

# THE VOICE

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## OMG, You Have to See Legally Blonde!

By Helen Cunningham '16



**Clockwise from left: Sam Kadlec '18, Ellen Stevens '15, Stephany Guadalupe '17, Sasha Koch '17, Adele Reardon '17, Sarah Wilton '16, Mey McLean '15, Iona McLean '15, and Afua Nyantakyi '18 as the Greek Chorus come to Elle's aid at Harvard.**

Fun. This is the word that best summarizes the SSSAS winter production of Legally Blonde. It is pure, sweet fun to watch the collage of color and enthusiasm unfold. Though there were quite a few first-time actors this year, including a few dogs in the spotlights, the entire cast had a chemistry that felt like they had been working together for far longer than a couple months.

In fact, the cast and crew of this year's winter musical have faced their share of adversity. All of the snow days really hurt their rehearsal times during the week, and to combat this they all put in long hours on the weekends. They even had to postpone their opening night and instead open on a Saturday. Still, through it all, everyone managed to put on a great show. Their hard work and dedication was evident upon seeing their performance. One only has to sit in the auditorium to feel the energy wafting from the meticulously choreographed dance numbers.

The performance contains humorous, serious, and even provocative elements. Each moment is interwoven into Elle Woods' coming-of-age narrative. Elle is a California sorority girl who loves pink and decides to apply to Harvard Law. Even though she is a graduate from college, old enough to be considered an adult, Elle does not yet know her calling in life. She takes a big risk in leaving all that she knows to pursue a law degree in the East, something no one, even her family, would ever expect of her. She follows her heart and realizes that being true to herself is more important than fitting in.

Kyla Carney '17, made a convincing turn as an innocent but intelligent Elle Woods. Carney donned a number of sparkly, flashy, and fashionable costumes for the role, but the most

compelling part of her performance was her portrayal of Elle as irresistibly annoying. After each high-pitched squeal or "ohmigod," the audience wanted so much to write Elle off, but it was just impossible to dislike such a positive, caring, and tireless girl.

The members of Elle's Greek chorus were standouts also, contributing beautiful harmonies, motivational words, and enthusiastic dance moves. The male leads likewise presented strong performances. Alex Collins '15 as Emmett, and Josh Movius '15 as Warner, played Elle's contrasting love interests. Movius channeled a delightful shallowness that became even more humorous with each change of love interest. Collins was believably smart and sympathetic to Elle's struggles while at Harvard. He and Carney not only worked well together in their spoken scenes, but also in their poignant singing duets.

The performance truly was a team effort, with tech people working on lights and sound, a full pit band backstage, makeup and costume teams, a set crew, design teams, stage managers, and many teachers making the musical all come together. Even the small details of the musical, such as the artworks displayed in the café dinner scene, were contributed by students. The sheer number of people involved is clear from the extensive program, in which each person highlights what they are most passionate about.

At the surface, Legally Blonde seems like a musical that would only appeal to a select few people. The SSSAS Stage One Players, however, prove that Elle's story is timeless, one that parallels all of our journeys to finding ourselves and what and who we love.

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## Cultivating Cultures: Affinity Groups at SSSAS

By Lucy Verheggen '15

SSSAS prides itself on community. Just like tuning one single string on a guitar creates a better sound, in order to strengthen our community, sometimes smaller groups within it need to focus on themselves.

Many people won't feel comfortable talking about personal and complicated issues with anyone and everyone. "I think that it's important that everyone has a place where they can talk freely and openly about things that concern them," says Caroline Curran '16. This is where the Affinity Groups here at SSSAS come in.

Schools across the country implement the use of affinity groups, otherwise known as a group that shares a similar identifier with one another, and SSSAS is no different. There are many groups here at the school, each with a teacher and student leader, that allow for students to speak out in an environment in which they feel comfortable. "I want to make sure every student has the same great experience here at school, and I think affinity groups help those outside of the majority feel as though they can participate more," adds Ms. Davis.

Affinity groups are also put in place because, according to Joshua Reed '15, "truthfully, a majority, to a certain degree, cannot understand the culture from which they aren't a part of." Therefore, these groups can come together to talk about the experiences they share. And these groups do not all have to do with race. An affinity group is for any minority.

The Women's Affinity group, led by Mrs. McElroy, Ms. Cranford, and Caroline Curran, meets every other Thursday at lunch to talk about issues and current events that specifically pertain to women and to girls. So far this year, they've spoken about body image, clothing and dress code, and rape controversies in colleges and other news stories. Caroline believes these meetings are important "because sometimes it's

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# Affinity Cont.

the only place someone can talk about issues candidly and without feeling self-conscious. It can be hard to find a place where everyone is willing to listen."

Joshua is the appointed student leader of AAMATE, the African American men's affinity group. Meeting two or three times a month, the group talks about "our shared experiences as black men, experiences with racism, and building camaraderie between the black males in the school. Pride, leadership, and self-love are also recurring themes."

He wants to stress that AAMATE "is talking about shared experiences. It is not about division, it is about having pride in who you are and where you came from."

Tara Laughlin '15, a member of the Asian-American affinity group led by Mr. Yee, agrees, saying, "[affinity groups] not just provide a safe space for people to identify, but to create a space without the contradiction or challenge to that identity that may exist in mixed spaces."

Betty Kufrom '15, a member of Sisterhood, the African-American women's affinity group, adds, "Affinity groups are not

designed to assemble people to judge or say hateful things about others, but it is a place of relatability and support. Most of us can relate to the being the only black girl or person in the class during our day. Although we go to a very welcoming school, it can still feel a bit isolating being of a minority, so affinity groups just help support and uplift those as a minority and bring people confidence."

Meeting once a month and led by Ms. Davis, Betty says that rather than talking about others in their group, Sisterhood spends a lot of time talking about other things. "School is big thing we talk about, the media, what's going on in our community and what's going on globally, and hair. Although it it my seem a bit egotistical to spend a lot a time about hair, for African-American women it is more than showing off the most recent fad, but about our identity."

If these groups are so central to speaking about such important matters in a controlled, safe environment, then why is there the misconception that these groups are perhaps too exclusive, and maybe even racist? Ms. Davis believes that "Often times, we automatically

are uncomfortable because we are 'left out' of something, so to speak, so naturally we feel like the people who leave us out are talking about us. But I like to tell people that Affinity Groups are not about the people outside of the Affinity Group. We have class meetings sometimes, and those are a type of Affinity Group- the tenth grade isn't talking about seniors, they're talking about the things they need to do to be successful."

Ms. Davis wants to work to help everyone here at SSSAS understand that these groups have been put in place not to divide the community, but rather to bring the community together. "In the future, I hope that we can have something called 'open door day' for our groups. This way, students who may not be a part of that minority can see what they talk about, and maybe it will help them feel less excluded."

And of course, she encourages everyone to ask questions. "This is a debated topic inside and outside of school, and I hope that students will come to me any time to discuss any questions they have. My door is always open."

## Ping Pong: A Gift from the Gods

By Torrae Scott '15

A long, long time ago, Zeus and his brethren were quarreling at dinner over who was the superior tennis player. In the midst of their bickering, Zeus slammed his fist into the table and, subsequently, created a miniature set for them to determine whose skill was greater. With this action, Ping Pong was born. Passed down from the Gods of Olympus, Ping Pong has continued to grow in popularity across the continent. The infectious fun game of table tennis debuted as an Olympic sport in 1998. Since then, the game has become a competitive pastime for casual players and professionals alike.

The senior class of 2015 has officially crowned itself as the best players around and has backed that argument by accepting to play Gonzaga at Gonzaga. Tryouts began on March 2nd, in the senior lounge, and now that the team has fully upgraded its arsenal, it is ready to take on 'Zaga.

*The Voice* sat down with Ping Pong captain Lucas Gomez Acebo '15 to discuss the

story behind the upcoming matchup: "It's our first match, and that means we have to make a statement. Word travels fast about Ping Pong talent, and we aim to become a powerhouse."

But how did Gonzaga come to know of our Ping Pong squad? Lucas said, "Apparently one of their players was in contact with our Ping Pong club leader, Josiah McKay '16, and after hearing that the club had been established, promptly challenged us to a match."

"As a Ping Pong team, fundamentally we are strong," Lucas said, "and we have an elite 7 players of Vargas, Marshall, Hartshorn, Van Buren and, of course, Kwame, led by Perry and I. With all of us working together, we should be able to overcome anything, especially winning this tournament."

Mr. Lowinger, the club's faculty advisor, said: "Personally, I think Gonzaga is trying to duck us, but when we catch them, they're going down. They confirmed a date on March 8th and I had already requested transportation for the matchup but on that Saturday they contacted me and canceled the match because the gym would supposedly be 'occupied.'" A rematch has not been scheduled.

"Our team is awesome," Mr. Lowinger added. "I've been to a lot of high schools around the area and we by far have the best players that I have ever seen. The guys at the top are

top notch, and even the guys at the middle are very good. With all that I'm very impressed and I'd be really surprised if Gonzaga conjured up a better team. I hope this article makes it's way over to 'Zaga cause we're still calling you out."

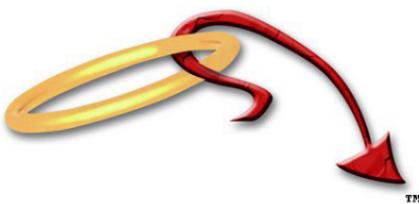
Lastly, *The Voice* talked to Jesse Vargas '15 and Raymond Martin '15 about the team: "Raymond and I have been practicing almost every day, getting ready for our matchup, and we were ready to compete last Sunday," Vargas said. "Unfortunately they didn't make an appearance. In the additional amount of time, I've solely been working on grace, just to be flashy during my match."

"While Jesse works on grace, I'm still improving on my fundamentals," Raymond added. "Practice makes perfect, and perfect makes Perry. That's what we all say, and until I can beat Perry consistently, then I'll keep polishing my game."

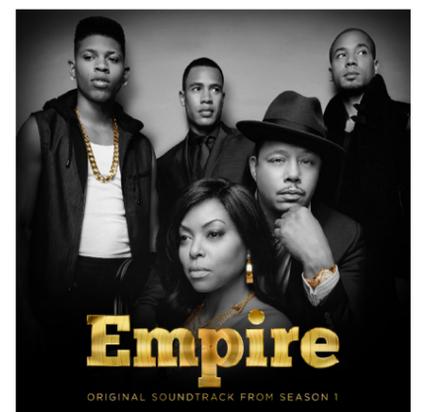
**A couple of members, Michon Firebreather Sobers '15 and Derek Thomas '15 practicing against each other.**



## Halos & Horns



In	Out
Shamrock Shake	Frappuccinos
Ping Pong	KanJam
Spring Musical	Fall Play
Italy Trip	Greece Trip
March Madness Basketball	March Madness Snow Storm
Lacrosse	Basketball
Bare legs	Tights
College Acceptances	Anxiety
Empire	Grey's Anatomy



# Your March Horoscope

By Katie Wood '16 and Posie Paoletta '16

**Aries:** March 21 - April 20

While you can be a bit short tempered and a little moody, take your time this week to work all the problems that you have. You are naturally an activist and a go-getter, so make sure you use that strength to finish all your homework and study for your upcoming test! The stars are aligning so that on March 25 you will overcome an obstacle in your way and things will start to be clear.

**Taurus:** April 21 - May 20

You have been a little worried about change that is coming your way, but you are great about venturing into the unknown, and you have immense perseverance. Your close friend is going through a rut so make sure to utilize your patience, dependability, and loyalty when they need you. Saturn and Jupiter will align on the 19th and you will finally talk to that secret crush who you've been eyeing for weeks.

**Gemini:** May 21 - June 20

You are a chatty person, and your charm will make you lots of friends in the future, but don't let your self-indulgence distract from the needs of your friends. Mercury will be in your favor on the 24th, meaning an increase in the pace of your life. It is important to remember that as things pick up and become stressful that your mental health comes first.

**Cancer:** June 21 - July 22

You are a very loyal person, whether in friendships or family, but don't hold onto a relationship if it's making you upset. Say what you need to say. The Moon will shine on you on the 26th and you will stand up for yourself and be very happy with the results.

**Leo:** July 23 - August 22

While most people know you as a warm-spirited and loyal friend, you are ruled by the Sun so naturally your ego will come out at

times. It is important that in these times you step back to reassess yourself and how you treat your friends. The Sun god will be in your favor on the 23rd meaning that you will be given extra strength and energy to achieve something great on that day. These are the times to let your ego shine, because you really are amazing.

**Virgo:** August 23 - September 22

Most people know you to be calm and collected, but Mercury knows you are dying to let loose and take charge for once. Keep in mind that you are a strong leader already by example, but make sure you are assertive but patient. On the 21st, Mercury and Venus will align to give you that gusto to go wild.

**Libra:** September 23 - October 22

You are graceful, peaceful and at times a little shy. You love to work in groups, but don't let the traditional Libra laziness become too dominant. Prove the gods wrong and come out as a leader in those group projects. You are also a wonderful friend. You have a talent at putting yourself in someone else's shoes, so keep that in mind on the 28th when one of your pals is going through a tough time.

**Scorpio:** October 23 - November 21

Sometimes you are a little closed off and tend to be shy, but Pluto knows you just want your alone time. You feel emotions very deeply and you are a great friend because you always listen. It is hard for you to open up, but on the 29th, Pluto and Saturn will be in your favor and help you be expressive and open-minded and give you that much needed push to be there for someone who needs you,

**Sagittarius:** November 22 - December 21

You love your freedom and hate to be tied down to things. Other than your love for independence and new experiences, you are also very intelligent and love creativity. The

downside of this is that when things don't go your way, you get very upset. On the 30th, something is going to mess with your plans, and while you love new things, this is not helping. Don't worry, Jupiter will shine on you and help you use your intelligence and creative side to come up with a kick-butt solution and you will be very happy with yourself and the situation.

**Capricorn:** December 22 - January 20

You are responsible, ambitious and independent. Just remember that your ambition can also cause others to take a step back from your friendships due to your lack of attention. Take some time out of your day to show your friends and family that you really do care. Additionally, Saturn will be upon you on the 22nd, you will be tempted to take a shortcut that won't really benefit you in the long run. Be careful with your choices and Saturn will take you far.

**Aquarius:** January 21 - February 19

You are witty and clever in the best of ways, but your friends may often find you to be aloof and somewhat detached. Uranus will be upon you on the 28th causing your life to be turned upside down. A new friendship will begin to form, so take advantage of your wit and make a joke to lighten up a tense situation; just remember to give your all in this new relationship because emotional detachment is a flaw of yours.

**Pisces:** February 19 - March 20

Energy and passion are what make you excited, and you love to daydream but don't be up on your cloud too long. When things don't go your way, you start to worry and spiral into anxiety which causes you to make a rushed decision. Hang in there, Neptune has your back and is going to inspire you on the 31st to get up and go and seize the day. You will accomplish a lot and people will be impressed by your creativity and work ethic.

# A Laptop on Every Desk?

By Katie Connor '16

These days when we talk about education, a lot of it is centered around the ways we can bring more technology to classrooms. The last decade has seen Smartboards and iPad carts roll into the classroom - and SSSAS is not exempt. However SSSAS might be taking a step further by starting a 1:1 program where every student has their own laptop, as opposed to communal laptop carts.

Mr. Garikes's impetus for starting a 1:1 program is summed up in one word: convenience. "As the Upper School Director I think if the students had a computer with them it would be more convenient for them instead of sharing a computer that somebody else might be using on a cart," he explained, "That's one of the things motivating me to say a one to one program might be a really good use here at the Upper School."

Details for such a program are not set in stone. "The administration has been looking at the possibility of 1:1 at least two or three years," said Director of the Upper School Mr. Garikes. However, in a recent survey by The Voice, 67% of students said "yes" to each student getting a laptop and 32% said "no," showing there is some student support for the program.

SSSAS already incorporates plenty of technology into the curriculum. In English and History classes, it is not uncommon to turn in an iMovie project as a midterm assignment or to spend a week on a group Powerpoint project. Even during free periods, the laptop cart is open to students in the library. But a laptop for each student would facilitate schoolwork even

more. "I'm the type to check out a laptop for a whole day, so I think it would be nice," said Julia Lindsay '15.

For example, programs like iMovie save automatically to a laptop and can't be accessed by every computer. This results in a panic as students try to recover a computer that lives in one of the six laptop carts and is shared with other students. Katherine Kiklis '16 remembers one such incident happening to her with iMovie before she purchased her own laptop. "I was so stressed," she recalls. "I think it would make everyone's life easier. Kids would have an easier time getting work done."

Then again, perhaps laptops will only hinder education. A 2007 New York Times article profiled one high school in Liverpool, New York that opted to drop their 1:1 laptop program. The school, too, implemented laptops with the idea of helping students prepare for a more technology-filled world. However, the school board president stated "there was literally no evidence it had any impact on student achievement." Rather, the laptops enabled students to roam the internet and freeze up the network.

Tech Education Department Chair Mr. Rho expressed this concern also. "You'll be able to access anything online at anytime, and that is powerful," he said. With that power, students could use laptops for "non-educational purposes" in the classroom. Still, he liked the idea of students and teacher connecting via technology. For example, "Instead of just raising your hand, you can try online anonymous walls,

where students post ideas anonymously," he said, as a way to help teachers hear students.

Mr. Garikes is also eager to prepare students for the technologically diverse environment they will meet in college. "I think that when you go off to college now it's very common for the student to communicate through the computer. . . If you're in a more scientific discipline you use the computer for graphic design and all sorts of things. So I think that having a student have that computer with them on a daily basis prepares all the students for what's going to happen in college," he said.

In the past year, public schools systems across the country began preparing to bring 1:1 programs into the their schools. In the fall of the 2014-2015 school year, Prince William County gave all freshmen and sophomores at three high schools an iPad. Prince George's County has already purchased over 4,500 laptops for 60 of their schools, while private schools Flint Hill and Episcopal both boast they were one of the first schools to implement a 1:1 program. And farther away in Los Angeles, the largest school district in the U.S., the district spent \$1 billion to give an iPad to every student. "But computers don't replace a teacher," believes Mr. Garikes. "The strength of a school is the relation between a teacher and a student." Like whiteboards, blackboards, or pencils, a computer is just another tool.

1:1 programs aren't going away--in 2014, spending on tablets for K-12 schools increased by 60% worldwide. The question is--where does SSSAS stand?

# SSSAS Spring Sports Preview

By Katie Wood '16

The spring sport's season has gotten off to a rocky start with almost two weeks worth of snow and ice covering the fields throughout campus. Boy's lacrosse resorted to shovelling snow off of their field, while baseball and track and field went across the street to Episcopal to use their indoor facilities. Luckily, the warmer weather over the past few days has allowed some patches of green to come through and give the athletes the opportunity to practice outside for the first time in weeks. With plenty of new coaching additions and a wealth of underclassmen involvement, the Saints should be strong across the board in the upcoming months.



Ann Bailey '16

## Girls Softball:

Girl's Softball is looking to have a very strong season with five returning Seniors and twelve returning varsity players. Coach Koroma expressed, "we didn't lose a lot of talent aside from our catcher Allie Buch '14." But with only two wins last year, the team is hopeful for a more winning season in the upcoming months; as Sarah Lowe '16 put it, "the future is bright." Coach Koroma said, "we're hoping to be as competitive, if not more competitive than last year." The team is still in the upper division of the ISL so with teams such as Visitation, Episcopal, and Flint Hill on the schedule it should make for a competitive season.



Ellie Majure '15

## Girls Lacrosse:

The girls lacrosse team ended the 2014 season with a heartbreaking loss to Bishop Ireton in the VISAA state championship so the team is looking to regain that title this year. Additionally, the team is looking to remain undefeated in the ISL AA division and maintain the ISL AA title. The team ended the 2014 season ranked number two in the nation and the preseason rankings still show them as a top ten team nationally. Ellie Carson '16 says, "despite some minor setbacks due to the inevitable snow, our prosperity will extend to new heights in the upcoming season." The team will travel to California over spring break to take on some fresh talent from the West in order to prepare for their home rivalries against Visitation and Bishop Ireton. Ultimately, the team anticipates a strong season with seven seniors and more than twenty college-bound athletes throughout the program.



Rohan Walcott '14 and Isaiah Davis '15

## Track and Field:

To anyone walking past the track this spring, the team may appear a bit smaller than in the past; this is due to a newly instituted tryout rule in which runners must make a certain time to be eligible for the team. Even still, the team has about fifty runners, all of whom are, as Coach McLeod put it, "really dedicated to it." John Sweeney recalled Coach McLeod inspiring him by saying, "National Championships are the goal, let's get it." The season has gotten off to a difficult start with the snow-covered track being out of commission, so the team has instead spent some time in the weight room. The coaching staff believes that by combining their running abilities with some time in the weight room, the team will reach new heights this season. As far as coaching, Coach Siddeeq said, "between all of the coaches we have about seventy-plus years worth of coaching and running experience that will really translate to our runners at meet time."



Josiah Mackay '16

## Golf:

The golf team finished last season 3-6 but is looking to strengthen the program this season with a brand new group of underclassmen who are eager to improve their game. When asked about the team's potential this season, Josiah Mackay '16 replied, "We have a lot of new interest coming from the underclassmen, so the season should be good." The team lost six talented seniors last spring but will certainly look to remain competitive in the IAC tournament. As Coach Taibl put it, "a deeper team with more guys coming out to tryouts will hopefully create a more competitive environment that will help our coach [Jon Japha] push players to their potential and help our golf team take a great next step in strengthening our program."



Carter Tyree '15

## Boys Baseball:

There is a lot of excitement surrounding baseball this season with the return of some really talented upperclassmen, including Colin Goss '15, Andrew Trainer '16, and Carter Tyree

'15. When asked about his outlook for the upcoming season, Joey Woodward '16 replied, "We're going to be sick. What else?" In addition to the talented group of upperclassmen, there are a few underclassmen who will be eager to learn and ready to play. The combination of younger and older players really serves as an asset to the team because not only is there a deeper bench than in the past, but it serves as a beneficial learning experience for the younger players. Coach Taibl's view on the season is, "With the experience of the returning players and the addition of new talent, the level of competition within the program, as well as the potential of the program is very high."



Drew Wiseman '15

## Boys Lacrosse:

The boy's lacrosse team will face a tough upcoming season with the graduation of fifteen seniors this past spring. The team finished last year's season 14-8 after winning the VISAA state championship but losing the IAC quarterfinals 8-7 to St. Alban's in a double overtime showdown. The graduation of so many key players last year allows for a lot of younger players to step up this season, such as Austin Stewart '18, and with well-versed varsity returners such as Drew Wiseman '15 and Zach Phan '15, the team is in good hands. Head Coach Andy Taibl says, "the team will need strong leadership and the ability to learn and gain experience early in the season in order to prepare them for league and state play." With games against Landon, St. Alban's and Georgetown Prep scheduled for later in the season, the team should have plenty of time to prepare for their toughest games.



Stephen Van Buren '15

## Boys Tennis:

The boy's tennis team is looking to have a successful season with the return of some core varsity players such as Cam Cohen '16 who said, "the team has some really talented freshmen coming in along with a new coach, so this year will definitely serve as a building year for some really good seasons in the future." The team graduated a large number of seniors last spring but is looking to maintain the positive attitude that they left behind. While the team has had some tough luck with snowy weather early this season, they are eager to get back on the courts. The team is under the leadership of new head coach, Jennifer Sutherland, who has been the varsity assistant coach for the past four seasons. Coming off of a tough 2014 season with only one win, the team will have to rely on their seasoned varsity returners to bring passion and knowledge to the court in the upcoming months.

# What Are You Giving Up for Lent?

By Torrae Scott '16

It is that time of year again. On Ash Wednesday, Lent began, and will continue for 40 days (and 40 nights), ending promptly before Easter. This custom originated from the Catholic Church, and it has been practiced ever since. It used to be a period during which Catholics would fast and give up eating throughout the week, but now it has become a time where we struggle to give up chocolate or Starbucks. All jokes aside, Lent is an occasion to test and strengthen your willpower, so try to give up something that won't be easy to live without.



**"I gave up complaining just to stay out of trouble and work on getting things done more efficiently." -Chance Le Grand '17**



**"I'm giving up all shelf foods. Basically, any food with a expiration date. Unless I can cook it, I won't eat it." -Julia Lindsey '15**



**"I didn't give anything up really, but I'm trying to meet and be nicer to people and go to bed earlier." -Nicki Gray '16**



**"I realized I could be doing something more productive than using the satisfaction of beating Derek and Juan in FIFA, so that's what I gave up." -Lucas Gomez-Acebo '15**



**"For Lent, I gave up all types of red meat, burgers, steaks, and I'm cutting down on white meats also." -Kara Campbell '17**



**"I did not give up anything for Lent. I feel that there is more to Lent than forfeiting material things. The biggest problem for me, with eschewing from something, is finding that thing to sacrifice, and if I did find it, it should be something I could be able to give up forever, because that thing would help me connect to something or someone." -Mr. Yee**

## Rethinking How We Give: Kiva

By Jacob Lipton '17

With the springtime fast approaching, service learning projects are starting to be planned in advisories. Advisories such as Yoder, Doyle, and Cohn have decided to use Kiva for their service learning project.

Kiva is a non-profit organization that allows people to lend money via the Internet to low-income/underserved entrepreneurs and students in over 70 countries. Kiva's mission is

"to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty."

Since 2005, the organization has a repayment rate of 99 percent. As of November 2013, Kiva was raising about \$1 million every year. Kiva has crowd-funded more than 1 million loans, totaling more than a half a billion dollars. The Kiva platform has attracted a community of more than 1 million lenders from around the

world.

Kiva includes personal stories and pictures on their website of each person who needs a loan because they want their lenders to connect with their entrepreneurs on a human level.

Kiva itself does not collect any interest on the loans it facilitates and Kiva lenders

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# A Break from Tradition: "Senior" Parking?

By Charlotte Kolb '15

Although friendly rivalry between grades has always been a staple in student culture at SSSAS, the 2014-2015 school year has broached a new topic for discussion that has set students at odds over the past few months: "Senior" parking.

For anyone who is unfamiliar with the parking situation on campus, there are two designated areas reserved for upperclassmen to park their cars: the driveway of the school, also known as "the strip," and the lot by the tennis courts, most commonly referred to as "senior parking." Even though spaces by the tennis courts were traditionally reserved for seniors only, over the past five years this idea has been labeled by the administration as a tradition of the past.

"When I came here, the parking lot by the tennis courts was for seniors, while the strip was for sophomores and juniors," Mr. Mills said while recounting the history of the parking rules at SSSAS. However, since his first year, several factors have played into the administration's decision to change that policy: "We changed it because seniors have more free periods and privileges. Senior spaces were empty sometimes and people were not using them," said Mr. Mills. And the faculty were not the only ones noticing the lack of cars in the senior lot. "We received complaints about

students parked on the street, and neighbors would sometimes come and count the empty spaces in the lot. Reserving spaces for seniors was a waste and an unenforceable rule."

Despite the administration's attempts to make known that these rules are no longer in place, they have met staunch resistance from the students: "Incidents between seniors and juniors have occurred with vandalizing cars as a way to retain parking spaces. One student was disciplined because of this," Mr. Mills said. And it seems that students are still not taking kindly to this new rule.

In a recent survey, *The Voice* asked students whether they think that the lots by the tennis courts should be reserved for seniors only. The results showed that more than sixty percent agreed parking should be reserved for seniors while forty percent were against segregating the parking. These statistics are not surprising, as a number of students, especially seniors, are eager to voice their opinions on the matter.

Alex Kamm '15 said "It is a privilege that seniors are granted to make life more convenient. The street is for sophomores and the strip is for juniors and the lot is for seniors. It gets closer and closer every year. Like the senior lounge, it is a luxury that is awarded to the seniors as they are the leaders of the school."

Daniel Marshall '15 echoed Alex, saying that he is most upset by the fact that "our grade did not have the opportunity to to park on the senior lot. It has since been considered a senior privilege and to see that now by some change, the juniors get the same privileges we did not previously have, it just simply annoys me."

However, it is not just the seniors who think that they should have special parking at school. Serena Gilliam '16 said "Just seniors should have the senior lot because its a privilege that comes along with being a senior. Getting to park closer to the school makes things easier, and its not like juniors are parking far away from the school."

Maddie Koch '17 agreed, saying that "senior parking is a right of passage."

While many believe that senior parking has become a special privilege at SSSAS, there are still students who are not in favor of restricting access to spaces. When asked about his view on students' rights to the tennis courts parking lot, Tommy Cloud '16 said "Well the parking lot you're referring to is for upperclassmen. Mr. Mills told everyone that. Also it used to be the senior lot because Jimmy Wyrick '13, Darius Manora '13 and others ran that, but considering there is no one like that in the senior class I shall continue to take my spot."

## DMV March Madness Preview

By Matt Weisenfluh '16

### Georgetown

The Hoyas have had an up and down season so far this year. Led by Coach John Thompson III, they have had great wins this year against Florida and Villanova, but have fallen short against teams like Xavier and Providence. Junior D'Vauntes Smith-Rivera has established himself as one of the leaders of the Georgetown team, and Freshman L.J. Peak has added a much needed scoring boost to Georgetown's offense. Big man Joshua Smith has been dominant, especially in big games, shooting 63% from the field and playing excellent defense. The pieces are there for Georgetown to make a run deep into the tournament, but it all comes down to execution. When the Hoyas are on their game, moving the ball effectively and maintaining balance on offense, they are hard to beat, but Georgetown is not consistent enough to maintain long winning streaks like Duke and Virginia are. However, the great thing about the tournament is that anything can happen on any given day. Upsets are prevalent, and Georgetown does not need a long winning streak to advance. If they are prepared, they have a great shot at a Sweet 16 or Elite 8 run.

### University of Maryland

When Maryland moved to the Big Ten this year, many did not know what to expect from the Terrapins. Big Ten basketball is physical and grueling, as the conference sends as many as 8 teams to the NCAA tournament each year. Maryland, however, has adjusted well, as they have proven they can play with the big dogs like Wisconsin and Michigan State. Freshman Melo Trimble has led the team in points, assists, and steals per game, and his emergence as a star has rejuvenated the Maryland offense that was stagnant last season. Senior Dez Wells has provided some much needed leadership for the Terps, and has stepped up in big games when his team needs him most, hitting game winning shots against Wisconsin and Northwestern. While the Terps may not always have the best numbers, they always seem to find a way to win, something that will be invaluable in the tournament. Maryland's big weakness so far this year has been big, physical forwards and centers dominating the paint. The Terps will be

in the tournament, but if they want to advance, Jake Layman needs to play well. Maryland has proved their doubters wrong time and time again, and they have a great shot at a lengthy run this year. This is Trimble's team, and if he can be the best player on the floor night in and night out, it will be hard to stop the Terrapins.

### George Washington University

The oft-forgotten Colonials have been quietly playing well so far this year, but a long losing streak in early February makes them bound for the NIT, save for a magical Atlantic-10 tournament run. Patricio Garino and Kethan Savage have led the Colonials this year in points per game and field goal percentage, and their play has been one of the reasons that George Washington has been having such a great year. One of the questions at the start of the year for the Colonials was the lack of depth. This has been answered by a talented underclassmen lineup, led by Kethan Savage, and excellent play in the frontcourt. George Washington is off the bubble, and they need to win the Atlantic-10 tournament this year to win the automatic bid, as they will not make the tournament based on merit alone. Look for the Colonials to come prepared and focused for each game in early March as they push for a spot in a tournament, whether it be in the NIT or the NCAA tournament.

Every year, when March comes around, sports fans everywhere begin to prepare for the madness of the NCAA tournament. Millions of people fill out brackets, competing against friends and family for the title of college basketball genius. March Madness is like none other, as unprecedented and unpredictable upsets define the tournament's image. This season in the D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area, basketball has been excellent, with multiple upsets and dominating wins. Look out for these teams come tournament time:



Justin Anderson drives to the basket past a Clemson defender.

### University of Virginia

The Cavaliers have been fantastic this season, with electric defense and superb offensive production orchestrated by head coach Tony Bennett. The Hoos have been led by Juniors Justin Anderson and Malcolm Brogdon, who are averaging over 13 points per game and have Virginia positioned for a possible #1 seed. Many believe that Virginia has the capability of winning the NCAA championship, which would be the first in school history. 65% of students believe that Virginia has the best chance of winning the NCAA tournament out of the DMV area teams, and many experts are already penciling them in as a potential Final Four team. The Cavaliers are a team that has great depth and excel in transition defense, allowing teams on average 2 transition points per game. This is something that tournament teams lack, as games are dominated by how a team plays in transition. However, Virginia gets in trouble when they cannot control the tempo, abns was evident in the Duke loss. If the Cavaliers are able to control the pace, look for them to advance deep into the tournament.



D'Vauntes Smith-Rivera bring the ball past a Robert Morris defender.

# Munch on Lunch!

By Eden Solomon '16

It's March, which means that the juniors are finally going to have their privileges, so it's only fitting that *The Voice* suggests some places to eat out during lunch. Everyone knows that Chipotle and Panera are the go-to spots to grab a quick lunch, but for those of you who are looking for some variety, here are a couple of options.



## District Taco:

701 S Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314

When you are in the mood for a burrito, the first thing that will probably pop into your head is Chipotle, right? But even Chipotle can get boring, believe it or not. Why not try District Taco instead? They have everything Chipotle has on their menu and more, including the burrito desnudo (aka: burrito bowl), quesadillas, tacos, burritos, nachos, and even salads. They also have meat and vegetarian options of protein, so there is something for everyone. "It's different than Chipotle because they bring the food to you. Their chips are so good," says Katherine Kiklis '16, "Also, their sodas are different." At District Taco, they sell Boylan cane sugar sodas, which makes the restaurant even more unique.



## Valentino's NY Pizzeria:

4813 Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA 22312

If you're looking for something Italian and fast, you should definitely go to Valentino's. Upon entry, you will be invited by the intoxicating

smell of pizza, which is laid out in the front counter. This display makes it easy to grab a quick lunch and make it back in time for E period if you're in a time crunch. Commenting on the size of the pizza slices, Stephanie Guadalupe '17 says, "I like the regular cheese pizza. It's huge." Still, Valentino's does not only sell pizza; they have a menu filled with a bounty of options to choose from-- wraps, gyros, subs, pasta, seafood, and more.



## Nandos Peri-Peri:

1301 South Joyce St., Arlington, VA 22202

Nandos is best known for its Portuguese flame-grilled chicken, so if you like chicken, you'll love Nandos. Whether you are getting a wrap, a sandwich, or a salad, it will probably have chicken in it. The chicken also comes with a variety of sauces and marinades, from Lemon & Herb to Extra-Extra Hot. Nandos is also famous for its Chips (aka: fries) and other interesting sides such as Macho Peas. "I like their mashed potatoes," says Justin Boone '16.



## The Fresh Market:

3680 King St., Alexandria, VA 22302

Yes, The Fresh Market is a grocery store, and a grocery store may not be your first choice, but this place is different because it actually has its own sushi chefs who make sushi fresh in-store. They have a vast selection of sushi, including California rolls and Nigiri, and the best part is that the sushi is ready for you right when you walk in.



## Bittersweet:

823 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

When you just cannot make up your mind between getting lunch or getting dessert, have no fear. Bittersweet has both a cafe and a bakery. The cafe menu consists of sandwiches and paninis, a food bar, and soups. "It's a solid place to grab a sandwich," says Anna Godek '16. But if you're going to Bittersweet, it's probably going to be for the sweets. The bakery menu has over fifty desserts including cakes, cupcakes, pies, cookies, and other treats that will satisfy your sweet tooth. Bittersweet is a little bit farther away than the places listed above, so if you are a junior, you might want to go on the weekend, but if you are a senior and have a free period, this is a great option.



## Burger 7:

2515 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22201

Burger 7 goes above and beyond to create the perfect burger for you. They have organic hamburgers, cheeseburgers, turkey burgers, vegan burgers, sliders, and chicken sandwiches too. The toppings go beyond the the typical lettuce and tomato. Some of the things you can get on your burger are coleslaw, 11 different sauces, a fried egg, chili, guacamole, onion rings, or even mac and cheese. Not to mention the sides, including hot dogs, salads, grilled cheese sandwiches, and "napkin zone" fries as well as six milkshake flavors. At Burger 7, they care about the quality of your food, so you won't be disappointed. Sarah Griswold '16 says, "Burger 7... it's close to school. The inside is also cool and the servers are very friendly."

# Kiva Cont.

do not make interest on loans. Kiva is purely supported by grants, loans, and donations from its users, corporations, and national institutions.

*The Voice* asked Dr. Lyons, SSSAS service learning facilitator, a couple of questions about Kiva to better understand what it is and why people should get involved.

Q: How did you first get involved with Kiva?

A: I saw a television show about how open and effective this organization is and I was so inspired. I did my first \$25 loan two years ago, and have watched that money make a huge personal difference in people's lives.

Q: Why should people get involved with Kiva?

A: This is a great organization that lets people

choose a country, the gender, the industry or products and services that they want to support with a loan. The website shares personal pictures and stories of folks around the world who have big dreams, solid plans, and hard work...they just need a little more money to start. This organization has a fantastic level of transparency so that all investors can see exactly how the money is used. Also, when you loan money, you can track the the loan and get repaid. Then you can reinvest the money into yet another loan, watching your own money help more than one person.

According to Dr. Lyons, the "takeaway message" is that "behind so many 'global trends' in development, there are individual people with names and faces and dreams. Micro-lending proves that lives can be changed

with just a few dollars and a strong non-profit network." With a small loan making such a difference in a person's life, an organization lets allows the loans to be interest free and repaid quickly, Kiva proves to be an organization that changes the lives of the people it reaches out to.



# Best Buddies: Best Club at SSSAS?

By Eden Solomon '16

Best Buddies is an international organization that advocates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. At SSSAS, Blake Pohanka '13 led Best Buddies two years ago, but after she graduated, no one was able to take over her leading role, and ultimately, the club ceased to exist.

"I first learned about Best Buddies when I was in middle school through a friend on my swim team who was involved through her school, and I loved the idea but never really had an opportunity to get involved with a chapter," says Nicki Gray '16. Thankfully, this year, Ann Bailey '16, Greer Bateman '16, and Nicki Gray '16 reestablished the club along with Mr. Yee.

For each of these leaders, Best Buddies is much more than just a club. Ann shares, "Best Buddies is especially important to me because I have a younger brother who has Down Syndrome. I really hope that he's able to have support and acceptance throughout his life, and I love that Best Buddies encourages just that."

The SSSAS chapter of Best Buddies is called a "Promoter Chapter," which means that the ultimate goal of the club is to simply spread awareness for people with disabilities. Best

Buddies does not want to be considered as a charity, since those with special needs can live fulfilling lives too.

This school year, our chapter of Best Buddies has participated in several events that spread awareness about people with special needs. SSSAS held a car wash with three other schools to raise money to help support the program and participated in the Best Buddies Fun Run, which took place in October. By participating in events like these, the SSSAS community has been able to become more involved with the communities around us who are fighting for the same causes.

Since SSSAS does not have any special education classes, our job is to ensure that we make people more accepting, within and outside of SSSAS. Ann sums up, "Disability isn't something we discuss on a regular basis, but I think it's just as much a part of diversity as race, gender, sexual orientation, etc... I hope that we can make disability seem more accessible and relatable to our school community." It can be hard for people without disabilities to put themselves in the shoes of those with disabilities, but by getting involved with Best Buddies, it can become easier to do so.

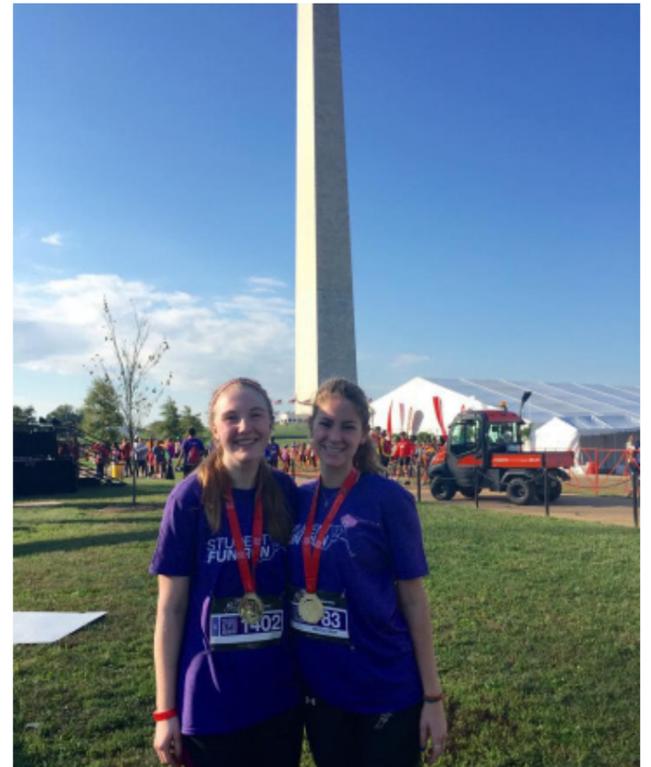
SSSAS is always trying to become a more tolerant community, and like GSRMA and various affinity groups, Best Buddies plays a major role in that. On February 27, we had an assembly led by Tommy McFly, a DJ from 94.7 and a participant in Best Buddies. He promoted R-Word Week, which encourages people to not use the words "retard" or "retarded" in a derogatory way, as they can be offensive. The slogan is "spread the word to end the word," and there are so many other words that can be used instead of "retarded."

The members of Best Buddies are looking forward to what the future holds. Mr. Yee says, "Right before break, [Ann, Greer, and Nicki] brought a load of Christmas cards that members of the school community made the day before break in my room to a local high school's special education program--really cool. They're planning more great things in the spring, and I'm just here to help them along."

The club has a good foundation, but it is always looking for more members. Greer says, "If anyone is interested in joining they are very welcome!"



Clockwise from top left: Ann Bailey '16, Greer Bateman '16, DJ Tommy McFly, and Nicki Gray '16, and member of the Best Buddies Organization at the assembly for R-Word Week.



Isabel Shaw '16 and Nicki Gray '16 at the October Best Buddies Fun Run.

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