY ALEX SARDIS

Boys clinch 3rd consecutive GMC title

BY: WILLIAM OWENS

The boys varsity basketball team is finally able to rest after their lengthy and utterly successful season. They ended their winning season with a 25-4 record and were ranked at the top of the Red Division, at the top of GMC (Greater Middlesex Conference), and among the top twenty high school basketball teams in New Jersey. In addition, the boys were victorious in fighting for the GMC championship title and won it for the third time in a row. It is absolutely safe to say that the "grind" has paid off for these young and talented individuals.

In terms of individual stats, over the past season, both Michael "Deuce" Jones (G, Junior) and Terrell Pitts (G/F, Senior) have surpassed the remarkable milestone of having over one-thousand career points. However, for this season specifically, Jones scored 480 points, had 88 steals, and had 183 assists,

Jalen Pichardo (F, Senior) had 264 rebounds, and Chris Santner (C, Senior) had 22 blocks.

The biggest winning gap for the team this season was a 99-40 game against Timothy Christian in the quarterfinal of the NJSIAA, North Jersey, Non-Public B Tournament. During the game Pitts and Jaden Kelly (G, Junior) each scored 16 points, Jones had 8 assists, Pichardo had 8 rebounds, Santner had 3 blocks, and Kamal Lee (G, Senior) had 4 steals.

Not only did the players reach major milestones, but Coach and Vice Principal Robert Turco also obtained his 100th win during the past season. His positive attitude and love for basketball has been nothing but an inspiration to the players for the five years he has been a part of the school family.

In addition to coach Turco, the players are extremely grateful for everyone else behind the scenes who played a major role in the team's success. The team is also more than

grateful for the dedicated fans, who managed to sell out home games multiple times throughout the season. The student section in particular always passionately celebrates during any moment of any game, no matter how grave the circumstances may seem.

The unrelenting nature and unmatched skill of these young men will continue to flourish through thick and thin; in collegiate careers and in future seasons on the team.



THE BOYS GATHER PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GAME

JUNIOR MICHAEL JONES LEAPS TO TIP THE BALL INTO THE NET.

Achieving milestones Season goes 'swimmingly'

BY: ISABELLA DANNER

Trojans wrestling accomplished another incredible season and made school history. The boys and girls were led by passionate coaches - Tonzola, Gioffre, Kearns, Roman, Moyer, and Biancini. This year's captains were senior Landon Kearns and junior Ben DiCocco, and seniors Apryl Coffman and Julianna Van Ness.

Senior night was celebrated in the Catanzaro Gym on January 13th to a large crowd of friends and family for Coffman, Van Ness, Keira Guevara, Julian Buitrago, Kearns, Alex Pasquale, Rudy Patel, and Sam Keerthi.

The boys team had a record of 14-9 with major wins toward the end of the season as White Division Champions and five-peat GMC Champions. Kearns finished off his last season with the Trojans memo-

ably. He won his first belt at the Sam Cali Invitational Battle for the Belt and earned Outstanding Wrestler with Steven Cohan at the Ricky I Tournament. DiCocco and Cohan added to the success as GMC Champions. Three boys competed in the NJSIAA State Wrestling Tournament, annually held in Atlantic City - Kearns, DiCocco, Cohan, and Jahir Aguilar. Kearns and DiCocco placed top 12 and Cohan and Aguilar placed top 32.

Girls wrestling has made school history this year. Coffman started off her season strong, winning her bracket at the Elizabeth Lady Minuteman Wrestling Tournament. Coffman, Sanayah Queen, Van Ness, and Mikayla Decker came home GMC Champions, and the team won GMCs as a whole. After, the girls locked in for regions and states. Coffman and Queen won their brackets at regions, setting them up well for Atlantic City. Coffman, Queen, and Decker all attended states and, for the first time in the school's history, senior captain Coffman won the state title. Queen came in second place for her weight class, looking to fight for the title next year, and Decker placed an impressive top 12.

In all, the Trojans had an amazing year. While many are enjoying the time to rest and recover, sights are still set on the future.



JUNIOR NATALIE NENO FOCUSES ON THE FINISH LINE DURING THE FINAL LAP OF HER BUTTERFLY STROKE.

BY: NICOLE CASAS

The swim season opened on December 21, 2022. The team put time and dedication into getting ready for their first meet; however, they were met with a tough loss against South Brunswick. That did not discourage the team, who practice together on weekdays at Wardlaw + Hartridge from 5:50 AM to 7 AM. The school bus picks the team up and brings them to school after practice.

When asked if anyone specific should be mentioned, Coach Amanda Cleveland-Miller said her whole

team, calling them "an awesome group of hardworking ladies whose count is maybe one-third of their Red Division counterparts." She is very proud of the team's accomplishments. The team is well respected. Coach Amanda also mentioned that "The success of the Aquinas team is due to the TEAM, especially Emma Figueiredo, Caithlynn Caballero, Kamerin Collado, and Madison Brew. I wish there was room to mention all fourteen of my girls."

The swim team won two of three relays at GMC and three of eight individual events, thanks to Natalie Neno, a junior, and Samantha Villacis, a freshman. The team placed in the top five in six of eight events. Kaitlin Hall, Natalie Neno, Sierra Smith, Samantha Villacis, and Hailey Zeszotarski were named to the GMC ALL CONFERENCE and RED DIVISION teams. All girls qualified to Meet of Champions and competed on March 4 and 5.

On March 5, Samantha broke the school record for the 100 backstroke with her Meet of Champions swim of 56.7, which dropped her 2.37 seconds from her preliminary swim on March 4. The team also received the GMC sportsmanship award. They finished fourth in the meet, 5.5 points behind North Brunswick and 19.5 points behind South Brunswick.

SENIOR LANDON KEARNS CIRCLES HIS OPPONENT.



Girls are GMC champs for 5th year in a row

BY: JESSICA COOPER

The girls basketball team ended their season with the record of 22-7. However, they were undefeated in the conference 17-0. Winning the GMCs for the 5th year in a row was one of the biggest accomplishments of the season.

The championship game against Colonia High School was very tough and the closest game of the conference, with a final score of 49-42. MVP of the game was sophomore Leah Crosby with 12 points and 15 rebounds. Right behind her was Gianna Chuffo with 11 points and 7 rebounds. Even though Colonia put up a fight they were no match for the Lady Trojans.

Ending the season the leaders for stats were senior Jessica Cooper with

365 points and 289 rebounds and Crosby with 64 steals for the season. Senior Nia Clemons ended her high school basketball career with 808 points and 573 rebounds. Clemons was a key leader of the team this year both on and off the court. She will be taking her talents to Caldwell College. Cooper ended with 882 points and 793 rebounds. She also earned GMC player of the year and made the all conference team for the 2nd year in a row. Cooper will be taking her talents to the University of Albany. Leading the team next year is junior Amarilis Shubick. Shubick did an amazing job leading the team for the 3rd year in a row. As a junior she already has 677 points and 239 assists and she is on her way to 1000 points for her senior year.

Freshman Jordan Barnes was a

huge part of the team's success for this year. As a freshman she started off her first game with a double-double against North Brunswick with 14 points and 11 rebounds. Then she had another double-double against South Brunswick with 16 points and 19 rebounds. These huge numbers lead to wins against both of these teams. Sabrina Desio and Adriana Summerset were also two major parts of the team this year; both contributing 236 points this year. Chuffo, who is a sophomore, leads the team with 79 3's this season. She also earned MVP in the Viking Invitational with 18 points and played amazing defense, leading the team to victory 50-49.

Throughout the season the girls played very hard and the school cannot wait to see what they bring to the table next year.



JUNIOR AMARILIS SHUBICK DODGES HER OPPONENT AS SHE MAKES A DRIVE TOWARD THE BASKET.

Strike to win Running: rain or shine

BY: OLIVIA LOCANDRO

For the bowling teams, this year was nothing short of extraordinary.



JUNIOR MATTHEW GLUCHOWSKI LINES UP HIS SHOT BEFORE HE RELEASES THE BALL DOWN THE ALLEY.

(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

The seniors on the team were Alex Sardis, Nika Kudirka, Alyssa Ingram, Patrick Regis, and Miguel Rodriguez. Their coach, Rich Maddock, and their assistant coach, Chris Wilton, fully support their teams and help them to reach their full potential.

Sardis was the captain of the girls team, while Regis and Rodriguez were the co-captains of the boys team. The girls went practically undefeated, with 15 wins and one tie. The boys final record was 6-9-2, clearly reflecting how much time and effort the players put into their sport. Rodriguez and Regis qualified for GMCs, along with Sardis, Ingram, junior Victoria Aldridge, and freshman Kim Chin.

The girls placed third in the GMC finals. Out of the 100 who qualified to attend, Sardis placed 4th individually. The team finished in 2nd place in the Group 1 Finals, and were the North 2 Group 1 Sectional Champs for the second year in a row.

Sardis, Aldridge, Chin, Rodriguez and Regis each made GMC All White Division for their respective teams, and Coach Rich Maddock was named GMC Girl's White Division Coach of the Year. Sardis and Aldridge were both named to the GMC All Conference Team. And to cap it off, Sardis made the NJ All-State third team.

And with a strong united foundation, the bowling teams will only continue to improve.

BY: OLIVIA LOCANDRO

Although the winter track team was small in size, they were fully committed to their sport. The season was more about personal growth than competing against others. The team consisted of seniors Isabella Danner, Neal Choksi, Alex Cocuzza, sophomore Angelo Dally, and freshman Luke Mearthur. Despite the small number of students, the team worked hard in their season to prove that they could reach their full potential as athletes. Coaches Ron Hush and Tim Miller supported them throughout the season.

Dally, Mearthur, and Danner competed in GMCs. After injuries prevented her from competing in the past, Danner ran in the GMCs for the first time in two years.

The nature of the season meant that the team ran in freezing temperatures, but they persevered. Danner said, "I'm really excited for my last season. The boys and I have something to prove and we've been working hard all year. It's four years in the making, but this is only the beginning."

The team hopes to continue growing its numbers next season.

Seniors inspire spirit

BY: ABIGAIL BERA

Whether it's on the practice mats or the gymnasium floor, this year's winter cheerleaders worked hard and gave 100% all season!

While the winter cheer team is most known for cheering on the basketball teams, they also compete in statewide competitions. The girls competed against other schools this season and won several awards for their accomplishments.

Some of the cheer team's biggest wins this season include taking home 2nd place in the Game Day Division as well as making it to states. This season's cheerleaders were led by senior veterans Lauren Mullen and Shealyn Yorke, as well as senior newcomer Allison Devitt.

Yorke shared her thoughts about her last season: "My favorite memories from the winter season would be



SENIORS SHEALYN YORKE, ALLISON DEVITT, AND LAUREN MULLEN CELEBRATE THEIR SENIOR NIGHT.

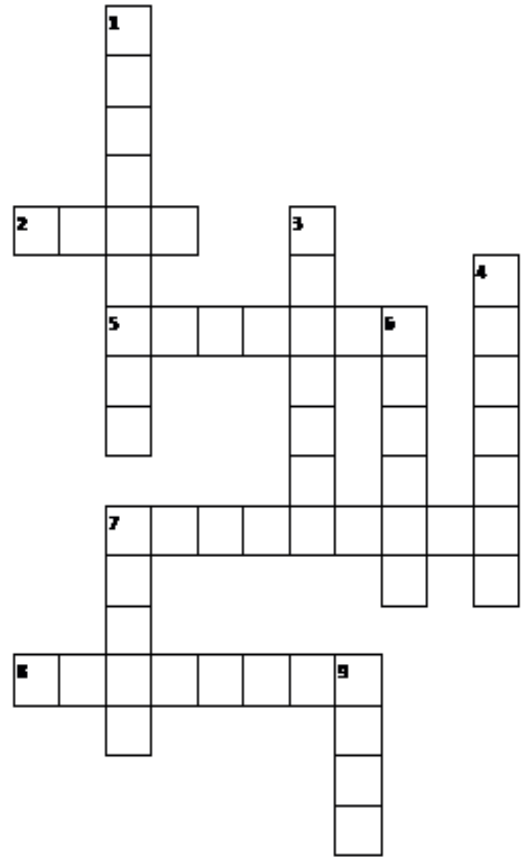
getting ready before games because as a team we had so many laughs with each other." When asked what advice she would give to her underclassmen teammates, she said to "live in the moment because before they know it, it'll be over."

Crossword Puzzle

Down

Across

1. The gym where the wrestlers and gymnasts practice
2. Moderator of the National Honors society
3. Our school mascot
4. STA's Principal
5. One of our Aquinas Stars
6. The color that the freshmen wear during BOTC
7. A place where you can buy gym clothes
7. Head of the English Department
8. A club that focuses on women's empowerment
9. Color of the Math hallway



Unscramble

- tesl og ntrasoj -----
- edr nda thiwe -----
- naqiasu rtsas -----
- ew rea usianaq -----
- lpaipcindr geliezr -----
- arzctanoa mgý -----
- diepsntre ekna -----

Word Search



- | | | | |
|---------|----------|------------|-----------|
| aquinas | theater | alumni | trojans |
| chapel | catholic | catanzaro | kane |
| satoma | new wing | counseling | bookstore |

Unscramble: lets go trojans, red and white, aquinas stars, we are aquinas, aquinas stars, yellow 6, ziegler 5, anthony 5, trojans 4, ziegler 4, bookstore 7, up bookstore 7, down byrne 8, pinkclub 9, blue