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Happy Thanksgiving!

There has never been a better moment to take a moment to express gratitude to our teachers than with Thanksgiving quickly approaching. Being grateful is more than just using courteous language. Rather, it's about appreciating the enthusiasm, inventiveness, and concern that educators put into each and every day. Our school is taking extra time during this season of gratitude to share what is frequently left unsaid: thanking those that work behind every session to see students flourish, develop, and feel supported.

-Sophie Barsoian '26, McCann O'Brien '26, Bear Vida '27

Associate Editors-in-Chief

Thank You SI Teachers!

Dear Mr. Evans,
Thank you for making Christology so interesting this year. I really appreciate how you explain the lessons in simple ways that are easy to understand. Your clear explanations and examples make the material enjoyable and straightforward. I feel more confident learning because of how you teach. Thank you again for all the effort you put into helping us learn!!

Sincerely,
Radhika Saha '28

Dear Mr. Stanley,
Thank you for always providing your students with multiple opportunities to improve our grades and depend our understanding of the material. I truly appreciate the time and effort you put it helping me study and succeed. Your support and dedication make a big difference.

Best,
Brendan Ruane '26

Dear Ms. Pappas
I just wanted to say how thankful I am to have you as my teacher. You are one of the nicest and most helpful teachers I've had at SI, and you always make learning such a difficult subject fun and engaging. I really appreciate your patience, kindness, and the effort you put into helping all of us do our best. Thank you for making class something I look forward to every day."

With much thanks,
Ethan Smith '26

Dear Ms. Hill,
You always understand when students are tired or having a hard day, and you remind us gently instead of getting upset. That means so much because it shows how much you truly care about us as people, not just students. I really appreciate your kindness, patience, and how you make Ethnic Studies class feel like a safe and welcoming space.

Thank you,
Ava Miseray '29

Dear Mr. White,
Thank you for grounding my thoughts in context. You taught me how those in power mold the canon, and how cultural forces place different values on identical worths. When I form opinions on everything from essays to music, I think through the lenses of the 5 B's, the 5 P's, the 5 I's, which are my favorite lessons from a 5-star teacher. Thanks, Darius the Aquarius.
Tai Morganson '26

Dear Mr. Stecher,
Thank you so much for helping me understand sig figs. Your explanation really helped me understand it a lot better. I really appreciate that you took time out of your lunch to make sure that I understand it. After meeting with you, I felt more confident in class. Thanks again for all your help!
Thank you,
Riley Purnomo '28

Dear Ms. DeBenedetti,
This senior year, I am especially thankful for the passion and energy you bring to our English classroom every day. You make each and every class more lively and meaningful, and truly inspire real joy for learning.
Thank you,
Alex Goldberg '26

Dear Ms. Lundy,
Thank you for always going above and beyond when it comes to designed assignments that connect with our personal lives. My favorite by far was your suggestion that my grandpa and I buddy-read Hemingway together. You bring genuine excitement to English every day, and for that, I thank you.
Sincerely,
McCann O'Brien '26



Inside the 2025 Election: What the Results Mean

McCann O'Brien '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

The 2025 elections marked significant changes for America's political landscape. Changes from the 2024 elections were seen as democratic voters swept wins across many key races, like governorship in Virginia with Abigail Spanberger and New Jersey with Mikie Sherill. Prop 50 was also passed by voters in California, a bill presented to voters by Democratic governor Gavin Newsom. The bill, also known as the "Election Rigging Response Act," proposes new lines for some of California's 52 congressional districts, negating the five Republican seats drawn by Texas.

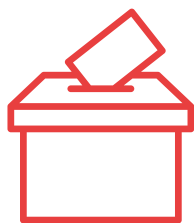
This allows California to gain 5 new seats in the House of Representatives, and push a Democratic majority in the House. The new districts will be place until the 2030 census, when they will return to their original layout.

c/o The Guardian



New mayor of New York, Zohran Mamdani, gives a speech.

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c/o NBC News

Abigail Spanberger is elected governor of Virginia.

Another win for a Democratic candidate comes from the New York City Mayoral election, where Zohran Mamdani won with a 50.4% lead. The election was followed closely by Americans around the world, and caused controversy. Many students at SI are excited about Mamdani's victory. Ellie Lee '26 said, "I feel good about it. I feel like he will be a breath of fresh air and I'm interested to see how his policies pan out over time." The elections are certainly representing a different perspective for Americans, as democratic wins are up from 2024, but both parties now face the challenges of turning campaign promises into action as we head into 2026 and beyond.

c/o Los Angeles Times



Gavin Newsom introduced Prop 50 for this election.



The Great Debate! What is the Best Side Dish?

McCann O'Brien '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

Although turkey takes center stage, everyone knows the real stars of Thanksgiving are the side dishes. From mashed potatoes and stuffing to more unique recipes, there's something for everyone. Many SI students name mashed potatoes as their favorite. Chloe Dean '26 said, "It's butter, potatoes, and cheese—what's not to love?" Simone Lynch '26 added that cranberry sauce was her favorite, while Lily Chavaree '26 mentioned that she loves both mashed potatoes and sweet potatoes with marshmallows.

Others, like Nico Bavaro '26, prefer classic stuffing. Some students also enjoy less traditional dishes. Dean's family makes gougère, a cheesy choux pastry they've had for years. Chavaree looks forward to her sister's vegetarian tofu

creations, and my own family has a cheesy Brussels sprout dish passed down from my grandma. Thanksgiving ultimately means family, gratitude, and sharing food—reminding us that the company matters more than the menu.



Classic Thanksgiving dishes ready to serve.

Gratitude in Action: The Christmas Drive

Sophie Barsoian '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

As Thanksgiving approaches, our school community is invited to look beyond ourselves and implement the Jesuit value of being "men and women for others." Service makes up a large part of our education. Every student must complete at least 100 hours of hands-on community service before graduation, alongside participating in transformative retreats, like those at the St. Anthony Center. These experiences, rooted in faith and empathy, remind us that love for others is inseparable from love for God.

This spirit is at the heart of our annual Christmas Drive. Inspired by Rev. Ben McBride's call to "widen the circle of human concern," the Drive is a chance for students and families to put compassion into action and serve neighbors in need.

From November 11 through December 2, we're partnering with St. Dominic's, ALAS, HealthRIGHT 360, and St. Anthony's to collect essential items for our community. Donations can be brought to campus, and supporting bake sales or free dress fundraisers helps extend our reach even further.

Reflecting on the Drive, Aiden Gray '26 put it simply: "It's a great way to give back and show what Jesuit values are all about." Every contribution, big or small, sends a message of inclusion and solidarity during the holiday season. This Thanksgiving, as we celebrate our blessings, let's also remember our responsibility to serve. Through our Christmas Drive and daily acts of kindness, we become the "men and women for others" our school strives to form living examples of love in action.

Nov. 11 - Dec. 2	
NOV 11	Bake Sale - Pie & Hot Cocoa Free Dress Sale for 11/13
NOV 12	Free Dress Sale for 11/13
NOV 14	Bake Sale - Muffins & Hot Cocoa
NOV 18	Bake Sale - Pie & Hot Cocoa Free Dress Sale for 11/20
NOV 19	Free Dress Sale for 11/20
NOV 21	Bake Sale - Muffins & Hot Cocoa
DEC 2	All Financial Donations and Item Donations Due



SI Students buy muffins to support the Christmas Drive.

Taking Time Away From The Table

Illuminating your Holiday Season with Nature

Bear Vida '27

Associate Editor-in-Chief

This holiday season, from November 21st through January 4th, Golden Gate Park is hosting an immersive light and music experience in the Botanical Garden called Lightscape.

You, your friends, and your family can stroll along a mile-long trail of lighted sculptures, water features, and illuminated trees right in the heart of the city.

General tickets for adults are \$32; youth tickets (5-17 years) are \$20; children (4 and under) are free. If you are interested or already are a member of the Gardens of Golden Gate Park, the tickets are less, and you also have access to a wreath-making workshop on December 13th.

Although no food is allowed to be brought in, Lightscape will be selling an assortment of holiday themed foods and drinks for guests to stay nourished and warm in the winter weather.

So, if you and your family and friends are looking to spend time away from the table, you can experience more than one million twinkling lights, and a kaleidoscope of festive colors this holiday season with Lightscape! Visit ggp.org for more information.



Guests gather around a festively-lit tree.



Trot Your Way to Giving Thanks

Bear Vida '27

Associate Editor-in-Chief

Join thousands of San Franciscans this Thanksgiving morning to participate in SI's Turkey Trot at Lake Merced or S.F.'s 23rd Annual Thanksgiving Run and Walk in Golden Gate Park.

Registration for SI's Turkey Trot is day-of/on-site only, starting at 8:30 AM. The run begins at 9 AM. This is a 4-mile course. Runners, joggers, walkers, and strollers are all welcome! Cost is \$10 for students and children, and \$15 for adults. All proceeds go to the St. Anthony's. Many returning alumni join in this event when they are home from college visiting their families, too, so it's also a lovely reunion. Join SI's extended community on the 27th!



Participants race at the Golden Gate Park Turkey Trot



SI Women's Crew alumnae at the 2024 Turkey Trot.

Over in Golden Gate Park, the kids' Gobbler Chase begins at 8:00am. The Turkey Trail Trot and Pilgrim Promenade begin at 8:40am. The Turkey Trail Trot is 5 miles, the Pilgrim Promenade is 3 miles, and the Kids Gobbler Chase is 100 Meters long.

Awards for 1st place include \$100 Sports Basement Gift Certificate, an assortment of festive pies from Schubert's Bakery, and wine. Many runners choose to wear Thanksgiving-themed costumes. The entry fee for adults is \$54 dollars, while kids under 10 run the Gobbler Chase for free. Register at sfturkeytrot.wixsite.com.

Hope to see you trotting!





Sunrise on Alcatraz

Bear Vida '27

Associate Editor-in-Chief

Spend Thanksgiving morning on Alcatraz at the Indigenous Peoples' Sunrise Gathering!

The Indians of All Tribes organization occupied Alcatraz Island from 1969-1971, citing a treaty by which the government promised the return of abandoned federal land to the tribes. The movement was unsuccessful, but its efforts are celebrated each year with a gathering at sunrise on Thanksgiving Day. This commemoration has been held every year since 1975, and promotes Native American rights.

Be prepared for an early wake up call, as the departure times run from 4:15 am to 6:00 am on November 27th. The ferry ride out to Alcatraz is approximately 20 minutes, and tickets are \$15.

Those who wish to participate should meet at Pier 33, and you can contact Alcatraz City Cruises for more information. All are welcome!



People gather in a circle at one of the sunrises on Alcatraz.

Taking Time to Give Everyone a Seat at the Table

Bear Vida '27

Associate Editor-in-Chief

This holiday season is not just for spending time with loved ones, but is also about emphasizing our ability to give thanks and give back to the communities we love. Beloved local organizations such as GLIDE and St. Anthony's help all San Franciscans to celebrate Thanksgiving. Here's how to support:

GLIDE MEMORIAL CHURCH

Turkey Drive: Drop off a Turkey for GLIDE's Thanksgiving and Christmas meals! Turkeys can be dropped off in front of GLIDE at 330 Ellis Street the two days before Thanksgiving on Tuesday Nov. 26th and Wednesday Nov. 27th from 11am-5:30pm. Rather purchase a turkey online and have it delivered? Donate \$50 to purchase a 25lb Turkey for GLIDE at www.glide.org/holiday-giving.



Volunteers at GLIDE work together to serve food for Thanksgiving.

ST. ANTHONY FOUNDATION

St. Anthony's presents a virtual Thanksgiving opportunity to donate to their Season of Hope campaign. Go to give.stanthonyssf.org! Here, San Franciscans are encouraged to donate dollars in order for St. Anthony's to purchase food items such as vegetables, ham, and turkeys. For \$100, you can provide a Thanksgiving meal for 25 people. For \$400, you can provide a Thanksgiving meal for 100 people.



The community at St. Anthony's share smiles during their Thanksgiving celebration.



Debates Over Celebrating Thanksgiving

McCann O'Brien '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

Thanksgiving is a time of celebration with family and reflecting on the things in life for which we are grateful, but the origins of the holiday are not so pleasant. The dinner itself stems from a festival in the autumn of 1621 where settlers in Plymouth, Massachusetts sat down to eat with the Wampanoag to celebrate a successful harvest. The "Thanksgiving" as we know it now attempts to replicate this feast, though many of the traditions of Thanksgiving come from entirely fictional assumptions about this first dinner.

The genocide of Native Americans nearly decimated the population, and the effects of colonization are still visible in the inequities that many

Indigenous populations still experience today. The settlers in Plymouth brought with them an unknown disease in 1616 that killed nearly 45,000 Wampanoag people.

Although a peace treaty was signed in March of 1621, which represented the first official treaty between English settlers and Native Americans ever created, there was a long legacy afterwards that illustrates the need for reconciliation and repair. Many people believe the holiday attempts to gloss over the discomfort of this history. Others believe it should be a day of remembrance for the lives lost

and the Indigenous Nations affected. Some believe that the holiday should be separated from its history entirely, so as to better create a day of gratitude and gathering without mythologizing this history.

Lily Chavaree '26 reflected, "It's a good opportunity to see family and reconnect. I think the violent history of Thanksgiving should be acknowledged, but I don't think they should be associated. We should find a way of acknowledging the past while recognizing that the holiday itself is not a celebration of genocide, but instead a time for families."

Welcome to Black Friday

Sophie Barsoian '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

The irony of Black Friday, the day following Thanksgiving, is that it's a quick transition from gratitude to capitalistic consumption. Americans get together on Thursday to express gratitude for their loved ones, friends, and possessions. By Friday morning, millions of people rush into stores (or overwhelm online checkouts) in an attempt to take advantage of "can't-miss" deals. These shoppers occasionally camp out and even brawl over discount toasters, demonstrating

that oftentimes, it only takes eight hours and one 6 a.m. alarm clock to go from "thankful" to "trample." Shopping statistics tell the story: Black Friday 2025 is projected to generate \$11 billion, an almost 9% increase from the previous year. It is anticipated that 87.3 million people will shop online this year, while 81.7 million will brave real stores—the most in-person turnout since the epidemic. After the weekend, nearly half of consumers will still have "holiday shopping left to do," indicating that the consumer frenzy is only getting started.

For many high school kids, Black Friday is more than simply a time to shop for deals. Kate Wilhelm '26 finds that the event has become a "tradition that many Americans can count on." This new tradition includes exchanging "hauls" with friends on TikTok and other social media platforms, bonding over the purchases that have been made. While some



c/o Google

BLACK FRIDAY SALE!

NOVEMBER 29, 2024

- ✓ UP TO 60% OFF ON LUXURY ITEMS
- ✓ BUY 1 GET 1 FREE ON SELECT HOME DECOR
- ✓ EXCLUSIVE VIP ACCESS TO EARLY DEALS

SHOP LUXURY FOR LESS THIS BLACK FRIDAY.

Big savings advertised for shoppers.

people enjoy it, others are a little cynical: Pachi Chavez '26 remarked, "It's strange to be thankful and then go buy so much stuff you don't need." Still, the thrill of the hunt, peer pressure, and FOMO win over most. So, as you fight for those bargains, reflect: in the space of 24 hours, we go from counting blessings to counting discounts. Welcome to Black Friday, the day after gratitude.

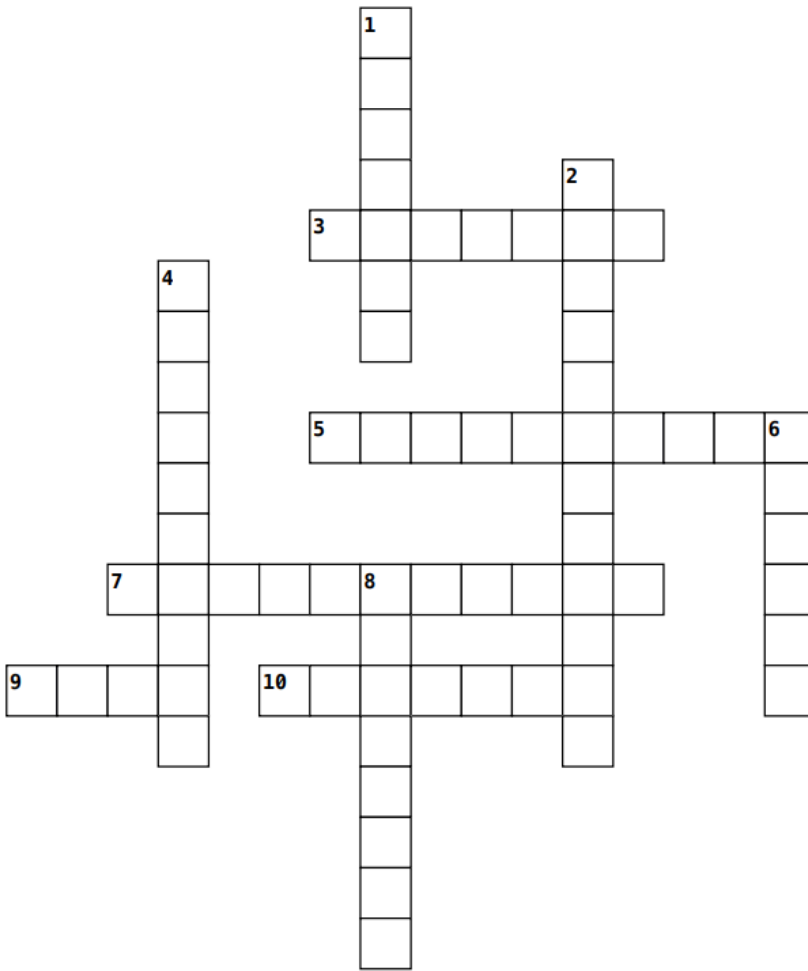


Customers flood stores seeking deals.

All Things SI Crossword Puzzle

Bobby Mullin '26

Managing Editor



Across

- 3. SI's new president
- 5. Area of SI that was recently torn down
- 7. Location of SI's secret pool
- 9. For the Greater glory of God
- 10. Location of SI's newest classroom

Down

- 1. SI's Fall Play
- 2. Rivalry games that SI won
- 4. SI's larger gymnasium
- 6. SI's neighborhood
- 8. Location of SI's Mass of the Holy Spirit

THEME: Dinnertime

Strands

Bobby Mullin '26

Managing Editor

Here's how to play:

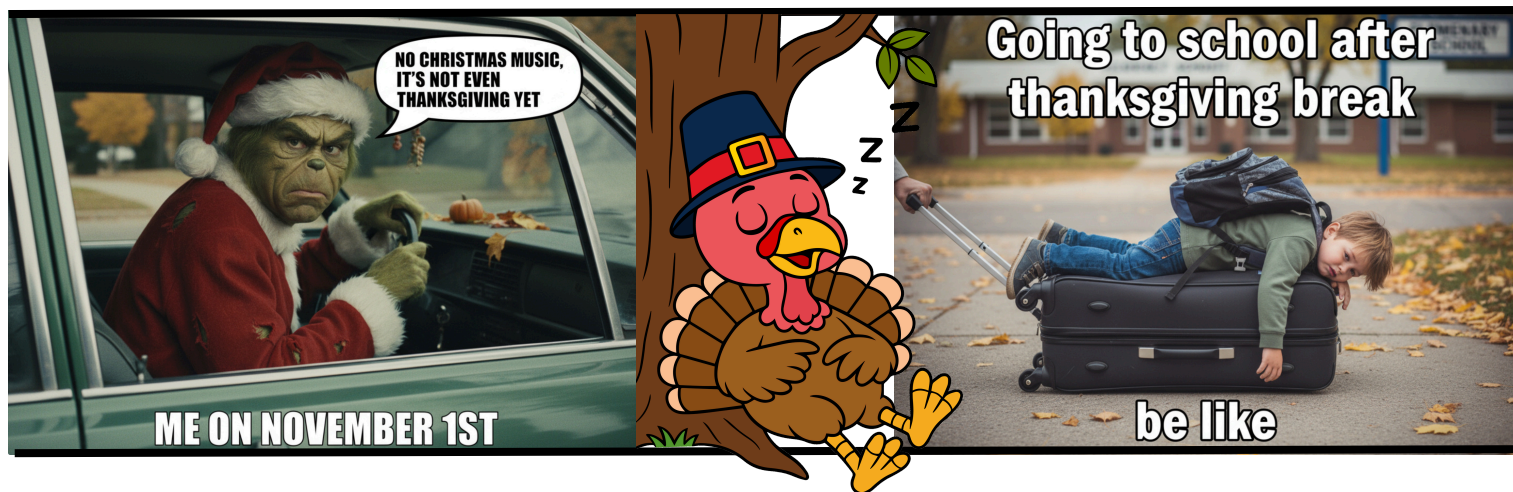
Find words in the letter grid by connecting letters (they can twist and turn). Most of the words you're looking for fit a secret theme (this edition's theme is "dinnertime"). Be on the lookout for one long special word (spangram) that fits the theme and stretches across the grid.

H	T	Y	N	I	F
P	A	V	A	G	F
O	N	K	R	G	U
T	A	T	S	G	T
S	E	O	V	I	S
R	O	I	Y	Y	E
L	L	N	A	T	K
S	G	M	S	U	R

Memesgiving

Sophie Barsoian '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

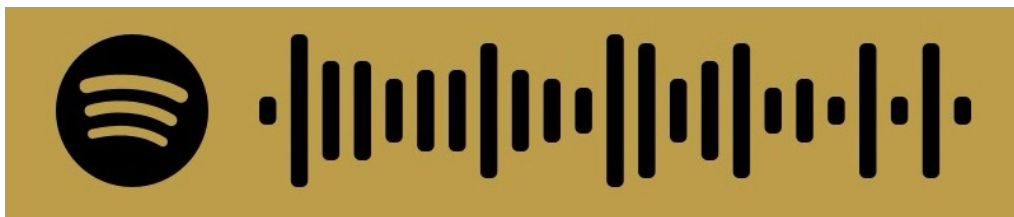


Thanksgiving Playlist

McCann O'Brien '26, Charlotte Hammett '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief & Contributing Editor

Scan this QR Code on your Spotify for a playlist to listen to while you are cooking this Thanksgiving!



Be on the lookout for
 the next edition of
Inside SI coming out
 December 12th!