

The Mandolin

St. Francis High School

December 16, 2014

"Spread the word."

Issue 78

A Survival Guide to Finals Week

By MADELINE MERWIN '15

You've heard the horror stories. You've felt it in the wind. Your brain starts to hurt at the mere mention of it. The whole semester has led to these three days of six tests: Finals. But no pressure. Think of its similarity to Homecoming week as how it builds community, because the whole school will be stressing, freaking, losing sleep, and procrastinating with you. So to make this more appealing, this is the Homecoming themed Finals Survival Guide.

#1: Go to Prep

Instead of decorating after school, go to CSF provided Study Fest after school in the weeks preceding finals. There, classmates and upper class men will help you in the classes that seem like a foreign language, ones that need a little refreshing, and foreign language. If you need help, it's there for you, just like a fellow Troubie with paint thinner.

#2: Making new friendships or rekindling old ones.

Whether you're a Temple, Tupelo, or Bucks connoisseur

or have no idea what those words refer to, do not let sleep deprivation take your Spanish grade. Meet caffeine. If you are not acquainted yet, you will be. Friendships bloom during HC week, and so will your friendship with the Starbuck barista, whom you can always count on to spell your name with a few extra vowels.

#3: Participate in the Skit and Dance

Don't let finals just take your sleep, free time, and brain power, make the most of it! Find a group of girls in a class and make a study group. Maybe you can even perform a skit to the class to help retain info. Talk with your teachers, too. They want you to succeed just as badly as you want to! You're the product of their semester of extensive teaching.

#4 Time Management

Just how teachers organize homework around Canned Food Drive and Sports Day, schedule your studying according to which test comes first and what class holds your lowest grade. You're in Finals tug-o-war and you need to conserve your brain power all the way till December 19, the last day

of Finals, when the flag finally crosses the line.

#5 Last Day of Decorating Ends at 10 pm.

This is St. Francis, and procrastination is practically one of our Pillars; however, it's a good idea to cap your studying at a certain time just like decorations does on the last night. It's hard to retain information later than 11 and maybe you could be the first Troubie to get 8 hours of sleep during finals! That's better than an A, right?

#6 "We're All In This Together" - Zac Efron

The best tip is to realize you're not alone. The whole school is stress eating, compulsively checking Roger Hub for a Final Grade Calculator, and developing a weird, dependent relationship with her iPad. But think about Homecoming week, and hopefully those happy thoughts will be incentive enough for you not to flunk out due to Finals.

Think positive thoughts, and you'll do trouble-free! And in the words of the SBOs, "ARE.. YOU... READY?"

Father Daughter Dance

2014

By GIOVANNA MARTINEZ '16

So imagine this. You're getting ready for a big event. You're working the lipstick and the blush. Your nails have the perfect French tips and your hair is curled to perfection. After a lot of effort to get ready and get that perfect little wing on the end of your eyeliner, you're finally ready for the dance, the highlight of your year. You descend your stairs and he smiles at you. No, not that drool-worthy Jesuit guy you've been dreaming about since freshman year. It's your dad flashing that goofy grin he gives you just before he makes another one of his corny dad "jokes."

Okay, so I know that having your dad as a date to a dance sounds a bit odd and unconventional. I know that my claim that it is the best dance of the year sounds a bit far-fetched. And I know that a night spent dancing to oldies hits sounds like a total snooze fest, but trust me, it's a blast. The night starts with a sort of meet and greet. Dads pretend

to remember the name of all your friends' dads, and you drink your fav flavor of non-alcoholic daiquiri while taking the oh-so important "father daughter without the fathers lol" insta pic with your besties. Next are pictures, prizes, and adorable games with even more adorable prizes. Dinner is right after. Decadent dishes piled with chicken and mashed potatoes galore. So maybe your dad pushes away the salad like it's a heaping plate of "ew," but the smile on his face when his juicy steak is placed in front of him will instantly diffuse any embarrassment.

Lastly, but most importantly, the dancing. This is the one night of the year where you can do the most dorky moves you can think of and not look like a dork. You can shimmy and slide to your heart's desire, and the best part is that your dad will just laugh and join in. When the slow song comes on your daddy will pull you into his loving arms and rock you like a baby girl in a pink tutu. The father-daughter relationship is such a unique and playful one, and this entire dance plays on

that bond. So whether you're daddy's little girl, or not, I suggest you put on your dancing shoes and get ready to chacha slide.

This year's Father Daughter Dinner Dance was on December 12th, at its new location The Red Lion Hotel Woodlake. Senior Kristi Edrosolan stated, "Out of all the four years, this was definitely my favorite dance. I love getting out and shaking it on the dance floor. The new hotel is beautiful!" Like always, the Father Daughter Dance this year was a huge success!



The 2013 Father Daughter Dance
PHOTO COURTESY SF WEBSITE

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Christmas Present Ideas

BY MEGHAN GREENE '16

Sometimes finding the perfect Christmas gift can be a challenging task. Remembering what someone loves can make your job significantly easier, but in the unfortunate event that your mind runs blank, you can stick to the basics to please everyone. When looking for gifts for your boyfriend, keep it fun and sweet. Maybe include an inside joke that will make him laugh! For your BFF, you could get something



Give your dog the gift of a Juicy jumpsuit for Christmas!

PHOTO COURTESY GOOGLE IMAGES

that you both love to do, so you can experience it together. For example, buy a pair of concert tickets so both of you can go watch your favorite singer. When you're shopping around for your sister, always grab a gift that you love as well (so you can borrow it ;)). It's also easy to pick up the new Xbox or FIFA game to keep your pesky brother occupied. Sometimes

it's easy to skip over Grandma, but this is



Nordstroms carries many brooches like these -perfect gifts for your grandma!

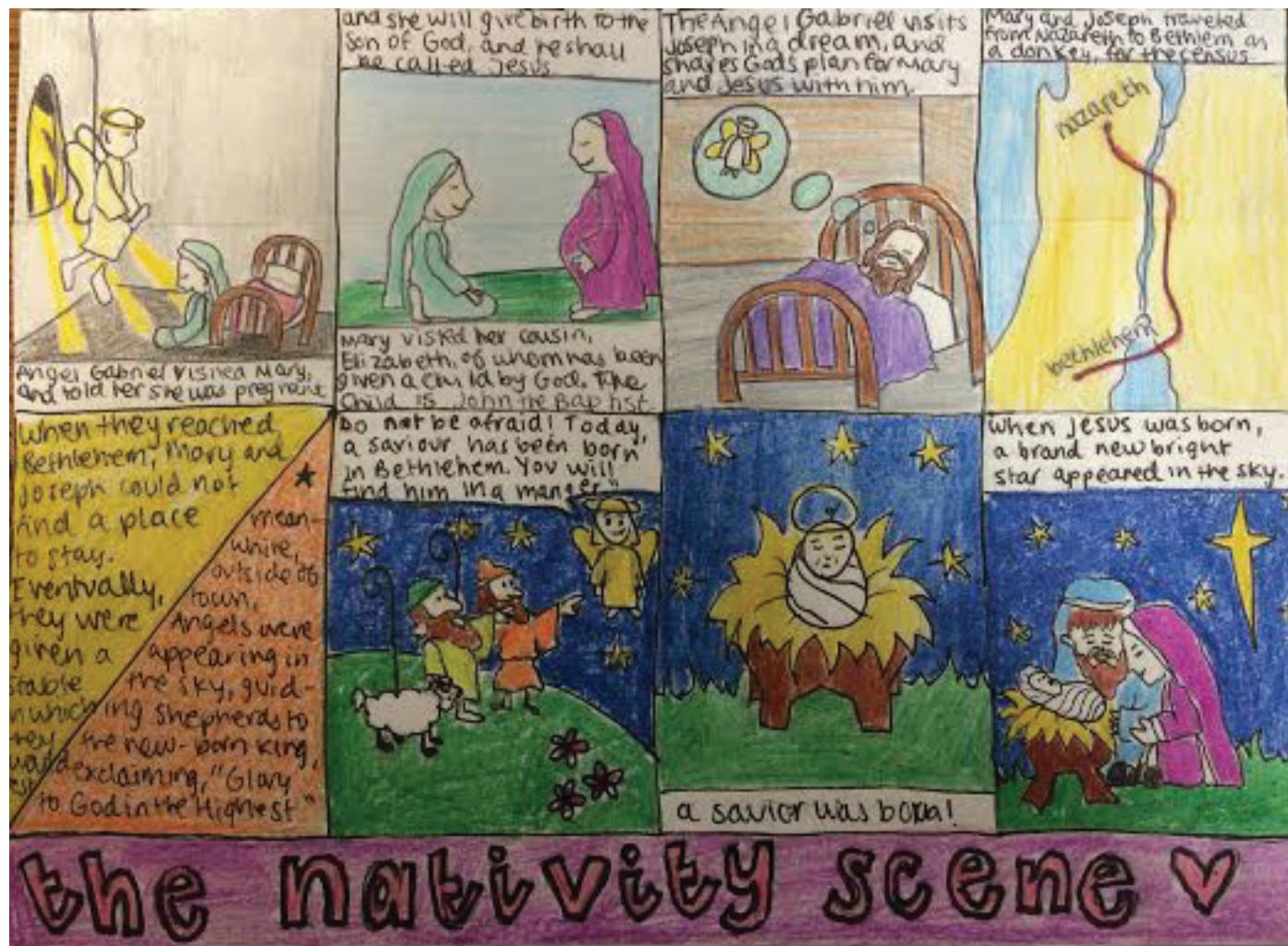
PHOTO COURTESY NORDSTROMS

a reminder to get her a lovely gift (since you know she always gives you the best Christmas gift)! Deliver her a large bouquet

of flowers, or choose a nice brooch that includes her favorite color. Snag a small (or big) jumpsuit for your pooch so he/she can strut in style through your neighborhood. For your dad, buy the newest electronic he has had his eye on recently. Or, a nice button down shirt or tie from Men's Warehouse can always suffice. For fun, choose a funky pattern and see how he responds. Do not forget to spend a little extra time for your mom; it is important to show her how much you appreciate her (since you know you don't say "thank you" enough for all she does for you). Give her a gift card to a local spa for a nice massage and facial so she can relax. And of course, the best gift you can give is time. Since we have at most four short years left at home, don't waste a single second of the holiday season. Spend some time appreciating the people you love most.

Christmas Comic

By CHARLOTTE KERSHAW '16



The 2014 Run to Feed the Hungry

By SARAH HUBER '15 and ANNA SCUDER '15

All right, ladies! It's that time of the year again—a time to be thankful for what you have and run for those who are in need. Nearly 30,000 people from around Sacramento ran in The Run to Feed the Hungry this year. The run is a win-win for everyone because you get some exercise, you get Hungry to hang out with



Team Troubie at The 2014 Run to Feed the Hungry
PHOTO COURTESY ST. FRANCIS WEBSITE

loved ones, and, most importantly, you get to help feed those in your community! Hunger, whether we realize it or not, is all around our neighborhoods, but this run works to change that. I know what you're thinking... "Running? Yuck!" But you don't even have

to run to participate! Walk the 5K while listening to your jams and meeting really cool people. If you didn't participate in The Run to Feed the Hungry this year, give it a shot next year. Be a part of the Sacramento community!

Storm Watch

By ALY PACTER '15 and KATE SWANSON '16

It's no secret that Sacramento has been hit with some crazy weather this year. As a result of the heavy storms, we've seen floods, mudslides, power outages, and even wildfires. Because of these dangerous conditions, it's always best to be prepared in case you find yourself in an emergency. The Weather Service advises residents of Sacramento to have storm kits ready, complete with blankets, water, flashlights, and batteries. As a driver, you can prepare for the extreme weather by getting your brakes checked, making sure your headlights are in working condition,



Workers clear leaves out of gutters in preparation for the storm

PHOTO COURTESY SACRAMENTO BEE



Surfing on the waves created by the storm in Lake Tahoe.

PHOTO COURTESY ESPN

Protests Across the Country

By ALY PACTER '15

It's impossible to ignore the protests that have broken out in various cities around the country following the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner. These protests are in response to the grand juries in both cases deciding not to indict the two police officers involved in the deaths. In many cities, these protests have become violent standoffs between the law enforcement officers and the protesters. The unrest started in Ferguson, Missouri, escalating to the point where the governor, Jay Nixon, declared a state of emergency. Just a week after the grand jury declined to indict Darren Wilson for the death of Michael Brown, a grand jury in New York declined to indict Daniel Pantaleo for the death of Eric Garner. This sparked more protests throughout the

country, many of which turned violent. More recently, students at UC Berkeley have joined in the movement and clashed with police forces during protests. SF



Protesters at UC Berkeley with their hands up
PHOTO COURTESY THE NEW YORK TIMES

alum, former *Mandolin* editor, and current freshman at Berkeley Jane Sadler, class of 2014, says of the protests, "It's a little bit surreal sitting in our dorm rooms checking

the news about what is happening a few blocks from us. We can hear the choppers and the screaming and the flashbangs the cops are using, it sounds like a war. It creates a weird dichotomy because during the day, everything looks normal with only the slightest tension, but then it re-explosives at night. I can't imagine how this will dissipate, but I hope it's soon."



Policemen and students face off during the protests in Berkeley
PHOTO COURTESY ABC NEWS



Winter Service Opportunities

By EDEN ELLIOTT '16

Always worried about getting your service hours done at the last minute? Change the pattern and lend a hand to our community this Christmas break. Not only is Christmas break a great and stress free time to meet your service requirement, but seeing a smiling helpful face may make someone's entire holiday season. A few great places to consider include: Wellspring Women and Children Center and Therapeutic Recreational Services (T.R.S.).



A volunteer spreading Christmas Cheer through community service

PHOTO COURTESY CAMP RECREATION

Wellspring is a shelter for women and children that offers breakfast and lunch every day, along with a small daycare and classes for young boys and girls. Your role at the shelter would likely vary between preparing breakfast, welcoming women and children, serving meals, and quick clean up of the facility. Wellspring Women's Center is open Monday-Friday, between 7:30 am and 11:30 am and is a great and rewarding way to fill an empty morning. Another great

of the service leaders in the CLC, or to check out the websites listed below.

Wellsprings Women's Center

Tel: 916-454-9688 (Director, Terri Tork)
Web: wellspringwomen.org

TRS

Tel: 916-484-2044 (TRS)
Web: regionalparks.saccounty.net

way to spend a night of your Christmas break is at the TRS Jingle Bell Rock dance. TRS organizes fun and engaging events every month for men and women of all ages with special needs. If you are interested in spending a night dancing with the coolest people ever (including Santa), look out for an email from Ms. Villanueva, or sign up online for Friday, December 19th (what a great way to celebrate the end of finals). Don't forget your Christmas cheer! Both of these places eagerly welcome all ages of student/volunteers and enjoy seeing fresh new faces getting involved. For more information feel free to email Ms. Villanueva, to visit any

Ask The Mandolin

Advice Column

By KATE SWANSON '16

EDEN ELLIOTT '16

Dear Mandolin, Whenever I try to paint my nails, I always mess them up as they're drying. What should I do to keep this from happening?

- Reckless

Dear Reckless, Don't paint your nails. Paint your walls instead. Then, when the wall's paint is messed up, you can laugh at the wall instead of scrutinizing your nails. The tables will have turned.



A dog and cat cuddle together

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.PLUSPETS.NET

Dear Mandolin, I went to Apple Hill and couldn't resist taking a basic picture. How can I make my caption unique?

- Searching for Myself

Dear Searching for Myself, make your picture less basic by not commenting on its "basicness." Your Instagram followers will be appreciative of the change up!

Dear Mandolin, I've really been struggling in Math class. I'm just not getting the con-

Dear Mandolin, I think my cat hates me. She hides behind the table every time I come downstairs.

She's the cutest furry animal, and I want us to be best friends, but I just don't know how to make her like me. Any suggestions?

- Dog Boy

Dear Dog Boy , Win your cat over with some fresh kitty treats, if that doesn't work, maybe search for a best friend in the human department.

New Teacher on the Block!

By MACKENZIE KOERBER '16

St. Francis is excited to welcome our new French teacher, Madame Chamberlin, into the community! Madame has taught French the last six years and recently worked at Christian Brothers High School before coming to St. Francis. French students love having Madame Chamberlin as a teacher! One student describes her as "really caring and always wanting the best for her students". Madame answered a few questions to share with the St. Francis community in the following interview:



Madame Chamberlin riding her bike

PHOTO COURTESY MACKENZIE KOERBER '16

The Mandolin (M): What is your favorite part about St. Francis so far?

Madame Chamberlin (C): The community! Everyone here is so nice, welcoming, personable, and ready to help! That includes the teachers, the students, and the administration . .

. it feels like a big family!

(M): If you could go back in time to meet anyone, who would you pick and why?

(C): I would pick Jesus of course! He is my hero and I love Him so much!

(M): If you could describe yourself in one word, what would you pick?

(C): "Joie de Vivre" in French. (It means exhilaration or being happy)

(M): What is your favorite pastime?

(C): Doing outdoor activities.

(M): Who has inspired you the most throughout your life?

(C): My father.

Fall Sports Recap!

By ASHLEY SUTTER '15

As another fall sports season has come to an end, all St. Francis teams succeeded in pursuing honor with victory.

The Troubadour Tennis Team ended with a 14-4 record. The girls advanced to the Sac-Joaquin Section quarterfinals for the second consecutive season before losing 5-4 at St. Mary's. They advanced in the playoffs with wins over Franklin Senior and Gregori of Modesto. At No. 1 singles for the team, Junior Avery Spector earned all-league honors for the second consecutive season, posting a 9-6 record.

The golf team went 6-1 in the inaugural season of the revamped Delta League, placing second overall. They finished sixth at the Sac-Joaquin Section Masters Tournament. Junior Kate Swanson and freshman Chase Saca tied for team-best honors with rounds of 88. The Troubadours advanced to the Masters with a fourth-place finish at the Division I tournament.

At the end of November, our Cross-Country team finished 3rd at state. Senior Miranda Myers led the Troubadours in 26th overall in a time of 18:43. The team placed with the following times: 26. Miranda Myers, 18:43; 30. Peyton Bilo, 18:53; 38. Ariane Arndt, 18:55; 60. Ava Nkadi, 19:12; 93. Sydney Vandegrift, 19:36; 127. Chase Worthen, 20:15; 154. Gabrielle Dyer, 20:41.

Waterpolo ended second in section finals. The team finished with a last game against the Davis Blue Devils with a score of 7-4. Senior Lauren Charter helped the team with a team-best 55 goals and 77 points this season. The team had an overall record of 17-11.

After a long season, Volleyball lost to Pitman in the semi section finals in 4 games with scores of 25-19; 14-25; 13-25; 20-25. Future UC Irvine Anteater, Kylie Green led the league with kills at 437. The season ended with an overall record of 30-12.

St. Francis could not be more proud of its teams' hard work and dedication. We love our athletes!

TENNIS HIGHLIGHTS

- The Troubadour tennis team advanced to the Sac-Joaquin Section quarterfinals for the second consecutive season before losing 5-4 at St. Mary's. The team advanced in the playoffs with wins over Franklin (S) and Gregori of Modesto.
- The team posted a 14-4 overall record under Kristi Spector including a 10-2 Delta League mark to finish second.
- Junior Avery Spector earned all-league honors for the second consecutive season, posting a 9-6 record at No. 1 singles for the Troubadours. She reached the Delta League singles finals for the second consecutive season. She lost in the first round of the Sac-Joaquin Section tournament.
- Freshmen Kiya and Kyla Jackson paired to reach the semifinals of the Delta League doubles tournament. The duo from Elk Grove both earned All-Delta League honors in the first season. Kiya went 12-5 on the season playing at No. 1 and 2 singles, while Kyla was 15-2 overall at No. 2 and 3 singles.
- Sophomore Annie Gianulias led the team with 17 wins, posting a perfect 17-0 mark while going undefeated at four different singles positions. She was 9-0 overall at her primary position at No. 4.
- Freshman Marisa Fat had the best winning percentage on the team with a 12-1 mark in her first season.

Individual Honors

All-Delta League: Avery Spector, Kiya Jackson, Kyla Jackson

Team Honors

- MVP: Avery Spector
- Sportsmanship: Kate Neubuerger
- Most Improved: Marisa Fat
- Most Spirited: Izabella Samuel
- Undefeated: Annie Gianulias

GOLF HIGHLIGHTS

6-1

•St. Francis finished sixth at the Sac-Joaquin Section Masters Tournament. Junior Kate Swanson and freshman Chase Saca tied for team-best honors with rounds of 88. The Troubadours advanced to the Masters with a fourth-place finish at the Division I tournament.

•Senior Victoria Ramirez was a three-year member of the varsity team. She carded a personal-best three-over par 39 against Monterey Trail on Oct. 13.

•St. Francis went 6-1 in the inaugural season of the revamped Delta League, placing second overall. They placed second twice and fourth in the three league center tournaments.

•Junior Kate Swanson was named team MVP, Mikia Fang was the recipient of the Most Improved and Caitlin Autry received the Sportsmanship Award.

•Swanson posted a team-best 82.0 average in five 18-hole rounds and led the team with a 39.9 stroke average in dual matches. She shot a career-best even-par 36 against Franklin, one of three sub 40 rounds on the season and the medalist two times. She was named to the all-league team for the second consecutive season.

•Junior Mikia Fang earned All-Delta League honors for the first time in her career, posting a 41.1 stroke average overall seven dual matches. She shot a career-best 39 against Grant to earn medalist honors.

•Seven players posted career-best rounds on the season.

All-Delta River League: Kate Swanson, Mikia Fang

Team Honors

- MVP: Kate Swanson
- Most Improved: Mikia Fang
- Sportsmanship: Caitlin Autry

CROSS COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Finished 3rd. Senior Miranda Myers, a member of the varsity team for all 4 years and a Northern Arizona signee, led the Troubadours in 26th overall, in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) state championships, with a time of 18:43. She was one of three student-athletes, including Peyton Bilo and Ariane Arndt, to run under 19:00.

26. Miranda Myers, 18:43; 30. Peyton Bilo, 18:53; 38. Ariane Arndt, 18:55; 60. Ava Nkadi, 19:12; 93. Sydney Vandegrift, 19:36; 127. Chase Worthen, 20:15; 154. Gabrielle Dyer, 20:41.

All-Delta League: Miranda Myers, Ariane Arndt, Chase Worthen

WATERPOLO HIGHLIGHTS

Lost to Davis in the section championship 7-4

Seniors Lauren Charter, Bella Smith, Hannah Milanowski, and Annie Rafeld help lead the varsity team to section finals in the 2014 fall sport. Charter was also recognized as player of the year scoring a team-best of 55 goals and 78 points to help advance the Troubadours to the CIF Sac-Joaquin Division I finals for the third year in a row. Rafeld was also voted Most Inspirational Player by her teammates, scoring 9 goals and having 9 assists in the 12 games she played

throughout the season.

Overall 17-11

All-Delta River League: Lauren Charter, Julie Zanobini, Jennalyn Barthels, Maggie Oys, Caroline Urkov, Kira Chavez

Team Honors

- Jenna Barthels: Best Offensive Player

•Maggie Oys: Best Defensive Player

•Sally Ferguson: Most Improved Player

•Lauren Charter: Player of the Year

•Annie Rafeld: Most Inspirational Player



The Cross Country girls after finishing 3rd at State

PHOTO COURTESY MIRANDA MYERS

VOLLEYBALL HIGHLIGHTS

Lost to Pitman in 4 sets at the semi-section finals 30-12. Varsity Captains Anna Donald, Kylie Green, Marissa Gollnick, Mary Kate Schildmeyer, helped lead the volleyball team all the way to semi-section finals where they were defeated by Pitman in a 4 set match. The seniors who commit to colleges for the 2015-2016 year include; Anna Donald (UC Davis), Kylie Green (UC Irvine), and Marissa Gollnick (Rose-Hulman Institute)

Basketball

By ISABEL SOLOAGA '15

Basketball season is here and it is sprinting off to a rapid start. The girls headed south to play against some of the best teams in Northern California. St. Mary's of Stockton, Clovis West, Antelope, and McClatchy have all faced the wrath of the Troubadours in preseason scrimmages while you were enjoying the holiday. With games nearly every night and two big tournaments coming up, the basketball girls may be looking haggard as they



The 2014 Varsity Basketball team

PHOTO COURTESY STEVEN SHAFF

stumble through the halls. Homework help and snacks are greatly appreciated! The Troubadours kicked off the season on December 2 with a win against Placer. Before long, and most importantly, before finals finish, the team will fly to Arizona to participate in the Nike Tournament of Champions. Next time you see them, wish them luck!

Holiday Cookie Recipes

By MAGGIE SWANSON '18

November is over and the pumpkin pie is gone. Christmas is just around the corner. That means it must be time for cookies! Need some ideas for a party? Get crafty and experiment with different recipes! Here are two holiday favorites that everyone can enjoy. Happy Holidays!

Chocolate-Peppermint Thumbprints

<http://www.marthastewart.com/868657/chocolate-peppermint-thumbprints>

Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour (spooned and leveled)
- 2/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/4 teaspoon fine salt
- 1 1/4 cups (2 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract
- 5 ounces semisweet chocolate chips (3/4 cup)
- 1/2 teaspoon pure peppermint extract

Directions

- 1 Preheat oven to 350 degrees, with racks in upper and lower thirds. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa powder, and salt. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat 1 cup each butter and sugar on medium-high until light and fluffy, 3 minutes. Add egg and vanilla; beat to combine. With mixer on low, gradually add flour mixture and beat to combine. Place 1/2 cup sugar in a small bowl. Roll dough into 1-inch balls, then roll in sugar to coat. Place balls, 1 inch apart, on two parchment-lined baking sheets. Bake 5 minutes. Remove sheets from oven; with the small end of a melon baller or the bottom of
- 2 When it comes time for the holidays, sugar cookies are a must. Get a friend or family member and be creative by designing them with your unique touch!
- 3 In a small round measuring spoon, make an indentation in center of each cookie. Bake until cookies are just set but still look moist, 4 minutes (do not overbake). Let cool on sheets on wire racks.
- 4 In a microwave-safe bowl, microwave chocolate chips and 1/4 cup butter in 10-second increments until melted; stir in peppermint extract. Let cool until thick enough to pipe, 5 minutes. Transfer mixture to a large zip-top bag; snip 1/4-inch hole in one corner. Pipe chocolate into cookie indentations.



The Peppermint Thumbprint Cookies
PHOTO COURTESY MARTHA STEWART WEBSITE

Basic Sugar Cookies

<http://www.marthastewart.com/338471/basic-sugar-cookies>

When it comes time for the holidays, sugar cookies are a must. Get a friend or family member and be creative by designing them with your unique touch!

Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for rolling
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg



The Basic Sugar Cookies
PHOTO COURTESY MARTHA STEWART WEBSITE

pin.

- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Assorted candies, sprinkles, or colored sugars, for decorating (optional)
- (Makes about 32)

Directions

- 1 In large bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, and salt. With an electric mixer, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. With mixer on low, gradually add flour mixture; beat until combined. Divide dough in half; flatten into disks. Wrap each in plastic; freeze until firm, at least 20 minutes, or place in a resealable plastic bag, and freeze up to 3 months (thaw in refrigerator overnight).
- 2 Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line baking sheets with parchment. Remove one dough disk; let stand 5 to 10 minutes. Roll out 1/8 inch thick between two sheets of floured parchment, dusting dough with flour as needed. Cut shapes with cookie cutters. Using a spatula, transfer to prepared baking sheets. (If dough gets soft, chill 10 minutes.) Reroll scraps; cut shapes. Repeat with remaining dough.
- 3 Bake, rotating halfway through, until edges are golden, 10 to 18 minutes (depending on size). Cool completely on wire racks. To ice cookies, spread with the back of a spoon. Let the icing harden, about 20 minutes. Decorate as desired.

- *Cook's Note Use flour on utensils to keep dough from sticking: Dip the cookie cutters, and dust the spatula before transferring uncooked dough to a sheet. Rolling dough between two sheets of floured parchment will keep it from sticking to the rolling pin.

The 2014 SF Christmas Concert!

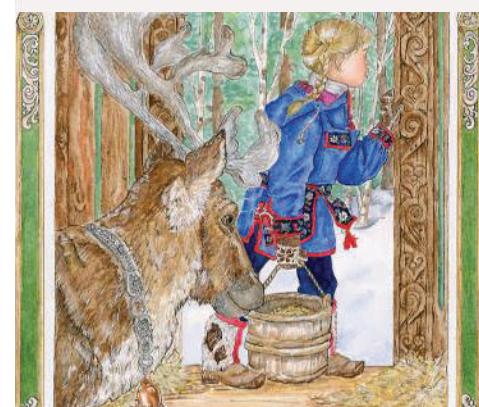
BY SALLY FERGUSON '17

St. Francis' annual Christmas concert, a family-oriented event, took place Friday December 5th and Saturday December 6th. The arts department always puts on a good show, but this concert was one to remember. Both orchestras and the show choir performed. The Blue Skirts, St. Francis' a cappella group, sang an amusing mix-up of quintessential Christmas carols. The chamber choir's members sang their hearts out in beautiful vocal arrangements. Uku-Ladies performed a memorable piece at intermission.

Some of the concert's pieces have been practiced since the beginning of the year. "I love being able to share what chamber choir has been working on for months. When we learn all our music pieces and get to sing them for other people, it's really satisfying," says Lauren Costan '15, a singer for St. Francis' chamber choir. The audience was truly blown away by the show and the amazing talent of St. Francis' musicians and singers. If you missed the program this year, we highly recommend that you mark your calendar next year; the annual Christmas Concert is one December event you won't want to miss!

A Christmas Music Concert

Friday, December 5, 7:00pm
Saturday, December 6, 2:00pm



Playbill for the Christmas Concert, with artwork by Sophie Zeph, '15
PHOTO COURTESY SFHS FACEBOOK

Movie Review: Mockingjay -Part One

By AMANDA OSTROM '18

With the rise of dystopian fiction novels and their film adaptions, the movies based on Suzanne Collins' trilogy, *The Hunger Games*, are developing more competition. After a year of impressive films, there were high expectations for the latest installment of the series, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay—Part One*. The film does not disappoint its viewers. *Mockingjay*, which opened on November 17th, enjoyed a great opening weekend at the box office. The movie centers on the rebellion that had been brewing and its development into a full-fledged war.

Although this film has a good amount of action, it also focuses on the differences in characters' personalities and how their circumstances changed them. *Mockingjay—Part One* highlights how the main characters have grown since the beginning of the story and how the situations they were forced into have affected them. The addition of another society, District 13, changes the dynamic of the movie and illustrates that while some societies appear better than others, all systems have flaws. Jennifer Lawrence does a phenomenal job portraying the strong yet emotionally fragile



Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss Everdeen
in *Mockingjay*
PHOTO COURTESY GOOGLE IMAGES

protagonist, Katniss Everdeen. Lawrence's performance in *Mockingjay—Part One* seems more raw and emotional compared to the previous movies because the novel itself is arguably the most emotionally intense of Collins' three books.

Sam Claflin, who plays Finnick Odair, also shines in *Mockingjay*. His character opens up about his struggles with President Snow's treatment toward him over the years, showing a more vulnerable side of his character. One character who did not appear as frequently as he did in previous films is Haymitch Abernathy, Katniss and Peeta's mentor for the Hunger Games. Haymitch, played by Woody Harrelson, is absent quite a bit throughout *Mockingjay—Part One*. When he does appear, Haymitch is sarcastic and wise and his witty remarks make the viewers laugh out loud.

The set is very detailed and the props are extremely intricate. The weapons lab that Katniss visits to retrieve a new bow and arrow set is accurately futuristic; the room appears almost exactly how the book describes it. Katniss' new bow and arrows are impressively



Liam Hemsworth and Jennifer Lawrence in *Mockingjay Part 1*
PHOTO COURTESY GOOGLE IMAGES

high-tech, with additional features that make them much more powerful than an average arrow. The director, Francis Lawrence, does a great job of sticking to the plot of the novel, whereas the previous two movies

left out some key parts due to time constraints. This was why many fans of the novels were pleased that filmmakers decided to split the last novel, *Mockingjay*, into two movies. Splitting the novel into two movies allows for a greater focus on detail and adherence to the plot. However, ending the movie halfway through the novel is also a little awkward because the story was not designed to be split that way.

That being said, the ending is very emotional and certainly leaves you eagerly anticipating the second installment of *Mockingjay*, which premieres in November, 2015. Even if you have not read the trilogy, don't miss *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay—Part One!*

Restaurant Review: Burgers and Brew

BY ELIANA KONTOKANIS '17

A lot of people would agree that there's just something amazing about a well-made burger. It can be hard to find a burger you like, especially if you're looking for one that's not the average cheeseburger. Thankfully, the people at Burgers and Brew were able to solve that problem.

Burgers and Brew has a large menu that allows every person at the table to find what they want to eat. On the menu, there are about sixteen burger options, seven sandwiches, and several specialty items such as fish and chips, Philly cheesesteak, and hot dogs.

The burgers are clearly the most popular choices on the menu. The cheeseburger is a classic, but other favorites among customers include the Spicy Guacamole Cheeseburger (1/2 lb. Niman ranch beef topped with homemade spicy guacamole, jalapeño mayo, and pepper



The bacon cheeseburger from Burgers and Brew
PHOTO COURTESY GOOGLE IMAGES

jack cheese on a sesame bun), the Bacon Cheeseburger (Niman ranch beef, applewood smoked bacon, and cheddar cheese), and the Portobello Burger (lettuce, tomato, onion,

pickle, and roasted red pepper mayo on a wheat bun). If you are more in the mood for a sandwich, many people recommend the grilled ham and cheese, which is made of Niman Ranch Applewood Smoked Ham with cheddar cheese on sliced sourdough.

You can customize your meal in many ways: add-ons to burgers (like jalapenos, sautéed vegetables, and

avocado), different choices of fries, or even sides of salads and soups. Customers love the clam chowder, which is perfect in rainy and cold weather. They also offer a variety of drinks on the menu, as well as different flavored waters.

The restaurant is completely family-friendly. It is a relaxed environment that often encourages wonderful

conversation at the table. You never feel rushed when eating there because you pay for your meal right after you order it, leaving you at leisure to sit back and take your time.

Burgers and Brew can be found locally at two places: 1409 R St., Sacramento, and 403 3rd St., Davis. The restaurant opens at 11 every day and stays open late. Go ahead – grab some friends or family and head on over to Burgers and Brew to eat a good meal with good people.



The outdoor dining area at Burgers and Brew
PHOTO COURTESY BURGERS AND BREW

#MLISF

When your phone's gone and the next time you see it your best friends' chins are the screen saver
#MLISF

Walking into the theater with your head down and running into a Christmas tree #MLISF

Sophomore teachers warning students to drive carefully #foreveryoung #stillcan'tdrive #MLISF

Wondering if your dad will even ask you to the father daughter dance #worsethanhomecoming #MLISF

Being best friends with "the burrito guy" #MLISF

Getting away with wearing the *normal* polo on formal days #gate-waycrime #MLISF

When picking out the class calendar is the best part of your month #puppies #sunset #ownbey

Finding yourself in a fourth year foreign language and secretly knowing you have no idea what's going on #languageskills

Showing up at mass in crocs to "be respectful" #nolaces

Arguing with your mom that you can still go to school with a 100°F fever #onlyatSF

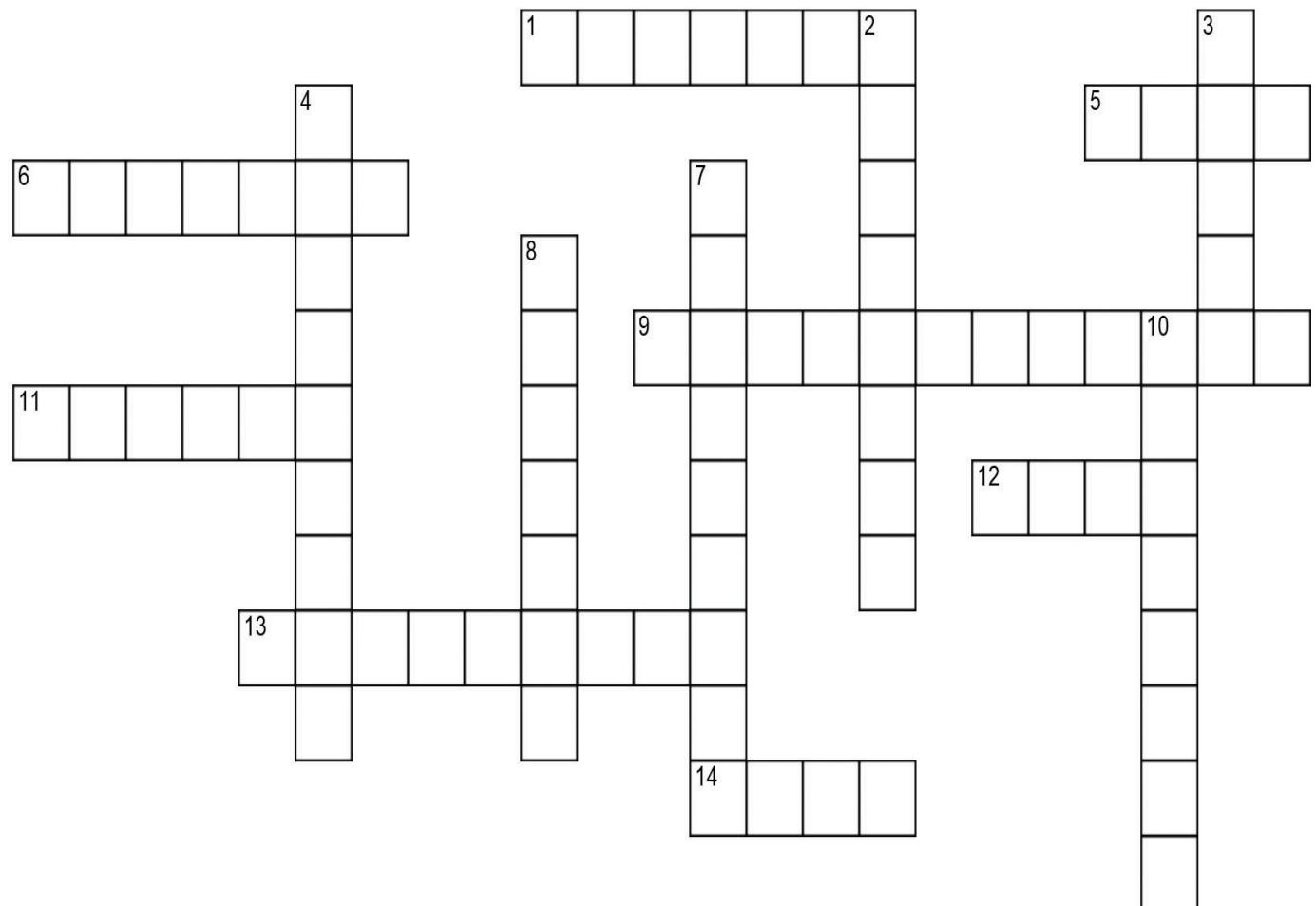
Secretly not knowing what CTL means...you'll know one day #MLISF

Finding the right table for father daughter #only10seats #thes-truggle

Hanging on "just till Christmas" #thecountdownbegins #16days

Realizing that you aren't even close to being done with APUSH #juniorproblems #2yearcommitment

The Mandolin Christmas Crossword Puzzle!

**ACROSS:**

- 1 – Eight-candle candelabrum
- 5 – The plant decorated at Christmas
- 6 – Four-sided spinning top
- 9 – One of the three kings' gifts to Jesus
- 11 – Often made of potatoes, eaten during Hanukkah
- 12 – Money given, often to children, during the Hanukkah festival
- 13 – Where Jesus was born
- 14 – The object in the sky leading the three kings to Jesus

DOWN:

- 2 – The eight-day holiday from December 16th to 24th
- 3 – God incarnate
- 4 – The location of the Temple
- 7 – The holiday on December 25th
- 8 – One of these is lit each day of Hanukkah
- 10 – The scene of baby Jesus, his family, the three kings, and the angels at the stable

