

THE VOICE

The Official Student Newspaper of St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School

June 2018



2017-2018

Class of 2018

Congratulations Class of 2018!

Service: Making A Change

By Makeda Melkie '19

12:00 in the afternoon. Lunch time.

If you're at school you either grab your packed lunch that you made at home or wait in the lunch line, pick up a plate then proceed to punch in your code. You then go to your designated spot in school to eat your lunch, and once you're home you'll probably grab a snack and eat some dinner. On the weekends, you wake up to eat breakfast, brunch or an early lunch, and when you're feeling a bit peckish grab some snacks to hold you off until dinner in the evening. Or if that's not exactly how your day goes, what is certain is that you'll probably eat multiple meals throughout the day whether it be a full meal or a snack. Not only that, but you probably also have the luxury of deciding whether or not to make a home-cooked meal or go out to eat. However, not everyone has the privilege to do the same.

According to the Food Aid Foundation, an estimated 795 million people in the world currently don't have enough food to lead a healthy, active life. This is approximately 1/9 the of the world's population, and although most of these people statistically live in developing countries, the populations of more economically developed countries (MEDC's) also account for a portion of that percentage. In the United States specifically, about 1 in every 6 persons faces hunger. That's about 41 million people in America alone, according to the organization Feeding America. To tackle these issues, several organization and charities have started dedicated to eliminate this problem. Charities such as Action Against Hunger, Feeding America, and Meals on Wheels are just three of the thousands of charities that aim to end hunger both worldwide and nationwide.

Here at SSSAS, we have had partnerships with several different charities throughout the years that tackle hunger as well as a number of other problems. In the previous years we have had a partnership with Martha's Kitchen, a non-profit organization

located in D.C, for whom we would donate sandwiches that students prepared. However, this year we switched charities due to the fact that the sandwiches that we made were not a top priority for the organization anymore. Ms. Via, director of service learning and external engagement, stated that "it became clear that Martha's Table was no longer in any particular need of sandwiches. They were still in the business of addressing food insecurity, of course, but prepared sandwiches just weren't high on their needs list." It was then that with more research she discovered another lunch program that we could support at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, which is located in Old Town Alexandria.

For six days in a week the church prepares fresh lunches for those in need. On average they serve about 30 guests daily, and our school tries to help once a week by organizing packed lunches for the church. These usually consist of a sandwich, fruits, a snack of some sort and cookies for dessert. In addition, our cooking staff makes homemade soup that we freeze and take over to the church before lunch time. If you get a chance to go to the church itself, you would spend time at the church organizing the pre-packed lunches, heating up the soup as well as making some lemonade for the guests. At 11:30, you would then start to serve the guests.

William Reid '19, the club leader for Hunger Fighters, states that "The Objectives of Hunger Fighters are to provide information about food insecurity in our region and help to alleviate the problem through community service." His club, alongside Ms. Via, were the two main coordinators that organized our partnership with Meade Church. He recommended that students volunteer to help with bagged lunches because "they are helping to serve the poor, unemployed, forgotten, and underprivileged in our community," a valuable

continued on pg. 4

Yearbook by Newspaper

By Afua Nyantakyi '18

While it might seem cliché, the yearbook operates much like a well oiled machine--if well oiled machines were bursting with personality, creative ideas, and visible dedication.

When I first walked into the yearbook classroom, I was slightly surprised by how it worked. I saw busy minds at work in a simultaneously organized and relaxed environment. Students were hauling out pages and pages of carefully edited yearbook supplements but also floating around the room tossing about jokes, thoughts, and opinions in a place where they all seemed at home. It's a balanced system they have going, which they seem to have perfected at this point.

According to Sports Editor Jadyn Chandler '18, "On a normal day, we come in, all say hi to each other--we're a really close knit group, so always cracking jokes, and at the beginning of a season, with our editors, we all decide what we're each going to do and what we want to cover. Once all of that is done, we go back to the normal thing which is getting pictures and making pages."

While the yearbook seems to only pop into our minds at the very end of the year when we're looking to reminisce, the yearbook staff seems to have it on their minds 24/7. Editor, Georgia Tritak '18 informed the newspaper that the yearbook process begins well before the school year even starts. "My job along with the other editors of course, is that every spring, the underclassmen make pitch projects to decide what next year's theme is going to be. And over the summer, the editor's job is to start planning out the book, use what we've taken from the pitch project, which often times consists of the details of the book such as what it's gonna look like, what the theme is, how the theme is going to play into the rest of the book... etc. Then over the summer the editors

continued on pg. 2



Goodbye, Afua and Jamie



Jamie McLucas '18

When I signed up for Newspaper, I had no clue what I was getting into. But don't be fooled by the negative connotations of what I just said--I wouldn't trade it for anything.

One thing that I discovered fairly early on in my time with *The Voice* is that the creative and self-directed nature of reporting is much more fun and engaging than other writing assignments I had done in the past. In compiling interviews and other information, it often seems as though stories come together on their own, with each new perspective both becoming a part of the product and shaping the rest of the investigation. That being said, while I haven't yet gotten a story to physically write and edit itself, the work is relatively straightforward, so if you're reading this, you definitely have room for Newspaper in your schedule next fall!

All else aside, I have benefited from this class in a number of ways. For example, by reaching out to people and conducting so many interviews, I have become very comfortable interacting with those I may not know well or at all. Secondly, I have branched out and gotten to know some people I probably wouldn't have otherwise as a result of being in contact with various members of the school community, including students, administrators, and even faculty from the other campuses.

In the interviews themselves, I have found that no matter how well thought out or loaded your questions are, the best responses come from the most fluid conversations, which means improvising and letting conversations run their most natural course possible. This has helped me learn how to keep my composure in, for example, college interviews, during which you may have some idea as to what you will be asked, but you will always have to figure out exactly what to say on the spot. Beyond college interviews, I have also become much more adept at handling and expressing myself in more formal and adult interactions as a whole, which I find to be very rewarding.

Lastly, and much more broadly, it has directly reinforced my desire to continue to develop as a writer. While I don't plan on studying journalism, I do hope to remain involved somehow, likely by working for a campus publication at my college. However, I certainly want to take English classes because, as my time with *The Voice* has helped engrain in me, being able to present thoughts and information clearly and concisely is oftentimes

not easy. In addition, as my dad has more severely pounded into my brain, I understand that this skill is extremely important in most fields of work.

To conclude, let me explain the moral of what I'm trying to say: If you take newspaper, you will gain all the knowledge you will ever need to succeed, and your whole life will come together before your very eyes. In all seriousness, though, being a part of *The Voice* really has benefited me, and I am thankful that I was able to be a part of it.

By Afua Nyantakyi '18

Years... plural. I can't believe that it's been years since my first newspaper class. For me, joining newspaper was something that I had always wanted to do but shelved away as another elective that I "might" try if schedule permitted. However, not even my tendency to procrastinate doing things that I actually want to do would stop me from becoming a part of it. The summer before sophomore year, Mr. Marvin emailed me letting me know about a glitch in my schedule. With the classes I was taking and the extra sophomore ethics and HHS classes, there was a problem with the layout of my schedule. One semester, I would be left with no free periods, and before that I'd have two of them. Unfortunately (and, later, fortunately) I was unaware of how much of a blessing two free periods could be and jumped at the chance to add a class to my first semester schedule. Mr. Marvin informed me that newspaper would fit the time slot perfectly, and then it was settled.

My first newspaper class was frankly

a little bit scary. The class took place in the computer lab then, and I gladly hid myself behind my giant desktop, poking my head out occasionally to make sure I was down for attendance. During our first story ideas brainstorming session, I pitched an idea for a story on fan culture because I was a huge fandom participant at the time. (I will under no circumstances admit what I was obsessed with.) Along with a look into the fall play, *The 39 Steps*, I was assigned to work on the fan culture story as a joint story with Eden Solomon.

Things continued the same: silence, occasional speaking, and communicating mainly through google docs with Eden, all until the first draft check in. Let's just say my first "article" was more like an English essay, equipped with fluff, run-ons, and mile-long paragraphs. Something about having five upperclassmen and a teacher viciously laser through your first article really breaks you out of your shell. After that came so much bonding, tons of laughs and an incredible list of rejected headlines.

I want to thank everyone who's been a part of newspaper in years past and years to come. Being a part of this class has done so much for me, from allowing me to have a creative outlet during the school day to forcing me to push past any shyness for the sake of investigative journalism.

As my last few sentences written for *The Voice*, I want to remind everyone of something super important that even I didn't fully believe until this year: Journalism isn't dead, it never was. It'll forever be valuable and necessary to our ever changing world. (And if you're reading this, take Journalism next year)



Yearbook Cont.

meet up to work on things like color scheme, page ideas and more."

Many students dedicate time inside and outside of the classroom to meet their fixed deadlines. Jadyn Chandler '18 relayed that she typically works more outside of class on days when a deadline is approaching. "The beginning of the year is very hectic because that's when all of the senior stuff is booming, such as senior words and senior pictures, but once that calms down, things return to normal for the most part." However, Jadyn still works outside of the classroom even during calmer times. "Naturally, as a senior, I have more responsibility so sometimes I'll get a good idea and I need to do it before I forget, or people will send me pictures or I hear about something in the school that it'd like to have."

Despite the constant pressure that comes with working under such strict deadlines, underneath all of the hardwork is a foundation of love and appreciation for one another. Mrs. Sandoval emphasized how integral every member is to the process.

"Everyone's been able to really find their niche in the class, that they feel really strongly about. For example, AC [Veith] always makes sure we're on track, making a list of we still

need to do and what's been done. And that's kind of her way to contribute or she'll harp on someone who hasn't done whatever they need to do. Charlotte Fonham, she helps me with all the grammar stuff and she will reread things or help me work out things that I need to figure out. So they've all had their little pieces in really creative ideas. Everyone's had a really nice role. And our underclassmen have really stepped up since they realize that there's only 4 of them."

In addition to their complex system, yearbook finds time to have fun, whether it's occasionally watching *The Office* together, or participating in their own take on the "swear jar." Mrs. Sandoval explained: "There's a lot of lively language that's used in the room, and for some reason - I don't know how it started - but there was this box in the corner that was from the old computer lab, and whenever you said a bad word, you have to put something in the box. And it doesn't matter what you put in the box, so people would crumple up their piece of paper and put it in the box."

Now, if you're a real fan of both the yearbook and the newspaper, you're probably wondering how this story even came into existence. From an outsiders perspective, you might ask, "Aren't yearbook and newspaper, like, mortal enemies or something?" Well,

according to most members of the yearbook and the newspaper, you can rest easy. That "beef" seems to be nothing more than a little fun.

Jadyn said, "I think it's very funny actually, very typical high school: yearbook vs newspaper battling it out."

When asked about the potential rivalry, Georgia Tritak initially graced us with an answer of "no comment" but later opened up admitting that "There is none. It's all a big joke, I know I talk about it all the time, but it's all a fake thing that we made up for fun."

Mrs. Sandoval also acknowledged that each group has a solid place in the school. "I think they have very different purposes, both of which are extremely important to our community."

Regardless of whether this "beef" was ever real, consider this article an olive branch, and *The Voice* encourages students who are thinking of joining a new class or club to go where their hearts desire. As a parting senior message, Jadyn said "I definitely encourage underclassmen, rising sophomores and rising freshmen to join yearbook. I really love my yearbook family and it's been an amazing experience."

Farewell Faculty Q & A

By Jackson Reynolds '19, Nick Dupuis '19 and Christian Herlitze '19

Questions:

1. What are your plans for next year?
2. What is one special memory from your time at SSSAS
3. Do you have any parting words for your current and former students?
4. If you weren't teaching, what career field would you like to be in?

Answers

Ms. Canfield



1. So, next year I will be the Director of Academics at Episcopal High School
2. Last year I went to Shrinemont with my advisees who I have had for four years, and that was a special memory because we got so much time together, and I felt like I got to know them even more as they were headed off to college.
3. When I think back to when I was in high school and some things I wish I had known, I think high school is the last time you all reach for the same goal. Everyone wants, in this school at least, to go to college, and that can feel really overwhelming and my advice would be, after everyone reaches for that goal, after senior year your lives will go off in wonderful and different paths.
4. I would want to study linguistics. I was also a foreign language major - I was a Slavic language major in college, I lived abroad for a while, and have always had an interest in languages.

Ms. Alemdar



1. I am moving to Cleveland, primarily for Hank the septopus. :) My partner, my three boys and I are also moving to be closer to family. I will

continue teaching Spanish at an independent school there.

2. I say with complete sincerity that it is hard to pick just one. SSSAS has been my home for the past 5 years, and I really grew professionally and personally here. I had all three of my children, fought cancer and developed as an educator, all with the incredible support of friends and colleagues here, as well as our wonderfully thoughtful and talented students. This really is a special community, and I know I am lucky to be a part of it.

3. Immigration or international law to really put my bilingual skills to work helping families. I almost ended up at W&L law instead of UVA for grad school in Spanish.

4. I will miss you. Thank you for sharing with me just what incredible people you are.

As for advice: Play. Explore. Be kind.

Ms. Viegas



1. So next year I will be staying at home with my daughter and this new baby to come. We don't know the sex, it is going to be a surprise. I am expecting a baby in a couple weeks so my plan is to spend more time with my family and be with my kids.

2. Well, there are a lot of special memories. I would say one special memory is some of the trips I have taken with students. I have traveled with students to Spain and Argentina on language immersion trips and I have traveled with students on service learning trips to West Virginia with Habitat for Humanity. And I would say just one other thing, because it isn't one specific memory but this happens multiple times, is seeing how the community comes together to love and support each other during difficult times and also during times of celebration, for example, Multicultural Night, Evening of the Arts, Homecoming, sporting events, and some more difficult times as well.

3. I would like to say how much I have loved teaching here. This has been a great place to work. I've absolutely loved getting to know my students in and outside of the classroom through extracurriculars and seeing how their language skills developed over time, and I would just like to say best of luck to the students here at Saint Stephen's and Saint Agnes. This school and my students will always have a very special place in my heart and I have learned a lot from them.

4. I can't really imagine not teaching, number one, but I guess if I was not teaching I could see myself working as a social worker or working in some capacity with immigrants or refugees and working in some sort of capacity in which I help and support people who are new to our country.

Mr. Mills



1. I am starting a new job at St. Albans school. I will be the junior class dean and teach US history and economics.

2. Oh my gosh, I hate questions like this. Thirteen years, you know, my fondest memories are working with students when things aren't going perfectly well for them and helping them make the right decisions. Some great moments in the classroom teaching US government and history, and some great moments on the softball field.

3. Always do your best, this institution and the people around you deserve that. Be honest, and work hard and take care of one another.

4. Probably an astronomer. An amateur, not professional. I don't like the physics of it, I just like the visual aspect of astronomy.

Ms. Lewis



1. I am going to Norte Dame Prep. in Baltimore where I will be an administrator, and I will be director of community development and inclusion.

2. Oh my gosh, I have so many, especially relating to my interactions with students, but I think a special moment was when I first came on campus and was lost and Torie Cox saw that I was lost and frantic, and without hesitation, she asked if she could help me. That was very special because I was scared. The students remained helpful and kind.

3. Do it to it.

4. If I weren't teaching I would always be in school because I am a lifelong learner, and I love education and where I'm going is the next best move for me to be an administrator.

Service Cont.

experience as they would be able "to make lasting change in the community."

Kathryn Atkinson '20 says, "My favorite part of doing service and food distribution is seeing the smiles on everyone's faces and seeing how happy and blessed they were to have the food."

I've personally been at the church twice and I saw several familiar faces from when I first went. The first time I went it was alongside my basketball teammates. We all came in before school to make the packed lunches, which everyone contributed to by bringing in the ingredients and things that we would pack. Fortunately, I and two of my teammates were also able to actually go to the church and help serve the meals. It was there where we met a group of some of the sweetest people. Everyone was laughing and joking around and it felt like 'home away from home'.

The main coordinator of the charity at the church is Miss Janet, a sweet, hardworking woman who works endlessly to make sure everything runs smoothly and on time. Her week is jam packed not only with the food run but with her administrative responsibilities that she holds.

"People have the misconception that working at a church is easy," she states, but her position is anything but that. For every day of the week she has a list of things to do,

and little time to complete it, but she always has a positive attitude about everything she does, explaining, "I have a compassion for the underprivileged and a passion for the disillusioned and the ostracized." Even though as a kid she wanted to be a writer she says that she has no regrets in the position that she ended up in. "This isn't something that I planned for my life. This is something God gave me, and I was obedient."

Miss Janet has been a part of this church for a long time and maintains the position that it is a very fulfilling and worthwhile position. She has gotten to know the guests who come to the church and hear their stories and said, "sometimes I have to come in here [her office] just to keep myself from bust out crying because some of their stories are just incredible." She thinks that sometimes people don't come in just looking for food, but just for another person to talk to.

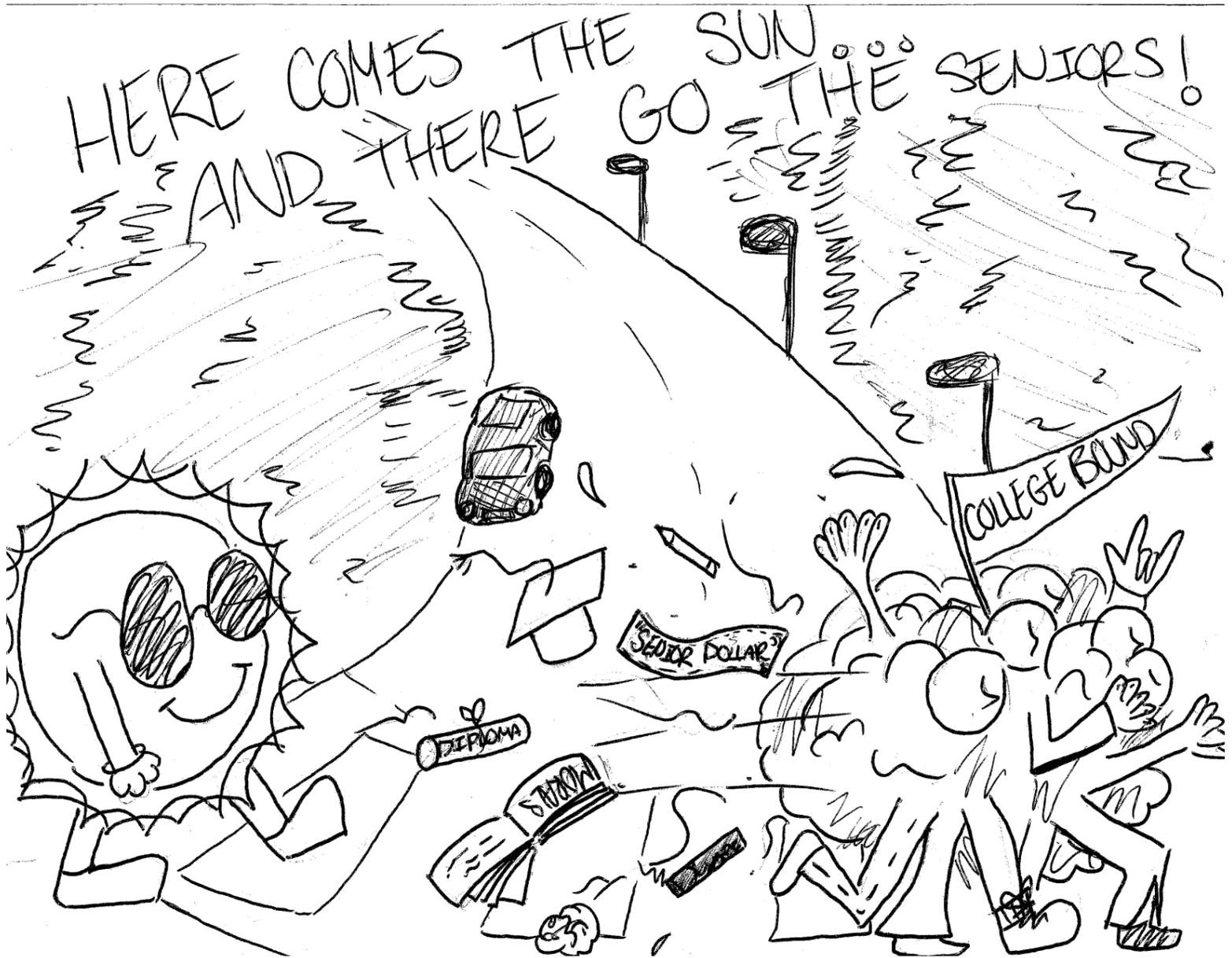
In terms of logistics, the church partners with ALIVE and Target ® and every Monday she has to send a list of groceries to ALIVE. On Wednesdays Target ® delivers the food, all of which is gone by Friday and the whole cycle repeats itself every week.

Ms. Via highly recommends that if you haven't volunteered this year that you should attempt to do so in the coming years. It is a highly rewarding program and if you go to

the church itself you get to interact with the guests and learn their stories. According to Ms. Via, many of the volunteers are retirees, "and so I think it's been really special to have young people get involved this year."

As for next year, SSSAS will hopefully be starting a new partnership with two new organizations. The first is Charles Barrett Elementary School, a public school in Alexandria, in which SSSAS students will have the opportunity to tutor 1st - 3rd grade who are English-language learners. This will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and our school will provide transportation to and from the elementary. Ms. Via says that "it's going to be a great way to make a meaningful difference in the life of a child in our community."

The second partnership in the works is with the residents of L'Arche of Greater Washington. L'Arche is a program that is "dedicated to creating homes, programs and support networks with (notice the preposition is "with" not "for") people who have intellectual disabilities," Ms. Via says "and we will have the opportunity to prepare and share in an evening meal with L'Arche residents once a month." She also states that it is a wonderful opportunity in which we get to know people in our community and get to "love our neighbors as ourselves and to honor the dignity of every person as a child of God."



Cartoon drawn by Sophia Silis '19

The Voice Staff:

Jamie McLucas '18	(Editor)
Afua Nyantakyi '18	(Editor)
Makeda Melkie '19	(Staff Writer)
Jackson Reynolds '19	(Staff Writer)
Nicholas Dupuis '19	(Staff Writer)
Christian Herlitze '19	(Staff Writer)
Mrs. McElroy	(Faculty Advisor)

In

CAPITALS
 EVGENY KUZNETSOV
 CAPITALS
 ALEX OVECHKIN
 CAPITALS
 ANDRE BURAKOVSKY
 CAPITALS

Out

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS
 ARTEMI PANARIN
 PITTSBURGH PENGUINS
 SIDNEY CROSBY
 TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING
 STEVEN STAMKOS
 VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS