

Spring-Summer 2019

Saint George's Magazine

**Confident Students,
New Arts Building,
A Lasting Legacy,
& Graduation**



SAINT GEORGE'S

Magazine

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SGS Mission Statement

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

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Cover Photo:

Fifth graders take the stage in their performance of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" on May 17. Photo by John Carter.

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



Nurturing Creativity

Dear Friends,

Saint George's School just completed its 63rd year of operations and celebrated the 61st graduating class. It was an excellent year for the SGS community and the accomplishments of our students.

From the start of the year during the Dragon Dance, where the newest kindergartners were introduced, to the culminating tradition of graduation on the lawn, we framed the year around the tag line of Inspiring the Confidence to Serve and Lead. Each year we see our students grow in confidence in a caring and nurturing environment where they are provided a plethora of opportunities in academics, athletics, the arts and outdoor adventures to engage, explore and sometimes fail. These valuable experiences start from Day One.

When our most recent graduates visit campus, we are thrilled to hear how well prepared academically they are for college. This year, we also heard our graduates discuss their ability to self-manage the college workload. One of the greatest attributes our students gain from the Saint George's experience is confidence, and with that comes the resilience to overcome challenges. Our students are challenged and the bar is set at a high level, but our Dragons develop and practice the skills they will need for success in all they do.

The final weeks of school are always exciting with stepping up ceremonies and culminating activities. This year, in addition to the experiential Upper School program, May Term, our 5th-8th graders presented the results of their Genius Hour projects. This program came about through professional development workshops that several of our teachers took part in last summer. The premise comes from leaders in the business world (Google, Microsoft, 3M, etc.) where you can focus on a big idea of your own choosing. These students spent an hour each Friday developing their ideas and projects, either in groups or individually. The results were impressive with projects that included

a photography business, an electronic lock for lockers, a custom-built drone, and a bird habitat restoration effort in Redding, CA.

This summer we are on schedule to break ground on a new arts facility that will replace the "art portable" and provide one location for Lower School art and music and Middle School art classes. This facility, made possible by a million-dollar gift and additional benefactor donations, will continue to strengthen our commitment to the arts and nurture the creativity of our students. (See an article about the new building for the arts on page 6.) Our Lower School arts program fosters the foundation for creative thought in math, science, robotics and the arts that our students will build upon through their Middle and Upper School experiences. Our community is grateful for the generosity of our donors to make this transformative gift come alive for our students.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2019-20 school year. Each year brings changes and challenges but more importantly exciting accomplishments and achievements among our students.

Have a great summer! Go Dragons.

Sincerely,

— Jamie Tender, Head of School



Jamie Tender,
Head of School

SGS 5th-8th graders gave TED Talk-style presentations on their Genius Hour projects on May 31, followed by time for questions at their posters or displays.



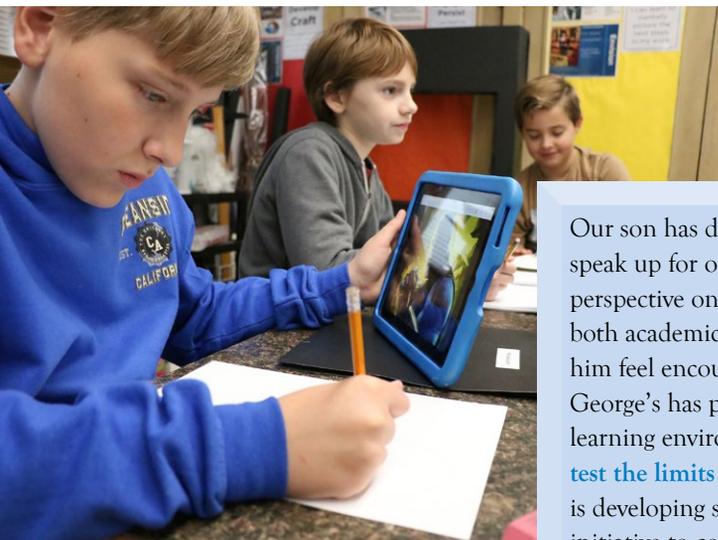
Confidence Stories

Parents Relate Their Students' Growth Experiences at SGS



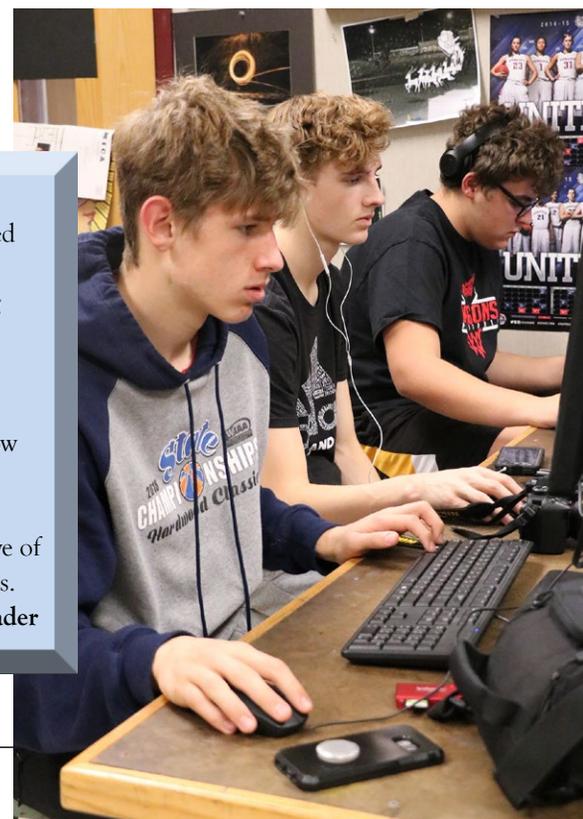
My daughter began her journey at SGS three years ago and it was the best decision I have ever made as a parent. Each year her classroom teachers took the time to not only further her academic skills and foster an even deeper love of learning through hands on, interactive projects, but they also cultivated a confidence in her, gently demanding that she **assert herself and let her voice be heard**. Every year my daughter has flourished even more than the year before. Every concern I have had for my daughter's well-being has been addressed by each of her teachers without fail. They have set her up for success moving into middle school next year and I couldn't be happier with my daughter's academic success, problem solving abilities, her self-confidence and exploratory mindset that SGS has carefully cultivated!

- Holly Gorman, Alumna & Parent of a 5th Grader



Our son has developed the confidence to speak up for others, demonstrate a balanced perspective on issues, and try new things both academically and socially. By helping him feel encouraged to take risks, Saint George's has provided a rich, encouraging, learning environment that allowed him to **test the limits of his own potential**. He now is developing skills in two languages, takes initiative to communicate with teachers independently, and he has discovered a love of science, art, photography, and the outdoors.

- Georgia Lynch, Parent of a 6th Grader



We have two kids who started school at Saint George's this year - one as a seventh grader and one as a junior. In the months since the beginning of school, we have been overjoyed at the growth we have seen. They arrived at SGS with the understandable trepidation of starting a new school, but in no time had made fast-friends and had settled into the SGS Community. Both of them started talking about school with us each day, something that had been missing from their last several years in public schools. Our son joined the robotics team. Our daughter joined the volleyball team, choir, and the school rock band. They both feel cared for by the community and especially their teachers. They have **a renewed love of learning and of school**. They have both shared some version of "I had no idea school could be like THIS!" Our daughter says the biggest difference she feels is her level of self-confidence, which is music to any parent's ears.

- Seth Coleman, Alumni &
Parent of 7th and 10th Graders



Our daughter has blossomed in the Lower School. We tried the local elementary school after one year at Saint George's, and found that she was just not challenged. She was so happy to come back to SGS and be taught by teachers who care so deeply about making sure that she is learning and trying new things every day. She hates if she ever has to miss school because there is so much to look forward to each day. This year, I have **seen her confidence grow** in many areas: academics, especially math and reading, as well as extra curriculars like basketball and trying out for a leading part in the 5th grade musical. It is amazing to see her embrace the opportunities offered at SGS.

- Joelle Neiwert, Parent of a 5th Grader



His teachers recognized both his capabilities and the struggles he was having in achieving at the same rate he had before SGS. The individual attention he received made all the difference. With hard work and committed teachers, **slowly but surely he has become more confident**. He now has a better picture of what he can become. He loves getting to school every day!

- Christine Watkins,
Parent of a 10th Grader



It was over. The theater went from dim to bright and there was a buzz of excitement as the audience discussed how much they loved the production. My husband and I on the other hand were silent, stuck in our chairs, lost in our own thoughts. We had just watched our easy-going, basketball toting 7th grade son sing and dance his way across the stage in a high school play. When he was asked to be a part of the cast my only thought was "I hope he learns his lines." I didn't realize he was a main role. I didn't realize he would be singing solos. I didn't realize he would be wearing face paint and tights! Out in the gathering hall, we found our son, laughing and eating cookies with his friends. His shy smile and dimples clearly showing as people congratulated him and told him "Nice job!" Musical theater was something I would have never picked for him or encouraged him to do. He barely talks at home and is never dramatic so it hadn't crossed my mind. For Saint George's to bring this out in him and offer him this opportunity is priceless. Although each performance still leaves me a little shocked, I love to settle into the audience and **watch my quiet boy magically transform** into something or someone else on stage. To hear his loud, clear voice singing and watch his face full of expression brings me so much joy. Every time before it starts I ask him, "Are you nervous?" and he answers confidently, "Why would I be nervous? This is fun!"

- Kara Henning, Parent of 6th, 8th, and 10th Graders
& a Graduate



A New Home for the Arts

“The arts feed our mind, our body, our soul, our spirit in a way that nothing else can. It’s a voice for us to express ourselves.”

► Jennifer Davenport, Art Teacher

We are anxiously awaiting the start of an exciting construction project on campus. This summer we are scheduled to break ground on a new arts building that will serve students in the Lower and Middle Schools. This facility has been designed to further enhance our outstanding arts program and the work of our teachers, Jennifer Davenport and Judy Hafso. Jennifer and Judy were key in the design phase of the classroom space.

The new 3,357 sq. ft. building will have three primary spaces: Music Room, Art Room w/kiln, and a Gallery with seating. The Art Room will provide more instructional and storage space than the existing Art portable it will replace. In addition to the well-lit work space, there will be a special gathering place for instruction

that includes a projector and demonstration space. The architects have also designed an open work area outside for larger and potentially messier projects. There will be additional sink and clean-up areas to expedite the transitions to and from class. Finally, with the addition of a kiln and firing room in the space, there will be more opportunity for ceramic activities.

The front of the building will feature an airy Music Room with slightly higher ceilings for improved acoustics. The space is designed for single classes as well as the large choir when they meet. The design process has been very intentional with more storage and easy access to the large variety of instruments used during the class. This classroom will also include demonstration and instructional



Drawing of new arts building by NAC Architects

areas. Since many performances take place in Founders Theater, easier access for moving instruments has also been included in the design.

The Gallery will be the welcoming entrance to the facility. It will be a showcase for art work and serve as a place for the community to gather for conversation, a quiet workplace before school is dismissed or a location for small meetings. There will be several clusters of comfortable seating and restrooms available, so we envision it to be a place for parents to meet informally or where someone can work while waiting for afternoon dismissal.

The location of this exciting building will be in the same area as the current art portable and extending up the hill towards the Davenport House. The front entrance should align closely with the current sidewalk from the Lower School. The location was finalized after considering safe access and the proximity for the Lower and Middle School students using the facility. The outside patio area has also been configured for additional seating and gathering space when the weather is nice... and the weather is always nice on campus.

You can follow our progress throughout the construction process on social media (Facebook and Instagram) as well as our website.

This new building would not have been possible at this time without a generous donor, who provided a million-dollar gift to seed the project, and each of the other generous donors who made the commitment to support Saint George's School in this transformational project. It is a difference maker in this community for our students and their dedicated instructors.

Thank You!

— Jamie Tender, Head of School



The current Lower School Arts Building

“A new space is going to be incredible. It’s going to give us more square footage so there’s room for us to move around. It’s going to allow me to set up a variety of art supplies that we haven’t had before. It’s really just going to enable us to do even more than we’ve ever done.”

► **Jennifer Davenport, Art Teacher**



“Every child has something to say. As they grow and go out into the world as an adult, they have very important gifts to share. And I think music can pull some of those gifts out of them.”

► **Judy Hafso, LS Music Teacher**



“Sometimes there are moments when words just don’t articulate how we’re feeling. And music is a real vehicle for expressing emotion.”

► **Judy Hafso, LS Music Teacher**

On the Web

See a Video of teachers talking and students singing about Saint George’s arts program at www.sgs.org/magazine



A Lasting Legacy



**The Werkman Family:
Russell, Xander, Sarah, and Isaac.**

Anyone who works as a school principal for 10 years will have a list of accomplishments, and Saint George's Head of Upper School Russell Werkman certainly has a list:

- > *Hiring and developing good teachers;*
- > *Establishing the International Baccalaureate Diploma program;*
- > *Expanding the school's Outdoor program;*
- > *Giving students a chance to try something new during May Term;*
- > *Encouraging open communication between the administration, faculty and students;*
- > *Guiding students to their right school through the college counseling program;*
- > *And attending every kind of student event.*

But much more impressive than any list of accomplishments are the heart-felt thanks that so many members of the Saint George's community have for Russell. Listen to these representative comments about him as he leaves us this summer for family and opportunities in the Northeast...

Students Kyrie Woodard '19

"Coming to SGS in 9th grade from a background not often paralleled by those attending Saint George's made me unlikely to interact with those around me, and Russell was one of the first to notice my hesitations.

He reached out to me, expressing his concerns while being honestly considerate of my own feelings as someone from a unique background. I am so grateful to him for doing so, as it shaped my high school experience for the better.

"I have never met someone so willing to learn other people's ideologies and recognize the different cultures and experiences between individuals. He is one of the few people who desperately tries to see someone eye to eye, both literally and ideologically. While he towers over most students, he genuinely attempts to see students' perspectives on the school and the world.

"I can't imagine my high school experience without Russell. He is truly an outlier when compared to most people in supervision positions, as he truly cares about student life and is incredibly involved in the school. I am always thrilled to see him standing outside at 8:10 am with a wide smile on his face, greeting everyone who enters the double doors.

"In short, Russell is the backbone of this school, the ceiling above our heads, the pillars under the staircases, the pencils in our lockers. Since day one he has been not only my principal but my friend who has stood by me in everything. I am so, so grateful to have spent my four years with him."



Russell has been the coolest principal I have ever had. His helpful advice and positive energy made school a fun place to be, and his advice on organizing essays will be carried with me throughout college.
> **Kai Jacobs '19**



Maddy Christiansen '19

"The class of 2019 has been very fortunate to have Russell Werkman as our principal throughout our years and we feel for the students who are not as fortunate. He is positive, intelligent, kind, supportive, dedicated and really funny.

"I have always appreciated him but during the college admissions process there aren't words to describe his contribution. He strongly encouraged an early start and helped guide the logistics of a very complicated process. When I was deferred from an early decision college I was panicked about all the essays I now needed to write. During the Christmas break he spent countless hours going back and forth with me to challenge my thinking, encourage creative approaches and help me develop essays of which I was really proud. I am confident those essays helped me get into my dream school and I couldn't have done it without Russell—on what was supposed to be his time off.

"I ended up getting into the college that deferred me but because of Russell's encouragement, I had started to open my eyes to other possibilities, went a different direction and couldn't be happier. Thank you for everything, Russell. You will be missed."

Alumni

Daniel Gimbel '15

"While I was at Saint George's, Russell was my advisor and did everything he could to help me succeed in school. He went out of his way to make sure I was on top of things, and when I wasn't, he helped me get back on target. Above all, he was a great guy and always extremely kind to the students. His generosity and selflessness have not gone unnoticed, you can be sure of that."

Solveig Baylor '18

"After finishing my first year at Georgetown University, I am extremely thankful for Russell. He was my advisor, but he played much bigger role than that in helping me grow. He was a great resource for extracurricular and academic questions. I would not be half the leader I am today without his help.

"Most importantly, I literally wouldn't be at Georgetown without him. At first, I hadn't considered applying to Georgetown because it is Catholic and nothing outwardly grabbed me about it. Russell insisted that I look into Georgetown College and its government and economics programs, leading me to apply. Russell's care and attention to my needs as a student led me to apply to, attend, and thrive at my perfect fit university."

Faculty

Kerry Clark, English Teacher & College Counselor

"I always knew Russell would bring his full effort and energy with him to any task or event, and that energy has been enough to buoy, and even carry, certain events or situations in a way only he could.

"As a college counselor, Russell has shared his wealth of knowledge and experience not only with students, but also with me through the process of training me how to do the job, and he graciously allowed me to ask questions and take his time while I learned the craft. Without Russell's willingness to truly share his knowledge, I wouldn't have been able to learn the job as quickly, and I wouldn't be where I am today as a teacher and counselor.

"Thank you, Russell, for being such a supportive Head of Upper School at work and such a nice person outside of it."

Josh Hayes, History Teacher

"Back in 2012, I did a May Term called Zombie Wars. One day involved zombie make-up and re-enactments. Russell assisted that day. I remember him telling the kids how people who are pretending to be zombies tend to just shamble around a little, raise their arms and cry 'brains'. Instead, he encouraged the kids to imagine what it would be like physiologically, perhaps part of the body would suffer from rigor mortis, while part would not. Or how one would move if one had no sense of self-awareness.

"Then I saw him relax his entire body and move in a way utterly unlike I've seen a person move before. It was the only time I truly saw him go into 'actor-mode'. Over the course of

Continued on Page 10

Russell has been an amazing class leader since I came to SGS in 3rd grade. He came on trips with my class and was always willing to help out.

► Michelle Lee '19



Russell's larger than life personality will be greatly missed in the halls of SGS. He always had a warm smile and a kind greeting for everyone he saw. Russell truly cared about the wellbeing and success of students, faculty, and staff alike.

► Kyler Hayes '14



It has been a pleasure to have you as a principal and a father. I cannot imagine being in School without you being the principal, literally. I don't think I would have wanted it any other way. From your most loving son,

► Xander Werkman '19



**May Term
Zombie Class:
Russell can be seen-
towering over every-
one in the back.**

I would like to thank Russell for encouraging me to try on the “admin hat.” Russell cares about letting people try new things and supporting them along the way. What a wonderful quality in an educator!
**> Joelle Neiwert,
Head of Middle School**



My parting words to Russell as he leaves for his next adventure are... “I wish you well Goliath. All the best, David.” Cheers!
**> Joe Kennedy,
Former Head of School**



the next hour, the students and I were never able to capture the movements he did in the first few seconds despite repeated attempts. His transformation has stuck with me for the past seven years.”

Administrators **Kathy Johnson, Head of Lower School**

“Russell’s affable personality is a magnet to students, colleagues, and parents. When you meet Russell, you quickly learn that he is authentically interested in getting to know you. He cares about personal relationships, and he has been remarkable at establishing deep connections within the various constituencies at Saint George’s School.

“Russell has been a colleague, mentor, and team member of mine throughout his ten years at SGS. I have appreciated his ongoing quest for knowledge, insightfulness, and infectious humor. He is the quintessential cheerleader for students and diligently strives to foster their school experiences inside and outside of the classroom. He truly exemplifies our mission by inspiring scholars, athletes, and artists to serve and lead others.”

Joe Kennedy, Former Head of School

“Conversations with Russell Werkman are one of the highlights of my tenure at Saint George’s. Russell and I would often start the mornings with a discussion of middle and high school student issues, how to respond to an irritating email, and what we had to do and where we had to be during the day. But the mundane soon evolved into conversations that were always fresh, open, and animated. They could focus on education, philosophy, politics, religion or even Malcolm Gladwell. Nothing was off limits. The talks continued even as we

made our way to the student drop off outside of the McCutcheon Upper School.

“At the end of the day, Russell, wearing a big grin, would often arrive at the Davenport House and we would pick up where we left off that morning. The talks would become more animated as we introduced a few glasses of Rombauer Chardonnay (one of his favorites) to the discussion.

“When we weren’t talking face-to-face, our emails and texts often took the ideas set forth earlier to a new level. Russell’s ability to use the English language is uncanny. I assume his Reading, Writing, and Language SAT scores are what got him into Williams College and what helped him in his former career as an actor. Needless to say, he punishes with his word play.”

Jamie Tender, Head of School

“Russell Werkman’s arrival in 2009 marked a decade of change, innovation, and gregarious enthusiasm to make SGS the best version of itself. During the last ten years, change has resulted in adopting the International Baccalaureate curriculum, personalizing the college counseling program, creating a globally-minded Upper School, and finally, bringing an unmistakable laughter and energy to student activities and events.

“Russell’s role has expanded throughout his tenure, and his dedication to the school, the students, and the faculty and staff is without question. The key to Russell’s success has been built on developing relationships, always making the time to get to know the members of our community.

“Over the years, Russell’s presence in welcoming students in the morning and visiting with parents, even if it caused a back-up in morning drop-off line, will be missed. His summer cookouts, book discussions and morning meeting antics will all be fondly remembered.

“We wish Russell well on his pursuit of new adventures, and we know he again will find himself as a catalyst in building community, along the way laughing and bringing others to generate thoughtful reflections on a myriad of topics. Enjoy the rising road ahead of you!”

Faculty Farewells

Four Saint George's educators bid farewell to the campus community this spring, one to enjoy retirement and the others to pursue work opportunities beyond Spokane.

Sarah Berentson **Middle School English Teacher**

Sarah Berentson first came to SGS in 2016 as a long-term substitute. She acclimated quickly, demonstrating her innate good judgement, work ethic, commitment to students, and flexibility. Ms. B's stellar reputation led to her later transition into the 7/8th grade English position. She has a seemingly endless supply of energy and enthusiasm, demonstrated most recently by spearheading the Genius Hour initiative in the MS. Those who have worked closely with Sarah have come to treasure her honesty, positive outlook, and open-mindedness. Ms. B has quickly become a vital part of our community and she has made a tremendous impact in her time here at SGS. We are sad to see her go and wish her the best as she becomes the first Dragon to work full time at the SGS Dual Diploma school in Chengdu, China.

— Joelle Neiwert, Head of Middle School

Travis Cullitan **Director of Technology**

The end of an era! When we start the 2019-20 school year things will be different and there will be a void in so many areas as we say goodbye to Travis. Travis goes way back, so we will miss the alumni connection and the institutional memory perspective. We will be losing a pretty handy guy and the forever ready Leatherman tool always on his belt, ready to help anyone with anything... and play in the Makerspace. But more importantly we will be without his positive attitude and his keen ability to ask really good and really tough questions. He made SGS better by making us think and at the same time modeling his ability to think. I always leave meetings with him thinking about our conversation. He is a lifelong learner, a teacher, a computer pro-

grammer, a problem solver and most notably a good and kind person. He will be missed in so many ways. Good luck where ever the data takes you! Go Dragons!

— Jamie Tender, Head of School

Pegi Hill **Lower School P.E. Teacher**

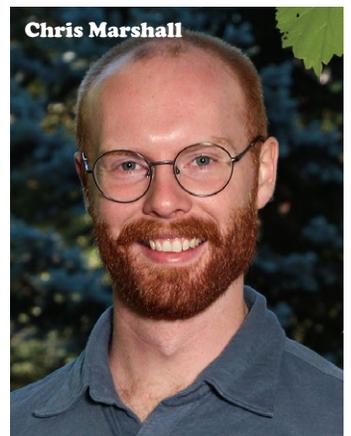
As a teacher, I remember my kindergartners enthusiastically chanting "PE Pegi, PE Pegi" as they eagerly lined up to go to PE. Now, I chuckle as I hear the children yelling the same as they see Pegi Hill on campus. Pegi aptly defines our PE program in the Lower School. For 19 years, Pegi has designed a Health and Fitness program that fosters developmental skill progression, good sportsmanship, and a positive attitude for lifelong fitness. An exemplary model, Pegi lives her life being active whether it's cross-fit training and competing, running Olympic Distance Triathlons, or enjoying golf. She doesn't slow down, and I expect her retirement years will be just as active and adventurous. It will be hard on all of us to shout "PE Pegi" for the last time.

— Kathy Johnson, Head of Lower School

Chris Marshall **MS/US Math Teacher**

Chris Marshall joined SGS in 2018 to teach 7th and 10th grade algebra. He had just graduated from the MAT program at WSU and brought a pedagogical approach based on understanding concepts rather than memorizing facts. His enthusiasm for making learning about the students and his belief that math is something to live rather than just to think about was evident in his approach. In the first semester, he taped out a coordinate system on his floor so that students could literally become the point of the lesson! We are grateful to have had Chris at Saint George's for this year and wish him all the best as he continues his teaching career on the West Side.

— Russell Werkman,
Head of Upper School



Invocation

Good afternoon, and welcome to the graduation ceremony for the class of 2019! Congratulations are in order – first, to the seniors, for working so hard over the last few years to get to this point; second, to the parents, host parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and grandparents of the graduates, for your constant support and love, which proved an invaluable resource for the students, especially when times were the hardest. Seniors, you look wonderful today – beautiful, handsome, whichever of those two you’d rather be, you are.

My job here today is to give the invocation. Invocation comes, as everything does, from Latin; it means to “call into,” or to “summon.” Since you are all sitting down here, my job is already done. This provides me with the unique opportunity to give the students the greatest graduation gift of

all: listening to me speak for another minute or two.

I could use this time to give words of encouragement, to tell them that we believe in them and we will always be there for them and that we know that they have the tools and the strength to get past any obstacle life puts in their way, which is true. Or I could give them life advice, learned from my 115 years worth of experience on this planet, like “if you want to be great, be great; if you don’t want greatness, be good; if you don’t want to be good, be a math teacher.”

But I think my words perhaps don’t mean as much as the words of others. After all, what do I know? I know that in my first year at SGS I felt incredibly fortunate to get to teach such wonderful people. I know that I’ll miss you all when you go off on your adventures. I know that I, and the

other teachers and administrators here, will always be here for you if you need any help, whether it’s math advice or life advice, or a shoulder to cry on or to punch.

Perhaps nobody said it better than my second favorite American philosopher, Justin Bieber, when he said that “Put your tooth under your pillowcase/No, I won’t, I won’t ever, ever let you down/Like a seesaw lets you down you know why/Cause we ain’t on the playground no more.” Now to be honest, I have no idea what that means. But I hope that you do, and that you find comfort, or wisdom, in this quotation, and that it inspires you to do great things.

Congratulations again to the class of 2019! Thank you.

– Jonathan Rowland,
Upper School Math Teacher

On the Web
See more Graduation photos and video at www.sgs.org/magazine



The Class of 2019 on Graduation Bridge before the start of the ceremony on May 31.

Crossing Graduation Bridge like every SGS grad of the past 60 years



Faculty Address

I'm going to begin my speech today by letting all of you in on a closely guarded secret... teachers are hypocrites. Now, for the distinguished Class of 2019, this is likely no surprise. Those who joined us in Kindergarten have just completed a thirteen-year study of teachers at Saint George's and are well aware of our faults. Charlie is on the 18th year of his field research. For myself, I wasn't aware of how blatantly this hypocrisy extended until I attended my first conference as a teacher. There I witnessed teachers showing up late, not paying attention, talking while others were speaking, constantly on their cell phones, all behavior we would rail against in our own classes. My fellow teachers... most of us are the worst of hypocrites.

I make this admission because I only have one piece of advice for this year's graduates, but if I'm being honest, I haven't always obeyed it myself. In fact, I know that some of the students sitting here today have witnessed me break it. But, to again be honest, it's also clear to me that when I HAVE followed this advice, I have been a better colleague or friend, a better husband or father, basically, I've been a better person. So, despite my hypocrisy, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Class of 2019, here is my advice to you. In all aspects of your life "Always punch up. Never punch down."

This advice is difficult to follow. Partially because it runs counter to some elements of rationality. Punching down means going after those who are weaker or more vulnerable than ourselves. And let's face it, they make easier targets. And we unfortunately have examples in the public eye of plenty of prominent figures, whether in media or business or sports, or even some of the highest political offices in the country, who regularly punch downwards. But, graduates, I firmly believe you will be more likely to find success, whether in your professional or personal lives if you strive to never do so.

Professionally, while stories abound about cutthroat executives rising through toxic ranks (and those people do exist), for the most part this isn't the case. The majority of successful leaders are those who team-build and make those around them better. Whether in business or academics, don't punch down and to the best of your ability, avoid those who do. You will rise higher. That recommendation for the internship or grad school, or that fabled thing called a desirable job or a promotion, all are more likely.

If I may be so bold, this advice works for personal relationships as well. I'm not claiming to be some relationship guru, but those who have met my wife pretty much universally agree on one thing: I married well above my station. So I must be on to something. While we all will slip up from time to time, if you find yourself in a relationship with someone who regularly punches down, even if it's never directed at you, you need to leave. Honestly, you can do better. And sadly, one day it will be directed at you.

I make all of this advice not out of some purely compassionate concern for others. As the seniors who have been my students know, that's not exactly my style. Rather, I would argue that you should endeavor to only punch upwards purely out of selfishness, because in doing so, you will see more success in life. Now in keeping with one of Adam Smith's central arguments, if all of us pursuing this idea out of self-interest also results in the common good, so much the better.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our world needs more who would speak truth to power, who will defend the vulnerable, who will walk the harder path. As you go out into the world, I wish you the best of luck. And please, punch up.

— Josh Hayes,

Upper School History/Econ Teacher



**Josh Hayes
addresses the
Class of 2019**

Student Addresses

Hello, 您好, Hola, and Wowawawawa. That is me saying hi in English, Chinese, Spanish and Nerglish, the four major languages on the Saint George's campus; we definitely have a lot of fish around. I was quite surprised when I found out I was elected to be one of the graduation speakers. Although I believe that the major reason I am here is that I skipped most Monday morning meetings since I was a junior, including the one when graduation speakers were chosen, I want to give my appreciation to the people who gave me this opportunity.

However thankful I am, there is a problem. I have no clue how to write a graduation speech. For the first time in my life I am in a position to give useful advice, not to simply to argue against someone, which those who know me see as my natural position. I am a professional at just saying "no." (As a side note, I have learned that people won't always be happy if you are always arguing with them.)

I looked online for what a graduation speech should be like. Most of them are about how to be successful in the future.

However, that is all we are wondering about, and of course, I don't know much. Most of you surely know more than me. In fact, the most important and useful personal advice I could give is to never, ever challenge a metal door. No matter how fast you are going, even if you crush the door, it hurts!

I also heard many suggestions about constructing my speech. I could be like Russell, start with a famous line and develop it into a lifelong suggestion, and maybe add some tears at the end. However, I am not an experienced man like Russell.

Yao then gave me a valuable suggestion. If you can't offer a speech about how to be successful in the future, at least try to be funny. That seems more like me. I thought that offering a laugh might be a good idea.

My next task was to figure out how to be funny. I watched a video of Jerry Seinfeld, a comedy writer. There is one sentence I remember the most. Jerry Seinfeld said that his job is to waste time on stupid stuff so others can waste their time watching it. But is that really the truth? Is comedy, and making people laugh, really just a waste of time? I hope you don't feel what I am doing is stupid or a waste of time. But I do hope you think it is funny!

I am just trying to get everyone to laugh. I believe that those laughs are worth it no matter how small or how "stupid" they seem. Happiness is the most important thing. Skiing like a 6-year old down a tiny little slope is not nearly as cool as rushing down the hill like an adult, but it is safe, fun and much less likely to end by crashing into a door. On the whole I would recommend going slower on a ski hill if you don't want to end up in the hospital. It may not look as cool as going fast, but there is more benefit in the long run.

The same is true for my entire high school life: I came here because I didn't want to be like my friends in China whose life might be determined by a single test. I am here to take the slow way down the hill and to be happy. Dozens of Chinese parents might believe that I missed out by leaving China, but I have no regrets as I learned more here at Saint George's about myself, about life, about saying "yes" rather than "no," even about the stopping power of metal doors.

My unique experience, and those of all my classmates, construct the community of Saint George's. I give thanks to everyone.

Thank you, 谢谢, Gracias, and WaWooWa.

Go Dragons.

— Tom Wang, Class of 2019

Senior Tom Wang makes a humorous point during his Graduation speech.



I took a really long time to write this speech. Every time I would sit down to work, I would search for some piece of wisdom to impart. It took four drafts to realize I wasn't that smart. I'm not any wiser than my fellow students and definitely less experienced than all the seasoned adults here. To the Class of 2019 and current Saint George's students, I don't know what to tell you. I don't know how you should live your life; I barely know how to do laundry. I don't know how you should overcome challenges; during a tight ASB election, I promised 8th graders donuts until I won. I don't know any secrets to academic success; I can't remember half the things I've learned here. What the heck does funkify mean? So, in honor of our last day as dragons and because I lack any life hacks for success, I'm just going to tell you what I've liked about attending Saint George's for a whopping 13 years.

I'll begin with the way we start every school year: the Dragon Dance. I remember walking in a line with all my fellow kindergartners, looking up in awe at the seniors manning the dragon. Thirteen years later, I became one of them and although I spent my last Dragon Dance inside the dragon head, looking at my feet as Will and Maddy slowly guided me towards every bump in the field, I've enjoyed the tradition every year. I loved going to basketball and soccer games. There's no better atmosphere than a SGS crowd after one of our classmates hits a big shot or scores a crucial goal. I also played some basketball for the best C-Squad team in the state — don't Google that. But seriously, have you ever seen Brett Coles dunk on a 5-foot, skinny freshman? It's incredible... and horrifying. I liked playing baseball, partially because I like the sport, but mainly because I got to be involved in an absurd number of inside jokes. At Bingo Night, I enjoyed the camaraderie of screaming at Coach R with my classmates to call our numbers. It's a shame we never learned he doesn't hand select them. I loved serving on ASB, although, and partly because, I was forced to listen to Abby describe her "farm theme" in every meeting. Originally, we assumed she meant flannels and cowboy boots, but for



Senior Charlie Darnall delivers his Graduation speech.

Homecoming, she wanted all the students to dress as farm animals. Later, we shut the idea down again before she described what a farm-themed prom would look like. No one wanted the boat covered in mud. I cherished the senior lounge once I managed to develop an immunity to the smell of old Atilano's and an understanding that the roof is off-limits — for some reason. But seriously, why else would they build a roof right next to a window? In the classroom, the discussions fascinated me, although Holte's infamous "get back to work" often cut them short. But, truly, it's so wonderful being at a school where even the teachers love being around you. At least I can't think of another good reason why Rachel never kicked Jacob, Brett, Kai, and me out of class.

There is a theme in my favorite aspects of Saint George's: community. During my time here, I've gravitated towards the situations where I could interact with peers. The relationships I made through the activities I did were more important than the activities themselves. I know I am not that wise, but, at this moment, the culmination of hard work and fun times for the Class of 2019, I encourage you to appreciate the personal connections you've made here at Saint George's. The interconnectedness the school provides creates a caring, supportive community, that is hard to find anywhere else.

So, thank you to all the teachers, staff, coaches, friends and family who have helped us along the way. And thank you, Class of 2019, for an amazing experience. Go Dawgs!

— Charlie Darnall, Class of 2019

Scholars, Athletes and



Back Row (from left, in blue):

Jacob Whitman, Nik Chaudhry, Kai Jacobs, Will Rieger, Brett Coles,

Middle Row (from left, in blue):

Xander Werkman, Matt Napier, Jaxon Spackman, Ethan Hunter, Haorun (Wilson) Zou, Erik Farias,

Front Row (from left):

Kyrie Woodard, Bella Cooley, Claire Bennett, Katie Dallas, Jacki Patnoi, Abby Jones,

Artists

The 37 members of the Class of 2019 were admitted to 84 different colleges and universities and received more than \$2 million in merit aid.



**Charlie Darnall, Kuoqing (Daniel) Cao, Mengke (Tom) Wang, Jianwei (Tim) Wang, Wenqian (Daniel) Zhao;
Hunter Johnson, Adam Hasdorff, Stephen Ogden, Yao You, Hongqing (Max) Chen, Kaixin (Andy) Zhong, Ethan Johnson;
Michelle Lee, Jora Gleason, Madeline Christiansen, Grace Generous, Zhaoyue (Marceline) Tang, Zhuoran (Joy) Wang.
Not pictured: Ben Adams, Krystal Larkin**

Senior Awards



Madeline Christiansen



Marceline Tang



Charlie Darnall



Ethan Hunter



Joy Wang

Congratulations to the following seniors, who were recognized at the Upper School Awards Ceremony on April 30, 2019.

Athlete of the Year

Madeline Christiansen is a five-year starter in soccer, twice being named to All-State and three years on the All-League Team. She has been on two championship teams and one 2nd place team. Additionally, for golf, she is a five-year letter winner and has placed at State three times.

Erik Farias is the 3rd leading scorer of all time for SGS basketball with 1627 points for his high school career. He is the all-time school assist leader with 505 assists. He has been named every year to the All-League Team, MVP his senior year, and All State for two years. He was selected to the WIBC A All State game. He led the Dragons to the state tournament all four years of his high school career.

Jora Gleason has been a mainstay on the podium of the state track and cross-country meets in her four years at Saint George's. She is a member of the State Championship track team and a two-time State runner-up, highlighted by multiple State titles in the 4x400 meter relay.

Xander Werkman is a three sport, four-year player. He was First Team All GSL in football and a two-year 1st team All-League baseball and basketball player. He was All State in basketball and was selected to the WIBC A All State game.

— Ryan Peplinski

Elisabeth H. Gemberling English Award

Over the last four years, **Madeline Christiansen** has consistently impressed both her English teachers with the quality of her preparation, analysis, and writing. Maddy reads texts thoroughly, picking up the smallest details, comprehending the overarching meanings, and understanding the relationship between the two. In her

Athletes of the Year



analyses, she digs deeper and deeper into texts, asking more precise questions and exploring more nuances and implications. And her writing, despite the increasing complexity of its subjects, never seems to cease growing more fluent and precise.

— Jeff Darnall

Corlin I. Culler Foreign Language Award

Marceline Tang doesn't only deserve recognition for being an excellent language student, but also for being a great classmate, and for always striving towards excellence by way of one of Saint George's core values — best efforts. Some students rely on natural abilities alone and never properly apply those abilities to their work. Marceline understands that when one is truly committed and applies those natural gifts that great results happen and major growth occurs. She will make a great addition to whatever university she chooses to enhance with her presence.

— Kerry Clark

Hannah L. Joss Social Studies Award

Charlie Darnall's written work has been among the most enjoyable and interesting I've ever read in my time teaching at Saint George's. His impeccable and well-researched projects always highlight the links between the past and the present. I appreciate that he actually sees a purpose to studying history, whether it's an examination of the role of media in the Persian Gulf War, or the impact of the LAPD's Operation Hammer on the communities it policed. When combined with his thoughtful participation in class, his quick wit, and a self-deprecating sense of humor, this student has made history class better and more enjoyable!

— David Holte

Alexander R. MacKay Science Award

Ethan Hunter combines a lightning quick mind, deep curiosity, the ability to improvise solutions to complex problems across disciplines, and an uncanny ability to ask questions that illuminate the day's lesson. What makes him truly outstanding is his ability to apply his scientific prowess outside the classroom by helping other students develop as scientists. Whether he is writing code to program his team's robot, using CAD to design a part, programming the CNC Mill to manufacture that part, organizing his team, mentoring younger robotics team members, or teaching at a summer camp, this student takes science far beyond the classroom.

— Pete O'Brien

John A. Hern Jr. Mathematics Award

Joy Wang is an amazing student of math with her critical thinking abilities and strong work ethic. Since being at Saint George's, she has taken the most challenging math courses and I have no doubt in her ability to excel in college level mathematics. She never stops working until she has arrived at a solution to the problem and feels confident she understands it fully. Joy's ability to integrate concepts from multiple mathematical disciplines and communicate those ideas effectively is astounding.

— Rachel Hildie

Clare W. Gilbert Art Award

Marceline Tang is dedicated to art, understanding new concepts and challenging herself such as learning how to create architectural sculptures out of chicken wire and foam core, or how to do an architectural drawing. When deciding to focus on architecture for her IB Visual Arts theme, she went to a summer program on architecture at Cooper Union in New York. From this, she was inspired to take her mechanical drawings and create 3D renditions of them. Though some were never finalized, the process, the higher-level thinking, and problem solving

Book Awards (for Juniors)

The Harvard Prize Book Award: **Lucy Yan**
The Wellesley College Book Award: **Chiara Ravasia**
The Bowdoin College Book Award:
Sydney Lennemann
The Williams College Book Award: **Miya Jacobs**
The George Washington University Book Award:
Skyler King

Other Awards (given to non-Seniors)

Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award:
Callie Gee (11th)
Tammy Dix Jensen Physical Education Award:
Jasmine Brown (9th)
Michael I. Poutiatine Award for Excellence in Outdoor Pursuits: **Maria Madero (11th)**
Community Service Club Award:
Jocelyn Thew (11th)
Community Service Club Honorable Mention:
Sydney Wilcox (11th)
Engineering Inspiration Award:
Tristan Krzyzanek (10th)
Excellence in English: **Marshall Roll (11th)**
**Excellence in World Languages
(English Language Learner):** **Lisa Yuan (11th)**
Excellence in World Languages (Spanish):
Kathryn Moon (11th)
Excellence in World Languages (Chinese):
Kathryn Moon (11th)
Excellence in Social Studies (History):
Caleb Flegel (11th)
Excellence in Social Studies (Economics):
Taylor Sande (11th)
Excellence in Science: **Sarah Wu (11th)**
Excellence in Mathematics: **Caroline He (11th)**
Excellence in Art: **Krystal Huang (11th)**
Excellence in Music: **Bennett Clark (11th) & Sarah Wu (11th)**
Gertrude W. Cadzow Music Award:
Reagan Ivey (10th)
Katy Reeves Performing Arts Award:
Caroline He (11th)
Kindness Awards: **Jasmine Brown (9th), Kelsey Doughty (10th), Elijah Kangas (11th), Adam Hasdorff (12th)**

made these successful in their own way. She will be successful with whatever area of creativity that she chooses to pursue.

— Judi Morgan



Jaxon Spackman

Patrick R. Neils Drama Award

Jaxon Spackman has been in virtually every school production throughout his high school career. He started as the “Cat” in the musical *Seussical* in the middle school and then in the chorus of a *Drowsy Chaperone* as a freshman. As a sophomore, he was cast as his first big lead as “Dickon” in the *Secret Garden* with his high tenor voice. He moved on to star as “Prince Eric” in *The Little Mermaid*; “George” in the *Actors Nightmare*; the “Orphan” in *Celebration*; “Gary” in *Noises Off* and finally, “Adam” in *The Diary of Adam and Eve*. He has a unique sense for comic roles and creative haircuts. We will miss him on the stage!

– David Demand



Stephen Ogden

John McClain “Die Hard” Award

Stephen Ogden isn’t a natural born runner; he never fell in love with running. He would rather be rewriting the software for the robot, but he never missed a cross country practice or meet. Because of his diligence, his times improved every year for 4 years. He took over 2 minutes off his 5K time from the championship race of his freshman year to his senior year. The effort he gives in the last 100 meters of a race is unmatched. He’s a die-hard cross-country athlete, an important cog in the machinery of our robotics team, and he does it all while looking like a rock star.

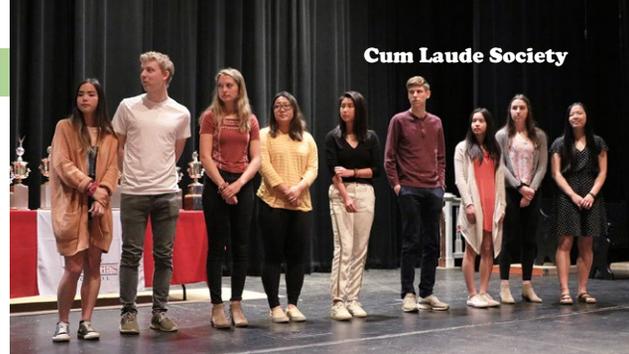
– Pete O’Brien

Head of School Cup

Grace Generous and Will Rieger were this year’s recipients of the Head of School Cup, given to graduating seniors who exemplify the mission and core values of Saint George’s School. Selected by the faculty and confirmed by the Head of School, Grace and Will embody the school’s mission of academic excellence, they participate in athletics and the arts, and they live out our Core Values of respect, honesty, best efforts and generosity of spirit.



Will Rieger and Grace Generous with Head of School Cup awards



Cum Laude Society

Cum Laude Inductees

The Cum Laude Society ~ the secondary school equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa, the collegiate academic honor society ~ was founded in 1906 as an organization devoted to recognizing superior scholarly achievement. Saint George’s School would like to acknowledge the members of the senior class who were admitted to the Society last year: **Madeline Christiansen, Grace Generous, and Ethan Hunter**. To this honored list we are pleased to welcome this year’s inductees: Seniors **Joy Wang, Kyrie Woodard, Marceline Tang** and **Nik Chaudhry**, and Juniors **Caroline He, Kathryn Moon, Marshall Roll** and **Sarah Wu**.

Students, your distinguished record at Saint George’s has won for you membership in the Cum Laude Society. As you pursue your education, it is our hope that you will accept the honor of membership in the Society as a responsibility to make contributions to Humankind’s ongoing search for greater understanding of ourselves and of society.

– Josh Hayes

Community Service Award

The Alumni Association Community Service Award was presented to Claire Bennett, who has made an impact within and beyond our school. After a school shooting at a school nearby and spurred by the school shooting in Florida, she signed on to help organize the March for Our Lives in Spokane. She volunteered at Art4reform and Moms Demand Action events. Finally, she created an exhibition called Trashy Art, bringing attention to pollution and the plastics that end up in the ocean.



Alumni Assoc. President Gerhard Muelheims and Claire Bennett

Teachers applaud the new grads



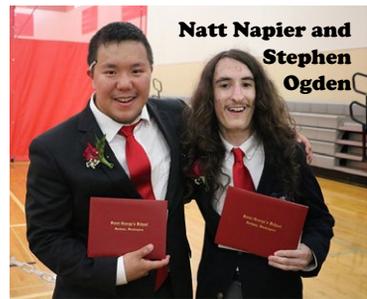
Seniors dressed in white on a bright afternoon



Haorun (Wilson) Zou receives the last of Jamie Tender's "Kind Words"



Kai Jacobs gets a floral send off



Natt Napier and Stephen Ogden

"13 Year Plates"

These were given to parents of seniors who started at SGS in Kindergarten and attended through 12th grade:

- ▶ **Samantha Carroll**
- ▶ **Arvind and Monika Chaudhry**
- ▶ **Jeff Darnall**
- ▶ **Nancy Johnson***
- ▶ **Rob Johnson***
- ▶ **Bob and Allison Jones***
- ▶ **Mark and Deborah Napier**

(* Already received a plate for an older child)

Benediction

It is my pleasure to give the benediction, the "good word," for this class of 2019. I have been my pleasure to give them good words for the last decade, in many different forms. On their fourth-grade trip to WSU, the good words I shared were all the appropriate jokes I could remember. In middle school, there were many words in my office which seem to have worked, so they must have been good! This year, I wrote many good words in the form of recommendations. I have nothing but love for this class. They have blessed this school in the time they've been here and It is my honor to send them from Saint George's with a blessing.

Recognizing the spirit of this land and the many traditions embodied in those assembled here, I pray;

Thank you for the years this class has given to Saint George's school. For what they have achieved in their successes and for what they have learned in their failures. Thank you for the teachers who have taught them, for the family and friends who have supported them. Thank you for what Saint George's has given to them, and to all of us: An appreciation of the beauty in the world and in ourselves; A foundation on which to build the rest of our lives; A community that knows us and loves us and to which we can always return. A

confidence to pursue our dreams.

Send this class of 2019 out into the world in peace. And grant them strength and courage to use their gifts for others as well as for themselves. And in the words that inspired the sign I stood next to most mornings as you all drove in, mostly on time:

*May the road rise to meet you
 May the wind be always at your back
 May the sun shine warm upon your face
 and the rains fall soft upon your fields
 and Until we meet again, may the spirit
 of love hold you in the palm of her hand.*

Amen.
 – Russell Werkman,
 Head of Upper School

Deja Vu Times 2

Boys Basketball

2018-19 ended much the same way as 2017-18. An outstanding year with a great record, but a loss in the last game leaving us holding a 2nd place trophy.

We went undefeated in league and won the District Championship again. We handled our Regional opponent and battled tough teams to reach the championship game. While there were definitely some similarities between our teams from the last two seasons, this team was built differently. This was the best offensive team Saint George's has seen and against the toughest non-league schedule we have ever played.

All five starters had at least one game where they scored over 20 points this season. We averaged almost 5 points per game more than any team in the last twenty years at 71.3 ppg. It wasn't just that we were able to put so many points up per game, it was how we did it. A full 64% of our buckets came off assists from teammates. An incredible number when you factor in how many times we had a player steal the ball and just go lay it in. They were truly a joy to watch in action and a great brand of basketball. When the ball was clicking around, we set each other up for easy buckets and wide open shots. The coaches would just look at each other in amazement at times.

We had several 30-point quarters over the course of the year. Two of them came back to back at Davenport in a 61 point half. One 32-point quarter came against the #7 ranked team in the state in the Regional Playoff Game. When we got it rolling, there wasn't much teams could do to stop us.

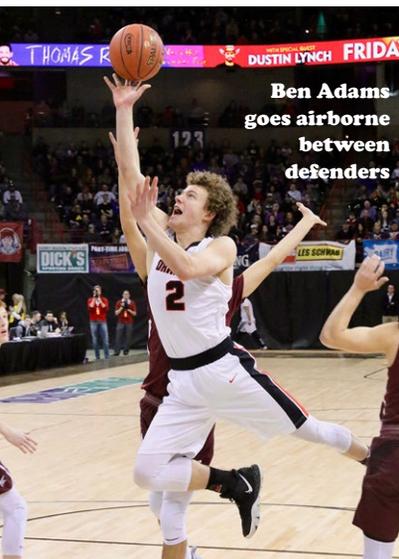
With our fast paced offensive style this year, it was more important than ever to settle in defensively. Helped by a couple of set-backs in late December, we renewed our efforts to be tougher on defense and on the boards. Once we got back to basics on defense and rebounding, we made a run through the second half of our season. We won sixteen straight games to get to the State Championship Game.



Erik Farias drives past Kittitas guard Brock Ravet



Dan Rigsby grabs the ball



Ben Adams goes airborne between defenders



Cheering on the Dragons



Xander Werkman rises to the occasion at the 2B State Tournament

Beyond all of the X's and O's, the stats and the games, what I will remember most about this team is how much fun they had together. There were a lot of smiles in practice, joking around with each other, and endless dunking and dunk attempts at the end of every day. The team brought so much energy. Even tough days where guys may have felt like they didn't want to work, within five minutes they were flying around and having fun.

The loss in the State Championship, again to Kittitas, does not diminish what these guys accomplished this season. Everything is earned, and this team did the work both during the season and in the off-season. I haven't been up early so many times to open the gym in the fall since I first started at SGS (and was much younger). The guys put it in the work and continued the Dragon basketball legacy built by the players who came before them. I couldn't be prouder of a group of guys.

I am excited for our seniors. Erik Farias was recognized by coaches in our league as the Northeast 2B Most Valuable Player and has been voted to the All-League Team all four years. Erik wrapped up his career as the 3rd all-time leading scorer in school history, logging 1627 points, and the all-time leader in assists with 505. Xander Werkman was voted to 1st Team All-League for the second year in a row. Xander averaged a double-double this season with 16 points and 10 rebounds

per game. Ben Adams finished his career with 1378 points, with 756 coming at Saint George's. Ben was our go to, lockdown, on ball defender for the last two seasons. Ethan Johnson is a competitor who loves to be in the mix. He put out full effort in every practice and every minute he played. Hunter Johnson earned his way to a varsity spot after starting the sport much later than his peers. All of them will continue to work and strive to be great in everything they do.

I am also excited to work with the guys who are returning. They have been able to see the road map to success from our seniors. We have some great players coming back and a ton of potential to make another run. Go Dragons!

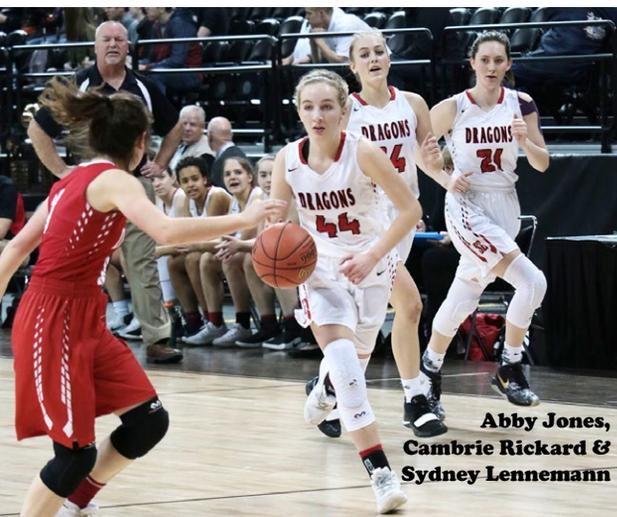
– Ryan Peplinski, Boys' Basketball Coach

Girls Basketball

With an all-new coaching staff and plenty of turnover on the roster, the season outlook for the girls' basketball team was a mystery. Once we met and discussed what our goals would be, to a person we all had one goal and that was to make it to State.

The team was a work in progress all year, finally hitting our stride late in the season. We went into Districts as the #3 seed and big underdogs to advance. We won the first game easily and then had to face Davenport who had beaten us twice. With a strong effort from Lydia Bergquist (19 pts, 23 boards and 10 blocks) and Cambrie Rickard hitting two really big shots in OT, the girls pulled off the upset.

In the District title game against Liberty, Abby Jones stepped up with 23 points in the first half to help us build a big lead and Grace Harrill played another huge role defensively.



**Abby Jones,
Cambrie Rickard &
Sydney Lennemann**



**Grace Harrill threads
the Ilwaco defense**

We were able to hold them off and win the District Championship. It was even more special as the boys also won, marking the first time both teams had won the championship in the same year.

This win earned us a local game for our Regional round against a very tall Ocosta team. Once again, we were down at the half, but we came out with a slight defensive shift and Cambrie Rickard sparked a decisive 3rd quarter run to help push us to victory.

This led us to State and the Spokane Arena. Our first round game against Ilwaco featured strong efforts from our three leaders. Cambrie kept us in the game the first quarter and Lydia and Abby really helped coming on late for the win. The next day we lost our quarterfinal game to La Conner, then won against Brewster in the consolation bracket and ended up 6th place overall after losing our final match up with Davenport.

This team had some very proud accomplishments. Lydia and Abby made 1st team All-League and Cambrie made 2nd team. All three of them were named to the All-Tournament team at State. Lydia Bergquist earned 2nd team All-State and Abby Jones was 1st team All-State and played in the All State game as well.

This was truly a team accomplishment, and we would not have had the success we did without all 10 players buying in and working hard.

– Cliff Berdar, Girls' Basketball Coach



**Coach Cliff eyes
the competition**



**Dragons wearing
Burger King
crowns**



**The bench cheers
a basket**



**Lydia
Bergquist
focuses**

On the Web
See more photos &
videos from State at
[www.sgs.org/
magazine](http://www.sgs.org/magazine)



Spring Athletes

Track & Field

What began as an epic quest ended on an historic note as the SGS Lady Dragons track and field team swept all three relays at the WIAA 2B State Track and Field Championships May 23-25 at EWU's Roos Field in Cheney.

The last of the troika, the 4x400 relay, was the fifth consecutive win for the SGS girls in that event, a never before accomplished feat in State Meet history. The team of Maggie McLaughlin, Grace Harrill, Jora Gleason and Reagan Ivey ran away from the field winning in 4:09.32, a margin of victory by almost 3 seconds. Leading up to the 4x4 win, the 4x100 team (Taylor Sande, Grace Harrill, Reagan Ivey and Fair Niven) grabbed the gold in a school record 50.74. Then they quickly followed up with a win in the 4x200 relay (Jora Gleason, Grace Harrill, Reagan Ivey and anchor Fair Niven) in another school record time of 1:47.4.

The boys team performed at a championship level as well with Dan Rigsby winning the 400 meters in a solid 51.08. The combined medal count for boys and girls was 25 – Fair Niven 3rd in the 100, Reagan Ivey 4th in the 400, Maggie McLaughlin 6th in the 800, Jora Gleason a pair of 8th place finishes in the 1600 and 3200, and Taylor Sande an 8th place medal in the triple jump. Boys medalists were Marcus Manson 4th in the 100, and Oscar Angell 6th in the 300 hurdles. The boys' 4x400 combined Chaitanya Nalluri, Marcus Manson, Oscar Angell and Dan Rigsby to finish a hard fought 3rd place.

The girl's 47 team points were good enough for a 4th place trophy, the 5th team podium placing in the last 5 years. The boys finished a creditable 12th. With the exception of Senior Jora Gleason, all 2019 team members will return for the 2020 run at another record-breaking year.

– Rick Riley, Track & Field Coach



4x400 times 5 years = State High School Record!



Reagan Ivey anchors the 4x400 win



Grace Harrill hands off to Fair Niven for 4x200 victory



Dan Rigsby leads the pack to 400 meter win



Tennis Senior celebration

Saint George's Tennis had a transition year as new head coaches, Meghan Kilgore and Matt Melka, took the helm. Even with new coaches, the student athletes hit the ground running! The team was 8-1-1, with the only league loss coming against Chewelah, a former 1A school. Saint George's saw success in Districts, as three of the four championship matches had a Dragon competing for a District Title. Boys singles player, Daniel Zhao, and girls doubles players, Grace Generous and Maria Madero, were District Champions! Nik Chaudhry and Ethan Wu finished 2nd; and Aidan Reichel and Tariq Ravasia were 4th in boys doubles.

The Dragons competed with a lot of heart at Regionals against the bigger local 1A schools. In the end, our girls doubles team of Grace Generous and Maria Madero earned a berth to State.

At State, the girls faced a first-round matchup with top-seeded Chimacum, and then a hard-fought battle against Naches Valley. Grace and Maria showed great resilience and heart in their two losing matches, proving they definitely belonged with the rest of their State competitors.

Overall, it was a successful season with the Dragons reaching State. We are thankful for the seniors who helped us learn the ropes this season. These students set the tone for the program – Daniel Cao (District Competitor), Nick Chaudhry (2nd in Districts), Brett Coles (District Competitor), Adam Hasdorff (District Competitor), Daniel Zhao (1st in Districts), Marceline Tang (District Competitor), and Grace Generous (1st in Districts, 4th in Regionals, State Competitor).

– Matt Melka, Tennis Coach



Maria Madero, Coach Matt Melka & Grace Generous at State

On the Web
See more photos of
spring athletes at
[www.sgs.org/
magazine](http://www.sgs.org/magazine)

Golf

Late winter weather kept the golf team inside until after Spring Break. Fortunately, I had a great group of students, including the largest boys' team in program history. All 11 boys gave me their best efforts all season long. The work paid off as the boys' team won their first District golf title in school history, defeating three-time defending District champion Colfax by just 2 points! Michael McCarthy was 3rd overall, shooting an even par 72 on the second day. Patrick McCarthy finished 11th, taking the last individual spot to the State tournament. Hunter Johnson, Winston Poppel, and Caleb Flegel all finished in the top 18 to help solidify our first golf title.

Outnumbered by many of the other schools at State, the McCarthy boys played smart, kept the ball in play and finished in 4th place as a team, the first SGS golf trophy since 2015! Returning to State, Michael shot 82 and 78 to finish 9th overall. Patrick, a freshman making his first State appearance, shot 87 on day 1 and made a huge putt on the 18th hole on day 2 for an 86 to lock up our 4th place trophy. A repeat at District and even a State title is within our reach next year.

We had one of our smallest girls' teams, but they worked every day to improve. Alli Dixon made huge strides, lowering her stroke average by 15 shots over the course of the short season. Liv Senske needed a tweak to her swing to shoot 97 for the first time in a tournament at Districts, qualifying 10th for State. There she played through an ankle injury, missing the cut by only four shots.

Maddy Christiansen took a huge step this year, dropping her scores consistently into the 70s and dominating district play by an average of 15 shots. She took 1st place in each tournament she competed in and was the Sub-District champion. In five years on the SGS golf team, she placed at State three times and was part of teams that finished 2nd, 3rd, and 6th in the state of Washington. A fierce competitor and team-focused leader, I am so proud of Maddy's hard work this season. I will miss her like crazy but am excited for her to continue golfing at Notre Dame in the fall.

— Brad Kirsch, Golf Coach

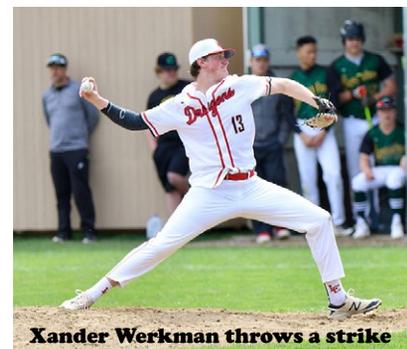
Baseball

The thing I appreciate most about baseball is the way that it builds community and the joy that it brings those involved with the game at Saint George's. Dragon baseball was marked by a palpable joy, whether it was during practice, collecting change for Joya (formerly the Spokane Guild School) or battling our North division foes in a home double header. Coming in as a first-year head coach, one of my top goals was to make sure that win, lose or draw our players and parents enjoyed the experience. I think we accomplished that goal.

Finishing the season with a 14-5 record and a first-round District loss to Colfax might have some thinking we did not have the season we hoped for. What needs to be remembered is what a tough and competitive group of schools we play. In any given year we could make a legitimate argument for 4, 5 or even 6 teams to advance to Regionals. This year we were on the outside looking in.

In reviewing our season, there were some great baseball plays and clutch performances. Chris McIndoe blasting a walk-off double to beat Northwest Christian. Xander Werkman throwing a no-hitter on the road against Liberty. Turning a record five double plays in a sweep of Medical Lake over spring break. This season was filled with great moments, exceptional individual efforts and excellent team baseball. For some, the season ending loss to Colfax will leave a lasting sting. I remain exceedingly proud of the team for the effort they gave throughout the season and the joy they brought so many through their outstanding play and love of the game.

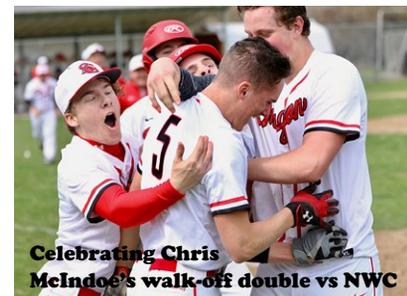
— Mark Rickard, Baseball Coach



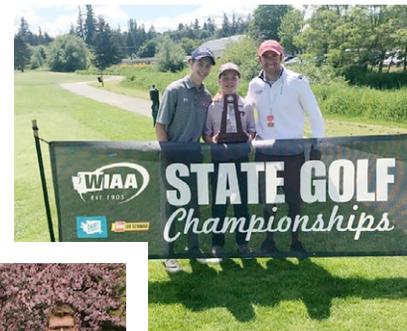
Xander Werkman throws a strike



Matt Napier lays down a bunt

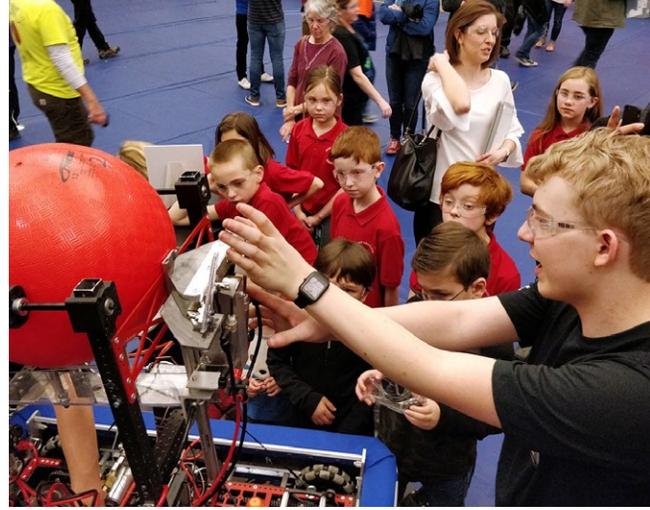


Celebrating Chris McIndoe's walk-off double vs NWC



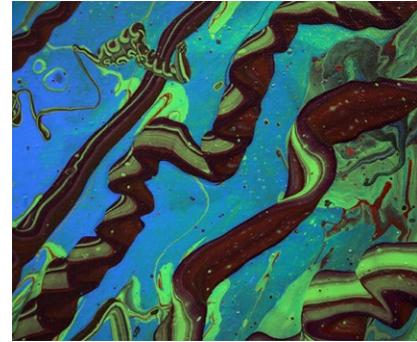
Michael & Patrick McCarthy bring home trophy for 4th place at State

SGS boys' and girls' golf teams



Clockwise from upper left:

- ▲ Saint George's volunteers provided water at the end of Spokane's Bloomsday race on May 5.
- ▲ The Robotics team demonstrated their robot to the SGS 3rd grade Lego League Jr. teams at a competition on March 23.
- ▶ May Term's Science & Art class created flow paintings using silicone to keep the colors separate and the patterns intense.
- ▶ Representatives from 15 Jesuit colleges and universities from across the U.S. gathered in the Upper School Courtyard on April 29 to talk to students about what their schools have to offer.
- ▼ The 6th graders raced cardboard boats across a branch of the Little Spokane River on June 4. Some won, some sank!
- ▼ The comedy "Noises Off" filled Founders Theater on March 14-16 with on-stage confusion, backstage squabbles, and plenty of laughs.
- ▼ The 7th graders traveled to Republic on May 1 to search for fossils at the Stonerose site and learn what lived there millions of years ago.
- ◀ The 1st graders created costumes and sang their annual performance of "Rumpus in the Rainforest" on May 15 in the Dragon's Den.
- ▲ The 6th grade class memorized an average of 31 digits of Pi per person. Their prize was for



On the Web

See more photos & videos at www.sgs.org/magazine



top digits of Pi students Josie and Oliver to treat Senora McGougan to a whipped cream pie in the face!



First Lady of Lower School

Mary Lynn Coleman, who taught Saint George's primary students in the 1980s and directed the Lower School during the 1990s, passed away on May 1, 2019 in Spokane at the age of 70. "The Lower School Coleman House is aptly named to honor Mary Lynn Coleman who was the epitome of an educator, administrator, and avid Dragon fan," says current Head of Lower School Kathy Johnson, who taught Kindergarten classes under Mary Lynn.

Raised in Missouri, Mary Lynn earned a teaching degree from the University of Missouri in 1970, the same year she married Bill Coleman. According to her obituary, after their marriage the couple moved to St. Louis where Mary Lynn received the first of her many accolades for teaching. "She developed an early learning program that helped children learn about their 5 senses and their interaction with the world around them. The program was such a success that it caught the eye of the Rockefeller family and she was given a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to further develop and continue her work. This also led to Mary Lynn's work being exhibited at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC as well as a national appearance on NPR."

Moving to Spokane, Mary Lynn began assisting Saint George's teachers in 1981, becoming a primary teacher in 1983. She was passionate about guiding children in the joys of learning, says Kathy. "Mary Lynn was a master in creating experiential-learning opportunities for her students inside and outside of the classroom. For example, she paid for her 2nd grade kids to take the bus to the Spokane Arts School and work with two artists there."

"Before global education, Mary Lynn recognized the significance of connecting classroom learning to that of the community and world. She invited Japanese students at Mukugawa to join her classroom up in the woods to write Haiku poems," says Kathy. "She was a pioneer in education, and our

school community was the benefactor of that vision. Adored by her students, Mary Lynn's Saint George's legacy will be long-remembered."

"No Saint George's game was complete without the sight and sounds of Bill and Mary Lynn cheering the Dragons on from the bleachers," says her obituary. "Scores of lucky children were educated and loved by her in the Coleman House, dedicated to Mary Lynn in recognition of her remarkable career in the Lower School. To this day, many of these now grown children reach out to the Colemans to acknowledge and thank the family for her positive influence on their lives."

Her love and support of children was not limited to her role at Saint George's. "When she wasn't at school, she volunteered with children's charities, sat on charitable boards focused on children's issues, and advocated for children to government," notes her obituary.

Mary Lynn is survived by her husband, Dr. William Coleman ("Bill"); her son Seth Coleman '92 (current SGS Biology teacher) and his wife BriAnne "Bri" Coleman; her son Benjamin "Ben" Coleman '93 and his wife Jasmina Coleman; and five grandchildren, including current SGS students Sarah and Daniel Coleman.

"As I look upon the sign bearing her name outside my office window, I feel blessed to have known such an inspiration to students, colleagues, and parents," says Kathy. "Mary Lynn was a true, unforgettable SGS Dragon."

— John Carter, SGS Communications



Mary Lynn Coleman with a Hannukah display that she used in her classroom



The Lower School and Coleman House sign in her honor

Rocky Mountain Reporter

There's nowhere to hide when you're a journalist in Jackson Hole. I run into sources in the grocery store, at the trailhead and even perched on the chairlift. Living and working in a small resort community gives me even more motivation to write fair, accurate stories. It's always fun to walk into a coffee shop and see someone holding my work in their hands.

I write about everything from opioid addiction and air ambulances to school funding and forest kindergartens as an education and health reporter. Outside my core beats, I've enjoyed writing quintessential Wyoming stories about ranchers, square dancers, rodeo queens and even mutton busting. I cover breaking news, business and feature stories too.

I also write freelance outdoor and environmental magazine pieces about topics like hibernation, fire recovery in Yellowstone and energy conservation.

I came to Wyoming in a roundabout way via earning a political science degree at Georgetown University and studying abroad for a year in Denmark. In Washington, D.C., I worked for NPR, CNN and U.S. Senator Patty Murray. I never thought I'd end up in the Cowboy State, but I've loved being on the ground, getting my hands dirty and shouldering more responsibility than I would've had elsewhere. I firmly believe in the importance, and power, of local news.



Kylie Mohr '12

When I'm not working, you're likely to find me in the mountains. I love exploring all the nooks and crannies of the Tetons and other nearby wilderness areas. With moose in my backyard and world class recreational opportunities literally out my front door, I often feel like I'm living in a postcard.

Unfortunately, adventure sports always come with some level of risk. I tore my ACL in a backcountry ski accident last June — yes, you read that correctly, there's snow high up even during the summer here — and needed surgery.

Recovery varies for everyone, but for me it's been a challenging, year-long process.

My time on the sidelines, grinding through physical therapy and longing to feel athletic again, turned out to be invaluable for me as a health reporter. Insurance hassles and expenses I'd previously written about became all too real, as did pain management. I hope the experience leaves me more empathetic towards the people I interview.

Another positive to come from my injury was a byline in Powder Magazine. It was fun to write a cheeky, honest look at what living in a ski town is like when you're unable to ski.



My interests coalesced around environmental reporting over the last three years. Reflecting on my Saint George's experience, it makes perfect sense. I always chose outdoorsy May terms — astronomy, canoeing, backpacking — took the environmental science class as a senior and even did my middle school science project on the Spokane River's water quality.



Nature is far removed from so many people's lives, but we're all affected by what surrounds us — whether that's pollution, access to public lands or biodiversity. I see environmental journalism and the practice of communicating discoveries from scientist to layperson as incredibly valuable.

I'll be moving to Missoula this summer to pursue a master's degree in environmental science and natural resource journalism at the University of Montana. While I'm sad to leave Wyoming behind, I'm ready for the next step in my career, thankful to earn a full ride scholarship and excited for the opportunities I think it will bring.

— Kylie Mohr '12

Confidence in Tinseltown



Above:
Alix Saucier watching for deviations from the script, inconsistencies from shot to shot, or anything that looks bad on the movie set.

Below:
A back-lit soldier photographed by Alix on the set of *The Suppression*.



The show I've worked on the most is *Z Nation*, which can be found on Netflix. We shot our last season this past summer, and I was an assistant production coordinator during most of it. Essentially that job is managing all the travel, housing, and additional needs of crew, on top of filling in all the cracks that the other positions on the film don't cover. Like planning the wrap party or standing in as the body double for a nurse being stabbed.

There was a movie we did in Portland back in the fall of 2017 that was crazy to work on. We were in remote mountain areas of Oregon and it was cold, wet and muddy the whole time. I was a second assistant camera, and with that job I have a lot of expensive things to hold and small places to squeeze my fingers into so gloves weren't an option. It's going to be called *Alone* and should make it to the festival circuit in the fall of 2019.

I worked again as a second assistant camera this past winter on a heartwarming film called *Gossamer Folds* based in the 1980's about the relationship between a transgender woman and a little boy dealing with his parent's divorce. It may be released this fall.

My most recent project, and the one I'm proudest of, is a feature film called *The Suppression*, for which I was a producer. It just finished filming and we're looking to make it through festivals early in 2020.

To say producing a feature film was the most challenging thing I've ever done professionally would be an understatement. To be a producer is to be everyone's friend and enemy at the same time. It puts you in a position to have to value someone's work monetarily, someone you may know very well. Since it's a business, you have to manage that all with the budget you have, which is always less than what you need. With all that on your shoulders, it's very easy to get beaten down. You have so many people pulling you in different directions – cast, crew, financiers – and it's your job to make them all happy.

The only way to get through it all is to have confidence in yourself and in your team

that you'll get it all done. If at any point I had lost confidence that we could make it happen, everyone around me would see that and the crew's commitment would have crumbled.

There will always be a million roadblocks, that's just the nature of this business. And if there aren't, you're not taking enough risks to make anything worthwhile. For example, the film *The Suppression* needed a warehouse in which to build our sets. It's a sci-fi film that takes place almost entirely in a box, but not just any box. This box starts as a huge room, that then changes temperature, gravity, position, and size. We needed a space with high enough ceilings to create this massive set that would flop from one side to another.

We had found a warehouse, signed the contract, moved in our equipment, started building and got a call the building owner wanted us out. We then had a day or two to scramble, find a new building and move all of our stuff, while at the same time constantly reassuring our crew they wouldn't lose their jobs. After a few sleepless nights, we managed to find another building, moved everything in, and once again disaster struck. The leasing agent never informed the property manager, and we were once again forced out with all our equipment locked inside.

Now this is when real panic set in, but once again we had to show confidence to the crew that we would make it work. After another two nights of no sleep, we called the landlord and property manager and begged, pleaded, sent a card to their office, and finally they let us back in. If during all that time we had let it show we were unsure, our crew would have dropped out and found other work, and we would have lost everything.

I love my job and I love this industry, but it's extremely hard. I can't ever plan anything personal more than a week out, it takes over your life, it's tough on your relationships and dictates where you live. But the only reason I survive is because I love it, and I'm confident that I'm good at it.

– Alixandra Saucier '12

Class Notes



Robert Paterson '69 and Head of Lower School Kathy Johnson represented the Class of 1969 at Graduation. Kathy's late husband James Johnson '69 is remembered with a plaque under the cherry trees next to the Graduation platform.

1978

Eben Atwater of Lummi Bay, WA called in to NPR's radio show "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me" this spring and won the Bluff the Listener Game. He correctly guessed which of the three guest humorists was telling a true story about "I'm your biggest fan." Listen to the May 11, 2019 podcast of Wait Wait at <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/344098539/wait-wait-don-t-tell-me> to hear Eben's segment starting at 13:40 into the show. By correctly guessing the true story, Eben

will have Tom Bodett (of Motel 6 fame) on his answering machine or voice mail.



In Memoriam

1961-63

Thomas Charles "Tom" Ferris passed away at home on October 12, 2018, following a courageous 21-year battle with cancer. Born in Spokane to the late Bob and Emar Ferris, Tom attended Saint George's School in 1961-63 for 7th and 8th grades before graduating from Lewis & Clark HS. He received a degree in Building Construction and Theory from WSU, and then had a productive career with Krueger Sheet Metal for more than 30 years. He enjoyed woodworking, fly fishing and photography. Tom tackled multiple cancer diagnoses, participating in many medical trials and experimental treatments that advanced medical knowledge. He is survived by his wife of 39 years Joanne Yamamoto, as well as children Christopher, Anna and Elizabeth.

1963

Thomas Taylor King passed away suddenly October 14, 2018, while visiting his youngest son in Springdale, UT. The son of Francis P. and Jane Taylor King of Spokane, Tom was adopted from the Cradle Society of Evanston, IL in August 1945, and was transported home to North Idaho where his father was stationed at Farragut Naval Station. He lived in the Spokane area nearly his entire life. After graduating from Saint George's, he spent a year of active duty in Vietnam for the US Navy then earned a degree in Business Administration from EWU. He joined his father in the operation and management of Good Business Forms Inc., which he purchased in 1976. Recent years have found him at Lowes and the South Hill Ace Hardware, utilizing his natural handy-man and conversation skills, while repairing your garden and snow removal equipment. Tom married Betty Jane Whiting in June 1973, adding sons Keith David, John Richard "Jack" and Thomas Howard (Pard). Tom was active in the Boy Scouts as both Cub and Scout Master, coached and later refereed SYSA soccer teams, and spent time woodworking at the Catholic Charities workshop.

1974

David Gaiser passed away unexpectedly from heart failure in mid-January 2019. David was an outstanding scorer on the 1974 boys basketball team that won the 4th place trophy at State B. "He was a legend at SGS, loved by all and will be truly missed," writes former classmate Monica Fix '74. Bill Zobrist '71 says, "He was a tremendous baseball player as well as football player in college and semi-pro/minor leagues. He was an extremely humble person and friends with everyone. His laugh will be remembered by all." David was living in Scottsdale, Arizona, and is survived by his wife of 38 years, Candy Gaiser, and his mom, Celia Gaiser.

1970

Johanna Rosenberry-Lane passed away on December 17, 2018. Johanna was born on April 30th, 1952 in Spokane, WA. The sixth child and first girl to Ralph and Margaret Rosenberry. After graduating from SGS, Johanna attended Fort Wright College where she majored in music. She obtained her teaching certification from EWU and moved to California to teach in the Monterey School District. Johannas' love of music and her mastery of the guitar led her to become a professional musician. Johanna and her bands traveled extensively throughout the US and Canada during the 1970s and 80s. Prior to the death of her beloved mother, Johanna moved back to Spokane where she continued to play music locally and went to work at Excelsior Youth Center, holding many positions until her retirement. Johanna loved her work at Excelsior, where she had a special connection with the students and staff.

Johanna was preceded in death by her husband Jeff Lane, her father Ralph I, mother Margaret, brothers Terry (Ralph, II), Bruce and John Rosenberry '69. Johanna is survived by brothers James Rosenberry (Sheila), and Mark Rosenberry '68 (Linda Fowlkes), her sister Martha Rosenberry '74 (Ken Byers), as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins, all of whom she adored.

Faculty/Staff

Katy Hoesel, widow of former head of school Walt Hoesel, passed on May 5, 2019 in Hawaii.

Norman Harold "Oly" Olson, 82, former head grounds keeper and bus driver at SGS, died Dec. 24, 2017 in Spokane.



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Lifetime Sport Camp
 (Grades 6-12) 1 pm – 4 pm

Harry Potter Camp
 (Grades 1-5) 1 pm – 4 pm

Improv Comedy Camp
 (Grades 5-8) 1 pm – 4 pm

July 22-26, 2019

Girls Soccer Camp
 (Grades 6-12) 9 am – 1 pm

August 5-9, 2019

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August 12-16, 2019

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 (Grades K-12 + an adult)
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