

Spring-Summer 2017

Saint George's Magazine



**Outdoor Classes,
Success Stories,
Faculty Farewells,
& Writers' Celebration**

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**SGS Mission
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Inspiring
scholars,
athletes, and
artists to
serve and lead
others.

SAINT GEORGE'S Magazine

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Cover Photo:
Sixth graders paddle down the Little Spokane River on an end-of-the year activity to pick up trash along the river. Photo by John Carter.

On the Web
View the full Saint George's Magazine and added special features online at www.sgs.org/magazine



Pictures Worth 1,000 Words

Dear Friends,

Summer is a great time to recharge and reflect after the school year. For me, this reflection period started during the end-of-year celebrations in each division and the slide shows presented during these events. The slide shows chronicle the year and capture the amazing things Saint George's students experience in and out of the classroom.

We often take for granted the intangibles of an independent school and the added value of a Saint George's education. In three-second intervals, as each picture was projected on the screen, I watched engaged and smiling students doing things you don't see in most schools. A short list of examples includes canoeing a river, building robots, climbing rock outcroppings, navigating high ropes courses, making live and stop animation films, exploring other cultures, travelling the world, releasing butterflies, analyzing water with Spokane's RiverKeeper, and raising and releasing trout to name just a few. (You can see additional photos of student activities in this magazine and on the new SGS.org website.)

This was in addition to all the academic accomplishments, artistic creations and athletic honors our students earned this past year. We truly excel in our mission of

"Inspiring scholars, athletes and artists to serve and lead others."

During the school year, I am often focused on the minutia of the day or week. Summer is a great time to step back and view things from the 30,000 foot perspective. Often that comes in the form of conversations.

In June, I was able to tour a group from the Class of 1987 gathering for their 30th reunion. It was a conversation about then and now. I enjoyed hearing their stories from 30 years ago, and even better was to talk with them about the school today. They were very complimentary of the changes that have been made and that the school they knew still exists within the new buildings and renovations.

I hope our current students will take the summer to recharge and reflect during their summer activities. I know many will be working, travelling and playing until August. I hope they recognize the benefits in all of those endeavors and how it helps them become a more informed person when they return to SGS. For the Class of 2017, I also hope it adds to their preparation for starting school on a new campus!

Have a great summer, and Go Dragons!

Sincerely,

– Jamie Tender, Head of School



**Jamie Tender,
Head of School**



Members of the Class of 1987 gather around the new McCutcheon Upper School engraved sign.

Outdoor Classroom



**Themes of
Middle School
Activities Help
Students Understand
the World Around Them**

“The planet needs to be a better place because of us and not a worse place in spite of us.”

Science teacher Brian Hutchinson’s comment sums up the reason why Saint George’s School has organized lessons for each Middle School grade around overarching themes inspired by the school’s natural setting.

A busy year of classroom assignments, outside activities, and targeted field trips all tie into the class themes. For sixth grade, the focus is on *River Connections*; for seventh grade it’s being *Water Warriors*; and eighth graders practice *Sustainability*. When introducing new concepts in each academic area, SGS teachers make sure students get out into the field for practical applications, so they walk away with a better understanding.

The *River Connections* theme for sixth grade revolves around the rivers in the Spokane area and how human activity, from littering to the building of dams, effects the water’s quality.

Throughout the year, the sixth graders experience a variety of activities that revolve around the class theme, such as a twelve-mile bike ride down the Centennial Trail, a snowshoe trip to Mt. Spokane to learn about the snowpack and its influence on water levels in area rivers, and also a trip to the nearby state fish hatchery to collect fish eggs to raise and release. The hatchery visit also prepares them for their capstone experience at the end of the school year.

That big adventure is an overnight trip to the Nez Perce Reservation in Central Idaho. The students visit many areas on and around the reservation, including the Lower Granite Dam, the Nez Perce National Historic Park and Museum, the “Heart of the Monster” where the tribe’s creation myth takes place, the Nez Perce Tribal Fish Hatchery, and the federal

Dworshak Dam Hatchery. The students learn about the dams and their effect on the migratory patterns of salmon, which the Nez Perce had relied on for food, as well as the efforts that have been taken to reverse the negative effects caused by the dams.

Middle School Science teacher Joelle Neiwert explains that “the goal is to get the students to realize that for every action, even actions that do not appear harmful, there are unintended consequences, especially in ecosystems.” The students also venture off campus several times throughout the year to collect water samples from the Spokane River, which they test for pH and oxygen levels to monitor the health of the river.

As students move into seventh grade, they continue to learn about water and its scarcity. As *Water Warriors*, they study the shortage of potable water and how to sanitize water with limited resources. To do this, the class takes a trip in early fall to Camp Spalding on Davis Lake. While at camp, the students go on a mile-long hike to fill up a water bottle with stream water that is less than ideal for drinking or cooking. They then hike back to camp and attempt to use the sun’s rays to purify the water they had hiked miles to retrieve.

Retiring math teacher Judy Fitzpatrick says that the goal for this outing “is for students to realize that people in many parts



MacKenzie Crittenden, Executive Asst. to Head of School & Registrar

Opposite: The winning team from the 6th grade’s cardboard boat race.

Below: Eyeing an eel at the Nez Perce Tribal Fish Hatchery, and the 6th grade gathers at “The Heart of the Monster” on the Nez Perce Reservation.



Continued on Page 6





Above:
7th graders show off scarce liquid found during the Quest for Water.

Below:
Hiking and climbing at Camp Spalding, and observing bugs from the stream through campus in the Biology Lab.

of the world have to hike miles in order to fill up gallons of dirty water that they will then have to sanitize, or attempt to, after their hike back home. We want students to know that not everyone has the luxury of turning on a faucet and watching crystal clear water come out continuously.”

In an effort to learn about the ecosystem only a few steps away from the Middle School’s doors, the students collect benthic macroinvertebrate samples from the campus stream. The students study their collections



to determine the creatures that exist in the water. Following the collections, the students clean up the stream by pulling weeds from the water and picking up any trash that may have accidentally ended up there.

After finals are complete and lockers are cleaned out, the seventh graders gather on Graduation Lawn for their annual “Quest For Water.” During the Quest, students set out in groups with an empty water bottle with high hopes of bringing back at least 40 oz. of water. Using GPS locaters, they have to find caches of water that are hidden on the wooded hillsides above the SGS campus.

As students track down the water sources, they have to use their limited tools to extract the water from the source and transfer it to their bottle. But there is a twist. As students locate water, it is very likely that the source will be dry and no water will be available. After hiking through the woods to find the caches that actually hold water, the teams then return and compare what they find with their fellow *Water Warriors*.

“This is a great and fun way to teach the students what it is like to not have a guaranteed source of water,” says Jim Tuck, Health and PE teacher. “The students leave with a new understanding that water is precious,” and the value of conserving scarce resources.

All these lessons prepare students for their culminating year of middle school at Saint George’s. Having learned about river connections and the shortage of clean water, they are ready to spend a year exploring the concept of *Sustainability*.

To start off their year, the eighth graders learn what sustainability means and translate it into their own experience. Hutchinson explains that “when the students are allowed to explore the concept of sustainability and look at various definitions, they are able to create personal definitions of sustainability.” Their definitions this year ranged from economics and the environment to languages and cultural sustainability. “The students really took this project and ran with it.”

To understand one type of sustainability, the eighth grade class visits the North County Food Bank and its local community garden. The students help out in the garden and learn that growing your own food is a source of sustainability for many local families. "The amount of work completed by the class in a three-hour time frame would have taken the food bank employees four to six weeks to accomplish," says Hutchinson.

Not all eighth grade trips focus on sustainability, but they all give students a chance to test their classroom learning in a new setting. One of the oldest traditions at Saint George's is the eighth grade's Coast Trip in May. Travelling to the Olympic Peninsula for a week, they put their marine biology skills learned in science labs to work. The class explores the beach environment and examines the organisms and ecosystems found in the tidal zone. Hutchinson says that "one of the best ways for students to become familiar with the knowledge gained in the classroom is for them to get out and practice it; this trip does exactly that."

They go hiking through the forests, examining the tidal pools, and relaxing at the campground, all while putting their knowledge of sustainability to good use by picking up any trash left behind from previous groups that visited the area. On the last day of the trip, no one is allowed to get on the bus until every piece of litter is picked up off of the ground, whether or not the students left it there. "This is usually an easy task because of the hard work and lessons learned throughout the year that resonate with the students," says Hutchinson.

Although not every unit and class lecture had to do with water, the fun end-of-year games embrace a liquid theme! One of the water activities for the sixth grade is cardboard boat races. Students get materials, packing tape, cardboard, and a garbage bag, with the goal of designing and building a cardboard boat that can transport a student to the opposite side of the river bank and back without sinking.

Joelle Neiwert says this activity "encourages the students to think about the design parameters that would allow the boat to float and be aerodynamic in the water. The boat races, specifically the building process, is a great example of a "maker's space," the process of giving students the materials and guidelines of the task at hand and then letting them work as a team freely." Some of their designs zipped through the water; others collapsed in soggy shrieks!

The eighth grade class also engages in a fun activity that embraces the theme of water, the annual Battle of Gettysburg water fight. As part of the social studies unit, the eighth graders reenact this historic Civil War confrontation with squirt guns and water balloon artillery. The class is split in half to make up the two armies. The Confederate Army attempts to cross a grassy field and capture a flag behind the Union Army's lines with at least one dry soldier!

Whether these end of the year activities complete a year-long theme or just provide watery activities for hot spring days, Saint George's campus makes an ideal learning environment. As SGS students flow through their middle school years, they learn how their actions can help the natural world around them become a better place to live.

— MacKenzie Crittenden,
Executive Assistant to
Head of School & Registrar



Above:
The Union Army
after their soggy
Battle of Gettysburg.

Below:
Finding barnacles
in the Olympic
Peninsula tide
pools, and recording
observations on the
8th grade's Coast
Trip in May.



Success Stories



**The Class of 2017
Makes Their College
Dreams Come True**

This fall, our Class of 2017 graduates will be taking their knowledge and experiences from Saint George's on their quest for more wisdom as freshmen at some of the best universities in the world. I say world since Alana Foster will be attending Scotland's St. Andrews University and Vivian Liu will be studying at the University of Amsterdam, highlighting just two of the many success stories from this round of college applications and decisions.

The past year saw 70% of seniors get into their first-choice college. Furthermore, the class was offered over \$4,000,000 in merit aid and scholarships with one student garnering \$460,000 alone. This highlights the value that many schools see in a Saint George's education and how they compete to attract our students.

The Class of 2017 had many exceptional students. One student, Brooke Martin, represents the senior class well. In only two short years, Brooke made a significant impact on her class as Associated Student Body President and a key member of our World Finalist Robotics team. She is heading to Stanford in the fall on a full-ride, Bryan Cameron Scholarship and exemplifies the SGS goal of preparing scholars, athletes, and artists for success in college and life.

Another student that made an impact on Saint George's is Max McGougan, son of Middle School Spanish teacher Paulina McGougan. Max was nationally known for

his fierce performance on the debate circuit, but he also lent his quick mind to our successful History Bowl and Knowledge Bowl teams. Max was named a Marsden Scholar, worth \$30,000 over four years, an honor bestowed to only two seniors from the Inland Northwest each year. He will be attending Princeton University.

We wish all of the Class of 2017 the best and feel confident the skills they gained at Saint George's will serve them well at their chosen universities.

Even though I've mentioned only a few students, that isn't because I can't go on about the successes and potential for future greatness within every individual. They were recognized with scholarships for their academic work, musical ability, and athletic prowess. This is a class with a number of achievements that leave a lasting legacy in place. They were state soccer and track champions; mathletes and roboticists; excellent singers, artists and thespians; scientists and writers; good people and good friends; all who will be greatly missed in the Upper School Courtyard.

Such is the life of a college counselor, though, and I am already looking forward to working with next year's seniors to make their college dreams come true. Good luck class of 2017!

— Kerry Clark, SGS College Counselor & English Teacher

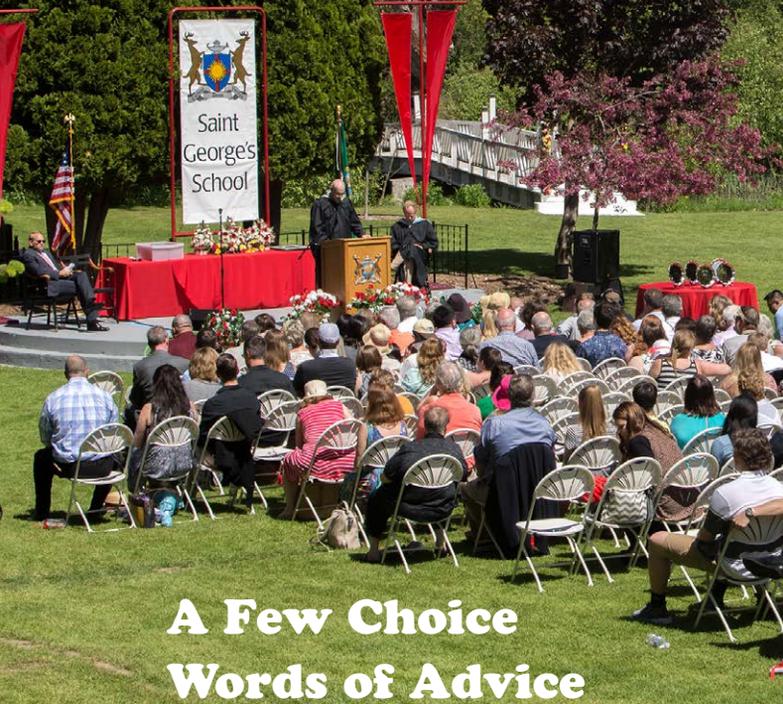


**Kerry Clark,
College Counselor
& Upper School
English Teacher**

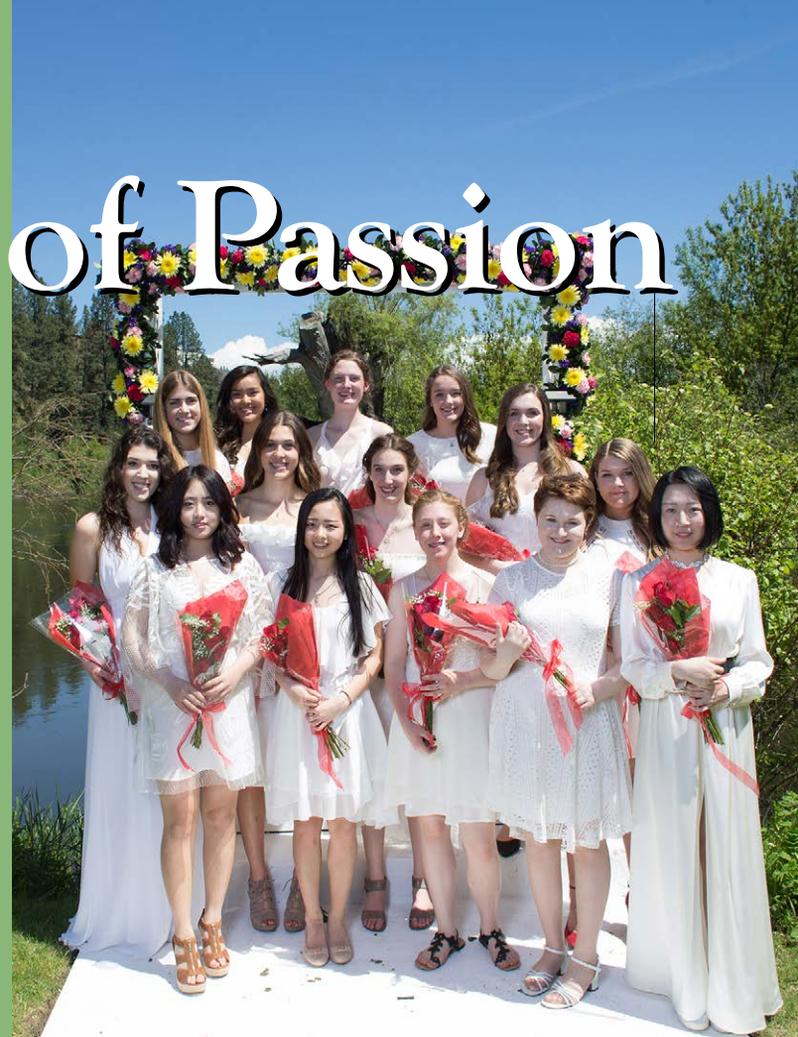
**Opposite:
Seniors wait
to march off
Graduation Bridge.
Below:
Diplomas in hand,
they head to a
reception in the
Schmidt Center.**



In Praise of Passion



**A Few Choice
Words of Advice
for Saint George's
Class of 2017**



Thirteen years ago I came to work at Saint George's School. That fall of 2004, some of you seniors who walked across Graduation Bridge this spring also walked into the Kindergarten room as new Dragons.

Over the years, I've taken photos of and written about your artistic performances, athletic competitions, and classroom activities. I've even been a host parent for one of the international students in your class. And now that you've soaked up all that Saint George's has to offer and are ready to climb to the heights of higher education, I have a few parting words for you.

Look at the original seal of Saint George's, and at the top, between the hungry deer, is the lamp of wisdom. Its flame certainly sheds the light of knowledge, but it also generates heat – the love of learning.

Light and heat. That's the unique combination of a liberal arts education, where the goal is for each of you to find, in the words of educational pioneer Kurt Hahn, your "grande passion."

Let me take an example from the history of science. When Benjamin Franklin flew a kite in a thunderstorm, it wasn't because he had a death wish. No, old Ben was literally trying to catch lightning in a bottle. Well, I need to share a secret with you. The mild-mannered, law-abiding teachers at Saint George's have been sending you out with kites in thunderstorms! (Figuratively, of course.)

Why? So you could be "hit by lightning" just like your teachers once were. Struck by a passion for Spanish or chemistry or math. They've found their own grand passions, which led them to a school that

boasts of its passionate teachers, whose love of their subjects is remarkably contagious. Perhaps you should think of Saint George's as a place that encourages spontaneous combustion.

Like that flame on the school seal, my hope is that each Saint George's graduate has found both the light of knowledge and a unique passion for learning. So here is my challenge to each of you "lightening-struck" scholars, athletes and artists.

First, feed your flame. Dive into what you've found you love in college, and after you earn your degree keep on finding professional development opportunities to feed that flame.

Second, pursue your passion. Put in the effort to get really good at what you love to do. It will take time, but it shouldn't be difficult if it's what you love. Real personal success comes from pursuing your passion.

And third, lift up your light. When people recognize that you are really good at something because you obviously love what you are doing, then share your passion. Teach other people what you've learned. Lift up your light. Show them how to fly a kite in a thunderstorm – figuratively, of course – and rejoice when some of them get zapped by the same grand passion that animates your own life.

That's my alliterative challenge to you: feed your flame, pursue your passion, and lift up your light.

As you can see, I like words. That's part of my passion. What's yours?

– John Carter, Editor,
Saint George's Magazine



**John Carter,
Associate Director,
Communications**



**Above:
The original seal
of Saint George's
School.**

**Opposite (clockwise
from top left):
Families and
friends gather on
Graduation Lawn,
the ladies of 2017
wearing traditional
white dresses,
marching in arm in
arm with honorary
graduate Limerick,
and the Chamber
Choir sings.**

**Below:
The Class of 2017 on
Graduation Bridge.**



Celebrating Writers



**Lower School
Students Read
Their Own Stories
at Annual Writers'
Celebration**



The Lower School came alive with the sound of storytellers on May 4 when the annual Writers' Celebration brought family and friends to hear students take turns reading their self-written stories. After each tale, the audience asked questions and offered applause for their classmates' creativity.

Go to www.sgs.org/magazine for links to photos of this fun event!

Faculty Farewells

Five SGS Teachers Move on to Retirement or New Career Opportunities

Judy Fitzpatrick

Judy Fitzpatrick joined the Saint George's faculty in 2002. She primarily has taught math during her tenure, both in the Middle School and Lower School, but she also has taught World Geography and served as an advisor. She has been the consummate professional in and outside the classroom. Modelling life-long learning, she integrated professional development experiences into her teaching. She also took on active roles in the outdoor program, on class trips, and with after school programs. Through coaching Math is Cool, she led many of her students to the State Masters competition and was the official organizer of Pi Day in the Middle School. Judy's greatest gift was a caring and patient ear for her students, lending her calming demeanor to the betterment of the Middle School as a whole. Her optimistic and unselfish ways will be missed, and we wish her well in her retirement and other exciting adventures that lie ahead.

— Jamie Tender, Head of School

Jennifer Motoyoshi

Jennifer Motoyoshi has been a member of the Middle School faculty since 2014. As the 7th/8th grade English teacher, Jeni endeavored to connect challenging curriculum with modern life. Her goal was to help students fully understand the material and appreciate the timeless story lines they were studying as they read *Much Ado About Nothing*, for example, and how these story lines are echoed in current media. Jeni constantly introduced new ideas and information in her classroom to pique the interest of her students and further their understanding. Jeni used her ESL experience to work with our International students and volunteered with David Tikker to put on the much loved Waffle Wednesdays for the Middle and Upper School students. Jeni's seemingly endless supply of energy and enthusiasm were evident in her participation in our MS Spirit Week activities, especially the faculty lip sync numbers! We wish her all the best as she continues her teaching career at Mead High School.

— Joelle Neiwert,
Middle School Asst. Head

Mardi Paulson

Mardi Paulson joined Saint George's in the fall of 2010. She became the Head of the World Languages Department in 2011 and has overseen a surge in the department's energy and scores. The number of students taking Spanish for all four years of high school has jumped, and last year's average IB Spanish score was one of the highest of any department. Mardi balances the professional requirements of being a teacher with the warmth of being a human being. Her classes are organized and energetic. One particularly fun project was when her Spanish III class created children's books in Spanish and then



Above: Judy Fitzpatrick in her kayak; Judy, Jim Tuck and Jeni Motoyoshi after the Quest for Water.

Right: Jeni slides into a Spirit Week contest.



read them to the Lower School. Mardi is a firm but fair disciplinarian, always pushing students to find and be their best selves. A number of graduates count her among their most influential teachers. Mardi has brought her musical talents to many endeavors at SGS - the Auction, the Talent Show, and the Holiday Feast, to name a few. We will miss Mardi and hope to see her often in her retirement.

– Russell Werkman,
Asst. Head for Secondary Education

Ian Townley

Ian Townley joined Saint George's in the fall of 2013 and became the Head of the Science Department in 2015. He has taught every flavor of Biology and infuses his students with his knowledge and enthusiasm for his subject. Many of his students name him as being the one responsible for their interest in Biology and pursuit of it in college. In the short time Ian has been at SGS, he has become a fixture. He is generous with his time and expertise, creating cross-division programs with the 4th and 7th grades. He is also aware of the role that SGS and his students can play on the larger scientific stage, starting a project to clear Scotch Broom on campus and working on a Little Spokane River water quality survey. Last year, he led a group of faculty focused on being more welcoming to our international students. The result has been a more open climate as well as the International Day festivities last fall. He also keeps a solid rhythm as the bassist for the school band. Dr. Townley's influence has been felt throughout the school and we will miss him. Our loss is Tulane University's gain. We wish him all the best and hope he will always be a Dragon at heart.

– Russell Werkman



Tammy Vaughn

The Lower School bids farewell to Teaching Assistant Tammy Vaughn this June and wishes her many happy retirement years with her husband. Since the fall of 2013, Tammy has been a tremendous asset in grades K-3 as a Teaching Assistant. Working with students one-to-one or in small groups, Tammy passionately guided each child in writing, reading, and math. No job was too small for Tammy as she was quick to offer her assistance in preparing classroom materials for the teachers. Tammy's cheerfulness, can-do attitude, and gentle nature with children will long be remembered. She touched not only the lives of her students but made a lasting impression on all of her colleagues. The Lower School family looks forward to having Tammy visit us next year to share her travel adventures and family stories.

– Kathy Johnson,
Asst. Head for Elementary Education



Above: Mardi Paulson poses with riding gear on a school trip to Guatemala, and Tammy Vaughn in the woods on the SGS campus.

Below: Ian Townley demonstrating equipment in the Bio Lab, and helping students identify a specimen.



Robot Takes Over World



Congratulations to the SGS Robotics Team #1595, whose 4-team alliance won the Turing Division at the FIRST World Championships in Houston on April 22. That put them in the top 24 of the 400 best high school robotics teams from around the world!

This was the first time an alliance of Washington state teams had won a division at Worlds. The three other teams – #1318 Issaquah HS, #2046 Tahoma HS in Maple Valley, and #2907 Mountainview HS in Auburn – had all played with or against the Dragons at the Pacific NW District Championships. Our Washington state alliance won their division quarterfinals, took two-out-of-three in the semifinals, and captured both finals matches.

Go to www.sgs.org/Magazine for links to more photos of the competition at Houston, as well as videos describing the game and showing highlights of Team #1595's season. The Dragons finished with 56 wins and 23 losses in official play this season.

The World Semifinals were staged on the field at Minute Maid Park (home of the Houston Astros), renamed "Einstein Field" and hosting over 10,000 spectators. Saint George's Alliance went 0-3 in the semifinals, but still finished 6th in the world.

SGS also is one of just five teams worldwide to earn five blue banners for three district wins, the division win, and for receiving a coveted Chairman's Award. An amazing season for the Dragons!

– John Carter, SGS Communications

Above:
Team #1595 rolling their robot to the next match, lifting it off the ground for extra points, and driving the robot at the FIRST World Championships.

Right:
Five FIRST banners for major awards and victories made SGS one of the top five teams in the world!



Eyewitness to Ice & Snow

“It was do or die. I wasn’t coming back if I didn’t make it.”

And so at the age of 41, teacher, writer, photographer, explorer Will Steger set off for the North Pole from his cabin in the back woods of Minnesota. By dogsled. Across the width of Canada to the northernmost point of Alaska, where his trek to the Pole could actually begin. When Steger launched out onto the frozen Arctic Ocean, it was to accomplish the first confirmed dogsled journey without re-supply to the North Pole.

That was in 1986, but Steger, who spoke at Saint George’s this April as the second Dragon Talks lecturer, already had 25 years of exploring under his belt.

Inspired by *Huckleberry Finn*, at age 16 he was boating down the Mississippi River from Minnesota to New Orleans with his older brother, then working their way back up the river to home. At 19, he was kayaking across Northern Canada and Alaska. At 20, he was summiting an unclimbed peak in the Andes of South America.

“My parents gave me a lot of freedom,” he admits. “I followed my dreams.”

Those dreams included teaching biology and earth science to 7th and 8th graders, and then at the age of 25 moving to the wilderness to start a dogsledding and skiing school.

“My goal in life was to be self-sufficient. It took three years of clearing land and building up the school, but I made it.” For over a decade, Steger lived on just \$2,000 a year. “I chose simplicity, but it was a practical necessity in those years.”

With a well-trained dog team, his thoughts naturally turned to the Arctic. Heading for Hudson’s Bay, he logged 7,000 miles on dogs and rafts over a year and a half. Which led to the idea of reaching the North Pole unsupported. Landing backing from National Geographic and ABC television was “one of the big breaks of my life” and made the expedition possible.

Two years after reaching the Pole, he led a 1,600-mile south-to-north traverse of Greenland, the longest unsupported

dogsled expedition in history. Then in 1989-90, Steger led the first dogsled traverse of Antarctica—the seven-month, 3,741-mile International Trans-Antarctica Expedition.

In the years since those remarkable feats, Steger has channeled his seemingly boundless energy into running “Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy”. The Minneapolis-based nonprofit aims to educate and empower people to engage in solutions to climate change. And that mission brought him to Spokane to speak to Saint George’s classrooms and a public forum about polar environmental issues.

“You’ve heard the phrase “glacial pace” that is just a few yards per year? There are glaciers now in Greenland that are moving at 15 miles per year. That’s a lot of ice melting into the ocean.”

To see this firsthand, Steger organized the first Kite-Skiing expedition of Greenland in 2008. “At 7,000 feet we were seeing rivers flowing at the *start* of the thaw season, the earliest it’s happened in 10,000 years.”

“It was just so weird hearing water on an ice cap. It never thaws; that’s why it’s an ice cap. We had to leave prematurely, since we couldn’t get around the rivers.”

“The climate models are always conservative,” he warned in his public talk in Founders Theater. “They call for a couple of meters of sea level rise by the end of the century, but it’s going to be much faster. That’s going to happen by 2040 or 2050.”

After witnessing the rapidly changing polar environments, Steger now acts as a lobbyist for policy changes. “This issue has fallen into the political arena, and our country is very divided about every political issue.”

“I really have faith in the American spirit; I’ve been a product of it. I know we can come together to address this unfolding catastrophe, but it’s not happening as fast as it should.”

Will Steger should know something about “glacial paces”. It’s what he’s seen as a lobbyist and during his decades of exploration in the lands of ice and snow.

— John Carter, *SGS Communications*



Above: Will Steger’s account of crossing Antarctica, speaking with SGS teachers and students, and answering questions in Founders Theater.

Hits, Runs & Challenges

Baseball

The only word I have to describe this year is “WOW”! Saint George’s baseball team never played a home game and practiced inside most of the year, thanks to the wet field conditions all spring. Yet we had two players named All-League and got within one game of advancing to the State tournament. So over all it was an interesting but great year.

After a positive regular season, the team travelled to distant Asotin for a pair of District 7 loser-out games on Tuesday, May 2. Dylan Sweeney homered in the first game, and the Dragons advanced with a 9-2 win over Tekoa-Rosalia. But in the second game, the Asotin Panthers’ Devin Fry pitched a complete game five-hitter and the Dragons were eliminated 9-1 from district play. They finished their season 11-6; not bad considering all 17 were “away” games.

At the District Awards presentations, Alex Watkins was named 1st Team All-League, and Zach Steele earned the North League MVP Award. Both Zach and Alex were team captains and dominant starting pitchers this year. Alex led the team with a 1.27 ERA (earned run average) against opposing batters, while Zach led the team in RBIs (runs batted in) and ended the year with a remarkable .571 batting average. Freshman Chris McIndoe had a great year offensively, hitting .351 while playing everywhere from outfield to shortstop, 2nd base, catcher and pitcher. Xander Werkman hit .314 and was one of the best catchers in the league this year. Congratulations, Dragons!

– Mike Wootton, SGS Baseball Coach

Tennis

The tennis team had our biggest squad ever in 2017 – 36 players, including 20 international students. Between the large number of players, only two courts at SGS, and all the rain in the spring, it certainly made for a challenging season. But the team toughed it out with pretty spectacular results.

In spite of graduating or otherwise losing six of our seven varsity girls from last year, the girls’ squad (with five rookies!) was able to beat every league opponent except for Lind/Ritzville/Sprague. We had two girls’ doubles teams, Karey Jiang & Mary Bade and Grace Generous & Caroline He, represent SGS at the District tournament, along with Lauren Senske in singles. Lauren took 2nd place at both the District and Regional tournaments and qualified for the State tournament in Yakima. On the JV side, Michelle He and Cynthia Fan finished 1st and 2nd respectively in our intrasquad JV tournament.

Luckily we had a lot of talent returning on the boys’ team from last year. The boys easily took the League championship. Daniel Zhao and Nik Chaudhry finished 2nd and 3rd respectively in the District tournament, while Andrew Jauhiainen & Connor Cremers and Alex Poppel & Case Martin took 1st and 2nd respectively in boys’ doubles, making the SGS boys District champs. These same six boys competed in the Regional tournament, where the boys’ doubles teams finished 1st and 2nd again and the SGS boys took back the Regional championship that had been lost the previous year. Both boys’ doubles teams went to State where Andrew & Connor claimed the 7th place medal amid fierce competition. On the JV side, Noah Galow and Jacky Zhu should be acknowledged as finalists in the JV tournament, with Noah ultimately winning the JV championship. But perhaps best of all, both the girls’ and boys’ tennis teams were the Academic State Champions!

– Laura Cremers, SGS Tennis Coach



Above:
Zach Steele prepares his next pitch; Hunter Hyde takes a swing.

Below:
Andrew Jauhiainen and Connor Cremers at State; Girls between matches.



Track & Field

Last year's track and field season, with a girls' State Championship and a slew of boys medals, seemed impossible to match at the outset of this year. But the Dragons attacked with typical ferocity and made 2017 a record breaking year. Mitchell Ward broke a long standing record in the 400 meters with a 50.8 and Cade Peplinski set a high jump mark with a 6 ft. effort. Not to be outdone, the girls set four new records. Ashley Sande established new marks in the 100, 200 and 400 meters and sister Taylor added the triple jump.

The girls gallantly tried to repeat as State team champions, but could not overcome the strength of NW Christian (Lacey). SGS finished 2nd with 65 points. They were led by the amazing running of Madison Ward, winning both the 800 and 1600 meters. The 800 was her fourth straight State victory in the metric half mile and the 1600 was her third straight. Ashley Sande scored her first State win in the 200 meters, and the girls' 4x400 team won for the third straight year in that event. The 4x400 consisted of Jora Gleason, Grace Harrill, Madison Ward and Ashley Sande. The relay win totaled 11 gold medals for Madie Ward in State Championship competition.

Other medal winners at State included a photo finish 2nd by Ashley Sande in the 100, two 5th places by Taylor Sande (long jump and triple jump), Jora Gleason's 6th place in the 800, and Mary Neder's 4th place medal in the 3200 and an 8th place in the 1600. Shayla Melendez had a near miss 10th in the shot put, and Kate Tender participated as a backup for the 4x400.

The boys were led by Mitchell Ward's 2nd place in the 400 meters, and a 4th by Noah Bade in the 200. The boys 4x400 bravely finished 6th despite leadoff man Marcus Manson suffering a serious hip injury. Also on the relay team were Sam Niven, Noah Bade and Mitchell Ward. Other State competitors included Dan Riggsby in the 800, Hunter Johnson in the 3200 and Cade Peplinski in the high jump.

— Rick Riley, SGS Track & Field Coach

Golf

It was a wild year on the golf links. The first three weeks of the season saw us sharing the Little Gym with the baseball team, hitting golf balls into small nets and putting on my classroom carpet. I never thought baseball and golf would share a practice location! We weren't able to start practicing at Deer Park until nearly a month into the season. We played a tournament at Colfax where only five of the nine holes were open, and since the ground was so wet and soggy we played tournaments using winter rules all the way to Districts in early May!

Once we finally got going, our program increased on the success of the first three years. On the boys' side, we had our largest turnout ever — eight golfers. Jacob Whitman got his average under 100 this year, and fellow sophomores Jake Denton and Caleb Flegel took some really large strides, both almost making the cut at District. Freshmen Winston Poppel and Michael McCarthy made the District cut, finishing 18th and 14th to place 6th as a team. Over the next three years, I expect to see each at State.

On the girls' side, we saw continued success. In the first three years of our program, we have won a State title and finished 3rd, and we were once again in the State title hunt. Claire Bennett had an outstanding year, dropping her scoring average almost 25 shots and almost making the District cut. Taylor Mitchell, a junior who has played on every team since we started when she was an eighth grader, added a second All-League selection to her resume and finished 5th at Districts and 9th at State. Maddy Christiansen burst onto the scene this year. She was our League Player of the Year and finished 2nd at Districts and 15th at State. As a team, the girls won the "B" District championship, the District 7 championship that combined with the 1As, and finished in 2nd place at the State tournament. They have a little unfinished business to take care of next spring. Taylor would love to bookend her golf career at Saint George's with State championships!

— Brad Kirsch, SGS Golf Coach

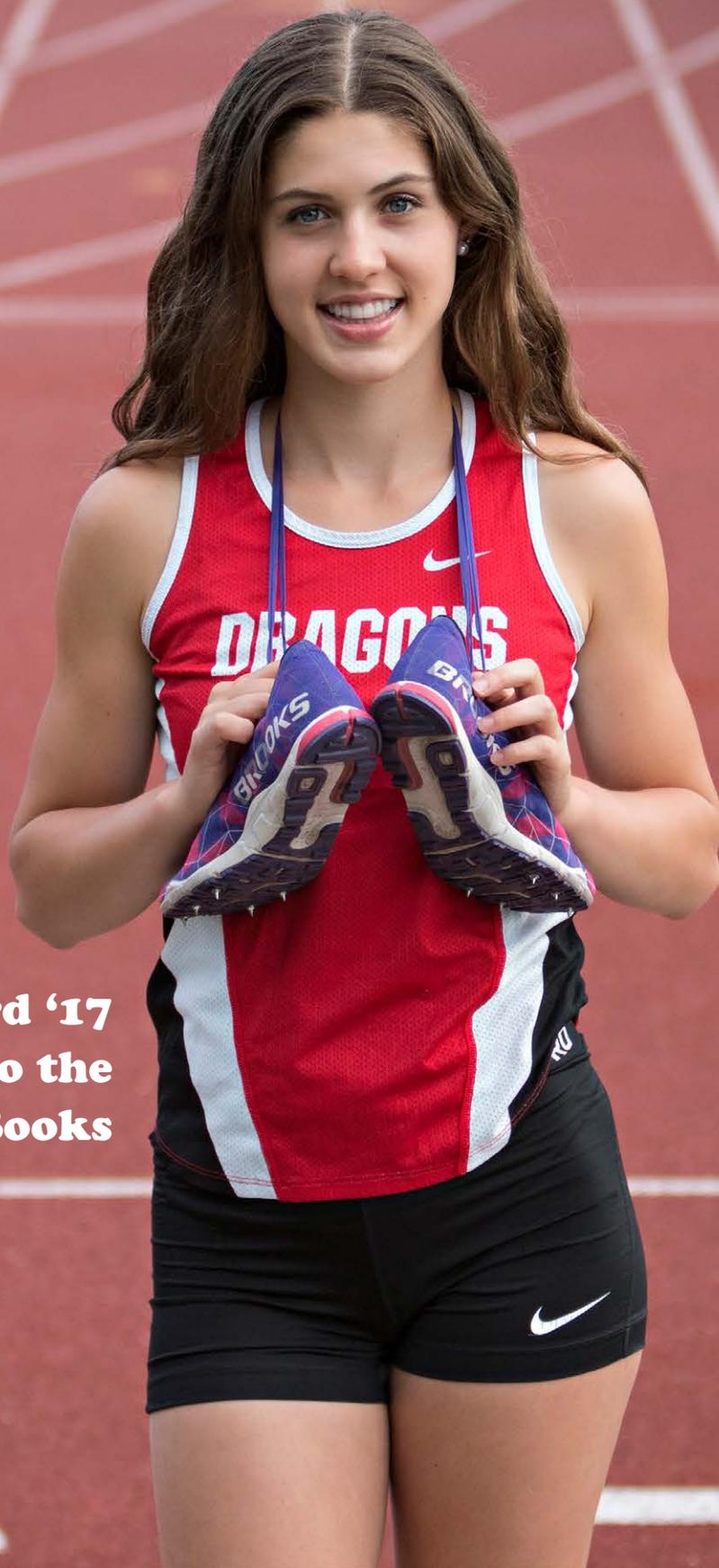


Above:
Claire Bennett hits a practice shot; Taylor Mitchell, Maddie Christiansen and coach Brad Kirsch at State.

Below:
Mitchell Ward jumps high; Mary Neder and Jora Gleason race to the finish.



Where Credit Is Due



**Madison Ward '17
Runs Into the
Record Books**

Coaches are judged on our athletes' success. This is true even though for almost all of us, the finest coaching work we have ever done is to take struggling kids from the back of the pack and help raise them up to be above average. That's true coaching, but it goes unrecognized. When our athletes win championships, then we are great. When our athletes win multiple championships, then we are geniuses of our craft.

Madison Ward has been making her cross country and track coaches look like geniuses for four years. However, all of her coaches would agree that we bear little responsibility or credit for her ten individual state championships, her team title, her three runner-up team trophies, her All-State status, or more medals than can be easily counted (or carried).

Generally coaches need to motivate and otherwise compel their athletes toward hard work. When a freshman shows up without prompting for morning workouts, asks for extra repeats during regular practice and trains by herself in the off-season regardless of weather, the credit does not belong to the coach. When that same athlete undergoes surgery in the off-season, weeks of recovery and rehab, then has to undergo the same ordeal the next season for an entirely

different injury and still wins multiple championships, the credit does not belong to the coach.

Often coaches have to help unlock competitiveness in an athlete, especially when it looks like they will be beaten. When an athlete wins a state title as a freshman with a come from behind performance that results in a photo finish when everyone else had given the race up as lost, the credit does not belong to the coach.

Usually coaches find it necessary to pester their athletes about keeping up with homework despite the demands of lost classes due to competition. Indeed, a number of athletes probably owe their diplomas to their coaches more than they do their teachers. When a student, without badgering, spends every free period working on homework in the hallways, or reading on the bus, to complete the demands of the IB diploma, the credit does not belong to the coach.

Madison Ward leaves Saint George's as the most decorated runner, male or female, in school history. She ranks easily amongst the finest athletes to ever graduate from our school. But the credit does not belong to her coaches.

It rests entirely with Madie.

— Josh Hayes, SGS Cross Country Coach

**Below:
Saint George's
4x400 team repeats
as State Champions;
Madison starts a
cross country race
with intensity.**





Clockwise from left:

◀ **Third graders created maps and displayed objects (including a stuffed bear cub) highlighting their family histories.**

▲ **Lions and tigers and bears, Oh My! The fifth grade performed "The Wizard of Oz" in Founders Theater in May.**

▶ **One of the Upper School's May Term classes climbed the cliffs of the Grand Coulee in Central Washington.**

▶ **History Bowl team travelled to Washington DC for the National competition in April.**

▼ **The fourth grade Math Is Cool team captured 1st place in their division at the State Masters competition.**

▼ **That's a Very Hungry Caterpillar eating a leaf at a performance of the beloved childrens book by the Kindergarten class.**

▼ **Friends gathered for photos during the Middle School's tropical-themed dance in May.**

◀ **The spring musical "The Secret Garden" featured Middle and Upper School performers.**



From Mobsters to Doctors

Mention “Sam and Sam” to anyone who has been around SGS for a long time, and they will immediately brighten up and exclaim “Brush Up Your Shakespeare!” In 2007, seniors Sam King and Sam Wagstaff appeared in the production of “Kiss Me Kate” and brought down the house with their portrayal of two mobsters singing, dancing, and giving romantic advice.

Both Sams have gone on to earn Doctoral degrees, and both have joined the family business: Sam King practices dentistry in Spokane with his father Kevin, and Sam Wagstaff works in Sierre, Switzerland as a Product and Process Development Engineer for Novelis, the aluminum casting technology company his father Bob founded.

Sam King ‘07 graduated from Creighton University in 2011 with a BS in Biology. As an undergraduate he worked in the University Admissions office, served on the University-wide undergraduate expansion committee, was a Teaching Assistant for five different Biology courses, and assisted on a research project dealing with Embryology and the effects of Nicotine.

He earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery from Creighton School of Dentistry in 2016. While in dental school, Sam volunteered at the Omaha One World Clinic and the Omaha Public Health Clinic, providing free dental care to needy clients. Sam made a music video with a dental theme that went viral, and then used his video skills to create a video series for training second-year dental students in Emergency Dentistry. He also volunteered at the Omaha zoo, where he performed a root canal treatment on a mountain gorilla.

Currently, Sam is working on a Fellowship from the Academy of General Dentistry and is a member of the Spears Study Club, advancing his skills in cosmetic dentistry. Sam says, “I love working with my father. He was beyond value during my dental school days, offering advice and help.”

Sam Wagstaff ‘07 graduated from Cornell University in 2013, majoring in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, with a minor in Mathematics. His undergrad years were sandwiched around a two-year church mission to Paris, France.

Sam earned his Masters and Doctor of Science (ScD) from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in just three years. His Master’s thesis dealt with alloying elements in cast aluminum ingots that are used for everything from soda can lids to wing spars on Boeing airliners. Sam’s Doctoral Thesis, “Jet Processing of Direct-Chill Cast Aluminum Ingots,” described new methods to improve the uniformity and thus the mechanical properties of aluminum alloys. His paper has resulted in four patents to date, with more on the way.

In an article in MIT News Magazine, Sam’s professor said, “The reason why this project was successful is, of course, Sam Wagstaff. He’s an amazing graduate student.” Sam’s research was done in cooperation with Bob Wagstaff’s company, Novelis. Talking about working with Novelis, Sam said, “I don’t know of many other companies that would have let me grow as much as I did, and for that I am really grateful.”

Sam enjoys living in Switzerland with his wife Annalise Shumway Wagstaff. Since all his work is done in French, “My Upper School French classes are really paying off!”

— Pete O’Brien, SGS Chemistry Teacher

Below: Annalise and Sam Wagstaff in his M.I.T. doctoral robes, Sam King in his doctor of dentistry robes at Creighton, and the two mobster Sams in the 2007 SGS production of “Kiss Me Kate” encouraging everyone to “Brush Up Your Shakespeare”.





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