

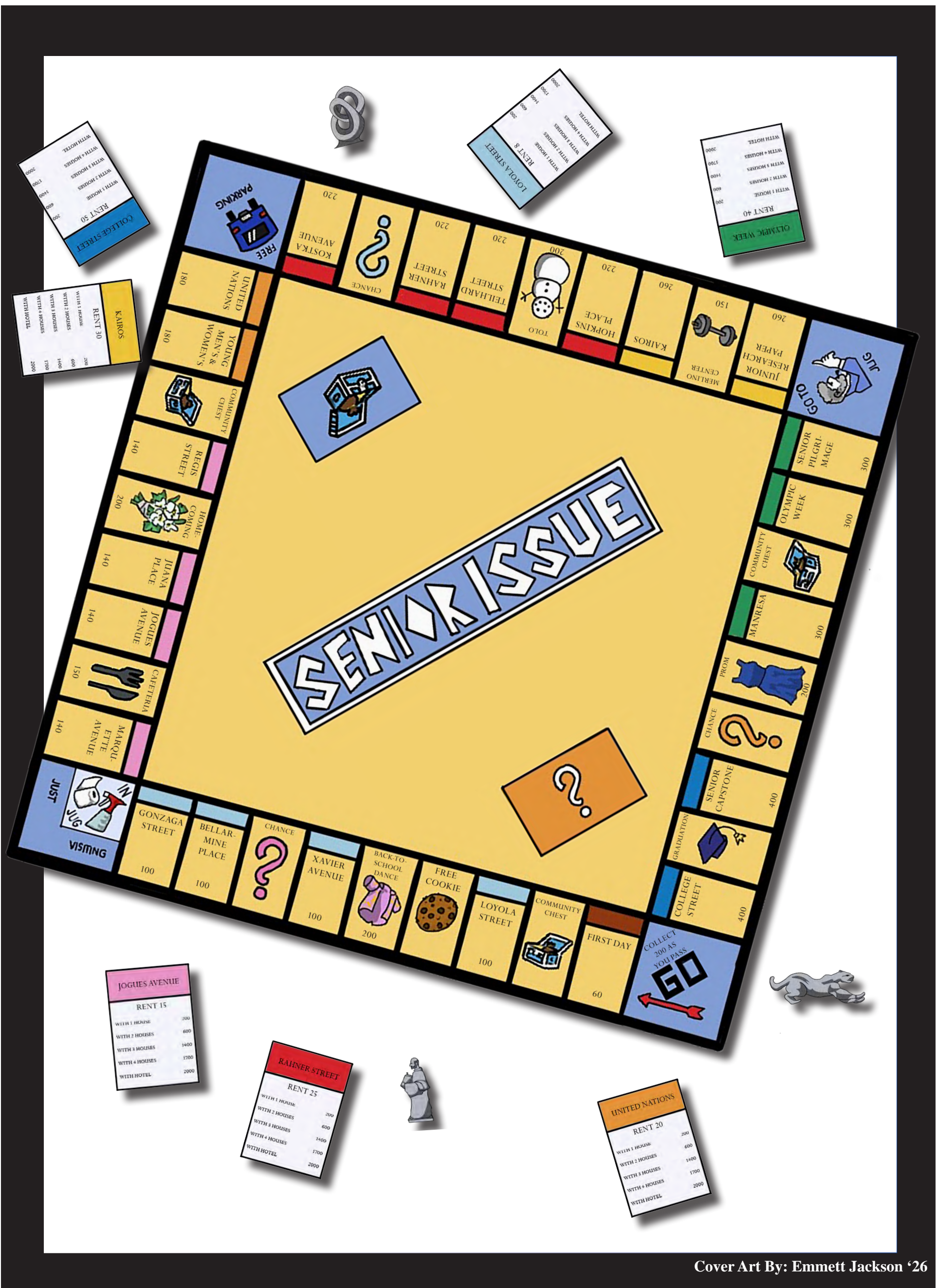
# The Seattle Prep Panther

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## Seattle Prep Senior to Study Space and Stars in Scotland

**CHLOE HORNER '26**  
Managing Editor

Senior Anne Herb is embarking on an exciting adventure this fall, trading the Seattle skyline for the historic charm of St. Andrews, Scotland. Herb has committed to studying astrophysics at the prestigious University of St. Andrews, a decision fueled by a desire for a unique academic experience.

Herb explained that even though she had never visited the U.K. before applying, she has always dreamt of international travel, "When I was eight, I asked my mom if I could move to Australia by myself."

Herb's application experience was extensive; she applied to 17 universities in the United States and six abroad. The application process for the U.K., Anne explained, was surprisingly streamlined through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). "It's one application for all five universities," she noted, "with one es-

say and your teacher recommendations sent centrally. It felt quicker than the Common App in some ways."

A recent visit to St. Andrews solidified her decision: "I did a tour... and then I did the administrative days on April 5th and committed that same day because I loved it."

The university's significant international student population, with 40% being from outside the U.K. and 20% being American, also contributed to her comfort and excitement.

The academic structure at St. Andrews offers a contrast to the typical U.S. university experience. As a four-year Scottish institution, it allows for greater flexibility in the first two years. Herb plans to pursue astrophysics alongside Spanish and potentially mathematics or computer science. St. Andrews students are not limited to the major they applied to. Like Herb, students can study two or three different

subjects simultaneously before declaring a major at the end of their second year.

While anticipating the logistical challenges of moving abroad – navigating plane and train travel, establishing a bank account, and obtaining a new SIM card – Herb is confident and ready for independence. She explained, "I think it'll be a great opportunity to be independent and learn how to function as an adult human being. I even have to file for my own visa."

This type of independent travel isn't new for Herb; last summer, she partook in a six-week service trip to Costa Rica through the Amigos organization.

More than the academic rigor or the stunning location of St. Andrews, Herb is most excited about the people she will meet there: "I love engaging with people and hearing stories and learning about different cultures," she shared. "I'm so excited to be in such a diverse place with people from all over the world."

## Senior Spotlight: Juan Sanchez Guerra

**GEORGIA LIMBAUGH '26**  
Visual Editor

**What activities are you involved in at Prep?**

Currently, I am involved with drama pretty heavily. I have been involved in all three major shows this year. I am involved in choir. I am the section leader. Previously I have been involved in mock trial.

**What activities are you involved in outside of Prep?**

Youth Symphony

**How was your experience joining Prep late?**

I thought that it was very seamless and very smooth. Everyone at Prep is very welcoming.

**How would you describe your time at Prep?**

It's been very enjoyable and very productive. I have gotten everything that I wanted to out of these last few years of high school. Academically, I got to take on a lot of challenges and there is a great community here.

**What advice would you give to underclassmen?**

Put yourself out there as much as possible. That is how you will achieve success.

**Do you know what college you will attend and/or what you are going to be majoring in?**

Next year I will be headed to Northwestern to study economics.

**Do you have a motto or idea that you live by?**

Always demand excellence from yourself.



## EDITORIAL POLICY

The Seattle Prep Panther is a forum for student work and the editorial board makes final decisions regarding publication. The editorial board's responsibility is not only to present one viewpoint, but to reveal multiple perspectives. The views represented in *the Panther* or in online publications do not necessarily represent the views of the entire staff, the school, or the administration as a whole.

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Letters may be sent to the email address or physical address above. All letters must be signed, names will be published.

Graphic: CHARLOTTE FLYNN '26

## Senior Celebrity Doppelgangers



**Nora Sawyer  
and Mischa  
Barton**



**Mario Gutierrez  
and Daniel  
Radcliffe**



**Riley Johnson and  
Chloë Grace  
Moretz**



**Alexander  
Brown and Bob  
Ross**

# The Voice for Everyone

## How Joe Maskill Plans to Transform Seattle Prep



AUDREY POPP ‘26  
Staff Writer

Equipped with a vision of inclusivity and a passion for meaningful change, junior Joe Maskill steps into his role as Seattle Prep’s new ASB President, ready to transform student life from parking garage pillars to campus culture. Maskill can be seen performing in theatre with recent lead role in “Hadestown” playing on soccer field, or in the classroom. Maskill has been on ASB before but approaches this new chapter of leadership leading by example with values of kindness and authenticity is ready to take on all new challenges and fight for issues that students and faculty face. Acknowledging the limitations of his position, Maskill approaches his presidency with both realism and determination

Maskill’s goal on ASB is not only to create change within Seattle Prep culture but to solve everyday issues students may face. When he was asked about the first change he wanted to make, he spoke about students who drive and face issues in the parking garage, particularly on the way to school. “I want to start by putting foam padding on the pillars in the garage, so people stop scraping their cars. I’ve had friends pay hundreds of dollars for repairs.”

Other than practical changes, he wants to make lasting impacts on ASB. “I want to integrate more of the student body into having a say in what ASB does. Everyone should feel seen and heard.”

He plans to do this by taking information from all groups, clubs, sports. He explains his time on and off ASB.

“I didn’t get elected sophomore year and that helped me see ASB from the outside. It gave me a new lens to understand what the students want...now I can represent everyone more fairly.”

Maskill spoke passionately about kindness and the importance of equal treatment. Reflecting on personal struggles that shaped his leadership perspective, Maskill opened up about a pivotal experience that transformed how he views acceptance at Seattle Prep. “My hardest challenge in high school was JV Basketball. I got picked on for doing theater and it crushed my confidence. I ended up lead in the musical and when they saw me succeed, he respected me I learned to be unapologetically myself-that what is want for everyone at Prep.”

This lesson taught him the importance of creating an environment where everyone can be themselves at Prep. Maskill is convinced that by leading with kindness and acceptance, he will not have to tell people what to do but they will follow.

When asked about the role of ASB he explained, “ASB is the middleman between students and faculty. We do have power—we can advocate for real change” he asserted, emphasizing the critical role student government plays in making Seattle Prep an inclusive and representative place.

# Lucky Number Five?

## New Collegio Planned for Freshmen Next Fall

DHANI WIDODO ‘27 & TUCKER PUNKE ‘27  
Staff Writers

Historically, Seattle Prep has held four Collegio classes at the 9th, 10th, and 11th grade levels in the Ignatius building. The classrooms, stacked orderly on top of one another, foster connections and a sense of community as Prep freshmen enter their first year in high school. Coming this fall of 2025, change is coming to the school’s Collegio format. A new fifth Collegio solely for freshmen will be introduced with the goal of reducing class size and enhancing student learning.

Mrs. Anne Kramer, Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning, has spearheaded the effort to improve the freshman Collegio experience. For the time being, the new Collegio will be held in room A423 in the Adelpia Memorial Hall, a multipurpose room that previously served as the weight room, The room also serves as a backup classroom in the event that a primary classroom becomes unavailable.

“The short-term plan is to renovate the old weight room on the 4th floor of Adelpia. We are going to be doing some work over the summer to get that up and running. However, we are uncertain if that’s where it will live forever” commented Kramer.

A longer-term option is to expand the Ignatius building to house a fifth Collegio, although the expansion would be difficult with the space restraints that come with an urban campus.

The current Ignatius format fosters community and a universal experience for freshmen, one which is easy to unite behind. However, with the new format, this same sense of community may be more difficult to capture. This is an issue that has been recognized by the current administration with the new room being separate from the Ignatius building: “I do think there’s a little bit of a community building issue with the new Collegio because a part of freshman class will be isolated from the others,” said Kramer. “So how do we create a sense of unity when there’s going to be a physical division? I don’t believe that it is going to be a huge issue, but we will respond to problems as they arise.”

Being a Collegio teacher is a huge role to take in teaching at Seattle Prep, from frequently grading essays to bringing a sense of community within the large classroom sizes. Another issue of concern is about which teachers can step up to take on these new positions available for the new Collegio. Kramer commented on her confidence with the Prep faculty, discussing how dynamic the faculty is. “There are teachers that do new things all the time and generally we can move teachers into those roles without hiring.”

Without a doubt, implementing an entirely new fifth Collegio will be a mammoth task. There will be teething issues and hiccups along the way. However, the new Collegio comes from a place of understanding that “new students coming into Seattle Prep come from a wide variety of backgrounds,” noted Kramer. They come from lots of different grade schools, and it takes a little bit of time for students to kind of get accustomed to Seattle Prep.”

A further idea of the new Collegio is to promote a “a smaller class environment, which will be helpful for freshmen as they’re adjusting and learning how to navigate the unique class of Collegio.”

With Seattle Prep being ready to welcome the new Collegio, the school hopes to carry out its goal by providing a welcoming environment for its new students through Collegio. Keeping these values in mind, the school and faculty want to make a fifth Collegio a permanent feature to the school. But the most important thing to note is that Kramer believes that Prep is blessed with many things. It is important to learn this summer to work together to make the most of the space available for the new Collegio room.

# Meet Two Freshmen: William Leith & Naomi Anderson

KYLIE BARCLAY ‘28 &  
ANJALI FEIDER ‘28  
Staff Writers

**What do you like to do for fun?**  
Hang out with friends and play video games.

**What kind of music do you like?**  
Most kinds, nothing specific

**What are 3 words to describe yourself?**  
Friendly, Nice, Ambiguous

**What’s your favorite food?**  
Burgers

**Do you have any pets?**  
A Labrador Retriever named Birdie

**What Collegio are you in?**  
Loyola

**Do you play any sports or games?**  
Lacrosse and mountain bike



**What is your Favorite class?**  
HEX (Health and Exercise)

**What made you choose Prep?**  
Many of my friends were going there and my sister goes there.

**What is one piece of advice you would give an incoming Freshman?**  
Be yourself

**What do you like to do for fun?**  
Soccer, Basketball, Hang out with friends

**What kind of music do you like?**  
Pop and Rap

**What are 3 words to describe yourself?**  
Genuine, Kind, Athletic

**What’s your favorite food?**  
Spaghetti

**Do you have any pets?**  
A Golden Doodle named Emma

**What Collegio are you in?**  
Bellarmine

**Do you play any sports or games?**  
Soccer and Basketball

**What is your Favorite class?**  
Visual Arts



**What made you choose Prep?**  
It’s a well-rounded school with great academics and sports

**What is one piece of advice you would give an incoming Freshman?**  
Have fun and don’t be afraid to try new things (like sports)



# THE CLASS OF 2025

**Katharine Abadir:** Still besties with Aiah and Jonah

**Ali Adams:** On a yoga retreat

**Chris Ahn:** Taking a nap

**Solar Anderson:** Stand-up comedian

**Hudson Atrosh:** Winning the Boston Marathon

**Bella Barros:** Running a software company

**Taryn Beck:** Making WIEIDs & Daily Vlogs for her 10M followers

**Fiona Bianchi:** Running her own car mechanic shop

**Mia Boltz:** On the US Women’s National Soccer Team

**Matty Bombino:** Videographer for the Seahawks

**Alex Booth:** Attorney General

**Ryder Brewer:** Using his AP Lit skills to write a novel

**Alex Brown:** Recieving an Oscar for best film production

**Viet Bui:** Taking advantage of the NYC lifestyle

**Ben Burman:** Watching reels on a chairlift

**Avell Burnett:** Owning 100 cats who roam around her NYC pent-house

**Lisette Burrows:** NFL reporter

**Dominic Cababa Wood:** Creator of the best Instagram account

**Elsa Castro:** Singing on The Voice

**Jo Chalmers:** Actively recruiting from the USC network

**Amanda Christian:** Eating sushi

**Jules Conklin:** Head of Admissions at USD

**Quentin Corr:** Winning e-sports international competitions

**Stephanie Courtright:** Living her absolute best life in Hawaii

**Regina De Villasante:** Doing research on the effects of singing on brain patients

**Matthew Decorte:** Still basking in the glory of his senior superlative

**Lanina deGuzman:** Teaching penmanship courses

**Yzie Del Rosario:** Rightfully never leaving NYC

**Reighn DeLora:** Featured on America’s Funniest Videos

**Asa Desai:** Swimming with marine animals in So-Cal

**Zane Desai:** Co-host on comedy show with Mario

**Michaela Dillon:** Still giggling

**Sofia Dominquez:** Starbucks

**Delaney Dorscht:** Still in Ms. Haywood’s office

**Evan Dubicki:** Pranking people at his job

**Fiona Dunn:** Exploring the national parks through van lifestyle

**Scarlett Ebel:** Children’s favorite pediatrican

**Shane Effgen:** Famous DJ

**Gigi Enell:** Managing a football team

**Julia Feraboli:** Switching places with Octavia

**Octavia Feraboli:** Switching places with Julia

**Charlie Fisk:** Food scientist

**Stella Flanagan:** Bossing people around

**Colin Foley:** Still being mysterious

**Joey Giuzio:** Surfing on the North Shore

**Lane Gooding:** Living a double life as an olympic swimmer and UN delegate

**Alec Greenwood:** On Wall Street

**Lissie Grinstein:** Still arguing with Hendy

**Emma Gunter:** UN delegate

**Mario Gutierrez:** Co-host on comedy show with Zane

**Reese Hansen:** Soccer mom getting in heated arguments with the refer-

ees at her kids’ games

**Zach Hansen:** Running for Congress

**Wyatt Hansot:** Verified Depop Seller

**Abby Harding:** Still smiling

**Donovan Hawkes:** Manager for NBA basketball team

**Wyatt Heily:** Making Krusteaz pancakes for his kids

**Clara Henzke:** Still singing to herself

**Anne Herb:** NASA engineer

**Sam Hession:** Living in Ireland

**Max Hill:** Still in Japan

**Grayson Hollingshead:** Living in Alaska fishing

**Cate Holzli:** Occupational therapist

**Beza Honelign:** Organzing the best flashmob

**Kimani Hopps:** Still befriending everyone

**Lauren Hupf:** Running a photography blog on the side

**George Hurley:** Wearing a red wig

**Sophia Im:** Still door dashing for almost every meal

**Aubrey Iverson:** Mogging the art world with her talent

**Rashad Jackson:** Panther Pride football defensive coordinator

**Dakota Jeffcoat:** Running his own clothing company

**Libby Jenness:** Starting a National Softball League

**Cai Johnson:** Gymshark brand ambassador

**Dean Johnson:** Hacky sacking

**Riley Johnson:** Running her own tutoring center

**Katherine Kaiser:** Playing wall ball in the Big Apple

**Peter Kenefick:** Telling dad jokes on the East Coast

**Jaimie Kim:** Drawing animations for Pixar

**Noah Kim:** Famous for America’s best laugh

**Beckham King:** Hitting his head on a doorframe

**Belle King:** Singing psychologist

**Kendyll King:** Playing on the Philippines National Women’s Soccer Team

**Blake Koehler:** Selling Bonsai trees in China

**Jack Kramer:** Boy scout troop scoutmaster

**Andrew Kruse:** Singing row row row your boat

**Will Kuder:** Front row Michigan fan at rival OSU football gam

**Jack Kurtz:** Olympic sprinter

**Sam Kurtz:** Coaching State winning Prep cross-country team

**Marcus Kwon:** At the Bellevue Club with Cass

**Ahna Lageson:** Taking the public health world by storm

**Lexie Lansing:** still getting the first spot on the hill

**Henry Laun:** English Professor

**Catlin Lee:** Coaching her daughters to the WNBA

**Mia Lee:** Founder of Soccer Across Borders

**Mackenzie Leith:** Charming everyone she meets

**Davis Limp:** Hosting in 10 years Reunion

**Max Lovejoy:** Sucessfully avoiding needing a perm

**Hope Luebbe Davidson:** Beefing with UCLA alumni over the #1 public school

**Freya Mackenzie:** Representing Trinidad & Tobago in the Olympics

**Sophia Magnano:** Completing an ironman followed by making home-made granola

**Ryan Mah:** featured at Seattle Art Museum for his drawings



IN TEN YEARS!

**Evelyn Maher:** Mock Trial x Social Justice Director at Prep

**Nikolas Margarones:** Going to every BC football game

**Lylah Masterson:** Nursing in Fort Worth, Texas

**Winston Mazure:** Backup dancer for Tate McRae/ Charli XCX

**Kylie McCants:** In a submarine defending the nation

**Silas McGee:** Star of Whiplash 3

**Delaney Meehan:** On her way to Dutch Bros

**Nat Menbere:** Coming back to Prep as an inspirational speaker

**Wes Merlino:** Skiing every major mountain in the US

**Abenezer Mesay:** Falling asleep at work, but talking his way out of any punishments

**Nirvaan Misra:** Yapping on his sports podcast

**Aiah Morris:** Destroying law school cold calls with political opinions

**Toto Mounir:** Making a new friend

**Noe Mullane:** Operating a farm in San Luis Obispo

**Elliot Muska:** Star PLL player

**Nico Nedialkov Sala:** Kalu part 2

**Sabina Nettles:** Training for the 2036 Olympics 200 meter dash

**Truman Neuburger:** Striking up hour long conversations

**Jimmy Nguyen:** Seahawks physical therapist

**Joseph Nguyen:** Still working on his capstone presentation

**Beau Oaksmith:** Coaching Prep football as Maul’s righthand man

**Abi Obras:** Creates an original fashion line called AbOb

**Sofia Olivar:** Running an award winning Etsy art shop

**Keira O’Neil:** Still the most kind-hearted person you’ve ever met

**Ben Oswald:** Still confusing people with his sarcastic jokes

**Kenny Ouedrago:** Starting his presidential campaign 7 years early

**EJ Ovena:** Still concussed

**Ryan Overa:** Romanian Deadlifting

**Ismael Paredes:** Always late, always forgiven

**Jasper Park:** Winning Nobel Peace Prize

**Jaxsen Pascual:** Hip-hop hype man

**Faith Paulson:** Acclaimed investment banker in Austin, Texas

**Jonah Paulus:** All-star on jeopardy

**Reese Pedersen:** Marking her last unvisited countries of her list

**Teddy Pehl:** At mass with the Pehls

**Mary Pelly:** Raising her family in the South

**Mario Perrina:** Under investigation by the SEC

**Will Pessner:** Esteemed member at Seattle Golf Club

**Jackson Peterson:** New York Red Bulls mascot

**Grace Pitzer:** Energy drink ambassador

**Cass Preston:** At the Bellevue Club with Marcus

**Tegan Rain:** Teaching on the beach in So-Cal

**Tessa Raymond:** Interior designing

**Grace Renners:** The next Catlin Clark

**Olivia Rodrigo Dermody:** Still getting confused with Olivia Rodrigo the singer

**Gio Rodriguez-De La Torre:** Making the layout plans to remodel Prep

**Aaron Roedel:** Viral on TikTok for his edits

**Xana Roper:** Still wearing headbands

**Zinnia Ryder:** Winning the World Equestrian Games

**Mary Beth Salentine:** Watching tangled

**Juan Sanchez Guerra:** Star lawyer on new season of Suits

**Nora Swayer:** Yoga mom

**Nick Schanno:** Is an astronaut

**Nadia Schimmelman:** Starbucks drink creator

**Lucia Schneider:** Braiding someone’s hair

**Sam Schoenfelder:** Running a podcast about the Mariners

**Ollie Sevilla:** Coaching all his kids sports teams

**Gianna Shaw:** On the Seattle Prep Board of Trustees

**Heavan Shibeshi:** Making everyone in the room laugh

**Ty Shimizu:** Doing the splits

**Owen Slane:** Star player on the Kraken

**Addison Smith:** Wearing camo

**Dillon Smith:** Sounders FC coach

**Gabi Smith:** Playing on the USA Olympic Volleyball Team

**Karina Smith:** Star dancer in PNW ballet

**Catie Smolinski:** Running her own dance studio

**Ella Spencer:** Going for sunrise swims in So-Cal

**Marianna Sprague:** Painting sunsets off the Oregon Coast

**Savvy Stack:** Coaching UVA rowing in pit vipers

**Sofia Staggs:** Finding the best thrifting finds in So-Cal

**Liliana Stella:** Exploring all of Washington’s parks

**Kelan Stewart:** Hitting coach for the Mariners

**Rhys Sukapanpotharam:** Finding a cure for cancer

**Will Surbeck:** Deep sea fishermen on deadliest catch

**Bear Swan:** Stunt devil for RedBull

**Helen Swanson:** Still the loudest in the room

**Violet Sylvia:** Still deciding a college

**Mia Szalay:** Partying with her grandma in Croatia

**Noah Tesfamichael:** Organizing the K68 10 year reunion

**Brady Tessin:** Sailing around the world

**Casey Thies:** Agent for the Mariners

**Arthur Titanov:** In Germany eating a bratwurst

**Lucia Trius:** Opening her therapeutic practice next to Stella’s office

**Stella Trius:** Opening her own dental practice next to Lucia’s office

**Nina Trujillo:** Hair influencer

**Tino Udall:** Operating a fancy car shop

**Nicky Vlasceanu:** The new Jacob Clifford

**Liam Wallace:** Traveling the world to watch birds

**Schuyler Walters:** Broadway stage designer

**Brooklyn Welch:** Dancing to music with wired headphones

**Mika Wellington:** Performing the National Anthem at the Super Bowl

**Zach Wilson:** Reading manga

**Mason Winegardner:** In a men’s fashion magazine

**Kirby Winfield:** Dominating a rec soccer league

**Joanna Wong:** Seattle’s #1 most sought-out nurse

**Bruk Worku:** In the court of appeals for the ninth circuit

**Sophia Yaguchi:** AP Studio Art teacher

**Faith Yeung:** Lululemon mom

**Will Zevenburgen:** Parking as far away as possible

# The Path Less Traveled

## Prep Student’s Unique College Majors

JACKSON DIERKS '28 & ANDRE MATHEW '27  
Staff Writers

Majors are the stepping stones to the future. For Prep students, the choices may seem daunting and limitless. While most gravitate towards mainstream majors, like engineering, business, and medicine, some Prep students decided to follow paths that are less travelled. Jack Kurtz, a future Informatics major at the University of Washington, told us about his experience in choosing his unique major. While he was initially drawn to computer science, the large competition dissuaded him from following it. Rather, he chose to pursue informatics, the study dealing with the creation of technology that stores and processes information. Kurtz described it as “similar to computer science, in the sense of working with computers and writing code, but it’s more human oriented, it deals with how humans make information and how we store that information to make it accessible to others.” Kurtz explained that “with a lot of the new tech that’s come onto the scene, like

AI, it’s been too easy for us to forget about the people that are making all this information. It’s important to have people who know what’s important in that field and can make tools and solutions to problems that involve people and computers.” Alex Brown, a senior planning to major in Film and Television production at Chapman University said “filmmaking has always been my main passion in life, and it felt like I would regret not following it. So, the decision to pursue my dream of being a filmmaker wasn’t hard just because I always knew I would do it.” He said, “working with other really creative and talented people is something I’ve been dreaming about for a really long time,” and having access to Chapman’s extensive resources and connections will enable him to work on more ambitious projects than he can do currently. Similar to Brown, Anne Herb, a senior who will study at the University of St. Andrews, has always felt drawn to a particular major. Herb said, “since I was 12 years old, I knew astrophysics was what I wanted to do. When I was a kid, I wanted to be an

astronaut, so I’ve always loved space. But I found out more about Astrophysics a lot through watching videos on YouTube and social media and learning more on my own time, cause that wasn’t really a topic that was explored in school at that point.” Astrophysics is a complex topic, but Herb helped put it simply, “we’re studying the universe galaxies, star clusters, like how everything functions. We’re also thinking about forces and gravitational pulls and all the physics terms that you would use; it’s all just in space.” Herb plans to become a researcher after college, but her major also allows her to follow several different careers like financing and computer science. Herb described the diverse options as “one of the big advantages of studying physics, yes, it’s a lot of time in school, but after I can go wherever I want to go and pursue whatever I want to do.” While deciding majors can be difficult, Herb advised Prep students to “pursue your passions” when making a decision.

## Senior Spotlight: Sofia Olivar

EVA BURROUGHS '27  
Freelance Writer



**What is your name?**  
Sofia Olivar — My family calls me Sofi and my friends call me Sof!  
  
**What is a Prep memory that has stuck out to you or impacted you the most?**  
I know it’s pretty cliché, but Kairos has been one of the most impactful experiences I’ve had at Prep.

**What has been your favorite or most valuable assignment or project during your time at Prep?**  
I loved doing UN — I thought it was super fun, even though it was hard. Also, my JRP was pretty cool in retrospect. I really enjoyed learning a lot about a history topic not many people know about and that I wouldn’t have studied if it wasn’t for the project.

**What was your favorite Collegio book, and why?**  
I really enjoyed “The Things They Carried” and “The Great Gatsby”. The writing style in both of those books were really different from each other, but the emotional, detailed language really stood out to me in both.

**What has been your favorite grade so far, and why?**  
Senior Year! Having the freedom to choose most of my classes has been awesome because I’m really invested in all of the classes I’m in. Also, almost being done with high school is super fulfilling.

**What extracurriculars/clubs have you been involved with throughout your time at Prep?**  
I’ve been a member of the Crew team for all four years. It’s been an integral part of my prep experience, and I’ve made some of my closest friends down at the boathouse.

**What advice do you have for students in younger grades?**  
Make the most of Prep — both academically and socially. Prep is a hard school, but after going here for four years I know that it’s worth it. Even in the subjects you might not be super attached to take the extra step to connect what you’re learning to something you are interested in. Also, there are a ton of ways to get involved in the school so take advantage of it!

**Do you have any plans for after graduation (college, jobs, traveling, etc.)?**  
Next year I’ll be going to Boston College, and I’m planning to major in Biology and possibly minor in Fine Arts. Over the summer I’ll be in Seattle coaching rowing for a middle school team and hanging out by the lake with my friends before I move out to the east coast.

# Looking Back and Moving Forward

LAUREN RANEY '26  
Staff Writer  
How will the Seattle Prep class of 2025 be intellectually competent, spiritually alive, open to growth, loving, and committed to justice in the next phase of their life? How has Prep allowed growth in these areas throughout their four years? Well, the annual senior capstone project addresses these important ideas.

As the final weeks of high school approach the senior class, a reflective and gratifying project that the seniors got to experience known as the “senior capstone,” highlights the experiences and growth that shaped this major chapter of their lives. The Senior Capstone presentations offered a time of reflection for the seniors as they explored their four years at Prep, both the good times but also the tough moments that pushed them to be the people they are today. Wednesday morning, April 30, from 7:45 to 9:15, each senior gave a pre-

sentation about their personal experience at Prep and what shaped it. Whether it be a club, a sports team, a class, or a retreat, each senior highlighted an experience at prep that drove them closer to embodying the pillars of the grad at grad. The presentations were further brought to life as a creative aspect, unique and special to each senior, was shared with the audience at the end. Sabina Nettles reflected on her experience with prep athletics, specifically, Seattle Prep Track and Field. “I found an even deeper sense of community and family on the track team that was really beneficial to me as I was trying to find my people”, Nettles explained, “I was exposed to so much love within the track community and it helped me understand how I too can spread love and continue to spread it throughout my life”. Nettles thinks the project is kind of like “a life story but about your four years at Prep,” and she’s grateful for this time to look back at everything that has

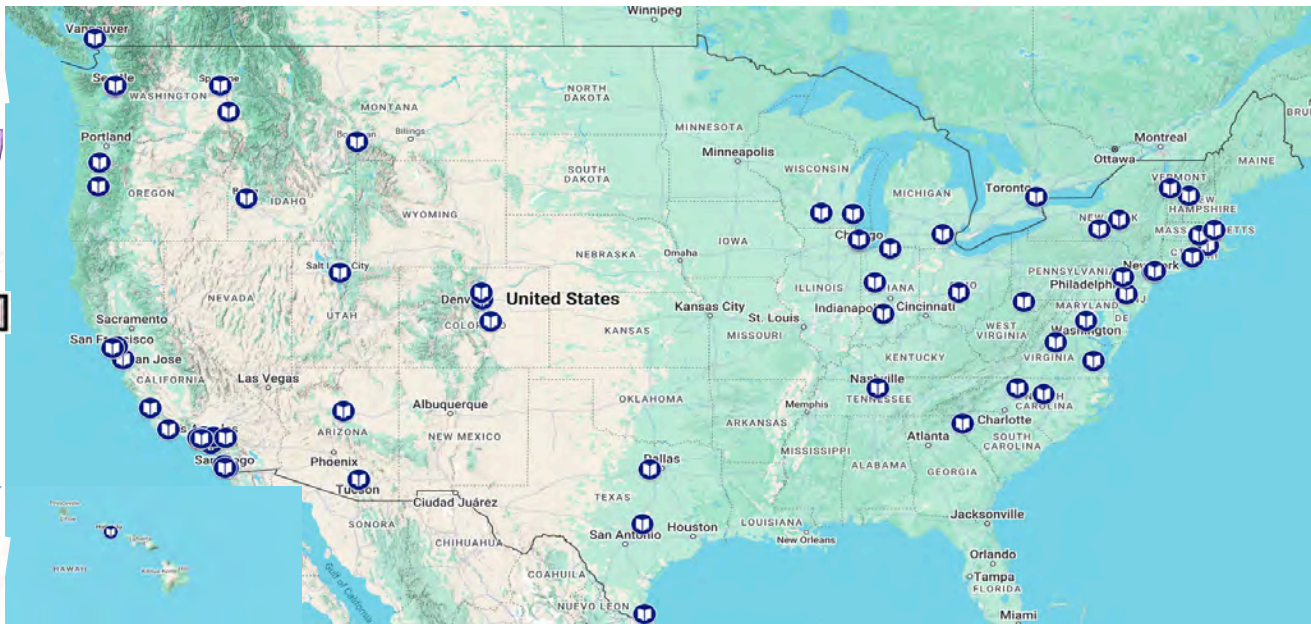
shaped her high school experience and got her to where she is now. With an audience of Juniors, soon to be seniors, Wednesday morning was not only a time to get to know the Class of 2025 on a deeper level, but also an inspiring and eye-opening experience for the juniors. Kayli Tran '26, explained, “With the knowledge and advice they shared, I felt like I could apply that to my life and keep in mind for my senior year.” There was a lot of understanding and resonance with the struggles, opinions, and growth of the seniors, and it was beneficial for the juniors to hear the senior perspectives. The recognition of growth and the lessons learned is important to carry into college and beyond. A lot happens in four years but it also goes by fast. That’s why the senior capstone is such a special project for the seniors to take a good look at their past as they prepare for their future.

# Opinion: Is the College Game Worth Playing?

BROOKE NOWAK '26  
Managing Editor  
Students across the world often compete in what is known as the “college game.” What is the college game, what are the rules, how do you win, and does it deserve the attention? The college game refers to the pursuit of attending prestigious schools by making strategic decisions regarding classes, academics, and extracurriculars. Students strive to portray themselves as the ideal student by excelling in rigorous classes and demonstrating positive contributions to the community. Though these goals can serve as a beneficial incentive to strive towards growth it can easily be misinterpreted and overwhelm students. The college game can often lead students to obsess over perfection and meeting colleges expectations. While students strive to build the most impressive resume, they risk missing out on exploring their genuine interests and passions. For example, stu-

dents may choose the more rigorous class rather than the class that suits their interests and is intellectually stimulating for them personally. *“While students strive to build the most impressive resume, they risk missing out on exploring their genuine interests and passions.”* The college process often pressures students to achieve perfect grades and misguides students into believing that failure is a negative thing. This can negatively impact students mental health and devalues the importance of progress over perfection. Overall, students begin to form tunnel vision on

becoming who colleges want them to be rather than what is fulfilling to them. The level of intensity that many students apply in their academics may often lead to burnout and lead them to lose sight of their genuine curiosity in the classroom. Self-discipline is only beneficial in moderation to keep students engaged in a healthy manner and allows them to have time for what fills them with joy. Though there are many concerns and flaws within the college game, it can be beneficial when played the right way. The college game should encourage students to explore various interests and push students to step outside their comfort zone. College applications should help gently remind students to try their best and strive towards growth. The college game is notorious for consuming students’ lives, however in moderation it can help shape teenagers into disciplined, involved, hardworking young adults.

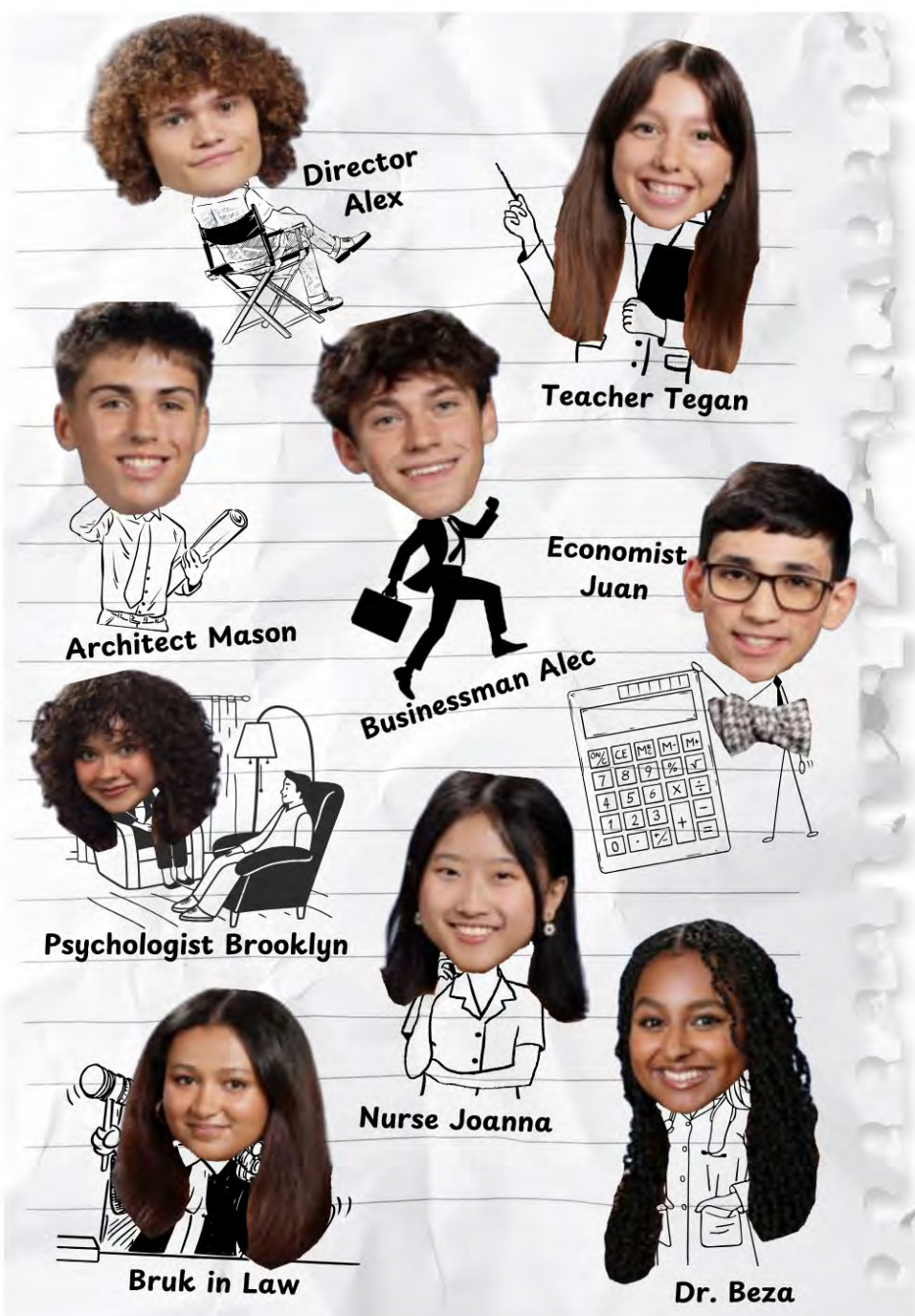
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 **Temple University**  
Japan Campus



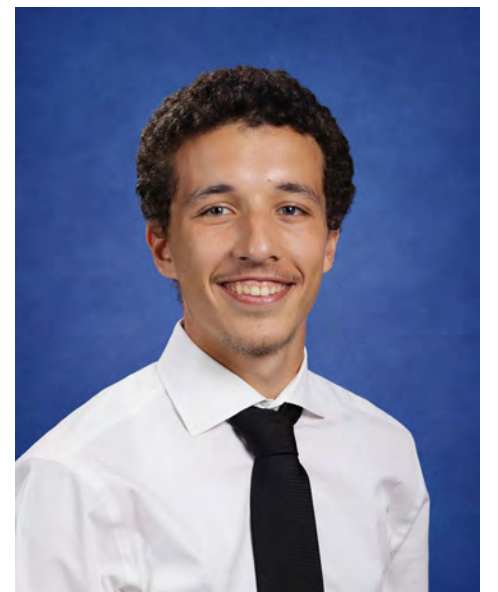
Graphic: PAIGE REMINGTON '27

## Senior Spotlight: Toto Mounir



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CLASS OF 2025!**

## SOCCER



# Crew Team Looks Forward to Nationals

AMELIE LAPORTE-MANAHAN '27  
Staff Writer

After a season of dedication and consistent hard work, the crew team has officially qualified for Nationals. Both men’s and women’s quad boats will be representing Prep at the upcoming regatta, a significant achievement for the program. With several standout rowers contributing to this success, the team is looking forward to competing at the highest level.

Two senior standouts on the women’s side shared their experiences as they look forward to nationals in May.

Asa Desai will be rowing at the University of Washington and Savvy Stack will be rowing at the University of Virginia. Stack first started rowing her freshman year at Prep. Stack spent 3 years rowing for Prep. She spoke about her overall experience with happiness, “Rowing at Prep was such a highlight for me...I have so much love for the community of rowers...it made my high school experience so much brighter”.

Stack continued on saying, I also am so proud of all the girls on the Seattle Prep rowing team”. For her senior year Stack made the choice to transition to Green Lake Crew and will be rowing in the USRowing 2025 Youth National Championships. The regatta will be held June 12-15, in Sarasota Florida.

Asa Desai has also been rowing for Prep since her freshman year. Similarly, Desai is also a part of a summer rowing program with Greenlake Crew with Stack. When Desai was asked about her experience rowing for Prep she reflected on it fondly, “-I have wanted to stick with it [crew] and continued rowing because of the people who I do it with”. She continued on saying, “I have met the most dedicated, funny, and caring people on this team”. Just like Stack, Desai spoke about the special “connections” and the amazing “community” that comes with being a part of the sport.

Asa and the Prep Crew Team have Desai to nationals before but this year they’re doing things differently. This year they will be participating in the SRAA National Championship Regatta, something completely new. This regatta is specifically for crew teams within schools which is different from past years. Previously, Prep’s crew team had been racing club teams.

Right now, the crew team is preparing for Nationals. They hold morning practices twice a week. They’re not just focused on the actual rowing but also their sleep and eating and hydration. According to Asa the intensity of practices has also been “ramping up and everyone is trying to do everything they can to be the fastest they can on the water”.

## The Seattle Prep Panther

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FAITH ADAMS '27  
Staff Writer

**What are your plans after graduation?**  
She is going to UW.

A lot of training for tryouts for crew. Spending a lot of time with friends to savor our last moments together. Traveling, I want to go on some trips

**Where do you see yourself in 5 to 10 years?**  
I either want to be in med school or living in California doing Marine Biology

## Senior Spotlight: Asa Desai

**What's a dream or goal you hope to accomplish?**  
Living on my own and living by the ocean!  
Just living life!

**What clubs, sports, or activities have you been involved in?**  
I've done rowing all four years, I did lacrosse freshmen year, but I don't count that. I've been involved in the music part of Prep in the coffee houses and jazz band and choir.

**What's your favorite high school memory or something about your school that you'll miss?**  
I'll definitely miss the LRC it was such a

big part of my experience. They do such a good job of making you feel welcomed and making sure you have all the resources you need. Just all the people that work there they are so sweet and welcoming

**What's one piece of advice you'd give to underclassmen?**  
Don't care about what other people think of you, cause if you do you won't be your unique self, and your friends won't be your real friends, and just try to be yourself and people like uniqueness so they'll gravitate to you!"

## New Era in Prep Athletics: Coach Ashley Hemmen Brings Passion and Purpose

PAIGE REMINGTON '27  
Staff Writer

As the Spring sports season is nearing an end, Seattle Prep welcomes a new head coach to the Girls Varsity Lacrosse program, Coach Ashley Hemmen. With a passion for coaching sports, to real-life lessons, and building strong communities, Coach Hemmen brings a wealth of experience, energy, and heart to the program.

Coach Hemmen’s journey into coaching began in 2009 unexpectedly after graduating from California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly). While she was coaching indoor soccer in her hometown, she found that she loved to coach. Leading her to find coaching for kid's lacrosse. “This decision not only shaped my career path but also strengthened lifelong friendships and opened new opportunities around the world.” Hemmen said. From California to Colorado to Seattle, her commitment to fostering resilience, teamwork, and community through the sport has never wavered.

The transition to Prep has been a natural fit. “Prep is a very welcoming, support-

ive community, and I am thankful as it feels like home, being similar to my own high school where I previously coached,” Hemmen shared. Balancing a full-time career alongside coaching is not an easy feat, but thanks to the support of the parents, assistant coaches, and athletic department Coach Hemmen and her team haven’t missed a beat.

Hemmen was most impressed by how Prep students were so independent and driven. She notes that today’s students show a remarkable level of qualities that have already shone on and off the field. Early in the season, after falling behind 0-3, the girls rallied to not just recover but win by nine points, exemplifying the grit and perseverance that Coach Hemmen values and loves.

Her ultimate goal is to help the team become state champions. “Winning a state championship is more than just skill. We are putting in the work – physically, mentally, and emotionally to get there.” She emphasized.

For Coach Hemmen, community is at the heart of everything she hopes to build during her time at Prep. Whether it’s supporting a teammate or showing good sportsmanship to an opponent, she believes strong communities create strong players. “Everyone is only separated by one or two degrees,” Hemmen said. Already, a tight-knit bond has formed between the team and traditions have been made. Including “words of focus” before each game which is a ritual that unifies and inspires each girl before they go out and play.



Photo: Courtesy of Seattle Prep Sports

With coach Hemmen leading the way, the Girls’ Varsity Lacrosse team is set for a season of hard work, connection, and success.

## Farewell, Dr. Luby: A Legacy to be Remembered

PEYTON LYSEN '26  
Staff Writer

After years of dedicated leadership, wisdom, and service, Principal Dr. Erin Luby is preparing to say goodbye to Seattle Prep, a place she has called home for much of her professional life. As she prepares for her next chapter, Luby reflected on the lasting impact she has made and the legacy she leaves behind.

Luby first chose to come to Prep because she was drawn here by its mission and community. “I was inspired by the Jesuit values that shape every aspect of life here — the emphasis on educating the whole person, fostering justice, and forming students to be men and women for others,” she shared. That mission, paired with the warmth and energy of the students and faculty, decided to join Prep an easy one.

Throughout her time at Prep, Luby has served not just as a principal but as a mentor, Spanish 1 teacher, and a source of

constant encouragement. When asked what the most impactful part of her time has been here, she didn’t hesitate: “The people. The relationships I’ve built with students, families, and colleagues have been deeply meaningful. Watching students grow and discover who they are, that’s the true heart of education.”

Luby has served in Jesuit education for many years, bringing her deep commitment and experience to every aspect of her work. Her time at Prep has been filled with meaningful “PEAK” moments like mornings where she gets to greet students as they walk onto campus, Kairos retreats, or dressing up for Halloween as an expo-marker.

As she looks ahead, Luby is excited to take on a new opportunity that continues her journey in educational leadership. While she is stepping away from Prep, she isn’t stepping away from her mission. “I’ll be moving into a new role where I can con-

tinue to support schools and help form leaders who believe in the same values we live by here.”

Luby’s presence at Prep will be missed, but the imprint she leaves — in the hearts of students, in the strength of the school’s mission, and in the everyday life of the community — will remain for years to come.

Her unwavering dedication has shaped not only academic programs but also the culture of care and reflection that defines Prep today. From quiet conversations in the halls to bold institutional decisions, Luby’s influence has touched every corner of the school.

From quiet conversations in the halls to bold institutional decisions, Luby’s influence has touched every corner of the school. Her legacy is one of integrity, humility, and a deep belief in the potential of every young person who walks through Prep’s doors.



Photo: TALISSA DEVERA  
Dr. Luby smiling on the plaza, enjoying her final days at Seattle Prep.

## Baccalaureate Mass Offers Sacred Sendoff Through Tradition and Reflection

KATE CANNON '26  
Online Editor

As the school year comes to an end, Seattle Prep honors its graduating seniors with the tradition of the Baccalaureate Mass. Held at the beautiful St. James Cathedral on Friday, May 23rd, this event is far more than a traditional all-school mass – it is a moment of reflection, gratitude, and hope that marks a sacred transition for the senior class.

Father Simon Zachary said, “Baccalaureate mass has the specific intention of celebrating the senior class as they are on the brink of graduation, celebrating the accomplishments of the past four years and

praying about the future and everyone’s next adventures.”

What makes Baccalaureate Mass unique is its deeply personal nature. Both a senior student and a faculty member have the opportunity to offer reflections capturing the spirit and growth of the graduating class.

The mass retains the same essential structure of a Catholic mass but also incorporates special elements unique to this milestone. One of which is the seniors’ procession and recession in and out of the church. Students actively participate as candle bearers, Eucharistic ministers, readers, and so much more as well.

There is also a specific blessing the

seniors receive, recognizing their transition and acknowledging this as a pivotal moment in their lives. It’s a communal act of support, sending them forth not only as graduates, but as young adults stepping into the next chapter of their journey guided by reflection and hope.

“Vatican II talks about the mass being the source and summit of our Catholic faith,” Zachary mentioned, “Seattle Prep being a Catholic Jesuit school, just recognizing the importance of mass particularly around such a milestone moment like graduation is essential. I think the thought is for everyone to come together to pause and pray in anticipation of the graduation itself.”

Baccalaureate Mass represents not just a pause in the busyness of senior years, but it also provides a sacred space to acknowledge where students have been, where they are now, and where they are going. It reminds the community that graduation is not only an academic achievement but also a spiritual threshold, one worthy of reflection and communal celebration.

The Baccalaureate Mass invites the entire Seattle Prep community to celebrate, reflect, and offer prayers for the future. It is one final moment of unity, gratitude, and blessing before the seniors walk across the graduation stage and into the next chapter of their lives.

## Farewell, Father Zachary: A Life of Faith and Service

MARGUERITE BINDEL '26  
Staff Writer

After two years of faithful service, Father Zachary, the beloved Jesuit priest at Seattle Prep, is preparing to depart his community he has called home. As he reflects on his time at Prep, he does so with a spirit of deep gratitude, humility, and hope for what lies ahead, both for himself and for the school.

From the start, Zachary was “missioned” to Prep by the Jesuits, drawn by his love of education and desire to serve in a high school setting. Zachary has become the heart of Prep liturgies, retreats, and in the day-to-day spiritual rhythm on the campus. What he’ll miss most? “The maturity of the students,” he said, “and the deep care that faculty and staff have for one another. It’s a place where people are really invested.”

During his time at Prep, Zachary has grown in flexibility, learning to adapt and meet the community where it is. A key part of that journey has been his involvement in Kairos retreats, five of them, to be exact. He described those experiences as transformative, moments where “students and faculty show up in a different headspace.” The beauty of vulnerability and reflection on Kairos remains one of his most cherished memories.

In both classrooms and hallways, Zachary has seen the heart of the Jesuit mission in action. “Ignatian Identity is strong here,” he said. “Students and teachers live it out daily, through reflection, connection, and their care for one another.” One of the most vivid expressions of Cura Personalis—care for the whole person—he has witnessed the simple yet profound act of people checking in on each other, offering prayerful intentions, and walking with one another through life’s joys and struggles.

Zachary has also grown deeper in his own vocation. He’s become more intentional in prayer, often keeping a list of people and situations to pray for. This quiet habit has helped him stay rooted in compassion and presence, even amid the busyness of school life.

When asked what makes Prep students unique, he smiled and mentioned Collegio. “Students here are able to connect ideas across subjects, finding threads that bring everything together. It’s intellectually exciting, and spiritually rich.”

He hopes students remember him not just as a priest, but as someone who was genuinely present, someone who cared. And he’ll carry memories of laughter and collaboration with faculty, moments that made even hard days feel light.

Zachary is now headed to Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix, Arizona,

his alma mater and former school where he once taught. “The sunshine will be nice,” he laughed, “but more than that, it feels like a full-circle moment.”

But he also reflected about his sadness leaving Prep, “It has been such a good time at Prep, and I am sad to leave this amazing community.”



Photo: TALISSA DEVERA  
Father Zachary’s farewell photo in front of the St. Ignatius statue, a joyful moment rooted in the spirit that continues to guide our community.

## Senioritis: The Final Boss of High School

PEYTON REMINGTON ‘26  
Staff Writer

As the countdown to graduation turns from weeks into days, spring sports wrap up, and the workload lightens, seniors may start to lose the momentum they had at the start of the year. This lack of motivation and habits of procrastination seniors experience towards the end of the year is known as “senioritis” and affects seniors across the country. The phenomenon of senioritis has become more popular with the widespread influence of social media. Yet, the question still stands, is this feeling damaging seniors as they finish their last semester of high school? Or is it offering a sense of peace after four years

of hard work?

Symptoms of senioritis include a drop in grades, leaving assignments unfinished, procrastination, and a loss of interest in studies. According to Education World, senioritis can be caused by different factors in a senior’s life, including detachment anxiety or the desire to start a new chapter of their lives that is just out of reach.

Many Prep seniors are currently facing senioritis as their last days of senior year approach. Lane Gooding ’25 commented that she sees her senioritis as beneficial to her life after experiencing lots of stress during her junior year and first semester of senior year. She shared, “After figuring out my college future, I felt a huge relief. I can

now enjoy school as a place to learn instead of trying to get the highest grades possible.”

Mr. Mitchell has witnessed his fair share of senioritis after teaching seniors for 24 years of his 27-year teaching career. He shared that the symptoms of senioritis become most apparent in students at the start of the second semester, with warmer weather being an aggravating factor in this equation. The final checkpoint of this disease is when college acceptances are sent out. Once seniors commit to college, the acceptance that they will soon start a new chapter of their lives hits and leaves them counting down the days until graduation.

Gooding can attest to this: “I first started seeing symptoms of senioritis when I committed to college because I thought I could relax, but I soon recognized I still had

to apply and get into college. I didn’t allow senioritis phase me into I got into my committed school, then I finally felt like I could lighten up and relax more.”

While senioritis may seem like a rite of passage for graduating seniors, it’s important to recognize the fine line between well-deserved rest and disengagement. Senior year is about balance: celebrating achievements, savoring final moments, and maintaining just enough focus to finish strong.

Whether senioritis is seen as a hurdle or a healing pause, it’s a reflection of the long, challenging journey students have taken and the exciting future that lies ahead.

## Cap, Gown and Courage

BEN OSWALD ‘25  
Online Editor



The best experiences and memories I’m leaving Seattle Prep with are things that were uncomfortable. Discomfort prompts growth. Reminiscing on my time at Prep—the highs and the lows—I can put my final wisdom only into a cringey line that we have all heard. That is, “you miss 100% of the shots that you don’t take.” Apply this anywhere and you will find success, I’m certain. For me, two of the most rewarding experiences I am leaving this school with are the German exchange trip and leading Kairos. During September ’23, I gained a closer relationship with my friends in German class. There was lots of anticipation of applying for the upcoming exchange that would take place that summer. I debated it for a while, pondering the pros and cons. I knew I would miss a chunk of my summer and also knew that it was a once in a lifetime opportunity. So, I decided to go for it. Best decision ever.

During the end of June, the best three weeks of my life occurred. First, I spent time in the hometown of Frau Khouri, Kiel, as well as Berlin, Munich, and even a small town in Austria. Kiel was the “exchange” part of the trip and majority of our days were spent in the quaint northern German town. We attended German school with our students, spent time at the festival happening called Kielerwoche, and got to master our speaking skills with the families. This was the best part overall. Not many words can sum up the experience.

Had it not been for a little bit of courage (and a lot of peer-pressuring) I would not be the same today. Not a day passes where I don’t reminisce about the

time abroad. So, when thinking of wisdom to share it is exactly that: have courage and be courageous. It sure is not too hard of a thing to say yes to a three-week Europe exchange, but it also isn’t easy. Living with a family whom I had never contacted was not necessarily comforting, but the courage I accumulated made it happen.

Secondly, during May ’24, I applied to lead Kairos. Best decision ever. For two months before K67 left, our group of nine leaders met for three hours every Tuesday. Without a doubt, these meetings were the highlight of my fall weeks. Entertainment, laughter, but also genuine vulnerability and growth all took place on the couches in Community Ministry. When it was finally time for the long-awaited four-day weekend, us leaders had become a tight-knit group of individuals ready to mentor amazing juniors whose perseverance is highly admirable.

K67 was so special for reasons I cannot disclose beyond the class of ‘26. It was a time for love, happiness, change, discomfort, and compassion. At the time of applying, I was not certain of if I wanted to or could do these things. Being a leader is getting a group of nine talking, talking about very difficult subjects—that is no easy task.

But I reminded myself that I miss any shot I don’t take. I took the shot, and now, looking back, I am just so glad I did. The specific things leaders do and say on

Kairos are courageous and often uncomfortable at first. The trick is to not let a little bit of discomfort stop you or cause fear. It means an even more positive result.

It’s not all rainbows, however. Sophomore year, I applied for the journalism editing staff, hoping to be selected as a Managing Editor. I was not. While it stung,

journalism has been such an amazing outlet for creativity and academia at Prep that I knew I wanted to try again the following year. Now, I am writing as the Online Editor of the program. Crazy how time changes.

As I grab my cap and gown and say goodbye to the teachers, staff, friends, and families that have changed me in so many ways, I am filled with utmost love. It is hard to give wisdom in only a few short paragraphs, but I hope that everyone does something they are uncomfortable with in the near future. Because the truth is—if we never leave our comfort zone we never grow.

## Learning to Love the Middle Miles

SOPHIA MAGNANO ‘25  
Editor in Chief



When I first walked through the doors of Prep, I wasn’t stepping outside my comfort zone. Sure, I only knew two or three people, but I assumed—like always—social situations would come naturally. I smiled, stayed in my lane, and waited for things to fall into place. But I learned quickly that comfort zones aren’t meant to be waited out. They’re meant to be stepped out of.

A few months into freshman year, I challenged myself to get involved for the first time, even when it felt easier to fade into the background. I often found myself being left out of post-dance festivities and group hangouts. It felt like I never got the memo.

I remember being one of three girls at Freshman homecoming pre-party who did not have a date. While trivial, it felt as if it only pushed me further to the outside. I was confused...in school I had friends, but it was almost as if they’d disappeared off the plaza.

It wasn’t until I made an effort in my relationships—asking others to hang out instead of waiting around, making plans, forging new friendships—that I finally felt at home at Prep. I’d quickly learned that stepping outside my comfort zone, while at first very awkward and daunting, paid off quickly.

Junior year brought another opportunity to choose discomfort. I turned down a spot on JV soccer—a sport I’d played for years and that defined many of my friendships—to try cross country. If someone had told my younger self that one day I’d voluntarily choose to race a 5k for fun—or even a half or full marathon—I would’ve laughed in their face.

But now? I love running so much that I have to stop myself from talking about

it. Cross country became more than a sport: it became my outlet. From the first practice, it became my “everything,” something soccer honestly never was, but something I’d tried to convince myself was.

Almost every Tuesday and Thursday for two seasons of cross-country, I was forced to conquer the infamous “Lower Woodland Hills.” Although I’d taken on these hills countless times prior through practices and previous races, each race or workout was a fresh experience, a chance to “embrace the discomfort.” Each time I ascended “Widow Maker”—the first hill—a teammate or coach was there, cheering me on. However, often somewhere on the next few hills, I found myself alone with my thoughts, a pounding heart, heavy legs, and an aching chest.

Somewhere along that trail and in those years, I became comfortable with discomfort—not just the physical kind, but the mental kind too. Running those hills taught me the importance of resilience...and that with the right mindset, I can push through any challenge.

Another important truism I realized is that crossing the line of comfort into discomfort didn’t always appear big and bold from the outside. Spending two weeks in Ecuador working in mobile health clinics, while an objectively incredible experience, felt natural. It was the seemingly less intimidating moments, the ones nobody sees, that truly challenged—and continue to challenge—me. Like learning to sit still with myself. Or remembering to enjoy the process, not just chase the result.

That’s the hardest part, really. I’ve always been so focused on the next thing—the next mile, the next issue, the next school—that I forget to be present. But what Prep has taught me is that growth happens in the now. It happens in the messy, middle moments that don’t make it into our resumes or on our social media platforms.

I won’t pretend I’ve mastered this. In fact, I wish I’d have figured it out way sooner. Because here I am—with one day left on campus—and I’m wondering how it all went by so fast. My fatal flaw, once again, got the better of me: I rushed toward the destination before even starting to appreciate the journey.

Still, if there’s one thing I’ve gained from these four years, it’s the gift of self-awareness. I know this will always be something I have to work on. But I also know I’m getting better day by day, mile by mile.

So, to the next generation of Prep students: Don’t wait for things to get comfortable Step outside your zone.

## Senior Thespians Final Monologue

CHARLOTTE FLYNN '26  
Visual Editor

Coming off a very successful run of “Hometown” and a Superior placement at State, the Seattle Prep Theater Department is elated. However, as seniors prepare to graduate, the program faces a huge loss of talent. Seniors Belle King and Abby Harding, who played leading ladies Eurydice and Persephone in “Hometown”, shared the difficulties of leaving the Prep Theater program.

Both King and Harding have been heavily involved in the Prep Theater program throughout their time at Prep. Although the two cherish their time on stage, they both cite the community as the reason the program is so impactful. King stated, “I first auditioned for Prep Theater because I love theater, but what really made me stay was the people, because I am pushed every day.”

Harding also spoke affectionately of the community, stating, “It was a place for me to feel safe and comfortable and to be able to hone my craft.”

King and Harding made a powerful impact on the Prep Theater program through their contributions on stage and as thespian troupe members. King, who is the president of Prep’s thespian troupe, has been in nine Prep shows throughout her four years. Of all her performances, King’s favorite is “Hometown”, as she “felt I was able to lean into the more dramatic side of my acting and was allowed opportunities for the performers to give a touching emotional performance.”

Harding also selected “Hometown” as her favorite show and attributes her decision to pursue theater in college to her time as Persephone. Harding said, “During the song ‘Chant,’ I realized that living someone else’s life and experiencing their worries had been life-changing for me, and I wanted to continue doing it.”

Harding is set to major in Psychology and minor in Theater at the University of Indiana next year. As for King, she still plans to keep theater in her life. King states, “Theater is really important to me and a serious passion of mine, and I definitely want to pursue it on the side—maybe minoring in theater or auditioning for shows on the



Photo: CHARLOTTE FLYNN  
Abby Harding '25, Belle King '25, Joe Maskill '26, and Henry Sly '26 pose outside the Healy Theater following one of their performances of “Hometown”

side.”  
As the two veteran thespians prepare to embark on a new journey, they reflect on their time in the Prep Theater program. Harding advised those interested in theater to “go for it. Do what you want, you are

only given one life, and it’s important to do the things that you love. It’s really important.”

## From Idea to Reality, Prep’s Newest Band is the Start of Something Special

BEN SCHWARZ '27  
Staff Writer

It all started with a thought. Dean Johnson '25 had no idea how to make music, but the thought of it was captivating. DJ Seed was not founded until he connected with Effgen, who shared this interest. Johnson said, “It was just putting an idea out into the universe and then Shane hears that idea, and he’s like ‘Yo Johnson, I actually do make music,’ and from there it just gets going.”

Even though the trio of Johnson, Shane Effgen '25, and Evan Dubicki '25 started out with rap beats, they quickly found that house-style beats would be the direction

they wanted to head. The three all had a passion for that genre, and after Effgen showed them his beat, it took off. That first song was so good that Dubicki thought it sounded like “Something that I would just hear on SoundCloud or Apple Music randomly scrolling. We all have a passion for house music because we love just bumping and making people laugh.”

Not everything was smooth, however. Due to all three having busy schedules, the time to meet wasn’t immediate. Effgen made and sent songs over to the others, but all three of them found it hard to coordinate the time for a studio session. Finally, they settled on a date, and Johnson was “able to bring Shane and Evan together. We were

all busy, but we ended up making a session happen and it was magical.”  
The band’s first album, titled “SHEFF’S HOUSE,” was released this past March, but the trio doesn’t plan for that to be their last. Johnson mentioned “it’s not just a gimmick, it’s actually a hobby that we’re enjoying and it’s fun just to make music. So, we even got more stuff coming on the way right now and hopefully we’re going to be pushing out some more tracks, but I don’t see why it couldn’t continue in the future.”  
Dubicki agrees stating, “it feels like a hobby that we kind of all discovered, and I find myself wanting to learn about music and making music because of this. So honestly, I think I might try and continue this

past graduation as well.”  
DJ Seed has grown in such a short time period. Dubicki, Effgen, and Johnson think that this is just the beginning. As Dubicki says, “Public attention is cool from it, and we like everybody talking about it. That just like adds to the fire.”

Listen to DJ SEED!

## The Jazz Band That Doesn’t Miss a Beat

STEPHEN KASSAB '26  
Staff Writer

The Seattle Prep Jazz Band is on a roll this year. After taking first place at the Bainbridge High School Jazz Festival, the ensemble shows no signs of slowing down. With their spring concert on May 4 in the Seattle Prep Theater, the band is ready to bring its signature energy and talent to the school community.

“There are no vocals—it’s all about the music,” explained Leo Jarjour '26, who plays piano in the band. Alongside him is Joe McDonald '26, a former guitarist who recently switched to bass. “I’ve only been playing bass for about four months,” McDonald said, “but because of my guitar experience, I picked it up pretty fast.”

For some, performing in front of a crowd can be nerve-wracking. But for Jarjour and McDonald, it’s nothing but excitement. “It’s definitely not stressful,” Jarjour said. “Playing music is just fun, especially when you’re doing it with your classmates.”

The band meets during the school day and performs three to four times a

year.  
While jazz can seem intimidating, both students emphasized that anyone with an interest in music should consider joining. “You don’t need to know anything about jazz to join,” McDonald said. “You just need to know how to play an instrument and be open to learning.”

Jarjour admitted he wasn’t always sold on the idea. “I was initially planning to transfer out,” he said. “But I decided to give it an honest try, and after the first couple of classes, I was really happy I stayed.”

One of the most exciting aspects of Jazz Band is that every student gets a chance to shine. “A cool part of Jazz Band is everyone gets to perform a solo,” McDonald said.

The man behind it all is Mr. Weeks, who became director of the Jazz Band two years ago. With two degrees in jazz, Weeks said he was thrilled when the opportunity arose to lead the group. “I love jazz music,” he said. “It’s also a great counterbalance to my choir life.”

Looking ahead, Weeks hopes to grow the program even further. “I want to expand the group and eventually make it a yearlong class,” he said. “If you join, you can expect

*“Playing music is just fun, especially when you’re doing it with your classmates”*  
-Leo Jarjour '26



Photo: Courtesy of Elliot Weeks  
The Seattle Prep Jazz Band performing at the Puget Sound Jazz Festival. The band won first place at the festival in their division.

to learn how to improvise, play the music in an authentic way, and explore jazz history.”  
With a talented roster, an inspiring teacher, and a shared passion for music, the Seattle Prep Jazz Band is hitting all the right notes. Their upcoming spring concert promises not only great music but a showcase of dedication and creativity.

# Book Recommendations

ANNABELLE BOWMAN ‘27  
Staff Writer

We asked an array of Seattle Prep students and teachers for their favorite reads. From fiction to graphic novels, find a good book to pick up and wind down with during the stress of finals and APs.

### Fiction

Ms. Borgen (Library) recommends *Bad Cree* by Jessica Johns – A young Cree woman confronts supernatural forces and her family’s trauma after receiving strange dreams from her deceased sister. Ms. O’Neil (Counseling) recommends *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods – A heartwarming and whimsical novel about a woman who finds a magical bookshop with the power to change her life.

### Drama / Literary Fiction

Ms. Slevin (English) recommends *Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry – This Pulitzer Prize-winning epic follows two retired Texas Rangers on a dangerous cattle drive across the American West, where they face challenges and forge deep friendships. Mr. Eagan (Math) recommends *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles – Set in post-revolutionary Russia, this novel follows Count Alexander Rostov, who is sentenced to house arrest in a grand hotel, navigating a changing world while maintaining his dignity.

### Historical Fiction

Ms. Lovejoy (Library) recommends *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman – In a small town dominated by hockey, a tragic event shakes the community, forcing them to confront deep-rooted issues of loyalty, justice, and family. Ms. McNeil (Theology) recommends *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon – A gripping historical fiction set in the 1950s, following the life of a woman navigating her past while unraveling dark secrets tied to a river crossing. Ms. Newman (Science) recommends *The Women* by Hannah Kristin- The book follows Frances “Frankie” McGrath, a young nurse who serves during the American conflict in Vietnam in the late 1960s. Raised in privilege, 20-year-old Frankie is eager to find purpose and quickly grows from a naive woman to a skilled Operating Room nurse.

### Thriller / Mystery

Ms. Slack (History) recommends *The Housemaid* by Freida McFadden – A psychological thriller about a troubled woman who becomes entangled in a dangerous relationship with the wealthy family she works for, uncovering dark secrets. Ms. Petty & Ms. Dold (Arts) recommend *In the Woods* by Tana French – A gripping mystery set in the Irish woods, where detective Rob Ryan must confront his past while investigating a murder that echoes his childhood.

### Science Fiction

Mr. Guy (History) recommends *Dune Messiah* by Frank Herbert – The second installment of the Dune series follows Paul Atreides as he faces the consequences of his rule over Arrakis and the power struggles that threaten his empire.

### Horror

Mr. Meyer (English) recommends *It* by Stephen King – A classic horror novel about a group of childhood friends who must return to their hometown to confront the terrifying, shape-shifting entity that once terrorized them.

### Dystopian

Ms. Haywood (Office of Student Life) recommends *The New Hunger Games Sunrise on the Reaping* by Suzanne Collins - a story about Haymitch Abernathy, a young man who is reaped into the Hunger Games and grapples with the devastating impact of survival on his soul, as he navigates the challenges of love and loss in a world dominated by the Capitol’s power.

### Romance

Annabelle Bowman (Student) recommends *Tell Me Three Things* by Julie Buxbaum- a sweet and emotional YA romance about a girl grieving her mother’s death who finds comfort—and unexpected love—through anonymous emails from a mysterious classmate.

### Sports

Mr. Eagan (Math) recommends *Touch ‘em All: Short Stories and Observations from America and its Pastime* by Travis Parker Smith – A collection of short stories and reflections on baseball, capturing the spirit of America’s pastime through personal anecdotes and insightful observations.

### Graphic Novel

Ms. Fields (Attendance Office) recommends *The Best We Could Do* by Thi Bui – A poignant graphic memoir that tells the story of the author’s family’s escape from Vietnam and the immigrant experience across generations.

# Summer Concerts

EMILINE BELIARD ‘26  
Online Editor



# Senior Spotlight: Sam Kurtz

GEORGIA LIMBAUGH ‘26  
Visual Editor

**What activities are you involved in at Prep?**  
Cross Country, Track and Field, Choir, Mock Trial

**What activities are you involved in outside of Prep?**  
Golf, hiking, swimming, just trying to spend as much time outdoors as I can. None of these are for clubs, just things I enjoy doing with friends or family.

**How would you describe your time at Prep?**  
Started out with a lot of uncertainty, but once I found the right people and some passions to chase, it became an incredible period of growth and self-discovery. I feel so lucky and blessed that I got the opportunity to be a part of so many different and amazing communities throughout my time at Prep!

**What advice would you give to underclassmen?**  
Very cliché, but find something you love doing outside of school or people you enjoy being around, and don’t be afraid to try new things or meet new people. Once you find these things, don’t hold back in giving them your all. Commitment to these things or people is what brings the most joy throughout high school and hopefully long after. Sign up for as many retreats as you can, both as a participant and as a leader.



**Do you know what college you will attend and/or what you are going to be majoring in?.**  
Majoring in history and hoping to get a law degree. Going to attend either UW or Gonzaga

**Do you have a motto or idea that you live by?**

**“Shoot for the stars, land on a cloud.”**

# From Oars to Oils: Capturing Seattle’s Water Ways in Paint

**KATELYN FREDETTE '27**  
Staff Writer

Sofia Olivar-Jimenez is a captain on the crew team and is involved with the Seattle Prep Choir. She is also a senior in the Art class. AP art is a yearlong course, and at the end of the year each student submits a portfolio of work for AP studio art credit. Olivar won a Regional Honorable Mention from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for her “Eastlake as I Remember It” painting.

“My AP portfolio includes a ton of paintings focused on water and reflection. I used large scale painting to really try to immerse the viewer into my art, and help capture my daily experiences on the water.” Olivar said, “My investigation explores how I can convey the personal significance of different Seattle waterways.”

In “Eastlake as I Remember It”, Olivar depicted the east shore of Lake Union in Seattle, Washington. The point of view in the painting was inspired by the view that someone might have from a rowing shell in the middle of the lake.

““Eastlake as I Remember It” is about how when I leave Seattle, the place that I’ll remember most from rowing is looking over towards the College Club. The shore of Eastlake fades into red by south lake union — where I think I’ll have a less clear memory of the lake.”

Her next painting featured here; “Red Can” depicts the Pocock turn of the I-5 overpass based on a picture she took from a launch boat. One of the things she wanted to feature in this painting is the light that comes from the houseboats on the shore. Olivar also experimented with capturing sunset in a unique way by “leaving a bright underpainting exposed to create light within the painting.” Said Olivar.

In her painting “The Cut”, Olivar used a massive, raw piece of canvas to de-



pict the Montlake Cut. The Montlake Cut is a place she loves not only from rowing, but also from walking her dog Pepa there. She figured out how she wanted to capture the ripples of the water from six smaller paintings she had made to experiment with different ways of depicting it.

Olivar’s final painting featured

here is called “Race Day”. This piece is made from three different canvases that all come together to depict a cropped version of a quad on Lake Union. She used the mark making technique, the process of creating different kinds of marks on a surface using different material and tools.

“I wanted to really make the reflec-



Artwork/Photo: SOFIA OLIVAR-JIMENEZ

tions of the rowers convey the excitement and anticipation of Raceday by bringing in more pastel colors to make the water seem like it’s glowing with energy.” Olivar said.

Olivar’s amazing work gives viewers a look into her personal perspective of some of Seattle’s most memorable waterways as both an artist and a rower.

## Senior Spotlight Emma Gunter

**EVA BURROUGHS '28**  
Freelance Writer

**What is a Prep Memory that has stuck out to you or impacted you the most?**  
A Prep memory that has stuck out to me is leading Kairos on K68! It was the most amazing, special experience and I am so grateful for the opportunity.

**What has been your favorite or most valuable assignment/project during your time at Prep?**  
I think that the most valuable project during my time at Prep was UN because I learned that I am very interested in politics and government, leading me to want to major in Political Science.

**What was your favorite Collegio book, and why?**  
My favorite Collegio book was “The Things They Carried” because it was very interesting and impactful.



**What has been your favorite grade so far, and why?**  
My favorite grade has been senior year because of how special this last year is for my class and all the experiences I have had.

**What extracurriculars/clubs have you been involved with throughout your time at Prep?**  
I have been involved with rowing, NHS peer tutoring, choir, peer mentoring, leading Freshmen retreat, and leading Kairos.

**What advice do you have for students in younger grades?**  
My advice for students in lower grades is to reach out for help when you need it because the teachers here really are here to support you and want you to succeed.

**Do you have any plans for after graduation (college, jobs, traveling, etc.)?**  
I plan on attending Santa Clara University to continue my academic and rowing career.

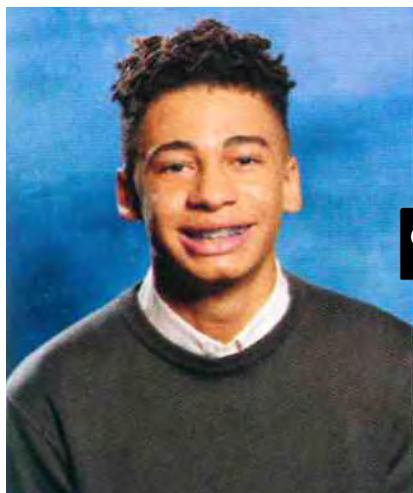
## CLASS OF 2025 PLAYLIST

	<b>Nokia</b> Drake & PND		<b>Fortnight</b> Taylor Swift
	<b>360</b> Charli XCX		<b>Driver's License</b> Olivia Rodrigo
	<b>Not Like Us</b> Kendrick Lamar		<b>FE!N</b> Travis Scott
	<b>That's So True</b> Gracie Abrams		<b>WUSYANAME</b> Tyler, the Creator

## Then vs. Now: Class of '25



Solar Anderson



Quentin Corr



Wyatt Heily



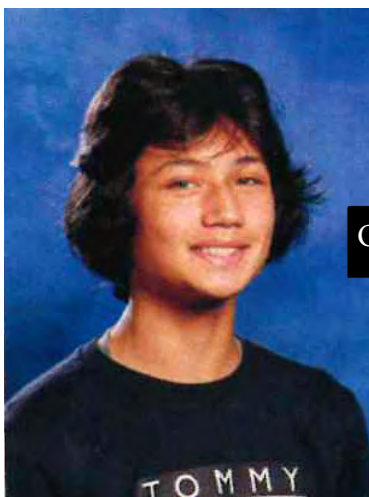
Fiona Bianchi



Sabina Nettles



Sam Kurtz



Oliver Sevilla



Ella Spencer



Sofia Staggs



Bear Swan

