

The TIE

Tradition - Integrity - Excellence

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Sophomores challenge the Freshmen in Tug-of-War.

Students Show School Spirit in April

by Kate Stanislaski '18

Throughout the second week of April, SJP was awakened from its end-of-the-quarter bleakness and thrived during Spirit Week. From Monday, April 6, until Friday, April 10, the school was alive with energy throughout Spirit Week.

The week began with lots of hometown pride. Students came in with their favorite Boston sports attire and other various jerseys: SJP student-fans

were sure to show off and boast about their beloved sports teams! While some were upset over having to wear khakis and skirts, the week was still off to a great start.

On Tuesday, maroon, navy and white filled the school hallways in various combinations; SJP students showed off their school spirit wear as the college fair was occurring in the gym.

Midweek, students were excited as wacky Wednesday brought many colors and accessories to the uniform. From funky ties to brightly colored

knee-highs, the classic school uniform received a vibrant makeover. Some students even suggested that Mr. Nunan think about adding expressive ties and socks to the dress code.

SJP traveled back in time for Throwback Thursday, a recurring spirit week favorite. Walking through the halls was like a walk through the decades. Almost every decade, even all the way back to the roaring twenties, was represented. Classic dresses from the fifties, poppy colors of the seventies, and nineties grunge shirts were just some of the types of clothing worn on April 9.

Spirit week was coming to a close as the color war took place between the grades.

Excited students wore the colors chosen by their



The Step Team performs at the Spirit Week Pep Rally.

grade, and waited through their shortened classes for a pumped-up pep rally at the end of the day. Freshman represented their royal blue, sophomores displayed black, juniors showed off teal, and seniors looked awesome in camo.

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From the Editor's Desk

British Kabuki

by Seohyun Shim '16



"Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you are going to get," said Forrest Gump. To me, the play *The Importance of Being Earnest, a Trivial Comedy for Serious People* by Oscar Wilde was sort of an amazing chocolate that I never expected to taste. The play criticizes the members of the upper class, who were mainly obsessed with aestheticism or materialism.

When I first glanced at the title *The Importance of Being Earnest*, I thought it was a philosophy book on how to live earnestly. However, I soon learned that it is quite different from what I expected. The play takes its audience on an uproarious roller coaster ride through the lifestyle of the English upper class in the 1890s. Throughout the play, Wilde lampoons the lack of earnestness of people and takes a sharp shot at their pretentious conduct.

The Importance of Being Earnest is a play mainly about two men, Algernon and Jack. Algernon is a charming, idle, and good-mannered London gentleman who pretends to have a friend named Bunbury in the countryside of England whose health has been failing for years, so he can slip away from London occasionally. One day, Jack, Algernon's best friend, visits him in London, and reveals that he is the benefactor of a lady named Cecily in Hertfordshire, and that Ernest is his fictitious intractable younger brother he created in order to sneak away from his estate at Hertfordshire. In addition, Jack professes that he is in love with Gwendolen, Algernon's cousin. Later, Gwendolen falls in love with Jack, yet it is because she believes Jack's name is Ernest. Algernon, knowing Jack's big secret, trips down to Jack's manor, and introduces himself as Jack's problematic brother Ernest to Cecily. Thinking Algernon is Jack's notorious brother Ernest, Cecily instantly falls in love with him. However, Jack's sudden return to his estate and the unexpected arrival of Gwendolen make things go awry.

I believe the point the author wants his audiences to see is that people at the time lacked earnestness and were hypocritical. For example, we see how Cecily and Gwendolen become sisters when they realize neither Jack nor Algernon is named Ernest. We also see the theme further continue when Lady Bracknell's opinion on Cecily changes as soon as she learns that Cecily is an heir to a great fortune. Wilde also wants us to know that moral standards were very low at the time. These

examples show how so much morality was neglected in the society. Yes, this story is outrageous, but its improbability is drowned out by all the wit and humor that Wilde employs.

In a sentence, I would strongly recommend this book to my fellow classmates. I am enthralled with this book as it moved me so much more than what I expected. Before reading this play, I sometimes thought "Why am I not Bill Gates?" or "Why can't I be that person?" However, now I realize how ludicrous those assumptions are. Seeing that there are people who put themselves in predicaments by pretending to be who they are not, although it was merely fictitious, led me to be satisfied with who I am. I do not mean being complacent but being happy with myself. Furthermore, it was pleasing to read Wilde's beauteous language. I believe that the only thing to be done to improve this story would be to use slower tempo. The book drove me crazy, because while I enjoyed Wilde's farcical shock and awe tactic, it made me quite uncomfortable. If the plot had slower tempo, I would have enjoyed the play even more.

Wilde does a fabulous job of crafting a believable tale of everyday moral collapse of English upper class. Wilde is masterful at showing how the lack of earnestness and amoral conduct can prevail in a highly sophisticated society. The reader of this book is left with the haunting question of the value of his own life and who he should be.

Spirit Week (continued from page 1)

To kick off the assembly, the step team gave an amazing performance, and Mr. Faherty even wore a tux. This time, there were a couple of new activities like "give Tim Kim a graduation present," where students covered each other with wrapping paper and then ran to Tim Kim. There were also pep rally classics like the three-legged race, dodgeball, and tug-of-war, which also added to the excitement.

The senior vs. junior tug-of-war competition ended earlier than expected, when the enthusiastic students broke the rope in two! Last but not least, when it came to dodgeball, the seniors beat the teachers by a long shot.

As everyone was leaving and the gym was cleared, the seniors got a standing ovation. Everyone went home to enjoy the weekend, especially the seniors, who needed to get some rest before taking finals.



Tim and Ethan

Ms. DeCost Travels to China

by Nailah Khoory '18



In March, Ms. DeCost, our International Student Coordinator, travelled all the way to China with a group of fellow educators. She visited several cities and schools, and I

was able to ask her some questions regarding her trip.

Who did you travel with on your trip?

I traveled to China with five other people who have similar jobs to mine at other schools. Two were from schools in California and two were from a school in Waltham. We travelled for ten days and visited four cities in China. It was so great to be able to talk about our schools and students with one another and to share ideas and best practices with each other.

Did you notice any differences between Boston and the cities you visited? Was there anything peculiar or interesting that you saw?

The cities in China are so big! They go on forever! Whereas it is easy to walk around Boston in a day or two, it would take a week or more to walk around the cities in China. Even the "smaller cities" in China have 8 million people living in them!

Did you meet any potential international students?

I did! I talked with a lot of students studying in middle schools in China who want to study in the U.S. for high school. Most students in China start learning English in the third grade; it is really impressive! Generally, I find students by word of mouth, agencies, and schools that reach out to us. I also interview every student who applies here either on Skype or face-to-face.

How has this trip influenced your perspective on the daily lifestyle of students?

I think our students at SJP have a lot to appreciate. School in China lasts all day! I saw students walking home from school at 9:00 at night. The most common thing I heard was that

students do not have much free time to enjoy sports, clubs, and activities at their schools in China. The focus is on studying and academics and not on getting involved in extracurricular activities. There are 50 to 60 students in a class, which is much different than our 15 to 20 students in a class. I think our teachers at SJP have more time to connect one-on-one with students due to the smaller class size. Also, the students from the South of China will laugh at me for saying this... but there was not any heat in the schools in Southern China! And it was cold! Students and teachers were wearing their jackets, scarves, and hats during classes.

Did you visit any Chinese historical monuments?

I saw the Terra Cotta Warriors and Bell Tower in Xi'An, the Bund and Yu Garden in Shanghai, the Yellow Crane Tower in Wuhan, and the Wide and Narrow Alley in Chengdu. All of the sites were beautifully breathtaking. There is so much history in China and to see it in person is such a different experience than seeing it in photos.

What about the food?



I also ate A LOT of great food in China. The food in China is nothing like Chinese food in America. It is so much tastier! I tried some interesting foods like jelly fish, cows tongue, and duck neck. My favorite foods were the dumplings in Shanghai and Hot Pot in Chengdu.

More SJP

Travellers: Look for a story about the Service Immersion Trip to the DR in our next issue.



Kelli's Korner

How April Fools Came To Be

by Kelli Aquino '18



Many countries around the globe are active participants in All Fools' Day, commonly known as April Fools' Day. This "holiday" is celebrated every year on April 1, and is the perfect day to pull pranks on friends and family without getting into too much trouble. Some people go as far as to report false news stories on the TV, publish them in newspapers, and spread fake, ridiculous stories worldwide

through the Internet and social media. On April Fools Day, pranking does not seem to have any limits.

Our current April Fools' Day has been adapted from many ancient celebrations around the world. One is the Roman festival of Hilaria, which celebrated the resurrection of the god, Attis. The Latin word, *hilaria*, resembles the word hilarity in English. Coincidence? I think not.

Another one of these ancient celebrations comes from India. Holi, a Hindu festival, is often celebrated by people playing jokes and throwing colorful dyes on one another. This festival just shows that centuries ago people loved annoying and pranking each other, just as much as we do today.

The origins of our modern April Fools' Day, however, dates all the way back to 1582 during the time of Pope Gregory XIII. He issued a papal bull that decreed a new standard calendar for Christians in Europe. (This calendar would eventually take his name and become the calendar that we all use in the 21st century.) Prior to this papal decree, every country and city in Europe used the Julian calendar. This Gregorian calendar, moved the date of the new year from April 1 to January 1.

Many years after the new calendar was in place, some Europeans still continued to celebrate the new year between March 25 and April 1, just like the Julian calendar. These "April Fools," who celebrated the holiday in the spring, were the target of pranks, ridicule, and jokes by those who had already celebrated the new year months earlier. Centuries later, people eventually stopped celebrating the new year in the spring, but the ridicule did not stop, as people still played pranks on each other on April 1.

This is the most historically accurate theory about the history of our current April Fools' Day. (Coincidentally, some of the articles I found were actually written and posted on the Internet on April Fools' Day. If you read some of them, you will know right away that they are not accurate at all.) Even though its history is blurry, April Fools' Day will continue to be a day for fun, laughs, and pranks for many years to come.

One Unforgettable Day with Friends

by Alexandra Hung '16

The junior retreat was an unforgettable experience. For the most part, I am already very close to students in my grade. But the retreat helped me learn more about others who I usually do not interact with as much.

The weather was beautiful, and the view of the lake added a serene atmosphere. The activities that our leaders came up with were creative, yet challenging. My teammates and I had to figure out a way to build a standing "house" with four walls,

that could fit everyone inside.

The tricky part was, that we were only given two pieces of large poster paper, and a limited amount of tape.



We all discussed our ideas, and then incorporated them into the assignment. In reality, we were not totally successful. Although it would have been a plus, the point of our task was not necessarily to achieve it. The reason for being given that assignment, was to determine who stood out as leaders. The project made us realize that leaders are not just the ones "in charge" but those who take the time to listen to what others have to say.

Overall, we had an awesome day filled with laughter, screams, and reflections. A special thanks goes out to **Natalie FitzPatrick, Liam FitzPatrick, Sarah Murphy, Chris Elize**, and the faculty chaperones who helped make the day so great.

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Our Student Voices

On The Road To Finding Our Own

by Malaika Komtangi '15 (delivered at the Scholars Breakfast in March)



Good Morning Mr. Nunan, faculty/staff, students, teachers, parents, and benefactors. I originally wrote this as a Chapel Speech for my senior class. However, I felt this message is not only applicable to the class of 2015. Before I begin my speech, I would like to read you all a short poem written by Rabindranath Tagore, a Nobel Prize winner.

*The time that my journey takes is long and the way of it long.
I came out on the chariot of the first gleam of light, and
pursued my voyage through the wildernesses of worlds leaving
my track on many a star and planet.*

*It is the most distant course that comes nearest to thyself,
and that training is the most intricate which leads to the utter
simplicity of a tune.*

*The traveler has to knock at every alien door to come to his
own, and one has to wander through all the outer worlds to
reach the innermost shrine at the end.*

*My eyes strayed far and wide before I shut them and said
'Here art thou!'*

*The question and the cry 'Oh, where?' melt into tears of a
thousand streams and deluge the world with the flood of the
assurance 'I am!'*

-Rabindranath Tagore

Our lives are just beginning to change as we prepare to set out into the real world next year. No longer sheltered by our parents, we will experience new challenges and new journeys on our various paths. Forced to pay bills, make appointments, and clean laundry all on our own, we will meet new people, and face new struggles and temptations brought on to us by our surroundings. We are maturing into the adults we have been raised and aided to become by our parents, teachers, and mentors. We are growing and changing every single day whether it be something as simple as our taste in music and our hairstyles, or something more complex such as our perception of the world, or the knowledge we ingest. But our journey is not just external. NO! It is internally that we will

face a large percentage of our problems and dilemmas. We will be tested by what life throws at us, and like so many good students before us, we may even break down. However, we will certainly rise to the occasion, giving only our very best. Tagore's poem is a mirror in front of us, reflecting the internal journey we will face as we continue to grow. As travellers we will knock, we will kick, we will pound on unknown doors searching for answers and the experience that may or may not be behind it; we are constantly looking for something in this world to define ourselves; to define our purpose.

We will wander through all the outer worlds wondering what this universe holds for us and we will search for our centered peace, our sacred sanctuary in the eye of the storm. Although we have no control over what the world has planned for us, and what we may become, it can never FORCE a definition upon us as a person. We define who we want to be. We must use the experience we continue to obtain through the broken hearts, the frantic nights, and the painful insecurities we all have to better judge future decisions in our lives. No more chasing after the jerk; no more last second, painful cramming; no more judging ourselves before we even act. We should focus on opening our hearts to new love, organizing our study time to better improve, and embracing the uniqueness of our individualities. We are not defined by standards, stereotypes or limitations. We must not conform to these ideals, but learn to advance from them and transcend into something more fulfilling and more promising,

As we grow, connect, and clash with one another on our own determined paths, we must refuse to get lost in the world. This means we must learn to know who we are and what we want to become, instead of giving in to what someone else has decided for us. I still do not know who I am. At seventeen years old, I do not know the type of person I will become. It's terrifying. It adds yet another unknown to a long list of mysteries that will make up our futures. Yet, I feel a sliver of hope, a small candle to spark a bonfire that will illuminate my way. I KNOW how I can uncover the answer to my future. It lies in my past; it lies in my mistakes: the glaring C on an old report card, the embarrassingly missed spike against St. Clements, the seething anger I feel in an argument. I'm uncovering who I, Malaika Komtangi, am and this excavation into my past gives me insight into my future whether it lies here in Massachusetts at UMass Amherst or MCPHS or even in New York. *I try to improve myself, not based on superficial standards, such as money and beauty, but based on standards I set for myself like achieving good grades or being a loving friend.* I'm learning

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Juniors Enjoy Their Second to Last Retreat

by Vanessa Alvarado '16

Recently, the junior class went on our long-awaited retreat. The anticipation for the retreat was high and everyone was excited. The day was expected to be filled with fun activities and team bonding, and it was.

We were happy to see the beautiful campsite when we arrived. We began our day of activities with a game setting the girls against the boys. This made everyone loosen up and get to know people a little bit more. We then broke into small groups to decide "Most Likely To" and work on a class mission statement. After all the group work, it was time for lunch, and everyone was replenished to start back up with more activities.

One of the most memorable events of the day was creating the time capsule. Students answered three questions, filming their true and honest responses. Our time capsule will be revealed next year at our senior retreat. We are already looking forward to our final class retreat.



Sports News

What is Leadership?

by James Sitkawich '17

"It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership." - Nelson Mandela

Leadership plays a vital part in teams, government, schools, and overall community. A good leader leads people to greatness. When times are hard, a leader steps up to the plate. A leader does not commit a foul or put others down. When someone is down, a leader picks him or her up. A leader is needed to win. A leader does not mislead.

It is important to understand why society needs good leaders. A leader does not just fight for what is right, but a leader fights until the end. A leader does not give up at any moment.

Some ask what does it take to win? The answer is teammates focused on the same goal. If a team is not guided to victory, then they will not be victorious. Someone has to walk up to the plate. Someone has to take hold of the reins. An unguided society is a society of chaos. It is a society that loses every time.

Former President John F. Kennedy once said, "Don't ask what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country." This is a powerful quote because it shows the importance of leadership. Everyone has the ability to lead. Everyone has a story that teaches a lesson to those who hear it. A leader helps those who need help. A leader makes sure that everyone gets the respect that they deserve. A leader stands up to those who want to cause harm. A leader does not push anyone around. A leader leads to greatness.

Crew Team in the Spotlight

by Kate Stanislaski '18

This spring, SJP crew team is back out on the water. This year's crew team consists of students: **Alexis Meissner '17, Bekah Forrest '17, Caroline DiPalma '18, Carolyn Foppiano '18, Hannah Sansone '18, Jackie Joyce '17, Jada Ross '17, Kate Stanislaski '18, Lily Fabrizio '18, Rachel Rosato '17, and Vivian Ho '18.** The crew team practices at Community Rowing Inc. in Watertown. CRI's mission is to "change lives and communities by providing access to the sport of rowing and its profound social benefits".

Being able to use equipment and row at the brand new facility and public docks is a great privilege that the crew girls are lucky to have access to. Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5:45 to 7:45 pm, the girls meet with Coach John Keh and get to go out on water. As of right now, our rowers do not compete against any other teams. Most of the team has never rowed before, and this season we have been focusing on getting the basics down.

Even with a late start to the season due to our extended New England winter, crew is almost into its final week of the season. Next year the crew team looks forward to welcoming some new recruits. Bekah Forrest tells us, "One reason I love crew is because it is a team sport. There are no 'superstars'. In order to be a successful team, everybody must communicate and be synchronized. People should consider joining the crew team because we have a lot of fun, and it is an amazing workout!"

Our Student Voices (*continued from page 5*)

from my mistakes to become a better person by overcoming insecurities, building my confidence, being resilient, and as a result, I shall be my own person, tempered from impurities and forged from only the fire of my past.

The fireball I speak of is found not only within my soul, but also in all of our souls. It fuels our drive and passion to work. It replenishes the earth after its destruction, and aids the rebirth of the phoenix as it rises from the ashes. A phoenix that surely will spread its wings and fly. We are that phoenix, we are that rebirth, we will rise to any occasion, from an circumstance to fly, and become the great leaders and scholars represented here today. Let us keep our fire burning, and forge ones for those who need it, spreading, knowledge, creativity, and inspiration to all.

College Fairs in April

by Erina Parker '16

April was a busy month, and one week in particular was especially hectic for the junior class: the week of April 6 to April 10. We had a couple of opportunities to meet with college representatives that week, beginning with the Jesuit Excellence Tour on Tuesday April 7. Twenty Jesuit colleges from both near and far participated in the college fair held in Café Phoenix. The fair was short, lasting only about an hour, and was exclusively for Juniors. Some of the represented schools included Saint Joseph University in Philadelphia, Loyola University in New Orleans, and Marquette University in Milwaukee. For juniors who cannot make a trip out of state to seek out a dream school, the college fair allowed them the opportunity to discover more about Jesuit schools in other

parts of the country.

On April 9 and April 10, juniors had a second chance to meet with more college admissions representatives at the National College Fair sponsored by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC). The National Fair took place at Hall C in the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. The event was free and open to the public. A variety of schools attended including some international schools from Switzerland and Japan, along with some big name U.S. schools like Ohio State, Purdue, Duke, Penn State, Boston University, and Emerson (represented by former SJP Spanish teacher, Mr. Hernandez).

While the fair was successful in showcasing colleges to students, the whole experience was overwhelming. The pressure to ask the right questions and to choose potential colleges from so many options, made it difficult to navigate the event. Additionally, with thousands of other interested students attending, the floor was crowded and loud. Going to the fair with a level head and little to no fear or just having a person attending with you would really make the experience less intimidating.

Thankfully, we still have the whole summer ahead of us to investigate our college options and prepare for our future. Hopefully, those months will go by at a more leisurely pace.

April Cryptogram

We challenge you to solve this Cryptogram. Each letter in the puzzle corresponds to another letter in the alphabet. We have given you a hint (D=H) to get you started. Crack the code and read the first lines of a famous poem.



*"Second star to the right and straight on 'til morning." J.M. Barrie,
Peter Pan*

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
							D																		

I	Q	P	N	C	O	B	O	C	M	A	N	O	M	F	P	T	P	R	M	A	X	C			
H																									
E	D	P	E		S	M	A	P	E	T	A	N	D	I	G	D	A	O	B	J	P	M	O	T	
					H					H															
P	N	C	D	I	M	M	T		Q	D	O	N	P	M	M	P	E	A	N	R	O				
I	T	P	Q	P	R	B	A	Q	C		P	D	A	T	E		A	S	G	A	M	C	O	N	
C	P	S	S	A	C	I	M	T	Q	I	M	M	I	P	K	Q	A	B	C	T	Q	A	B	E	

Advisory of the Month - Mr. Pasquinelli

by Kelli Aquino '18

I took a journey all the way up to the fifth floor to talk to Mr. Pasquinelli's freshmen advisory. In this advisory are some of the craziest and kindest people that make up the Class of 2018. I asked my fellow classmates how their opinions of high school have changed throughout the course of this year, or if they have changed at all.

Carolyn Foppiano '18 said, "My opinion of high school has changed immensely because of the closeness of our grade. Entering high school I expected to be in a small clique such as portrayed in the movie *Mean Girls*. My hope for a positive high school experience has so far been surpassed by the wonderful people I call my friends."

Joseline Pineda Ruiz '18 added, "My opinion of high school has changed because at the beginning of the year I thought that high school was going to be a hard adjustment and would be really difficult. Now nearing the end of freshman year, I have realized high school is an amazing experience and not as difficult as I thought it would be. I have made so many close

friends, who I now call my sisters, and I can't wait to spend the next few years with them."

Sam Wu '18 has made a lot of friends throughout this year, has learned a lot of English vocabulary, and is also a member of the tennis team.

Herminio Alvarez '18 also added, "I thought I was going to feel foreign, but I don't."

Overall, almost everyone's opinions of high school have changed completely and they have had a positive experience of high school so far. They have made many new friendships and feel comfortable at the transition from middle school to high school. To put it simply, Mr. Pasquinelli's freshman advisory feels right at home here at SJP.



Mr. Pasquinelli's Advisory - Room 558

Upcoming Events

May 4-15	AP Exams
May 14	Feast of the Ascension Mass / Arts Night
May 16	Prom
May 20	Health Fair
May 21	MFA Field Trip
May 25	Memorial Day
May 28	Freshmen Theater Field Trip
June 3	Baccalaureate Mass and Awards Dinner
June 4	Commencement (Class of 2015)
June 9-12	Final Exams

Puzzle Solution

I wandered lonely as a cloud
 That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
 When all at once I saw a crowd,
 A host, of golden daffodils . . .

~ William Wordsworth

The TIE
Tradition, Integrity, Excellence



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