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## The SATOMA staff asked the new faculty the following questions:

**1.**



**What is your favorite movie or TV show?**

**Ms. Allan**  
 1. Big "Game of Thrones" fan, and I'm currently watching "Daryl Dixon Walking Dead" spinoff  
 2. No  
 3. I work with a lot of power tools. I like to work with my hands and build anything with wood.  
 4. My son is coming home for a few weeks. He is in the Navy and lives in Japan.

**Ms. Freda**  
 1. "New Girl"  
 2. Yes  
 3. I have 4 dogs and 3 cats  
 4. To get to know more students in the school

**Ms. Menafro**  
 1. "My Cousin Vinny"  
 2. No I think it's a taco  
 3. I collect sports + college sweatshirts  
 4. Gaining professional education experience and being part of the school family

**Mr. Zaccari**  
 1. "Raiders of the Lost Ark"  
 2. No  
 3. I got to touch the Stanley Cup  
 4. Christmas

**2.**



**Do you think a hotdog is a sandwich?**

**Mr. Serrano**  
 1. Anything "Star Wars"  
 2. Yes!  
 3. I speak fluent French and Spanish  
 4. I'm most excited about teaching here for my first year and to get to know all my students. Also, excited to be the new head coach for the boys soccer team and get my first season underway.

**Mr. Spohr**  
 1. "Oppenheimer"  
 2. Yes  
 3. I collect sports cards  
 4. Winter Holiday season at the school

**Ms. Maher**  
 1. "The Office"  
 2. A hotdog is a taco, Duh  
 3. I'm a dunkie junkie (obsessed with Dunkin Donuts)  
 4. To get to know the community better (students and faculty)

**Ms. Navarrete**  
 1. "Top Gun Maverick"  
 2. No  
 3. I can say the alphabet backwards.  
 4. To have students feel more confident in my class.

**3.**



**What is an unknown fact about you?**

**Mr. Hoey**  
 1. "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy  
 2. No, it's a taco  
 3. I'm related to John Howland, a pilgrim on the Mayflower  
 4. Teaching the freshmen the old testament especially the ones that don't know it.

**Mr. Lutska**  
 1. "The Usual Suspects"  
 2. Anything on a bun  
 3. I jumped out of a plane 3 times and I can do a back flip  
 4. Helping our school to be the best it can be and making new friends

**Mr. Shubiak**  
 1. "School of Rock"/"The Office"  
 2. No, it's a taco and I can prove it mathematically  
 3. I am left handed  
 4. To meet all the wonderful people at this school

**4.**



**What are you most excited for this year?**

**Ms. Favale**  
 1. "Good Will Hunting" is my favorite movie"/"Gilmore Girls" is my favorite television show  
 2. No!  
 3. I am an identical twin  
 4. I am excited to get to know my students better and help them fall in love with reading and writing!

**Fr. Keyes**  
 1. "The Office"  
 2. Only in the spring  
 3. I worked for an olympic band and have spent more time in school then out  
 4. Helping students learn and grow mentally and spiritually

**Ms. Grogan**  
 1. "Game of Thrones"  
 2. No!  
 3. Halloween is my favorite holiday.  
 4. I am most excited to get to know my students.

**We would like to welcome the new faculty members to our school family!**

*The* **Satoma**  
NEWSMAGAZINE

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# Recipe for a great teacher



A teacher plays a large role when it comes to shaping children's lives. They help the student

navigate through the trenches of school, and ultimately help them make decisions that mold them into the adults they will become. But what qualities create the best teachers?

The first thing a teacher needs to properly help a student is to be invested. They have to be willing to really listen to and understand what they're being asked. If the teacher is not trying hard enough, it can lead to the student not being invested in others later in their life. Paying attention to each and every student and making sure they get what they need

comes from truly understanding what they need. A teacher who always goes out of their way to make sure that everyone is doing alright, both in class and outside of school is necessary.

The next thing a teacher needs is a balance. They have to be strict without being scary. If the teacher is too lenient, the kids will take advantage and get no work done, but if the teacher is too strict, the students will have issues with talking to the teacher to ask for help. From the very beginning everyone needs to know that the teacher is strict, but as the year progresses, the teacher should slowly show that they are someone who would happily help if necessary.

Furthermore, the teacher has to be easy to talk to. If the student doesn't know how to talk to the teacher, they won't reach out for help, even if they really need it.

Additionally, if the teacher isn't organized, nothing will get done. Having lesson plans prepared weeks ahead, an orderly classroom, and a focused mind all help teachers properly organize themselves. It helps because it cuts down on wasted time. Teachers who are never organized will have a difficult time teaching their students because they won't be prepared for questions students may have.

Finally, a teacher needs to be relatable. If there is something that the teacher and student connect on, it helps the relationship by leaps and bounds, as things are more easily communicated and understood. The more relatable they are, the more likely it is that people will seek out the teacher even when help is not needed.

All of these traits combined form a truly inspiring and knowledgeable teacher who is invested in students.

# A new style of classroom

The traditional classroom setup is not ideal for helping students learn. To have a more productive environment for the students, alternative seating or flexible seating comes in handy. This style of seating offers a wide range of options outside the usual just desks and chairs.

The idea behind alternative seating is to provide students with a comfortable and relaxed environment. This style gives the freedom to choose where and how they sit. This independence in turn helps them develop independence and decision-making skills. These are long-life skills that will help in later years. The idea of alternative seating caters to the student as an individual. It allows them to pick seats that align with their unique learning styles.

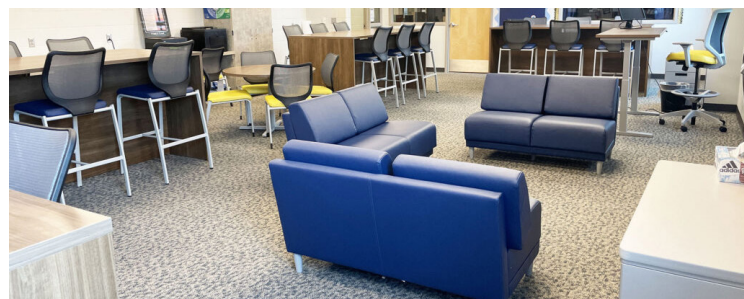
Research studies have shown that alternative seating has had a positive impact on students' health. The movement allowed by this idea of seat-

ing is linked with the improvement of blood flow to the heart and increased oxygen levels in the body. This means students get to learn in a comfortable environment that also allows them to benefit from healthier physical activity. These types of seating arrangements can be anything such as rolling chairs and yoga balls, to mats or just sitting on a rug on the floor.

Students with special needs benefit the most from this type of seating. Many stu-

dents who deal with these disabilities have sensory issues. These different seats allow for them to move and remain stimulated while learning. In addition to these benefits, these seats are colorful and lively, making the classroom more engaging and fun for the students.

The hope is that schools will adopt these new seating options and create a more relaxed classroom that is still conducive to learning.



A CLASSROOM SET UP AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT ALTERNATIVE SEATING COULD LOOK LIKE.  
(PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

# Annual spaghetti dinner celebrates stars



FR. MICHAEL TABERNEO, AQUINAS STAR REPS CAROLINE DEVLIN AND BRIANNA ROMERO, AND AQUINAS STARS DOMENIC HORBACZ AND JACK HEILICH.

BY: ANNA MARTINS

On October 5, 2023, the Aquinas Star program held its annual spaghetti dinner to welcome Aquinas Stars, Jack Heilich and Domenic Horbacz. The event is one of the biggest fundraisers held in order to show support and unconditional love for the stars and their families.

Jack is 15 years old and has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy and a seizure disorder. Cerebral palsy is a disorder that affects a person's ability to move and maintain balance and posture. However, the symptoms vary depending on the person. Domenic is 4 years old and is battling B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. B Cell Acute Lym-

phoblastic Leukemia is a type of cancer found in the blood and bone marrow.

The spaghetti dinner has been a tradition in the school community for 36 consecutive years. Every year the dinner looks different in order to adapt to what might be happening in the world. For example, during Covid, the school began a take-out program.

The spaghetti dinner was made possible due to the program co-chairs: Carloine Devlin (senior), Brianna Romero (junior), and Campus Minister, Father Mike Taberero. Alongside them were over 150 amazing student and faculty volunteers who dedicated their time to help the dinner run smoothly. The guests were presented with the classical meal of spaghetti and meatballs followed by delicious cake and the signature Roche cookies. Volunteers ensured that guests were greeted, tables were cleaned, attendees were fed, take-out orders were delivered, and that everyone felt the happiness and love from within the community.

Jack and Domenic were wel-

comed by a tunnel of volunteers that gave them a warm-round of applause as they made their way to the cafeteria. In the cafeteria they were met with more volunteers who were eager to help. Throughout the dinner, guests, parents, students, faculty, student-athletes and their teams joined as they sat down and enjoyed their meal...especially the Roche cookies - they were an absolute hit!

Continuing with the tradition, the Ahr stars were given gifts, including a soccer ball signed by the boys soccer team and a baseball signed by the baseball team. Father Mike thanked everyone for contributing their time towards such a special occasion. As well as thanking Ed Lenart, also known as 'Eddie Spaghetti,' who is the mastermind behind the delicious spaghetti and meatballs that are served.

The occasion was not only special for the Aquinas Stars and their families but also for the community. Seeing the smiles on the faces of the stars was the best gift anyone received.

# A fun freshman welcome

BY: TARA GUPTA & ANNA MARTINS

On September 15, 2023, upperclassmen and faculty members welcomed in the newest freshmen during the annual WASTA Day event. They set up a fun and eventful day so the freshmen could feel more comfortable with the school.

The word WASTA stands for "We Are St. Thomas Aquinas." The upperclassmen were in the gym to start, ready to welcome in the Class of 2027.

WASTA Day officially started after the upperclassmen volunteers came to pick up their freshmen from their homeroom classes. After quick introductions, freshmen and upperclassmen were called to the gym. They started out meeting this year's student council, which consists of President Nicholas Basilico (senior), Vice President Gabri-

elle Rambaud (senior), Athletic chairs Trevor Lavelle (senior) and Jack Valenzuela (junior), and Social Events chairs Kayla Foley (senior) and Natalie Neno (senior). They all talked about different activities that will happen throughout this year.

Once the Student Council finished speaking, it was time for singing the traditional school songs. Led by music director Joseph Cullinan, all the students partook in songs like "Trading my Sorrows" and "Big House." As the songs were being sung, the school spirit of the students filled the gym!

Once the songs were done, the students were sent to either the theater or a classroom. In the classrooms, about two or three upperclassmen helped out with different games and activities like "Get Off the Bus," "Zip,Zap,Zop," and "Telephone Charades." In the theater, stu-



SENIOR MADDIE ROGALA SHOWS HER SCHOOL SPIRIT IN THE HALLS (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS).

dents were given a paper of questions and pencils to go around the school for a scavenger hunt. Freshmen used their phones in order to scan the QR Codes to find a letter. Once they collected all the letters, they needed to unscramble. The puzzles either spelled out "Lunch," "Red or White," or "Flynn O'Hara."

As WASTA Day wrapped up, and the students left, the freshmen feeling officially welcome. The freshmen learned about school spirit, school songs, traditional games, got to know the upperclassmen as well as fellow freshmen and had lots of fun overall. This was just the beginning of the new school year!

# Spirited Homecoming week

BY: ASHLEY WALL & ANNA MARTINS

Homecoming week kicked off with an exciting start! The school prepared the students with a fun themed spirit week.

Tuesday was “anything but a backpack day.” The halls were filled with creative and unique alternatives to backpacks. For example, laundry baskets, garbage bags, buckets, boxes and even a mini fridge!

Wednesday was “Tropical Day.” Students wore Hawaiian shirts, colorful leis and sunglasses.

Next was Throwback Thursday, where multiple decades were represented. Students wore outfits inspired by the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, and 2000s. The students with the best decade outfits were given free lunch, a free dressdown, and helped their class earn points for Battle of the Classes. The lucky winners were freshmen Sophia DeVera and Avery Boomer, and sophomore India-Lilly Randolph. To finish off the school week, Friday was a Pinkout, to raise awareness for Breast Cancer.

The Pinkout theme led into the 2023 Homecoming game, which was held on October 13th. The Trojans played under the lights on their home field against the North Plainfield Canucks. The stands were packed with pink,



A GROUP OF GIRLS FROM ALL GRADE LEVELS GATHER TOGETHER IN THE STANDS, SPORTING THEIR PINK OUTFITS AND BURGER KING CROWNS TO CELEBRATE HOMECOMING, SHOW THEIR SUPPORT TO BEAT BREAST CANCER AND CHEER ON THE FOOTBALL TEAM IN THE FINAL HOME GAME OF THE SEASON.

not only students, but parents and alumni as well.

Before the game began, the 2023 Homecoming court was announced. The freshman prince and princess were Avery Boomer and Avika Bhandari; the sophomore prince and princess were Louis Scaff and Isabel Amaya-Fernandez; the junior prince and princess were Julian Benitez and Gwendolyn Negron. The senior homecoming court consisted of Vincent Gioffre, Elijah Abass-Shereef, Khalil Stubbs, Jack Joyce, Nicole Robinson, Angelina Samson, Olivia Alicante, and Malaysia Cowherd. Seniors Zach Diaz and Viviana Rodriguez were

then crowned Homecoming king and queen. After celebrating the homecoming royalty, the cheerleaders performed just before the football team took the field.

The Trojans had an amazing first half, dominating their opponents 35-0. During half time, the band and color guard put on an amazing performance of dance numbers for the fans to enjoy. Following this, the football team, cheerleading team, and Marching Trojans celebrated their senior nights. Their favorite memories and accomplishments were remembered, and their hard work and dedication was recognized.

As the second half came to an end, the Trojans won in a landslide, 47-0, defeating North Plainfield. The win was followed by the highly anticipated homecoming dance the next evening.

Over 300 students and outside guests came, all dressed up and ready to have fun. The dance was set in the main gym, and was a Hollywood theme. The gym and lobby were decorated with fun balloons, streamers, a red carpet, and even a disco ball!

Students enjoyed snacks and refreshments, and had a fun night of dancing, singing and taking pictures with their friends. The dance was a success, thanks to Social Events Chairs Kayla Foley and Natalie Neno, and the rest of the Student Council, as they spent countless hours prepping,

decorating, planning, etc. for the night.

Overall, Spirit Week and Homecoming weekend were a success. Between spirit days, the football game, and dance, it was a long, but fun filled week. It was packed with lots of exciting events, and most importantly, lots of school spirit and pride.

This highly anticipated and traditional week definitely succeeded, and it’s safe to say that students, faculty and alumni alike can’t wait until next year!



SENIORS JACK JOYCE, VINCENT GIOFFRE, NINA SANGIULIANO, ZACHARY DIAZ, AND JAYDEN ESCOBAR STRIKE A POSE ON THE DANCE FLOOR.

(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)



SENIORS ZACHARY DIAZ AND VIVIANA RODRIGUEZ ARE CROWNED HOMECOMING KING AND QUEEN

## Spider-Man swings back on the scene

BY: LIAM LUGAY

“Marvel’s Spider-Man 2,” the highly anticipated sequel to 2018’s “Marvel’s Spider-Man” from Insomniac Games, was released on October 20, 2023 to PlayStation 5 players. This exciting new game refines the combat system, develops the characters further, and allows the player to explore New York City on a much grander scale. Fans have waited five long years for the continuation of this story, and Insomniac Games definitely delivered.

Peter Parker (Yuri Lowenthal) and Miles Morales (Nadji Jeter) face a threat like nothing before when Kraven The Hunter (Jim Pirri) and his gang of hunters come to New York City in search of a worthy opponent. During the conflict, Parker is bonded with the Symbiote, an alien life force that feeds off its host’s aggression. The symbiote makes Spider-Man stronger but takes a toll on his relationships with the people he loves. The plot is very character-driven, having our heroes be the catalyst for many of the events that

come together to shape the story. The events of the game have sentimental moments, tense scenes of action, and a set-up for another adventure. Seeing as “Marvel’s Spider-Man 2” sold 2.5 million copies in twenty-four hours, it is safe to assume that there will be a third game.

The characters within the game are what allow for the events of the story to be so impactful, Harry Osborn (Graham Phillips) being a stand-out. His friendship with Parker allows for some of the most emotional moments in the duration of the campaign. Peter Parker is tried as a mentor, teaching Miles Morales lessons in heroism. The two are presented as having an older-brother-younger-brother relationship in terms of respect for each other. Kraven The Hunter makes for a formidable main villain. His skills in combat put the Spider-Men’s strengths and wills to the test. He is the true antithesis of Spider-Man.

Since the wait between this game and the first was five years, many upgrades were expected. Insomniac Games did not disappoint in that regard. The Spider-Men now



THE SPIDER-MEN PREPARE TO FIGHT THEIR ENEMIES.

can roam the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens in addition to Manhattan. This expansion allows for a lot of fresh exploring and activities that players can partake in during free play. New additions to the traversal and combat mechanics are also present. Spider-Man’s web wings make getting from point A to point B exponentially faster. Combining this with the web swinging allows for a truly immersive experience. The combat was improved by adding special abilities unique to both Spider-Men and gadgets to spice up the fights. Taking down a room full of crimi-

nals has never felt more satisfying.

Overall, “Marvel’s Spider-Man 2” is a massive improvement from the already great first game. Insomniac Games took every aspect that worked and made them even better. This bold and daring new story for Spider-Man has captured the attention of fans and critics alike. The epic story leaves players wanting more and excited for what the future of this series has to offer. With the sheer amount of good things in this game, it will most definitely be a contender for Game of the Year 2023.

## Game adaptation of the decade

BY: JOLIE ZURITA

Fans of the game have long awaited the “Five Nights at Freddy’s” movie. After several delays and issues regarding rights, studio work, and directors, the film was released on October 27, 2023.

The movie, directed by Emma Tammi and written by Scott Cawthon, is based on the popular game franchise. This series has captivated the minds of thousands around the world. Many

famous YouTubers have filmed and posted their experiences with the now iconic horror game. The game follows a security guard on his night shift at the restaurant, Freddy Fazbear’s Pizzeria, trying to avoid the murderous animatronics within the establishment. The player wins the round when his shift ends at 6 AM. It is safe to assume that the movie will likely follow a similar plot.

The movie contains a great cast that play these prominent roles in the

game’s story. Matthew Lillard plays the main antagonist, William Afton. Lillard is a notable choice for this role as his other well-known role was Stu or Ghostface in the 1996 “Scream.” Josh Hutcherson plays Mike Schmidt. He works as a security guard for the shut-down Freddy’s Fazbear Pizzeria. The name he goes by is an alias as his real identity is Micheal Afton the son of William Afton. In the game, he goes by this name to avoid being associated with his dad and to find him without his father being aware. In the movie, it’s unclear if he knows this or realizes that “movie” Afton is his dad. Piper Rubio plays Abby who is the younger sister of Mike. Elizabeth Lail plays Vanessa, a police officer who visits Mike during his shifts. The name Vanessa may be familiar to some fans, as she was a character who made an appearance in the latest game in the franchise: “Five Nights at Freddy’s: Security Breach.” Fans were also surprised as cameos of popular YouTubers like CoryxKenshin and Fusion were seen in the

movie’s trailer.

Afton finds success in his work with animatronics but becomes jealous of his business partner, Henry Emily. His jealousy is what eventually drives Afton to become a killer. Afton claims the life of Emily’s daughter and the lives of five more children. The souls of Emily’s daughter and the five other children who were murdered come to possess the animatronics that act as the antagonists of the games. The movie may not be exact with the game and is just a way to simplify the lore of the franchise as it is really convoluted and heavily based on theories that constantly change. Between nine total games and countless spinoff novels that have come out in the last decade, it is hard to keep track of what is happening in the “Five Nights at Freddy’s” world.

Regardless of all the lore, fans have been eagerly awaiting the film. After nearly a decade of waiting, there is excitement that these horror icons are being brought to life by a big-budget film studio.



FREDDY AND FRIENDS PREPARE TO WREAK HAVOC ON THEIR GUESTS (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

# Taylor makes headlines again

BY: AVIKA BHANDARI

Taylor Swift's latest re-recorded album *1989 (Taylor's Version)* was released on October 27, 2023.

The album has a total of twenty-one songs, which includes five bonus "From the Vault" tracks. These are songs written from the time in her life that she produced each album that were unreleased when the album first came out in 2014. *1989 (Taylor's Version)* is the re-recording of Taylor's fifth album. These versions of the album exist because of a conflict over a contract. Wanting to own the songs herself, Swift chose to re-record the songs and expand on the album as a whole. Swift was inspired by the 1980s synth-pop style and named it after the year she was born.

The 2014 album was a huge success and sold 1.287 million copies in the first week. "Bad Blood," "Shake It Off," and "Blank Space" held spots on the top of the Billboard Hot 100. This made Swift the first artist in the world to have 3 of her albums sell one million copies within the first week of being released. The album

won 2 Grammy awards for Album of the Year and Best Pop Vocal Album, American Music Award for Favorite Pop Album, and an iHeartRadio Music Award. The album quickly gained a lot of attention, becoming the best-selling album of the year in 2014.

So much excitement and tension has been brewing among her fans since she has left many Easter eggs and red herrings throughout the past few months. This has become common, causing many of her fans to hyper-analyze everything Swift says and does, coming up with all kinds of theories as to what her next move will be. The situation was no different when rumors of the next *Taylor's Version* began to float around. In her last album, "Midnights," the Vinyl CD cover had hints as to what the *1989 (Taylor's Version)* CD would look like, as it was the light blue color that this upcoming album is based around.

She also hinted as to what the next *Taylor's Version* would be. In the *1989* album cover she wrote the first "S" normally, but the other one as a snake. Before *Reputation*, Swift's 6th album, she was called

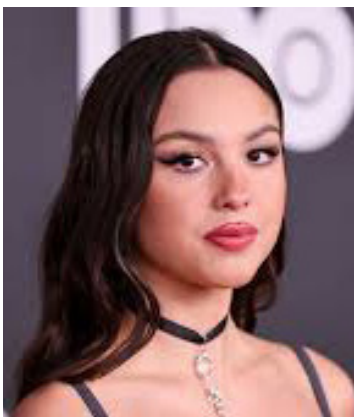


TAYLOR SWIFT PERFORMS FOR A SOLD OUT CROWD AT METLIFE STADIUM (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

many unkind names, "snake" being one of them. The hate that Swift was receiving caused her to step out of the public eye for a while. After the scandal was proven to be faked, Swift "reincarnated" and based her album on snakes. This makes Swifties believe that *Reputation (Taylor's Version)* will be coming sometime in the near future. It is not uncommon for Taylor to release multiple albums in a short amount of time, especially since *Speak Now (Taylor's Version)* was released in July of this year.

Over the past decade, Swift has dominated the music industry. Her influence is undeniable and will continue to be felt by fans around the world. Swift's re-recording and re-releasing of her older work is a catharsis for her. She is refusing to be held back by the previous deal that prevented her from owning her own music. At the same time, she pleases her fans with fresh songs and a lot of nostalgia. Swift has emphasized that the *Taylor's Version* albums are just as much for her fans as they are for herself.

# Olivia Rodrigo's 'gutsy' comeback



anticipation of *GUTS*: "vampire" and "bad idea right?" These songs, though very different from each other, showcased her versatile music talent. "vampire" took the world by storm, reaching the top of the Billboard Hot 100. *GUTS* can be described as an angsty, manic, album defying public expectations. Her album starts off with an upbeat rock song that feels like the beginning of an early 2000s movie. "bad idea right?" follows as the second single, exploring the relatable theme of contemplating reconnecting with an ex.

"vampire" is the 3rd track and goes into how she felt used and taken advantage of. "lacy" is again different from her other music but is very whimsical and the lyrics hit deep. It talks about how having an obsession with a specific person can consume someone, despite having no connection to them. The next track is one of Rodrigo's favorites. "ballad of a homeschooled girl" goes over the social anxiety of any teenager.

"making the bed" is the next track and is more like her songs from *SOUR*. It goes over every regret and the feeling of not doing enough.

She normalizes how people who are unhappy can change that with their choices. "logical" is a lyrical masterpiece. She goes into how love is not logical and how it can make people do crazy things. The piano and lyric buildup takes the listener through an emotional rollercoaster. After this track, the album does a complete 180 to: "get him back!" It is a play on words, getting back at someone, but also getting them back. The song's major themes are wanting someone versus deserving someone. This upbeat song allows for some levity to be present within the album.

Rodrigo ends the album with 3 songs that can move the listener to tears. These final songs display her true talent and ability. She talks about every possible emotion. "the grudge" is a ballad that allows the listener to sit with their thoughts. Each lyric has a deep meaning behind it. "pretty isn't pretty" has a relaxed melody and goes over things that most teenagers go through. Rodrigo talks about how she could change everything, but she will always feel the same. These lyrics encompass what most teenagers feel but are

unable to put into words. All these feelings are just anxiety talking. The album ends with a piano ballad called "teenage dream." It goes over the fear of growing up but also the fear of always being compared to one's age. Adults will always tell kids how it will get better and they are left wondering when. The ending of "teenage dream" is a recording of Rodrigo talking to Dan's (her producer) young daughter. The idea of growing up is reflected through this moment.

Both of Rodrigo's albums end with the same beats as her hit song that put her on the map, "driver's license," recalling where it all started. Rodrigo's *GUTS* is an impressive work of art that showcases her ability to convey a wide range of emotions through her music. The album takes listeners on a journey through the complexities of adolescence and young adulthood. She has evolved from a Disney actor to a global star who can connect with audiences on a deeply emotional level. This album shows her versatility and her capacity to tell compelling stories through music.

OLIVIA RODRIGO AT THE ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME

BY: OLIVIA ALICANTE

All eyes were on Olivia Rodrigo on September 8th as she dropped her new album *GUTS*. Her debut album of *SOUR* was such a hit that people were wondering if she was going to be a one hit wonder. She proved everyone wrong with this gutsy, witty, ambitious, and intimate album.

Rodrigo released two singles in

# New clubs for the 20

**FAHR CHOICE** is a long-standing club that facilitates activities, guest speakers, and information for students to promote mental health and drug-free lifestyles (Sophia Llaguno)

**CHESS CLUB** teaches students of any skill level the rules and strategies and provides a place for students to network. (Jack Joyce & Vansh Soni-Silva)

**BEAUTY CLUB** intends to teach students how to style hair and use makeup properly for all occasions. (Kimberly Chin & Alyssa Olegario)

**BIOLOGY CLUB** is meant to study and discuss natural and life sciences, including animal and plant behavior, origins, structures, and evolutions. (Julianne Perez)

**CARD CLUB**'s goal is to let students have fun playing card games and provide a place to bond over shared interests. (Michael Serrano & Nick Basilico)

**CROCHET CLUB** teaches students how to crochet and make their own crocheted items. (Sofia Bertocci, Sanjana Parikh, Sebastian Rodriguez-Pabon)



Check out just a couple of the many opp after school - to learn more, contact the c



**STATV**  
STATV GIVES STUDENTS THE ABILITY TO MAKE SHORT FILMS OR ANY KIND OF VIDEOS THAT WILL BE PROMOTED ON THE SCHOOL'S YOUTUBE PAGE.

**Red Cross Club**  
THE RED CROSS CLUB IS A DEDICATED HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION WITH A PRIMARY MISSION OF MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY THROUGH A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES.



# 23-2024 school year

opportunities there are to get involved in clubs  
presidents listed below the descriptions!



## SMAC club

SMAC IS A CLUB DEDICATED TO HELPING FORMER AND CURRENT CANCER PATIENTS THROUGH FUNDRAISERS AND DRIVES.

## Autism Awareness Club

THE AUTISM AWARENESS CLUB'S PURPOSE IS TO PROMOTE THE INCLUSION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND GENERAL EDUCATION.

**INTRAMURAL CLUB** aims to bring students together by playing a variety of athletic games in a competitive but friendly atmosphere. (Trevor Lavelle, Jack Valenzuela)

**K-POP CLUB** works to create a vibrant community for K-Pop fans and strives to celebrate the global phenomenon, promote cultural understanding, and provide a space for fans to connect and share interests. (Gulnoza Djumaeva)

**MURAL CLUB** seeks to impact the school by creating interesting, creative, and artistic murals around the building. (Gianna Marie D'Astoli)

**SKI CLUB**'s goal is to open students' minds to snow sports, which are a great way to get exercise and enjoy the great outdoors. (Madison Brew)

**TABLE TENNIS CLUB** intends to be an introduction to the world of table tennis in a casual setting, open to both new and experienced players. (Prithvi Parikh & Abigail O'Sullivan)

PAGE COMPILED BY  
MADISON PACCIANO AND  
SANDRA ABRANTES

## Hollywood's second-longest strike comes to an end



**STRIKERS JOIN THE PICKET LINES WITH SIGNS**  
(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

BY AMELIA YUEN

The Hollywood writers' strike, which had been ongoing for 148 days, finally came to an end on September 27, making it the second-longest strike in Hollywood's history. The strike was between the Writers Guild of America (WGA), representing Hollywood's writers, and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), an association of major studios and production companies.

The tentative agreement between the WGA and AMPTP was reached on September 24, and on September

26, the union's leadership voted to end the strike and recommended that the membership vote in favor of ratifying the contract. The voting process for the union's membership began on October 2. Details of the new agreement were released in a memorandum of agreement (MOA) by the WGA. While the exact contents of the contract were not disclosed, the MOA indicated that the union achieved several significant gains. These include increases in minimum wage and compensation, higher rates for pension and health funds, improved terms regarding employment duration and writing team sizes, and better residuals, including those

from foreign streaming.

The agreement also addressed artificial intelligence (AI), allowing writers and productions to use generative AI with company consent, as long as it adheres to applicable company policies. Importantly, the MOA prohibits the use of AI software to replace or reduce writers and their pay. It also reserves the WGA's right to assert that the exploitation of writers' material to train AI is prohibited by law.

The end of the strike means that writers can return to work during the ratification vote, however, it does not affect the membership's final determination on contract approval. Historically, the terms of WGA contracts influence agreements in other sectors and industries, including the ongoing negotiations of SAG-AFTRA, a separate actors' union. Their demands mirror those of writers, encompassing increased wages and safeguards against the use of AI. The Screen Actors Guild (SAG), with its 160,000 members comprising film and television actors, stunt performers, and various media professionals, significantly surpasses the Writers Guild of America (WGA) in size. Industry analysts anticipate

that studios will endeavor to expedite negotiations with SAG-AFTRA. Nevertheless, it might still be more than a month before an agreement is officially ratified.

While the end of the writer's strike is a positive development, it does not mean an immediate return to normalcy in Hollywood. The strike caused delays and disruptions, impacting TV and film production schedules. Full recovery may take time for the industry but the conclusion of the strike signifies the resumption of daytime and late-night talk shows on television. However, for other forms of entertainment, the wait may be extended, given that the actors' and performers' union remains on strike. However, scripted TV shows and movies that have not been filmed yet may remain on hiatus until actors return to work. Consequently, viewers may need to exercise patience while awaiting the latest seasons of popular shows like *Billions*, *Stranger Things*, and *Abbott Elementary*.

Overall, the end of the writers' strike marks a significant milestone in Hollywood with implications for both the industry's future and the financial well-being of its workers and studios.

## MIDDLE EASTERN CRISIS ESCALATES

BY: SANDRA ABRANTES

On October 8th, Israel declared war on Hamas after repeated attacks from both parties. Despite these events occurring recently, conflicts between the two originate long before this year.

In 1967, the Six-Day War, also known as the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, was a pre-emptive strike Israel made against Egypt and Syria. This resulted in Israel gaining territorial control over parts of Egypt, Jordan and Syria, which inspired backlash and attack to gain back the territory. In an attempt for peace, the Camp David Accords, a peace treaty that ceased the conflict between Israel and Egypt for the time, was agreed upon by both countries. In 1987 however, the unresolved issue regarding Palestine's self-rule was growing, and the many Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in Israel began to fight back against the Israeli government, leading to the First Intifada. These events of the past precipitated the current events

devastating the Middle East.

Subsequent to the declaration of war, the United States had claimed support for Israel, sending arms and warships to aid in their battle. Increasing concerns have arisen internationally as murder numbers have grown exponentially on both accounts: an estimated 1,400 have died so far, and numbers continue to ascend. History shows that over the several decades of conflict between Israelis and Palestinians it is evident that coexisting for Israel and Palestine is not a solution. For example, the Two-state solution, which sought to create a state for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, which are beside Israel was not able to be put into action due to Hamas' views on Israel, and Israel's requirement of a demilitarized Palestine.

The initial recent attacks consisted of rockets, armed militants sent through the border of Israel, and beach entrance via boats. These air, sea and ground infiltrations caused high death numbers, including the death of children and visiting Ameri-

cans, and even hostages held in Gaza. In response to these forward attacks, Israel has matched the power Hamas had first attacked with, leaving the Gaza Strip obliterated, and many residents and hostages left with nothing. It was then that Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, declared "Israel is at war."

On October 9th, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) sought to defend the country from infiltrators and those who are crossing the border and attacking the country from all sides. Also on this day a "complete siege" of Gaza was placed, leading to cut offs from power, fuel and basic needs from Israel to Gaza.

Those who are surviving the attacks are facing illness from untreated water, lack of any amenities and are unable to purchase food due to inflation and lack of resources. The United States continues to aid Israel. Both Israel, Egypt and the U.S. attempt to warn Gaza civilians and foreigners that are trapped to flee, opening the Rafah border in Egypt to allow for escape. However this does

nothing for those kept as hostages, the people who have died already, and anyone trapped due to damage.

Israel and Hamas are at war with the same goal in mind: to destroy the other. Israel in an attempt to eliminate Hamas in its entirety, and Hamas to gain Israeli territory. While this issue is unpredictable in outcome, Israel has the advantage in ground soldiers eight times over Hamas. For now, the war rages on and an unknowable outcome will be decided, whether it is in consensus or in violence.



CITIZENS SCOUR THE RUBBLE STREWN LOCAL STREETS OF PALESTINE.

# MOROCCAN EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATES THE REGION

BY: MADISON PACCIANO

On September 8, 2023 a disastrous earthquake with a magnitude of 6.8 hit Morocco, destroying communities and killing at least 2,900 people. Twenty minutes after the main earthquake, Morocco was hit with a magnitude 4.9 aftershock.

This has been the deadliest earthquake to hit Morocco since 1960 and it also had the strongest magnitude within the region in more than a century. The earthquake hit near the town of Oukaimeden in the Atlas Mountains, a rural area about 50 miles southwest of Marrakech. Damage from the earthquake extended from the city of Marrakech all the way south to villages in the Atlas Mountains, which is where the epicenter of the earthquake was located. It had a depth of about 16 miles, which is considered relatively shallow. Shaking from the quake was reported not only within the country of Morocco, but also in Algeria, Portugal, and Spain.

The earthquake hit at around 11:00 p.m. local time, when most children and families were in bed at home. Thousands of people were injured or remain unaccounted for, the grueling search for family members

is on-going. Morocco's abundance of great history were unfortunately dealt a crippling blow.

The well known Kutubiyya Mosque violently shook during the quake. Fortunately, the 12th century structure and its 77 meter minaret continue to stand. However, the Kharbouch Mosque, a smaller place of worship in Jemaa el-Fna square, was left basically destroyed. The minaret collapsed and all that remains is a pile of bricks amongst the rubble. The damage to the 900 year old walls of Marrakech left visible cracks and crumbling fragments on the rose-colored walls that stretch for several miles around the historic Medina district.

The earthquake has also horribly impacted the home lives of thousands of Moroccan residents. The tremors from the quake flattened homes in villages across the Atlas Mountains, tore up many roads that were used on a daily basis, and violently shook thousands of buildings. All of this chaos led to residents pouring into the streets in distress and panic. A main problem is that many Moroccans live in fragile mud-brick homes, which needless to say, lack a strong foundation.

The Moroccan authorities have responded to this crisis by getting mili-

tary and civilian responders to help locate and rescue survivors, clear rubble from the streets, and provide emergency housing to those whose homes were destroyed. The Moroccan government said they will invest billions of Moroccan dirhams, which is equivalent to millions of U.S dollars, to restore torn up roads and damaged schools. However, some Moroccan residents feel that their government's response has been ineffective and a waste of valuable time. Experts say that the first three days after an earthquake is the best timeframe to save those who may be trapped under rubble. The rescue teams provided by the Moroccan authorities took days to reach some

survivors who felt they had been abandoned. After four days, many residents in the affected areas still lacked electricity and running water.

With the official aid lagging behind, many Moroccans have taken matters into their own hands by organizing their own impromptu relief convoys, which essentially were trucks filled with blankets, food, and water. The Morocco earthquake has been nothing short of devastating to the people, land, and rich history. Thousands of lives have been lost and many families have been displaced from their homes. There are organizations that can be found online to donate resources to help those affected by this disastrous event.



VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE COMFORT EACH OTHER AS THEY SURVEY THE DAMAGE  
(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

# Conflict between countries continues to grow



THE FLAGS OF INDIA AND CANADA FLY TOGETHER.

BY: SUDITI GOCHER

The tensions between India and Canada seem to have escalated quite a bit. Canada has a very large Indian population numbering around 1,400,000. The Sikh community in Canada is very large, at around 770,000. Tensions first arose when Hardeep Singh Nijjar, an Indian Sikh community leader and a Canadian citizen, was murdered by a gunman. The murderer is still unknown, but the Canadian government believes

that the Indian government is behind the homicide.

Nijjar was considered a militant and a terrorist by the Indian government, but Nijjar denied all claims. He was a firm believer and advocate for the "Khalistan" movement, which would mean a Sikh country separated from India. The Indian government denies all allegations of involvement with Nijjar's death.

The idea of a separatist Sikh state is a deep gashing wound for India that originated in the 1930s, when the imperial British rule was deteriorating in India. The first official idea of "Khalistan" came from a pamphlet of the same name calling for an independent Sikh nation and it flourished in the Indian state of Punjab, which has a Sikh majority, during the 1970s and 1980s.

A prominent separatist leader, Jagjit Singh Chohan, claimed that he made extreme efforts to help Khalistan after the Indo-Pakistani war in 1971. The assassination of Indira

Gandhi in 1984, the former prime minister of India, was due to her approval of the storming of the Golden Temple. Operation Bluestar was an Indian army mission that intended to eradicate militant members of the movement led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale by storming the Golden Temple, the holiest site in Sikhism. The Khalistan movement failed due to infighting and government crackdowns on supporters. From the beginning, the Indian government has kept the separatists out of the way, hence the movement never being able to stand on its feet.

Currently, India has suspended visas to Canadian citizens. Countless families and businesses have felt the impact of this suspension. Families have not been able to travel to their loved ones, and business owners have not been able to travel for work. On the other hand, Canada has expelled forty-one Indian diplomats. Thus far, there have not been many recent negative developments

between both countries. Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly says that the Canadian government is privately discussing things with the Indian government, keeping the development private.

Since both countries are part of the United Nations, if India was found to be behind the killing of Nijjar, then it would go against the United Nations Charter. India feels it is necessary for Canada to take action on separatists within Canada's borders. Many have protested the involvement of the Indian government on Canadian soil, without any concrete evidence of it. Canada has also stated that they do not advocate for a separate Sikh state, but they cannot silence the people who do.

All political parties in India, including those in Punjab, are against the idea of Khalistan. India's current stance on the Khalistan movement is that it is led by militants and will lead to more violence and separatism between non-Sikhs and Sikhs.

## Side-splitting 'Spook-a-Rama' a hit with audiences

BY: ELIZABETH BERA

This year, the drama department put on their "2023 Drama Spook-a-Rama." The show followed Jesse



SAM, SUSAN, AND JIMMY EXAMINE A TINY SPACESHIP (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

(Avery Boomer '27), Pat (Ava Newcomb '27), and Denise (Annika Schmidt '24), Pat's weird cousin. After the internet stops working and they can't watch TV, Denise decides to provide some entertainment by telling stories to pass the time. But these aren't any ordinary stories, they are scary stories about murderers, restaurant employees, and the zombie apocalypse!

The first story, aptly titled, "Employees Must Wash Hands...Before Murder," introduces Torok (Robert Auker '24), manager of the Burgatorium, a place where customers dine on suspicious burgers. Debbie (Sara Saglimbeni '24), a job-loving and erratic employee, and Samantha (Bailey Carfagno '27) a self-absorbed worker, manage the register until

one day when they are hit with a surprise inspection. Inspector Jenkins, (Schmidt), and her intern (Mariel Matanguihan '26) begin their inspection and end up in the kitchen where Steve, the fry master, (Lukas Pereira '24), and Celia, his helper (Angeleena Figueroa '24), are hard at work. Upon inspection, the body of Torok is found in the freezer. Inspector Jenkins now has to investigate this crazy line-up of employees at the Burgatorium, even the new girl, Ashley (Carlie Kolomyetz '24). But when the stakes are high, will someone confess? Or will it be kept a mystery? It is up to Inspector Jenkins to find out who did it!

After a break for intermission, audience members came back to Pat, Jesse, and Denise preparing for the

next story.

"10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse" is a journey through different methods conducted by two narrators, (Sam Villanueva '24 and Kayla Foley '24), and a group of teens. Sam (David Ryden '24), Susan (Brianna Wynn '24), Jimmy, (Zach Diaz '24), and Christy (Rebecca Grant '24) demonstrate these comedic methods while trying to fight against a horde of rampaging zombies.

They try sacrificing the weakest of the group, romancing the monsters, running fast, using Kung Fu, joining the monsters, and even eating the narrators.

This one-act play left the audiences laughing to the extreme, as the actors portrayed these witty teenagers.

## "WHAT'S DONE CANNOT BE UNDONE"

BY: GRACE MANDY

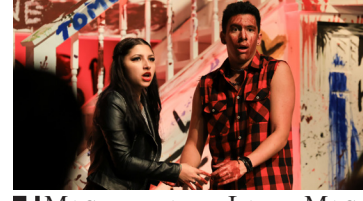
On September 15th, Shakespeare's "Macbeth," directed by Amy Kate Byrne, kicked off the drama department's 2023-2024 season. The play follows the story of Macbeth (Michael Corradino '24), who has been given a prophecy by The Weird Sisters (Grace Mandy '24, Maddie Rogala '24, Francesca Smullen-Dempsey '26) that he will become king of Scotland. After encouragement from his wife, Lady Macbeth (Viviana Rodriguez '24), Macbeth decides to kill King Duncan (Matthew Gluchowski '24) and take the throne by force. As the play progresses, Macbeth falls deeper into madness and paranoia, killing any he fears may compromise his

power. He even kills his best friend Banquo (Liam Lugay '24), who comes back as a ghost to haunt him. Eventually, Macbeth is defeated by his foil, Macduff (Sean Lacko '24) in a thrilling sword fight. The rightful heir to the throne, Malcolm (Elizabeth Bera '25), becomes queen and Scotland is no longer at war.

As with many of the drama department's past Shakespeare productions, a twist was put on the theming of "Macbeth." This version had a grunge theme that perfectly fits the show's dark tone. The theming was prevalent in every part of the play, from the costumes to the music to the lights. Many characters wore flannel, leather, and ripped jeans, matching a colorful set graffitied with references to the show. The music featured 90's

grunge bands like Nirvana, Alice in Chains, and Soundgarden. Act II of the show opened with Macbeth's coronation party, which featured a dance number to Nirvana's "Come As You Are". Near the end of the number, Macbeth becomes surrounded by visions of Duncan and Banquo's children and Macduff who is suspicious of him. This served as a fantastic representation of Macbeth's fear and paranoia.

Shakespeare is incredibly challenging to understand and perform, especially in a very intense show like "Macbeth." The famously-cursed play requires many emotional and dramatic performances communicated through confusing Shakespearean English. Nonetheless, the drama department worked hard to give an im-



MACBETH AND LADY MACBETH HEAR KNOCKING AFTER THEY KILL KING DUNCAN

pressive performance. When asked about the hardest part of his performance as Macbeth, Corradino said, "It was a very physically challenging show. With all of the soliloquies and the seamless descent into madness, it was the hardest I have ever done and probably ever will do." Ultimately, the show was a roaring success with a sold out opening night!

## Marching Trojans get crowds up and dancing

BY: ELIZABETH BERA

This year, the Marching Trojans took the field for exhibition at every home game, performing their 2023 field show, "Time Warp." The show included classic songs like *Time Warp*, *September*, *Apache*, *The Cupid Shuffle*, and *YMCA*...all songs that made people want to get up and dance! Led by music department director, Joseph Cullinan, and his assistant, Coach Ally Dalton, the Marching Trojans were excited to perform their 17th annual field show. "It was an excellent year for student leadership, and this was reflected on the field in the high quality show we

were able to perform," quoted Cullinan. But behind the scenes, it took a lot of hard work and dedication to put on this exhilarating show. When asked about the most challenging part of it all, senior drum major, Ava Aure, said, "The most challenging part of putting together the field show was getting everyone comfortable with the new environment and hours of practicing, because we had a lot of new people join the marching band this year." The section leaders were Sean Lacko ('24), Maddie Rogala ('24), Gabriella Morelli ('24), Celeste Popola ('24), and Gabriella Ettore ('25).

The color guard, coached and

choreographed by Milene Manantan, was also seen on the field spinning flags, throwing rifles, and dancing along to these top hits. Senior Captains Jasmine Torres and Annika Schmidt spoke about their final year as Marching Trojans, "I am thrilled that I was able to choreograph the rifle section this year." said Jasmine. "My last year was full of memories that I will cherish forever," Annika added. Color guard student leaders also include Elizabeth Bera ('25) as First Guard Officer and Bianca Enriquez ('25) as Rifle Captain.

On October 13th, the seniors performed for their last time on the field, to celebrate their Senior Night.

Up next:



SWEENEY TODD

THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17th @ 8pm

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18th @ 8pm

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19th @ 3pm

Tickets on sale now!

Visit the drama department page on the website ([www.stahs.net](http://www.stahs.net))

# Sports Spotlight

**Name:** Samuel

Villanueva

**Nickname(s):** Sam,

Samkillboss

**Grade:** 12th

**Sport:** Boys Cross Country

**Favorite Gatorade flavor:** Green

Apple (BEST FLAVOR!)

**Favorite pump-up song:**

*Appetite for Destruction* by N.W.A



**Name:** Olivia

Alicante

**Nickname(s):** Liv

**Grade:** 12th

**Sport:**

Volleyball

**Favorite Gatorade flavor:**

Glacier Freeze

**Favorite pump-up song:**

*Laugh Now Cry Later* by Drake



**Name:** Beniamino

DiCocco

**Nickname(s):** Ben

**Grade:** 12th

**Sport:**

Boys Cross Country

**Favorite Gatorade flavor:** Green

Apple

**Favorite pump-up song:**

Any song by Lil Uzi



**Name:** Christian

Magliacano

**Nickname(s):**

Mags

**Grade:** 12th

**Sport:** Football

**Favorite Gatorade flavor:**

Glacier Cherry

**Favorite pump-up song:**

*Win and Losses* by Meek Mill



**Name:** Sandra

Abrantes

**Nickname(s):** Sand

**Grade:** 12th

**Sport:** Girls Tennis

**Favorite Gatorade flavor:**

White

**Favorite pump-up song:**

*So Good Right Now* by Fall Out Boy



**Name:** Khyan

Adams

**Nickname(s):**

Big Khy

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Football

**Favorite Gatorade flavor:**

Cool Blue

**Favorite pump up song:**

*First Week Out* by JDot Breezy



**Name:** Khalil

Stubbs

**Nickname(s):** K9

**Grade:** 12th

**Sport:**

Football

**Favorite Gatorade flavor:**

Orange

**Favorite pump-up song:**

*I Am* by Lil Baby and Gunna



**Name:** Nina

Sangiuliano

**Nickname(s):** Neen

**Grade:** 12th

**Sport:**

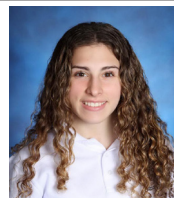
Gymnastics

**Favorite Gatorade flavor:**

Lemon Lime

**Favorite pump-up song:**

*Closer* by Ne-Yo



**Name:** Jack Joyce

**Nickname(s):**

Trojan Foot

**Grade:** 12

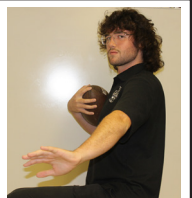
**Sport:** Football

**Favorite Gatorade flavor:**

Cool Blue

**Favorite pump up song:**

*Master of Puppets* by Metalica



## Group focuses on 'goals'

BY: ISABELLA DePASQUALE

The girls soccer team had a challenging and competitive season. However, this did not stop them from giving 100 percent on the field. No matter the challenges they faced, they continued to work hard during their games and practices.

Captains Kayla Foley ('24), Francesca Corea ('24), Alessandra Socio ('25) and Emily Herrera ('25), led their team to several victories with the help of coach Edwin Umanzor



JUNIOR CAPTAIN ALESSANDRA SOCIO LEAPS UP TO PREVENT A GOAL.

## 'Running' it back!

BY: CATHERINE FROST AND MARIA GIANNOTTO

This year's cross country season, coached by Nicholas Tonzola and Taylor Maher, was filled with exciting races and fun memories. Training officially started in July with several practices a week, where the runners applied their hard work to get to where they are today.

The boys cross country team, led by captain Beniamino Di'Cocco ('24), improved all season, setting personal records. On October 15th, Di'Cocco ('24) ran for the Purple for Pappas 5K, hosted by the Aubrey



THE TEAMS TAKE OFF AT THE BEGINNING OF THE RACE.

and coach Kevin Hernandez.

The team started the season off strong, beating New Brunswick 5-0. Later in the season, they beat North Plainfield in a high-scoring game of 7-5. The team made it into the GMC quarterfinal round, claiming victory over Perth Amboy 2-0.

Foley helped the team offensively, scoring 22 goals. Isabella Bonilla ('27) scored three goals. Herrera made five assists, along with Corea who made four. Leading the team defensively, Socio made 192 saves. Overall, the team finished the season with 33 goals and 15 assists. Together, they were able to compile a total of 81 points.

Foley was named all division and all conference, as well as offensive MVP of the week for GMCs. She expressed her pride for the team by stating: "I wish I could've finished the season out with them and unfortunately we didn't get the ending we deserved as a team, but I know every girl worked incredibly hard. I can't wait to see how they continue to build in the upcoming years. I've become close with so many girls and am going to miss the feeling of being out on the field playing with them. Being able to spend the past 4 years playing for this school is something I will always cherish."

Foundation, where he won by finishing with a time of 18:40. Throughout the season, the team finished in the middle of the division and Angelo Daly ('25) earned a race medal. They had a strong showing at counties that can only be described as passionate.

The girl's cross-country team, led by Catherine Frost ('25) and Kaitlin Hall ('25), had a season where "The team dynamics are really there," according to Hall.

The team competed in the Thompson 2 Miller race in Jamesburg, where Adrianna Torres ('26) and Hall finished in the top 70. In the freshmen race, Meghan Chen ('27) came in the top 40.

On October 21st, the team competed in the Greater Middlesex Championship where Victoria Barber ('27) got a time of 30:48 and Samantha Denion ('25) got a time of 27:56.

Both teams created a strong bond that encouraged them to achieve the many deserved wins this season.

## Proudly 'serving' spirit



CAPTAIN OLIVIA ALICANTE PREPARES TO MAKE A BUMP. (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

BY: SOPHIA LLAGUNO

The girls volleyball team closed out their season defeating South Plainfield, Edison, and Piscataway, as well as Highland Park in the first round of playoffs.

Junior varsity coach Caroline "CJ" Trevino ('19) was quick to step up to temporarily lead the team while head coach Michael Scheuermann was out for some time. Alongside coach Mike, she worked closely with the teams with great leadership, enthusiasm, and passion for the girls and the sport itself. Coaching two teams simultaneously can become a struggle, but coach CJ made the most of the season by her dedication.

The team was also led by captain Olivia Alicante ('24), who has held the position since her sophomore year. She has been a star player

since her freshman year as one of the team's outside hitters, getting kills left and right through every season, earning the nickname "Flying Alicante." When asked what her favorite moment was from this season, she mentioned senior night: "I loved feeling like a real team. Being able to win and work together in front of friends and family made everything worthwhile."

Alicante will be continuing her academic and athletic careers at De La Salle University in the Philippines. She extends gratitude to her family, teams, former coaches, and coach Zonkowski ('10) for the sacrifices and guidance they have made and given her along her journey.

Caroline Devlin ('24), the team's talented libero, has also been an asset to the team since her freshman year, diving at any opportunity to save a ball. She said: "It is always so fun to be able to control the back row and help create plays for the success of the rallies." Her hard work and effort have definitively played a significant role in her position on the team.

The team continues to prepare for the next season through conditioning, training, and studying film. Each individual player is a key to the success of the team. As coach Mike always reminds them, "It begins with mentality."

## THE START OF GLORY

BY: CAROLINE DEVLIN

The boys soccer team entered this season willing to put in the work and push through no matter what was thrown at them, with the help of new coach Dimitri Serrano, and assistant coach Dylan Jorge. A multitude of freshmen and transfer students being an addition to the team gave them an abundance of fresh talent to work with.

Captains Thomas Lucas ('25) and Ian Asinger ('27) led the team to finally break the three year drought and win their first game against Thomas Edison Charter School. The boys had an outstanding performance in the 6-0 win. Lucas described this win as "so rewarding." "We worked so hard as a team all summer to be the start of a new soccer program. To lead them and score a hat trick brought me to tears." They proceeded to upset Wardlaw-Hartridge after a tied 0-0 game.

Giancarlo Gambotto ('26) was a life saver in double overtime by scoring the game winning goal. Another outstanding player was goalie Domenic Grande ('27), who had 134 saves in the 17 games played.

As the building blocks of an amazing future for this program continued to progress with every game, the boys constantly strived for greatness. This season will forever hold the title of "life-changing" in the history books of the program. It will act as a reminder that hard work and dedication is always possible with a team that is considered family.



THOMAS LUCAS DRIBBLES DOWN THE FIELD.

# 'Beaming' with joy 'Acing' their way to the top



(‘24), Allie Pompliano (‘24), and Alexandria Rivera (‘24). Their teammates described them as outstanding leaders and admired their feedback and reassurance throughout the season. Other members of the team include Saniyah Morris (‘24), Marissa Nieves (‘24), Emely Rodrigues (‘24), Jenna Cerchio (‘25), Olivia Donato (‘25), Sanjana Parik (‘25), Sofia Bertocci (‘26), Mia Caggiano (‘26), Kimberly Chin (‘26), Suprihya Moore (‘26), Alyssa Olegario (‘26), Shelby Reno (‘26), Annalia Barreros (‘27), Vanessa Barreros (‘27), Kayleigh Howarth (‘27), and Marissa Pizzie (‘27).

BY: NICOLE CASAS

The girls tennis team had an impressive season this year, led by coach Duncan Merriman-Mendez (‘17) and captain Sandra Abrantes (‘24). They’ve broken the record for going the furthest in GMC’s this year compared to the previous years.



|| SOPHOMORE ALEXA DEMESA HITS THE BALL ACROSS TO WIN THE MATCH.

|| SENIOR GYMNASTS ARE AWARDED AT SENIOR NIGHT

BY: SOPHIA COLUCCI

Throughout the years, the gymnastics team has dominated the Greater Middlesex Conference, and this year was no different. The team had 8 wins and 0 losses in the GMC’s. They are at the top of the GMC standings for the 2023-2024 season and are this year’s Red Division Champions. They have dominated these under coach Brant Lutska who believes that “they have the opportunity in front of them to win the state championship if they stay dedicated the next few weeks.”

The team has a number of goals they wish to achieve before the end of the season, including remaining undefeated and winning states on November 8th. Parik said: “This year’s team is different from past years because we have a lot of talent, skill, and motivation that we can use to win states.”

All of the girls on the team thrived by giving it their all, proven by their success and accomplishments. The team consists of many remarkable players. The varsity girls are Gabriella Komorek (‘26) at first singles, Sophia Pedrosa (‘27) at second singles, Milana Triola (‘26) at third singles, Rachel DeMesa (‘24) and Olivia Dodge (‘24) at first doubles, and Abrantes (‘24) and Alexa DeMesa (‘26) at second doubles. They won their division undefeated.

ible: “It is all thanks to the girls who have given their all to this sport and this team. The secret to our success is building a family on and off the court, and having fun no matter how well we play.”

Teamwork and team spirit are very important to the team. They showed support towards one another and their unity shined through their achievements. When asked about the goals for their team next season, Merriman-Mendez said: “Looking at next season, we have a young team, so we will have a lot of returning players. Our goal is to win the division again next year and continue improving.”

Varady said: “This year, being a captain has introduced me to a new leadership role that has been very rewarding, and prepares me for any future endeavors. It’s bittersweet, but all good things must come to an end.”

Komorek was a player who finished the season undefeated. Triola finished the season with an 11-12 record, along with Pedrosa, taking a win in almost every match they played.

The team finished the season on a very high note and are looking forward to the next season with enthusiasm.

DeMesa (‘24) and Abrantes ended the season with a 12-12 record, taking the win in every match they played within the division. Abrantes described the season as incred-

## DEFENDING THE ‘UNDEFEATED’ TITLE



|| SOPHOMORE ANTHONY PEREZ RUNS THE BALL IN FOR A TOUCH-DOWN DURING THE HOMECOMING GAME. (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF STA PUBLICATIONS)

BY: MARIA GIANNOTTO

It is no surprise that the football team has gone undefeated because they work hard from dawn until dusk with hours-long practices. After losing less than three games in two years, they’ve continued to stay successful this season. They won the United Gold Division title with a 9-0 record. They went from losses to being ranked in the state; they’ve been through it all.

positive note with a score of 42-7 against Paul VI High School at the Battle at the Beach in Ocean City. They pushed themselves to achieve several wins after that with scores of 41-0 against New Providence, 35-0 against Scotch Plains-Fanwood, and 38-0 against Cranford. The big game that made the school go crazy was the rival game against Edison High School, with a score of 48-8.

Vincent Gioffre, coach Chris Young, coach Justin Hill, coach Donald Jones, coach Edwin De La Cruz, coach Chris Oliveri, coach Dorryn Simmons, coach Matthew Fabien, coach Ernest Drake, and coach Tavonne Webb were all involved in the success.

The captains of the team, Elijah Abass-Shereef (‘24), Christian Magliacano (‘24), Khalil Stubbs (‘24), and Khyan Adams (‘24) have applied leadership on and off the field when it comes to the sport they share a love for.

throughout the past four years it has been surreal, especially seeing where the program was compared to where it’s at now. Being undefeated feels amazing. You really get what you put into it and it shows how those summer practices and lock-in days paid off.”

Schwegler expressed his passion for the season with this: “It’s sad that it’s my last year with this team, but I’ve loved every minute of it. I love the brotherhood we’ve made. Going from a 4-3 team as a freshman to only having three losses in the last two years feels rewarding. It’s been a wild ride and I’d love nothing more than for it to end in a state championship. I hope next year’s team can carry on winning like we have recently.”

Stubbs is the defensive tackle and Thomas Schwegler (24’) is an offensive lineman, as well as the long snapper. Being members of the team since freshman year has allowed them to observe the growth of the team all the way up to their senior year.

The team’s success was clearly earned by each player’s hard work which they applied for months, as well as the coaches that guided them to push through each day. They were taught to never give up, and they did just that to earn the title of being an “undefeated team.”

Stubbs hopes to encourage the team with this: “Just stay the course. Eventually things get better. I hope next year the team can win a state championship like we hope to this year. I really love the team and

## SCHOOL SPIRIT SCRAMBLE

LPAIPCINR GELIEZR

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JRANTO RMAV

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SQUINAA

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HECOR KOICOE

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EDR NDA THIWE

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## COMPLETE THE SCHOOL WORD SEARCH

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M	B	I	L	O	F	H	D	M	I	H	O	N	T
F	C	E	N	E	R	E	A	U	T	U	M	N	O
C	I	A	P	R	I	N	C	E	S	S	C	L	A
F	I	I	W	G	D	T	I	M	C	T	U	C	E
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N	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	S	O	O	A	D

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|----------|------------|-----------|
| NIGHT    | QUEEN      | TOUCHDOWN |
| SCHOOL   | DANCE      | AUTUMN    |
| LIGHTS   | FRIDAY     | BLEACHERS |
| FOOTBALL | HOMECOMING | PRINCESS  |
| FIELD    | CHEERING   | KING      |

## MATCH THE TEACHERS TO THE SUBJECTS THEY TEACH



ART



HISTORY



SCIENCE



MATH