

The Mandolin

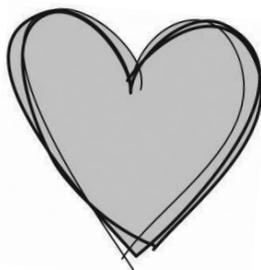
St. Francis High School

February 14, 2014

"Spread the Word."

Issue 69

The Valentine's Issue!

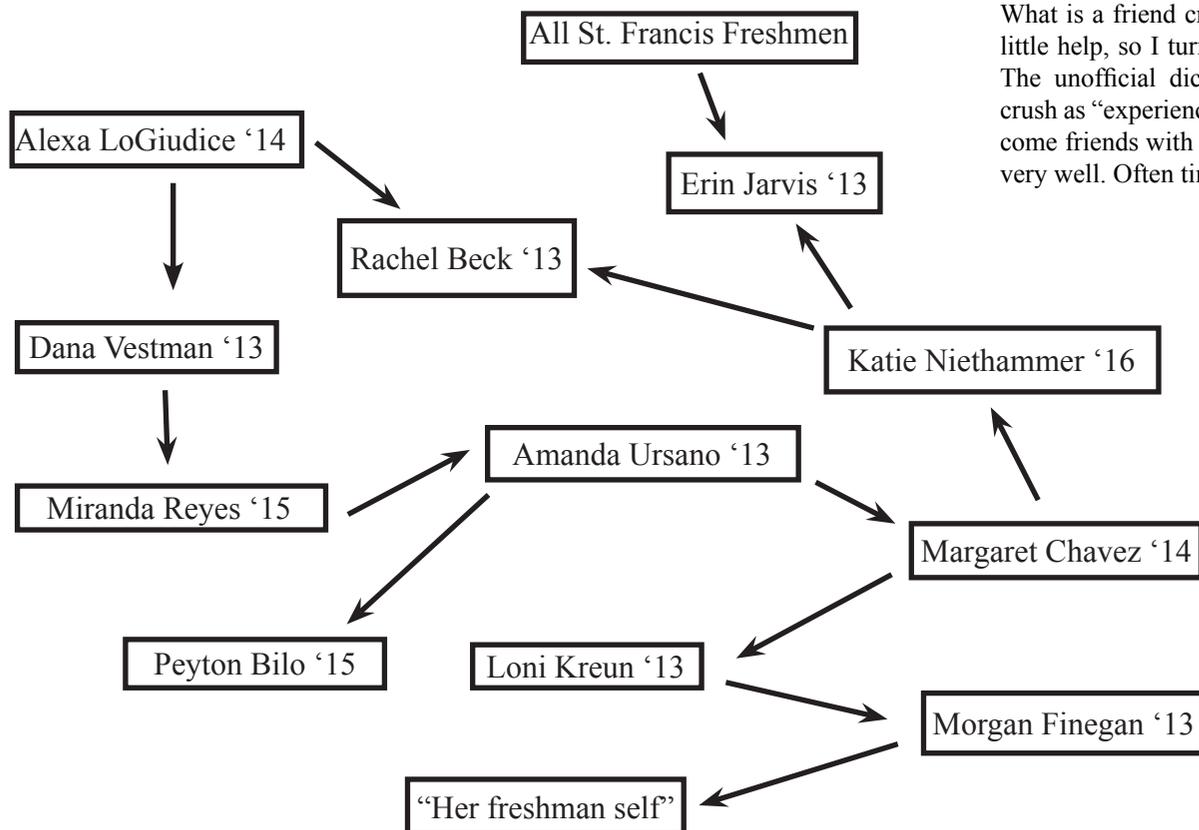


By BLAIR BURLESON '13

It's a typical SF day. Walking around campus, tripping on roller backpacks and smelling fresh baked cookies when all of a sudden, you see her walking down the hallway. BAM! A million thoughts rush through your head. Should I say "Hi"? "Hey"? No, no that's awkward. Maybe, "Hey, I think your shoes are really cool and I'm diggin' that lunch box." Yeah, that sounds good. Ugh. Why is talking to your friend crush so hard? In honor of Valentine's Day, *The Mandolin* decided to do an exposé on friend crushes. What is a friend crush anyway? I needed a little help, so I turned to Urban Dictionary. The unofficial dictionary defines a friend crush as "experiencing a strong desire to become friends with a person you don't know very well. Often times, people experiencing

friend crushes will exhibit nervousness, giddiness, idolatry, admiration, and clumsiness similar to those emotions experienced when being around a regular crush." This definition is spot on. St. Francis has a special environment that is perfect for the cultivation of extreme friend crushes. These friend crushes tend to involve social network stalking as well as following the object of your affection around like a puppy. While these creepy techniques may help you to get to know your friend crush better, in order to advance to friendship you must take the final leap. Talk to your friend crush. While this may seem scary and outrageous, talking and interacting are considered the most effective ways to make friends. Not stalking. To help ease the awkward nature of making friends, *The Mandolin* has compiled a web of friend crushes here on campus. Now it's up to you to get the courage to finally become friends.

The Friend Crush Web



What's Inside

Hate vs. Love Valentine's Day	2
Teacher Couple Interviews	2
Molly Baker Interview	3
2012-2013 Highlights	4
Join the Literary and Art Quarterly!	5
Winterfest	5
Middle School Art Show	5
Secretary of State	6
Associated Press President Interview	6
Basketball	7
"La Boutique" Fashion Column	8
#MLISF	8

Valentine's Day: A Love-Hate Relationship

By REBECCA NICHOLS '15

Saint Valentine's Day, a holiday with origins tracing back almost two-thousand years, is brought to us in the 21st century as a day of Hallmark greeting cards, CHOCOLATE, pink and red hearts, appreciation for our loved ones, and a reminder of the fact that most of us (especially SF girls) are single. With Cupid's hour arriving on swift wings (pardon the pun), we at *The Mandolin* wondered what our fellow Troubadours thought of this controversial candy convention; I set out to seek answers.

Upon being asked her opinion on Valentine's Day, sophomore Katie Poggi simply said, "Overrated." Sophomore Carey Fuchs spoke for many of us when she said, "It is a sweet idea, but you have to know guys." Or sophomore Allison Wilbanks' reply: "It gives you an excuse to make your boyfriend do something for you."

However, a different side of Valentine's Day was seen in some other responses. Sophomore Reilly Nycum said "Valentine's day is the one day a year where a girl can dress

completely head to toe in red and pink and nobody can judge her." Sophomore Lydia Nicolaus replied, "Valentine's Day is a day to not only love a boyfriend, but also to love your friends and family."

Valentine's Day, it seems, means something different for each of us. Me, I look forward to Valentine's Day every year just to blow out another set of candles and turn a year older. For some, it's a day corrupted by commercialism. For others, it's a day to show your loved ones just how much you care. But no matter what your opinion on this fourteenth of February, happy Valentine's Day; I love all of you.



A box of chocolates for Valentine's Day!

PHOTO COURTESY GOOGLE IMAGES

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The Cute Couples of the Campus!

By EMILY CORNETT '14

This Valentine's Day will be an extremely exciting one this year, as we now have THREE couples on campus! Mr. and Mrs. Wootton, Mr. and Mrs. Symkowitz, and now Mr. and Mrs. Williams are all part of the St. Francis staff. I asked them the same three questions for this issue: 1) How did you meet?, 2) What was your first date?, and 3) What are you doing this year for Valentine's Day?

The Symkowitzs:

How did you meet?

Mr: We met here, at St. Francis.

Mrs: I had been working here eight years when he started.

What was your first date?

Mrs: We had to go on group dates, so we hung out with other teachers.

Mr: We didn't want students to know we were dating!

What are you doing this year for Valentine's Day?

Mr: I hadn't thought about it, probably not going out, it's too crazy on Valentine's Day. We're probably just going to spend time with our kids Nate and Zac.

Mrs: Every day is Valentine's Day at our house. JJ ☺

The Woottons:

How did you meet?

Mr: Mrs. Wootton and I were set up on a blind date. 7

August 1981, about 7 in the evening, Brattleboro, VT

Mrs: We were introduced by mutual friends, and it was love at first sight

What was your first date?

Mr: We dined at the Four Columns Inn.

Mrs: First official date was a double date with the couple, who introduced Mr. Wootton and me, at a 5 star restaurant in Newfane, Vermont—every woman's idea of the perfect date.

What are you doing this year for Valentine's Day?

Mrs: We do not celebrate Valentine's Day as our anniversary is on Feb 20. Thirty-one years this year!

The Williamses:

How did you meet?

Mrs: We met in a college class at CSUS. He asked me where I got the book for the class (super smooth!) and then walked me to my car after class.

What was your first date?

Mrs: Our 1st date was on Valentine's Day! He passed me a

note in class (not allowed!) to ask if I wanted to study for our midterm together and watch U2 videos. Our first real date (not studying) was a starlight snowshoe hike a few weeks later.

What are you doing this year for Valentine's Day?

Mrs: I have no idea yet! In the past, we have thrown a Valentine's Day party for our friends—kind of like prom in our garage. Maybe we'll go to the zoo or something this year!

The One and Only Molly Baker

By RACQUEL GONZALES '14

You've heard the names Molly Baker (or Merler Berker) and Molly Baker Photography thrown around on campus. You know that she's the mastermind behind The "Wash Away" Project and other works that can be seen on Facebook, and you recognize her face from the Anti-Bullying Assembly on January 9, when we learned to say, "THIS AIN'T YO DREAM!" But beyond the works we've seen, there's so much more to senior Molly Baker and Molly Baker Photography. I had the chance to sit with Molly—during Yearbook class, I might add—and enjoy a great conversation with her about her passion for photography.

Racquel: How did you get into photography?

Molly: Well, my dad kind of influenced me with media arts, but I didn't start getting into it until my sophomore year, when I did it as a hobby. That year, I got my first real camera, and I named her Gen. Next thing I know, I was taking pictures everywhere. I liked capturing human emotion and people's faces. There's something kind of mysterious about it because you can take a moment and keep it for yourself. From then on, I created smaller projects that eventually evolved into bigger projects. And that's how I got into fine art photography.

Racquel: Your camera's name is Gen?

Molly: Her full name is Genevieve. But it got exhausting to call her Genevieve all the time, so I just shortened it to Gen. I don't know why I came up with the name Genevieve. It just seemed fitting when I got her for my birthday sophomore year. I knew it was a big deal when I received her as a present, so I thought she deserved a name.

Racquel: Can you explain your relationship with Gen?

Molly: Gen and I have a special relationship with each other because she gives me an excuse to see everything around me through different eyes. It

gives me a purpose. It's almost like a VIP pass to the world.

Racquel: Do you have any photography influences?

Molly: I found some influences in Ansell Adams, Barbara Morgan, and Annie Leibovitz—the big names in photography. I researched more and more of how photographers took pictures and what they looked at. I learned to see the world how they did—in a new way. Not just through my camera, but also learning the history of it. I went to the library almost every day to look up different photographers and photography techniques in journals and books.

Racquel: We have all heard about The "Wash Away" Project, but can you tell us your story behind it?

Molly: My junior year was one of my roughest emotional years. I had supportive friends who helped me out, but there were times I felt really different, especially when having anxiety disorder. The way I coped with having anxiety was through fine arts like dance, theater,

and photography. And since those things made me feel better, I wanted other people to feel the same way and know that they're not alone. So I created this project where people had to become more vulnerable and themselves in order to show that everyone has vulnerabilities. But it doesn't end there; people move forward from their vulnerabilities. And the more people realize that they're not stuck, the more comfortable they are with their vulnerabilities and become resilient with themselves. Basically, the project was to show that humans are humans, and humans have struggles that don't have to limit you from becoming the best human you can be. Also, the "Wash Away" part of the project is about how the water was used to represent resilience and overcoming personal struggle. But notice that the ink is still there even after being "Washed Away." This shows that even though you can move past your struggles, they're still a part of you no matter what. It's not a bad thing; it just means that you're human, (Continued on page 7)



Senior Anna Ponta washes away her inferiority. PHOTO BY MOLLY BAKER '13



Molly Baker speaks about The "Wash Away" Project at the anti-bullying assembly. PHOTO COURTESY RACQUEL GONZALES '14



"I remember when I was myself. Just me in my head."

PHOTO BY MOLLY BAKER '13



"I yelled for you not to forget me, but you were deaf."

PHOTO BY MOLLY BAKER '13



"I remember when I could fly."

PHOTO BY MOLLY BAKER '13

Looking Back on 2012, Looking Forward to 2013

By COURTNEY WILLIAMS '14



2012:

January 7, 2012: Blue Ivy Carter, the daughter of Beyoncé and Jay-Z, was born. She is going to be a great singer. And fierce.

March 20, 2012: Luca Cruz Comrie, Hilary Duff's baby boy, was born. More babies. Good.

May 26, 2012: A guy in Florida attempted to eat someone's face. Actually, it was more of an actual face-eating than an attempt. There were rumors that he was on bath salts, but later reports confirmed that it was actually marijuana. Just say no, kids.

Summer 2012: Mr. Williams and Ms. Gram got married! They're the campus' cutest couple and Mr. Williams talks about it during class a lot. A lot a lot.

July 27- August 12, 2012: The London 2012 Olympic Games! The U.S. won 104 medals altogether. Winner winner chicken dinner.

November 29, 2012: President Barack Obama was reelected.

December 21, 2012: The Mayans lied! The pre-scheduled end of the world didn't happen. It's okay, though—the sun has got to explode sometime.

2013:

February 25, 2013: Park Geun-Hye will be inaugurated as the first female president of South Korea. This fun fact was submitted by Victoria Vardanega, the expert on all things Korean. Thanks, Victoria.

February 3, 2013: I guess there was a Superbowl going on. I don't know a lot about sports (read: nothing), but apparently the Ravens and the 49ers, um, played football. And they opened up for the amazing, fabulous and fierce Beyoncé performance.

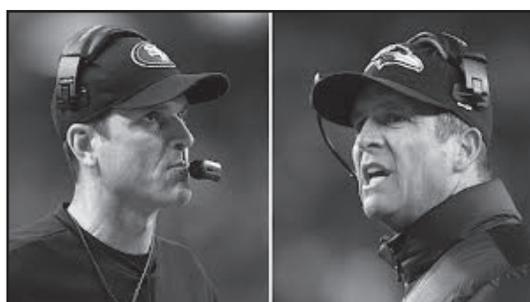
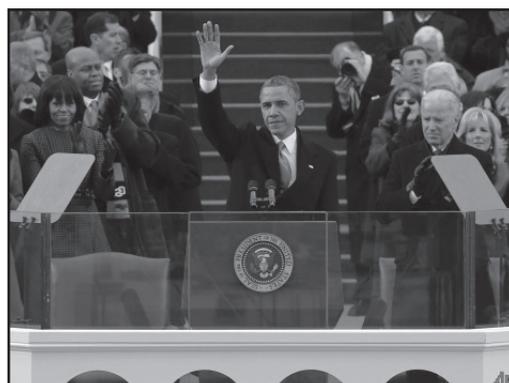
July 2013: The royal baby is due! William and Kate, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, are expecting their first child in July. The baby will be third in line for the throne, after Prince Charles (William's dad) and then after William. Britain. Yes.

August 2013: Next school year, St. Francis is getting iPads. Some classes will be using eBooks, and students won't have to carry books around. This is some pretty exciting stuff.

So last year was good, and I guess this year is going to be pretty great too. Or it could be terrible. You never know.

Match photos to timeline for ultimate fun!

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY GOOGLE IMAGES



Join The Literary and Art Quarterly!

Is there another novelist like Suzanne Collins, author of *The Hunger Games*, at St. Francis High School? Or another filmmaker like Kathryn Bigelow, Director of *Zero Dark Thirty*, at SFHS? Is there another poet like Maya Angelou at St. Francis? Is there another photographer like Annie Leibovitz at SFHS? Maybe another sculptor like Maya Lin, who designed the Vietnam War Memorial, at St. Francis? Are there Troubies who are destined to make their mark on the literary and art world? We, the members of St. Francis's *Literary and Art Quarterly Magazine*, believe there are!

There are many talented writers, photographers, artists and filmmakers at St. Francis who are proud of their work and wish to share it with others. Therefore, we want to start an online literary and art magazine at St. Francis High School.

This magazine will be a chance for students to share their work outside of the classroom and explore their creativity. It will showcase work produced by students both in and outside of the classroom. The magazine will be devoted to literature in a broad sense, publishing short stories, poetry and essays along with literary criticism, book reviews, biographical profiles of authors, interviews, art, photography, and short films. Because this is an electronic magazine, we will be able to post digital films. Also, in light of the school's plans to develop a TV and film studio, the magazine will provide a great outlet for students' work. The subject matter will be wide-ranging with subjects such as cinema, television, literature, music, politics, and international news.

Where fitting, the biographical profiles and interviews will identify and describe strong women playing leadership roles in their professions and identify strong female characters in literary works and performing arts.

We envision the spring of 2013 as a time to determine what this electronic magazine will look like and set its literary and artistic direction. This preparation will target publishing the first issue in October 2013.

We also are considering entering it in the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) or a similar competition. As described on its website, NCTE's Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines recognizes students, teachers, and schools for producing excellent literary magazines.

English teachers Emily Kropp and Deborah Pansius have offered to advise us on this literary and art magazine.

In addition to literary and artistic contributors and editors, we are looking for graphic artists to lay out the magazine and students who are proficient at hosting websites.

If you have a passion for literature and art and are interested in being a part of this magazine, please join us at our first organizational meeting, February 15 in Room 514 at Community Lunch. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please send me an e-mail to 15aprea@stfrancishs.org.

We are looking forward to your joining us and publishing our first edition.

-Brooke Aprea

Winterfest

By ALY PACTHER '15

Winterfest this year was a dramatic exploration of the elements. It featured performances by ERA, Hula, and the Dance and Apprentice Companies. It also featured a guest performance by The Treble Makers, St. Francis' show choir, and a collaboration of the Dance Company and Sacramento Taiko Dan Youth Company.

The dance concert was broken into two sections with an intermission in between. The resounding theme was elements. An element would be announced and then briefly explained, and then a dance would follow the theme of that particular element. The first half of the performance was focused on periodic table elements while the second half focused on art elements.

The second half of the performance took a quick, unexpected turn, however. There was a brief surprise tribute to Mrs. Carlisle, which took form in the song and number "True Colors." The touching tribute showcased her work, both with photos she had taken and concepts she had taught. Sophomore Emily Fobes said, "It was a really touching celebration of her life." With seniors from the choir singing and a mixture of Apprentice and Dance

Company dancers, the surprise tribute was a perfect way to honor Mrs. Carlisle.

One of the most challenging numbers was the finale. It was based on the element of water and actual water came raining down on to the stage. The dancers had to be very careful because there was a lot of sliding and they had to make sure not to slip. It was a fantastic way to end Winterfest, a symbol of the hard work the girls put in, the elements they danced to, and the tribute to Mrs. Carlisle.

Having all the different groups of dance together at once made for an exciting performance. Candice Reynoso, a member of ERA, said of her group, "By dancing to hip hop, this gives us a personal flare during Winterfest, showing that we're not all ballerinas." There are some ballerinas though, in both Dance Company and Apprentice Companies. No matter what group, a huge amount of dedication to Winterfest is necessary. The different groups have been preparing since the beginning of the year! All that hard work, time, and practicing really paid off, however. Winterfest depicted a beautiful collaboration of dance and was a spectacular showcase of the talented artists here at St. Francis.



Members of the St. Francis Dance Company embrace the elements of Earth and water.

PHOTO COURTESY KENDALL SPECTOR '14

Young at Art

By KATE SWANSON '16

Calling all Troubadours looking for something fun to fill their free time at school as well as a cool way to check out local artists! This past Tuesday, February 14, 2013, Saint Francis hosted its fifth Young at Art Exhibit in the Arts building. Throughout the theatre foyer, student-made

art was exhibited. Works ranged from a diversity of schools such as St. Ignatius, Sacred Heart, and Sutter Middle School (plus many, many more). Artwork submission was open to all middle school students, grades sixth through eighth.

First Place Overall won a full scholarship to St. Francis High School's 2013 Summer Art Camp, a \$275 value. First, second, and third place winners from each school en-

tered received art supplies provided by University Art. While the students' artwork is still being displayed, remember to make sure you stop by and check out our up and coming artists!

The CEO and Me: My Interview With Gary Pruitt, President of the Associated Press

By JANE SADLER '14

“Egypt Army Chief Warns State Could Collapse” -AP
“Gore Hits Corporate Media, Defends Current TV Sale” - AP
“Suggs, Webb, Stand Out At Super Bowl Media Day” -AP

What could the state in Egypt, Al Gore attacking media, and my boys on the Ravens have in common? All of their Yahoo news updates are supplied by the AP. For those of you who don't know exactly what the Associated Press does, (don't worry, I was among you just a few months ago), I will try to put it simply. Every source of news you are aware of is fueled by the Associated Press; CBS, NBC, FOX, New York Times, Sacramento Bee, Today Show, even Central China Television (I know you CCT fans out there!). Daily, their work reaches over half the world's population. All the international video clips you've seen, famous pictures, (think Marilyn Monroe in a white dress, soldiers planting a flag on Iwo Jima, Obama's campaign image...) and every Yahoo News Update you've ever read, are all courtesy of this news titan. However, the only thing YOU can get directly from them is the Associated Press App (top rated news app in the app store). The Associated Press- or 'AP' for us insiders- licenses information. The AP gathers news from around the world using journalists, photographers and news teams, and then sells that information to clients like newspapers, news shows, and radio shows. For a school that can circulate the news of a male presence on campus in about 2.73 seconds flat, the idea of mass information sharing is pretty important. So when I was lucky enough to invite the President and CEO of the Associated Press to an interview at my kitchen counter (I heard once you're supposed to invite all Presidents and CEOs to interviews in your kitchen), I may have had a minor (major) geek attack.

Gary Pruitt, besides having an exciting and prestigious

job, is a down- to- earth, interesting, and just all around radical person. After I managed to blurt out all my written questions for the interview, we continued to sit and chat about high school, the best Rolling Stone magazine writers, and our favorite bands (ok, not only does this guy have one of the coolest jobs ever, but also he has excellent music taste: The Rolling Stones, The Clash, and Neil Young). Mr. Pruitt shared some fantastic advice from the top about sticking to your beliefs, growing into your opportunities, and trusting yourself. And ok, yeah, I may have a minor (major) friend crush on him now.

Jane: How is media changing as technology becomes more and more a part of the way we receive news?

Mr. Pruitt: Well the Associated Press- because it doesn't have a newspaper, it licenses content to media companies who put it out to consumers, so we sell it to newspapers, TV stations, radio stations, Internet companies and all kinds of different things. When I ran a newspaper company though, what we were seeing is a huge shift towards the digital- advertising and readers, so news companies have to adjust. AP sells information to a whole range of companies, Google, Yahoo and Microsoft are three of our biggest customers- all online entities. We try to change with the technology- so as the technology changes, our customers change. We are getting a lot of digital news customers, and also, a lot of international news companies- Central China TV is becoming one of our bigger customers. AP is fully online with our three main types of news- text, photo, and video.

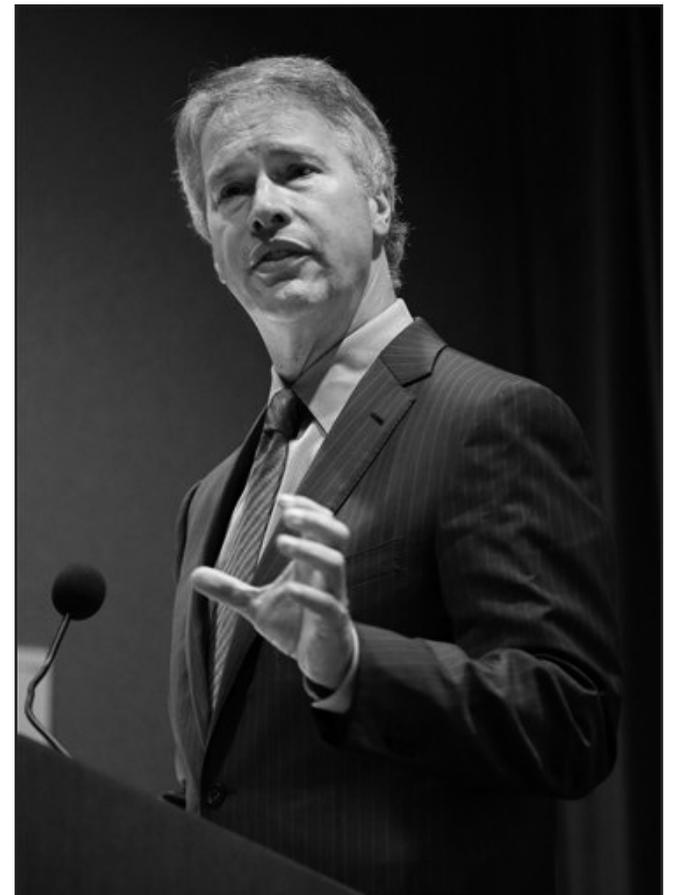
Jane: What is it like dealing with the more 'touchy' countries, like North Korea and some of the Middle East?

Mr. Pruitt: I was going to go to North Korea for the only American interview with Kim Jong Un, but unfortunately we didn't get the interview, so I stayed in China. And in the fall I'm going to Doha,

and Kuwait City, and Rihad in Saudi Arabia, and Cairo, and I just got back from Bangkok, Tokyo and Beijing. But we do have bureaus in Tehran Iran, Pyongyang North Korea and in Havana, Cuba. So we have news bureaus and reporters in places that even the United States doesn't have diplomatic relations. It's important for us to report news from all over the world, and the US government supports that. But as you visit those countries, you feel that they don't nearly have the press freedoms and freedom of speech that we have here. For instance, in China, the digital companies cannot report news, just entertainment or sports. Real news about politics and government they are afraid to report because the government has so much control over content. The New York Times produced an article about how Chinese leaders were getting rich, and the Chinese government shut down the New York Times Website all over China. It's a much more authoritarian control and I think it holds back those countries. And when I met some of the top Communist officials in China, they defend what they do as reporting the news, and don't acknowledge that it's as censored as it is.

Jane: So I heard you were the one to announce the outcome of the presidential election!

Mr. Pruitt: Well, yes and no. The votes get counted in every precinct around the country, and every state handles it differently, and those votes don't get tallied by any other entity in the United States other than the Associated Press. We have people in every county and parish in the United States that night. We hire between 5 and 10 ten thousand temporary workers to get all the local results in, check them against the vote registration in a region and send a feed out to our customers every thirty seconds- so CBS, NBC, FOX, any local news network, those updates are coming from us. Every update is ours, along with the exit polls. The US government doesn't do it because they care about the electoral votes. We do this for every senatorial



Gary Pruitt, president and CEO of The Associated Press, speaks at the Associated Press Media Editors conference on Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012, in Nashville, Tennessee.

PHOTO COURTESY ASSOCIATED PRESS WEBSITE

race, the house of representatives, governors, and major mayorial races, and all the major initiatives. However, we are not the first to call the race because the news networks are in a race to be first, so they will call races early and take a tiny risk of being wrong. So this year we officially called it at 11:38, and CBS and NBC called it around 11:25, taking the risk that Obama had actually won. We never care about being first, that is the network's jobs, we care about accuracy and correctness of information. People don't realize the votes they are seeing are not government counted, we are a non- profit, but still, it is not the government dealing with all of this.

Jane: That was my next question, who owns The Associated Press?

Mr. Pruitt: It's a non- profit cooperative that is owned by the newspaper companies. It was organized in 1846 by a few New York newspapers that wanted to cover the Mexican American War. They didn't each want to send a

reporter, so they got together to send a couple of reporters and relied on the Pony Express and telegram. And the first reporter for the AP that was killed in line of work was killed at Custer's Last Stand at the Battle of Little Big Horn with his troops. It's not the highest profile, it's not the most glamorous, it's certainly not the most profitable because it's non- profit, but it has bigger reach every day than any media company in the world because its customers are reaching. On any given day, it reaches over half the world's population.

That is the conclusion to the formal interview. It was really hard cutting down all that we talked about to fit the paper! The following came from just conversation:

“You never really know how things are going to work out, a lot of it is luck and opportunities. One thing I would say is if you
(Continued on page 7)

The One and Only Molly Baker, *(continued)*

which is actually a great thing.

Racquel: What other projects have you done?

Molly: Besides Senior Portraits and client work, I've done a project called "Young Fading Minds." I used models freshman Francesca Heidig and alum Juliana Nassr, Class of 2012.

Racquel: What was your purpose behind "Young Fading Minds"?

Molly: The project was inspired from when I was working on college apps and being stressed by college expectations. It felt like college was the only thing that was on my

mind; I felt I didn't have time to be creative. Then I remembered when I was a kid and how I wanted to be an artist. I missed that feeling, so I did a project inspired from that idea. I took old story books and characters like Harry Potter, "Where the Wild Things Are", "Alice & Wonderland" and "Peter Pan"—people and places you looked up to and wanted to be as a kid. I also took aspirations as part of the project. I had Francesca pose as a painter and paint neon pink paint onto a tree to symbolize wanting to be a painter. Another aspect of the photo shoot is the dark mood of the photos, symbolizing the fading wishes we had when we were young.

Racquel: Are you planning more projects for the future?

Molly: I have about nine different projects.

I might cut some, but I plan on doing a lot of them. They're a combination of digital photography and cinematography!

Racquel: On a deeper level, what would you do if you were invisible with a camera?

Molly: If I was invisible with my camera, I would want to capture someone who's heartbroken, like they just lost someone special to them. And just follow them throughout the whole day, seeing their real reactions, like how they grieve. Just like the little things that people don't normally notice about people grieving or people in depression. It's so interesting to me because you don't always see it by just looking at a person; it's something secret that you kind of have to be invisible to capture.

Racquel: What kind of mark would you like to leave here at St. Francis?

Molly: I would like to have people remember me as someone who wasn't afraid to be herself. As someone who just

loves the world she's in. I hope everyone at St. Francis can have the chance to really get to know not just yourself but the people around you because high school goes by so quickly, and I think everyone should have the chance to love each other.

As the interview came to a close along with the end of Yearbook class, I was glad I had the chance to just sit and talk with Molly about what she does. She has so much passion for every form of art, and she has a vision by which she conveys the importance of resilience, self-love, and youth. Molly Baker is a very talented 17-year-old photographer who is bound to make a difference in the world. And I know each and every one of us wishes her luck in college and beyond!

'Like' *Molly Baker Photography* on Facebook!

P.S. I also might add that my own camera is Gen's Grandpa Billy ☺



SFHS alumnae Jess Nguyen (class of 2012) washes away "insecurity".

PHOTO BY MOLLY BAKER '13



Senior Katrina Woollgar washes away being "second best".

PHOTO BY MOLLY BAKER '13



Senior Shelby Vice is ready to wash away her feeling of being "unloved".

PHOTO BY MOLLY BAKER '13



Senior Cassie Fortes and her Jesuit boyfriend are cute for the camera.

PHOTO BY MOLLY BAKER '13

Interview with Editor of Associated Press, *(continued)*

have an opportunity and you don't think you're good enough to do it. If you think 'Ooh, this doesn't really align with my values'; don't do it. There are plenty of good opportunities that I don't do because I don't believe in the same values. Everyone has to grow into a job they get. If you don't take it because you don't think you're good enough, someone worse is going to get it, and don't let that happen! As you go through life, be active about the decisions you make. A lot of people get 'channeled.' They aren't active in what happens to them. Just remember: no one is better than you. These people who are in these jobs- they're no better than you, they might as well be you. And make those decisions about it, and do what you like so you can keep that awe and wonder about life. This was hard for me, but when I interviewed for my newspaper job, I was 27. I didn't even want to get the job offer because I thought "I'm not good enough for that job, but it's too good to turn down" and I got the offer and I took it and I'm so glad I did. And I really wasn't good enough to get it! They shouldn't have hired me, but they did, they were stupid enough to hire me, and I grew into the job. And later I got an offer for a much bigger high paying job for a company that wanted to take small companies and flip them and sell them for more money. But even out of graduate school, if I had a decision between a higher paying sketchy place and a lower paying better company, there was no choice! Of course I take the lower paying job. And I had no money- none! So why should I change that now?"

John Kerry, The New Secretary of State

By EMILY CORNETT '14

As we welcome an old president, we say goodbye to a former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. Clinton, who ran against Barack Obama in the 2008 presidential election, served as Secretary since Obama's inauguration. This January, John Kerry, the former senator of Massachusetts, will take her place in the White House. After serving twenty-eight years in the Senate, Kerry was voted into office on January 28th, with an overwhelming vote of ninety-four to three. He's a pretty popular guy judging by that vote. Clinton officially left office on February 1st, but who knows if that'll be the last we see of her. (Clinton 2016, anybody?) Many people were shocked by Clinton's choice to step down from her position when she seemed to have more plans for our country, but her ailing health and political future appeared to have influenced her decision. As her replacement, Kerry will pick up where she left off regarding international relations and United States policies. Kerry has a lot on his plate for his upcoming term regarding United States relations with the Middle East, Africa, China and Russia, so we wish him the best!

SFHS Basketball Season Update

By BRITTANY ADAMS '14

Another season of St. Francis basketball is off to a great start. The varsity, JV, and freshmen teams have established their place in the Sac-Joaquin Division 1 League. Overall, St. Francis has been 10-8 and league 2-2. Guided by Mr. Pitton's three important values of trust, determination, and communication, the foundation of team's success has been set up. "Wins and losses will take care of themselves if we are able to improve on those covenants"-Mr. Pitton. The team has traveled to Arizona for the Nike Tournament of Champions where they won both their games. "The goal is to have the highest level of competition"-Mr. Pitton. Now the team is striving towards making the playoffs and with the streak these girls have been on the outlook is looking bright! Go Troubies!



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“La Boutique” Fashion Column: Je t’aime

By KATIE SCHEMBRI '14

Greetings to all my Troubie Cupids out there! Valentine’s Day! A day of love, compassion, and of course FASHION! This article lists some of the do’s and don’ts for your Valentine’s Day. Whether you have a cute date (lucky you) or you’re indulging in a little self-love this year, do it with flair!

Gift giving to your man? Let’s face it; guys have it so easy when it comes to gift giving: flowers, chocolate, maybe a homemade card? We have to be creative, inventive, and original. Talk about pressure! No worries because I’ve got a fool-proof plan to wow your “boo” or whatever girls call their boyfriends these days. Try to get him something that is unique to him. How about a jersey representing his favorite team? 49er’s maybe? Whether you give a jersey, hat, or other memorabilia, he’ll be sure to love it and also know you’ve been

listening EVERY Sunday for the past couple weeks. Another good idea is homemade goodies. You can make those cookies he loves or prepare a nice little picnic. You know what they say--the fastest way to a man’s heart is through his stomach! Finally, make sure he thinks of you whenever he sees what you got for him. Anything that will remind him how lucky he is to have a girl like you is the best gift of all!

This next advice goes out to all my single sisters out there! Can you say spa night? Polish those paws with a great pink or red. Nothing wrong with keeping it classic. I love OPI’s “Dutch Tulips” or “I Lily Love You”. Don’t forget to moisturize those hands with a homemade scrubbing potion! Just mix half a cup of sugar, 3 tablespoons of olive oil, and 3 tablespoons of water into a bowl and stir the substance until it is completely smooth. Rubbing in circular motion, apply this mixture to your hands until your skin is baby soft. (Don’t

overdo it or else it may burn.) This will remove all the dead skin cells leaving hands fresh and silky smooth. Take your favorite lotion or body butter and apply it to your hands to seal in the moisture. Don’t forget the cucumber on your overworked eyes!

Now if you’re searching for a Valentine’s Day look, fear not! Simplicity is best! Pair a cute black pencil skirt with a fun patterned pair of tights. Add a flowy blouse to the look. Red is such a fab color that will make anyone blush! Pair with a red lip and relaxed eye makeup. Curling your hair will give you a romantic look. I wish you all a fabulous Valentine’s Day! “Love”- your guide to the fashion world. P.S. Knock ‘em dead!



OPI nail polish!
PHOTO COURTESY GOOGLE IMAGES

#My Life is St. Francis

By AURORA LE '15 and MANDOLIN STAFF

Valentine’s Day: AKA me sitting at home, watching reruns of Gossip Girl on Netflix, eating nutella, and petting my cat. #MLISF

“This plate is too small!” #ColleenMercado #MLISF

“STAY BACK!!” #TrippettHealth #MLISF

On Wednesdays we wear pink...even though we have a uniform.... #MLISF

I love people who bring food. #MelissaDugoni #MLISF

JUST USE TWO CUSHIONS IN THE LIBRARY OK?!?! #Peasant #MLISF

Don’t scream. You saw your friend yesterday. #theaterfoyer #pleasestop #PLEASE #MLISF

Saying “bye” to your friend and then walking awkwardly in the same direction... #MLISF

Waiting for your food in the microwave to heat up... #6hourslater #notasenior #MLISF

Getting hurt while trying to pick an orange off of the tree #bruisedhip #MLISF

Talking about awkward things... but then your teacher walks by. #himrsmoloney #fromvictoriaandmeredith

“The only things you have to do in life are pay taxes and die.” #MrsRoman #MLISF

“Why am I not in charge of the world?!?!” #MsKirstien

“Homie, don’t play that!” #MsKirstien

I am forever alone, so I get my love from the cafeteria cookies #MLISF

That awkward moment when you want to sit outside but the tables are covered in rain #MLISF

That awkward moment when you hold the door open for somebody, but they’re too far away, so they have to run to get to you. #MLISF

Getting rose petals sprinkled on your car by your boyfriend. #thehardlife #LaurenLaRocco

The choice between regular chocolate-chip cookies and extra chocolate chip cookies... #thestruggle #MLISF

When your teacher misses you while

you’re gone... #MrsMoloney

When all your birthday food could feed a family of four for a week. #MLISF

Making room for the Holy Spirit at dances. #MLISF

Getting weird looks in public for wearing your uniform. #MLISF

Four day week with hour and a half classes? Guess I’m not sleeping tonight. #MLISF

Working out? You mean running to the cafeteria? #MLISF

Yelling “THIS AIN’T YO DREAM” at the Starbucks barista who spells your name wrong #MLISF



A St. Francis student picks an orange from the tree. #MLISF
PHOTO COURTESY RACQUEL GONZALES '14