

Canticle

Vol. XXIV No. 2

Saint David's School

Spring 2025

Tim Tebow Comes to Dinner

By Cruz Burton '26

Two-time national champion. The 2023 College Football Hall of Fame inductee. Heisman Trophy winner. First-round NFL draft pick in 2010, and a former pro baseball player.

Tim Tebow's many accolades made him a star attraction at Saint David's annual Seventh Grade Father and Son Dinner and Book Talk on February 27. Nearly every seventh grade student and their father or special guest attended the much-anticipated event held at Hyman Hall.

"It is a privilege to welcome a renowned individual such as Tim Tebow to share his experiences with our boys," said Mr. J.P. Hormillosa, Director of Development and Alumni Relations. "Mr. Tebow exemplifies many of the values we aspire for our boys, and we are grateful for all of those who made his visit possible."

In his remarks, Mr. Tebow talked about faith, how individuals' unique personalities were created by God, and about the Tim Tebow Foundation (TTF). Mr. Tebow and his team work to provide physical and spiritual care to children who have been left homeless or abandoned as well as, offering resources to create strong families as well as adoption assistance.

Student Mac Wood asked Mr. Tebow what was the most impactful thing he learned from his dad, who he said was his role model. Mr. Tebow shared a story of how his father once helped rescue four girls who were victims of human trafficking. That showed him how important it is to help others. At the end of the evening, all boys



Football star Tim Tebow was the much-anticipated guest speaker at the Father and Son Dinner in February.,



received an autographed football and a copy of Mr. Tebow's book, *Mission Possible*. Andrew Oneglia said he was "thoroughly excited to have had such a great experience meeting one of the greatest college athletes in recent history."

News

Parents: The Backbone of Our School

By Kieran O'Connor '25

Every day when you were little, and maybe even now, your parents would drop you off at the door. You would shake Dr. O'Halloran's hand and go inside, not worrying about where your parents went after dropping you off. However, while parents might leave you there, their help in our school does not end at drop-off.

All throughout Saint David's (SDS), parents help make our school the wonderful, well-oiled machine it is today. Most of the parent-involved activities are because of the Parent's Association, or the PA for short. This association organizes all kinds of events to aid in maximizing parent participation.



"When parents feel connected and vested in the school community, they want their family to remain a part of that community and they want to give of their time and talents, which in turn strengthens the school itself. It is a true partnership," said Ms. Christine Diaz, president of the PA.

The biggest event that the PA helps run is the PA Benefit. Every year, Saint David's sponsors a benefit and all the parents of the school are invited. At this event, each grade has a designated bidder, who will bid on certain things that are put up for auction by the school such as a trip to NASDAQ or an evening with the coaches with food and sports galore. This wonderful event happens all in part to the PA, who organizes everything just so SDS parents will have the time of their lives.

During a student's eighth grade year at SDS, they begin a course of Art History. The biggest project a student undertakes during this course is a project called the Nightingale-Bamford Series (NBS).

*Teacher Appreciation Week volunteers
Kim Klimczak, Christina Frank Caspersen,
and Kristina Tully*

Continued on the next page.

What's Your Favorite Lunch?

By Charlie Malinow '27

Lunch. What's not to love about it? The popular meal helps Saint David's get through the day while boys take a break with classmates and faculty. Best, there is always a big variety of food to choose from. Depending on the day, students can savor homemade soup, enjoy fresh salads, or dig into sandwiches, beef stew, chicken dishes—even lo mein!

With so many dining options, one wonders: what's the best lunch?

To find out, *The Canticle* polled Upper School students. Pasta and grilled cheese tied for first. Second place was a five-way tie between tacos, BBQ chicken, pizza, chicken-and-rice, and "breakfast for lunch." Sloppy Joe's and baked ziti tied for third.

Meanwhile, Saint David's talented catering team has their preferences. Alex Castilla said his "favorite food to make and eat is pizza." His colleagues in dining services agreed.

In other words, stick-to-your-ribs comfort food, in whatever form, is always popular. *Bon appetit!*

Parents: Backbone of SDS

This project entails an in-depth analysis of a painting of your choosing and making a slideshow presentation to your class. If your presentation is selected to be in the finals, you present your analysis to the seventh grade at SDS, the 8th grade population of Nightingale Bamford School, and to a panel of judges filled with alumni, teachers and finally, parents. These parents had children who had already graduated from SDS and who still have kids in the lower school. Just to name a few, Mr. Frankie Campione, Principal at CREATE Architecture, Ms. Lauren Burke, Trustee

"I was truly honored and humbled to be invited to serve as a judge for this year's NBS Lecture Competition. I also had the privilege of judging last year's Arco Project," said Mr. Seamus Fairtlough, President of Fairtlough Millwork and also a judge of NBS this year, "As a proud parent of a current Saint David's boy (Dylan, 5th grade), the invitation felt especially meaningful."

Parent involvement on the NBS panel of judges during the final competition is rewarding for everyone involved," said Ms. Catherine Milligan, 8th grade Art History and seventh grade English teacher. "The parents bring expertise from their respective careers, making for great conversations about art. They are also excited to see the level of analysis Saint David's boys achieve in this project. The discussions are fascinating for all of us."

Although most parent participation runs through the PA, sometimes parents take it upon themselves to be involved. At a recent Saint David's Mass, the Chamber Singers, as usual, stepped up to the altar to sing. However, this time was unlike all the others. Some parents, who were in the back of the church, came up to the altar as well, along with a couple of teachers. This incredible showing of parents and teachers just shows what the community can do when they work together.

"Standing with my son and his peers, singing in front of 200 members of our community," said Mr. Stuart Oravetz, father of Sam (5th) and Jojo (1st). "I was reminded I wasn't just a parent, but a part of something bigger."



Ann Raimondi and Nadia Arumugam with student helpers during the Halloween Candy Drive

"When parents feel connected and vested in the school community . . . they want to give of their time and talents, which in turn strengthens the school itself. It is a true partnership."

—Ms. Christine Diaz, president of the Saint David's Parent's Association.



Beyond the Page !

Listen in as podcast hosts Alex Bettwy '25 and Kieran O'Connor '25 sit down to interview Latin Legend and teacher Dr. Peter King.

Workshops Focus on Values

By Tyler Williams '27

This school's motto is “That They Be Good Men,” which corresponds to academic abilities, like studying Math, English, Science, and Foreign Languages, or emotional capabilities.

That’s where Jason Craige Harris comes in.

His eponymous Jason Craige Harris Workshops are one of many Saint David’s activities that support students to develop personal values, empathy, social awareness, and communication and interpersonal skills, all of which are critical to emotional maturity.

Mr. Harris was impressed by Saint David’s focus on raising boys to become good men and helping them to respect differences.

His work includes serving as a Managing Partner at the Perception Institute, a consulting firm working at the intersection of leadership, strategy, culture, and the resolution of crises and conflicts. These may sound like heady issues, but Mr. Harris said he first confronted them as a young man who was often bullied or excluded.

“I told myself that I would not always feel this way,” he said, “and I told myself that I wanted to do something in the future to change things for others who might feel the way I felt.”

Mr. Harris is the author of *The Paradox of Isolation* and *Black or Bruised*. He is also the Social Impact Producer for a new documentary, *Race to Be Human*, a film about how to talk about race and mental health. But he especially values working directly with students across New York City. He has held workshops at Saint David’s since 2024.

We reached out to him because we felt like he was a good fit, and we think that teachers should learn and grow just as much as students,” said Coach Pedro Morales, Co-director of Community and Inclusion.

In turn, Mr. Harris was impressed by Saint David’s focus on raising boys to become good men and helping them respect differences. He states that this value is essential for making the world a better place.

Mr. Harris ensures that his message resonates with everyone. To

accomplish this, he discusses real-life situations that can occur to anyone, such as getting into arguments, being bullied, witnessing bullying, and finding ways to stop it.

His realistic approach appeals to students. “I like how he talked about inclusion and how to be a good person. I also liked how he showed pictures and examples instead of doing a regular lecture,” said Liam Smith '26.

Mr. Michael Nelson, a floating teacher at Saint David’s, met Mr. Harris in 2009 and has come to know him personally. “I knew him to be someone who was always motivating and helping young people—but young men in particular—to understand one another, communicate well, and make better decisions,” he said.



Student Leadership Club

By Freddy Carlson '26 and Soren Klimczak '26

Saint David's students often give back to the community. Now, they have more opportunities to help, thanks to the Student Leadership Club, which launched this winter.

It was founded by Athletics Director Mr. Pedro Morales as a way to "teach students what it means to be a strong leader and how this can help students prepare for what lies ahead." Mr. Morales also teaches Sophrosyne.

The club is open to boys in the seventh and eighth grades, but "it will be expanded in the future," Mr. Morales said.

The club's 22 members began meeting in January to plan a series of fundraisers and other outreach activities. Their first event was a seventh and eighth-grade basketball knockout game, which took place at the end of January. Thanks to widespread student support, the inaugural tournament raised funds to support victims of the Los Angeles wildfires. All of the donated money went to the charity Red Cross.

"It was a success; everyone participated and had a good time," said Mr. Morales. "Boys understood why we were doing it, and people were having fun because they knew it's always good to do something for the good." He praised students for their work. "They organized it themselves, and made the teams themselves, and the boys who were involved showed a lot of leadership."

Its early success, plus growing interest in future fundraisers, means Student Leadership Club will hopefully support future charities and enable Saint David's students to continue helping others.

Return of Madame Rappaport

By Jack Janus '25

It wasn't *au revoir* but *à bientôt* for Madame Gisele Rappaport, who retired from Saint David's after teaching French for 24 years, but returned to Saint David's. She is filling in for Madame Audrey Calandra, who is on maternity leave, teaching French and fifth grade Latin.

"I'm happy to be back! I love to teach!" she said. "I tried to find activities, but I found that I didn't want to retire."

In fact, Madame Rappaport never really left Saint David's. Since retiring in 2022, she has volunteered in the Ferragamo Family Library to "make the transition between a full time active life to a retirement life easier."

Her colleagues are thrilled to welcome her back in the classroom. "It's wonderful to have Madame Rappaport back," said Dr. Victoria Gilbert, Chair of Modern Languages. "Her energy and enthusiasm for all things French are appreciated by her students," Dr. Gilbert added.

Titus Landegger, a seventh grade student who has studied French for two years, called Madame Rappaport "strict, but funny at times. She likes us to stay on task. It helps that she's French because she reminds us how important it is to pronounce things correctly."



All smiles as Madame Rappaport returns to Saint David's

Price Gym Gets a New Mural

By Liam Smith '26

Saint David's recently added a spectacular new sports mural in the Price Gym. It was painted by art teachers, Mr. Bernard Adnet and Ms. Jenna Boccella, thanks to a generous donation from the Class of 2024. It has been a long tradition for Saint David's eighth grade families to donate a gift to the school before eighth grade students graduate.

The mural includes names of every member from the Class of 2024 and figures of boys playing all the sports that Saint David's offers: baseball, track, basketball, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, and football. Spanning the entire back wall of Price Gym, the dynamic mural is easily visible to players, fans, and rival sports teams who play against Saint David's teams.



Saint David's students and the new mural painted by teachers Mr. Bernard Adnet and Ms. Jenna Boccella

Ms. Boccella and Mr. Adnet spent two months last summer to design, build, and create the eight-by-four foot mural. They constructed nine panels out of wood on which the mural is painted. There were other hurdles, such as working without the benefit of natural sunlight and using large mops, rather than paint brushes, to paint the mural's red background. The two talented art teachers also had to ensure that the boys' faces are recognizable and expressive enough to depict "how Saint David's boys play with their hearts," said Mr. Adnet.

Headmaster Dr. David O'Halloran suggested the idea for the mural, which has been an instant hit.

"I really like how they use really bright colors. I also like how the players are moving," said second

grade student Nolan Smith. "It looks like people chasing each other but playing a different sport." Ms. Catherine Milligan agrees, saying the "dynamic and bright" mural "elevates the whole space."

Thank you to the Class of 2024 for their generosity, and Mr. Adnet and Ms. Boccella for making this outstanding mural come to life.

Greek Tragedy on Stage

By Connor Shah '26

Ancient Greek culture came to life in January when the seventh grade performed *The Oresteia Trilogy*. Directed by history teachers Mr. Drew Burton and Mr. James Barbieri, the play is based on the trilogy written by Greek tragedian Aeschylus in the 5th century BCE.

The seventh grade has performed the play more than 36 years. "Drama is valued by Saint David's through the years," said Mr. Barbieri. "It's a long-standing tradition in seventh grade."

The trilogy includes "Agamemnon," "The Libation Bearers," and "Eumenides," and tells the story of the House of Atreus Brimming with pathos, it begins with Clytemnestra murdering her husband, Agamemnon, upon his return from the Trojan war. Her heinous crime is avenged by Agamemnon's son Orestes, who after killing Clytemnestra, is tried for matricide.

Miles Waterman '26 played Cassandra, the Trojan priestess who has the power of prophecy. She appears in "Agamemnon," but is unable to warn others of the tragedy ahead.

"It was hard getting used to playing a female character," Waterman said, but "Cassandra is a cool character. She's an oracle but cursed never to be believed. You understand why she's mentally insane. You feel sympathy for her character."

Waterman was one of the recipients of the Drama Key for his stellar performance.

Friday Theater: Behind the Scenes

By Vikas Schultz '26

Most students head to Price Gym or Central Park for daily sports classes. But this year, a group of seventh and eighth graders spent one day every week at the Otto-Bernstein Theatre (OBT) with students from Marymount School of New York to rehearse “The AI Play.” The comedy, which was performed at the end of February, is about a group of children who all use AI to get to a prison that’s disguised as a school for special geniuses.

To anyone popping by OBT during the weeks gearing up for the play, weekly rehearsals looked like an opportunity for students to have fun, act, and get to know one another—and they were. But behind the curtains, an entire other story unfolded as seventh and eighth graders who were part of the stage crew worked hard to coordinate efforts to support the actors. As stage manager, for instance, Jack Janus '25 was responsible for ensuring that all props and different sets appeared on stage just at the right time. Devin Schultz '26, was the lights manager.

“Theater is a collaborative experience that allows students to connect with each other,” said Ms. Meg Myette, who teaches performing arts at Saint David’s. “I believe that collaboration is a very important skill that all students should have, and very important for success. I also feel that confidence on stage is important, so that is also something that I would like students to take out of this program.”

Ms. Myette co-directed the play with Ms. Alex Joyce, who teaches drama and English at Marymount. Mr. Jeffrey Moore organized scheduling with Marymount.

“Saint David’s has a history of collaboration with Marymount, with the Romeo and Juliet project in eighth grade as well as a School of Rock class for seventh and eighth grade musicians, who play with Marymount students at their school,” Mr. Moore said. “It’s a wonderful way to get to know other students from other schools.”

Take Off in Second Grade Art

By Jack Weisgerber '26

Can children really recreate priceless pieces of art *and* display them in a museum? At Saint David’s they can, thanks to a special partnership with the Guggenheim Museum.

As they have since 2017, the second grade has been making multiple visits to the Guggenheim throughout the year. For many schools, trips to a museum are rare. But with world-class museums within walking distance to school, visits are an integral part of the Saint David’s culture

because they support the school mission to “foster a deep appreciation for the arts.” While second graders go to the Guggenheim, for instance, boys in grade 8 visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art to deepen their knowledge of classical art history.

Ms. Jenna Boccella, Art Department Curriculum Chair, and Ms. Melanie Fidler organized the second-grade trips. “It’s an exciting experience for the boys and their art studies” said Ms. Boccella.

Boys typically meet with museum docents at the Guggenheim. These knowledgeable guides formally present pieces by artists such as Wassily Kandinsky and Piet Mondrian. “It’s a fun and exciting experience and we learned a lot,” said Ashwin van Italie.

After their visits, boys created their own art. It was displayed, in the Guggenheim’s infamous spherical rotunda.



Visits to museums are an important part of the Saint David’s curriculum.

Another Massive Expansion Takes Saint David's by Storm

By Alexander Bettwy '25 and William Kadiyala '25

In 1951, Saint David's School opened its doors on 12 East 89th Street for only a handful of students, and a teaching staff of one. Today, hundreds of boys and a large dedicated faculty fill the school, which has undergone a number of expansions.

But it hasn't stopped growing.

In a stroke of luck, the owner of the fourth and final cutting townhouse - 15 East 88th Street - decided to sell their home to Saint David's three years ago. Thanks to this acquisition, Saint David's is adding 12,000 square feet of space and increasing its outdoor play area by a third. It's also possible that the current building will be connected to the new one, an exciting prospect for students and parents alike.

The main theme of this expansion is "reclaim[ing] special spaces we lost in our current space as a result of the Pandemic, when the school decided to have three homerooms per grade," says Mr. J.P. Hormillosa, Director of Development and Alumni Relations. There is no specific plan yet for what grades will be using this new building though. The possible new tunnel between the two buildings has been referenced to as the "brunnel," short for

bridge-tunnel, by Dr. O'Halloran, according to Mr. Hormillosa. The purpose of the "brunnel" is to provide a "secure" way of traveling between the buildings and to not "disrupt classes on the first floor during transitions." The backyard behind the Pre-K homerooms will also be expanded. Despite this new expansion, Saint David's does not intend to increase attendance, and plans to keep annual enrollment around the same.

Saint David's School has had a long history of undergoing expansions. The school's first major expansion was in 1953, when it purchased two additional townhouses - 14 and 16 East 89th Street - increasing its total number from one to three. In 1972, the school purchased the Graham House - 22 East 89th Street - which was a huge apartment building. It was eventually renovated in the 2010s, greatly expanding the school's overall size and adding a STEAM Suite alongside new athletic facilities. The acquisition of the Cutting townhouse at 15 East 88th Street completes the school's most recent expansion, thanks to the steady leadership of Dr. O'Halloran and the Board of Trustees.

The school, however, does not plan for any more expansions in the foreseeable future, and the acquisition of the fourth Cutting Home was largely by luck, when Dr. O'Halloran stumbled across the listing online!



Saint David's, sometimes called the "Big Little School," is set to expand again.



Congratulations to Alexander Bettwy '25 on winning the NBS Lectures in December. From left, Ms. Catherine Milligan, Oliver O'Boyle '25, Thomas DePaolo '25, Alexander Bettwy '25, Dr. David O'Halloran, Tyler Chinappi '25, Roman Diaz '25, Mr. Drew Burton

Mastery of Art History on Display at the NBS Lectures

By Luke Bustros '25

As part of the Art History curriculum, eighth graders are assigned each year to choose, research, and present a work of art to a revolving panel of judges, including Dr. David O'Halloran and Ms. Ali Aoyama. Five finalists are then selected to give their lecture in the Otto-Bernstein Theatre (OBT) to a panel of judges and an audience of Saint David's seventh and eighth graders as well as visiting eighth-grade girls from the Nightingale-Bamford School (NBS). According to English teacher Ms. Catherine Milligan, "The lectures are designed to teach students to analyze artwork using techniques they have learned, and be able to come to their own interpretations and conclusions. This is a skill that will enhance their investigative, observational, and presentation abilities."

The finalists from the Class of 2025 made their presentations in OBT last December. They were Alexander Bettwy (*Woman with a Sunflower*, Cassatt), Thomas DePaolo (*The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist*, Caravaggio), Tyler Chinappi (*The Old Guitarist*, Picasso), Roman Diaz (*The Tapestry Weavers*, Velazquez), and Oliver O'Boyle (*The Elevation of the Cross*, Rubens).

The judging of the finals is systematic, with the judges putting a strong emphasis on the presenter's ability to connect their chosen art work's themes to what was happening in society at the time the art was made. Art teachers Ms. Jenna Boccella and Mr. Bernard Adnet help students polish their presentations with their eye for aesthetics while Art History teacher Mr. Drew Burton helps students understand the historical and symbolic contexts that influence art.

So, what does it take to win the NBS Lectures? Alexander Bettwy, this year's winner, said that "the key is to do everything to make your presentation stand out, as it must be memorable and unique. It is also important to practice a lot so you can occasionally look up at the audience." Finalist Roman Diaz emphasizes "getting all the help you can get at workshops, while also being skilled in public speaking." Some of the most important aspects for a successful presentation are specificity, connection to a theme or narrative, an impressive use of technological tools and visuals, and thorough practice. One of Ms. Milligan's expert tips for future presenters is to use one-on-one meetings with their teachers. It is also important to choose a good work of art. So what exactly qualifies a good painting? According to the finalists, while it is crucial to be passionate about one's chosen artwork, it also should have impacted society in a meaningful way. By following the advice of this year's finalists, future eighth graders will have a great opportunity to present a memorable NBS lecture when their own time comes.

Sports

Saint David's Winter Golf

By Kai Mejia '26 and Mac Wood '26

Golf in winter? Yes, actually. While it may not be the first sport that comes to mind during January, for Saint David's duffers who are passionate about the game, golf is a fun, informational, active option during the winter sports season.

Saint David's golf program is held at two facilities: The Bridge Golf Learning Center in Harlem and Loft Links on the Upper East Side. Boys enrolled in winter golf are divided by their grade level, and each group takes turns playing at the two facilities.

At The Bridge Golf Learning Center, students take advantage of coaching opportunities and do all they can to master proper techniques. They are instructed by high-level coaches from The Bridge who analyze their swings by sight and by using shot statistics provided by the Trackman system. The Trackman is a system that recognizes data, such as ball flight, speed, distance, a golfer's stance and swing, and where the golf ball meets the face of the club. "I like how whenever they say something wrong with my swing, they immediately fix it," said Alex DiMauro, in grade 7. At Loft Links, students take all they've learned at The Bridge and hit away on the Trackman simulators.

And then, there's keeping fit. Two times a week, golfers head to the lower gym with Mr. Mark Doocey, Coach Ryan Soltan, and Coach Chris Murphy to play various games, such as practice shots on the Golf Daddy, a golf simulator that enables players to practice their swing without a ball.

Overall, the Saint David's golf program is an enjoyable, growth-centered experience for players of all skill levels.

Hockey Team Wraps Up an Undefeated Season

By Jackson Feil '26



The hockey team celebrates their championship

Saint David's hockey program continued its winning ways, wrapping up an undefeated season. According to Coach Michael Balter, director of the hockey program, "The 5th and 6th grade team had a magical season. Coming off winning a championship the previous year, the team set the goal of having a perfect season. The boys worked so hard and were able to win another championship in an undefeated season." Sixth grader Matthew Williams added "everyone gave their best effort. There was so much teamwork and school spirit!"

The team regularly practiced during their sports periods on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Bronx, but played their games at the Ice House in

Hackensack, New Jersey, on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

When asked what his favorite part about coaching is, Coach Balter said that it is "my ability to share my hockey knowledge and watch kids grow under it during their time at Saint David's."

This was another good year for Saint David's hockey. The team entered the playoffs as a the number 4 seed. They eventually won the championship game, beating a team from Englewood, NJ. The hockey program looks to have a bright future, thanks to its deep bench. More than 90 boys between kindergarten to second grade are already being trained by coaches Chris Murphy and James Hughes. Because there are so many kids, there are multiple teams that play under the same name, giving everyone a chance to play. Games for the kindergarten through second-grade team are played in the Bronx. Whether it be coaches or players, the Saint David's hockey program looks to be set for many years to come.

White Basketball Wraps Up Another Great Season

By William Smith '26

Saint David's Basketball is coming off an impressive 24-25 season, with the White team wrapping up the season 8-1. This follows the previous season, where the team went undefeated in 2023-2024. Under the guidance of Coach William D. Arias and Coach Andrew Hahn, the basketball program is looking to continue its great success in 2025.

"The growth of the kids as players has looked great. Players look engaged, and have shown plenty of growth on the basketball court," said Coach William D. Arias.

The boys on the team, including 10 seventh graders and four eighth graders, are eager to put their all into the team while also maintaining their school work outside of the team.

The most impressive win, a 45-25 victory over Dalton, showcased the immense growth of the players. The boys were all especially proud of their win because the ball movement and defensive rotations, which they had worked so hard on throughout the season were displayed extremely well.

The one loss for the team took place on February 23 against Allen-Stevenson. The game went into overtime, with Saint David's taking a tough 52-49 defeat.

"I was very proud of the boys, even though we lost," said Coach Arias. "It was amazing to see the teamwork and dedication throughout the game, and I think it was the best game we have played all season."

In conclusion, the impressive 8-1 season from White Basketball has added to the rich history of the program, as they have now only lost two games in the last the seasons. Both the seventh and eighth graders on the team have shown amazing growth and sportsmanship throughout the season, and are all looking forward to the rest of their basketball career.

Saint David's Own Sportscaster

By Andrew Oneglia '26

The New York Rangers have Sam Rosen. The Boston Red Sox have Joe Castiglione. Saint David's School has its own on-air talent: Mr. Tom Ryan.

"I just like talking about the game while watching," said Mr. Ryan. Not too many people know that Mr. Ryan has some experience in being a sportscaster at Saint David's. In addition to talking about his beloved New York Yankees, Mr. Ryan used to commentate for Saint David's home basketball games back in the 1980s with retired teacher Mr. Robert McLaughlin.

Two years ago, Mr. Ryan, who normally teaches English, decided to return to commentating, and it's been a staple of Red basketball home games ever since. Since his comeback, Mr. Ryan has hand-picked an eighth grader to help him. This year, it's Matthew Parsons. This season, he and Mr. Ryan sat on the seventh floor directly above the bleachers during home games.

Mr. Ryan applies the same skills he brings to his English classes as he does to commentating, that is "as much humor as I can and gentle sarcasm. It is not just the basket and who scored it, it is the humor and the analysis. I think my classroom mirrors the commentating." Thinking about the games, Mr. Ryan adds, "Even though it's my free time, I enjoy it. If I had a chance to do it on a higher level, I would."

Student Life



Our eighth graders are happy to lend a hand in making Community Club a fun activity for Lower School boys. Boys in this club complete projects and have conversations together that help reinforce our school mission and build relationships among themselves, their teachers, and other members of our community.

Hyman Hall Toaster is a Hit!

By Johnny Jones '25

This school year, the Saint David's Student Council made history. Student Council President Patrick Dere '25 worked with Saint David's administration to acquire a toaster in Hyman Hall for use during Upper School lunch periods. Having a toaster in Hyman Hall has been a popular request by students for many years, but no class president has been able to accomplish this task until now.

Acquiring the toaster was Patrick's promise when he ran for the student council presidency. After a few months of diligent work, he is happy that he was able to fulfill his promise. When asked what is greatest challenge was in the process, he said "the electrical stuff, there wasn't enough electricity!"

Patrick coordinated with the Saint David's Facilities team in the hiring of an electrician to solve this problem. Since then, the toaster has now become a staple of Saint David's Upper School lunch.



Upper School boys approve of the toaster!

Opinion

The Value of Alumni Chapel Talks

By Charlie Baer '25

Chapel talks are an integral part of the Saint David's community. Ranging from childhood stories to tales of war, every talk teaches important lessons. Usually, chapel talks are written and delivered by teachers, coaches, and students, thereby creating an opportunity for reflection, inspiration, and connection. One underrated part of this tradition is the participation of alumni, who are sometimes invited to deliver chapel talks.

Bringing alumni into this meaningful tradition helps connect generations in a powerful way. By listening to alumni discuss how they came to value and use the values and lessons taught at Saint David's, current students gain a deeper sense of participating in a continuing lineage of excellence that extends beyond their own time at the school.

One of the most important aspects of Alumni Chapel Talks is how the speakers share experiences of personal growth formed during their time at Saint David's. A wide range of examples from their years as students are described, from moments in classrooms to their first time in high school. This connection between the experiences of current students and those who have come before them reminds boys that the foundation laid at Saint David's lasts well into the future—and that it is their responsibility to continue it.

Additionally, Alumni Chapel Talks present a great source of inspiration. Alumni who once were in their very shoes tell stories of overcoming challenges—from meeting new friends to making hard choices—before they went on to excel in a variety of their fields. These talks inspire students and give them concrete examples of what is possible. Whether students become doctors, businesspeople, artists, or educators, their shared experiences give credence to the notion that lessons and values cultivated at Saint David's are timelessly relevant.

Overall, this small addition to the day can leave a long lasting impression on current students as Alumni Chapel Talks reaffirm the importance of community, legacy, and perennial growth. In this way, these special talks remind students that their experience at Saint David's is not about individual accomplishment; it is part of a larger story shared—a story of common values and ambitions stretching far beyond the domain of the classroom.

This connection . . . reminds boys that the foundation laid at Saint David's lasts well into the future—and that it is their responsibility to continue it.



Above: Rohan Bhatia '16 delivering a chapel talk

Canticle Staff

Co-Editors in Chief

Alexander Bettwy
William Kadiyala

Section Editors

News: Jack Janus
Features: Charlie Baer
Op-Ed: Henry Kadiyala
Culture: Luke Bustros
Science: Devin Schultz
Sports: Jackson Feil
Student Life: John Jones
Student Life: Kieran O'Connor

Deputy Layout Editors

Alexander Bettwy
William Kadiyala

Faculty Advisers

Mr. Victor Franklin
Ms. Leslie Geary
Mr. J.P. Hormillosa
Mr. Michael Nelson

Special Thanks

Ms. Irene Byun
Ms. RoseMarie Alfieri
Mr. Gianfredo Jalaan
Mr. Peter Martin

Reporters

Eten Babakhanian
Cruz Burton
Mark Carey
Freddy Carlson
Alex DiMauro
Aurelian Fraiberger
Friedy Harris
Soren Klimczak
Jack Janus
Soren Klimczak
Charles Lockwood
Charlie Malinow
Hank McVey
Kai Mejia
Charlie Millette
Aidan Murray
Andrew Oneglia
Devin Schultz
Vikas Schultz
Connor Shah
Liam Smith
William Smith
Gavin Touhy
William Vandever
Jack Weisgerber
Matthew Williams
Tyler Williams
Mac Wood