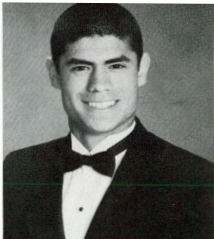
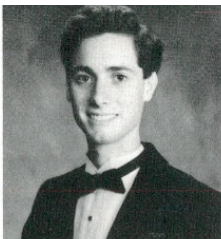


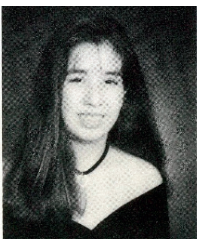
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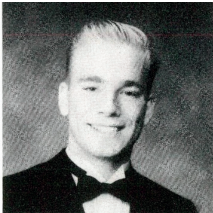
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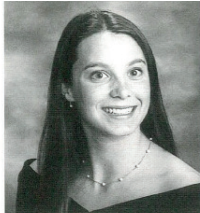
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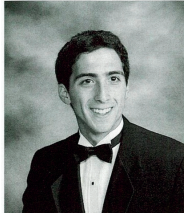
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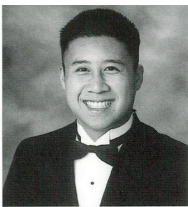
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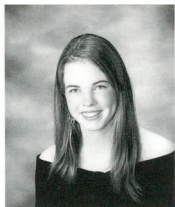
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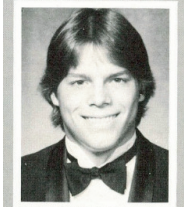
Natalia Narvaez



Raymond Dean Orque



Jamie Lundy



Anthony Calvillo



Jacqueline Boland

SI teachers' senior portraits. As part of our FEATURE, some of these teachers share their thoughts on how current high school students have changed over the years.

Feature

How “Youth” Have Changed

Evelyn Conboy '26, Lucas Liang '26, Jordan Liu '26, Annika Watkins '26 Editors-in-Chief

Walk into a classroom at SI, and you instantly are able to gauge the year of the students. Maybe it's the course material, students' physical appearances, or the level of excitement in the classroom. In the short span of four years between an incoming freshman and a battle-tested senior lie countless lessons and experiences that make the classes distinct.

But if this difference is the product of just four years, how distinct do the differences become when we zoom out? Instead of the four-year barrier between frosh orientation and senior graduation, what happens if we focus on the 20-year divide between Gen-Z and other age groups?

Some SI teachers have noted that high school students today seem different than those from years past. SI Religious Studies teacher Mr. Christian Rodriguez has observed that “students' resilience has been decreasing.” While he and other teachers try their best to support students, he noted that an unintended consequence of this support is that “failure is never an option.” He acknowledges that “we are very blessed with the resources that are needed to have a fully staffed wellness and counseling center.”

Personal and academic counselor Mr. Nicholas Alvarado '06 has noticed the same trend, sharing that “with the addition of

Continued on Page 9:
GENERATIONAL GAPS

FEATURE

In this issue, we wanted to explore how the experience of youth has transformed over the ages. Through conversations with SI faculty and current students, *Inside SI* noticed striking differences in the way our generation has grown up. We wanted to examine what defines adolescence in 2025, an age defined by AI, social media, and constant change.

Even within our own school, social and developmental differences are hard to ignore. Mental health support has expanded, phone use has become more restricted, and the way we connect with one another has evolved.

Our generation has heard that our generation is defined by our screens. However, we wanted to challenge that narrative. In this issue, we sought to ask thought-provoking questions such as, “Has social media and technology monopolized our youth, or have they simply reshaped the ways we connect, create, and come of age?”

We hope this issue sparks conversation between teachers and students, parents and children, and past and present Wildcats.

We hope you enjoy this issue, SI!

- Editors-in-Chief -

Feature

What Do Students Think About SI's Dress Code?

Beatrice Sopko '26

Contributing Editor

Each year brings change. New classes, new peers, new lunch menus. While changes to the guidelines are often quickly accepted into the school's routine with little notice, SI's dress code changes for the 2025-2026 academic year have significantly impacted students.

In past years the student-parent handbook, which includes an outline of SI's dress code policies, said all bottoms “must fall to the knee.”

This year the phrasing is updated, stating, “all bottoms must fall below the knees.”

The handbook says, “We recognize that a student's appearance impacts their attitude and behavior” and “the purpose of the dress guidelines is to assist students in developing pride, unity, and self-respect and to maintain favorable school representation and promote a consistent, positive, and dignified image.”

In a dress code survey conducted by *Inside SI* during the 2025 fall quarter, 471 students responded; 61% of respondents identified as girls, 38% as boys and >1% as non-binary. Nineteen percent of all

respondents have received a dress code detention; 93% were girls, 6% were boys and 0% were nonbinary; 63% reported the reason for a dress code write-up was for wearing bottoms shorter than one's knee.

Of the 289 girls who responded to the survey, 56 were dress-coded for bottoms that were too short (that's 1 out of 5 girls). Of the 178 boys who responded to the survey, only 2 reported being dress coded for short bottoms (or 1 in 89 boys). The survey suggests that girls are much more likely to be dress-coded for “bottoms to short” than boys.

Lucy Evans '27 said she understood dress-code guidelines are necessary. But when the policy change was presented to students during convocation she said, “the language they used felt targeted towards girls.” Evans explained a majority of masculine presenting people at SI do not wear skirts or dresses. “It felt like an afterthought when they added the part about shorts,” she said, referring to the presentation the Deans gave at the beginning of the year. “In the end I've seen

Continued on Page 11: DRESS CODE

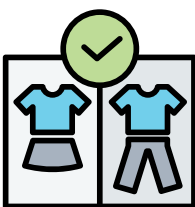
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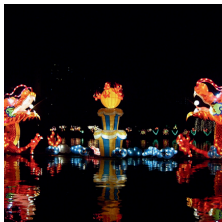
HOMECOMING



FILIPINO HERITAGE MONTH



DRESS CODE POLL



MIDAUTUMN FESTIVAL



FIELD HOCKEY TRIP TO CHICAGO

A Strong Start to the Debate Season

Sebastian Huerta '26

Managing Editor

On Saturday, October 11th, SI's debate team competed in their first tournament of the year. Held at Emerald High School in Dublin, California, debaters from around the Bay Area came to show off their debating skills as the debate season entered full swing. At the tournament, the SI team competed in public forum debate, which is a team based format where debaters compete in pairs of two.

At the debate, the topic debated was "The United Kingdom should rejoin the European Union". Team members were assigned both sides of the topic throughout the three rounds. Many of the debaters on the SI team were new, and so this was an opportunity for them to learn the ropes of the tournament environment.



The debate team smiles after a successful tournament

In reflection after the tournament, debate team captain Autumn Ragone '27 stated, "This month's tournament was one

of our best because the newcomer's preparation and determination led to excellent preparation and performance."

In the end, the team ended up bringing home four undefeated trophies, and four winning record trophies. Yet, for team captain Autumn Ragone '27, winning isn't the most important part. She stated, "Most importantly we all had a lot of fun in the process of building community."

The Speech and Debate team was also awarded the 2024-2025 Leading Chapter Award. SI's Speech and Debate team is among 106 schools nationally to receive this award. When announcing this achievement on SITV, Mr. Christian Rodriguez stated, "It's a testament to the talent, the passion, and the tireless dedication of every single Speech and Debate student."

Mika Cinco '27

Homecoming Hits SI!

Contributing Editor

SI hosted its annual Homecoming on September 27, 2025. The event, "A Night in the Wild," was organized by the Student Council and held in Cowell Gymnasium.

The evening began with a live performance by SI's student band: High Five. The group played a mix of upbeat songs that energized the crowd. Later in the night, DJ D-Sharp, the official DJ for the Golden State Warriors, took the stage.

His set featured a range of popular songs and mixes that kept students on the dance floor. The gymnasium was transformed into a safari-themed nightclub. Rotating LED fans glowed behind the DJ booth, while vines, palm leaves, and green lighting filled the space. Many students dressed to match the theme, wearing semi-formal attire with cheetah prints, floral designs, and tropical patterns. In the Student Center, students could enjoy snacks, treats, and beverages. A photo booth was available



Students dance the night away.



c/o Bowerbird/Slickpic

The DJ amps up the energy at SI's Homecoming Dance

ear the Dean's offices, and it was decorated with a balloon backdrop for group pictures. Song requests were submitted through a shared link, allowing students to help shape the music for the night. The Student Council also provided games in the Student Center for those who wanted to take a break from dancing.

Student Council member Alaia Cha '27 said, "I was tired from being in a chaotic yet fun environment. As soon as I got home I took a shower and went to sleep. They had Shirley temples, which was one of the best parts."

The mix of activities gave students multiple ways to participate and enjoy the evening. Homecoming 2025 brought together students from all grade levels for a night of music, community, and celebration.

JCL Represents at the October Games

Sebastian Huerta '26

Managing Editor

On Saturday, SI JCL students attended the annual *Ludi Octobres* at La Entrada in Menlo Park. In Latin, "Ludi Octobres" can be translated as the "October Games." At the *Ludi Octobres*, Latin students competed in academic testing, open certamen, and basketball. They also participated in toilet paper toga making, made mythological pocket pals, and attended a seminar, known in Latin as a

colloquia.

In addition, Ms. Leah Borquez gave a presentation that wove together classics and gaming. At the competitive portion of the *Ludi Octobres*, also known as the *certamen*, JCL students played on pick-up teams with students from other schools across the Bay Area. Ms. Grace Curcio, the moderator of JCL, stated: "Our students had a lovely day and represented SI well."



c/o Ms. Grace Curcio

JCL students proudly pose at the entrance

Sophie Barsoian '26

Seniors across the nation, including here at SI, are in the midst of the college application season as the leaves begin to change color and the academic year accelerates. The Class of 2026 is going through one of the most exciting and challenging periods of their high school lives, from crafting flawless personal statements to handling recommendation letters.

Students work on their laptops in coffee shops, libraries, and classrooms, polishing writings that they believe will capture their potential and enthusiasm. With each click signifying months of preparation, the Common Application and Coalition Application platforms are humming with activity as students submit their work before the early deadline.

Countdown to College Applications

Associate Editor-in-Chief



Pachi Chavez '26 works on his Common App.

While teachers balance requests for proofreading with their normal lesson plans, guidance counselors work long hours correcting drafts and soothing anxiety.

McCann O'Brien '26 reflected that this process is similar to “juggling a dozen spinning plates.” Many seniors find that managing their worry over uncertainty is just as difficult as writing essays.

Despite the stress, students share a strong sense of camaraderie. Seniors are frequently observed sharing essay drafts with friends while providing moral support, encourage-ment, and feedback. “I’m trying to maintain perspective and organization,” said Kate Wilhelm '26.

Seniors are counting down the days until November's early decision deadlines, some anxious, many optimistic, and all incredibly introspective. Regardless of where they end up next fall, this season of self-discovery will stay with students long after they press the final “submit” button.

Sofia Bicalho '29

Making Admission Tours Meaningful

Contributing Editor

Fall is here, and while it brings us to focus on Semester 1 academics and sports, it marks an important milestone for eighth graders: high school applications seasons. As they begin filling out forms, filming self-introduction videos, and preparing for the HSPT, their first real look at what it's like to be a student at SI comes from our admissions tours.

Each year over 1,000 students visit our campus, and these tours are one of the few, yet impactful, ways we can showcase our outstanding teachers, large and incredible



Wildcat ambassadors embrace one another joyfully.

athletics and arts programs, fun school community, and most importantly, daily student life. As current students who give the tours, we play a key role in the experience of every eighth grader who comes onto campus.

While giving tours to prospective students, it's important to keep them engaged and make them feel comfortable. Here are a few ways to make tours feel more natural:

- Keeping conversations flowing. Instead of a tour full of long pauses that seem endless, and basic one-word answers, ask follow up questions and ask them what they're excited about.
- Talk to them like a friend. Instead of speaking like a robotic tour guide, talk to them with a relaxed and more genuine tone to make them feel welcomed rather than intimidated (especially when they're already nervous in the first place)

- Be honest. It's not the end of the world not knowing the answer to a question, and it's better to tell them you don't know instead of making up an answer. If they're really curious about something, ask a teacher or other staff member who might know the answer.

- Show your school spirit. Sharing small things like a favorite memory, an interesting club, or pep rally experiences can help the visitors see all the fun things SI offers beyond the classrooms.

For many of these students, this could be their first time imagining themselves in a high-school setting, and a kind interaction can be what inspires them to see SI as more than just a school, but as a community they want to be a part of. By making them feel welcomed, we not only make the application process less stressful, we show what makes SI the incredible place it is today.

Alexandra Innes '28

Testing Day Arrives

Contributing Editor

On Wednesday, October 8th, our SI community came together for a day of testing. Freshmen benefited from a day off, while the rest of the community pushed through hours of standardized testing.

Sophomores entered the world of college entrance exams for the first time, taking the PreACT. The PreACT is a practice test and is meant mainly for the purpose of introducing sophomores to what is to come in the next years as they apply to college.

Similarly, the juniors took a shot at the PSAT, another practice test. While many students just use this test to prepare them for the format of the SAT, others hope to

receive scholarships and other recognition for their scores.

While sophomores and juniors warmed up for the many similar exams that are to come, seniors completed one of their last attempts at the SAT. This kind of testing is notoriously stressful for students and many found the day to be quite a challenge. Sophomore Radikha Saha stated that this not only comes from tests, but also from the technical difficulties along the way, saying that, “It was nerve-wracking watching the clock tick while my calculator wouldn't cooperate.”

Hopefully, after that long morning of

exams everyone was able to rest and recuperate during quarter break.

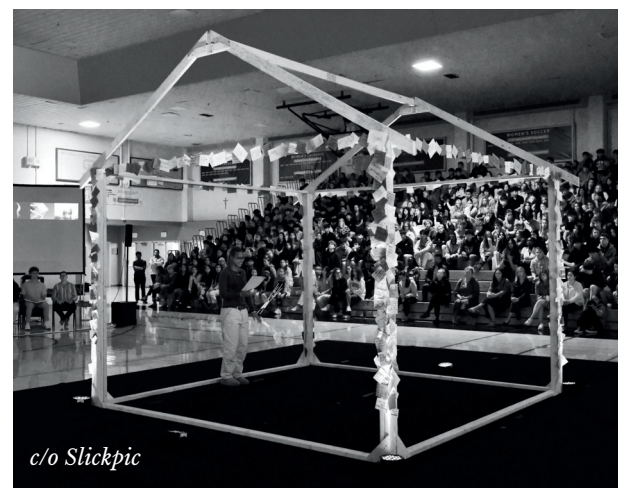


Students take the long-awaited PreACT.

Sophie Barsoian '26

Finding Sanctuary at the Prayer Service

Associate Editor-in-Chief

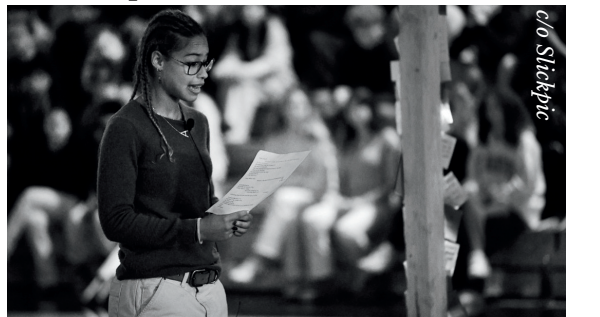


InSignis's visual representation of Sanctuary.

On Tuesday, October 21st, our SI community gathered for a special prayer service centered on the theme of finding sanctuary in our lives. The service invited reflection on the many places, both physical and spiritual, where people find peace, comfort, and strength.

Through prayers, readings, and personal reflections, including a talk from SI English teacher Mr. Rougely, participants shared how sanctuary can be discovered in faith, family, nature, and friendship. The atmosphere was thoughtful and uplifting, encouraging everyone to pause and recog-

nize the spaces and moments that offer safety and renewal. The service concluded with a prayer of gratitude and hope for continued peace.



Aisha McCulloch '27 delivers a beautiful poem.

Baking Club Enjoys Sugary Delights

Farrah Almajdalani '27 and Maddie Dela Rama '27

Managing Editors

Fall season has officially arrived, bringing with it cozy sweaters, pumpkin patch pop ups along roads, chai lattes in coffeehouses, golden leaves blanketing streets, the irresistible aroma of pumpkin spice wafting through the air, and of course, fall desserts on every shelf!

Picture pumpkin pie, baked to perfection with its crisp, golden crust filled with a silky custard filling laced with pumpkin spice—comfort with every bite.

Picture apple cobbler, a fruity dessert topped with a biscuit-like dough and a side of sweet vanilla ice cream, always making the favorite list.

Picture a carrot cake, the rich, moist, spice cake with cream cheese frosting, a consistently great choice.

Don't forget a soft, chewy snickerdoodle cookie, and fall wouldn't be complete without the classic caramel apples—crisp

fruit immersed in warm caramel sauce.

Nothing captures the spirit of the season like fall desserts, so SI's Baking Club encourages students who love baking to share their delicious treats, skills, and recipes. Every month, the baking club holds dessert exchanges where members meet other bakers over shared delicious baked goods.

This October's theme was "All Things Pumpkin" with a potluck held on October 15. Luckily, students don't have to travel far to find these autumn treats, as the club meets in the Piazza—behind the elevator.

Many students at SI enjoy their own fall desserts. Some are listed below from interviews throughout campus, answers ranging from students to faculty.

Connor Herrmann '27 said, "My favorite fall dessert is a pecan kringle; it's like a big, flat donut with pecan filling and icing. It's really good and a warm comfort food. It's from



Students show off their baked goods at the club meeting.

Trader Joe's; you should buy it."

Gia Song '27 said, "I like pumpkin pie, because it reminds me of childhood memories of when I would eat it when I was younger. My dad used to always buy the Safeway ones for me and my family."

Samantha Sarad '29 said, "Pie is my favorite, because it was always served at my Filipino family gatherings for holidays. And it tastes really good."

English teacher Ms. Miller said, "A pumpkin spice latte from Starbucks—only once during the entire season. I grew up in a very Spartan household, without desserts unless it was Thanksgiving or Christmas. Then, for the past twenty-three years, I've been getting the drink once every year."

So, the next time you smell the sweet smell of desserts filling the air while passing through the bustling halls, make sure to visit SI's very own Baking Club to socialize over tasty treats!



Students enjoy their homemade treats.

Backstage Crew Hard at Work

Elizabeth Foster '27

Contributing Editor

Dark shadows move behind the curtains of Bannan Theater, transforming the space in a matter of seconds. By the nature of their behind-the-scenes work, the technical theater crew is unknown to the audience – but we wanted to make their presence known to SI.

Mr. Lam trains and leads students from every class on production and stage crews, which build sets, design the theater's sound and lighting, and create cues. Ms. Wolf also lends her artistic vision to paint and create sets. While the elaborate sets and special effects wow each audience in Bannan, the intense labor of the crews to produce them over approximately three months goes unseen and often under-appreciated.

Tech crew member Kara Ung '27 wishes their work got more recognition at SI, but thinks the lack of knowledge is also a result of how "most technical crew members are introverts" and the nature of their behind-the-

scenes work.

In addition to creating sets and cues, a major responsibility of Mr. Lam's team is coordinating every moving part in the theater and making decisions during the pressure of showtime. This role is "chaotic and stressful,"



Students support the fall play by building sets.

according to Kara and fellow crew member Sophia Rolfe '27, but also exciting.

For many crew members, the tech crew is their first opportunity to learn about theater production, and they soon develop the vocabulary and skills that prepare them to work on a professional set. While SI's productions may be smaller than professional ones, several students said that learning how to handle schedules, preparing the stage, shifting between roles, and keeping cast members informed are crucial skills for any production.

This fall's play, *Our Town*, has a simpler set than previous SI productions, and its meta-theatrical premise is that a character called the Stage Manager narrates and performs in the play-within-a-play. During performances of *Our Town*, the stage and production teams are more visible than ever at SI. While cueing and coordinating every motion behind the scenes, they will finally be represented onstage as well.

Creative Writing Club Invites Your Voice

Abigail Smith '29

Contributing Editor

Creative Writing Club

2025 - 2026

First Meeting

Our first meeting will be held in Jensen Chapel on Monday 9/29 from 3-4pm. Scan here to RSVP.



Brand New!

Join the new Creative Writing Club to hone your craft and connect with other writers at SI.

Contact Info

Email Hayden Lee ('29) to get involved!
hslee29@siprep.org

All Genres Welcome

This club is for creative writers of all levels across genres and media. This includes fiction writers, poets, songwriters, screenwriters, novelists, nonfiction writers, and more!

Led by a freshman, Hayden Lee, and moderated by Ms. Rachel Zarrow, the Creative Writing Club captures both the imagination and creativity of future writers and current students.

"It's an outlet for students who are excited about cultivating their creative writing practice," Ms. Zarrow said. In addition, she continued, "English teachers here at SI incorporate creative writing in their classes, but we wanted to create a space where creative writing is the focus, a space where students can find joy and excitement without the pressure of grades." Ms. Zarrow would also like to emphasize that the club is new and student led, so the community itself will grow based on student interest and where their energy is.

The Creative Writing Club welcomes all writers of all levels. "Whether you are into songwriting, screenwriting, or storytelling of any kind, the Creative Writing Club is a great place to explore your imagination," Hayden Lee stated. She also continued, "We will strengthen writing through fun workshops, from mastering literary devices to painting a vivid fantasy world. You are also welcome to bring in your own pieces for group feedback and inspiration. We meet once a month during X-Period and practice creativity and confidence through casual speaking," Hayden added.

If you're interested, please feel free to contact Hayden Lee at hslee29@siprep.org with questions. See you there!

Daraja Students Visit SI

Ava Chiappari '26 and Annika Watkins '26

Contributing Editor and Editor-in-Chief

The Daraja Club at SI builds a community of students who diligently join efforts in promoting a mission beyond themselves: the Daraja Academy. As a boarding school that supports girls' education in Kenya, the Daraja Academy offers young women a fully funded escape from poverty and arranged marriage in a country where gender obstructs learning opportunities.

In fact, Daraja students Cecilia and Naitibik visited SI this month to speak to students and answer questions at the Club X-Period.

During the interview panel, Cecilia opened up about her journey to Daraja. "When I finished eighth grade, I did very well," she shared, "but I knew my mom couldn't afford to send me to a good high school. It was frustrating watching other girls go to school while I stayed home." Everything changed when her uncle brought her an application for Daraja.

"I had never heard of it before, but I applied and was called for an interview. I was nervous because I had never spoken to a white person before, but I wanted to show confidence." After sharing her dream of using education to help her family and community, Cecilia earned a full scholarship.

Through Daraja's Women of Integrity, Strength, and Hope (WISH) program, she has gained the confidence to be a leader. Cecelia hopes to become a journalist in the future to amplify the voices of her community.



c/o Annika Watkins '26

Daraja students Naitibik and Cecelia speak about their lives in Kenya.

Naitibik's story was equally powerful. My life before Daraja was really small," she began. At just six years old, she was forced into marriage to a man her father's age. "Life at his home was hell," she recalled. I took care of livestock and worked for his family until I realized my life was getting harder. I chose to run away."

After finding help through the Simama Project in Nanyuki, Naitibik was able to attend school for the first time. "My life changed from herding cattle to sitting in a math class," she said with pride. Learning Swahili and later English at Daraja, she found her voice and her freedom through education.

Outside SI

Ceasefire in the Middle East

James Benerofe '27 and Alexander Salentine '26

Contributing Editor, Managing Editor

Two years after the first conflict between Hamas and Israel, the war is coming to an end. On October 12th, both countries agreed to a ceasefire, which also included the return of the respective hostages.

Among them, Hamas will free all 48 of the original hostages from over two years ago, only 20 of whom are still alive. In return, Israel is freeing 250 Palestinian prisoners who are serving life sentences. In response to the ceasefire, Israel also has begun withdrawing some of its troops from areas of conflict.

One aspect of the 20-point ceasefire plan between Israel and Palestine is that foreign oversight would play an integral role in regulating the deal. According to the BBC, currently, 200 troops from the US and other troops from the UAE, Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey will monitor Israel and Gaza to ensure the conclusion of the war. Many politicians believe that if all parts of the plan are followed, the war will finally come to a close, promoting a conclusion to other wars

around the world. Avidan Nijagal '27 believes that this "ceasefire is a step in the right direction for world peace."



Israeli soldiers stand next to tanks near the Israel-Gaza border.

The "security perimeter" that was created during the war is being preserved after the ceasefire to prevent rekindling of any conflict. This border will prevent residents from entering or leaving Gaza without special permission. Along with these restoration efforts, Israel plans to slowly remove its influence and troops from Gaza.

Currently, 53% of the original Israeli troops remain in the country, but gradual withdrawals should decrease the number to 40%, then 15%. This prolonged military presence is a point of contention as Palestinians want the number of remaining Israeli troops to be better clarified and well-regulated.

Plans about how to restore governance of the Gaza Strip to Palestinian authority have not been finalized. This deal leaves important questions unanswered, failing to specify how Gaza will operate and rebuild, a momentous effort that would require decades and hundreds of billions of dollars. Additionally, Palestinians face systemic inequalities, like heavy restrictions on geographic mobility, a lack of citizenship, and an absence of property rights. Furthermore, there is still no concrete solution for the composition of the Palestinian state and its leadership, leaving questions of identity, land rights, and representation still up for contention.

Trump's Statements about Tylenol

Angeline Hsueh '27

Contributing Editor

President Donald Trump recently suggested a potential link between taking Tylenol (acetaminophen) during pregnancy and the development of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). This statement sparked debate among scientists, healthcare professionals, and the general public regarding the safety of common medications during pregnancy.

Current scientific research does not establish a direct link between acetaminophen use during pregnancy and autism.

Some studies have explored potential associations, but these studies face limitations such as small sample sizes, confounding factors, and inconsistent results. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) classify acetaminophen as a generally safe option for pain relief during pregnancy when used as directed. Experts advise that avoiding necessary medication due to unverified claims could pose health risks for both the parent and the unborn child. Statements from such prominent figures can influence

public perceptions of health information. "As our president, he shouldn't be making such bold and false claims, especially because of his influence over the American people" expressed Lana Manaoat '27, citing the damage misinformation can cause. While research on autism risk factors continues, current evidence shows no proven connection. Public statements should always be weighed against scientific data to ensure informed decision-making.

Trump Sends the National Guard

Alexander Salentine '26

Managing Editor

The Trump administration has accelerated the use of direct federal intervention. According to NPR, the National Guard has been deployed to Chicago, Washington D.C, Memphis, and Los Angeles, with deployments pending in Portland and suggested for the Bay Area, New Orleans, Baltimore, New York, and St. Louis. Liberals dispute this action, calling it unconstitutional, while conservatives view federal intervention necessary.

In Chicago, the administration aims to mobilize the National Guard to protect federal agencies in the city. Trump also wants to address crime in the city. Because of his crackdown in Washington, D.C, crime levels have lowered, and Trump feels confident he can replicate this phenomenon in Chicago.

Liberals object, saying that this is a misrepresentation of Chicago. They argue that the increased presence of federal offi-

“When local insight is dismissed, confidence erodes and tensions with the government rise.

– Autumn Ragone '27

cers will cause more division and distrust of law enforcement among residents, especially in minority communities. However, despite the administration’s efforts, a judge ruled on October 11th that the National Guard can be mobilized, but not deployed into Chicago. This desist order will remain unless the administration wins a successful appeal, which could take several weeks.

In Portland, the administration has similar objectives, claiming that ICE facilities have been physically attacked by protestors and describing Portland as “war-ravaged.” However, Oregon Governor Tina

Kotek (D) said that local law enforcement have protests under control and that the President’s description is inaccurate. A temporary restraining order blocking the National Guard’s deployment in Oregon was issued by a federal judge on October 5th, citing that the protests did not justify a military response.

St. Ignatius Young Democrats co-president Autumn Ragone '27 commented, “It feels like an impulsive response rather than a collaborative effort between federal, local, and community leaders—the kind of cooperation that actually builds public safety. When local insight is dismissed, confidence erodes and tensions with the government rise.”

Sebastian Huerta '26 stated, “Though I support measures to combat crime, it’s a violation of the powers of the presidency, which were intentionally designed to have limits.”

Palisades Fire Arson Suspect Arrested

Heather Yee '27

Managing Editor

Nine months after the deadly blaze in Los Angeles’ Pacific Palisades, officials have arrested and charged 29-year-old Jonathan Rinderknecht with destruction of property. On October 7, Rinderknecht was arrested near his Florida home by federal authorities on the charge of destruction of property by means of fire.

Until now, the cause of the Lachman and Palisades fire was unknown and initially believed to have been started by New Year’s Fireworks. However, with Rinderknecht’s arrest, authorities allege that he “maliciously” set the fire which killed twelve and destroyed over 6,000 homes.

The Lachman fire was extinguished quickly after its ignition, and while firefighters believed it was completely contained, the flames smoldered underground and eventually reignited due to strong winds a week later, becoming the

powerful Palisades fire.

Acting US Attorney Bill Essayli stated that Rinderknecht drove to a nearby hilltop after dropping off passengers, where he listened to a song with a music video about objects being lit on fire. After he ignited the fire that night with an open flame, he fled the scene by car and attempted to call 911 several times before getting cell service. As the fire tucks arrived; however, he turned around and walked back up the trail to record the blaze with his cell phone.

Using his phone data, officials also discovered that he entered several fire-related prompts into ChatGPT months prior, asking it to create an image of a “dystopian painting,” with people running away from a fire.

He included in his prompt “thousands of people in poverty are trying to get past a gate with a big dollar sign on it. On the

other side of the gate is a conglomerate of the richest people. They are chilling... enjoying themselves.”

In a statement to investigators, the suspect’s relatives said that his mental state had deteriorated and also expressed fear for their safety.

Farrah Almajdalani '27 expressed relief that Rinderknecht was arrested, but communicated concern about how the criminal justice system will affect his mental health. She questioned, “Does [the justice system] actually bring justice? Or is it metaphorically putting a bandaid on a worsening wound?”

Rinderknecht’s arrest comes as the Palisades neighborhood just begins to recover and rebuild. Although it does not resolve the destruction or devastation residents have faced, it may be a step towards closure.

Effects of the Government Shutdown Ripple Across the Nation

Nicholas Coblin '28 and Jeremy Hornik '26

Contributing Editors

On October 1st, the federal government had its first shutdown in nearly seven years. But what is a shutdown?

When Congress can’t agree on a budget or pass a temporary spending bill by the end of the fiscal year, the federal government runs out of funding, causing a shutdown. During a shutdown, many federal workers are furloughed or temporarily discharged from working. Essential employees, such as air traffic controllers and the military, continue without pay until the government reopens. Shutdowns usually occur when lawmakers are divided over how tax dollars should be spent, and neither side is willing to compromise. While that debate plays out in Washington, the effects stretch across the country.

At SI, students can feel the shutdown’s effects. Colin Mifsud '28 said, “I think shutdowns are supposed to help the two sides of the government make a compromise ... but it’s kind of had the opposite effect because people are so divided.”

Teachers see these ripple effects too. “It certainly impacts how students understand their government, whether it’s functional or dysfunctional,” said Modern World History teacher, Mr. Mike Kennedy.

It may be difficult to understand the



A shutdown notice is displayed at the Lincoln Memorial.

effects of the shutdown, but they are widespread widespread and prevalent. Statistics from the White House website show the impact of the shutdown on California after one week: the Gross State Product is down \$2.1 billion, approximately 5,100 workers have become unemployed, and around 251,000 federal workers are either furloughed or working without pay. In early October, San Francisco, too, felt the government’s shutdown during Fleet Week, which

features events that honor those currently serving in the military, including the famous Blue Angels air show. However, this year was different. Due to the government shutdown, all U.S. military participation was canceled. Even so, Fleet Week was not called off, and the city instead worked to pivot. Canadian and Colombian militaries stepped in, and the show went on.

A variety of planes were flown over the bay, including the Canadian Snowbirds, the Jack Aces P-51 Demo Team, and a United Airlines 777. There were also special demonstrations from civilian performers, including the Patriots Jet Team, composed of former Blue Angels and U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds pilots. While crowds were smaller this year, thousands still gathered across San Francisco’s waterfront to watch the spectacle.

SI student Porter McAndrews '26 said, “I was disappointed that the Blue Angels weren’t performing,” reflecting the sentiment of many who missed the familiar roar of the U.S. Navy.

The government shutdown serves as a reminder that civic issues affect our lives here in the Bay Area.



SI Celebrates Latinx Heritage Month

Geraldine Segura '27 & Genevieve Arcenio '27

Contributing Editor and Managing Editor

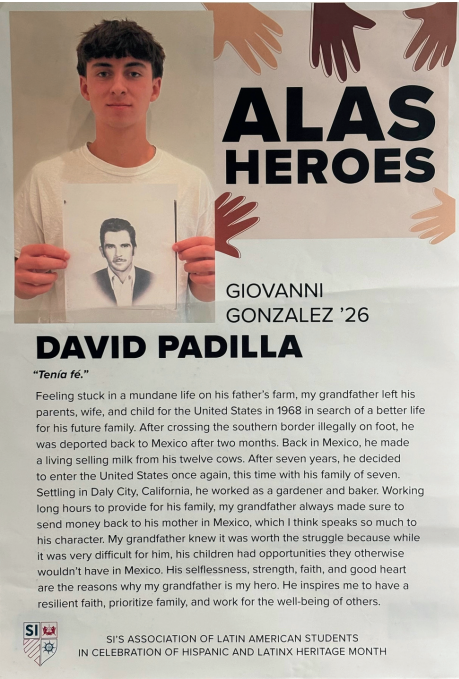
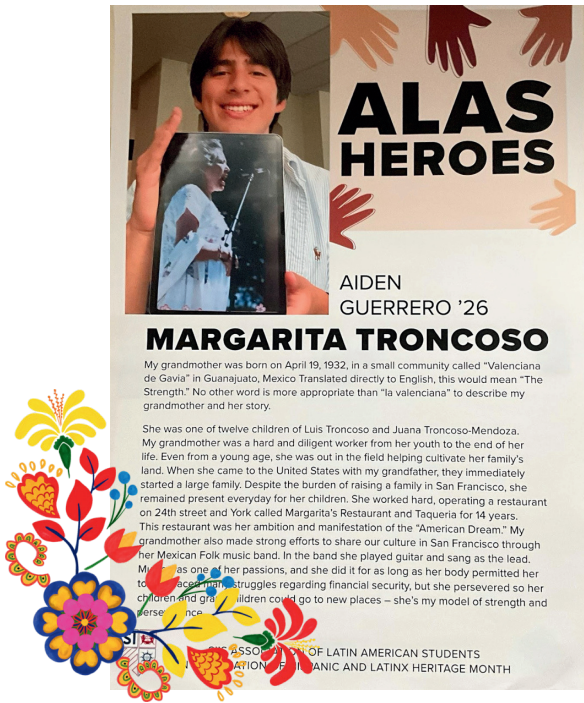
Latinx Heritage Month is annually recognized in the US from September 15th to October 15th. The start of the celebration in September commemorates the anniversary of the independence of several countries in Latin America, including the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on September 15th, the independence of Mexico on September 16th, and the independence of Chile on September 18th. The celebration began in 1968, when President Lyndon B. Johnson established a National Hispanic Heritage Week. It was extended to a month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988.

Every year at SI, Latinx Heritage Month is celebrated in various ways. ALAS (Association of Latin American Students) invites students to celebrate Latinx diversity on campus by welcoming SI to the ALAS Showcase. The theme of the showcase this year is *Un Mundo de Colores: A Mosaic of our Cultures*. ALAS's co-president, Camila Limo Fernandez '26, said that the showcase celebrates "the great representation of Latinx students and highlights their stories through dance, poetry, art, and song!" This event is eagerly anticipated every year. The event currently is being rescheduled from its original Oct. 25th date.

culture, identity, and history is through the ALAS hero posters that are displayed around campus. These can be found in the Student Center and in the hallways of the H-Building. Each poster typically features a student holding up an image of their hero and their reasoning as to why they chose that person. There is a wide range of heroes, including parents, grandparents, and celebrities. These posters allow students who are part of ALAS to spotlight their heroes and the contributions they have made to their communities. Be sure to check out these posters and learn more about important Latinx figures in our community, culture, and nation as a whole!

Another way SI celebrates Latinx

ALAS Affinity Posters c/o Genevieve Arcino '27



The Importance of Filipino History Month to SI Students

Genevieve Arcenio '27 & Maddie Dela Rama '27

Managing Editors

In the US, Filipino American History Month is celebrated during the month of October. The month commemorates the arrival of the first Filipinos to America on October 18th, 1587, and the birth month of Larry Itliong, a civil rights activist and one of the leaders in the founding of the United Farm Workers Union. This month not only honors the history of Filipino Americans, but it also acknowledges the contributions that Filipinos have made to the country, and celebrates Filipino culture.

From the Filipino Culture Club to the Pasko Celebration, the impact that Filipinos have had on the SI community is undeniable. We decided to interview some Filipino students and faculty at SI to learn about their favorite parts of Filipino culture and why it's important to them.



c/o Aesthetic Distance

Lights for the Filipino Pasko Celebration

What does Filipino History Month mean to you?

Gio Bueno '27:

"To me, Filipino American History Month is a way of reminding myself of my roots and celebrating a culture that I wish to be more active in. It's a way of celebrating my Lolos and Lolas, my parents, my Titas and Titos, my cousins, my kuyas, my ates, our history, our food, and anything else I miss out on by being in America."

Who is someone you look up to who is Filipino and why?

Faye Florendo '27:

"I look up to my great grandma because she was the first in my family to come to America. She made a living for herself, became a homeowner, and joined the Filipino counsel here. I honor her with my middle name, Rosario."

How do you keep your Filipino culture alive in your everyday life?

Gwyne Conde '26:

"I keep my Filipino culture alive through food and dishes like Sinigang, Lumpia, and I recently had Bulalo. Filipino dishes are very rich in flavor, and I love it!"

Ms. Angeles (Personal Academic Counselor):

"The food I eat is heavily filled with Filipino culture. Another huge thing is in the way I behave, as in respecting my elders and being hospitable to others. These are very important values, as I know Filipino people are always welcoming and opening their doors to everyone to make them feel like family. I think it's important to treat people in that way."



The Cultural Significance of Mahjong

Lucas Quan '26

Contributing Editor

Mahjong is a traditional game with Chinese origins. This game involves tiles that, in some way, resemble playing cards, requiring tactical skill and strategy. Ranging from 136 to 144 tiles, these individual tiles feature symbols like bamboo, pancakes, directional winds (north, south, east, and west), Chinese characters/numbers, flowers, and dragons.

Mahjong has been developing since the 1800s and has since become a culturally significant activity. Mahjong has become culturally symbolic of familial bonding that has spread outside China, a tradition practiced worldwide. SI senior, Micah Lee, explained that “[It’s a] great way to make your relatives have debts to you, keep them close so they can pay you.” Although the game is intense and a great way to earn some pocket money for the holidays, it introduces the aspect of unity and bonding over mahjong.

During holidays like Lunar New Year, mahjong is a tradition that introduces a competitive intensity that makes the holiday



Students playing traditional Mahjong

fun, but also a way to gather the family around the table. In addition to bringing the family together, the act of playing mahjong with family allows for the tradition to continue to be practiced by future generations.

Mahjong as a game has become a staple of connection, and a way to culturally connect transcending the expectations of significant cultural knowledge. Familial connection is a very important principle of Chinese culture, and mahjong is just one aspect of this tradition.

Mr. Pang, the Mandarin teacher who started the Chinese Culture Club Mahjong events at SI, emphasized the role of mahjong within Chinese culture and the SI community. He stated, “Mahjong is more than just a game. It’s a way to connect people across generations and cultures. At SI, our Chinese Culture Club’s Mahjong event gives students a fun and welcoming space to experience this important part of Chinese culture. It also builds community by encouraging conversation, strategy, and friendship around the table. I’ve seen students make new friends through mahjong, and many students tell me they look forward to coming every week. It’s great to see.”

As the game of mahjong expands, its fun, intensive environment has even made its way into this year’s Casino Night! Come join us November 15, 7-11 p.m. (more information to come), for a new type of Chinese traditional gambling and learn a few things about Chinese culture!

First Affinity X-Period: Stories, Power, and Solidarity

Radhika Saha '28

Contributing Editor

During X-Period on October 7th, the Choral Room filled with the buzz of voices as students took their seats for the first Affinity Group X-Period of the year. The theme was affinity in action: stories, power, and solidarity. The event brought together members of the SI affinity community, allies, and curious classmates for an hour of storytelling, honesty, and reflection. At the front sat six student panelists: Aiden Guerrero '26, Alexandra Wallerstein '27, Dylan Liu '26, Maraki Kassa '27, Cara Barakat '27, and Jack Jack Lok '26. Each spoke about what affinity has meant in their lives, sharing stories of courage, connection, and finding belonging at SI.

Jack Jack Lok '26, a historian/publicist in the Asian Student Coalition (ASC), began the discussion’ by recalling her first days at SI. “I wasn’t sure if there would be people like me,” she said, “but affinity gave me a

home.” Her words set a tone of openness that carried through the conversation.

Cara Barakat '27, from the Arab Middle Eastern Association (AMA), reflected on the importance of connection and empathy across communities. After hearing about JAG’s volunteer work at a local temple, she shared how moments like that remind her of the power of building bridges. “Even though I’m not in JAG, I think finding ways to come together especially now, with everything happening in the world, really matters,” she said. “ It’s about choosing understanding over distance.”

Alexandra Wallerstein '27 shared a moment of honest dialogue about antisemitism and islamophobia. “It wasn’t easy,” she said, “but it mattered. We were trying to understand, not argue.”

Throughout the session, students listened intently, nodding and reflecting. The choral room felt calm, but alive, and



filled with

Throughout the session, students listened intently, nodding and reflecting. The choral room felt calm, but alive, and filled with empathy, curiosity, and connection. By the end, students lingered, still talking. The event reminded everyone that affinity at SI isn't just about identity—it’s about listening, learning, and building belonging together.

SI’s Diwali Celebration Stuns

Jordan Liu '26

Editor-in-Chief

On Wednesday, October 22, ASC and SIPAC hosted SI’s annual Diwali celebration. Diwali, also known as the Hindu Festival of Lights, represents the triumph of good over evil and light in darkness. Its name comes from the Sanskrit dipavali, meaning “row of lights.” The holiday is celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains worldwide. Recently, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 268 into law to make Diwali an official state holiday beginning in 2026.

During the celebration, diyas, or small

oil lamps made of clay, are traditionally used to light the way for gods and goddesses. The event took advantage of the 3rd-floor observatory complete with a DJ and traditional Indian dhol drum. Students and adults participated in activities painting Diyas and making Henna tattoos. Teachers, students, and parents hit the dance floor as they followed along with a Bollywood dance workshop. English teacher, Ms. Boland, was one of the many faculty members in attendance. She said, “It’s one of my

favorite nights of the year. The students shined with their gorgeous cultural attire, delicious food, and their enthusiasm to dance.” Camila Limo Fernandez '26 shared, “I thought it was a really great experience, especially because it’s my last year at SI.”

The celebration was the most ambitious Diwali event, and careful planning and dedication went into putting it on. For those that attended, it was one of the most vibrant and festive nights of the year.



Attendees of the Diwali celebration show off their henna.



Students worked together to construct and paint a Diya.



Students dance during the Diwali celebration.

GENERATIONAL GAPS

Continued from Front Page

the resource period, students have begun to view that additional support [from faculty and staff] as a given, rather than developing the same level of self-reliance that was once expected.”

Psychology teacher Mr. Eric Castro '92 also shared his thoughts on the current generation. Teaching at SI for over 20 years, he remarked that the current generation seems both “brighter and kinder than previous generations.” However, this comes at a cost. He noticed that Gen-Z seems to have weaker social skills, likely attributed to the prevalence of social media, the pandemic during formative social years, and more protective parenting practices.

In contrast, Mr. Castro reflected on his own youth. On average, Gen-X seemed to be more bold and less considerate, something Mr. Castro chalked up to a “harsher and more brutal environment.”

Dominic Regalia '26 also shared the daily difficulties of an “abundance of information” that accompanies Gen-Z. The constant dopamine hits that riddle social media use has led Regalia to conclude that his generation is “more susceptible to anxiety or other mental health conditions.”

SI has met this generational phenomenon head-on with a large counseling staff, especially when compared to the public school equivalent. Mr. Alvarado shared his anecdotal experience as a seasoned personal and academic counselor, noting that he believes that “the Counseling Center has been an effective and supportive resource for our students.” He assured that “our Wellness Staff is pivotal in providing intervention and support for the “light” to “heavy” needs of our students.”

“Students seem to have more of an appreciation for prioritizing mental health alongside physical health.”
- Mr. Tim Egan

The school has also created a wellness class to address the new challenges facing teens. Wellness teacher Mr. Tim Egan explained that SI’s focus on student well-being was not accidental. “In the 7 or 8 years prior to 2014, the SI community experienced a number of student losses,” he said. “In response to this, the school made a concerted effort to address this mental health crisis.” This effort led to the creation of the Wellness program.

Mr. Egan added that the Wellness class “strives to educate students about the connection between their physical health (exercise, sleep, and nutrition) and their moods,” while also “training students to respond with self-compassion and calmness to the stressors they confront on a daily basis.” The goal, he said, is to help students build a toolkit of strategies to manage their overall well-being.

Reflecting on how students have changed, Egan noted that “students seem to have more of an appreciation for prioritizing mental health alongside physical health.” He attributes this shift to a broader national awareness of mental health and the role of technology, explaining that “ten years ago, most teens were oblivious to the role that algorithms played in keeping them hooked on social media.”

Both adults and youths at SI acknowledge the mental health challenges that youth face. Factors such as the ubiquity of social media, quarantining during the COVID-19 pandemic, and different parenting styles make modern youth seem more susceptible to mental health issues than prior generations. However, the Counseling Center remains a rock for countless SI students, offering invaluable support in a generation of high expectations and strict standards.

Beyond the Feed: What Teens Think About Social Media

McCann O’Brien ’26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

Social media has become a mainstay of teenagers' lives across the world. Over the past 20 or so years that social media platforms have been around, they have solidified into the culture and become somewhat inescapable. Even those who do not have accounts themselves have been exposed to some form of trend or viral content. Apps like Facebook, Instagram, Tiktok, and Youtube allow people to share aspects of their life that no one was able to access before, promoting different lifestyles that may or may not be accurate to how one truly lives.

These platforms have also become a divisive issue, especially for younger users, with more and more studies coming out about the negative effects a presence on social media can have for children and teenagers. In 2023, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy published an advisory detailing that “there is growing evidence that social media is causing harm to young people’s mental health,” and described limits that parents must place on the social media usage of their children.

The students across SI have many thoughts as well, on their own social media usage and the harmful effects they have observed. When commenting on her usage of these platforms, Samantha Lundquist '26 stated, “I use social media more often than I wish I did. I don't really like it.” She also described her opinions on the effects of social media, saying, “I think it is harmful and portrays things that are fake and unattainable, and makes people feel like they are not enough. I wish I could get rid of it.” Sophie Barsoian '26 shared a similar opinion on getting “rid of social media,” stating, “I would abolish social media for good if I could.”

The negative effects students across SI



Social media has become a ubiquitous part of teenagers’ lives.

have noticed in regards to social media usage are consistent, with Barsoian describing it as, “distracting from reality“, not using the platforms herself. Chloe Dean '26 stated that she has “mixed feelings” due to “how much time it takes away from my life. I want to spend more time with friends and be outside more, and social media takes away from that.” Jeremy Hornik '26 shared, “I use social media often, around 2 hours a day. I enjoy it, but there is harm in overuse. If you find yourself always going back to it, it might be a problem.”

The positive sides of social media also come to light among teenagers. Lundquist stated, “There are some benefits. It is a way to stay connected to other people and reach a broader audience.” However, she believes that “it doesn't cancel out its harmful effects. I think it's better to not have it at all.”

On the other hand, Dean agreed with

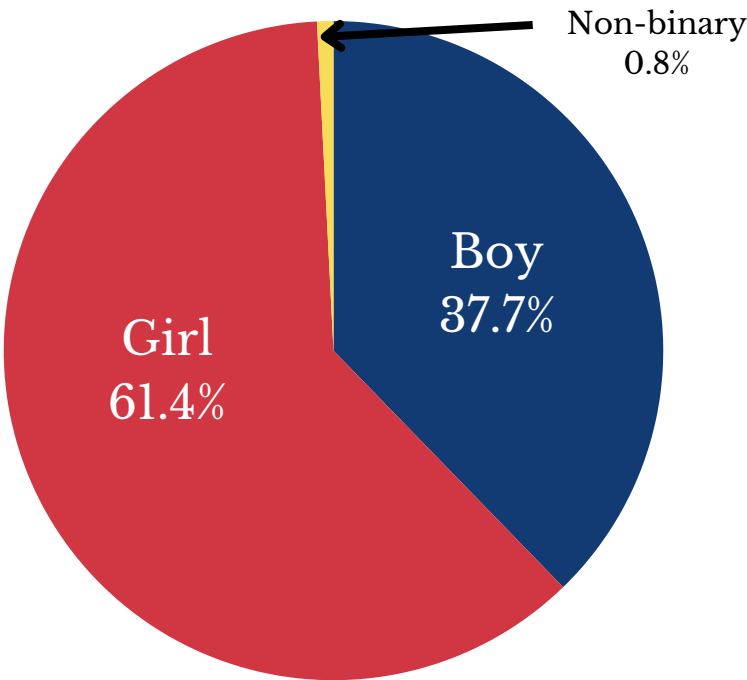
the positives of social media. She stated, “My favorite thing about social media is how it allows me to see what other people are up too, both close to me and in the world,” but she differed in her thoughts on continuing to use the platforms. She thought that, “the con’s don’t outweigh the pro’s. I wouldn't get rid of it but I would put time restrictions on it.” Hornik expressed a similar opinion, saying it is “good in moderation.”

The divisive nature of social media usage among young people is evident in the SI student body, but the fact remains that social media is a constant presence in everyone's lives. With the future of social media uncertain in a constantly changing world, it is important to remember that the effects of social media come not just from the platforms themselves, but on how consciously young people choose to use them.

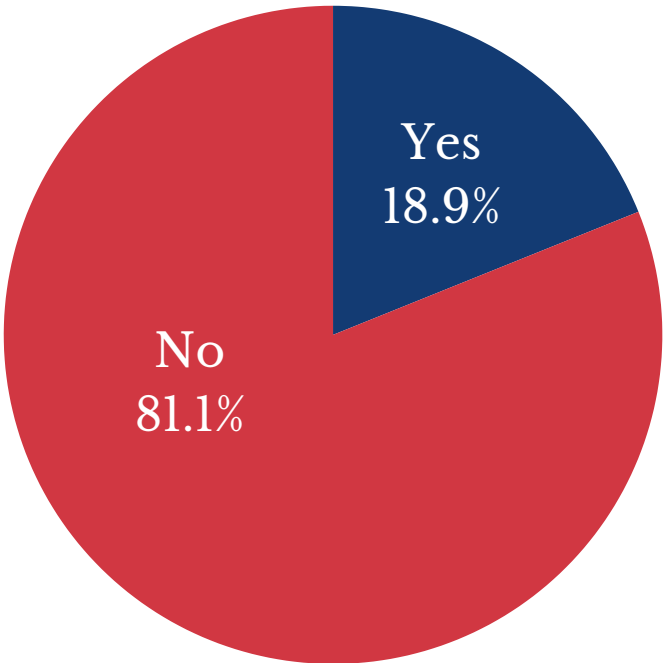
POLLING RESULTS

471 SI students responded to a poll asking about their experiences and opinions on the dress code. Here are the results.

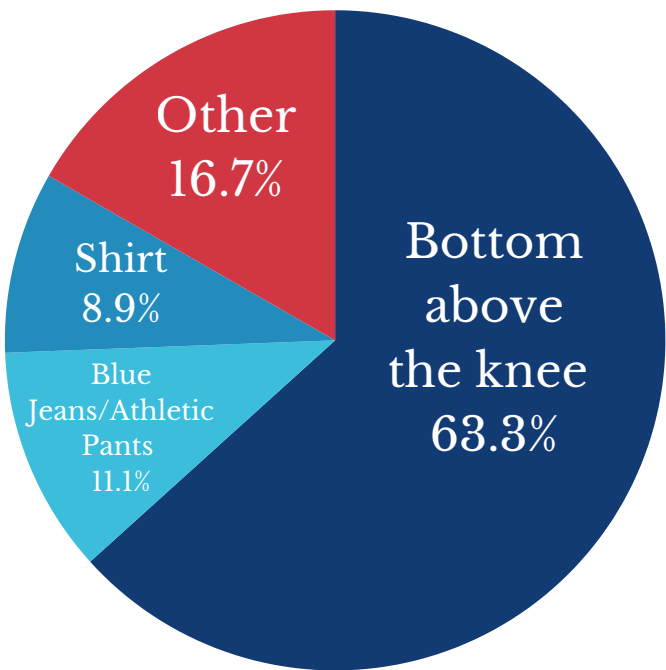
HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY?



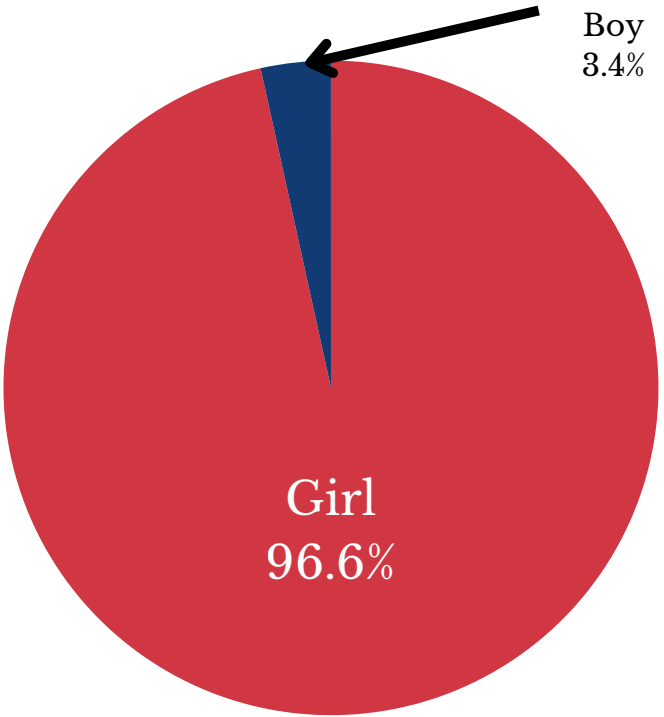
HAVE YOU BEEN DRESS-CODED IN FALL 2025?



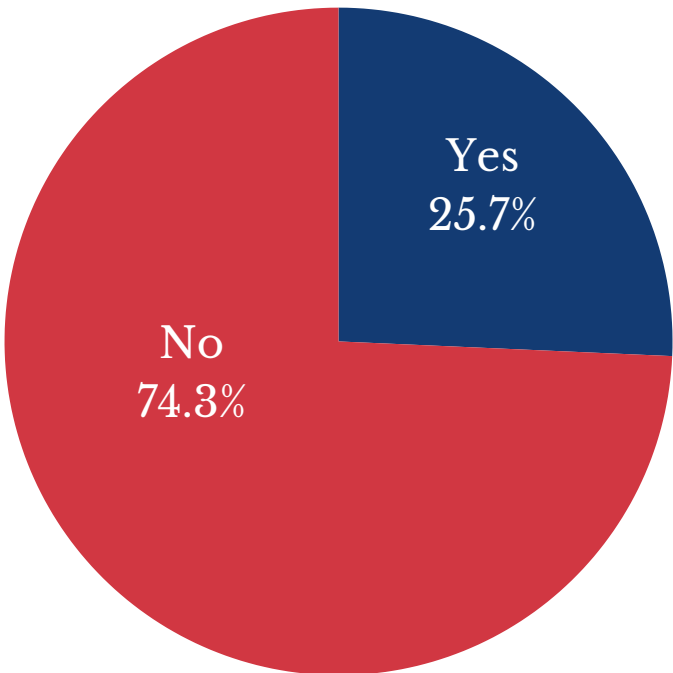
IF YOU WERE DRESS CODED, WHAT DID YOU WEAR THAT WAS OUT OF DRESS CODE?



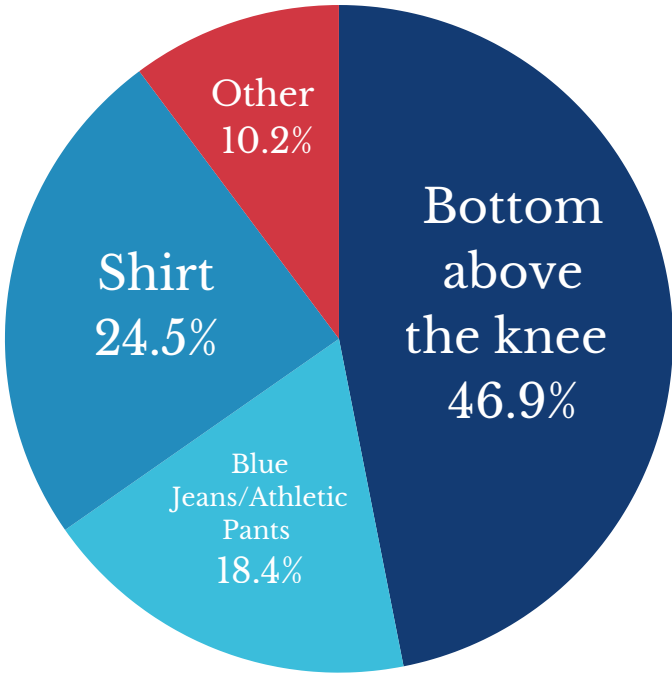
IF YOU WERE DRESS-CODED FOR HAVING A BOTTOM ABOVE THE KNEE, HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY?



IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DRESS-CODED, HAVE YOU WORN ANYTHING OUT OF DRESS CODE?



OF THOSE WHO RESPONDED "YES" TO THE PREVIOUS QUESTION, WHAT DID YOU WEAR THAT WAS OUT OF DRESS CODE?



DRESS CODE

Continued from Front Page

a lot of guys wear shorts that don't fall below their knees," Evans said. "It feels unfair."

There was an optional question in the survey asking for students' thoughts. Out of 100 students who responded 40% said they perceived the dress code as having a gender bias and 6-7% said the knee length rule should not apply to boys wearing shorts.

Kate Ozeta '26 said she had mixed feelings about the dress code but ultimately landed on the negative side. "I wouldn't say it's outright targeting, but the dress code is definitely perpetuating an issue," Ozeta said. "Girls should have the ability to wear what they would like and not have to constantly feel like they're being watched or judged."

About 25% of students in the survey said the length rule made it difficult to wear comfortable clothing on hot days. Maddie Pasquini '27 said the monitoring of skirts and dresses has made her afraid to wear one, "even if that means absolutely dying of heat."

School dress codes in America historically have been geared towards female populations. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is a nonprofit and non partisan organization that advocates for individual rights and freedoms.

Addressing this topic, it published an article, stating that dress codes "may reflect the sexist and harmful view that girls' bodies are inherently vulgar or inappropriate, [and] that boys will be 'distracted' by girls' bodies."

When asked about SI's dress code, SI Dean Mr. Escobar said, "the dress code is always something we want to examine and look at to see how it's meeting the signs of the times."

“The dress code is always something we want to examine and look at to see how it's meeting the signs of the times.”
– Mr. Carlos Escobar

Mr. Escobar said feedback from faculty is included when assessing guidelines. And some faculty members expressed frustration because of a "lack of clarity" with last year's dress code. He said, "When we went reasonably close to the knee, the gray area was just too large. We just needed to have more specific wording so that we can be more consistent and make it easier for everyone."

SI's other Dean, Ms. Sanchez, added, "Other schools have similarly reframed the language for tops and bottoms to be more

consistent. We looked at the other dress code language and were consulting with other deans as well."

After reviewing data from our student survey, Mr. Escobar said, "There is always something we can do better."

"It's always our goal to be fair and to be reasonable," Ms. Sanchez said. "And to understand that we're going to dress code boys and girls equally, and we hope that everyone can help us do that around campus."

"Our hope for the future is that we get better at holding all our students accountable for the rules that we've set forth and in the agreements we've had as a community," Mr. Escobar added.

The deans said they did not collect specific data about the dress code; for example, who was dress coded, when and why. But they said they were open to conducting another survey in the spring to see whether the statistics change.

To fulfill the administration's dedication to "pride, unity and self-respect," as stated in the handbook, holistic data about the dress code should be collected and regularly published. A transparent approach will hold the school accountable for enforcing guidelines equally. It will allow students, staff and the administration to better understand whether and how the dress code supports self expression, equality and the well being of all students no matter their gender.

The Rise of the Microtrend

Lauren Yu '27

Managing Editor

By the time you finish reading this sentence, there will be a new "must-have" aesthetic trending on TikTok—and someone will already be calling it cringe. Welcome to youth culture in 2025. With the rise of social media comes the rise of microtrends, or trends that gain and lose popularity at lightning speed. While fashion trends have existed for centuries, microtrends exploded in popularity during the COVID-19 pandemic, fueled by TikTok's fast-paced algorithm.

From "mob wife" to "coastal granddaughter," microtrends have seeped into every aspect of teenage life, driving overconsumption in the process. Take water bottles, for example. In just a few years, Hydro Flasks have given way to Stanleys, and not long after, Owalas. Despite advertising small differences, like fitting into cup holders or including built-in straws, these bottles serve the same purposes, yet consumers continue to buy the newest version just to keep up with the microtrends.

Social media influencers accelerate this cycle by constantly showcasing the latest aesthetics, makeup products, and clothing. According to product engagement data, consumer interest in viral trends peak within just three to five weeks. Platforms like TikTok have capitalized on this through features like TikTok Shop, which allows viewers to purchase items directly from videos. Many teens now view social media as a trusted shopping space, blurring the lines between entertainment and advertising.

While microtrends offer certainty and comfort, they also stifle individualism. "I often feel like if I follow microtrends people call me a follower, but if I don't then people make comments on how I'm trying to be different," says Amanda Oberto '26. This constant pressure to adapt erodes self-expression and worsens mental health.

Companies exploit this insecurity by promoting products that feed the human desire to belong. Trend forecaster Agus Panzoni notes that microtrends often rely on catchy attractive labels for pre-existing styles, like "toasty makeup," to rebrand old ideas and trigger FOMO, or the fear of missing out.

The problem extends beyond self-image. Microtrends also have devastating environmental consequences. Oberto states, "microtrends are a product of a consumerist culture and are harmful to our environment."

Fast fashion brands like SHEIN release thousands of new items daily, with most of their workers underpaid and working in exploitative conditions. Still, not all hope is lost.

Microtrends can introduce people to new styles and ideas , as long as they're

approached mindfully. Thrifting offers a sustainable way to explore trends without supporting overproduction. Reworking or restyling old clothes can also help consumers stay fashionable without contributing to waste. In San Francisco, shoppers can find great options for secondhand fashion at stores like Buffalo Exchange, Crossroads, and 2nd Street which offer trendy and sustainable clothing.

Before buying the next trending product, ask yourself: do you genuinely like it, or are you just afraid of missing out? Being young in 2025 means navigating constant change, but if more people embrace personal style over fleeting aesthetics, the era of microtrends might finally fade.



Microtrends such as ballet flats to cowboy boots litter social media feeds.

Lucas Quan '26

The Legend of Chang’e

Contributing Editor



The Legend of Chang’e



Lanterns are an essential part of the Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration.

The Mid-Autumn Festival, better known as the Moon Festival or Mooncake Festival, represents prosperity and good fortune symbolized within the tradition of eating mooncakes. Mooncakes are well known for the traditional red bean or lotus seed fillings, occasionally filled with salted egg yolks to represent the moon. Yet, the cultural significance of the Mid-Autumn Festival holds a traditional tale beyond the customs of exchanging mooncakes.

The tradition of the Mid-Autumn Festival entails the legend of Chang’e, the Moon Goddess of Immortality.

The legend of Chang’e begins with the story of her husband, the great archer, Hou Yi, who shot down nine of the ten suns, thus alleviating the scorching hardships on earth. He was rewarded with two elixirs of immortality. Wanting to save these potions for himself and his wife, he left them at home with Chang’e.

However, these potions were highly sought after, and gained the attention of thieves who tried to steal the elixir. Without many options, Chang’e drank the potions herself, and ascended to the moon—her immortal residence. Chang’e mourned the absence of her husband, while Hou Yi grieved that they could not be together. On the brightest days of the moon, Hou Yi would place offerings to honor his wife in hopes of reuniting.

Although the tale of the Mid-Autumn Festival has many adaptations, it is consistent in centering the core values embodied by this traditional tale: family reunion and gathering. In fact, when this festival is held (September/October), “it is family tradition to watch the full moon, symbolizing longing for family, connected underneath the same night sky,” said Joseph Ng ’26.

Mooncakes add a flavorful touch to the cultural event, readily available at local asian supermarkets/bakeries (like Sheng Kee). Eating moon cakes and the traditions of the Mid-Autumn connect us to family, and also remind us of our familial roots and heritage.



Let's Do the Time Warp Again! Rocky Horror Picture Show Turns 50

Georgia Parr '27

Contributing Editor

Rocky Horror Picture Show is a movie adaptation of an Australian stage play from 1975. While it was initially a flop, it became a hit at midnight showings because of audience participation. It developed into a cult classic with a very devoted fan base to this day, and has had weekly shows around the world for 50 years.

But what gives it that cult following? Why do people watch it over and over again? And how is this connected to the LGBTQ+ community.

The movie begins with two young people named Jannet and Brad getting engaged. They’re supposed to be an average “run of the mill” couple. They go for a drive at night, but when their car breaks down, they decide to use the telephone at a nearby mansion.

Rocky Horror starts to get weird when they enter the mansion. Inside, they meet many of the strange looking residents of the mansion: Riff Raff, Magenta, and Columbia. Once they are led further into the mansion, the residents sing the movie’s most iconic song “Time Warp,” much to Brad and Jannet’s confusion. After the song, they meet the most important and iconic character in the film, Frank-N-Furter, who is played by Tim Curry.



Remake of the original poster for Rocky Horror for its 50th anniversary

Having a movie where the main character is transgender and showing homosexual relationships in 1975 was huge – during this time, the US still classified homosexuality as a mental disorder. There are many groups that perform Rocky Horror regularly around the world, each with their own traditions and lines. However, they all share one aspect in common - the audience loves to throw items and shout at the screen.

People often come to the showing for a sense of community they feel while watching the movie. I went to my third showing of *Rocky Horror* in October. After the show, I asked the cast why the show was important for the queer community. A cast member who has been performing in this show for over 30 years answered, “*Rocky Horror* is a safe space. It’s a place where you can be yourself, and we’ve got a situation happening right now in the world where it is hard to openly be yourself.”



NYFW 2025: Redefining Fashion Through Sustainability and Innovation

Janice Yan '27

Managing Editor

New York Fashion Week 2025 marked a major turning point for the fashion industry, placing sustainability and innovation at the center of design. This year's shows went beyond glamour, using creativity to address environmental and ethical challenges shaping the future of fashion. From recycled textiles to digital invitations, NYFW 2025 proved that style and self-sustainability can coexist in beautiful ways.

There was no single overarching theme for this season; instead, designers embraced diverse inspirations such as self-expression, comfort in uncertain times, and a growing sense of ecological awareness. Many collections balanced nostalgic looks, like the grunge revival and bold stripes, with forward-thinking design rooted in sustainability. Experiential activations with artificial intelligence, interactive displays, and influencer collaborations brought audiences into the creative process. Some shows drew inspiration from the "Met Gala Experience," while others captured the essence of the city of New York itself, celebrating the city's culture of resilience and reinvention.

Throughout the week, sustainability took center stage, shaping the runway and the values behind it. Designers incorporated recycled and upcycled materials, ethical production methods, and innovative techniques like bio-fabricated textiles and

circular design principles. Others also experimented with stretch metal fabrics and organic dyes, which combined science and artistry to reduce waste while expanding creative boundaries. Vegan alternatives also gained attention, thanks to the advocacy from organizations like PETA, which promoted leather made from apples, mushrooms, and pineapples.



PETA and its continued "no leather" effect on NYFW.



"Sustainable Couture" by designer Haley De Oliveira, featuring looks from upcycled and repurposed materials.

These plant-based materials were presented not as substitutes but as luxury innovations, proof that sustainability can be both ethical and fashionable.

Sustainability doesn't stop at the runway. Event organizers and brands work to make NYFW itself more environmentally conscious. Waste reduction measures were visible throughout venues: recycling stations replaced trash bins, and single-use plastics were eliminated. Many fashion houses adopted digital invitations in place of printed ones, reducing paper waste. Even the venues themselves reflected the shift; many were selected for their energy efficiency.

The boundary between fashion and lifestyle consistently blurs in our everyday lives. It shows that sustainability isn't just a design choice; it's a way of living. Together, these efforts represent a powerful redefinition of modern luxury, not as excess, but as endurance grounded in sustainability.

As NYFW 2025 came to a close, the message was undeniable. Sustainability is no longer an afterthought; it's fashion's new foundation. Through recycled materials, ethical production, digital innovations, and eco-friendly event practices, designers can flourish without diminishing their ethical standards. Fashion has always been about transformation, and this year, it transformed into something even more meaningful: a vision of creativity that respects both people and the planet.

The Rise to Fame of K-pop Demon Hunters

Evie Chen '26

Managing Editor

K-pop Demon Hunters, released on June 20th of this year, is now a cultural phenomenon. In August, songs from the movie soundtrack like "Soda Pop" and "How It's Done" made it to the top ten on the Billboard Hot 100. As of October 13th, "Golden" has been No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 for eight weeks straight.

The main *KPop Demon Hunters* hits are sung by fictional KPop girl group HUNTR/X. EJAE, Audrey Nuna, and Rei Ami are the voices behind the record-breaking soundtrack, while Arden Cho, May Hong, and Ji-young Yoo voice the characters. The movie also features a host of other famous actors and singers, such as Lea Salonga, Daniel Dae Kim, Ken Jeong, and Yunjin Kim.

The movie not only has great songs, but also showcases various aspects of Korean culture, such as kimbap and ramyun. Many characters and themes in the movie like the tiger, magpie, and demons are based off of Korean folklore and myths.



Rei Ami, EJAE, and Audrey Nuna perform on The Tonight Show.

On October 7th, EJAE, Audrey Nuna, and Rei Ami performed on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. It was the first full live performance of any *KPop Demon Hunters* songs, and garnered 17.5 million views in less than a week. The singers were also featured on *Saturday Night Live* in a sketch called "KPop Demon Hunters," where Bad Bunny caused the singers to appear in his imagination. The SNL sketch has been viewed nearly 6 million times.

KPop Demon Hunters rose to fame because while the animation style is more of a kids movie, adults and children alike love the movie and songs. At the *KPop Demon Hunters Sing-Along*, people of all ages sang loudly along to "Takedown." *KPop Demon Hunters* is a movie here to stay.

Behind the Curtain Kicks Off the Performing Arts Season



On Monday, October 27th, SI's Performing Arts program invited people "Behind the Curtain" to observe rehearsals from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Members of the Fall Play, Orchestra, Chorus, Jazz Band, and Dance programs prepared for upcoming performances. Check out the schedule for events at www.siprep.org/arts



Mr. Green instructes jazz band members.



Fall play actors practice a scene in Bannan Theater

Mika Cinco '27

A Night to Remember: Laufey Performs in SF

Contributing Editor

Oh, what a curse it is to be a “Lauver girl.” On September 30th, Icelandic singer-songwriter Laufey “left her heart in San Francisco” during her A Matter of Time Tour stop at the Chase Center. Performing a mix of songs from her new album as well as beloved past releases, Laufey transformed the massive arena into what felt like an intimate jazz club.

Laufey is not just known for catchy tunes like “From the Start.” Her music beautifully blends jazz, classical, and pop, creating a sound that feels both timeless and fresh. On stage, she was accompanied by an orchestra, background dancers, and an opening act by the always-charming Suki Waterhouse, who performed her hits “Gateway Drug,” “Supersad,” “OMG,” “Johanna,” and “Good Looking.”

After Waterhouse’s set, the excitement in the arena grew as Laufey took the stage, opening with “Clockwork.” Throughout the night, she performed crowd favorites and emotional ballads before closing with two heartfelt songs: “California in Me” and “Letter to My 13-Year-Old Self.”



Laufey performs on stage amidst a display of lights.

Adding a touch of whimsy, Laufey also brought out her beloved mascot, a bunny named Mei Mei. The bunny mascot brought Laufey’s favorite animal to life on stage. One of the most memorable moments of the concert came when Laufey invited a special guest to join her. In San Francisco, that guest was none other than 2024 Skating World Champion Alysa Liu, who famously skated to Laufey’s song “Promise.”

Laufey’s ability to connect with her audience, from young fans to old, is what makes her concerts so memorable. She reminds everyone that vulnerability is beautiful and that imperfection is something to embrace. More than just a concert, Laufey’s performance was a gentle reminder to slow down, dream a little, and welcome a little bit of whimsy into our everyday lives.

Autumn, Baked: Apple Muffin Recipe

Josie White '28

Contributing Editor

It’s the season that practically begs for baking, and these apple spice muffins do not disappoint. When the weather starts to cool and you crave that familiar fall flavor, give this recipe a try. All you need is a few freshly picked apples, which are in season in the fall.

These muffins are simple in the best possible way, with no complicated steps or fancy equipment necessary. The smell alone makes it worth it. Michael Wilson '28 described the muffins as “soft and fluffy on the inside.” Make sure not to forget the tasty layer of brown sugar sprinkled on top.

These muffins work for just about everything: breakfast on a busy morning, a quick snack after practice, or something festive to share with friends. Warm, blanched, and effortlessly satisfying, they taste delicious for days and can stay frozen for months. When storing, try adding a dry paper towel above and below your muffins to keep them fresh even longer. These treats are simple, comforting, and everything you need in a fall recipe.



Spiced Apple Muffins
By Jennifer Segal - *Once Upon a Chef*

Servings: 12 muffins
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 25 minutes
Total Time: 45 minutes



- Ingredients:
- ½ cup (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter, at room temperature
 - ½ cup granulated sugar
 - ¼ cup (packed) dark brown sugar
 - 1 large egg
 - 1 cup plain low-fat yogurt or Greek yogurt
 - 1 cup whole wheat flour, spooned into measuring cup and leveled off
 - 1 cup all-purpose flour, spooned into measuring cup and leveled off
 - 1 teaspoon baking powder
 - 1 teaspoon baking soda
 - ½ teaspoon salt
 - 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
 - ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
 - ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
 - 2 cups peeled cored, and finely chopped baking apples (you'll need 2 large apples)

- For Topping:
- 6 tablespoons (packed) dark brown sugar

- INSTRUCTIONS:
1. Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C). Grease a 12-cup muffin pan with butter or spray with non-stick cooking spray.
 2. In the bowl of an electric mixer, beat together the butter, granulated sugar and brown sugar until fluffy, 1 to 2 minutes. Scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula.
 3. Add the egg and mix well.
 4. Beat in the yogurt. The batter will look a little curdled—that's okay.
 5. Add the flours, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves. Beat on low speed until just combined. The batter will be very thick.
 6. Add the chopped apples and mix until just combined. Do not over-mix.
 7. Use an ice-cream scooper or large spoon to divide the batter evenly among the prepared muffin cups. The cups should be full. Sprinkle the 6 tablespoons of brown sugar evenly over top.
 8. Bake the muffins for 25 to 30 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of a muffin comes out clean.
 9. Remove the muffins from the oven, cool them for 5 minutes in the pan, then turn them out onto a rack to finish cooling completely.

Making Pumpkin Pie from Scratch!

Connor Kam '27

Contributing Editor

Pumpkin spice lattes are great, but nothing beats a homemade pumpkin pie straight from the oven. This recipe takes a little extra time, but you will fill your kitchen with a cozy fall smell that everyone loves.

- Ingredients:
- For the crust:
- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
 - ½ teaspoon salt
 - ½ cup (1 stick) cold unsalted butter, cut into small cubes
 - 3–4 tablespoons ice water

- For the pumpkin filling:
- 1 ½ cups pumpkin puree (from about one small sugar pumpkin)
 - ¾ cup brown sugar
 - 2 large eggs
 - 1 cup heavy cream
 - ½ teaspoon salt
 - 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 - ½ teaspoon ginger
 - ¼ teaspoon nutmeg



- INSTRUCTIONS:
- Roast your pumpkin:
Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C). Cut your sugar pumpkin in half, scoop out the seeds, and place it face down on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Roast for about 45–50 minutes until tender. Scoop out the flesh and blend until smooth. You’ll need about 1½ cups for the pie.

Make the crust: In a bowl, mix flour and salt. Cut in cold butter using a fork or your fingers until it looks like coarse crumbs. Add ice water one tablespoon at a time until the dough just comes together. Shape into a disc, wrap, and chill for 30 minutes. Roll it out and press into a 9-inch pie dish.

Prepare the filling: In a large bowl, whisk together pumpkin puree, brown sugar, eggs, cream, salt, and spices until smooth.
Assemble and bake: Pour the filling into the prepared crust. Bake at 425°F (220°C) for 15 minutes, then lower to 350°F (175°C) and bake another 40–45 minutes, until the center is just set.

Cool and serve: Let the pie cool for at least 2 hours before serving. I like to top it with whipped cream and a pinch of cinnamon.

“Connor and I actually made this pumpkin pie together at his house, and it turned out amazing! The crust was perfect and flaky, the filling was delicious, and it smelled incredible while baking.”
— Anderson Phang '27

Nightfall at Filoli: Cozy Fall Fun

Mika Cinco '25

Contributing Editor

During the fall, the historic Filoli Gardens estate in Woodside hosts Nightfall at Filoli, a cozy and family-friendly Halloween event. The gardens and house are festively decorated with lights, pumpkins, and fall-themed displays. Visitors from across the Bay Area make a special trip to Filoli to walk the picturesque trails, see the beautiful decorations, and enjoy delicious food and drinks. The event provides guests a unique way to experience Filoli and has become a popular fall outing for adults and children alike.

From October to early November (October 3rd - November 10th, 2025), Filoli transforms into a glowing Halloween wonderland. The iconic house and garden hosts Nightfall at Filoli, an evening event full of lights, music, and fall decorations. Visitors can stroll through the gardens after dark, surrounded by colorful lights, carved pumpkins, and scarecrows. The house, itself, is also open for guests to explore.



A wooden troll statue is displayed in the Filoli Gardens.

Many pause to take photos under the glowing trees or with the big pumpkin displays. There are food trucks, warm drinks, and plenty of snacks to enjoy while walking around. Nightfall at Filoli gives the estate a unique feel, compared to its lushly green daytime atmosphere. Tickets start at \$45 for adults and \$35 for kids. For more details, visit filoli.org.

Junior Connor Kam '27 thoroughly enjoyed his time at Filoli: “They had cool stuff up like a haymaze, a scavenger hunt with wooden trolls, a lawn with scarecrows and they decorated the mansion.”

The event, which runs through November 10, stands out from other local events due to its creative mix of history and Halloween. Nightfall at Filoli is a relaxing way to celebrate the autumnal season and take in the warm atmosphere without the horrors or jump scares; perfect for anyone who likes Halloween but prefers cozy vibes over creepy ones.

Op-Ed

Trump’s Strategy

Nora Shaskan '27

Managing Editor

The war between the Trump Administration and liberal Democrats has raged on for a little short of a decade; with his return to office, Donald J. Trump has made some dramatic choices that have kept his opponents on their toes. His speculative plans, his controversial appointments of federal department leaders, and his regular shocking statements have left Democrats confused and scrambling to defend their beliefs against his egregious policies.

Left-wing Americans are beside themselves after Kamala Harris’ defeat in the 2024 election and many are struggling to grapple with the reality of Donald Trump’s success—even as he seems to be sending the country spiraling into chaos and disorganization. Little do they realize they are only helping him stay in power simply by giving him their attention.

On February 9th, 2025, Donald J. Trump surprised the country when he officially renamed the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America.

Many citizens considered this an

unnecessary waste of paper and ink with a group of SI juniors calling it, “useless and stupid.”

However, MSNBC, a biased news station popular amongst left-wing voters, emphasized the issue for nearly four months.

“In order to truly fulfill our freedom of speech, we mustn’t use our voices simply to complain, but to protest.”

- Nora Shashkan '27

Democrats and their favored media have been hyper-focused on reacting to Trump’s choices, talking about their disapproval of his unprofessional and disorderly behavior in office. But this is exactly where he wants them; the Trump Administration’s underlying strategy is to distract his opponents from truly fighting back.

Rather than discussing ways to battle

his policies, the Democratic Party is too busy complaining about his unfair and unconstitutional game play.

Donald Trump’s approach to eliminating any major political threat is by diverting the media’s attention away from forming possible solutions, all the while keeping him in the spotlight. His extremism and popularity has distracted politicians and the people from seeking real change, keeping the country under his control.

As the next generation of this complex nation, it is important we learn to exercise the power of our rights. In order to truly fulfill our freedom of speech, we mustn’t use our voices simply to complain, but to protest. Donald Trump is abusing his presidential power to stay in control, but it is the Democrats who are falling for his diversions. Liberal representatives can’t only talk about their disappointment in the Trump Administration; they need to dismantle Trump’s strategy and work to defend the United States of the America they hope to lead.



c/o AP News

Trump signs proclamation regarding Gulf of America Day.

WHAT’S YOUR OPINION?

Write a “Letter to the Editor” to respond to any article or share your thoughts on any issue at SI.

Send your letter to one of our Editors-in-Chief:

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The Death of the Essay

Tai Morganson '26

Managing Editor

For more than a hundred years, St. Ignatius students have attempted to hurdle the most burdensome assignment: The Essay. Students have attempted to bypass this obstacle by asking peers for help, copying outside academic sources, or asking parents for help. The drive to evade writing an essay is as old as the cumulative writing assignment itself.

What is new on the academic scene is generative artificial intelligence. Free artificial intelligence models equip any student with the ability to instantly generate writing, including argumentative essays. By tampering with sentence structures, intentionally slipping in minor stylistic errors, and scrupulously checking against artificial intelligence detection tools, students can squeeze machine-generated essays past TurnItIn, Canvas's plagiarism detector that many St. Ignatius teachers use.

Understanding the enormous power these generative artificial intelligence tools have to warp historically honest students into cheating, teachers at St. Ignatius have altered their English curriculum and assignment structures to adapt to their

students, who are constantly tempted by the gleam of instant text generation. Already, teachers at St. Ignatius have waned off take-home, summative essays in favor of timed, in-class writings on Lockdown browser, which provide teachers with authentic samples of student writing.

“ Since our school’s founding, the essay has allowed students to showcase their thoughts, emotions, and connections formed over weeks of reflection.

- Tai Morganson '26

We teach math differently with the advent of the calculator. Instead of spending their time adding large numbers or writing out decimals under division radicals, St. Ignatius students use efficient tools, like TI-84s and Desmos, to graph polar coordinates, extrapolate data, and calculate areas under curves.

However, English is different from math class. Whereas math and theoretical sciences concern themselves with describing tangible, measurable properties, English and the humanities work with abstract concepts.

There is no number that can describe what Jennifer Egan says about the passage of time in her novel *A Visit from the Goon Squad*, nor can any value quantify the significance of the cryptic, twenty-second in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*. Students must reach these answers over long working periods of introspection and careful reading. It is this process that has prepared students for humanistic careers in law and academia, and the same process which generative artificial intelligence threatens.

Since our school’s founding, the essay has allowed students to showcase their thoughts, emotions, and connections formed over weeks of reflection. Powerful technology means students are writing fewer essays and more impromptu writings, omitting that process. Unlike the demise of long multiplication and division, the death of the essay will coincide with the death of introspection, interpretation, and the essence of human creativity.

Have strong opinions that you want to share? Send your OpEd essay to *Inside SI*. We want to represent your voice!

Email your essay to Managing Editors Tai Morganson '26 tmorganson26@siprep.org or Nora Shaskin '27 nshaskan27@siprep.org



c/o McCann O'Brien '26

Lucas Quan '26 works on an essay in the library.

Shaping the Future: Game Theory

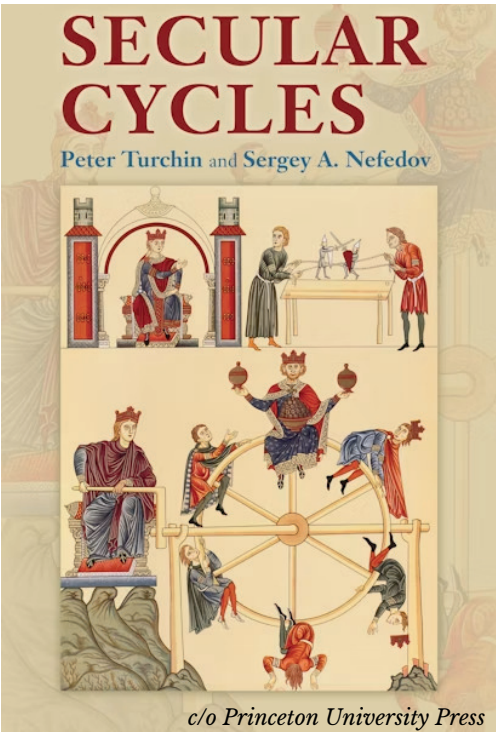
Aryana Lau '29

Contributing Editor

How can our generation shape a future that better reflects the highest virtues of humanity and builds real peace? Today, we watch leaders domestically and abroad surround themselves in talk of human morality only to hide their megalomaniacal aspirations, epitomizing our generation’s greatest inherited threat: the decay of democracy itself. Whether we like it or not, we are growing up in a system that becomes increasingly more dysfunctional each year. Soon we will face a choice: to confront this crisis or join those who mindlessly consent to oppression disguised as order.

History warns us that there is a pattern of civilizations rising through unity and collapsing through selfishness. In his historical and political commentary work *Secular Cycles* (2009), Peter Turchin argues that as elites compete for power, inequality deepens until society breaks. For example, the French monarchy thrived until its excesses sparked revolution, and the Ming Dynasty prospered until corruption and neglect triggered collapse.

Joseph Tainter offers yet another lens. Baser human traits, such as greed and ignorance, lead to decay in cycles that repeat over and over.



c/o Princeton University Press

Secular Cycles by Peter Turchin and Sergey A. Nefedov

Studying this history makes me wonder how our generation might design more resilient systems of governance. To explore this further, I asked Emily Pick '29, “In what ways do you believe our generation can transform leadership and governance to be more transparent, just, and resistant to corruption?”

Emily responded, “We have so much information due to technology and the internet, so I think that this generation can use the rich amount of previous mistakes in order to improve and revolutionize leadership.” Her words remind me that awareness alone is never enough. Today, we witness people taking money from special interest groups which clouds their ability to put citizens first.

Wisdom demands conscience, and conscience demands courage. I’m not naive enough to expect a utopia, but I do believe we can build frameworks that evolve with change, learn from mistakes, and center the voices of the young who will inherit them. In the end, the future will belong not to those who inherit power, but to those who seek truth and dare to act upon it.

Wildcats Overcome Decade-Long Drought

Natalia Juarez '26

Contributing Editor

In a thrilling match on September 10, 2025, at San Francisco City College, the St. Ignatius Wildcats made history by defeating the Bellarmine Bells 16–14 in overtime. This victory marked SI's first win over their long-time rival in more than a decade. The game delivered nonstop excitement, showcasing the grit and determination of both teams as they battled through four hard-fought quarters and an intense overtime period.

In less than a minute into the first quarter, Junior Joseph Parente fired in a goal, setting the tone for the Wildcats' powerful offense. Overall, a key player for SI was Junior Ryan Cole, who delivered an unforgettable 12-goal performance.

Cole's dominance in the pool, paired with clutch defensive stops from SI's backline, kept the Wildcats secured against a relentless Bellarmine attack.

The match remained tight throughout, with the teams trading goals and momentum until the final whistle of regulation left them tied. In overtime, SI took control with two unanswered goals. The Wildcats' bench erupted as the final buzzer sounded, celebrating a victory that was years in the making.

For St. Ignatius, this triumph symbolized the program's determination and the result of years of perseverance. As the Wildcats look ahead to the rest of the season, this victory over Bellarmine highlights their conquest for victory.

After the match, Senior Alex Salentine reflected, "Beating Bellarmine for the first time in a decade with a double overtime win was truly something special to be a part of. This memory will be a binding point for

myself and the team for the rest of the season and in years to come." Make sure to cheer on our Waterpolo teams and go Cats!



SI Mens Varsity Water Polo team regrouping with a time out during a battle vs. Bellarmine.

Wildcats Race to Victory: Clovis Invitational

Dara Lewis '26

Contributing Editor

On October 10th, the SI cross country team powered through the Clovis Invitational in Woodward Park in Fresno. The ASICS Clovis invitational is a cross country meet for high school teams across California and neighboring states. Around 300 teams compete every year, many being very tough competition. This meet was more than just a regular race—especially with the standout performances of both the women's and men's varsity teams.

The morning began at 9:15 with the women's varsity race. After warming up, the gun sounded, and they took off on the challenging 5K course. Despite the difficult terrain, our fierce runners persevered and the varsity women's team came out victorious, earning first place overall! SI girls placed first as a team out of twenty eight



The Cats pose after a successful Cross Country race schools, our top runner being Eliot Marsh '28, with a time of 18:45. Shortly after, at 10:25, our varsity men's team took the line.

They raced with grit and consistency, pushing through the rigorous course and finishing with an impressive team time of 1:22:30—placing second overall! The boys placed second out of thirty four schools, top runner being Niall McDermott '26, with a time of 15:52.

Both the women and men had much to celebrate, finishing first and second overall on the same course that will host the state meet later this season. Audrey Kronk '26 reflected, "It was a good chance to see the course and get a feel for it." Many other runners agreed with this, already thinking about strategies to improve for state.

The SI varsity cross country team continues to impress us all with their teamwork, determination, and speed!

One Last Time

Colton McKie '27 and Dominic Vicino '27

Contributing Editors

Following the loss to the Minnesota Timberwolves in the Western Conference Semifinals last year, it was unclear what the Warriors would do. Would they bring back integral players from the 2022 championship team, like Gary Payton II and Kevon Looney? What contract would Jonathan Kuminga receive? These glaring questions and the belief that a healthy Steph Curry might have carried the team further were the two significant uncertainties entering the 2025-26 season.

The Warriors' main weaknesses in the 2024-25 season were the lack of consistent three-point shooting and the need for a true starting five. They addressed these issues with three impactful signings: Al Horford (2 years, \$12 million), De'Anthony Melton (2 years, \$6.55 million), and Seth Curry (1 year, \$ 3.6 million). Al Horford, the 6-foot-9 center entering his nineteenth season, is a five-time all-star and NBA champion with the Boston Celtics in 2024. A versatile big who can hold his own in the paint and shoot the three, Horford solves two of the Warriors' most significant problems and brings another veteran and championship presence into the locker room.

The Warriors then signed 6-foot-2 guard De'Anthony Melton, who tore his ACL in November. Melton only played six games,

where he averaged ten points per game. Finally, the Warriors signed Seth Curry. Seth, having led the league in three-point percentage last season with a mark of 46%, will be an offensive weapon off the bench.

Unfortunately, longtime Warrior Kevon Looney left to sign with the New Orleans Pelicans. Looney is one of the most beloved Warriors from the dynasty days, and will always be remembered as a staple on those championship teams.

Despite the intriguing offseason, it was not without controversy. The Warriors' former first-round pick, Jonathan Kuminga, needed a new contract entering his



Jimmy Butler faces off against Gabe Vincent in the Warriors' season opener against the LA Lakers.

fifth season.

The 6-foot-8 forward from the Congo averaged 15 points per game in a season cut short due to injury. Kuminga and his agent played hardball, demanding a more player-friendly contract from the team. The Warriors stood firm, and after months of speculation, Kuminga agreed to a 2-year contract, finally bringing the saga to an end.

Golden State heads into the season with a roster that makes sense on paper. They no longer have to rely on gimmicky signings or depend on Steph's heroics every game. Colby Sy '27, when asked about the upcoming season, said, "I think that the Warriors will most likely have a decent season alongside their new additions. I think Horford and DeAnthony Melton will help Steph Curry and will probably increase the chances of making the playoffs this year. However, Kuminga will also need to fill his role on becoming a star, as he received a contract that he will need to prove himself for."

The Warriors are off to a good start, winning three of their first four games. However, it's not one player's team anymore; it's a team built to win together. If the chemistry works anything like it looks on paper, this team will be right back in the contender conversation.

Sports Update

Bear Vida '27 and Chloe Fisher '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor

Men's Water Polo

Record as of 10/28: 6-15



Benjamin Elson '28 throws the ball to a teammate.

Men's Water Polo closed out the season strong with the final regular season game of the year on October 25th at City College.

Women's Water Polo

Record as of 10/28: 9-13



Women's Water Polo huddle together during a timeout.

The women's team ended their regular season on a win! They hope to continue this momentum in the playoffs starting on October 28th.

Women's Volleyball

Record as of 10/28: 22-9

The Women's Volleyball season is going great as they have won over 20 games! They enjoyed a dominant four game 3-0 win streak and are starting to gear up for playoffs.



Women's Volleyball stand together before the Bruce.

Women's Golf

Record as of 10/28: 10-2

Women's Golf played a successful 2025 season. As they celebrate the ending of their regular season and gear up for WCAL Finals which began Oct. 27.



Women's Golf push their golf bags along the course.

Women's Tennis

Record as of 10/28: 17-5

Women's Tennis motors through the season and has won the last four games in a row. The WCAL tournament begins on November 6th.



Women's Tennis huddle before their match.

Women's Cross Country

Current ranking in the League as of 10/28: 2nd in WCAL

The Cats season is coming to an end and they are carrying their momentum to the finish line!



c/o SlickPic

Men's Cross Country

Current ranking in the League as of 10/28: 2nd in WCAL



c/o SlickPic

The Wildcats are racing to the end of their great season and are looking forward to senior night on November 2nd.

Football

Record as of 10/28: 2-6

Varsity Football is preparing for the Bruce Mahoney game at Kezar on November 7.



c/o SlickPic

Varsity Football gathers for a picture on senior night on the Murph.

Field Hockey

League Record as of 10/28: 15-1-3

Varsity Field Hockey continues to power through their season being ranked #1 in California!



c/o SlickPic

Field Hockey celebrates senior day with their families.

Flag Football

Record as of 10/28: 2-11

The Flag Football team finished the season against Riordan on Oct. 27th. Every game was close and the Cats are ready to build on this season next year.



c/o SlickPic

Flag Football seniors are surrounded by their family and friends.

Field Hockey Swings in Strong

Serafina Spink '26

Contributing Editor

St. Ignatius' Varsity Women's Field Hockey team traveled to Chicago over quarter break to face some of the top teams in the country to elevate their play and strengthen the team's bond. The girls started their adventure when meeting at the airport at 4:30 am, ready to embark on their journey to O'Hare and start the next chapter of their season. Just a few hours after the plane landed, the enthusiastic players arrive at the field, ready to take on the next level of competition. After leaving everything out on the field, the SI team and Lake Forest High School ended in a tie.

The next morning, the team toured Northwestern University and enjoyed the beautiful view of Lake Michigan, which many agreed was the highlight of the trip. Your SI women's field hockey team then went to the heart of Chicago to battle Latin School, ending in a tie, and a couple hours later, returned to Northwestern to watch the collegiate team defeat Penn State!

By the third day, the team felt more like a family, making the girls better teammates on and off the field.

Senior and captain Chloe Fisher explained, "Chicago brought us the best

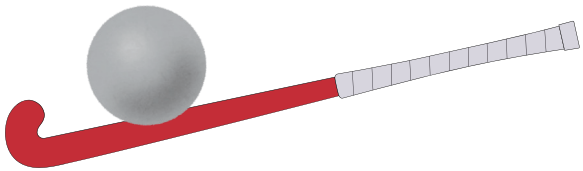


Varisty Field Hockey gathers together during moments in Chicago.

competition we have faced this season and that challenge ended up making us a stronger and more connected team. It was the best thing that could've happened!"

Similarly, junior Storey Lewis gave the following insight: "Playing the best teams is only going to make you better so even though we faced some ties and losses, it's great to challenge ourselves to get better for the future and come back to California even stronger."

The Varsity Field Hockey team not only became more bonded on their journey to Chicago; it allowed the girls to build resilience and learn from the experience. As a member of the team, I agree with the comments above and I believe that this wonderful opportunity allowed our team to improve our game IQ and also create a sisterhood. We are excited to use our new understanding of the game from Illinois and bring them to the fields in California.



49ers Set their Sights on Super Bowl Return

Mario Beard '27

Contributing Editor

As the 2025 NFL season progresses, many of the San Francisco 49ers fans are gearing up for what could be another potential Super Bowl appearance and a promising season for the team. After last year's underwhelming season with many injuries and tough losses, many wondered the next time the 49ers would even step foot on the play off bracket. However, this glory team has managed to have a winning record of 4-1 going into week 6.

Led by head coach, Kyle Shannan, the 49ers' combination of an efficient offense and a relentless defense has really allowed them to stay at the top of the league.

Quarterback Brock Purdy, who came from being the last draft pick in the 2022 draft class to being a dependable leader, has continued to impress with his calm and attentive demeanor. "We've got the right mindset, the right chemistry," Purdy said in a recent press conference when asked what makes this team stand out against the rest of the NFL.

This season, the 49ers have been hit with many terrible injuries, with key players like Nick Bosa, George Kittle, and even Brock Purdy missing many games.



The 49ers celebrate after a touchdown.

Players like Wide Receiver Kendrick Bourne, who was with the team during the 2019 season, and Mac Jones, who has been a recent addition to the team, have really helped solidify the offense, while players like Fred Warner continue to shine on defense. Another problem that heavily cost the 49ers many wins last year was having a competent and reliable kicker. Jake Moody, who was with the team last year and part of this season, was recently cut due to his inconsistent performance, scoring only 33% of his field goals this season.

As a result, Kyle Shanahan has decided

to pick up Eddy Piñero, a veteran kicker, who has been very consistent and a great attribute to the team. Cole Molinari '27 claims that, "This decision has saved our season and highlights the importance of having a consistent kicker on the team." What's next? While the 49ers are starting off the season with many injuries, they continue to persist and make due with what they have. The future for this team is very bright because they have an easier schedule than most teams in the league and will only get stronger as the season progresses with key players coming back in the picture.

SI Sailing Team Competes at Sea Otter Regatta

Lauren Yu '27

Managing Editor

The SI sailing team traveled to Monterey to compete in PCISA #1 Sea Otter Regatta the weekend of October 11th, marking their first travel regatta of the year. Over the weekend, sailors faced strong winds and challenging conditions, making an exciting and dynamic start to the year. Teams from across California joined the competition, including familiar faces from St. Francis Yacht Club.

Despite the tough conditions, SI sailors embraced the challenge and made the most of their time on the water, strengthening teamwork and gaining valuable experience. The team looks forward to building on this experience at their next event, NorCal #3 at Encinal Yacht Club on November 1st.



SI Sailing takes on the bay on a sunny day.

Teachers Guess Youth Slang

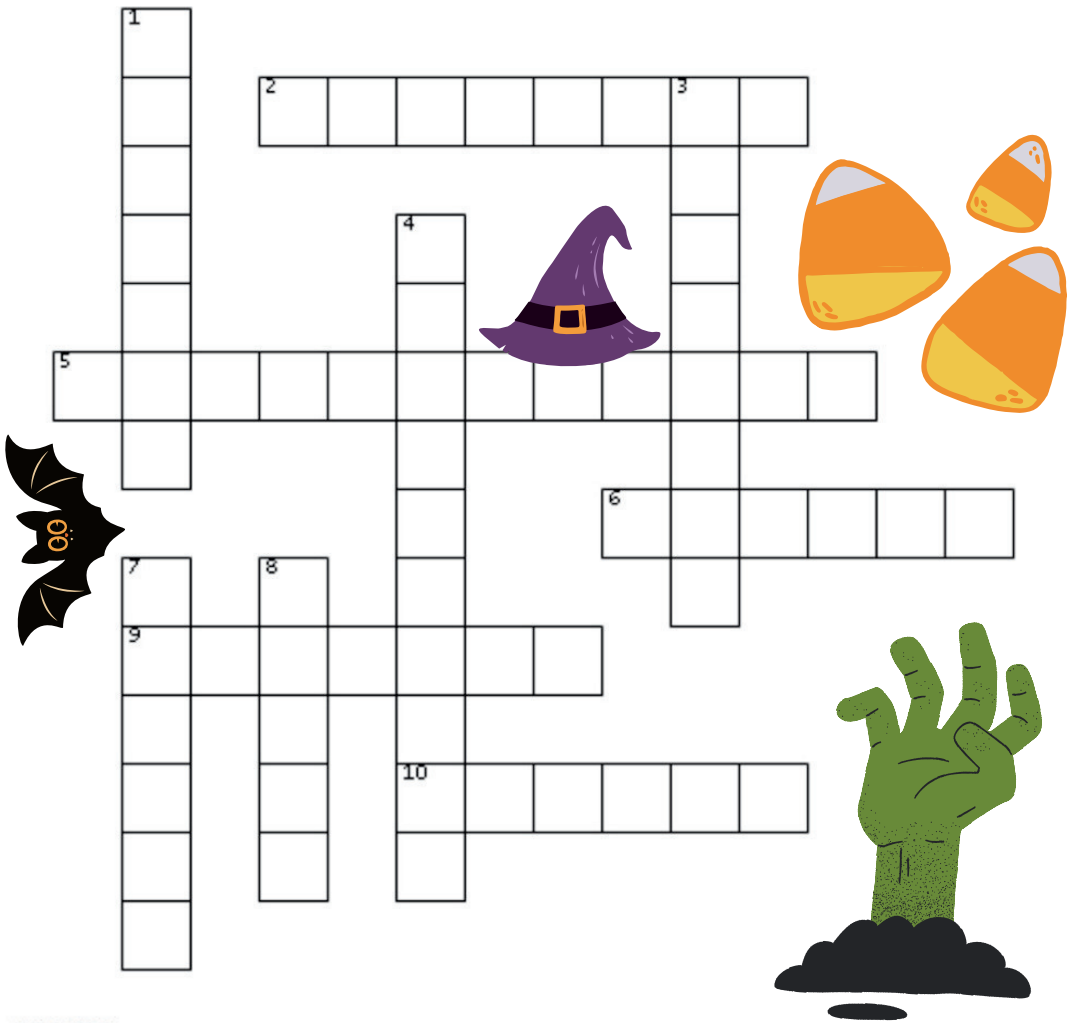
Annika Watkins '26, Jordan Liu '26 Editors-in-Chief

Inside SI asked teachers to guess the meaning of popular Gen-Z slang: here's what they came up with!

<i>Glaze</i> Mr. Molinelli: "To get owned"	<i>Sigma</i> Ms. DeBenedetti: "Top of the mark"
<i>Ferda</i> Mr. Molinelli: "I don't know, but my son says it"	<i>6-7</i> Ms. DeBenedetti: "LaMelo Ball, but he's a traitor to UCLA"
<i>Chopped</i> Dr. Quattrin: "To make your car a lowrider"	<i>Rizz</i> Mr. Jackanich: "Game"
<i>Aura</i> Dr. Quattrin: "Spiritual energy"	<i>Sendy</i> Mr. Jackanich: "No idea"

Crossword: Halloween Hunt

Matthew Wheeler '27 Contributing Editor



- ACROSS
- 2. Resembling a grave-robbing, flesh-eating monster.
 - 5. - A seasonal saying that demands candy, often preceding an ultimatum of petty vandalism.
 - 6. The final, six-sided wardrobe for the deceased.
 - 9. Describes a house or place frequented by a ghost.
 - 10. A tangled mesh spun by an eight-legged decorator.
- DOWN
- 1. A nocturnal being who eschews both garlic and reflective surfaces.
 - 3. A rattling bony figure, what a body leaves behind
 - 4. A traditional, airborne mode of transportation for a witch
 - 7. A length of cloth used to wrap a dead body for burial.
 - 8. An undead creature wrapped in centuries-old linen strips.

Strands

Bobby Mullin '26 Managing Editor

CLUE: Academics

E M A C C H
T O E L C E
R S G Y T M
Y E S R S I
S G Y A L C
I O E N G L
B O L T E I
S C I H H S

Midterm Memes

Mason Wong '27 and Connor Commoli '27
Managing & Contributing Editors

