


# Springing into a New Sports Season

 **By Manny Butler ('22)**  
STAFF WRITER

As we move to December and the winter season begins, Saintsmen are seeing strong finishes to football and cross country and phenomenal beginnings in the winter sports.

After defeating Point Loma at home, the Saints football team qualified as the fourth seed in the Open Division of the CIF Playoffs but lost in a crushing defeat to Helix at the Highlanders' stadium. The Saints cross country team came in third in the CIF championship race and qualified for state championships, where they finished eighteenth. Additionally, the soccer team opened their season with a charity scrimmage with OLP, and basketball is currently in the tournament stage of their season.

The Saints football team defeated Point Loma High School 31-28 on Senior Night. During the game, junior running back Byron Cardwell handled the load with 23 carries for 133 yards and two touchdowns.

"Putting the pressure on Point Loma to make them stop one of our best guys was definitely the game plan," Coach Kremer said. Junior quarterback Richard Colmenero III also tossed two touchdowns.

Against Helix, Colmenero threw an interception on the very first play from scrimmage, but the defense held strong and blocked a field goal attempt.

The defense played an outstanding game, holding the Highlanders scoreless until the end of the fourth quarter, allowing the Saints to take the lead when Colmenero



Senior Nakial Cross scores in an epic drive against Hoover. Joaquin Torre ('21)

ero hit sophomore Jalil Tucker for a 36-yard touchdown in the third quarter. The Pit, which had been loud and raucous all game, emptied out and rushed toward the end zone to celebrate when Tucker scored.

The Saints defense forced seven turnovers, an astonishing total. Senior Sam Scaife IV led the way with three interceptions and a fumble recovery. Senior Connor Heffler led the team in tackles with ten.

Part of the reason for the defense's success was due to a new defensive front

that the Saints used. Called a 50 Front, the defense gave Helix fits all night, as it was something they had not seen before. They played with overhanging defenders clogging up the alleys just outside of Helix's offensive line, something Coach Kremer said was necessary because of Helix's exploitation of those areas.

With little time left in the fourth quarter, Helix scored on a ten-yard jet sweep from receiver Keiontae Scott but failed on a two-point conversion attempt. On the ensuing

drive, Saints needed just a first down to run out the clock for the win, but the team ended up going backward and facing a third-and-twelve deep in their own territory.

Knowing full well that a first down was necessary in order to run out the clock and not wanting to take their chances on punting the ball after their previous punt was blocked, the Saints coaching staff elected to pass rather than run, and Colmenero threw a pick-six. The Saints turned the ball

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# No Shave November: Cheers for Beards

 **By Ty Woods ('23)**  
STAFF WRITER

Things got a little hairy at Saints during the month of November as the annual "No-Shave November" fundraiser took place once again. The fundraiser, hosted by the Interact Club, donated all proceeds to the Hogar Infantil Orphanage in Mexico as always.

In order to ditch the razor and sport as much facial hair as possible, students paid \$15 to enter the contest and enjoy a weekly spirit dress pass. Raising over \$1,100, the event culminated at the end of the month with students competing against one another to determine who had grown the best mustaches, beards, and chops.

The Interact Club is a service club at Saints that provides service opportunities in the greater San Diego community. In addition to No-Shave November, the Interact Club also hosts additional major projects and service opportunities for Saintsmen, including fundraisers for the 29:Eleven maternity home for struggling mothers and the March Madness team shirts fundraiser.

With this special event only happening once a year, student participation was very high, successfully boosting student morale as the end of the first semester drew near.

"I'm too lazy to shave and it is a great cause which I care about," freshman Kerler Alonso said.

Alonso believes that his beard sticks out because he can actually grow one, unlike the majority of his underclassmen peers.

Students also took time to appreciate the hairy creations of their peers and unite under one common biological trait: hair. "I really liked Matt DeFrates's chops and beard combo," senior Jacob Northrop said.

"Shoutout to my boy Bremer, he tried really hard with the neckbeard," senior Matthew DeFrates said. "Phil's stache was something I was even jealous of. Aidan Johnston's was probably one of the best overall classic beards I've seen, and I just lacked creativity with my chops."

Students seem to realize the true intention of No-Shave November, which is less about who has the best fur on their face, and more about giving in a small way to help those less fortunate. "I may not win the competition because my beard is smaller, but the money goes toward a good cause and I am happy to participate," sophomore Jackson Norris said.

Senior Jacob Northrup concurs.

"I liked No-Shave November not only because it saved me time by not shaving the entire month, but it also offered a means to give back to the community in a creative way," Northrop said.

Saints faculty members are also happy to join in on the fun for this event, as several teachers created the "Secret Beard Club." The only requirement for entry? Facial hair.



Mr. Okuley, Ms. Au, and Mr. Oliwa are members of the Secret Beard Club. Courtesy of ASB

Not much else is known about this club as it is shrouded in secrecy and students are forbidden from entrance. When asked about the classified "Secret Beard Club," Mr. Oliwa acknowledged its existence with a cryptic smile. Fortunately, Oliwa also offered that he serves as club treasurer along with Ms. Au, who is the director of events. It is rumored that the Secret Beard Club is run by fearless facial-hair leader Mr. Freestone. (How Ms. Au is a member we'll never know. Fake beard?)

No Shave November does not only benefit those at Hogar Infantil, but it also creates a much-needed friendly environment at Saints heading into finals season. One could not possibly walk around campus without smiling at the fantastic display of beards and mustaches that appear in a spectrum of shapes, sizes, and colors. Hopefully, that smile will last through December and carry Saintsmen into finals and their well-deserved break.



## Chaplain's Corner



By Fr. Max Villeneuve, O.S.A.  
COLUMNIST

I want to take a moment to thank everybody for the great success of our Day of Service. As a Saints community, we witnessed our brotherhood through our work in various communities across the County of San Diego.

I cannot tell you how many parents, alumni, and community members have told me how impressive you all were – especially given the challenge brought by some of the projects we took on.

Up in Sage Hill, nearly 200 Saintsmen and 8 Wildcat ladies from our sister school in Ojai took down over one mile of split rail fencing in less than an hour! When the rangers were planning the day, they thought just taking down the fence would be a day’s work. Instead, they found that because of our hard work and grit they could trust us to begin building the new fence! Holes were dug, posts were planted, cross beams were balanced, and screws were fastened. Out with the old, and in with the new! What a witness!

At Otay Lake and Sweetwater Summit Park, we saw Saintsmen who were busy painting curbs and ranger stations as well as outdoor structures. We found Saintsmen doing trail work, moving rocks, and pruning branches. You were everywhere! What a witness!

Our final two sites were Oakoasis County Preserve and Presidio Park. At Oakoasis trail, work was the name of the game, and we were able to see how the 2,000 trees we planted last year are now thriving. We can be assured that the trees are in good hands under the watchful guidance and love of Ranger Kyle. At Presidio, we served with a different Ranger Kyle, and we helped him clean pine needles, mulch, trim branches, and make the park safer for families and children. What a witness!

Brotherhood and service is something at the heart of the Augustinian’s charism. The hope for both Br. Bobby and I is that this day sparks within you a desire to continue to serve. Look at what we accomplished in only 4 hours; how much more can be accomplished with a lifetime? Now that is a witness!

# Saints Tradition Trots Again



By Aidan Rickwa ('22)  
STAFF WRITER

Thanksgiving, a time for family, food, and feasting, also brings with it the annual Turkey Trot. The Turkey Trot is a race in which Saintsmen run and compete on an approximately two-mile course around North Park in hopes of reigning victorious over the other competitors.

Though members of the cross country team seem to win year after year, the Turkey Trot brings out the competitive and lively spirit that lies in every member of the Saints community. This event also sees teachers, faculty members, and their kids take part in the race. The whole school gets into Thanksgiving’s characteristic giving spirit, as Mr. Slusher and Mr. Dent award extra credit to those who can outrun them.

On the morning of the Turkey Trot, all of the Saintsmen ventured to the gym for Mass. Everyone was ready for the Turkey Trot and for Thanksgiving break. As per tradition, Father Joe Carroll, the founder of St. Vincent de Paul’s Village, presided over the celebration.

After enduring the early classes, everyone anxiously headed to the field for the main event.

The runners, many of them hoping for the glory of a first-place win, stepped up to the line and prepared to take off. As the race started, the cross country runners instantly took the lead, with senior Jack Klem leading the way. Clearly, all of the preparations for the state championships were paying off.

The race took all the runners on a journey through the neighborhood surrounding Saints, then proceeded to loop them back around with a finish in front of the ASB room where Halo Joe and Tom the Turkey congratulated the participants.

The winner this year was none other than senior Jack Klem, a star of the cross country team who also won year’s Turkey



Three Turkey Trot runners making the final strides in the race. *Joaquin Torre ('21)*

Trot. As more and more runners finished, they were welcomed with cheers and the warm smell of chicken pot pie.

In anticipation of the event, the ASB announced the buzz-generating Turkey Trot package, which included a t-shirt, Gatorade, and the famed chicken pot pie for \$15. Every year, the pot pies are a hit, with 385 pies sold this year. It was truly another successful year for the great tradition, with many alumni returning to celebrate the Turkey Trot with the Saints community.

Nearly every Saintsman enjoyed the Turkey Trot, and even those who did not choose to run had a great time with the extended lunch and the festive spirit of the day.

“It was a nice and relaxing activity. It was really good to get out there and run with my friends,” sophomore Ethan Potter said.

Teachers also had a great time, including runners such as “Chief” Johnston, Mr. Chess-

er, Mr. Granados, Mr. Pruter, Mr. Okuley, Mr. Lamerato, and Mrs. Crachy. Chief, of course, defended his title as the victor among teachers.

The Turkey Trot is one of the oldest traditions at Saints and has been part of the Saints experience for years. While it is a time-old tradition, the Turkey Trot features new surprises, new styles, and new runners every year. Each and every Turkey Trot has been very successful, and this one was no exception.

The tradition will continue for years to come, as it is truly an event that many members of the Saints community look forward to as a fantastic segway into their Thanksgiving holiday.

Hopefully, future ASB members will continue to develop and add to this most sacred event, keeping it alive for generations as one of the most cherished traditions in Saints history.

# Walking in a Winter Wonderband



By Nolan Steinbuch ('21)  
STAFF WRITER

The Saints band, which plays a pivotal role in the school community, has seen a fantastic first semester thanks to the hard work of the students and faculty members responsible for its performances. Every year, the Saints band puts on fantastic concerts and shows for the Saints community, already having hosted several successful events this year. The Halloween concert, which took place at USD, was a smashing success. The band played with a guest conductor, and their variety of pieces was highly impressive.

On par with their performance in previous years, Ms. Au and the members of the band are excited to see its growth and development as we enter the second semester.

“The boys are working hard and doing their best,” Ms. Au said.

Their hard work and determination are furthered by the many new members who have joined.

“We have a lot of new players in the trumpet section, and they have all been doing well,” sophomore Luke Fries said. “We’ve made a lot of progress in the first semester.”

“The band is doing great. The clarinet section is doing well, along with the French horns who are doing especially well with so many new players,” junior Randall Hild said.

Aside from the upcoming concerts, the band is also performing in the local community. For their final assignment of the semester, a group of four or five Saintsmen will form a chamber group to go and perform in the community. In this project, the



Band members Eric Fries and Steven Butcher hard at work. *Joaquin Torre ('21)*

Saintsmen will have to pick their own piece to learn and perfect. Additionally, they have to locate a venue in which they will perform their pieces. The chamber group gives the students a good insight into what it is like to be part of a band.

“It’s a great and useful experience for the band members,” Ms. Au said.

Following the Christmas concert, which took place on December 10, will be the Winter Recital on December 12. In these performances, the band is relying on their Christmas cheer which has been culminating since after Halloween.

“We listen to lots of Christmas music,

and we sing a ton of Christmas songs,” Ms. Au said.

Ms. Au and the entire Saints band have been working especially hard to put on a good show at these events in order to showcase the talent that the band has been cultivating during the course of the semester.

“We practice every day before school, and, when we can, we practice during homework as well,” Ms. Au said.

This year, she has prepared the band to perform several difficult pieces at the Christmas concert, including “Sleigh Ride,” a popular yet challenging song for musicians to perform correctly.

On top of the upcoming concerts and recitals this winter, the band is already looking forward to the spring season with several large events on the horizon. They are excited to perform at three concerts in the upcoming season as well as competing in a band competition in March.

Band members are also looking forward to their upcoming Disneyland trip, which will take place in the spring. Hoping to break the bad luck that they faced last year when the bus arrived a full three hours late, both new and veteran Saintsmen are excited for this opportunity to bond with their musical companions.

Aiming to create more buzz surrounding the musical abilities of the Saintsmen, the band is also hoping to increase its public outreach and visit local schools.

“We would like to have more involvement in the local parochial schools,” Ms. Au said. “We hope to perform at the schools and give them a sneak peek of the great band program we have here at Saints.”

A first for the program, these visits would further stimulate the band’s growth as all of the Saints arts programs continue to progress. Such parochial performances would also serve to showcase the talent of Saints musicians and advertise just one aspect of many Saints art opportunities to potential future Saintsmen.

Like always, the band is working hard to bring entertainment to anyone who wishes to immerse themselves in the musical talent and prowess of its members. From football games to concerts, these talented Saintsmen and their mentors are doing their best to put on an amazing show for everyone attending their fantastic events.



# In Search of Off-Campus Lunch

 **By Ronnie Saenz ('20)**  
STAFF WRITER

Off-campus lunch, a perpetually hot topic amongst students, seems to face a yearly cycle of stagnation thanks to the procrastination of the exhausted seniors who, despite seriously longing for the privilege, can never seem to be prompt. Although the requirements to achieve off-campus lunch are relatively straightforward, the seniors are now entering the second semester without the freedom to venture off in search of the tasty food offered by the outside world.

For seniors, off-campus lunch is a unique privilege. It allows the upperclassmen to leave the humdrum world of classes and due dates to enjoy their favorite foods, receiving a nice respite from the average school day. Saintsmen can go visit their local favorites such as Lefty's Chicago Pizzeria, Jack in the Box, Saguaro's, Subway, Ocean 97 Seafood, KFC, Little Caesars, McDonald's, and In-N-Out Burger to satisfy their cravings at lunchtime. It is a truly awesome bonus for Saintsmen as they finish their final year in high school, but, like other privileges, it must be earned.

The process for getting off-campus lunch is simple: every senior must register their locks and turn in their off-campus lunch permission slips. Sounds easy, right? One would think that seniors would be overjoyed and excited with the prospect of eating off campus, but as it turns out, senioritis gets the last laugh. Every year, it becomes painfully amusing when the senior class is again scrambling to get their forms in well into the second quarter.

By the end of the first quarter, about 80% of the current seniors had turned in their off-campus lunch forms and registered their locks, and in the second quar-

ter, only around four students have not met these requirements.

Some seniors believe that their classmates who inevitably fall behind in this process should be held more accountable. As off-campus lunch is a privilege and thus not necessarily a requirement, there is no particularly harsh punishment for those who do not keep up.

“Off-campus lunch would be a great idea, but the school should have made it a mandatory assignment so everyone would turn it in,” senior Diego Chavarin said.

The senior class of 2018 achieved the privilege of off-campus lunch historically late, only succeeding after three quarters of the school year. “On average, it takes about the entire first semester or even into late February for seniors to get off campus lunch, but some classes have gotten it as early as November,” Dr. Rey said.

In the face of this great struggle, the senior class must stick together. Seniors are to encourage their classmates to turn in their forms using the effective strategy of peer pressure to motivate their companions. Saintsmen must form a united front and push towards the completion of these tasks for their own good.

Hopefully, by the time this issue of *The Augustinian* is published, the remaining seniors will have met the necessary requirements for the class of 2020 to have off-campus lunch. However, based on the example set by the class of 2018, there is still reason to believe that it may be a while until this goal is achieved.



## THE AUGUSTINIAN

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### SPORTS

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over on downs on the following drive, and Helix ran out the clock for the win.

A week later, the CIF Championship race for cross country took place on November 23. Saints needed to finish in the top three teams to move on to state, and the strategy for the race was to have senior Joey Buzzella start fast and try to win the race from the front, while senior Jack Klem was to sit in the first pack chasing Buzzella and try to make a move at the end to win. The other runners in the race, junior Joseph Legg, sophomores Nalu Coons, Michael Butcher, and Luke Fries, and freshman Jimmy Markowicz, were to follow behind in the second pack.

At the race, Buzzella finished third and Klem finished sixth to lead the team, which qualified them for state champions with a third-place finish. In state, the Saints placed 18th overall, demonstrating the skill and competition that is characteristic of Saints athletics.

The Saints basketball team, led by senior four-star recruit and Texas Tech signee Chibuzo Agbo, played in the prestigious San Diego Tip-Off Challenge.

One of the team's first games was against national No. 1 team Sierra Canyon High School, featuring LeBron James Jr. and Zaire Wade, sons of NBA greats LeBron James and Dwayne Wade.

At the game, Saints managed to keep up with Sierra Canyon through the first half, as they entered halftime down only three points. Unfortunately, the team could not continue the pace in the second half and lost with a final score of 75-54. In the game, Agbo led the team with 24 points and 11 rebounds.

In brighter news, the basketball team has defeated Helix 76-70, Montgomery 84-65, Hoover 68-58, Point Loma 65-46, Mission Hills 46-33, and Christian 60-52.

The soccer team began their season underway with a charity scrimmage against OLP. They mixed up the Saints and OLP teams, pitting the seniors from both teams against the underclassmen. The seniors prevailed by a small margin with the final score of the game as 3-2. On December 3, the Saints played their first in-season game against the Preuss School UCSD in which they secured a 1-0 win thanks to a goal by junior Dean Dickow.

As fall becomes winter, the Saints community prepares to transition to cheering on the strong teams that accompany this time of year. With basketball, rugby, soccer, and wrestling rapidly picking up the pace, the Saints hope for yet another successful season.

# Being the Son of a Teacher Man

 **By Kai da Luz ('21)**  
EDITOR

Being the teacher's son is one of those things that is hard to fathom for those who don't share the same experience. Some picture it as being an awkward and uncomfortable world in which your parent is leaning over you to focus on your schoolwork or practice sports all day every day. Others picture a nepotistic Candyland, where all your hopes and dreams and desired grades magically come true. Neither of these is the case, but being a teacher or coach's child is quite a peculiar position to be in, indeed.

There are numerous ways a student of a teacher or coach benefits from his situation. Here at Saints, the faculty takes an extraordinary interest in their child's education, and will always ensure that they finish their homework and stay on task. Always. There is no better reminder to get all your assignments done than the cold gaze of your loving father across the dinner table when you are still working on an assignment that is due on Canvas in 30 minutes. In addition, who would want to play video games and watch TV during their spare time? I would much rather be learning the numerous factors leading to the American Revolution and working on my chapter notes.

Sons of teachers also do not want to take their parent's class or do anything that will fall under their parent's jurisdiction.

“Having my father at Saints is both a privilege and a curse,” junior Joseph Alcoser said. “That is mostly because school, which is usually something kids experience away from their parents, is never private. I do not have my father as a teacher because I



Mr. Christian da Luz and his son, Kai da Luz.

Angel Perez ('21)

took his class over summer to avoid having him since I felt it would have been somewhat awkward for me.”

For others it is a mixed bag, such as for freshman Michael Tompkins, son of the teacher of the same name.

“My dad is my basketball coach, and he pushes me harder than the other coaches,” Tompkins said. “It is good for me because he encourages me to work harder and improve myself. I would not, however, take my dad's class simply because it puts pressure on me, and people might think it would give me an unfair advantage.”

Some, however, enjoy having their parent as a teacher or coach. Senior Luke Haupt has his father Coach Mike Haupt as a basketball coach.

“I love having my dad on campus,” Haupt said. “Whenever I need anything, he is always there for me. It is not always easy to have him as my coach, but I know he is a great coach and a great man. Having my dad as a coach has made me a better player and he is the reason I grew up in a gym. All of the knowledge he has for the game he has shared with me.”

Luke encourages future and current

children of faculty to have fun with their parents and to make it a positive experience because it is a privilege to have them there.

Senior Leo da Luz has had similar experiences during his four years at Saints with his dad Mr. Christopher da Luz.

“Having a dad who works at Saints is amazing because I have learned so much about the school from him, and it is always fun to stop by his class and say 'hi,’” da Luz said. “I had my dad as a defensive line coach when I played freshman football, and it was awesome. I was able to see him often, but, like everyone else, I had to prove myself and work harder every day towards starting positions. He helped me get to where I needed to be both in life and in sports, and I am excited to be taking Economics with him next semester.”

As for myself, the son of Mr. Christian da Luz, I hardly think about it. I have been in the Saints community for pretty much my entire life, and all of my male relatives have attended Saints. So, no, unfortunately I do not burst into a room proclaiming, “I am Kai of the house da Luz, first of his name, son of Mr. Christian da Luz and nephew of Mr. Chris and Mr. Craig da Luz!”

I believe it is a really unique and enjoyable opportunity to have my dad and uncles at Saints, and it is one that I happily accept.

To the incoming children of faculty, I offer some advice: finish your homework on time, do not forget your lunch, be honest about your grades (they know, anyways), and enjoy your four years at Saints by taking advantage of the opportunities your parent is giving you. To all children of faculty here at Saints – be sure to tell your parent, “thank you.”




# Ask an Expert: Aviation in the Air Force

Mr. Slusher shares his personal insights and experiences from his time in the Air Force.



Mr. Slusher served for 23 years in the Air Force.

Joaquin Torre ('21)

**By Jerome Santiago ('21)**  
STAFF WRITER

In this issue's Ask an Expert column, we deal with the topic of aviation in the Air Force. Few teachers on campus would be able to weigh in as an expert in this field, but fortunately, we caught up with Mr. Slusher, who served in the Air Force for 23 years.

**The Augustinian:** Can you tell us about your background with aviation and the Air Force?

**Slusher:** Before the Air Force, I had never really flown at all. When I applied for the Officer Training Program, I had to take a test, and I qualified for an aviation slot. I then applied, but I didn't get accepted. The next year, I applied again and got accepted into a flying slot.

**The A:** Why did you decide to become a pilot?

**S:** I really didn't. I just got the opportunity

to go to flight school. Being a pilot never really entered my thoughts before I was offered to take the test. It was never a dream of mine or anything, but I loved it nonetheless. It still really isn't. It was fun, it was great, and I loved every minute of it, but I wouldn't go back. My career is over. It was a lot of work.

**The A:** What are some examples of planes that you and other Air Force pilots flew?

**S:** I flew an EC-130, a combat jammer plane, during the Desert Storm War in the early 90's. I started out with the EC-30, a combat jammer, which had huge generators on the back of the plane that would overpower all the communications of the enemy. It was able to accurately pinpoint certain frequencies so that it wouldn't take out all the communications, just the enemy systems, making the enemy dumb and deaf. Knocking out enemy communications with the EC-30 is a huge advantage because it limits communications and makes it easier for the other jets to secure the air and land.

Soon after, I transitioned to a C-141, a cargo aircraft, and I flew all over the world, even in times of war. I would spend 12 hours at a time during training and other days just circling around and orbiting up there.

**The A:** Can you describe the types of planes and jobs in the Air Force?

**S:** In aviation flight school, you are always upgrading to something. You start basic and begin to climb the ladder, upgrading to air drop, air refueling, formation, instructor, or flight evaluator - the top position that I reached. In order to keep making rank, or upgrading from where I was, you have to "fly a desk," which is getting a desk job. I stopped flying to work for an Inspector General at Ramstein, Germany for 18 months, where I decided to make rank and end my flying career because I wanted to retire at a higher rank. When you are in a flying squadron, of course, you fly, but aside from that, everyone has a secondary job called an additional duty. What your additional duty was determined how much time you spent at the squadron because there wasn't always enough space in the squadron for everyone to be there at once. Some additional duties included scheduling, being the mobility officer - who makes sure everyone is ready to go out of town - prepping gear, and all sorts of other jobs.

**The A:** What does a typical schedule of a pilot look like?

**S:** It depends on what you are doing, but you would fly a lot for sure. Flying hours are what the squadron mainly rotated around. If you are on a training mission, you would usually fly for 8 to 12 hours in the EC-130, which was basically just a go-to-war machine. We would go up and do mock missions in the actual aircraft. We would also practice real-world missions, like taking cargo all over the world.

**The A:** Is there any aviation experience that you've had that really stood out to you or

changed you during your career as a pilot?

**S:** I was in Africa, and we were deployed to Cairo, Egypt. We were doing an air drop with the local Egyptians there. On the way back, we were diverted into Rhein-Main, Germany. This took place during the Somalia incidents where some U.S. military personnel were killed in action. My crew and I were assigned to fly the wounded back to Landstuhl, Germany, the main hospital base in Germany, and then fly the corpses back to the States. It was a very solemn occasion. It was really amazing how at every airport we stopped at, everybody was super respectful. It was probably one of the most honorable things that I have ever done.

**The A:** What can one learn from being a pilot or from aviation?

**S:** Well, I mainly did navigation, and I learned a lot about math, mainly geometry. Geometry is heavily involved in navigation. When I wasn't actually flying the airplane, I had to figure out where we were going. There was a lot of learning about what a straight course is. For example, if you look on a map, a straight course isn't a straight line, but a curved line. I learned so much about geometry, which is what set me up for teaching math. You need to have situational awareness, which is key in aviation. You have to know where you're at, what your altitude is, where you're headed, and how much fuel you have because it is all critical and not just nice to know. Air space is also a huge thing. Staying in your assigned air space because the whole sky is blocked off in different sections. There are routes through the air space, just like roads in the sky, and it can get very confusing if you don't have the right charts and navigation.

For any Saintsmen interested in pursuing a career in piloting, feel free to stop by Mr. Slusher's classroom and ask him any questions you may have about the field.



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# Drumming Up Artistic Inspiration



Ms. Drummy's *Refuge* series, which was featured in SDSU's recent graduate student art show.

Courtesy of michelledrummy.com



**By Angel Perez ('21)**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In a sea of fellow art and design students at San Diego State University’s graduate student showcase on November 15 was art teacher extraordinaire, Ms. Michelle Drummy, who is a second-year Masters of Fine Arts student with a specialization in painting and printmaking. Having participated in several exhibits during her undergraduate career at the University of California - Santa Barbara as well as a number of other shows at SDSU, Ms. Drummy submitted three drawings in a series titled *Refuge*.

This ongoing project, which features simple and stark pencil-to-paper pieces that depict crumbled up sheets, represents the urge to sleep in order to escape cycles of depression and anxiety. In explaining her

artistic style for the *Refuge* project, Ms. Drummy stated on her website (michelledrummy.com), “I remove backgrounds in my pieces to reflect the lack of context for these feelings, leaving only an artifact of these periods of inner tension.” The drawings have been works in progress since the summer, and Ms. Drummy is continuing to develop these themes and ideas that she has begun to explore through her work.

“I’m hesitant to tell you what the drawings are because I want people to look at them and decide for themselves,” Ms. Drummy said when asked about the subject matter of her works. Allowing for a sense of subjectivity and mystery, Ms. Drummy understands that this sense of the difficult and often incomprehensible feelings of depression and anxiety is unique to each individual, but her work connects these experiences to the common longing for refuge, which, for her, comes in

the form of sleep.

Hoping to support his talented teacher, junior Matthew Cross attended the art show, where he was able to immerse himself in the creative works of Ms. Drummy and the other featured artists.

“The art show was a really incredible opportunity to see the talented artist we have in our community,” said Cross, who takes Ms. Drummy’s AP Studio Art class. “Ms. Drummy’s artistic skill was impressive and inspiring, and I highly encourage everyone to go to Ms. Drummy’s gallery displays.”


Reminiscing on her art show experiences at SDSU so far, Ms. Drummy recounted her last show, called *Psymograph*. This exhibition showcased several pieces of her work, including a series of expressive line markings sprawled out across the walls that served as representations of her innermost thoughts and feelings which surrounded

the viewer on all sides. Additionally, Ms. Drummy included a series titled *Inundated*, which depicts the connections made by the amygdala in individuals with anxiety. The amygdala is the part of the brain responsible for the fight or flight instinct. Researching the inner workings of the amygdala, these pieces explore similar themes to those featured in her *Refuge* series.

With a year and a half left in her time at SDSU, Ms. Drummy is also looking forward to her solo show at the end of this year. Called *Advancement*, this show is designed to showcase her work in the hopes of proving that she is prepared for the necessary work of a third-year thesis student. As Ms. Drummy continues to put in hard work towards her education, she serves as an example to all Saintsmen that hard work pays off, especially when one is working towards something they are passionate about.

## Teacher Feature: Will Ferrell or Chris Cashman?

Director of *Advancement & Alumni Relations* Chris Cashman shares his glamorous and fascinating Hollywood past.



**By Graeme Morland-Tellez ('21)**  
EDITOR

Mr. Chris Cashman, class of ‘93, is probably the most interesting man on campus that you haven’t met.

Known by few students but universally appreciated by all Saints alumni, Mr. Cashman is in charge of coordinating events for Saints graduates, hence his official title, Director of Advancement & Alumni Relations.

Cashman (nicknamed “Cash”) was born and raised here in San Diego. After graduating from Saints, Cashman continued his Augustinian education and attended and later graduated from the prestigious Villanova University.

However, when Cashman moved to Los Angeles to experiment with the infamous Hollywood lifestyle, his life quickly transformed from calm college scholar to wild Hollywood film producer as if it was “turned to 11.”

“I am a film producer by trade,” Cashman said. “I have produced eight feature films and four television shows.”

Cashman’s ventures in television production range from “Your Beer Show,” a humorous series that showcases craft brewers from around the country, to a late-night show which focuses on entrepreneurial and business skills. Cashman’s films vary from *To Hell and Back*, a western about a violent encounter in the Arizona desert, to *Club Frontera*, a documentary on the Tijuana Xolos.

Cashman has received much laudation for his indie-style feature films. His pictures have been nominated for numerous honors, including one Emmy, and have won eleven

awards, with three occurring at the San Diego Film Awards.

However, Cashman’s film expertise does not just lie in producing digital content; he also performs in such films. Obviously, based on his eerily-similar appearance to Will Ferrell, Cashman became Ferrell’s stuntman in three blockbuster movies: *Kicking and Screaming*, *Stranger than Fiction*, and *Anchorman*.

“The Will Ferrell thing was just something I did,” Cashman said. “They fitted me with a wig and I worked on *Kicking and Screaming* for three months. During that process, I also did my first stunt with Robert Duvall, and after that, I got called to do a stunt with Burt Reynolds for *Anchorman*.”

Cashman, as a photo double, has not only portrayed Will Ferrell, but also John C. Reilly, Vince Vaughn, and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

It was not until two and a half years ago that Cashman began to work at Saints. Essentially, Cashman acts as a resource for the alumni and a link between them and the school.

Cashman revolutionized the Saints-alumni communication system with his use of social media and the creation of his new group, the Alumni Liaisons.

Basically, said liaisons serve as a means of communication between Cashman and the group of alumni. The representatives, hence their title, represent the class with which they graduated, and are responsible for keeping in contact with them in order to plan for future events.

Cashman’s motivation for his work here is quite simple yet effective, as he wants to create a more involved Saints community



Mr. Cashman worked as Will Ferrell's stunt double.

Joaquin Torre ('21)/Paramount Pictures

and open it not just to current Saintsman, but also those of the past.

“I really want to get the alumni back involved,” Cashman said.

Additionally, Cashman instituted the homecoming week celebrations for alumni and the athletic viewing parties. This year’s celebration culminated with a homecoming festival that included food, a car show, a kids play area with a haunted house, and many more festivities which made the trip back to Saints a memorable one for all alumni. The homecoming week celebrations always create multiple reunions for different classes, and the viewing parties provide alumni the opportunity to continually celebrate Saints athletics. Overall, Cashman has created

many unique occasions for Saints alumni to reconnect with their Saints identity and rekindle their high school experience.

“I believe what makes us different from other high schools is that it is not just a four-year experience, but a lifetime membership and a lifelong blessing,” Cashman said.

Mr. Chris Cashman incorporates the Augustinian values of Unity, Truth, and Love into his work, whether it be through portraying the iconic Will Ferrell or dedicating time to bring together alumni. Cashman is an essential component of the Saints community who plays a pivotal role in uniting the current and graduated members, and he will always remain a true Saintsman at heart.



# Jeffrey Epstein: A Scandal of Wealth and Power

The myserious and elite financial adviser gone sex trafficker is found hung in his cell as he awaits trial.

 **By Joseph Selfani ('21)**  
EDITOR

On August 10, 2019, the body of banker and sex-trafficker Jeffrey Epstein, a friend of Donald Trump, Bill Clinton, and Prince Andrew, was found dead in a jail cell as he awaited trial. The connections that Epstein formed during his time as an investment banker for the ultrarich raised suspicion over the nature of his death and the subsequent media spotlight, bringing to light many actions in Epstein’s past that glean the true nature of a very twisted man.

Epstein was born in Brooklyn in 1953 and raised in a middle-class immigrant family. According to The Guardian, he was known by his neighbors to be a “nerdy little boy” and a “math whiz” who was simple and quiet.

He later enrolled in New York University’s Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences but left without a degree. Despite not having a degree, he became a calculus and physics teacher at a prestigious private K-12 institution called The Dalton School.

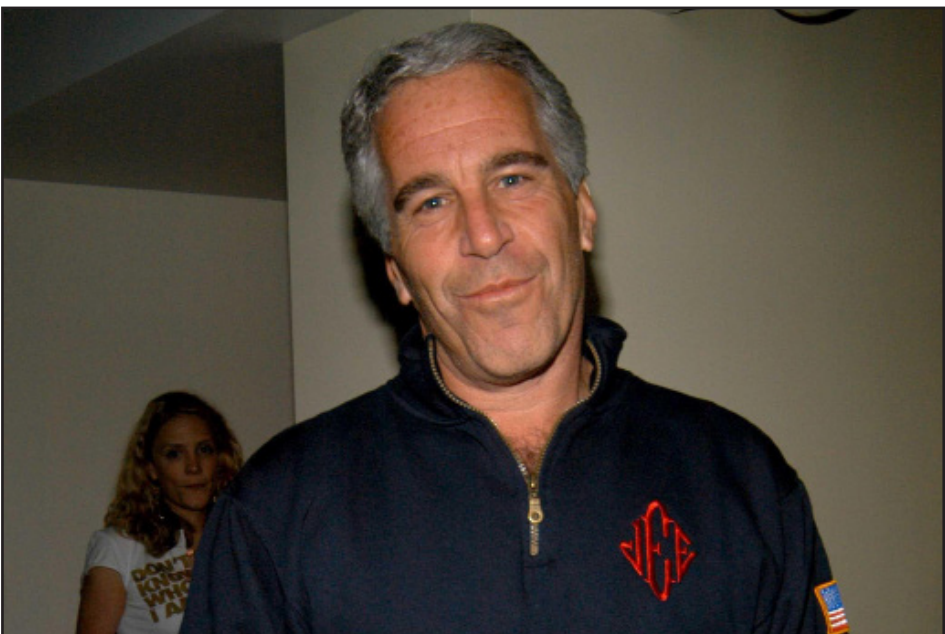
It is reported that Epstein's work impressed Ace Greenberg, the father of one of his students. As chairman of Bear Stearns investment banking company, Greenberg asked Epstein to join his firm. From there on, he worked with Greenberg and the CEO of the company. He greatly succeeded, rising to the rank of a limited partner in the firm, but in 1981, Epstein left to form his own business.

J. Epstein & Co. is one of the wealthiest yet most mysterious businesses in the world. It is an investment banking company in which the minimum deposit is a billion dollars; anything short of that was rejected.

Unlike most high-end firms, J. Epstein & Co. has kept its clientele list a secret, with only one patron announcing publicly his use of the firm: Leslie Wexner. Wexner is a fashion retail legend who built a \$3 billion empire at that time which included Victoria’s Secret, Express, and Bath & Body Works.

Wexner trusted Epstein so much that he gave him “the power of fiduciary over all of his private trusts and foundations” and trusted Epstein as if he was a family member according to Vanity Fair. Many other clients had a similar level of confidence in Epstein, as he was known to be loyal and a great friend.

How Epstein got his money is still un-



Jeffrey Epstein was found hung in his cell on August 10, 2019. Getty Images Epstein told New York Magazine in 2002.

known. What is known is that his friendship with Wexner enabled Epstein to obtain one of the most expensive mansions in Manhattan. The money Epstein made allowed him to purchase an \$18 million mansion in New Mexico, a 70-acre island in the U.S. Virgin Islands called Little St. James, a \$6.8 million mansion in Palm Beach, Florida, and a fleet of aircraft, such as a Gulfstream IV, a helicopter, and a Boeing 727, which flew people like Bill Clinton, Chris Tucker, and Kevin Spacey.

Jeffrey Epstein’s rise to power could not have been accomplished without his connections to powerful people. In addition to Wexner, who helped Epstein grow his influence, politicians like Bill Clinton, Donald Trump, Prince Andrew of Great Britain, and many academics like Stephen Hawking were all friends of Epstein and were invited at some point to one of Epstein’s residences. Epstein continually involved himself with many academic societies and institutions, one of them being Harvard University, donating over \$25 million to their mathematics program.

These connections with many intellectuals and powerful individuals made Epstein appear credible and part of the highest elite, yet he was also unknown by most people.

“He is this mysterious, Gatsbyesque figure. He likes people to think that he is very rich, and he cultivates this air of aloofness. The whole thing is weird,” someone familiar with

Jeffrey Epstein is a well-connected, wealthy, and mysterious individual with a great fortune shrouded in secrecy. Why is he receiving so much press right now? The newly found interest in this relatively low-profile individual can be traced back to July of this year when Epstein was federally charged with the sex trafficking of underage girls and a sex trafficking conspiracy.

While allegations against Epstein have existed since 2002, he was charged for engaging in sexual relations with minors and sexual abuse in the state of Florida in 2005. However, in 2007, he cut a secret deal with a then-US Attorney Alexander Acosta that granted Epstein immunity from federal prosecution. In exchange, Epstein pleaded guilty only to the solicitation of prostitution and the procurement of minors for prostitution. This deal led to Epstein only serving 13 months of an 18-month jail sentence, and even then, he was reportedly allowed to leave the jail six days a week to work out of his Palm Beach office. Acosta, who cut the deal, was hired as Donald Trump’s Secretary of Labor in 2017.

Jeffrey Epstein’s conviction of sex trafficking with underage girls brings to light the possibility that people connected to Epstein might have also participated in this sex trafficking conspiracy. Individuals who have been to Epstein’s mansion reported that seeing

younger women there was not unusual and that during meetings, a young girl would come and massage Epstein’s neck.

The most famous allegation brought against someone associated with Epstein was that of Virginia Roberts, who alleges that Epstein forced her to perform sexual acts with Prince Andrew. Roberts was 17 at the time. Prince Andrew vehemently denies the accusations, but the controversy surrounding the allegations has recently caused the prince to step back from his royal duties.

The royal family has also exerted its influence in the media by reportedly pressuring ABC News into killing a 2015 piece about Ms. Roberts’s allegations. In a recently leaked video, reporter Amy Robach was caught ranting about how she had information on Epstein’s actions three years before he was arrested for these crimes. Robach was also caught saying “Do I think he was killed? One hundred percent, yes I do.”

The information Epstein holds about the sex trafficking conspiracy, its relationship to the people acquainted with him, and the knowledge Epstein holds because of his connection to the elite would all be damning to the powerful people associated with the financier.

Epstein's death was officially ruled a suicide. However, many doubt this conclusion. Given how much dirt Epstein had on powerful figures who “benefited” from his sex trafficking, it is not surprising that many believe that he was silenced by murder.

There are two separate autopsies claiming two different results on Epstein’s death. One is the New York City medical examiner’s conclusion that Epstein died by suicide; the other is by a private pathologist hired by Epstein’s brother who came to the conclusion that Epstein was strangled. The object in question is a broken bone in the neck that the pathologist claims is “extremely unusual in suicidal hangings and could occur much more commonly in homicidal strangulation.”

No matter the cause of death, the fact remains that the influential yet unknown financier with connections to the highest elites engaged and organized a sex trafficking network that could involve other powerful individuals. Even though Epstein is dead, justice must be served to those criminals who were party to his sex trafficking.

## Editorial: Science Says Vaccinate



Anti-vax rallies have continued to pop up all over the country. Reuters

 **By Thomas Vedder ('20)**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Modern man has developed countless ways to make life easier by harnessing nature. In the past century and a half, we’ve simplified transportation, conquered the skies, and have the ability to communicate with anyone at will. We’ve also developed ways to make us more healthy, including through the creation of vaccines.

The first use of vaccines was by Edward Jenner to help curb the rampage of smallpox in the early 1800s. At the time, this was met by skepticism by a general public who placed little trust in medicine and was wary of a vaccine that was derived from a cow.

Even as vaccines became more common

and much safer, it is still met with opposition today despite the fact that it saves lives. The modern theory that is propagated by those who oppose the use of vaccines in children is that vaccines cause autism and other diseases.

This theory originated with a paper published by Andrew Wakefield, which contained flawed evidence and had a sample size of only 12 children, eventually causing Wakefield to lose his medical license. Nevertheless, this was enough for people to latch onto. As of 2017, according to the Center for Disease Control, ten percent of parents skip some vaccines and one percent of parents do not vaccinate their children at all.

Wakefield’s allegations about the effects of vaccines were regarding the MMR vaccine, which protects against Measles, Mumps, and

Rubella; it is given to children in two doses, one between nine and fifteen months and another between fifteen months and four years of age. Measles and Rubella have the potential to cause blindness, deafness, and death in those who are affected by the disease. The vaccine is 99 percent effective, and Measles was declared eliminated in the United States by the World Health Organization in 2000. However, in this year alone, there have already been 1,215 confirmed cases across 30 states, the highest rate since the disease was declared eliminated.

Another allegation against the MMR vaccine regards its use of a mercury-based chemical known as thimerosal. Although a countless number of studies have found no dangerous effects of thimerosal, there is still a strong movement for it to be removed from the MMR vaccine. This has been led by the Green Our Vaccine Movement, founded by Jenny McCarthy and Jim Carrey, and by politician Robert F. Kennedy Jr. These people do not want to be known as Anti-Vaccine, but instead choose to hide behind the phrase of being “pro-safe vaccine.”

Such groups have also pushed for a “safer” vaccine schedule, and they advocate spreading out the vaccinations over a longer period of time. While it may seem alarming that children receive at least 27 shots by their second birthday in following the CDC’s official vaccination schedule, in reality, it is completely safe and necessary.

Firstly, the amount of the disease that is given to a person in the immunization pro-

cess has decreased every year since 2005. The MMR vaccine, for example, works by injecting the child with a weakened version of measles in order to act as a sort of a teacher for the immune system, meaning that those who are too weak to receive the vaccine, such as a child fighting cancer, have to rely on others to be immunized.

Secondly, these immunizations come during an age where children are most susceptible to the danger of disease. Every day, when a parent puts off getting their kids vaccinated, they put their child or someone else's child at risk.

The “safe” vaccine movement has been most famously peddled by Robert Sears M.D. His book, *The Vaccine Book: Making the Right Decision for Your Child*, contains a schedule that is popular among a lot of parents. The only problem, which Sear’s himself has admitted, is that the schedule is not based on any sort of data or research. It is merely his idea of what he thinks is best, and he views it as a compromise between the anti-vax movement and those who push for the CDC mandated vaccines. The issue with his approach is that it serves as a pointless compromise between sense and nonsense.

It seems as if the words of Robert Sears and others have reached the brain of the highest office of the land. Until very recently, President Trump has repeatedly raised concerns about the safety of vaccines, even admitting that he skipped vaccines with his own children. The



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
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# Laying Old Sports to Rest



**By Angel Perez ('21)**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For many years, Saints has been known for its athletic prowess and the ability to give any competitor a run for their money. While a majority of the sports that Saints has offered continue today, some have been lost to history.

Saints roller hockey is the most notable sport to have disappeared; it was last played in the 2015-16 season. During the nearly 15 years of roller hockey, the Saints were relatively successful, securing one league championship in 2007 and two playoff berths in 2008 and 2009 respectively, in the team's first three CIF seasons alone.

Roller hockey was run by several coaches, including both faculty members and out-of-school hires. Two of the serving head coaches were Mr. Christian da Luz and Mr. Jason Alcoser.

“Roller hockey, much like other sports such as lacrosse, began as a club,” Coach Alcoser said. “The support for the team was sustainable over several years, which enabled the school to be able to sponsor it as a team. While lacrosse has been flourishing and doing fantastic, roller hockey’s run was shorter-lived.”

Coach Alcoser continued by saying that, despite the team’s short run, the

school was very supportive, especially during the early winning seasons.

“They really did have a great run coming out of being a club, and the team was really embraced here on campus,” Coach Alcoser said. “Unfortunately, that participation and the availability of leagues around San Diego really diminished, and it was no longer a sustainable sport for the school to have.”

Prior to Mr. Alcoser’s run as head coach, Mr. Christian da Luz spearheaded the program.

“By the time I started leading the club, it had existed for a while, and there was definitely a lot of interest in joining the already functioning Metropolitan CIF Roller Hockey league, which was operated out of South Bay,” Mr. da Luz said. “We were involved in that league for the better part of 15 years, but, during that time, we saw more and more teams start to drop out. During this time, the involvement here at home deteriorated as well.”

Essentially, the loss of the roller hockey team was purely logistical. The sport not only fell out of favor with students, but it also began to lose popularity as a whole, with fewer and fewer schools in San Diego County choosing to support teams.

At one point, the league became so small that there were only enough teams to form a varsity league, becoming one of

the few sports in Saints history without any lower level teams available.

Yet another sport that has seemingly vanished from Saints history is water polo. Although some believe that Saints used to offer a water polo team, others are convinced that the sport was never offered at all. However, in November of 2012, Saints issued a series of five morning announcements discussing a new water polo club that was to be started, with their elusive meetings supposedly being held in room 323.

“I don’t recall there ever being a water polo team. There would just be a lot of complication with having a sport like water polo here at Saints,” Coach Alcoser said.

Even though the evidence for this team’s existence is few and far between, the announcements show that there was a push for the team to begin at some point. Like most sports currently at Saints, it began as a club, but, for some unknown reason, it disappeared before it could officially become a CIF sport.

Saints has celebrated many years as an athletic powerhouse and a force to be reckoned with across the entirety of California. In sports like football, basketball, and soccer, the school has held strong for many years, but, unfortunately, water polo and roller hockey did not share the same fate.

**ANTI VAX**  
*Continued from Page 6*

recent change of heart of the president, which caused him to urge people to get vaccinated, may mark a change in rhetoric for an individual who has greatly contributed to the rise of those who skip vaccines.

However, these words are still in contrast with the actions of an administration who is fighting to kill the Affordable Healthcare Act, and, although it is a clearly flawed piece of legislation, the ACA has made it much easier and cheaper for families to vaccinate their children.

The fight for “safe” vaccines may seem rational, but it is an idea that is rooted in nonsense. There is no need to fight for a safer way to administer vaccines if there is no data to link any sort of danger to the use of vaccines. The words of these individuals set a dangerous precedent and normalized the idea of having kids who may be behind on their vaccinations or not get them all together. The fact of the matter is this: if you as a parent refuse to vaccinate your child, you are not only putting their life at risk, but you are putting the lives of every single individual that your child interacts with in the balance.

Typically, these opinions are supported by giving the opposing side of the argument some credence, but, in this case, the other side of the argument is irrational at best. Those who prefer fiction over fact cannot be reasoned with, and one can only hope that they eventually wake up from their ignorance and see that the error of their ways continually put their own children and society as a whole in unnecessary peril.

On behalf of The Augustinian —

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! As we enter into this most joyous holiday season, we encourage all Saints men to take advantage of this time with their treasured family and friends to relax and immerse themselves in the Christmas cheer. A holiday whose true meaning is often masked by materialism and the hustle and bustle of shopping, Saints men are to look past these superficial and frivolous elements and focus both on the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and on the love and charity that the Saints community holds so dear. Most of all, Saints men should take this time to decompress from the stress of the first semester and recharge for the hard work that they will inevitably face in the coming months. Enjoy yourselves, Saints men!

Sincerely,  
The Editors

P.S. Give yourself the greatest Christmas present, and join The Augustinian by coming to room 318 every Tuesday at lunch!



## The Augustinian Word Search

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

**Word bank:**  
AUGUSTINIAN  
INTERSESSION

**REINDEER  
SANTA**  
Secret word can be found on pg. 5

Highlight all of the words, and email a picture of the completed word search to [vbachynsky@sahs.org](mailto:vbachynsky@sahs.org) for a prize!

# What Comes Next?

By Matthew Cross ('21)

