

INSIDE SI

Annika Pyo '21

VOLUME 69, ISSUE 5

THE (DIGITAL) NEWSPAPER OF ST. IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREPARATORY

DECEMBER 6, 2020

DRIVING INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Dory Miller '22 & Emma Stecher '21

Despite these unforeseen times, SI's value of giving has not disappeared during this holiday season. The Christmas spirit is alive and well here at SI, especially in the Community Service office's 57th Annual Christmas Drive.

Though there will be no food distribution at St. Dominic's nor a Toy Purchasing Day, the Arrupe Council and co-chairs Erika Morris '21 and Jack Quach '23 have facilitated a virtual fundraising event for the families living at Rose Court (the neighborhood child care center that provides for families and seniors alike).

With a goal of raising \$10,000, families will receive a Safeway and Target gift card, which will enable their children to pick out a Christmas gift. Given the increasing COVID cases, these giftcards grant families the opportunity to shop either online or in person. The S.I. campus normally serves as the

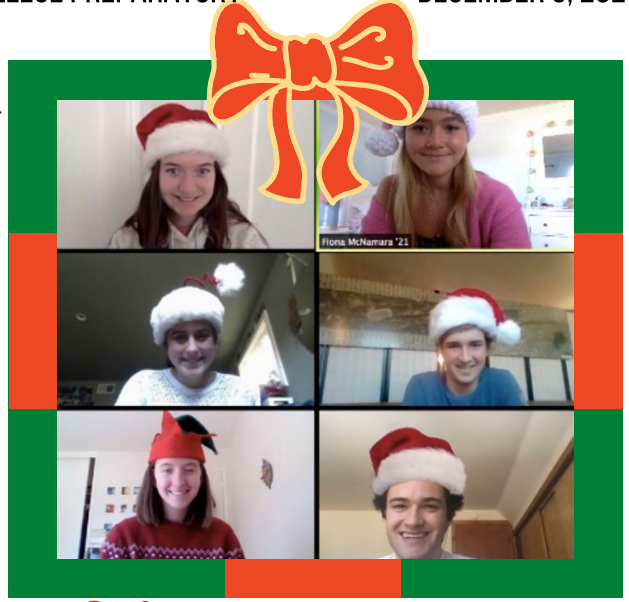
Contributing Editor & Editor-in-Chief

space to spread the word about the Christmas Drive, so the Arrupe Council will "feature faculty videos highlighting past experiences with the Drive, along with ringing in our Christmas spirit with Music Ministry and Dance & Drill, so that Freshmen and Seniors alike can join in," Jack Quach shared. "Technology and social media," he added, "can be a strong tool for reaching out to others. This Christmas, the Arrupe Council invites the S.I. community to join our hands in support of others through the virtual space."

- Ms. Ana Lopez

To jump start the festivities, the Community Service Office hosted a Virtual Kickoff Party on Wednesday, December 2nd, where members of the SI community shared their unique Holiday traditions and celebrated the beginning of the donation process.

Following the Kickoff Party, the "Big Continued in SI NEWS, page 2.



Happy Holidays!

FROM Your Editors-in-Chief

Seasons Greetings SI,



SI CHRISTMAS IN PHOTOS



The campus has put on its annual Holiday decorations as it awaits S.I. students



A Christmas tree lights up the walkways in the Commons.

Find more photos on page 11!

The EIC are delighted to extend our warmest and merriest wishes to you and your loved ones this holiday season. 2020 has been a difficult year to say the least for all of us. However, throughout it all, we have relied upon friends, family, and our school community who have brought us joy and, more importantly, hope in the most trying times. We hope this Issue brings you a source of comfort and an optimistic outlook for the new year. We would also to thank our esteemed moderators, Ms. Nickolai and Mr. Devine, for never failing to radiate a contagious spirit of enthusiasm and jolliness. They are the Max to our Grinch, neither of whom would be complete without the other.

Please enjoy this Issue over hot chocolate and cookies with those nearest and dearest to you. Merry Christmas SI and Happy New Year!

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DRIVING INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

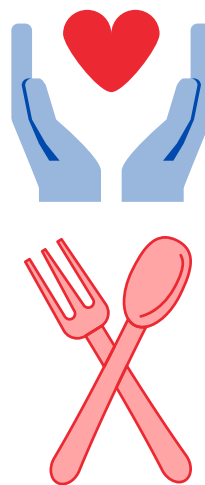
Dory Miller '22 & Emma Stecher '21

Contributing Editor & Editor-in-Chief

(continued from front page)

Give Day” will be on December 10th with the drive ending on December 19th. In addition to fundraising, the Arrupe Council is co-sponsoring a Virtual Christmas Card Making Party on Wednesday, December 9th. Those attending will be invited to create festive cards for the families in a contactless drop-off.

Hope is needed now more than ever as financial despair continues to escalate for the most vulnerable. So, all members of the SI community—whether student, parent, teacher, faculty, or alumni—are encouraged to donate. No donation is too small in the eyes of those who need it most in this 2020 holiday season. Happy giving, SI!



“I AM PROUD THAT SI IS CONTINUING ITS COMMITMENT TO THE FAMILIES OF ROSE COURT. THE COVID-19 HEALTH CRISIS HAS AFFECTED EVERYONE AND IF WE CAN EACH GIVE \$1, THAT \$1 WILL GO A LONG WAY.”

-ANA LOPEZ, COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTOR

THE FINAL STRETCH: 2020 WINTER FINALS

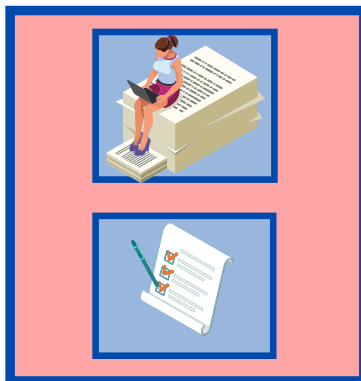
Hannah Angsten '22 and Milan Murphy '22

Contributing & Managing Editors

As the semester nears its end and winter-break draws closer, students' concerns have begun to shift towards the daunting subject of finals. Finals week, December 14th through 17th, is always a major source of stress for students and teachers alike, but this year brings an added amount of ambiguity. With uncertainty surrounding the format, length, and worth of the exams, students have felt increasingly vulnerable about what impact the current circumstances will have on their performance.

Moreover, it is clear that many teachers share similar concerns, as they are still somewhat unsure about how to handle this year's finals. Tasked with managing both in-person and distanced classes while deciding between projects or tests, these teachers have a tough year to navigate.

When asked about her plans for finals, Ms. Miguens, a freshman and sophomore Religious Studies teacher, expressed a very optimistic view of the matter, while also communicating similar uncertainty that most teachers hold. She simplified her hopes and goals for finals week: “Basically, it's still up in the air, but I appreciate the flexibility teachers have in navigating finals this semester. My hope is that students find finals as a helpful way to close the semester, rather than the normal anxiety around finals.”



Another teacher who shared her approach to finals was Ms. Shorrock-Chen, who teaches Chemistry and AP Biology. Having to deal with both in-person and distanced classes, she plans on giving similar style tests, but splitting it up into two days for those at home so they are assured enough time. Ms. Shorrock-Chen described these differences by saying, “Other than the virtual format and adjustments to the amount of content we have covered, the exam will be largely the same in terms of structure and style of questions.”

Although some teachers plan to use similar formats as last year, it is safe to say that the 2020 winter finals will be different from what we've seen in the past. Hoping to take some pressure off students, many teachers are opting to give large projects or essays.

On the other hand, many teachers will stick to giving exams, whether they are in-person or over Zoom. Despite these differences, almost every teacher has expressed some sort of uncertainty or flexibility, which goes to show how hard-working and dedicated our teachers are to creating a seamless and ultimately beneficial finals experience for all students.

Josie Wall '21

Photos by Kayla Walker '21
and Elly Fry-Ross '21

Senior Events!

"10/10 pizza and snacks" -MB Ludwig '21

"This was a great way to see classmates we hadn't seen in a while and be together again! Looking forward to more senior class events like this soon!" -Josie Wall '21



SENIOR SUNSET



"Senior Sunset was a great way to see friends we haven't seen in a long time which was really nice." -Noah Gazulla '21

"Senior sunset, although cold, was a good and safe way to see my classmates. I liked how they organized it by groups and the pizza was an added bonus! I had a really good time :)" -Campbell Tsung '21



"It was really nice to reunite with friends and it reminded me how much I miss seeing people everyday!" -Jacquie Olechowski '21



"It was fun seeing my friends while staying safe." -Eve Sloan '21

"The drive in movie was great! It was nice seeing my classmates again while enjoying a fun movie." -Sofi Cisneros '21

DRIVE-IN MOVIE



THE APOGEE REPORT: LAUNCHING INTO THE WORLD OF SCIENCE

Lauren Mandel '22 & Milan Murphy '22

Managing Editors

Four SI students – Ethan Tam '22, Daniel Gao '22, Kiera Tam '22, and Cara Yean '21 – developed the ingenious idea to create a virtual platform that shines a light on the world of STEM and make STEM news more accessible for the entire SI community.

Under the guidance of Ms. Dunne, these four students took up the challenge of creating an online STEM news blog. Tasked with designing his first website, Daniel Gao spent months researching the steps and tactics to successfully build the current webpage.

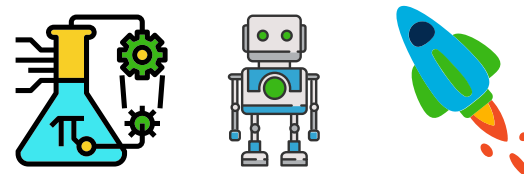
Ethan Tam described the blog as a platform which “aims to give fascinating STEM news and opportunities to the students and faculty at SI.” Although SI currently has a STEM club, this site is an independent source of STEM news for students and faculty alike. The news ranges from stories within the walls of SI, to more global stories such as the elections and Nobel prize winners. The site also includes a page of resources for volunteering, internship, and research opportunities.

The website functions in part with the International Health Expansion Initiative (IHEI), which is “a student-led initiative focused on spreading awareness of global health crises that are not covered well by the media.” By being a part of this association, the team hopes to enlighten and inform SI students of problems outside our SI community.

With the basics of the website determined, the last obstacle was to generate a name for the finished site. Daniel revealed the truth behind how the team established the website’s name: “I actually got the idea from a movie I was watching at the time. The main character received the Apogee Award, an international science award.”

The site also allows SI students a chance to share their take on the news of STEM. “Students can sign up to be writers for The Apogee Report, where they can report on STEM news at and outside SI,” Ethan stated. “We have a flexible schedule for all writers, and want them to write on what they’re passionate about.” In order to get on the email list, email etam22@siprep.org.

Immerse yourself into the world of STEM and check out The Apogee Report! <http://theapogeereport.com!>



ZOOMING IN ON THE SOPHOMORE RETREAT

Sydni Karanian '23 & Lauren Mandel '22

Contributing Editor & Managing Editor

With COVID-19 and the ongoing changes in the SFDPH school regulations, SI retreat coordinators Ms. Miguens and Sr. Brannen faced a never-ending list of challenges. They needed to uncover a way to “blend the best of both worlds” and create a virtual sophomore retreat that mimics the in-person retreats of the past.

For the past four years, sophomores spent a night away from school and focused on having “a deeper sense of self and God’s presence in their lives.” Activities included group discussion sessions, class bonding experiences, and learning what it means to be part of the Ignatian family.

Yet, while the purpose of the retreat remains the same, the set-up this year will look a little different. Ms. Miguens revealed, “We have worked hard this semester to creatively redesign the retreat to fit an online model. We have had to navigate the limitations of Zoom and Zoom fatigue that our community is familiar with this year.” While an online retreat is not the same as being in person with peers, Ms. Miguens assured, “We are confident we can offer a space for Sophs that will be beneficial and fun!”

Starting in the second semester, the retreat will have a theme based on authenticity—a topic which many sophomores struggle to maintain via zoom. Ms. Miguens pointed out how the theme of authenticity comes at a “critical time,” especially when it is so hard to put into practice.

Sr. Sharon encouraged current sophomores to “Put yourself out there - and risk being seen, known and loved by the retreat and your classmates.”



The 2019 retreat included the notoriously difficult “Levitating Stick” Exercise

RECOGNIZING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Luke McFadden '22

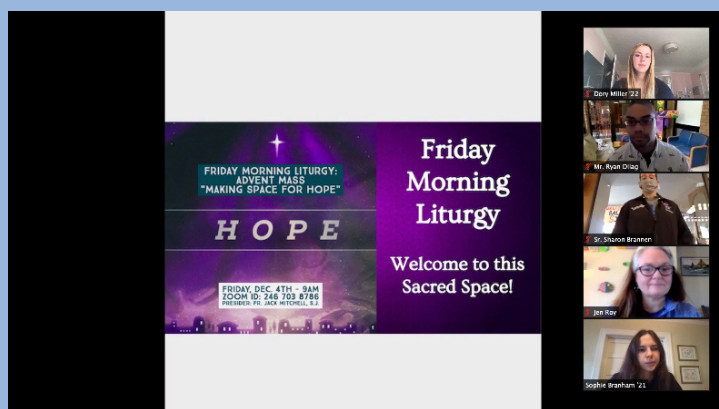
Contributing Editor



Recently, the Jesuit West magazine listed Father Fran Stiegeler as a Jubilarian on his 50 years as a Jesuit. Father Jack Mitchell, Superior of the Jesuit community, said the following about Father Stiegeler:

"Father Fran Stiegeler speaks directly and forthrightly, yet he always teaches with compassion and a deep abiding love of his students. His time in the military coupled with his diligence at any task given to him have earned him the sobriquet, Captain Fran, among his Jesuit friends. His spirituality remains well-grounded in service and not up in the air. Father Stiegeler rolls up his sleeves and gets to work, and he expects no less from others. He embodies Saint Ignatius' statement in the Spiritual Exercises that 'Love ought to manifest itself more by deeds than by words.'"

ADVENT SEASON BEGINS!



SI celebrates the beginning of the Advent season with an Advent Mass FML on December 4. The mass focused on the theme of making space for hope during these tough times to kick off the season.

CONGRATS TO THE 2020 LUDI WINNERS!

Latin scholars of SI who are also a part of the Junior Classical League (JCL) competed in a tournament where their knowledge was put to the test. Congrats to all the winners!

Tim Abbott	Classical Art
Tim Abbott	Daily Life
Tim Abbott	MQA
Grace Brady	Grammar II
Grace Brady	History
Matthew Caldwell	Geography
Josh Gill	Mythology
Josh Gill	Vocabulary
Dimitra Janssens	STEM Challenges
Dimitra Janssens	Derivatives
Jeffrey Ling	Geography
Jeffrey Ling	History

Rory Lunbeck	Adv Reading
Ava Ralph	Daily Life
Ava Ralph	Mythology
Kaleigh Ruegg	Classical Art
Audrey Tam	Derivatives
Audrey Tam	Vocabulary
Samantha Tam	MQA
Amanda Ting	Mythology
Ashley Yoshii	MQA
Ashley Yoshii	Classical Art
Team A (certamen) --- Josh Gill, Audrey Tam, Tim Abbott, and Matthew Caldwell	



FRESHMEN CLOSE-UP

Holiday Special!

Happy Holidays, SI!

As the Freshmen wrap up their first semester, they share their sleigh rides exploring the world of high school, the excitement of returning to campus and the holiday season, and their hopes for the new year.

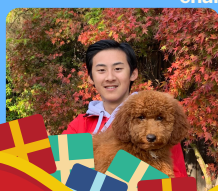
— Jack Quach '23, Managing Editor —

Niamh Concannon

CAYDEN TU

My first semester of high school exceeded my initial expectations. Despite distance-learning, I thought that my first semester went smoothly. I was greatly awestruck by the reception we received on campus: balloons, faculty, and upperclassmen all made us feel welcome.

Every Christmas, my family goes to my uncle's house, sharing gifts around a Christmas tree, and sitting by the fireplace.



Favorite Christmas character: The Grinch

I really enjoyed my first few weeks of high school! It was definitely different to experience this schedule, and I would say the work ethic is definitely a lot more advanced than what I had experienced in middle school.

New Year's Resolution: to reach out to more people and joining activities that are school related and help me get involved.

#1 Christmas song: "It's beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas" by Michael Buble



ISABELLA ALCANTARA

My first semester has been an eventful one. It took me a little longer to comprehend the material, but I see this as a good sign of growth. When I first went to my dance workshop rehearsal in person, I felt so alive and happy to be in the theatre and dancing with other people!

New Year's Resolution: to study more effectively for tests and quizzes and to stretch more often for dance.

Top Xmas Hit: "Underneath the Tree" by Kelly Clarkson



Nam Nguyen

My first semester started out pretty well. As the months go by it gets more stressful, but it's still a lot of fun since I've made a new friend. My favorite memories have been ones of meeting my new friends!

What did the ornaments say to their friends? I like hanging with you.

To me, hope is a feeling someone gives themselves when they feel sad because they're able to see that at the end of all the suffering there's greatness.



Megan Stecher

1st semester was a lot like I was expecting actually! It was a little hard because I didn't know as many people and I had a lot more homework, but I had a lot of fun getting to know everyone.

I love Christmas morning! My siblings and I all get up really early and hang out and play board games. Then my family all open presents and have a big breakfast!

Your presents is requested!



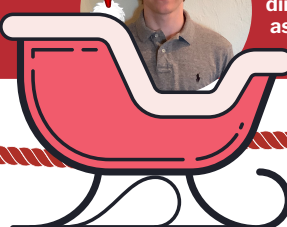
Spencer Phillips

A memory from first semester was talking to my friends before class without the teacher there (she was absent). It was a little surreal.

Best Christmas tradition: Baking Cookies!

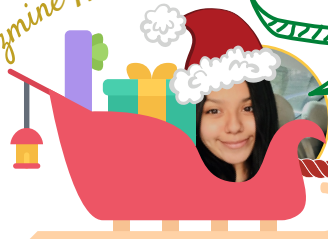


Navigating the campus was a little hard given that we can't use the stairways to go in the same direction. My teachers were just as fun to be with as they were in the Zoom calls.



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Jazmine Hernandez



GROUNDS CREW, HERE FOR YOU

Sam Finnerity '24 and Kai Lamb '24

With 1,500 students coming from Marin, San Francisco, and the Peninsula, along with 123 faculty members scheduled to come back to school, the Building & Grounds Crew at SI had a daunting task of creating a Covid-proofed campus. And with COVID-19 guidelines constantly changing, Mr. Meehan and his staff, under the direction of Principal Levine and Mr. Gotch, worked overtime to ensure the school was ready for the SFDPH inspection and opening. According to Mr. Glosser, "Christopher Meehan and his team were great, as always, in interpreting the guidelines, making the proper changes or upgrades, and being willing to adjust the following week if the directives changed."



Desks are six feet apart.



Be sure to wear a mask!

Although a major focus was put on classrooms, many other areas on campus needed to be modified in order to adhere to the safety guidelines. For example, the bathrooms have been adapted by taping off certain sinks and stalls. Along with bathrooms, all four stairwells have been specifically designated for going one way, up or down. Signs are taped on walls everywhere on campus reminding people to wear masks and maintain social distancing. Probably the biggest task the Grounds Crew faced was creating a safe Commons space for students to enjoy their lunches and resource periods. The Commons was cleared of the lunch tables and replaced with desks, fitted with chairs six feet apart for students to safely work and eat.



New safety precautions are in place in order to ensure a safe return to campus. Take a look at what's new.

Contributing Editors

Freshman Mia Colabianchi '24 highlighted the positive effects of the Grounds Crew's work, stating, "I felt pretty safe returning to school. I thought the signage telling us where to walk and which stairs to use was very clear. Overall, I felt very safe on campus and can't wait to go back."

Mr. Glosser recognized Mr. Meehan and his team as an essential unit within the staff: "What is special about Mr. Meehan's team is how much they care about the well being of our students and faculty." The Grounds Crew has worked hard to develop an environment that gives SI students the opportunity to enjoy on-campus learning. Their hard work and tactful strategies helped the SI Community come together showing how to be Ignatians with and for others.



One way only stairwells.



Some sinks are taped off to allow for more social distancing.

Penny Pyo '24

KLAUS: A NEW CHRISTMAS CLASSIC

Contributing Editor

This Christmas, instead of firing up *The Polar Express* or *Home Alone* CD for the umpteenth time, try the 2D animated film *Klaus* on Netflix. Directed by former Disney animator Sergio Pablos, Oscar-nominated *Klaus* is a unique, creative take on Santa Claus's origin story.

We follow Jesper, the lazy and spoiled son of the Postmaster General, as he's sent to the remote island town of Smeerensburg by his father, who threatens to cut him off if he fails to post 6,000 letters by the next year. Smeerensburg is dreary and miserable, and the townspeople are no better. In his quest to deliver more letters, Jesper meets Klaus, the surly, reclusive woodsman.

Visually stunning and impressively animated, *Klaus* stands out as a return to 2D animation.

The attention to detail shines through in every single frame's gorgeous lighting and exaggerated shapes.. Each character design is stylized, striking, and full of personality.

The writing is thoughtful and entertaining, with witty dialogue and hilariously wry jokes. The message of *Klaus*, "A true selfless act sparks another," is endearing yet powerful in the way it's presented. While the village children are an integral part of the story, *Klaus* uniquely focuses its lens on the grownups, who are ill-natured bitter, and disillusioned Jesper and Klaus initially want nothing to do with the town, but after a series of events and mishaps, end up delivering presents to the village children every night.

These characters who originally had self-serving motivations find themselves changing the town for the better.

They learn that even in the bleakest circumstances, there is always hope to share with others; this movie is that hope for our world now.

No matter what holiday you celebrate, *Klaus* is an uplifting, beautifully animated, funny, and heartwarming movie that is a must-see for people of all ages.



Tommy DeBenedetti '22

FRILUFTSLIV IN THE BAY

Managing Editor

A few months ago, my mom and I stumbled across an article that introduced us to the term *friluftsliv*. Friluftsliv is a Norwegian word that – although it is not common to American vocabulary the way it is in Norway – roughly translates to open air life. It's fair to say that since this moment, my mom and I have become a little obsessed with this word, dropping it after any comment remotely related to outdoor living. Friluftsliv is the perfect quarantine mantra, and you can even pursue a life embodying it here in the Bay by attending an outdoor event!

This winter, the California Academy of Science continues its tradition of hosting reindeer Cookie and Peppermint. You can visit Santa's companions in their snowy microclimate through January 3rd.

What better way to enjoy the winter outdoors than to learn about the season's mascot and frolic in one hundred square feet of snow?

Or, you might consider exploring Andy Goldsworthy's exhibit Wood Line. The zig-zag of fallen tree trunks located in the eucalyptus woods of the Presidio make for a beautiful walking trail and the moment you've been waiting for to show off your balance beam skills.

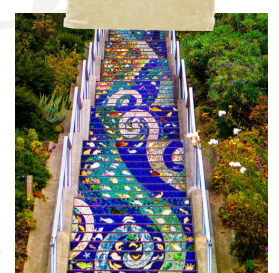
If you're not up for a long walk through the woods, journey through sea, land, and sky at the Moraga Steps in SI's very own Sunset District. Short and sweet, this "hike" is suitable for people of all abilities and the perfect opportunity for some fun Instagram pics! Be sure to hashtag #friluftsliv or #transcendentalism!

Even in the coldest time of the year, there is beauty to be found in open air living. Next time you need a get-away from returning college siblings or impending final exams, rather than hiding in your room, try friluftsliv.



Lovers'
Lane at the
Presidio

16th
Avenue
Tiled Steps





A DELICIOUS RECIPE

Emma Gorin '22

Managing Editor



How have we come to love decorating little houses for Christmas? Gingerbread houses originate all the way from the Victorian era, coming from the stories of Hansel and Gretel as the Gingerbread house is the main setting of the story. At the beginning, gingerbread houses were an art, with only certain professionals being allowed to create the masterpieces. However, this rule has ceased to exist today, and people all over the world will be making gingerbread houses this coming winter. As times have been looking grim, a young girl whose gingerbread recipe has kept her hopeful and excited for the Christmas spirit wishes to share her recipe with all of you.



Scan this QR code to listen to the EIC's top 10 Xmas tunes!

1. Starting off slow, use parchment paper to line rimless baking sheets.
2. Speeding up! Whisk 2 cups of brown sugar, 2 tablespoons of baking soda, 1 tablespoon of ginger, and 2 teaspoons of cinnamon.
3. Whip up 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract with 1 ½ cups whipped cream until "soft peaks" begin to form.
4. Begin mixing, and add in 1 ½ cups of molasses and the whipped cream mixture until all are combined.
5. Add in your 9 cups of all purpose flour, which will certainly form a deep dough.
6. Roll out the dough on a pastry board and move it to the baking sheets; bake two sheets at a time at 275/300 degrees F, depending on the thickness, for about one hour.
7. Separate the scraps as the gingerbread house pieces finish baking, and let them cool.
8. The fun occurs in this step. Form your house, and prepare to decorate with some delicious frosting.
9. Beat 2 large egg whites with ¼ teaspoon of cream of tartar and 2 teaspoons of water, and blend in 2 ½ cups of sifted powdered sugar for about 7 minutes.
10. Feel free to add sprinkles or different edible decor, and enjoy!!

Thank you to Sasha Cherkas!



AN UPDATE FROM MR. CURRY: PERFORMING ARTS PERFORMANCES



Choral: SI Chamber Singers and Mixed Chorus are proud to present: "HOME, A Virtual Choir Concert". which went live Thursday, December 3rd. It was a collection of choral music put together from this semester. The theme of the concert was "Home," and it also included some holiday selections. Check out the link to the performance on the SI Website [here](#).

Orchestra: The orchestra and their families will have a Virtual Album Release Party on December 7th. On December 8th a link will be made available to our SI Community to "watch the show." You will be welcome to hear the Orchestra's performance whenever you would like - after December 8th.

Jazz Band: The Jazz Band and their families will have a Virtual Album Release Party on December 8th. On December 9th a link will be made available to our SI Community to "watch the show." You will be welcome to hear the Jazz Band's performance whenever you would like - after December 9th.



Amelia Chen '24



VIRTUAL SHOWS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Contributing Editor

'Tis the season of A Christmas Carols, Nutcracker, and tons of family bonding. In an ordinary year, families and friends would come together in a theater to watch a holiday show. While today's circumstances are certainly abnormal, shows could still be the highlight of your December, but it would be virtual, of course.

Covid-19 derailed the plans of many Performing Arts schools and companies, but they were quick to react and got right back on track. Many have worked hours-on-end to ensure a magical show for many to watch. Many productions will all be available in the comfort of our own homes! So, grab a hot cocoa,

because here are some of the best shows coming your way!

1. One Night Only: The Best of Broadway! For all of you Broadway fanatics, this might be the show of your dreams. This two-hour special hosted by Tina Fey will feature many famous Broadway actors, including Leslie Odem Jr. and Aaron Tveit. On December 10th at 8pm ET on NBC, grab your family and friends to enjoy this bound-to-be-spectacular show!

2. The Nutcracker Ballet Everyone will be able to experience the magical storyline of this elegant yet intriguing dance masterpiece. Be prepared to join Clara and her prince on her exciting journey right

from your living room!

A staple of the Bay Area Holiday experience, the San Francisco Ballet is streaming the show from November 27-December 31 with some fun activities included with your purchase!

A performing arts school from Daly City with students of all ages will also be streaming the Nutcracker virtually! Support them and catch a peek of me in a couple of dances; buy tickets to watch on December 25! (for more info: Instagram: @wspadalcity)



MUSEUMS RE-IMAGINED

Jack Stecher '23 & Tommy DeBenedetti '22

Contributing & Managing Editors

For art enthusiasts, history geeks, and just the curious, museums are the perfect weekend plans; but, most of the time, routinely visiting them isn't realistic due to money and time. With COVID-19 shutting down prolonged indoor activity and limiting capacity, several of the world's most famous museums have provided free online experiences for those who would like to "visit," including those for whom it isn't usually possible.

The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History is the largest natural history museum in the world. Its online collection includes 360 degrees exploration, narrated tours of specific exhibits, and even tours of past exhibits, a luxury not even available in person. Visit this virtual museum any day at <https://naturalhistory.si.edu>.

While traveling to Europe for some museum hopping would

never happen a week before finals in an ordinary year, currently one can wander through great international museums during study breaks. Even Paris' Louvre offers limited virtual tours of some of its exhibits, including its collection of Egyptian antiquities and the remains of the Louvre's previous role as a fortress. Visit the Louvre at <https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne>.

To round out the tour of European art, check out the Vatican Museums' self-guided online tours. You can take your time admiring its sculptures and paintings, and you can even peruse a completely empty Sistine Chapel –something that would never be possible under normal visiting circumstances. The Vatican's virtual tours are available for all at

<http://m.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani-mobile/en/collezioni/musei/tour-virtuali-elenco.html>.

We can find entertainment during these unprecedented times by looking towards these virtual tours and using the resources these attractions have given us to gain an experience we may have never been able to outside or from the comfort of our homes with our families.



Tap into
your inner
art critic



FINDING HOPE IN PERFORMING ARTS

Aidan Stecher '23

Contributing Editor

This Holiday season, Inside SI asked members of the performing arts program where they find hope in their program. Read the other ornaments to see how they responded.

"Dance gives me hope to find the joys in life while motivating me to work harder to better my skills, mentality, and physical well being."
- Jasmine Gatus '23

"I find hope in performing arts by expressing myself through music. Being able to perform a beautiful piece together always inspires me and gives me hope."
- Dahlia Leung '22

"The Fall Play has given me a place where I can express myself by doing something I love and find joy in my life during times of struggle. I hope that our performance can be a source of laughter for audiences who may need it right now."
- Alexander Jordan '21

"Orchestra gives me a sense of hope because of the unity among members and our common love for music."
- Samantha Major '23

"Being in choir at SI gives me hope that music will continue to flourish even in challenging circumstances. I find hope in hearing our voices edited together and seeing that we are still able to create music as a collective despite being physically apart."
- Annika Pyo '21

"The performing arts helps me show people the me that they don't usually see"
- Chloe Ovbiagele '23



Friendly Frosty the Snowman greets the SI students in the courtyard.



Jolly Christmas spirit surrounds the Commons even with six feet of distance.



SI decks the halls with bright and merry Christmas cheer!!

HINDSIGHT IS 2020: RESOLUTIONS FOR A NEW YEAR

Cayden Tu '24

Contributing Editor

Many people are excited for 2020 to come to a close after a challenging, unprecedented year. As we all look forward to 2021, we face the future with hope thanks to our dedicated SI teachers and leaders.

Some of our SI faculty and staff celebrities have shared their resolutions with you:



"I don't make New Year's resolutions because generally when I make a decision to change something, particularly a bad habit, I just start working on it right away."

- Principal Michelle Levine

"My New Year's Resolution for 2021 is to survive. I try to limit almost-dying to once in a calendar year, and after last year, I'm just trying to make it through 2020. Literally."

- Mr. Eric Castro (Social Science Teacher)



"My Resolution for 2021 is to remember that 'the past is history, the future is a mystery, but TODAY is a gift, that is why we call it the PRESENT.'"

- Dr. Tasia Davis (School Dean)

"My New Year's Resolution for 2021 is to eat less, exercise more, get a vaccine, & let's roll."

- Fr. Francis Stiegeler SJ



"My resolution for 2021 is to pick up the phone and CALL my friends more frequently!"

- Mr. Paul Molinelli (English Teacher)



"My New Year's Resolution for 2021 is to truly appreciate all that I have."

- Mr. John DeBenedetti (Math Teacher)



"My New Year's Resolution for 2021 is to read more books."

- Dr. Kimberly Cody (Biology Teacher)



We appreciate our extraordinary teachers and leaders who have taken the time to share their hopes for 2021 with us, along with all of the SI faculty who continue to make our return to campus a positive, memorable experience.

VIRTUAL PASKO 2020

Jamie Gatus '21 and Keira Tam '22

Managing and Contributing Editors

Pasko is a Christmas celebration that showcases Filipino culture, including traditional food, music, and dance. 2020 marks SI's 12th annual Pasko celebration run by the Saint Ignatius Parents Asian Club (SIPAC). However, it will be held virtually this year to keep the SI community safe.

ASC co-presidents Milla Kohli '21 and Rozet Parinas '21 and moderators Señor Orque and Ms. Wong highlighted some differences for this year's Pasko celebration and shared their hopes for the annual event.

What are your hopes for this year's Pasko even as it goes virtual?

Milla: For Pasko this year, I hope we can celebrate as a community like we have done in the past years. It's not going to be the same, but hopefully we can still enjoy each other's talents. Since Pasko is virtual this year, I hope more people attend and get a chance to celebrate this wonderful event with us. We will definitely be reminiscing about the Pasko events in years past.

Rozet: Although we will be apart, I hope that everyone will still experience the joyful sense of community that makes Pasko so special.

Señor Orque and Ms. Wong: We hope to continue the long-standing and wonderful tradition of Pasko, celebrating Christmas. The celebration of Pasko at SI is key to SIPAC. The SIPAC leadership board is very excited to present the show this year in a new format!

What are you doing differently for the virtual Pasko?

Milla: This year we will have singing and instrumental performances, but we will miss out on some dances and the fashion show.

Rozet: Pasko isn't Pasko without the delicious food, so we're offering a take-home meal option cooked by SI's kitchen. Check out the SI website for more details!

Señor Orque and Ms. Wong: For the first time, the show will be broadcast via Zoom. We hope to have a large turnout on Zoom!

Anything else you would like to share?

Milla: I encourage everyone to attend Pasko this year to kick off the holiday season!

Rozet: Pasko is free this year, so I encourage everyone to attend! Our student performances are going to put on an incredible show that you won't want to miss!

Señor Orque and Ms. Wong: You can also find more info here: <https://www.siprep.org/parent-portal/parent-clubs/sipac/pasko-2020>



THE PAROL: A BEACON OF HOPE DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Jackie Acosta '22 and Bianca Hallinan '23

Contributing Editors



Christmas season is fast approaching, and families across the world are getting ready to celebrate this special holiday! However, your idea of Christmas may be completely different from your neighbor's. Christmas is celebrated differently in all cultures. There are different traditions, different meals, and sometimes even different names! For Filipinos, this holiday is known as Pasko. Reanna Yadao, the Vice President of The Filipino Culture Club (TFC) at SI says, "Pasko is the biggest holiday of the year. Because the Philippines is 90% Catholic, Christmas is more of a religious celebration." For Filipinos, the celebration is bright, lively, and full of traditions.

One large part of the Pasko celebration is the tradition of the

Christmas lantern known as the "parol." The parol is a star-shaped ornamental lantern traditionally made out of bamboo or capiz shell and is typically displayed during the Christmas season.

Recently, Disney released its very first all-Filipino Christmas short film titled, "From Our Family to Yours" which showcases many cultural aspects of the Filipino-Christmas tradition of Pasko including the custom of parol making. In the film, the tradition of parol making is passed down from generation to generation and is an iconic symbol of the Christmas spirit in Filipino culture.

The parol symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and is a shared expression of goodwill and hope during the Christmas season. For many Filipinos, the making and hanging of parols outside the home represent

the star of Bethlehem that guided the Three Wise Kings to Jesus' manger side. Many display parols in their homes to demonstrate their preparedness in the midst of the birth of Jesus.

Having a significant number of students a part of TFC, SI annually hosts a Pasko celebration which can be attended by any member of the SI community. Yadao recalls that the event is a way "to showcase the Filipino tradition of Christmas through food, music, and art-making like the parol." It is wonderful to see that SI has given students of Filipino descent the opportunity to celebrate their culture and share it with the SI community.

With all that has occurred in 2020, we hope that by sharing the tradition of the Parol with our SI community, we also share its ignited symbol of hope. Maligayang Pasko SI, see you all in the new year!!

PEOPLES' FAVORITE CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS!

Nam Nguyen '24

Contributing Editor

Siena Rangel '24 - "I really enjoy doing a gift exchange with my family called white elephant every year. I also enjoy decorating my Christmas tree while watching Christmas movies with my family."

Marc Helwee '24 - "Usually we have a large family gather with 9+ people and we hang out for a bit then we say prayer and eat a very big dinner, after that we have dessert and open presents. Pretty much there is a special chair and everybody gives their presents to the person in the chair, and everyone takes turns in the chair."

Dr. Cody- "I, along with my big Italian family, go to my Nonni's (grandma) house to make homemade raviolis. We make hundreds of them in preparation for Christmas dinner where we all come together to celebrate. This is one of my most cherished traditions because I get to spend time with the entire family and in particular my 94 year old Nonni, who still manages to coach us on how to properly roll out ravioli dough and to add the perfect amount of stuffing to each ravioli."

LaVon Smith '22- "My favorite Christmas tradition is white elephant with my family. It's always funny to see everyone's reactions to gag gifts and every year is filled with memorable moments."

Wesley Tse '21- "My family plays a game throughout the Christmas season where we say "Christmas" everytime we see a house with Christmas decorations. It can get quite competitive between my brother and I but it's all for fun."

Alex Kao '23- "During our Christmases, we like listening to cringy Filipino Christmas music and eating at our favorite Chinese restaurant for dinner!"

Sabine Hickey '23- "One household tradition I love is binge watching Christmas movies. My two favorites are Home Alone 2 and Love Actually."

Olivia Mills '21- "Every year without fail my sisters and I take a picture with Santa at Macy's. It was endearing as kids, embarrassing as tweens, and pure comedy as teens."



SOURCES OF HOPE BRINGING THE SI COMMUNITY TOGETHER



Lindsay Ryan '22

Contributing Editor

The year 2020 brought forth many new unfortunate realities for people all over the world, including the students and faculty at SI. COVID-19 has changed everyone's lives.

Yet, hope still plays a role in everyone's lives. Studies have shown that it serves as a buffer against the impact of negative and stressful life events and helps humans define their lives.

Although the holidays will look different than they have in the past, Christmas and the New Year give a sense of hope and joy for many. Traditions may be altered this year, but reconnecting with God during the holiday and having the Christmas spirit excites many.

Many students are also excited for the New Year to bring a fresh start.

Miya Macnew '22 said, "At this time of the year, knowing that the New Year is coming up gives me hope that with it will come a fresh start and new beginnings that will hopefully be better than this past one."

People are wishful for a better year and have faith that next year will bring the world changes that need to be made. SI's return to school plan is also a source of joy and hope for many students. Lola Cerchiai '22 explained, "Right now, it gives me hope that freshmen are on campus going to school in person and that there is a safe return to school plan for the whole school." This plan gives many students faith that normalcy will come soon and

excitement to see their teachers and friends in person.

Witnessing how many people, including students and faculty at SI, have acted during this time gives many people faith in humanity. The way people have helped people whether in person or virtually over the past nine months is truly honorable.

Although at times, a hopeless feeling darkens the day, the SI community has found ways to remain hopeful for the future and what it brings.





A FRESH START

Jeslyn Oum '24, Cayden Tu '24 Abby Reed '24 & Caroline McFadden '24 Contributing Editors

After many weeks of online learning, the Class of 2024 jumped with elation at the news of reopening. The administration divided freshmen into cohorts to increase social distancing, and each group is being brought onto campus every other week. Freshmen also experienced the unique ways Buildings and Grounds organized the hallways and staircases.

A key element to reopening requires social distancing within classrooms. Each room has the windows and doors open to increase air circulation with all desks placed six feet apart. Other precautions were definitely unconventional; for example, teachers holding math class in the gymnasium. With the incoming winter weather, one could say that learning conditions are a bit less than favorable.

The entire community was especially thankful for all the hard work the faculty had put into making the reopening a reality. SI continues to keep our campus safe with daily announcements about social distancing and wearing masks along with reminders to wipe down desks between classes.

Mr. Escobar explained his excitement in finally seeing students roaming the halls of SI again: "We are thrilled to welcome the class of 2024 onto campus. It was the culmination of a lot of work by a lot of folks, but seeing parents take those first day school pics and looking into those excited yet jittery

frosh eyes made it all worthwhile. Hopefully, students felt welcomed and now realize that we are all in this together, and now, we can act 'for and with' each other to keep our community safe and healthy."

Many students shared their experiences on campus compared to distance learning. Abby Reed '24 thought "Going from Zoom to in-person really highlights the benefits of talking face to face." Finn Coulson '24 related, "I found myself actually participating in class. Being able to shout out the answer without a delay was pretty nice. In class, everyone was a lot more engaged in learning which is what I think school is all about. People like school because they can hang out with friends and eat lunch with their classmates. Most people don't like school because of the academic part and to me, Zoom is ONLY the academic part. It cuts off everything fun about school."

Caroline McFadden '24 found lunch to be an important time to socialize and meet other freshmen. She described how "during lunch we eat in the bleachers marked out six feet for each person to sit on and daydreaming of the day when we can finally be together as a school and watch many sports games."

Meanwhile at home, those on Zoom have also had to adjust to this

new style of learning. While there may no longer be the same number of participants in a Zoom meeting, they can see and hear their in-person classmates through the eyes and ears of the "OWL," a 360 speaker and camera in the classrooms.

Starting high school is never easy, especially when navigating the confusing campus. Thankfully, on the first day of school, there were many upperclassmen to help the freshman. Jonathan Lim '24 agreed: "The moment you felt lost there was always someone to help you find your way. At first I was a little nervous but SI welcomed me with big smiles. Sometimes it's hard adapting to a new community, but SI made it easy."

Overall, the raw feeling of seeing our amazing teachers in-person was an experience unlike any other. The feeling of connecting with classmates and friends, both in-person and through Zoom, was unique. On campus, teachers were with us most of the time, monitoring our safety. If a week was getting hectic, there would always be Wednesday, a perfect time for a break in the week. The reopening was well organized, a memory freshmen will not forget.



REOPENING ST. IGNATIUS CAMPUS

PRO REOPENING

Dylan Sunga '24 Contributing Editor

I believe Saint Ignatius's decision to reopen the school was great. It allows the students the chance to finally go back on campus and for freshmen to experience what SI is in a safe manner. For many grueling months now, students have been locked in their houses because of COVID-19. When the pandemic hit, staying at home for school seemed like a great idea, but that changed quickly. Many students were getting tired of going on Zoom for classes and being shut off from the outside world. Many students' mental health took a hit as their social life was cut and they were stuck to the screen all day. As the school reopens, students are able to get back on track, improve their mental health, and finally experience SI again.

Additionally, a lot of planning and thought was placed for this reopening to work. The hybrid schedule allows only a portion of students to go at a certain time so that if COVID-19 is ever brought to the school, only those students could be exposed while the others stay unaffected. Desks are constantly cleansed and social distancing precautions are in effect.

Teachers and students are separated behind plexiglass and some teachers who are older are given more precautions and can even stay home. Hallways have lanes and certain stairways go in one direction. Saint Ignatius planned for their students, ensuring the safety of their and everyone else's lives. It will all be worth it in the end once the school finally reopens to everyone.



ANTI REOPENING

Hardrian Barki '23 Contributing Editor

Out of all the times St. Ignatius College Prep could have reopened, this is probably one of the worst possible times to do so mainly due to an unforeseen surge in cases.

According to the *New York Times*, the number of new COVID-19 cases in the United States has grown by at least 100 thousand per day since November 4th. The number of cases in the United States exceeded 13 million after Thanksgiving. Estimates say that the number of actual cases could be 6 times higher than confirmed figures.

Far more alarming, the death toll has accelerated to over 257,000 cases, with a daily rate of over 2000 deaths a day the last week of November.

Even with all the measures and precautions taken to prevent the spread of the virus and enforce such measures, it is unlikely students will follow them. A poll conducted amongst SI students showed that more than 60% of students already do not follow mask mandates and social distancing regulations when they go outside.

The poll also revealed that the popular claim of how students have been deprived of social interaction since the school closed down isn't even true. The poll revealed that 90% of sophomores have physically met their friends at some point since the school closed.

Considering the statistics and how the pandemic is currently raging in the United States, the decision to reopen SI now seems like a rather dangerous idea.





GETTING THE VACINE

Megan Stecher '24

Contributing Editor

When was the last time you saw your extended family? When was the last time you were able to go anywhere without wearing a mask and staying six feet apart? Almost 10 months ago the COVID-19 virus changed the entire world, but getting the vaccine can help us get back to normal. Producing and distributing the COVID-19 vaccine is one of the most important issues in the world today.

Teams of scientists are working incredibly hard to make this vaccine and to widely distribute it. It is the best solution our country has right now to solve this problem, which is why everyone needs to do

er part and get the vaccine to stop the spread of the virus. Many people in our country are worried about the vaccine being unsafe and having unknown side effects. While this sentiment is completely valid, so far two vaccines have proven 94% effective in testing, according to the *New York Times*, which is a very good sign that it will work well in the general population. Not only will this vaccine help to save millions of lives, it will also help our world go back to a sense of normalcy.

The sooner we can all go back to school and all of the activities we have been missing out on because

of COVID-19. If people choose not to get the vaccine, it will prolong the spread of the virus and prevent us from taking part in the activities we did before the pandemic.



MATERIALISM

Markaela Gadduang '24

Contributing Editor

As activist Bryant McGill says, materialism really is an identity crisis. Even Madonna wrote a song about it. I am not going to lie about the fact that a lot of people are victims of buying things to define their self-worth or to make an impression that may not have any effect at all—and this is not exactly during this gift-giving season, but rather their whole lives!

I do admit I am one of these victims at times. Christmas is the time of year where you buy people things to express your love for them. This is a great tradition that has been going on for centuries. Over time, though, the true meaning of Christmas can possibly be hidden for many people.

So, why is materialism getting in the way of celebrating the true meaning of Christmas? According to the American Psychological Association, psychologist Tim Kasser says, “To be materialistic means to have values that put a relatively high priority on making a lot of money and having many possessions, as well as on image and popularity, which are almost always expressed via money and possessions.”

We all know Christmas is for the birth of Jesus Christ. We celebrate His nativity on December 25. The point is to celebrate human salvation and human existence, thanks to God, Jesus, or whatever higher power we believe in.

Looking forward to receiving something under your Christmas tree from Santa is exciting as a kid, but I think we should all open our eyes to remember that providing happiness for others—not in a materialistic way—is really what Christmas is all about. Sorry, Santa



A CASE AGAINST SHUFFLE PLAY

Izzy Spanswick '21

Managing Editor

I recently invested in a cassette player, wooed by its 80s nostalgia and dance scenes showcased in Guardians of the Galaxy. I bought some of my favorite albums to comfort me through this venture into uncharted music terrain. When I began my first listen, however, to Elton John's Captain Fantastic, I realized that many of the songs, and their order in the album, were foreign-- shocking because I consider Elton one of my favorite and most impactful artists.

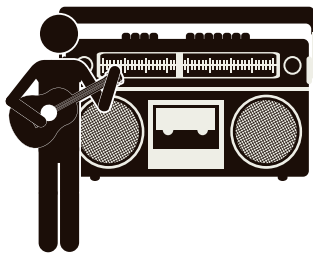
Most of my generation's interactions with music comes from curated playlists- cherry picking the first favorites of each album and discarding the rest. Unknowingly, we give carefully crafted works of art a "kindergarten-safety-scissor haircut" that butcher what the artist curated for our ears.

This manipulation of albums prevents us from recognizing the artistry and the artist's intentions. The intentionality and thought that permeates that collection of songs

and their chosen order becomes an unsuspecting casualty of this cycle.

When I was listening to Captain Fantastic on my walkman, I found my heart almost skip with the unexpected layering of tracks-- so unlike how I had ever experienced these songs.

We need to return to listening to albums the way they were meant to be heard and- if a cassette player isn't handy- embrace an avoidance of the shuffle button.



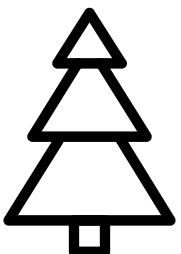
CHRISTMAS MASS AT SI CHURCH INFORMATION

Dec 24. 4pm Mass & 12 Midnight Mass

Dec 25. 10am Mass

Find all streaming liturgies with, choir & instrumentalists at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CiYkU7Wtc-4>



BSU'S HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Izzy Escalante '22

Contributing Editor

The Black Lives Matter movement brings awareness to the oppression, racism, and disadvantages that Black people face in today's society. The organization was created by Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi in 2013 in response to the death of Trayvon Martin.

The Black Student Union is an affinity group at SI that creates a community and safe space for the Black students at SI. I had the opportunity to interview Reann Phillips'23, who is the co-publicist for BSU, about her thoughts on the Black Lives Matter protests and her hopes for the future.

1. Inside SI: What are your hopes with the outcome of the Black Lives Matter movement?

Reanne Phillips: Probably the most important outcome I hope the BLM movement can accomplish is making the world safer for the Black community.

From everything that's happened in the past few years, there have been times I've been afraid for myself and my other friends that identify with being black.

2. Does the Black Lives Matter Movement give you hope for a better future?

Most definitely. The Black Lives Matter movement started in 2013 and already has support not only in the country, but throughout the whole world. This fight for equality has honestly been going on for too long. I'm just always keeping an optimistic mind that one day we can stop fighting for inequality we face in our everyday lives.

3. How do you think SI reacted to the Black Lives Matter Movement?

How can SI better support Black students of color? I believe SI has done a pretty good job with making their opinion with BLM. from the Magis Safe Space, BSU individuals, and Ms. Levine's message in the

beginning of the year to the sophomores -- all have given me a feeling of safety in our school community. SI can better support Black students by checking up on us, just seeing how we're handling things, especially during the times when something happens. To me, just knowing that someone cares and supports me can go a long way.

4. How can SI students and faculty members be better allies for BSU?

Do your research, it can go a really long way! As one of the very few Black individuals at SI, it feels like my job to inform everyone about living as a person of color. Like I said before it really goes a long way!



Reanne Phillips



PROP 16

Ethan Tam '22

Contributing Editor

In early November, Prop 16, a proposition to reinstate affirmative action in California, lost. California is known to be democratic-leaning, so it was a shock to many when Prop 16 did not pass. I invited Mr. Lorenzo, a first-year SI college counselor, to give his insight into Prop 16's losing and advice to students of color.

Inside SI: For those unfamiliar with Prop 16, what is it exactly?

Mr. Lorenzo: Proposition 16 was an attempt to repeal Proposition 209 (passed in 1996) that stated discrimination and preferential treatment were not allowed in public employment, education, and

contracting regardless of a person's/group's race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. Hence, California remains as one of ten states that has banned affirmative action policies. If Prop 16 passed, CA public institutions, including the University of California and California State University System would have been allowed to develop and use affirmative action programs that grant preferences based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, and national origin.

Inside SI: What are your thoughts on Prop 16 losing?

(continued on p. 20)



Strength in numbers



(continued from previous page)

Mr. Lorenzo: It was disappointing, but not surprising because COVID-19 and the racial justice movement has revealed how much of our country is still not willing to face or admit to the systemic effects of white supremacy, slavery, and colonialization. For all the press and perception California gets for being "blue and liberal," having Prop 16 lose by almost 2.5 million votes should be a wake up call that we still have plenty of work and education to do.

Inside SI: *Do you believe this will affect minorities negatively?*

Mr. Lorenzo: Yes, the effects of Prop 209 have been devastating for the enrollment of Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander communities at the University of California. Prop 16 would have been a step in the right direction to address this problematic trend and increase educational and career opportunities for our marginalized communities. Instead, they will continue to be systematically oppressed.



Students of color and minorities need to stay united and hopeful.

Inside SI: *What do you think students at SI should know about affirmative action?*

Mr. Lorenzo: SI students should know affirmative action was designed to address the systemic effects of racism and discrimination in public employment, education, and contracting. In the event of hiring or college admissions, the candidate must meet the qualifications. The idea is to outreach and to extend opportunities to those who have been historically disadvantaged.

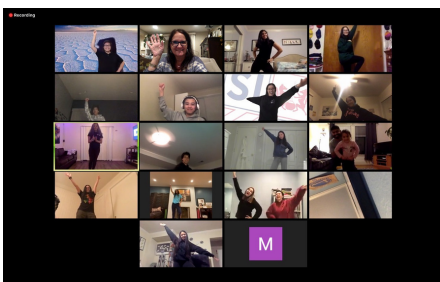
Lastly, affirmative action is not reverse racism. Racism is connected to power where one has it and one does not. It is not possible to reverse this dynamic because in our society all racial groups do not have equal power.

Inside SI: *Should students of color be concerned, especially for college applications?*

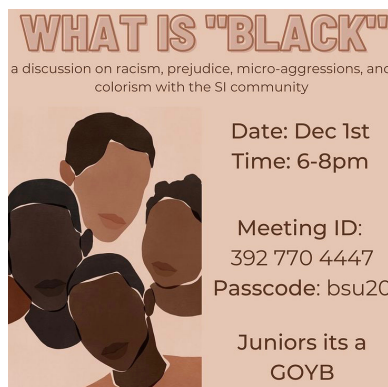
Mr. Lorenzo: No, because college admissions is a nuanced and often holistic review process where many factors are considered. An acceptance or a denial is never tied to only one specific aspect. Additionally, each college has their own set of institutional objectives and initiatives that shape their decision making. This includes, but is not limited to diversity, academic interests, special talents, etc.

Inside SI: *Finally, do you have any tips for students who are concerned about Prop 16 losing?*

Mr. Lorenzo: For those concerned, I recommend reading and learning more about Prop 209 to understand how we got here. Then, take action within your respective peers, families, and communities. Seek out mentors and learn how to educate others about this issue. Lastly, don't lose hope, there will be another effort to get this back on the ballot. It's not too early to get yourself involved in this process.



Students gathered through zoom at the Diwali Dance event hosted by ASC. Pictured here they can be seen showing off their dance moves!



On December 1st, BSU hosted a GOYB entitled what is "Black" in order to contribute to the ongoing and essential conversations about race. Keep your eye out for more affinity group events like these as the year goes on!

ART SPOTLIGHT

Isabela Molina '21 Contributing Editor

Doubtless, anyone who has stepped foot on the SI campus has seen Annika Pyo '21's art hanging in the hall or featured in *The Quill*. Ever since she was in the 6th grade, Annika has explored what it looks like to see herself reflected in her own art. She tells me that in more recent years she has "made more art about what it's like to be Korean American," because it is something she has a "specific perspective on and experience with."

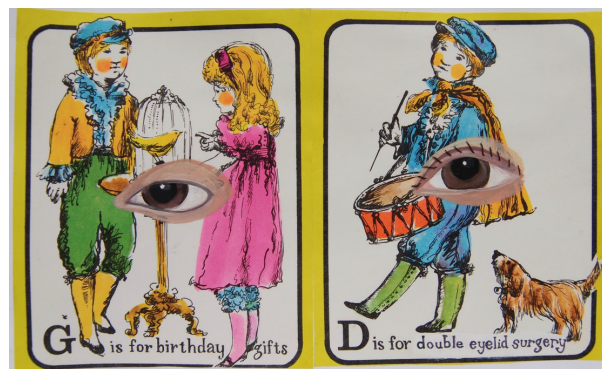
One such piece is a self-portrait of her looking into a mirror. Her reflection on one side of the mirror is dressed in traditional Korean Hanbok clothing, but the girl on the other side is in a basic tube top. The idea for the piece derived from a Bay Area art competition's questions of: Why do I count as an Asian American on the 2020 Census? And why is it important to not only participate in the Census but also share our history? The prompt really hit home for her as she was able to draw upon experiences from her freshman year onward.



"I Don't See Color" by Annika Pyo '21

"As an Asian American going to SI, in the beginning, I really felt the pressure to blend in with my white peers and I remember freshman year I would want to like buy Vineyard Vines and buy Hydro Flasks and buy all these brands that I saw the other kids buying. I felt like my white classmates kind of saw me in a different way and would talk to me a little differently from their fellow white classmates. It was something that I had never experienced before." So that piece is called 'I Don't See Color' because it's taking that phrase that a lot of non-BIPOC like to say in order to seem all-inclusive and that they don't see race. But if you don't see my race, you won't get to see my Korean culture. You don't see the history of my family. And you don't see the experiences that I have at school because you want me to feel like everyone else and make me feel like I fit in."

After a conversation with her mom about girls her age in Korea wanting double eye-lid surgery as a birthday present, she wanted to take on another thought-provoking piece. She gathered wrapping paper to make a symbolic representation of the packaging on a birthday gift. Annika painted on eyes, then took a real needle and thread to do little stitches over the eyelid. She recalled, "it felt so weird to sew these stitches into my paper and it made me think of how unnatural it is that girls are trying to change their natural monolids to adhere to western standards."



"Birthday Gift" by Annika Pyo '21

As Annika looks toward her future beyond SI, she plans to apply to various art schools. Traditionally, the media, family, friends, and an individual's internalized uncertainty paint the idea of studying and taking on a career in art as something available exclusively to wealthy, white families.

"In general for the longest time, I didn't think I was going to be applying as an art major. I just didn't think that was an option at all because I grew up hearing 'Oh you know you should become a doctor or go into STEM. Or at least you should become a lawyer or something that's stable.' I told my parents I want to go to art school and this is what I want to pursue." She paused. "They weren't super excited about the idea at first. Even as they did come to support my decision, they sometimes still have comments. If I ever complain about my work they might say things like 'You wouldn't have this problem if you chose a science major.'"

As president of the SI Visual Arts Club, she plans to showcase art from students on Instagram and "give them a place where they can talk about their art because typically students don't really get to share the backgrounds of their ideas, inspirations, and processes." [The club's page](#) aims to emphasize the person behind the "art you would normally see in the hallway or in *The Quill*." With her gift for art and risk-taking, Annika's creativity transcends any attempts to stifle her identity as a young Asian American woman.

For More Art by Annika Pyo '21 [click here](#) and Check out InSIde SI's Christmas Banner!

UPDATE ON HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION

STATE MEDIA RELEASE



Here is a message from the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF):

Due to the continued surge in COVID-19 infections, the California Department of Public Health has postponed the issuance of its updated youth sports guidance. The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) does not expect the CDPH will issue any guidance allowing for schools to return to full practice and competition until after January 1, 2021, at the earliest. Thus, all full practice and competition start dates are officially on hold until updated guidance is issued. Therefore, to provide the 10 CIF Sections, our 1,605 member schools, and more than

800,000 student-athletes the best opportunity to compete in Season 1 Sports, once allowed by the CDPH and local county offices of public health, the CIF State Office is removing all Regional and State Championship events from the Season 1 Sports calendar. By canceling Regional and State Championship events, more student-athletes will have the opportunity to participate in a longer season, rather than a truncated season with Regional and State post-season play for a limited number of schools.

Additionally, boys volleyball will be moved to Season 2 to avoid the loss of a second full season, and an updated Season 2 calendar to include boys volleyball will be posted in January. The CIF is confident this decision is a necessary and reasonable action for our member schools, student-athletes, and school communities in light of the current statewide crisis. This revision to the CIF State 2020-21 Season 1 Sports calendar offers our Sections and Leagues the flexibility and needed time to plan for the return to practice and competition once updated guidance is provided by the CDPH.

A MEMO FROM MULKERRINS

Mr. Mulkerrins

SI Athletic Director

The governor's office has completed a planned return to athletics. However, with the recent spikes in COVID-19 cases, the publication of this document has been paused and will be released when the cases are minimized. In the meantime, under current directives from the San Francisco Public Health Department, Wildcat teams are working out in Strength and Conditioning pods wearing facemasks and following social distance guidelines.

Once Governor Newsom releases this document, and then after the CIF, CCS, and WCAL make their adjustments to the current schedules, the San Francisco Public Health Department will make the guidelines that all San Francisco Schools must adhere to. Once this document has been reviewed by all those parties, the SI Athletic Department will be able to release specific information about high school sports, tryout information, etc. Please see flow chart below:



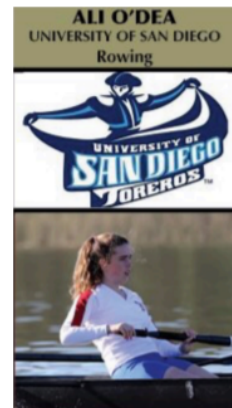
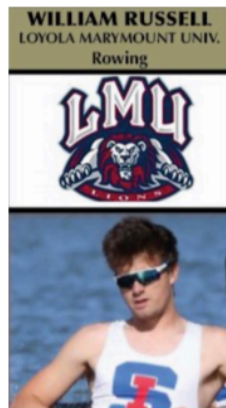
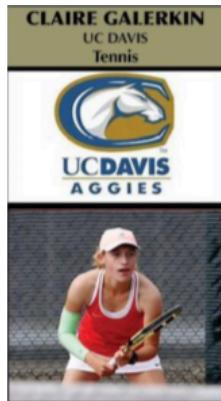
SENIOR SPOTLIGHT - CONGRATULATIONS!

Lola Cerchiai '22

Contributing Editor

Congratulations to all of the wonderful athletes who signed on November 12 for College Signing day. We recognize your hard work and dedication to the sports you play and are so excited for what your future holds. The accomplishments you have received are amazing. We are also very honored that you will represent SI in the winter and spring seasons of 2021. Check out additional SI student college signings in our next issue. Best of luck in the future for these wildcats.

Go CATS!



OPINION: SHOULD SKI RESORTS OPEN THIS WINTER?

Maya Macnew '22

Contributing Editor

Despite the pandemic having shut down multiple sporting and tourist attractions, the coming Winter might be more exciting with the possibility of skiing and snowboarding resorts reopening in the U.S. On August 27th, 2020 the CEO of Vail Resorts published a letter to the public announcing what the ski season would look like for its 34 Northern American resorts this Winter. Many ski resorts not associated with Vail Resorts have followed their lead for safe operation.

Resorts are planning on requiring face coverings, gloves, and social distancing on the mountain, including on chairlifts, gondolas, and lift lines and will limit crowds by requiring advance ticket sales. Despite the announced plans, there is still concern that these measures may not be enough and that ski resorts should be shut down for public safety reasons.

Personally, I believe the measures these ski resorts are planning for reopening are more than adequate and will ensure a safe experience during the pandemic for guests. Unlike many other activities, most people wear masks or face coverings anyway while skiing or snowboarding in order to protect them from the wind or cold, so masks won't be an onerous or unusual requirement.

In addition, most patrons already wear gloves to protect their hands from the cold. The only issues would be social distancing, as people might want to embrace or talk with their masks lowered on the slopes. However, as long as people only sit with the group they are traveling with and avoid crowds, there will be limited risk of spreading COVID-19 to people not in their party, especially since almost all the time will be spent outside.

For many people, myself included, skiing and snowboarding is one of the most popular activities in the Winter, and the thought of fresh powder being untouched on an empty mountain is devastating. One way or another, people will find a way to ski or snowboard, whether that is trespassing onto a mountain or backcountry skiing in unsafe conditions in which they could get hurt. These risks could be easily prevented by opening ski resorts in which people can safely have fun doing the things they love. If these precautions are taken then the mountains should open so we can all have fun and be outside together.



At this ski resort in Washington extra precautions for social distancing such as masking up and standing at least six feet apart were highly recommended for attendees. This will probably be what most ski resorts look like in the near future. (Photo: New York Magazine)



THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A COVID-19 VACCINE

Spencer Philipps '24

Contributing Editor

On Monday, November 9th pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and BioTeva announced the successful testing of a vaccine for COVID-19.

Later that week on Wednesday, Moderna reported that it too had finished developing a vaccine. Their tests report a 94.5% effectiveness.

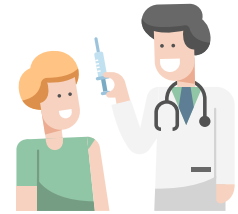
According to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the US government plans to produce and deliver 300 million vaccines beginning in January of 2021 under Operation Warp Speed. They also reassured the public that these vaccines would be safe and effective.

Both companies will be involved in Operation Warp Speed. According to Moncef Slaoui, the head distributor of the vaccine, vaccinations could be available as soon as December 11th or 12th. The first recipients will be first responders such as doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals, and essential workers.

If 70% or so of the population were immunized this would allow for true herd immunity to take place," said Slaoui. "That is likely to happen somewhere in the month of May, or something like that based on our plans."

Junior Aiden Wong said that the new vaccines will bring "much-needed hope for the American economy, especially retail businesses, just in time for the holiday season."

America has been hit particularly hard by the virus, with an estimated death count of over 260,000 as of Thanksgiving. With the advent of these vaccines, there's finally light at the end of the tunnel.



KAMALA HARRIS: FIRST FEMALE, BLACK, AND SOUTH ASIAN VICE PRESIDENT

Simone Idiart '23 & Reilly Derrick '22

Contributing & Managing Editors

Kamala Harris, the daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants, was born right around the corner in Oakland.

Harris is a very experienced politician, having previously served as Attorney General of California and as a US Senator. In 2019 Harris decided to run for president, but instead watched as Biden became the Democratic nominee for president. This was not the end for Harris.

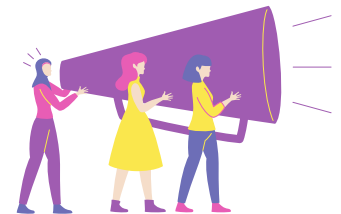
In August of 2020, Joe Biden announced Kamala Harris as his running mate for the 2020 election following the civil unrest taking place in the United States. The public was pushing for a female vice presidential candidate, specifically a BIPOC female, and Biden delivered.

After a long and hard-fought campaign, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris emerged as the winners of the 2020 election. This was a historic win as Kamala Harris will now become the first female, Black, and South-Asian American Vice President.

Kamala Harris has been a first in many positions throughout her career, but she has now shattered one of the biggest glass ceilings in government. Her mother, Shyamala Harris, was a big influence in her life; as Harris has mentioned many times, "My mother would look at me and she'd say, 'Kamala, you may be the first to do many things, but make sure you are not the last.'" Maya McClain '21 commented about the significance of Harris's new role

Vice President-elect, saying "For there to be an Asian, and a South Asian, in this role is huge for the entirety of the Asian American community. My grandparents immigrated to the US from India, and for them to see themselves represented in the second-highest office in the country means a lot.

Kamala Harris's ground-breaking victory has allowed many women and people of color to see themselves finally represented in our leaders and to ignite some hope.



ERIC GOOSBY '70: INFLUENCING AMERICA' HEALTH

Leia Kwan '23 and Nina Schmidt '23

Contributing Editors

Dr. Eric Goosby, SI class of 1970, has recently been appointed to the Biden COVID task force. In 2017, Dr. Goosby was awarded SI's Spiritus Magis Award for his outstanding work in the medical field, particularly AIDS research.

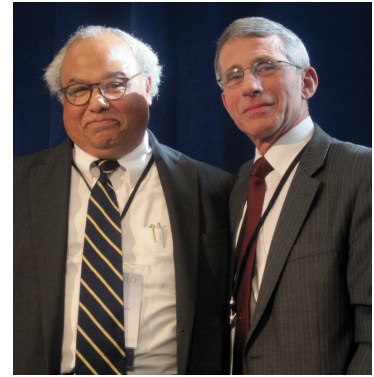
Dr. Goosby is a professor of medicine at UCSF and is one of three UCSF faculty members appointed to the thirteen-person board. He will be joined by colleagues David A. Kessler and Robert M. Rodriguez to advise the president and vice president-elect.

"The Advisory Board will shape my approach to managing the surge in reported infections; ensuring vaccines are safe, effective, and distributed efficiently, equitably, and free; and protecting at-risk populations," Biden said, stating his further endeavors in regards to the pandemic.

Aside from being an expert on infectious diseases, Dr. Goosby has an impressive resume. He was a founding director of the Ryan White CARE Act and a notable coordinator of President Obama's Global AIDS relief plan. He was the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Tuberculosis,

and served under two, soon to be three, presidential administrations.

Dr. Goosby, throughout his prestigious career, has truly been able to embody the sole message of SI throughout his work: men and women, with and for others.



Dr. Eric Goosby stands on the left of Dr. Fauci.

THE SHOW GOES ONLINE

Megan O'Sullivan '22 & Lauren Keim '22

Contributing Editors

Every holiday season over 75,000 people flock to the War Memorial Opera House in San Francisco to see the San Francisco Ballet's performances of the Nutcracker and experience the flood of holiday joy it brings. This San Francisco tradition goes back to 1944 when SF Ballet presented America's first complete Nutcracker ballet; SF's holiday tradition soon spread to every major ballet company in the country.



SF Ballet's The Nutcracker moves online. Despite COVID-19, holiday joy lives on.

Many families celebrate three generations of attendance at this annual event and were very disappointed when SF Ballet announced that they were canceling Nutcracker performances for the first time this winter due to Covid-19.

Since March, all SF Ballet live performances have been canceled and have been streamed online to a record-breaking one and a half million people. The San Francisco Ballet has announced that they will also be streaming the Nutcracker performance online instead of the traditional live performances.

The San Francisco Ballet website is also offering a survey for the community to offer suggestions and ideas for how we can get through these times while still upholding these holiday traditions. Even though we cannot all be together to enjoy these performances, the holiday joy of the Nutcracker lives on despite COVID-19.



DEAR SANTA

Philip Luongo '23 Contributing Editor

From the Senior Class of 2021 – Dear Santa, please get us back to campus in time to have a senior prom, in time for a Senior Sunset at the Beach with an actual sunset, in time to enjoy having senioritis, and in time for an in person graduation.

From the Freshman Class of 2024 – Dear Santa, please get rid of the virus so we can clog the 1st floor hallways so no one else can get by.

From the Sophomore Class of 2023 – Dear Santa, kill the virus so we can drive to school and park in the faculty spaces.

From the Junior Class of 2022 – Dear Santa, keep the virus just long enough to kill off any idea of colleges reinstituting the SAT or ACT exams for admissions.

From Donna DeBenedetti – Dear Santa, end the virus so I don't have to teach from outside through my classroom window when it's raining.

From Roger and Ginger – Dear Santa, bring back the kids and all those food treats – enough of Fr. reese's Weight Watchers for Doggies.

From SI Baseball – Dear Santa, we want to play last year's Bruce Game and keep the trophy at SI – come on, play ball, Santa!

From SI Buildings Staff – Dear Santa, please, please, please stop the pandemic before they make us tear down any more shelves, cabinets, and walls to fit in one more desk in a hybrid classroom.

From Ted Curry and SI Drama actors – Dear Santa, we have two shows waiting for audiences, please reopen the theatres so we can Lend a Tenor to Pippin!

From Father Steigler – Dear Santa, please end the virus so we can get back to school. I have too much candy and don't want to eat it by myself.

From Mr. Patterson – Dear Santa, please make my students laugh at my jokes – it hurts to teach to dead silence in Zoom.

From the Deans – Dear Santa, send kids back so we can send someone to detention!

From Mr. Gotch – Dear Santa, even though I am no longer a dean, make sure to drop off coal to my "special list of criminals" which I have enclosed. You know who they are (and so do they!).

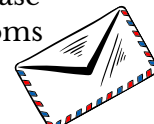
From the Crew Team – Dear Santa, please give us more erg equipment so we can suffer on our 2ks even more than before covid.

From Ms. Sanchez – Dear Santa, I'm gonna hit you with a field hockey stick if we don't get to play any games this year!

From the WWC -- Dear Santa, please end covid so we can continue to embarrass ourselves in front of the 8th grade parents. We love making up facts when we don't know the answer.

From the English Department – Dear Santa, please help us so we don't send students to breakout rooms never to find them again.

From the Kitchen Staff – Dear Santa, end the virus so we can celebrate once again with bread bowl days on campus. We left you some milk and Commons Cookies as a bribe.



Wyatt Brichler '21, Maya McClain '21

Contributing and Managing Editor

With the holiday season in full swing, it's the time of year for hot cocoa, Christmas carols, sweet treats, and a Christmas staple -- Hallmark holiday movies. Films like *Our Christmas Love Song*, *A Christmas Prince*, *A Shoe Addict's Christmas*, and *Mingle All the Way* are defining aspects of the holiday season, bringing Christmas spirit and magic to homes all around the country. What you might not know is a few of our very own SI teachers have starred in their very own Hallmark Christmas movies.

A Christmas Black Hole—Ms. Kellar, a young physicist, travels to the small country of Herzoslovakia in order to do groundbreaking research on blackholes at the Herzoslovakia Institute of Math and Sciences. She begins tutoring a failing college student with an undeniable charm, but unbeknownst to her he is the crown prince of Herzoslovakia. Through the twists and turns of their romance, she breaks scientific barriers and discovers the true meaning of Christmas. *"When she's with him, time slows just as time slows past within the event horizon of a black hole."*



Black Holes on the Naughty List once again

Dark Souls of Christmas— Alone on Christmas Eve, evil scientist Mr. Maychrowitz spends his evening playing *Dark Souls*. After hours of staring at his monitor, he is teleported into the world of the game. After battling his way to the most powerful demon, Black Dragon Kalameet, the mad scientist has a change of heart, realizing instead of killing demons, he should show them love and compassion. In a moment of clarity, he befriends Black Dragon Kalameet. As he says goodbye to his new friend, ready to travel back home, he realizes the true meaning of Christmas. *"He holds the title the first pacifist speedrun of Dark Souls ever recorded"*

A Very Juanes Christmas— A young, bachelor Sr. Cafasso travels home to Argentina for Christmas weary, uninspired, and newly single. While taking a stroll around his neighborhood, he hears the sweet sound of *La Luz* by Juanes playing softly in the background. Through his recently discovered passion for Juanes, Cafasso discovers the true meaning of Christmas. *"He is loco de amor"*

A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

Lindsay Yamamura '22 Managing Editor

As the Christmas season grows near,
We start to welcome the spirit of holiday cheer.
Michael Bublé is playing on every radio station
And Mariah Carey becomes the anthem of the nation.
Decorations go up, houses are covered in lights,
And everyone's starting to move on from the past year's frights.
Congrats 2020 on being the longest year ever!
Everyone always claimed the Grinch was so clever,
But things are starting to take a turn for the better
With break coming soon and the perfect sweater weather.
Obviously, 2020 was filled with many stories to tell,
But I think we're all ready to say farewell.
With many Zooms coming to an end,
After the months of trying to make it our friend,
And the most wonderful time of the year coming soon



We were sure that this year would spell out our doom.
But with a vaccine on the way and the season for a winter coat,
It's looking like 2020 might end on a high note.
There are people celebrating and spreading cheer,
What a Christmas miracle to conclude the year.
So, to the five people who will read this
I wish you all a very Merry Christmas (or Hanukkah or Kwanzaa).



VOLUME 69 ISSUE 4
DECEMBER 6, 2020

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