

# THE CRESCENT TOWER

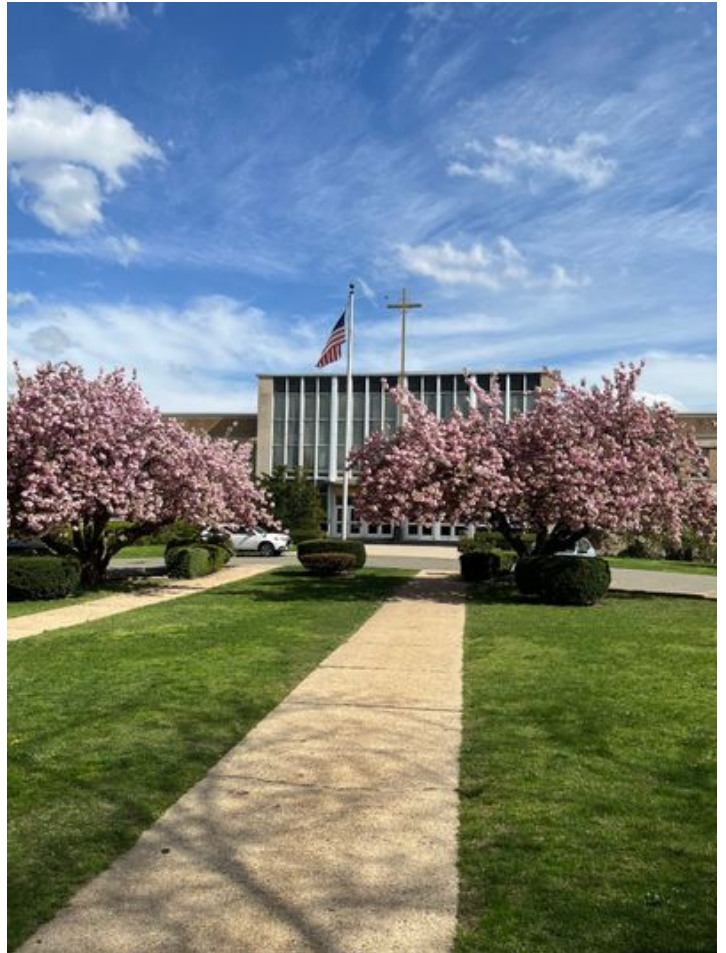
## *"Ut Vitam Habeant Abundantius"*

### **SPRING IS HERE!**

by the Staff of the Crescent Tower

Welcome to the Spring edition of The Crescent Tower! Spring is the season that marks the end of the cold winter months and the start of new beginnings; it's a time where the air is filled with the sweet scent of blooming flowers and the warmth of the sun, which brings a new sense of rejuvenation to the world around us. The beautiful trees in front of our school are filled with pink cherry blossoms, and the birds are singing their sweet summer songs. Spring has arrived at St. John's Prep! Since our last publication, the St. John's Prep community has been working tirelessly. Hopefully, the mid-winter and Easter breaks left enough room for rest and rejuvenation, ensuring a successful end to an exciting semester!

Before we dive into the specifics, here's a brief chronology of what we've seen since our last issue: In January, the Student Council held their annual International Food Festival during lunch periods, and Mr. Matthews hosted the Senior Tea Party one week later. Early in February, the Boys Volleyball Team sold candy grams, and on Valentine's Day, the Jazz-Rock Band performed during lunch periods. That afternoon, a game of jeopardy was sponsored by the Student Council. Soon after, students showcased their skills and passions in this year's



SJP's Got Talent show on the 17th of February. In March, Ms. Rodano's Visual and Performing Arts Department organized their showing of "The Addams Family"; additionally, the SJP annual Spirit Week was executed by the Student Council starting on the 13th and ending on the 16th. The Jazz-Rock Band organized a music presentation on that last day of Spirit Week, highlighting the wide range of cultures present at our school. On the morning of April 4th, the school community began Holy Week with our annual stations of The Cross reflection. Finally, students traveled to Italy during the Easter break.

From holiday celebrations to honoring school traditions, we're here to catch you up on all things SJP – so sit back, relax, and immerse yourself in the Spring Issue of The Crescent Tower!

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**STRESS & THE COLLEGE PROCESS**  
by Rey Phillippe Tan & Ana Macedo, '23

Despite the excitement of looking forward to graduation, seniors are often overwhelmed by worry about finding the perfect college. Taking multiple SATs, writing endless college essays, being over-extended in extra-curricular activities, and trying to maintain a social life can be very stressful.

The number of hours put aside in the college application process, scholarship submissions, completing the FAFSA with our parents, and meeting with college admissions reps can feel like a part-time job. So, getting ahead of the game and scheduling time with your college counselor is essential to help prevent the stress facing seniors during the first semester.

There are so many big decisions ahead, and it can feel overwhelming. But remember, there is light at the end of the tunnel. So, make sure you get enough sleep, eat right, find time to exercise, surround yourself with good friends who bring the best out of you, and most importantly, don't be afraid to ask for help.

If you are a teacher reading this, support your seniors and show them some compassion – senior year can be the toughest year in high school!

**A CELEBRATION OF CULTURES**  
by George Baltzis, '26

On January 13th, 2023, members of the St. John's Prep community gathered during periods 4, 5, and 6 to celebrate diversity through our annual International Food Festival. Organized by the Student Council, the International Food Festival was made possible through the flawless collaboration of the Hellenic and Model UN Clubs, Italian Club, Asian Culture Club, Spanish Club, and Brazilian Club. Each group was tasked with gathering delicacies from all around the world to showcase the cultures present here at St. John's Prep. Needless to say, it was a success! This festive distribution of



snacks, specials, and sweets such as baklava, panettone, tiramisu, scallion pancakes, and empanadas exposed students to a broad range of cuisines to explore, and we couldn't have asked for a finer result. We can't wait to see what next year's International Food Festival will bring!

**"CARE FOR A SPOT OF TEA?"**  
by Genesis Enriquez, '23

Typically, our library is filled with students researching, studying, and





getting ready for their classes; on the afternoon of January 20, 2023, however, the library was transformed as members of the senior class enjoyed a time honored St. John's Prep tradition: the Senior Tea Party. The seniors found themselves formally dressed in a whole new setting, decked out with shining candles, tasty treats, and astounding entertainment. The room was filled with smiles and cheer, especially since this year's tea party commemorated the return of the annual tradition, despite being paired with the bittersweet farewell to the class of 2023. This celebration was founded by Mr. Matthews almost 25 years ago and stopped after the shocking arrival of COVID-19 nearly 3 years ago. Our senior class could only feel excitement for one another and spoke with honor and admiration about their experiences at St. John's Prep. Seniors created memories, ate together, and sang songs with our performers Mia Lopez and Gary Nolan. With excitement clearly streaming from our host Mr. Matthews and his helper Mrs.

Baltzis, the event was full of energy and merriment. The seniors had their choice of tea, petit fours, chocolates, cheese filled empanaditas, spanakopita, candies, and fruit salad. Needless to say, the Senior Tea Party was another unforgettable event for our graduating class.

### **USING THE PAST TO FUEL OUR FUTURE** **by Valeria Vislocky, '26**

Throughout history, there have been significant events that have shaped our world immensely. On January 27th, the world marked Holocaust Remembrance Day, to commemorate the liberation of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp in 1945.

Over the summer I had the opportunity to visit the Auschwitz concentration camp and gain an in depth perspective of how prisoners lived in such gruesome conditions. Seeing pictures, items, and the barracks used during this time brought to life something I had only read about.

Seeing the camp in person is a memory I will value for the rest of my life. No person should ever have to suffer the physical and emotional pain that the prisoners of the Holocaust experienced. Dedicating January 27th to commemorate the victims is a beautiful way to acknowledge the mistakes of the past and remember this eye-opening event.

When we reflect back on the Holocaust, the survivors show us the meaning of perseverance and the victims show us how precious life truly is. Let us continue to remember those

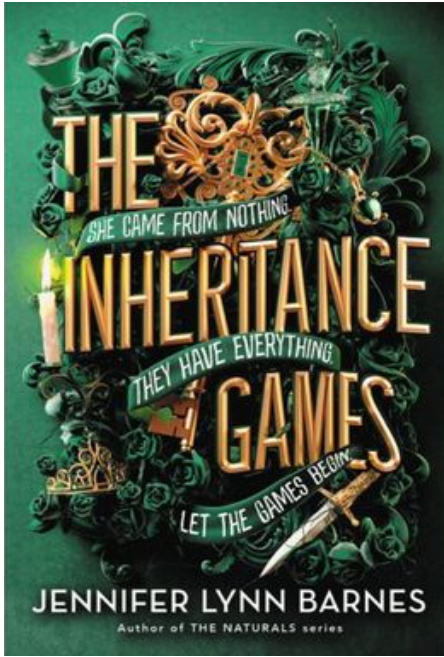
who suffered through those troubling times. Let us keep the victims of this tragedy in our prayers now and forever. Finally, let us remember the past to ensure that history does not repeat itself in the future.

### **FEBRUARY FESTIVITIES** **by George Baltzis, '26**

As February arrived, members of the Student Council, Jazz-Rock Band, and Boys Volleyball Team each worked to make this year's Valentine's Day extra special! During lunch periods, the SJP Boys Volleyball Team worked on selling candygrams to be handed out on the day of love to raise money for team expenses.

Additionally, on February 14th, the Jazz-Rock Band performed in the library during lunch periods and SJP's first-ever Valentine's Day Social after school! A fiery Jeopardy-style trivia contest was held during this social, consisting of questions centering around Valentine's Day, history, pop culture, music, and sports. The winning team was awarded a special dress down day. Soon after the trivia event came to an end, the Student Council held two raffles and a bake sale with the intention of raising funds for the up and coming spirit week.





**WELCOME BACK TO THE BOOK CORNER!**  
**by Valeria Vislocky, '26**

What would you do if you found out that you inherited billions of dollars from a person who you've never met before? Unfortunately, things are never that simple. Not even for Avery Grambs, who has just inherited a fortune after finding out she was in billionaire Tobias Hawthorne's will. Moreover, Avery has never met Tobias Hawthorne!

The only catch: Avery must now move into his sprawling mansion, full of secret passages, riddles, and codes, if she wants to inherit the money. It's no easy task, as the Hawthorne mansion is also occupied by his family who is angry and confused as to why they were disinherited. This includes the four dangerous Hawthorne grandsons who grew up with the expectation that one day they would inherit their grandfather's billions.

Caught in a world of wealth and privilege, with danger around every corner, Avery will have to play the game herself just to survive. While trying to figure out why a man she never met has left her his fortune, she uncovers dark secrets about the Hawthorne family's past. "The Inheritance Games" by Jennifer Lynn Barnes is the first book in a gripping trilogy that will have you on the edge of your seat until the very end. Let the games begin!

What is on your Summer reading list? Please share it with us!

**"WE'VE GOT SPIRIT, YES WE DO!"**  
**by George Baltzis, '26**

From March 13th to March 16th, members of the Student Council worked together to raise school spirit among their classmates during the SJP annual Spirit Week. Events included dressing up according to a daily theme, decorating hallways, and attending the pep rally! Funds

raised from Spirit Week were sent to the Malala Fund, a charity organization which fights for easy access to education for young girls worldwide.

On Monday, participating students came to school in their pajamas, carrying their books in anything but a backpack! Students were seen wandering the hallways with suitcases, kayaks, toy cars, and even inflatable pools. On Tuesday, students dressed up in matching outfits as part of a twin day theme, and on Wednesday, students and faculty dressed up according to their assigned decade! Freshmen were assigned the 80s, sophomores were assigned the 70s, juniors were assigned the 2000s, seniors were assigned the 90s, and faculty were assigned the 50s. The Student Council also held a pep rally on Wednesday, with different competitions like musical chairs, relay races, and tug of war, resulting in tons of laughs and cheers! On the final day of the week, students could choose between dressing up



according to Country Club or Country Western, which yielded tons of cowboy hats and tennis shoes.

Throughout Spirit Week, members of each grade decorated their hallways according to their assigned theme. Freshmen were Under The Sea, sophomores Flower Power, juniors Hollywood Red Carpet, and seniors Out Of This World. At the end of the week, scores were tallied and released, yielding the seniors as the grade with the most school spirit and the juniors as the grade with the best hallway! These events highlighted the ever present school spirit of the St. John's Prep community.

### **A SUCCESSFUL SEASON FOR THE BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM**

**by Jackson Filippone, '25**

The St. John's Prep Varsity Boys Basketball Team capped off a great season this year. Under Head Coach Mr. Kiggins, the team advanced all the way to the semi-finals against Monsignor Scanlan High School. The team's overall record was 12 wins and 3 losses, and the top high scorers were Patrick Rouse, Jacob Gomez, Timothy Richardson, and Amir Alston. These players consistently led the Red Storm to key victories and played an integral



role in our team's successes. Hard work, endless practices, and strong sportsmanship yielded an exceptional season and a great playoff run for our amazing Varsity Boys Basketball Team. Next season, Coach Kiggins hopes to win a city championship!

The St. John's Prep Junior Varsity Boys Basketball Team also had an excellent season, having advanced to the semi-finals under the direction of Coach Maschino and Mr. Buck.

The team managed to pull off a score of 10-5 at their final game of the season, with scoring led by Blake Williams, Raymond Cremin, and Louis Ikama. In each game, these players played impressive defense, made nearly every shot, and collaborated exceptionally with their teammates. While the SJP Junior Varsity Boys Basketball Team fell short of their championship hopes in the semi-finals, they led a successful season and fostered so many memories along the



way. The championship dream still remains constant for the JV team next year! Thank you to everyone who attended our games and supported the Red Storm until the end of the season; we can't wait to see what the future holds for our players!

## **STUDENTS SHINE IN ST. JOHN'S PREP TALENT SHOW**

**by Pamela Anagnostos, '26**

On Friday, February 17, students from all academic years filled the auditorium with the spirit of great fun to enjoy our Annual Talent Show. The artistic director behind "SJP's Got Talent" was Ms. Rodano, who worked extensively with our talented students to help them deliver their best performances. As expected, our singers, dancers, musicians, and actors wowed the crowd with their high levels of skill and creativity. Our emcees were Damien O'Connor, Matthew Sandoval, and Michael Karphatios, who each guided the show with their puns, judge interviews, and with their encouragement of audience participation. Our guest judges included illustrious individuals from the TV and music industries, including Paolo Buffagni, Willy Mosquera, Ben Fabrizi, and Arianna Stendardo. Additionally, Ms. Rodano welcomed back some graduates from our school who have made their footprint in the entertainment industry,



including Mitsuki Moto, Nick Paiva Santos, John Schwab, and Morgan Lamour. One of our very own teachers, Ms. Miller, who is a talent herself in singing, was a judge as well! Ray Tan, Alexis Perez, Chelsea Baukloh, Pretentious Purple, and Chloe Bao all won awards in their respective categories! Congratulations to all performers and assistants for making the 2023 Talent Show successful!

## **THE ADDAMS FAMILY – A SPOOKTACULAR MUSICAL** **by Michelle Nugra, '23**

On March 10th, our Visual and Performing Arts Department presented their musical iteration of "The Addams Family" under the artistic direction of Ms. Rodano. It was entertaining and enjoyable, with great visuals, dancing, and gloomy designs! The story begins with the mysterious young lady named Wednesday Addams who has fallen in love with a young man who her parents have never met. Wednesday confides in her father, Gomez Addams, and

tells him not to tell her mother, and his wife, Morticia Addams. The plot twists when The Addams Family hosts a dinner for Wednesday's boyfriend. The cast and crew included students from all grade levels and auditions for roles were open to any student interested in performing. Our student actors challenged themselves and embraced their roles, delivering an unforgettable performance! Ms. Rodano stated, "We are immensely proud of our students who worked hard and gave their best performance for this musical." "It was a phenomenal experience!" exclaimed Ms. Pollens, whose daughter played Pugsley Addams in the musical. Ms. Kemp contributed to the creation of the ghostly props and scenery with some of her students, as well. As Ms. Baltzis of The Parent Guild stated, "Simply spectacular and imaginative, I'm looking forward to next year's show!" The production had two performances, with the first taking place in the afternoon at 3:00 PM and the second in the evening at 7:00 PM. Over thirty students worked with teachers and the Parent Guild to put together a spine-chilling show!

**WELCOME HOME, ALUMNI!**

by Eleni Rallakis, '23

On March 22, alumni from Mater Christi, Brooklyn/Lewis Ave Classes, and St. John's Prep returned to our school for our annual "Career Day", an SJP tradition that enables students to learn about the daily lives of professionals across numerous fields. Our alumni shared information about their jobs, workplaces, and education, as well as some wise words of advice. Students listened to the speakers and were able to ask questions, both of which exposed us to a variety of career opportunities and perspectives. It was a very informative morning that prompted our students to think about their futures and professional goals, and we couldn't be more thankful for our speakers! Thank you to all of our alumni who shared their day with us!

**SPRING COLLEGE FAIR**

by Alexis Perez, '23

As you reach the end of your junior year, you may be faced with the question, "Where do I see myself beyond high school?" Many of you may not know the answer yet, while some of you may

already know which colleges you'd like to apply to. However, even if you have an idea of where you'll be applying, it doesn't hurt to stop by our Spring College Fair and learn about the programs available at various colleges. At this fair, you'll be presented with numerous representatives who are there to answer your questions and help you make the right decision for your future. Last year, I walked into the Spring College Fair with no idea of where I hoped to attend, and speaking to some college representatives gave me the opportunity to find the right place for me. Based on what you learn about these colleges, you may end up choosing to visit them and find yourself applying in your senior year. Finding your sense of direction is important, and the Spring College Fair might be exactly what you need to achieve that - so make sure to take advantage of it!

**PRE-MED CLUB**  
by Sophia Choudhury, '25

Pre-Med is a new club at St. John's Prep with the aim of helping students prepare for careers in the medical field. The club incorporates a wide range of topics such as common healthcare, medical terminology, and basic anatomy and physiology. The mission of the club is to help students build a solid foundation of knowledge and skills that

will eventually help them thrive in their medical journeys. Internships will also be available to the junior and senior members. These students will be shadowing doctors, volunteering at hospitals or clinics, and hearing guest speakers talking about current matters in healthcare. I joined this club to gain basic healthcare and medical knowledge as I am interested in becoming a pediatrician. Pediatricians are doctors that focus on the health of newborns, kids, teenagers, and young people. Working with children and making a difference in their lives has always been something I am passionate about, and I know that the Pre-Med club will encourage me on my medical journey. If you are interested in the medical field, I encourage you to join!

**ECONOMICS CLUB**  
by Theo Darringer, '25

The Economics Club is an organization that aims to provide an inclusive platform for economics enthusiasts to learn about the subject and interact with like-minded





individuals. Mr Kiggins, who is our club's advisor, exposes our members to different perspectives and topics within economics. Additionally, the Economics Club also offers opportunities for professional development by encouraging students to create their own companies and learn about networking and industrial competition. By creating a community of economics enthusiasts, the Economics Club fosters a love for the subject and provides valuable skills and connections for future careers. We encourage all economics enthusiasts to attend our next meeting – you may end up wanting to join!

### **A FAMILY AFFAIR by Alexis Perez, '23**

I would like to start off by thanking all the parents of the 2023 senior class for blessing us with the opportunity to get a quality education at St. John's Prep. My experience at St. John's Prep, in two words, has been life changing. It was 2019 when I entered this school. I have had four other family members attend here; and I was excited to belong to the next generation. The beginning of my freshman year was a great time. I met and became friends with so many people, however that all changed when COVID-19 struck in March. This sent all of us home to learn from our computers or tablets. It was hard to socialize and even harder to learn. It wasn't until junior year that I got the real high school experience. Coming back to in-person learning in junior

year was a shock for us all because we had to try to operate normally despite the circumstances being anything but normal. Even though we may not have had a normal junior year, in my opinion, it was the best time in my high school life; I met people that I can now call family and I learned more about myself than I have ever before. I had many achievements that I am grateful for, such as performing at Broadway at The Prep. As junior year came to an end, I realized that nothing would be the same again, because next year would be my last year at St. John's Prep, and before I knew it, I was a senior. I was applying to colleges, asking for recommendations, and attending senior events. St. John's Prep has prepared me for the world that I am soon going to enter as an adult. As I am anticipating graduation and leaving this school, I have learned that the best things



happen unexpectedly. Let life be full of excitement and adventure after this chapter of our lives closes and a new one begins.

# HOPPING INTO EASTER..



## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST. JOHN'S PREP by Luis Morocho, '23**

On April 4, the St. John's Prep community participated in our annual commemoration of the Stations of the Cross. This reflection recalls Christ's painful journey to the cross on the day of his crucifixion. Each year during Lent, students and faculty pensively gather in the auditorium to pray and reflect on each of the fourteen stations in a dimly lit setting. Students from various academic and sports activities presented short meditations on their stations, accompanied by prayers, as well as singing from our chorus.



This is a moving and meaningful way of remembering Christ's suffering. The Stations of the Cross serve as a reminder of the importance of reflection, prayer, and compassion in our daily lives.

## **SJP EXPLORES ITALY by George Baltzis, '26**

As the spring of 2023 arrived, so did our well-deserved Easter break, which opened the door for members of the St. John's Prep community to travel together. Teachers and students spent their break journeying through the beautiful country of Italy, making stops in Rome, Capri, Naples, Sorrento, Pompei, Perugia, Assisi, Florence, Venice, and Bologna. Shopping and sightseeing were highlights of our trip. We made sure to stop by St. Peter's Basilica, the Roman Forum, and the Basilica of St. Francis. We also enjoyed gondola rides in Venice and shopping in Florence. We had the opportunity to take a guided tour through the beautiful Vatican City museum – located in the smallest country in the world – which was decked out with resplendent paintings and striking sculptures that left us all captivated. As our grand tour of Italy came to a close, our traveling group began to realize just how many memories we made together. We are grateful for such an incredible experience and opportunity to learn. Viva l'Italia!





## **EASTER SUNDAY**

### **by Kennedy Gayle, '24**

As Jenna flickered open her eyes, she shut them again in an instant. She wanted to continue her slumber. When her eyes were closed she was a dancer who was tiptoeing on a tightrope but when she opened them, she felt as if she was nothing.

Jenna tried desperately to go back to sleep. She tried everything and eventually resorted to counting sheep. She counted in intervals of three; "1, 2, 3," she'd say as she pointed them out in her mind; however the more she tried to return to her dream, the faster it left.

Jenna eventually opened her eyes in defeat and began to get a sense of her surroundings. She groaned when she discovered the reason for her untimely awakening. The tacky Mickey Mouse alarm clock on her dresser has been spewing out a Ballerina Ballad.

She began to fidget around in the dark, trying desperately to find the clock and turn it off but instead, managed to knock over a few things in the process. It took her what felt like hours to feel the rounds of mickey's ear and the oval-like button labeled on/off. When she found it, the corners of her mouth began to turn up. The feeling of accomplishment began to consume her.

The alarm clock blinked 7:00 am, causing the numbers to illuminate throughout the room in an olive-green font.

Jenna couldn't remember the last time she woke up at 7 am. She was, however, intrigued by the way the number looked; it was as if she was staring at something that had never been attainable before, something mystical.

The olive-green light made it so that the once dark room was now partially lit up. The only other source of light in the otherwise dark room was coming from underneath the bedroom door. She watched attentively as someone walked past the door, causing the yellow light to cease for just a millisecond before shining again.

By this time Jenna had concluded that sleep wasn't an option, so she instead found joy in the silence. As a new child of 5, silence was but a dream she'd had designed to cope with the chatter that forever filled the air. She thought that she'd get used to it eventually but the sounds of various voices that were all trying to make themselves heard, was all too much too soon.

"It's 7 o'clock," Jenna murmured.

"Yes, but it's Easter Sunday," the voice said .

"Easter Sunday?" Jenna said, with a look of confusion spread across her face.

She'd never heard of this day before; all that she knew about Easter, she learned from television, which usually only depicted a bunny that hid eggs for all to gather.

Jenna wouldn't admit it, but she always imagined frolicking through a field, grinning immensely with a basket of eggs in her hand.

"Are we going to do the egg hunt thing?" Jenna said, growing increasingly excited.

"Probably not," the voice replied, "because that's not what Easter Sunday is about." The voice responded as they shimmied off of their bed and onto the gray carpet that covered the bedroom floor.

When the person jumped off of the bed, Jenna had registered who it was. It was her sister, Lilah.

As Lilah walked toward the alarm clock, somehow managing to turn off the illuminating light, the door creaked open.

"Why are you guys not up?" Someone asked as they peaked their head into the room.

"I'm giving her a history lesson" Lilah said as she walked toward the door and flicked the light switch on.

Even though Jenna had been awake for a while, the brightness of the light still managed to sting her eyes.

"On what?" The voice asked.

"On the history of Easter Sunday," Lilah replied.

Jenna sat up in her bed and stretched her arms in an outward fashion, as the person's head disappeared from the doorway.

"You've got my attention, Lilah," Jenna affirmed.

This caused Lilah to smile.

"On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from death after he was Crucified and buried." Lilah began. "As Christians, we believe that when Jesus laid down his life on the Cross, he paid for all of our sins."

Jenna was instantly excited. By the time Lilah had finished explaining everything about Easter, Jenna had already picked out her clothes and made her bed. She was eager to go to Church and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus who was selfless enough to die for everyone's sins.

Every Easter Sunday after that, Jenna was adamant about being the first one up and found joy in the extended Church services. Jenna had even sought out a position that made it so that she was able to lend a helping hand every Easter Sunday.

Easter Sunday was the highlight of her year.

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## "'Twas the Night Before Easter!" by Peggie C. Bohanon

'Twas the night before Easter on Internet Lane;  
From New York, to Russia, spring Holidaye reigned!  
Computers were linking from Disney to space;  
And folks were resolving the Easter Egg case!

The kids were entranced by a techno-theme,  
While visions of dinos appeared on the screen!  
And Mom dyed the eggs, while I searched the Net,  
For flowers to send her--or in trouble I'd get!!

When swiftly, my Mac began such a clatter,  
The mouse shrieked, "Explorer", what's the matter!"  
Away to my window, I jumped with great speed;  
A break for sore eyes, I surely did need!

I saw flowers of spring beginning to bloom,  
I welcomed the view from my computer room!  
When what to my wondering eyes, did I see,  
But a Stranger stooped low, on bended knee.

With a quick glance I knew 'twas a backflash of time,  
I envisioned the form of my Savior Divine.  
More rapid than eagles, my memory raced,  
To another time and another place.

Where Christ, Lord of all, called each one by name--  
"Follow Me," was His Word, and they willingly came.  
They watched Him perform deeds of wondrous love;  
They knew His power came from God above.



Yet we (you and me, folks!) just led him to die;  
In the dark of a tomb our Savior did lie.  
But then in another flash of great power,  
I saw Him arise--death conquered that hour!

He was robed all in white, with radiant glow;  
He stood in great splendor, this Savior I know.  
His eyes with loving compassion shown,  
I knew in that moment I need ne'er be alone.

His hands were outstretched as this One bid me  
come;  
The work of redemption forever done.  
I stood there in silence, in humble awe,  
As the Reason of Easter I now clearly saw.

Then quickly as the scenes had appeared,  
They faded--I felt not one moment of fear.  
I bowed low in worship; earth's sight now so dim;  
I had seen Easter's morning; I had been there with  
Him.

As I saw Him, with faith's eyes, lifted above,  
The night before Easter was filled with pure love.  
And I heard him exclaim as He rose out of sight,  
"A Blessed Easter to all! I have conquered your night!"



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## REMEMBER by Damien O'Connor, '23

Spirit Week . . . Retreats . . . Fundraising Drives . . . Courses . . . AP Classes . . . Lunch  
Gym Classes . . . Student Government . . . Sports Nights . . . Computers . . . Smart Boards . . . I.D. Cards . .  
. . . PSATs . . . SATs . . . Guidance . . . Late Passes . . . Cell Phones . . . the Talent Show . . . Mr. Farren & His  
Band . . . Intramurals . . . Library . . . The Tea Party . . . Foreign Travel . . . Transportation Delays . . .  
Tutoring . . . Chapel . . . Cheerleaders . . . Honor Society . . . The Christmas Show . . . the Ski Trip . . .  
Santa Claus . . . Zoom . . . Locker Combinations . . . Research Papers . . . Homework . . . Google  
Classroom . . . Uniform . . . Detention . . . Latin . . . Ring Day . . . Prom at The Pierre . . . Transportation  
Cards . . . CPR . . . Masses . . . Orientation . . . Freshman Follies . . . Regents . . . Parent Teacher Nights . .  
. . . Report Cards . . . Yearbook pictures

What is a community, you ask? A community is defined as, "a group of people living in the same space or having a particular characteristic in common." In my opinion, the one characteristic that we, the seniors, have in common is our perseverance and our quite colorful humor. St. John's Prep is a diverse community, full of dedicated, encouraging, and loving individuals, that we are proud to represent. I hope that all of you remember this community, our second home, as you endeavor beyond high school into college. I know I have absolutely adored these past years, hopefully we all look back to these wonderful memories and look forward to what the future holds for us all. I know mine is going to be quite a humorous one.

Congratulations, Class of 2023! We made it!

# FAREWELL TO OUR SENIORS

For the past four years, you've pulled all-nighters, crammed before exams, and endured the incessant ring of the morning alarm. You have expanded your horizons, experienced new adventures, and made friends who you can now proudly call family. You survived the college application process, scheduled what seems like thousands of guidance appointments, and now you are suiting up for a whole new journey. You have finally reached the finish line, and you realize that it was all worth it. Your freshman self would be so proud!

It definitely was not easy, so please, make sure to pat yourselves on the back. The St. John's Prep family is so proud of the hard work and achievements of the Class of 2023. Let's take some time to recap where you have made so many of your favorite memories!

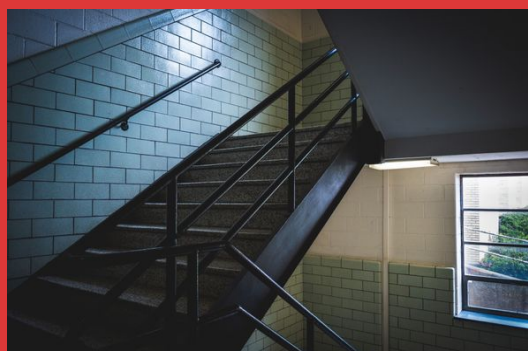


## ENTRANCE

Here is what you saw before every school day – whether you drove, took public transportation, or walked. It is the place you were so excited to enter on your first day of school, the place you will exit on your final day of school, and the place you'll remember for the rest of your life. It is the entrance of your second home.

## STAIRCASES

Whether your classes took place on the north or south side, these were two of the staircases that took you there. Decked with smiles, laughter, and memories o' plenty, these staircases probably mean more to you now than you would have originally thought. They are how you found your way to some of your favorite classes, and where small conversations flourished into lifelong friendships. When the last bell of the day rang, these stairs took you to clubs, activities, and the surrounding neighborhood of Astoria.



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## CAFETERIA

If your greatest memories didn't have a cup of fries in the picture, then were they really memories worth remembering? Lunch is where you caught up with friends between classes, and felt some fresh air in the courtyard. Lunch had some of the funniest moments and conversations you could ask for, so of course, we had to include it in your senior card (which looks amazing, by the way)!



## GYMNASIUM

Running laps, shooting hoops, and exercising with your classmates cemented gym class as an integral part of your high school experience. Aside from your gym cycles, the glistening “Home of the Red Storm” reminded us of our identity. It was the perfect spot to practice and hone our athletic skills. While our championship symbols may seem glorious, the memories you made here are everlasting.



## AUDITORIUM

The auditorium has always been the epicenter of our school's events. Masses reminded us of another integral part of our identity, and as a class this is where you showcased your many talents. Equipped with fantastic visual and sound systems, some of our favorite moments have taken place in this auditorium.



## CHAPEL



The chapel has long been a staple at St. John's Prep. It is the site of some of our most important masses. The chapel has become a clear symbol of community and joy for the SJP family. It serves as a reminder of the values we uphold at our school, a meeting spot for our students and faculty, and most of all a reverent place of worship where one can strengthen their relationship with the Lord in a tranquil and solemn setting. This chapel represents the generosity and charitable Christian ideals of the benefactors of our school, who desired to educate generations of young leaders. You now join a rich community of alumni; a community that started as Mater Christi, and became St. John's Prep.

## GUIDANCE CENTER

At this point, what more is there to hear about the guidance center? The guidance center has been an integral part of your transition from high school to college – it's where you navigated Naviance, contemplated CommonApp, and sought out financial aid programs. The many appointments you had for guidance were accompanied by stress, but it was part of the journey. We know you cherish your guidance counselors, who worked extremely hard to help you achieve your goals.



## LIBRARY

Our library is an essential resource for our students – it provides access to educational materials, offers a comfortable environment for work, and acts as a hub for socialization and networking. It has given you opportunities to connect with your peers and teachers, and has equipped you with the skills and tools that will help prepare you for the rest of your

Maybe you spent your time here during lunch, or during free periods, but one thing is for sure, its contributions to your journey will be felt for decades to come.

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# LETTER TO OUR SENIORS

As you turn your tassels at graduation, we hope you continue to follow the mission statement that we strive for at St. John's Prep. We pray that your experience here has prepared you for a more abundant life. We hope that you continue to embody kindness, diligence, discipline, and empathy throughout your every endeavor. We know that you will use the knowledge and skills that you have gained. We thank you for your example of hard work, perseverance, and respect. We ask for God's blessing upon each and everyone of you!

Remember to inform us of your achievements and keep in touch with our alumni relations office via [johnroleke@stjohnsprepschool.org](mailto:johnroleke@stjohnsprepschool.org).



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2023!



## ***THE CRESCENT TOWER STAFF***

The Crescent Tower is always looking for students who want to work on our newspaper. Our newspaper is designed not only to deliver news but to help students develop skills in writing, reporting, photography, design, and multimedia. In addition, The Crescent Tower will teach students valuable lessons in organization, leadership, and collaboration. The Crescent Tower Staff is always open to new ideas and recruits. If you are interested in working with The Crescent Tower, please visit Mrs. Adrahtas in room 203S.

**Moderator**  
Kathy Adrahtas

**Editor In Chief**  
George Baltzis, '26

### **Reporters & Writers**

George Baltzis, '26	Pamela Anagnostos, '26
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Ana Macedo, '23	Alexis Perez, '23
Genesis Enriquez, '23	Kareena Ramlakhan, '25
Eleni Rallakis, '23	Sophia Choudhury, '25
Valeria Vislocky, '26	Theo Darringer, '25
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Jackson Phillipone, '25	Damien O'Connor, '23
Jocelyn Vasquez, '23	Andrew Quintana, '25

**Book Review**  
Valeria Vislocky, '26

Our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Bethge for his help in editing our newspaper.

**We couldn't have done this without the SJP community!**

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