

# THE VOICE

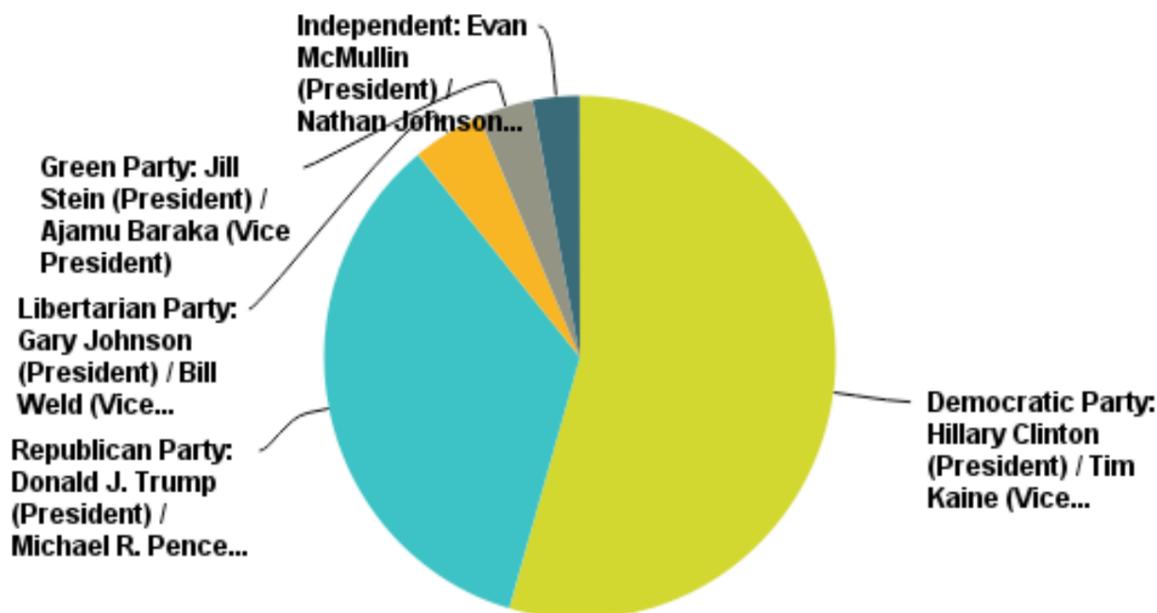
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## Mock Presidential Election: Our School Vs. The Rest of America

By Jamie McLucas '18



A pie chart of the student mock election results

The results of the recent presidential election were very surprising to many, in our community and elsewhere. Before the election, it seemed that Trump would have to pull off a miracle to win. It was obvious that he had very strong support, although just how much was unclear. According to most of the polls leading up to the election, Hillary Clinton was the favorite. However, these polls were off, and Clinton lost to Trump 228 to 279 electoral votes, despite winning the popular vote.

In the mock election that The Voice recently sent out, SSSAS students and teachers voted Clinton into office by a sizeable margin. The results from the 236 members of the student body who voted were: 55% Clinton, 35% Trump, and 10% for the other candidates. On top of that, there were a number of write-ins, including Bernie Sanders, Paul Ryan, Mr. Cotter, Mike Pence, Joe Biden, Marco Rubio, and Mark Cuban. There were also others such as Kanye West, Giant Meteor 2016, Ken Bone, Anthony Weiner, Harambe, Waka Flocka, and Hagrid.

Not a single faculty member of the upper school voted for Trump in the mock election poll sent to them; 88% voted for Clinton, and 12% voted for the other candidates, but there were no votes for Trump from the 49 respondents.

In 1964, student mock elections were conducted at St. Stephen's School and St. Agnes School. In both cases, Lyndon Johnson beat out Barry Goldwater. As the St. Stephen's newspaper, The Deacon, reported, Johnson won their school ballot 64 percent to 36 percent. This was very close to the 61 percent to 39 percent national average by which Johnson won that year.

St. Stephens School also did a mock presidential election in 1980. The winner was Ronald Reagan with a 64.4 percent majority, who also won the presidential election that year.

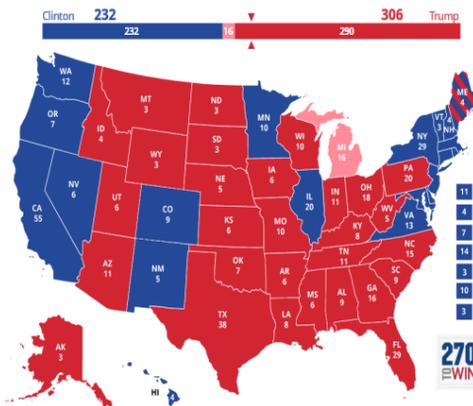
The students at both schools completed mock elections before the 1960 presidential election as well. However, this time they did not choose the winning candidate. In both polls, Nixon won easily.

The two most significant candidates in this election were John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon. Kennedy ended up winning the presidency that year with 303 electoral votes. Similar to the poll sent to our school, the majority of the students did not vote for the president elect.

According to the St. Stephen's School newspaper, The Deacon, Nixon won their poll 154 votes to 103 votes, but there was also a "minority of ignorant persons who tried to make the poll humorous."

St. Agnes School newspaper, The Shearings, reported that Nixon also won their poll 125 votes to 84 votes. Both mock elections were wrong, as Kennedy won the presidential election that year.

In a column from the 1952 St. Agnes School newspaper, The Shearings, the staff urged its students to, "Take part in school elections, and begin now to realize your duty to vote, make up your mind to observe this duty! By voting you guarantee the lives of your many freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of religion."



Above: The Electoral College map for the 2016 Presidential Election

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## Saints Raise Record Funds: Change for Haiti Night

By Afua Nyantakyi '18

On Thursday October 27th, The Change for Haiti Club hosted its annual Change for Haiti Night. Faculty advisor Mr. Yee noted that the night's purpose was to raise awareness of people's experiences in Haiti and to show that "Yes, there are problems but there's also tons of joy." The event consisted of musical performances, reflections from students who went to Haiti, and a much anticipated lip-sync competition.

Mr. Yee also hoped this night would "give people who went to Haiti the opportunity to use their voice to share and inspire other students to want to participate in our something like the Haiti mission." One of the students who went to Haiti, Taylor Bordes '17 wanted to use her voice to let attendees know that "the Haitian kids don't need your pity, moreso, they need help to help themselves."

The night began with performances from Gospel Voices, Dr. Jacobs, Mr. Yee, and many other students. During the event, students who had traveled to Haiti also presented written reflections about what they had taken away from the trip. Once all of the performances and reflections were presented, it was time for the lip-sync competition. The competition was judged by club members and previous lipsync competition winner Sean Dowling '17, Ms. Hardwick, and an audience member chosen at random, Kyla Carney '17.

The participants battled it out on stage with songs such as "I Will Survive" by Gloria Gaynor "Love Story" by Taylor Swift and "Cabinet Battle #1" from the Broadway musical Hamilton. In the end, Sam Dubke '17 won the battle. When asked about his victory, he stated that "I had been preparing for the contest ever since I was unable to attend Change for Haiti Night last year." He also admitted that it was "very fun

# Writing All the Way to Norway

By Jacob Lipton '17

Ninth and tenth grade English teacher Mr. Kaufman spent a year in Oslo, Norway in 2009 on a Fulbright Scholarship. The mission statement of the scholarship said to "promote mutual understanding between people of the United States of America and people of other countries." Even though Mr. Kaufman has been back from his experience for seven years, he still lives out that mission.

Connecting with the students in Norway is possible because Mr. Kaufman has a friend named Hanne, who teaches English at a high school in Oslo. They came together and decided it was a great idea for SSSAS students in Alexandria, Virginia to become pen pals with Hanne's students in Oslo, Norway.

The project expanded when more teachers at SSSAS decided to give their students pen pals. Students of Dr. Klein, Mr. Yee, and Mr. Kaufman are all participating. Hanne also recruited a fellow teacher in Oslo named Tom.

The content of the letters sent to Norway was sectioned into four paragraphs. The first paragraph responded to their pen pal's letter. Students talked about Emily Dickinson, an American poet, and compared her to a Norwegian poet they had read. The third paragraph focused on food, and the

fourth paragraph focused on similarities between the pen pals.

Helen Sweeney '19 is a student of Mr. Kaufman's and has a 16-year-old exchange student named Axel. "We talk about our subjects in school, and sports in Norway vs USA."

The students have to handwrite the letters and mail them through the postal service, so getting a letter is a big deal, "when we get a letter we eat Norwegian cheese in my English class," Helen explained.

Helen has only gotten one letter, and it takes a month until the next one comes in. However, she has still learned about Axel, "He hates American Football, but loves soccer."

Vivion Purser '20 has also learned a lot about her pen pal. "I've received one letter and written two. We talk about literature in letters, but we've become friends on social media and talk there about daily things too."

Vivion said she has things in common with her Norwegian pen pal, too, "He's 16, shares interests with me, and plays my same sports. He plays volleyball which is a popular male sport there."

She thinks that having a pen pal is a great experience, "I love having a pen pal!"

Mr. Kaufman explains why he was so

excited to have his students doing this project, "I will say from the teacher's perspective, what I think is cool about it is that the students are getting excited about it. My kind of hidden motive is that they are getting excited about reading and writing."

## Haiti Cont.

to be able to beat Sean in the last round of the competition. He had been bragging about his victory since last year."

Despite being a highlight of the night, the lip sync competition did not take away from the club's fundraising goals. The Change for Haiti club was able to raise \$9142.36.

This year's event was special because the chaplain of St. Paul's school, Father Walin paid a week-long visit to SSSAS and also attended the Change for Haiti night. In his time at the school, he gave a chapel talk and in his speech, reminded the students that they "are the Light of America" just as the children of St. Paul's are the "Light of Haiti."

Father Wallin's visit changed the club's usual course of planning for Change for Haiti Night. Club member, Adele Reardon '17, acknowledged that "there was an added amount of pressure this year because we had the pleasure of hosting Father Walin as our guest of honor." Regardless of the added pressure this year, Mr. Yee admitted that in general, "a lot goes into planning Change for Haiti Night."

"Before we can have that event we have to write a proposal as adults to the Board of Trustees for the school. Basically we have to ask permission for what kind of fundraising we're going to be doing and what kind of event we're going to be having to support it, with actually a fairly specific date in mind about what this is."

After the planning process was over, it was time for the actual event to take place. Many of the club members believed that this year's Haiti Night was a success, yet there were still aspects of the event that the some felt needed a little improvement. Jessica Edwards '17 said that the one thing she would like to change about Change for Haiti night is to make it a little shorter. "When I went to talk to Father Walin after the event was over, he looked so exhausted!" Adele Reardon '17 also expressed that in the future, the club would like to move the night back to February.

Until then, she assured that the club will still be hosting it's Singing Rooster coffee sales in the mornings. "It is Haitian coffee (that is really good!) and the proceeds from the company go back to Haitian farmers and the excess proceeds we raise go to St. Paul's." The school is also offering a trip to Haiti for students over the Spring Break, and the club is still accepting donations.

# We Open Our Conquista "doors" to the Spaniards

By Wendy Buendia '20

This month, students from Spain came to our school and stayed with some of our students. They are from a school called Colegio Villa de Griñon and stayed for 10 days. While they stayed with some of our students, they visited Washington D.C to see the capital of the United States, the George Washington Monument, and many other historic sites nearby. Both the hosts and the Spanish Exchange students were excited for this trip and are made new friendships with each other.

"It is really fun hanging out with my Spanish Exchange student. She has been teaching me new Spanish phrases and words. In return, I also taught her some new words," explained Catherine Owens '19.

"Hosting Marina was great! I was surprised by how much we had in common. One of my favorite things we did was carve pumpkins, which the Spaniards had never done before, as they don't celebrate Halloween," exclaimed Julia Burke '18. Julia also shared some words that she has learned from Marina. "Although they loved it [carving pumpkins], Marina repeated "que asco" (gross!) several times."

The Spanish exchange students were excited to experience a typical school day of an SSSAS student.

"We enjoyed the trip because we are went with the students to their classes," says Myriam, one of the Spanish Exchange students, "It is exciting to see American life first-hand instead of studying it from textbooks."

The Presidential Election has been a topic of discussion not just in America, but in other countries as well. When asked to predict the outcome of the election, one of the Spanish Exchange students replied, "I think Hillary Clinton will win because she has more sense in the head." "Yeah, because seeing the Republican candidate, Donald Trump, there is no other way," exclaimed another Spanish student.

The teacher behind the Spanish Exchange program is Ms. Gasper. This trip is her third time organizing and preparing for the Spanish exchange students.

"This is the third year that they have traveled here, but it's only the second year we will be going. So last year they still came, we had a group that hosted, but we didn't travel last year," Ms. Gasper explained. "I have done this kind of thing with my other schools before, but I have only done it with SSSAS three times."

Planning the trips are "a little bit nerve wracking", especially this year because "since we had fewer students going to Spain than they had coming, we had to find families that were willing to host at the last minute."

One of reasons the Spanish Exchange Program exists is to let students interact with foreign students and learn more about their culture and their way of life. This trip has shown how friendships has no boundaries, just bonding.



Above: Spanish exchange students and their hosts

To the right: Sam Dubke '17 Performing at Change for Hitit Night



# World News Page

By The Voice Staff

## Donald Trump's Cabinet

President-Elect Donald Trump has not wasted any time coming out and nominating candidates for various positions in his cabinet. The most controversial of his selections has been Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions. Sessions is Trump's pick for Attorney General, but the decision has received controversy because of racist remarks Sessions made in the past. The Washington Post reports, "After Sessions became one of the first members of Congress to endorse Trump this February, he became an adviser on almost every major decision and policy proposal Trump made during the campaign."

According to the New York Times, this is the same man who was nominated to become a federal judge by Ronald Reagan in 1986. However, he was denied because of racist remarks. The New York Times reports that Sessions made remarks about the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of

Colored People), calling it "un-American" and communist inspired. He even joked about the Ku Klux Klan being "OK." This controversy forced the senate to deny Reagan's nomination.

Stephen K. Bannon was first considered for the Chief of Staff position, but Donald Trump instead appointed him as Chief Strategist. According to the Donald Trump, Bannon and Reince Priebus, the White House Chief of Staff, will be "working as equal partners" in the administration. Bannon is another member of Trump's cabinet who has been heavily criticized. Bannon is a self declared nationalist. According to CNN, Bannon said in an interview that he wanted to scrap the Republican Party and start new with Trump's movement. Bannon has been a strong supporter of Trump since the start of his campaign.

While it requires Senate confirmation, Trump has made a pick for the new C.I.A.

director. Mike Pompeo, a former Army officer and sharp critic of Hillary Clinton, is Trump's selection. According to NBC, Pompeo said that it was a difficult decision to accept Trump's offer, "I have genuinely loved representing the people of Kansas in Congress — working to make our community stronger and more prosperous. But ultimately the opportunity to lead the world's finest intelligence warriors, who labor tirelessly to keep this nation and Kansas safe, is a call to service I cannot ignore." Many have criticized Trump for his selections, especially on his pick for Attorney General. Trump's judgement has been questioned since he began his campaign, but now that he has become the President elect, he is being looked at to make a positive impact with his cabinet.

Appointments yet to be made include Secretary of State, Defense Secretary and Treasury Secretary.

## Fake News Stories

The 2016 election was unique for many reasons, one in particular being the intense coverage on social media. Candidates campaigned with snapchat filters and hashtagged slogans. People shared facts and opinions about the election on their social media accounts, some open to thousands of followers. There was no longer a need to listen to FOX news or NBC to gather information about the candidates, it was all on Facebook or Twitter at the click of a button.

This accessibility allowed people to learn more about who the candidates really were and what they stood for, but on the other hand it also gave way to a widespread fake news stories about some of the candidates. Even now, as the election is over, social media remains a platform for fake news stories to spread.

With the election now over, people are beginning to identify fake news stories that may have swayed some voters. According to CNN.com, one fake news site that has since been taken down, The Denver Guardian, headlined "FBI Agent Behind Clinton Email Leaks Found Dead in Murder-Suicide" was shared widely on Facebook On November 5, a few days before the election.

Although fake news stories most likely dramatically changed some individuals' opinions on the election, Mark Zuckerberg, facebook CEO, believed that the fake news was not as significant in the outcome of the election. "I think the idea that fake news on Facebook -- of which it's a small amount of content -- influenced the election in any way is a pretty crazy idea"

Both Facebook and Google are now taking precautions to prevent fake news from being spread on their platforms. According to CNNtech, Facebook and Google agreed not to place ads from fake news publishers on third party apps or websites, "because the content falls under the broader category of 'illegal, misleading or deceptive' content. However, Mark Zuckerberg admitted that "Some of these ideas will work well, and some will not. We understand how important the issue is for our community and we are committed to getting this right."

To the right: Mike Pompeo

Further to the right: Jefferson Sessions



## New Zealand Earthquake

There was a massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake in New Zealand on November 14th. It occurred in the northeastern coast of South Island, the largest part of New Zealand, after some seismic faults moved vertically and horizontally. According to CNN, it literally lifted the seabed up to six and a half feet in some places, and created small drops in the landscape and roads.

The earthquake caused a tsunami that killed at least two people, and caused huge landslides. CNN also reports that many have been evacuated from near the coast. However, there have also been implications for marine life. Some land that used to be submerged is now well above sea level, exposing and killing

many marine animals.

Some scientists believe that this "coastal uplift" could become a permanent feature. This has happened before, for example in New Zealand earthquakes in 1855 and 1931.

There is debate among scientists as to whether this massive earthquake, along with others on the same day in the Dominican Republic, Chile, and Argentina, were all caused by the same thing. ABC reports that many scientists believe the Supermoon caused them, whether immediately or as the small force needed to bring tensions over the edge that were building up over time.

Below: damage done by the earthquake



# Cookin' With the Caps

By Harrison Brown '20

After another 2nd round exit last year against the Pittsburgh Penguins, the Capitals are off to an 11-5-2 record and 3rd in the Metropolitan Division behind the Penguins (11-4-3) and the Rangers (13-5-0) to start the year, despite the fact that they have played fewer games than both Pittsburgh and New York.

The Caps are playing some solid hockey. They have scored the first goal in 9 out of 12 games they have played. Alex Ovechkin has 9 goals and 13 points in 18 games to start the year. He may be 31 years old, but he shows no signs of slowing down. The most impressive player so far this year maybe Marcus Johansson, 26, who has 13 points and 7 goals in the same amount of games played this year. Braden Holtby has been sharp coming off of tying the NHL wins record (48) last season. He has 1.99 goals against average with a .927 save percentage. Holtby is also 9-4-1. Nicklas Backstrom is leading the club right now with 17 points, 5 of which are goals.

The Capitals have a lot of plusses so far. However, they keep losing leads but are still able to win. This could be a problem the farther we get into the 82-game season. A few weeks ago when the Capitals played a home-and-home series with the Winnipeg Jets, they coughed up 2- and 3-goal leads, but they still won both games. The Capitals were leading by those amount of goals into the 3rd period, but the Jets were able to fight back in it. They scored 3 goals in 9 minutes to tie the game in D.C. and 2 goals in 5 minutes at MTS Centre in Winnipeg. The Capitals were able to prevail after game-winning goals from Jay Beagle with 30 seconds left in the 3rd in Winnipeg and a power play goal in overtime from Alex Ovechkin in D.C.

However, the Capitals have played from behind a lot in the past two games. Against Florida, they were down 2-1 with 11 minutes left. They got goals from Alex Ovechkin, T.J. Oshie, and newly acquired Lars Eller to win the game 4-2. The Capitals also lost 3-0 to the Sharks on Tuesday, a game where netminder, Martin Jones, was a brick wall. The Capitals had their opportunities, but Jones was able to make 24 saves for the shutout. They needed to start playing ahead again after the Sharks game except for the part when they give up a 2 or 3 goal lead.

The Capitals had a good outing in Chicago. The Blackhawks were going into the game with the Capitals on a 7-game winning streak. Washington halted that streak with breakout star Marcus Johansson scoring in overtime after Blackhawks' forward Marian Hossa tied the game in the final minute of the third. The Caps played solid defensively and great all around. Jay Beagle scored 2 goals in the win and Holtby was solid between the pipes stopping 31 of 33 shots.

After a great night in Chicago, the Caps headed to Raleigh with 6 wins in their past 7 outings. However, that seemed impossible to believe when the puck dropped at PNC Arena. The only good things that came out of that game were that Evgeny Kuznetsov broke his scoring slump drawing first blood, and backup goalie Phillip Grubauer stopped 33 shots. That wasn't enough as the Caps were blown out 5-1 after taking a 1-0 lead. The Caps were playing miserable defense, and the only reason why it was only 5-1 was because of Grubauer's performance. It was an ugly outing against a team that they definitely should have beaten. Rookie Sebastian Aho scored his first two career NHL goals en route to an all-around great win by the Canes to snap a 3-game losing skid. And to make it worse, the Hurricanes were without two of their top players; Justin Faulk was placed on injured reserve with an upper-body injury and Bryan Bickell was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a rare disease that could have ended his career.

Following a horrific performance at

PNC Arena in Raleigh, the Capitals were better in Columbus despite losing 2-1 in overtime. Nicklas Backstrom scored his second goal of the campaign, and the Capitals took a 1-0 lead. Phillip Grubauer was back in between the pipes after the good performance in Carolina because the Caps were playing back to back, and they'd much rather Holtby play the following night. The Capitals held the lead going into the third but rookie, Zach Werenski, tied the contest and sent it into OT. Early in the extra frame, Blue Jackets' forward Cam Atkinson beat Grubauer to extend Columbus' win streak to 6 straight games. The Caps lost 2 straight and 3 of the past four going into a big game with their biggest rival and the team that eliminated Washington in the Stanley Cup Playoffs last year, the Pittsburgh Penguins.

The Penguins came into D.C. for the first time since eliminating Washington from the playoffs. These two teams met on opening night when the Penguins defeated the Capitals 3-2 in a shootout at the PPG Paints Arena in the Steel City. The Capitals were looking for sweet revenge for opening night and for ending their season last year that was supposed to be the Caps year to win it all. The Penguins might have the best goalie in the NHL that includes 22-year-old, Matt Murray with an undefeated record heading into the night and a .951 save percentage. He tied a rookie record winning 15 games for the Penguins in the playoffs last year en route to a Stanley Cup title. They also have Marc-Andre Fleury who beat the Caps on opening night. After losing the last two games and three of the last four, the Capitals were in a tough matchup trying to stay in the top 8 in the Eastern Conference. The Caps came flooding out of the gates with a 7-1 victory over their biggest rival in a physical game where they had the puck the most of the night. Nicklas Backstrom scored 5 points including 2 goals, and T.J. Oshie had a 4 point night with 2 goals (including one shorthanded) as well. Dmitry Orlov, Alex Ovechkin, and Justin Williams also struck in the blowout victory. The Pittsburgh game hopefully made everyone forget about that terrible 5-1 loss in Raleigh against the Canes a few nights back. The Caps scored 3 times in the first period and then kept pouring it on with a goal in the second and 3 more in the third. The Capitals struggling power play scored twice in the win after switching Marcus Johansson with Evgeny Kuznetsov on the first power play unit. After mixing up some lines, I say that the Caps broke through with the 7-1 win against the Penguins.

After the Caps opened the floodgates



Above: Alex Ovechkin celebrating a goal

To the left: Nick Backstrom with the puck



To the left: Evgeny Kuznetsov driving the net

against the Penguins, they continued their 5-game homestand against the Detroit Red Wings. The Caps had a rough first period. Andre Burakovsky, Tom Wilson, T.J. Oshie, and Lars Eller all left the game with injuries in the opening frame. Luckily Wilson returned for the rest of the game. As for the other three players, Burakovsky was ready to go for Sunday's tilt with the Columbus Blue Jackets, but the Caps received the news that T.J. Oshie would be out week-to-week and Lars Eller would be out day-to-day, both with upper-body injuries. Neither of them played against the Blue Jackets on Sunday. The Caps may have lost three guys, but that didn't stop them from prevailing 1-0 for the club's 10th win of the year and 2nd consecutive victory. Jay Beagle struck with 5:11 left in regulation after the Red Wings blocked Dmitry Orlov's shot. Braden Holtby earned his first shutout of the season, making 25 saves.

The Caps continued with their homestand on Sunday vs. the Blue Jackets without Eller and Oshie. Nicklas Backstrom struck first to maintain his impressive week in the first period. He also had an assist on Alex Ovechkin's power-play goal in the 2nd period. However, Backstrom took two penalties in the game. One in the 2nd period for roughing with Jackets' captain Nick Foligno (Foligno got a penalty on that call too) and the second in the final 2 minutes for high sticking Foligno. And let's just say that if you take penalties against the league's top power play, they're going to make you pay. Plus two of the Caps' best penalty killers, Oshie and Eller, did not play. The Jackets scored on both of Backstrom's penalties and scored the game-winning goal with 54 seconds left in the game. The Blue Jackets defeated the Capitals for the second time in the last week by a final score of 3-2. The Blue Jackets extended their winning streak to four games on Sunday afternoon.

The Capitals close their homestand on Friday. They host the St. Louis Blues (10-6-3) on Wednesday night at 7 PM and the Sabres (6-8-4) on Friday at 5 PM before going to Toronto to face the Maple Leafs (8-7-3) on Saturday night at 7 PM. All of those games are on CSN Mid-Atlantic. The Caps will have to break out from Sunday's loss to Columbus to try to find their winning ways again.

# The Caps Aren't the Only Team in Town

By Jamie McLucas '18

The Redskins are having a so-so season so far. It is safe to say that they had much higher expectations going into this season after winning the National Football Conference East Division last year. However, despite their current record, Kirk Cousins has been putting up impressive numbers, averaging over 300 passing yards per game. His production has increased since last season when he averaged 260 passing yards per game, although the team has not been having as much success.

They are currently third in their division behind the Cowboys (9-1) and the Giants (7-3), with a record of six and three and one tie. The Eagles are close behind them with a 5-5 record, so the Redskins are not far ahead with their 6-3-1 record. They are 2-1 against their division so far this year, but have a tough schedule ahead, including the Arizona Cardinals and their division rivals, the Dallas Cowboys. According to a recent NFL power ranking by Bleacher Report, the Redskins are the eight best team in the NFL.

A month ago, the Redskins had a historic tie with the Cincinnati Bengals in a game played in London with a score of 27-27, which was the second tie in the NFL this year. The last time that there were two ties in an NFL season was in 1997, one of which was the Redskins. The Redskins' road to the playoffs will not be an easy one, but as of right now, they are in line for a wild card position. However, they will need to play well for the rest of the season to keep this spot.

Last season the Wizards finished with a .500 record, and did not qualify for the playoffs. However, they did suffer injuries during the season to both John Wall and Bradley Beal, their two best players, which likely contributed to them not making the postseason. In the 2014 season, on the other hand, they won the Southeast Division of the NBA, and swept the Toronto Raptors in the first round, but lost to the Atlanta Hawks in the Eastern Conference Semifinals. They certainly still have the potential to be a playoff competitive team, but they need to maintain a high level of play and avoid injuries.

The Wizards have had a very slow start to the season, with a four and nine record so far, as they are in second to last place in the Eastern Conference, only above the 76ers. As of right now, they are six places out of making the playoffs. They are five and five at home this season, but have yet to win a road game. John Wall and Bradley Beal have been doing most of the work, with Wall averaging 24 points and over eight assists per game, and Beal averaging almost 18 points.

However, it is still early in the season and they could very well become a top contender, but they need to elevate their level of play for this to happen. They also have to adapt to their new head coach, Scott Brooks, from the Oklahoma City Thunder, which could be a reason for the slow start. They fired former head coach Randy Wittman after a disappointing 41-41 record to end last season. Many have high hopes for the team under Brooks, who has had five playoff appearances and one of the best coaching records of all time, with a career 62% win percentage.



Above: Kirk Cousins throwing a pass in a 42-24 win over the Green Bay Packers



Above: John Wall driving to the basket in a game against the Boston Celtics

## Upcoming Saints Athletics

EVENT:	DATE:
Saints Wrestling Tri-City Meet	Nov. 29th
Girl's Basketball SSSAS Invitational	Nov. 29-30th
Saints Hockey Home vs. Georgetown Prep	Dec. 1st
Sleepy Thompson Basketball Tournament	Dec. 1-3rd
Winter Track EHS Early Bird	Dec. 8th
Boy's Basketball D.C. Classic Tournament	Dec 9-11th
Saints Wrestling Holiday Classic	Dec 20th
Annual Alumni Hockey Game	Dec. 23rd



# Number Pi in the Classroom, Numer One in Our Hearts

By Gwendolyn Rak '18

This year, SSSAS has had a tremendous surge of school spirit, especially when it comes to athletics. Our Saints, however, are not only competing on the fields and courts: in both sciences and humanities, students are participating in extracurricular academic competitions. From Quiz Bowl to Math Meets to Certamen, students are dedicating their time outside of school to these teams at practices and events, like any athlete would do. To some, robotics or debates might not be as exciting as a football game, but our academic teams still need your support. Here's a little bit of information about each team.

The Mathletes, comprised mainly of Mrs. Daly and Mr. King's honors classes in addition to other dedicated math students, compete in Math Meets as part of the Virginia Math League. About once a month our Saints and students from other public and private schools take a six-question test, and the highest scores are submitted. Typically freshman and sophomores participate in the Junior Varsity Math Meets, while upperclassmen compete in the Varsity meets. There have already been two Math Meets this year, and the next is on December 6th. How to spot a Mathlete: look for their signature black, long-sleeve t-shirts with the number pi on the back.

QuizBowl is a small team of students that compete on "It's Academic," a TV game show that tests high school students' knowledge about history and geography, and occasionally math and science. Only three students are able to compete, but there are three to five other members who attend practices and serve as alternates. During their practices, they review quiz questions and practice with the buzzer system. This year's team has already advanced to the playoffs and will be competing against Washington-Lee and W.T. Woodson at 10 A.M. December 10th, televised on NBC4.

Science Club follows a similar structure,

meeting weekly during lunch in preparation for the annual Science Bowl. The club has about ten members, but in February, a team of four students (plus an alternate) will compete against other Virginia high schools at the Jefferson Lab Regional Science Bowl Competition in Newport News, Virginia. There they will answer multiple choice and short answer questions about physics, chemistry, and biology, astronomy, earth science, math, and other general science questions.

If you prefer softer science, such as politics, then check out Model UN. As the name implies, Model UN is like a small-scale United Nations, where high school students act as "diplomats" from different countries. There are about thirty members, but not everyone is required to participate in all of the competitions, so members "compete with varying degrees of enthusiasm," according to senior Sam Dubke. At the conferences they compete against both public and private high schools from around the region. Model UN meets as needed on Tuesdays to prepare for the conferences.

The debate team is of a similar style. With a team of 3 leaders and six additional members, our students participate in monthly debates, each with a different topic. They compete against other high school teams in four-round-long debates. In preparation for debates, debaters spend time writing and reviewing their statements, emphasizing finding evidence for their argument. Katarina Silis, one of the debate leaders, said about debate "I like it because you get to practice with public speaking. And because it's evidence based, you have to really support your argument... It exposes you to a lot of people with different opinions." This month they are preparing for a debate about the Plan Columbia December 10th at Lake Braddock High School.

Although most of us rely on technology (our phones, in particular), only the growing Robotics Team can tell us how they work. The Robotics Team travels around Maryland and Virginia to compete in the First Tech Challenge, or FTC. "Each year FTC releases a 'game' and according to its rules we make a robot that is capable of scoring as many points as possible," explains junior Reagan Brown. The program is divided into two teams, Team Thunderstone (the rookie team) and Team Iron Giants (the "seniors"), each with about ten members. Students "practice" their skills by building robots every day during lunch, and even sometimes during the weekends. This year's challenge is called Velocity Vortex. In it, teams of two operate a robot they build in a game similar to basketball: the field is split diagonally in two and each robot can score by placing balls in a basketball hoop-like goal called a center vortex, and corner goals called corner vortices. For extra points, teams can also cap the center vortex with a giant yoga ball.

Every so often at Morning Meeting, Mr. Hochberg or a Latin student makes an announcement about how SSSAS students did at a Certamen -- but what is Certamen? Like in the Science Bowl and "It's Academic," the fifteen certamen players answer questions about their area of study, Latin and the classics. Each event consists of three rounds during which the team competes against two other schools. Like in Science Club and Quiz Bowl, our certamen players prepare by looking at questions from previous years. Mr. Hochberg also helps students by "giving mini-lessons" for any questions they get wrong, according to junior Elliot Karsten.

Going to academic competitions may not give you any Saints Pride points, but remember to support our Saints in our all of their extracurricular activities, academic and athletic.

## DC Livin'

By Harrison Brown '20

November's here! It may not be cherry blossom season, but there are still plenty of things to do in the District of Columbia. Many students and faculty who live in D.C. have great recommendations on activities to do, and restaurants and museums to visit if you happen to be in Washington D.C. this month.

"I go to Rock Creek Park and hiking a lot. I also like going to the zoo. They're both good places to walk or bike ride," says Mr. Mills. "I particularly like to ride my bike and D.C. is already a bike-friendly city and is developing. There are a lot of bikers, and it's not a big city. It's easy to ride anywhere without going too far."

"American History Museum, Cherry Blossoms near the Lincoln Memorial in the spring." Charlotte Kho '19 recommends. "Definitely see all of the monuments to experience the city and look at the city."

"Rose's Luxury Restaurant and the Phillips Collection for museums for modern art. I would also recommend Pizzeria Paradiso," Father Miller says.

"There are many restaurants on 8th street that everyone loves, like Ted's Bulletin, Rose's Luxury (Best new restaurant in America 2014), and Medium Rare. Two new restaurants on 14th street are Pineapple and Pearls, which is owned by the same people as Rose's Luxury, and the new Q Pizza. The new African American Museum on the Mall is very popular right now as well," Austin Anderson '17 said.

There are also some great upcoming museum exhibits in D.C. The June Schwarcz: Invention and Variation exhibit at the Renwick Gallery is opening on March 10th and runs through August 20th. The Yayoi Kusama Infinity Mirrors at Hirshhorn is an exhibit at the Museum and Sculpture Garden, which opens on February 23rd and concludes on May 14th. Also, the Gateways/Portales at Anacostia



Above: Rose's Luxury in Washington D.C.



Above: the newly renovated U.S. Capitol Building



Above: a piece from the June Schwarcz exhibit

Community Museum starts on December 5th and ends on August 6th.

The June Schwarcz exhibit is about Schwarcz herself, one the country's finest enamelists and "her innovatively designed vessels," according to the Smithsonian website. This exhibition will show the work she made before she became an artist and the work she made during the rest of her career. You can visit starting on March 10th, 2017. This exhibit is perfect for amateur designers.

Another exciting exhibit that will be coming up soon is the Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. This exhibit shows us the evolution of art throughout Japanese history. In addition, there will be five or more multi-reflecting mirror rooms along with a selection of the artist's infinity net paintings, recent paintings, and archival material.

The Gateways and Portales Exhibit at the Anacostia Community Museum illustrates how Latino immigrants came to the United States. It portrays their challenges and adventures from coming into the country like social justice, community access, and public festivals.

Restaurants and museums are not the only things buzzing around in the District. D.C. has the reputation of having the worst traffic, along with Los Angeles and New York, but many SSSAS members do not think it's that bad.

"In the morning - I live real close to the expressway - I leave at 6:15 and I get here before 7. The commute going back is harder, especially if the Nats are playing it backs it up. It's kind of like a reverse alley way," Mr. Garikes explains.

"It takes about 18 minutes, and it's easy. It usually takes a little bit more time (30 minutes) going back, but it's not that bad," says

# The Inside Scoop on “Smart” Boards

By Afua Nyantakyi '18

Smart Boards: for some, they're an essential tool in the classroom and for others they're daunting electronic whiteboards with a mind of their own. Yet, no matter what reservations you may have about Smart Boards, you're bound to find them all around the SSSAS Upper School campus.

A Smart Board is an interactive electronic screen that acts as a cross between a projector and a white board. The cost of one these boards may range from \$900 to \$4,000 according to the official Smart Boards website. Although they are expensive, the price seems to be worth it as about 57% of teachers surveyed identified as Smart Board users.

In response to a poll sent out by The Voice, SSSAS teachers surveyed stated that they use Smart Boards for an average of 31% of class. However, the responses ranged from using the Smart Board 0% of class to 100%. This raised the question of why some teachers use Smart Boards more than others.

One possible reason was that Smart Boards might be better suited for certain subjects. Out of 28 teacher respondents, 16 believed this to be true. Out of those 16, five teachers believed that Smart Boards are well suited for language classes, 13 believed they were well suited for science classes and all 16 thought they were well suited for math classes.

Science teacher Ms. Oakes, who uses her Smart Board during the majority of her classes, said that “I love using them because I can create a lesson where I can decide when be thoughtful about something and how deeply to cover it. I can think about when to use animations or moving objects, I can add to it. I can think about that in advance as I'm trying to think about how students are going to learn the material.”

Although the teachers agree that not all classes benefit the same way from Smart Boards, the question still remains over why the 43% of teachers who responded to the survey do not use Smart Boards. Ms. Nadler, an English teacher who says she does not use her Smart Board very often believes that “Smart Boards are good in theory, but in practice I'm nervous about using them because when I do use them, things go wrong and then I need a plan B or a plan C for my lesson.”

Ms. Nadler did admit to using the Smart Board at least once during the year, teaching close reading with her 9th graders. “We'll project a story onto the Smart Board and then they'll tell me what they underlined and annotated and I'll do it up there so we have a visual of what a good close reading looks like.”

However, preparing for that lesson is never easy at all. “I do find that in preparation for that lesson, I usually spend about an hour or longer working with a tech person making sure the Smart Board works and at times they still don't for reasons that aren't anybody's fault, they just get wonky, or the computers aren't working etc.”

Ms. Scott, is a French teacher who uses her Smart board actively about once a month, however she's “always projecting something” on them. She found that Smart Boards present a challenge when it comes to student participation “I find that with the Smart Board covering up part of my white board, I can't have as many students come up to the board as I could before.”

Smart Board difficulties are not exclusive to teachers who do not use them on a regular basis. Ms. Oakes also admitted that “there's a lot of work that goes into it.” However she believes that once that preparation is over, “It makes my teaching easier. In front of the classroom, I've already done all the thinking. I can walk around the room and make sure everybody is on task, as opposed to just scribbling away on the board and not knowing what's going on behind me.”

Ms. Oakes recognized that “perhaps if more teachers knew how to use them, then they would find better uses for them. I know that I discovered a lot of useful aspects of the Smart Board through the time I had to dedicate looking into the Smart Board and it's features.”



## Halos and Horns



In	Out
Beans, Greens, Potatoes, Tomatoes Pants Turkey Protests Winter Sports Christmas Joe Biden	Food Insecurity Shorts Candy Election Fall Sports Thanksgiving Kanye West

[Writing the State Of The Union]

OBAMA: So I'll say the state of the union is...

BIDEN: On fleek. Say it's on fleek.



## Gotta Get Sum Dim Sum

By Shannon Foster '18

As we entered the dimly lit space our senses were overwhelmed with the melody of Chinese conversation coming from all directions, as well as the pungent odor of seasoning liberally sprinkled over pork and poultry dangling in the window pane. The Hong Kong Pearl is a traditional Chinese restaurant specializing in Dim Sum, a style of Chinese cuisine prepared as small bite-sized portions of food served in steamer baskets and small plates – think tapas!

Customers really start pouring in about 11:00, and by 11:45 there's a line out the door, as dim sum is neither breakfast nor lunch – more of a brunch. I was just settling into my seat at our lazy Susan, a communal Chinese round table with a spinning server plate in the center to facilitate sharing food, when our little band of culinary explorers were surrounded by a clamoring of dishes, wheeled around on rolling, multi-level carts, presenting a smorgasbord of incoherent pickings.

The appetizers included shaomai and quotic - dumplings filled with pan-fried meat and vegetables and wrapped in thin slices of wheat flour. One points and politely requests a dish and the waiter or waitress places the dish in the center of the table. Other options included the savory chashaobao, or pork buns, and Mr. Chan's favorite danta, egg custard. The service was quick and thorough as the waiters constantly checked to ensure your satisfaction. My personal favorites were the traditional sesame seed buns, resembling little dough balls with seeds closely packed on the surface. The inside was stuffed with a sticky sweet filling. Another highlight was the chrysanthemum tea, as its mild bitterness perfectly complimented the general sweetness of the dishes.

In traditional Chinese style, we paid

altogether, as a group. The Chinese place a premium on community: the word for “everyone” in Chinese, for instance, is literally “large family, and this is the way they dine and pass their time. As we exited, we passed some twenty families enjoying the array of dishes, full of smiles and laughter. I would absolutely recommend the Hong Kong Pearl for groups to visit, so long as they are willing to try new dishes and new pronunciations!



Above: a group of Saints eating at Dim Sum

# The Present Celebrates the Past

By Wendy Buendia '20

The Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) is a Mexican national holiday celebrated by people in Guatemala, Brazil, and Spain, along with other Spanish-speaking countries and communities in the United States. Day of the Dead was first celebrated in Mexico, to honor the Aztecs' death goddess. After the Spanish conquistadors came to the Americas, the purpose of Day of the Dead changed to honor the family members who passed away. Over the decades, some religious components were added to Day of the Dead. Many people also put statues of Jesus and Holy Mary, because most of the Hispanic population is Catholic, and also say prayers to their ancestors to help them in their future and to bless them from heaven with good health and a long, happy life. Día de Los Muertos is on November 1st and 2nd, and a lot of time and preparation goes into the celebration.

In my family, Dia de los Muertos is celebrated differently than how people in other countries might celebrate this holiday. My family is from Bolivia and have different customs than others might have. For example, in Mexico, the people celebrate out in the streets with festivals and selling many decorations and foods. But from where my family and I are from, the people are more personal with their festivities and only invite their other close family members and friends to celebrate and see the altar. On each day, there are different activities and prepared events that make this holiday special to everyone.

October 31: Before Día de los Muertos,

my family put together the altar. Tradition is that the altar has to be finished before noon, so in the morning my family was building the altar and arranging the foods, glasses, and fruits. The altar has three levels. On the first level, we place a variety of fruits, so our ancestors could eat as many fruits and can choose which to eat. On the second level, there are plates of their favorite foods. We also put out a variety of drinks. There was a glass of wine, a glass of water, and a glass of their favorite juice. The altar was as long as the dining table, about a meter and a half.

The altar took so long to build because we had to make sure that there will be enough space for all the food and decorations. There are many foods that are made especially for Día de los Muertos, including the preferred foods of the deceased family members. One of the dishes made for Día de los Muertos is fideos uchu (ají picante). Fideos uchu is a dish made of noodles with chili peppers that go along with it. This dish is only eaten during the celebrations of Día de los Muertos, so it has a special meaning and is one of the favorite foods of my family.

November 1: Today is the the first day of Día de los Muertos. All my relatives came over to our house to pray for all our ancestors. After praying, my family ate special dishes reserved for Día de los Muertos and some of our ancestors' favorite foods. One of the foods that we ate was rice with special sausages from Bolivia. After eating, we all gathered around the altar and shared stories. We laughed, cried, and felt all the emotions that exist.

One of the stories I remember the most is one that my dad shared about my grandfather. In the story, my grandfather had recently graduated from high school when he enrolled in the Bolivian military. One of the circumstances my grandfather had to adjust to was he had to wake up early, sometimes as early as four in the morning, after only getting as little as five hours of sleep. Unlike some soldiers who dropped out because they couldn't take the harsh circumstances, my grandfather knew this was the only way he could prove to the others and to himself that he had what it took to survive in the harshest circumstances possible. My father also followed in his footsteps and retired from the Bolivian military before he moved to the U.S. My dad liked to share this story, because in the story was a lesson embedded deep inside: don't give up no matter what stands in the way.

November 2: Today is the last day of Día de los Muertos. The family comes again in the evening. Everyone helps take down the altar and help sort out the food that was on the altar. We started on the lower level, where all the fruits are, and continue all the way to the top, where all the animal-shaped bread is. Every year, all the relatives compete for the girl-shaped bread. This bread is special because it is the more elaborate, decorated with many vibrant colors. It is one of the main pieces of the altar. Día de los Muertos is one of the most important holidays celebrated and close to the heart of millions, as it is a way to connect with their deceased loved ones.



Above and to the right: photos of an altar celebrating The Day of the Dead at the Buendia home

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