

# THE SPARTAN SPEAR

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MARIST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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## WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

 Rachel McConaghie  
EDITOR

This fall, Marist students, administrators, staff and parents took a trip to San Francisco for a Challenge Success conference to learn how to create an environment at school where students can thrive in all aspects of life.

Challenge Success, which is affiliated with the Stanford Graduate School of Education, partners with schools to assess and implement proven, practical strategies to enhance academics.

Luckily, the Marist Brothers have implemented into the foundation of Marist to love first and teach second.

"We have a really strong climate of care, meaning students have an adult on campus that cares about and supports them," assistant principal Andy Oldham said.

For example, while a bigger course load is expected when taking AP and honors classes, it doesn't mean it's always contributing to learning. The goal of this partnership is to observe learning and make sure it enlivens the student instead of piling on busy work.

The hope is that prioritizing understanding and focusing less on achievement reflected through grades, students will be more engaged and face less stress.



Marist students, teachers, parents and administrators take a photo after lunch at the Challenge Success conference in San Francisco. Photo by Andy Oldham



## History Made! Marist girls win first ever state soccer title

 Alex Chávez  
EDITOR

"I was just ecstatic. I was so beyond excited; so proud of my teammates and my coach and the entire program. We made history," senior captain Paige Meador said referring to the fact that last Saturday, the Marist girls won their first state soccer championship in program history.

The No. 1 ranked Spartans defeated the No. 2 Hidden Valley Mustangs to win the OSAA 4A State Championship in a lopsided, 4-0 dominating win at Liberty High School in Hillsboro. It was the Spartan's sixth time (1999, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2019 and 2022) in an OSAA girls soccer final, and their seventh if you count their appearance in the 4A Showcase game against North Marion in April of 2021, but it was their first win.

So what was their secret to success? It probably had a lot to do with the strong leadership from the captains and of course the talent on the field from end to end — both which proved powerful as the Marist girls

soccer team worked their way to the top.

They scored 85 goals over the season and only let in five. They finished the season 18-1 with 15 shutouts and were perfect in Sky-Em league play.

The Spartans dominated their 2022 playoff-run with a first-round win against Mazama on Nov. 2, a 2-0 quarterfinal win against the No. 8 Philomath Warriors three days later, and a 2-0 semifinal win against the No. 4 North Marion Huskies on Nov. 8.

Team captains Meador, senior Sela Freeman and junior Cloe Chase said they worked hard to make the team inclusive, create strong relationships and learn to work together — all of which would serve them well in the end.

Meador said to build team unity they found fun things to do together at the start of the season and had team dinners once a week after that.

"As a senior, the freshmen at first seem intimidated by us, but then realized that it doesn't need to be a scary relationship. We wanted to be like big sisters," Freeman said.

Despite the young age of the team — 11 of the 16 girls are underclassmen — they didn't stop learning from one another which created an environment of inclusion and understanding.

"Positive criticism is a big thing we do. If an underclassman has a bad touch for example, we let them know what they can do better, but we don't do it in a harmful way that will break down their character in a game," Freeman said.

"This varsity team is real with each other and players are accountable and trusted each other," head coach Stefan Schrockfner said.

They also worked hard in practices. "This team has an outstanding work ethic. Fun and working hard are not on the opposite sides of the spectrum for us ... We had fun working hard and have fun being competitive each week," Schrockfner said.

"I give all the credit to the players," Schrockfner said in an interview with the Register Guard after Saturday's game. "Great teams are made up of great players. That's the key — and these are truly great players."

## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! Marist theatre welcomes back director Tony Rust

 Jordan Andreasen  
STAFF WRITER

Marist theatre director Tony Rust described the fall performance of *The Skin of Our Teeth* as a story that is "zany and fun ... man, history, the bible, the world, angst ... and everything else!"

The play, which ran on Oct. 28-29 and Nov. 4-5, was written by 19th century American playwright Thornton Wilder and is about a single household, the Antrobus family, that in the span of three acts experiences resilience and perseverance over a 5000-year span!

Rust said that it has been wonderful to work with actors in person again, rather than online.

You could clearly see the energy the actors had on stage! Junior Asher Pellegrini, in the role of Mr. Antrobus, and sophomore Maya Williams, as the maid, stole the show

with their performances.

Also excellent were sophomore Rhiannon Elliott as Mrs. Antrobus, senior Isaac King as the son and freshman Tatum Head as the daughter. All played their roles in a way that was so authentic it felt as if you were a part of the play.

The performance of the ensemble was also impeccable and had the audience dying of laughter. From junior Becket Nelson's physical comedy, to freshman Edison Yang's great dancing skills, *The Skin of Our Teeth* was phenomenal in more ways than one.

The actors themselves expressed their joy of working together in person to provide entertainment for the community.

King and Head both expressed their love for theatre and how it is a way for them to express themselves.

Freshman Erin Hackstadt, the stage



Senior Isaac King holds the wheel made by his father who is played by junior Asher Pellegrini, while sophomore Rhiannon Elliott and freshman Tatum Head play the role of mother and daughter. Photo by Dylan Mittleider '24

manager of the show, agreed that being a part of the theatre has made her, "... fall in love with the [theatre] community."

*The Skin of Our Teeth* is the first show that Rust has directed since the COVID-19 pandemic. No productions were held

because live theatre is so unique and cannot be replicated over a screen.

Last year, one-year Theatre Club director Zach Hammond presented just one show, *The Imaginary Invalid* in the spring of 2022.

# NEWS briefs

## RIPPED

There's a new club on campus! Robotics Ingenuity Programming Project Engineering and Design is an extension of the STEM Club that was created to help students learn more about specific areas of science. If you are interested in RIPPED, meetings are held in room 308 on Tuesdays at 8 a.m.

## SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Over the summer, the Science Olympiad Team received a newly renovated room with the help of donations. Club members are planning to go to a statewide competition in April after a successful 3rd place finish last year. There are many events ranging from building things to performing lab tasks to building bridges. If you are interested, meetings are on Wednesdays at 8 a.m. Follow @marist\_stem on Instagram for more information.

## SPANISH CLUB

Spanish Club is back! The club meets in room 300 during lunch on various days. This year students have had the opportunity to watch *Los Espookys*, a Halloween-themed, Spanish-language comedy. Discussions about Día de los Muertos and taste testing pan de muertos, a traditional sweet bread, are just some of the many activities the club does. Stay tuned for more information!

## ENCOUNTERS

Looking to grow with your classmates and be immersed in the faith? The Fall Women's Encounter is happening this weekend! Juniors and seniors who have not gone on an Encounter can still sign up for either the Men's or Women's happening in February by contacting Mrs. Ferrari through Schoology.

## CAMPUS CUISINE

Campus Cuisine is a new program at Marist, taking place of our past 4J hot lunch program. Meals are available Tuesday through Thursday. Sign up to view the calendar and menu through Schoology! If you have any questions, Schoology message Principal Bob Fraley.

## 2022-23 SPARTAN SPEAR STAFF



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# WRITING, DESIGN AND PHOTOS ... OH MY

## *Journalism students spend the day learning at Fall Media Day held at UO*

### Jordan Andreassen

STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, Nov. 2, the Marist newspaper class took a field trip to the University of Oregon's Fall Media Day to learn about journalism through classes on photography, writing, interviewing, design and layout, and journalism ethics. Journalism teacher, Toni Cooper, arranged for her students to have this opportunity to visit a top-ranked college journalism school to learn from professors and working reporters about their craft.

Sophie Mahalak, a senior in newspaper, said that she learned a lot about journalism and the creative process. Even though she is not going into journalism as a future career, she did say that she developed an appreciation for the industry.

Senior James Warner said he learned a variety of different things that will be valuable, such as reporting and interviewing the right people. He added that "being a good writer is always useful," especially when it comes to college applications that are coming up for him very soon.

Junior Kaylynn Guevara said she found a class on interviewing interesting and learned about how to take control of a situation,



Marist students stand in front of the short bus after a day of learning about journalism at the University of Oregon.  
Photo by Andy Oldham

especially when interviewing. She said that learning how to speak to people is a definite life skill that will benefit her in the future. She added how she is gaining some pretty valuable skills, such as public speaking and writing, for her future adulthood.

Many of the professors at the University of

Oregon who spoke at Fall Media Day emphasized the power of telling stories. One such instructor, Charlie Deitz, said that he wanted to become a journalist because he "... loves the power of storytelling" and said Fall Media Day does "a good job showing some of the best practices in the industry at large."

## Keep CALM and Carry On



Senior Sam Thornton presents strategies to handle stress at a recent meeting of the CALM Club. Photo by Greenley Robinson '23

### James Warner

STAFF WRITER

CALM Club is one of the many new student-led groups meeting on campus this year. CALM stands for caring, action, and learning about mental health which is the mission of the club. They seek to create a safe space for students to discuss mental health as well as lead initiatives in the Marist community to support the mental wellbeing of Marist students.

"We are a discussion support group that is an extension of the REACH team," said club leader and senior Sam Thornton. Last year, during the COVID pandemic, the REACH team, which stands for Resources Enabling Actions Committed to Health, was started by the graduating Christian Leadership Class to support mental health issues among Marist students.

REACH did this by creating a website which had links to mental health resources as well as meditative music, poetry, and art. After their graduation, they passed REACH team down to this year's seniors, who are now continuing the team's goals.

So far this year, CALM club has begun weekly meetings to present a specific mental health issue to discuss, with stress being a frequent topic. They also arrange other events on campus, for example they recently arranged a "Yoga Day" for all Marist students during lunch. It was led by health and science teacher Sahra Nielsen. They have also planned a therapy dog visit on campus as an effort to help reduce student stress.

## JERRY ROSA TAKES FLIGHT



Jerry Rosa and Arnold Christensen wear their Flights of Valor gear during a visit at Marist last month. Photo by Madison Holmes '23

## *The importance of honoring our Veterans*

### Alex Chávez

EDITOR

Jerry Rosa has been an integral part of the Marist community for seven years serving as the school's custodian, and if you get to know him, you will learn about his involvement in an organization that caters to the well-being of Veterans.

Rosa is part of an organization known as the Honor Flight Network, a program that honors the nation's Veterans with a free trip to Washington, D.C.

Each Veteran chosen has the opportunity to take one person with them, regardless of whether they served themselves or not. This person is called their guardian and is there to take care of and help out each Veteran during their visit to the nation's capital.

Rosa had the opportunity to attend one of these trips the first weekend of October, as the guardian of Arnold Christensen, a man who served in Vietnam as a gunner.

"As a kid, I didn't realize that the Vietnam Veterans were so unappreciated. They went through a lot of grief and were called names, and in most cases, they had no choice but to go. They were never thanked for their service," said Rosa about what he has learned working with local Veterans. This trip was Rosa's chance to thank a Veteran with more than a few words of belated thanks.

Christensen and Rosa flew out from the Portland airport on Sept. 30 with 50 other Veterans and were escorted to their plane as a large crowd cheered them on. When they landed in D.C. they were met with a similar greeting of people showing their appreciation for the nation's Veterans.

"When we got off the plane at Washington, D.C. there was a crowd of about one hundred people welcoming us off the plane. Some of them had tears in their eyes and it was really

emotional to see that people cared about Vietnam Veterans," Christensen said.

Over the next two days, Rosa and Christensen toured memorials, among them the Vietnam Wall, the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the Navy, Marine, and Air Force Memorial.

"To see the wall ... it's emotional. When you see the names, you can see the faces," said Christensen after his experience at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial which is a huge slab of granite with all the names of served and died in the war.

Christensen and Rosa met at Eugene's Veterans of Foreign War Auxiliary Post. The VFW strives to provide Veterans with the resources they need to lead comfortable lives and seeks to honor and recognize Veterans through the construction of memorials throughout the nation. The VFW is composed solely of individuals who served the nation, however the Auxiliary Post includes members who have family connections to Veterans.

Through his involvement in the VFW, Christensen has created a medical supply storage unit to provide a variety of different materials to the Veterans in the community.

"I've had two knee replacements and it would have been nice to have had different medical equipment. I was able to purchase everything that I needed, but there are Veterans out there that don't have the money to buy walkers ... or people that just need them for a short period of time," Christensen said.

Rosa was delighted to be able to honor and recognize just one of the Veterans who fought for our nation. Through programs such as the Honor Flight Network and the VFW, Veterans will hopefully get the appreciation they deserve.



## ACADEMIC WEAPONS

Marist's National Merit Scholars



Senior National Merit Semi-finalist Luke Shah, and Commended Students seniors Isaac King, Sam Thornton and Evan Hackstadt received their congratulations from the principal in October. Photo by Tom Cooper

## Alex Chávez

EDITOR

**D**uring the fall, juniors at Marist get the opportunity to take the PSAT, an exam that tests reading, writing, math and language skills. If these students score in the top 1-3 percentile of other students in the nation they will either be recognized as a Commended Student or move on and qualify for a National Merit Scholarship, an award of \$2,500 that recognizes the academically-talented students in the nation.

Out of the approximately 1.5 million entrants, around 50,000 qualify for recognition in the program each year. About 34,000 of these 50,000 students are recognized as Commended Students and do not move on in the contest. This year Marist had three Commended Students: seniors Evan Hackstadt, Isaac King and Sam Thornton.

The other 16,000 students (less than 1%) continue on as National Merit semifinalists. Senior Luke Shah is among this number.

"I started studying for the SAT during the COVID lockdown. I didn't want my extra time from the pandemic to be totally wasted on watching professional cornhole ... I suggest doing all of the official college board practice tests (and the unofficial ones on Reddit), Khan Academy, and reading through some SAT books," Shah said.

All four of these young men say that finding a balance and enjoying what you choose to do are keys to maintaining a healthy and well rounded lifestyle.

"Balancing your high school schedule can be difficult. It's important to not try to do too much — if you're overloaded all parts of your life will suffer ... Pay attention to how your time is being spent and make practical adjustments," Hackstadt said.

"I keep myself from getting burnt out by looking to the future. I know things will only get harder, so it makes this seem easier by comparison," Thornton said.

## REMEMBER WHEN WE HAD BOOKS?

Teachers compare school then and now

## Kaylynn Guevara

STAFF WRITER

**I**t's no secret that students today are learning in a new and more advanced way than past generations but just how far do those differences go?

Students today have access to a world of knowledge at their fingertips. They're able to find articles, documents, and videos without even leaving their desk. As convenient as the internet is, teachers voiced their concern about having unfiltered information students have to learn to sift through to determine what is actually true.

Marist English teacher Becky Boyd, a 1990 high school graduate, highlighted the similarities in finding relevant information between the generations.

"You would collect notecards of all the information you thought you might use and cobble them together having no idea whether what you were finding in your sources was the most up-to-date or the most accurate information. I think there is a similarity in that, because the trouble with so much information now is knowing what's true — separating fact from fiction, separating opinion from unbiased fact."

With this technology comes a new way of learning. Marist history teacher Jon Nuxoll, a 1981 high school graduate,

remembers visiting Washington State University's library to research for his senior research paper. Those libraries, card catalogs and typewriters are the world of past generations for Marist students.

At Marist, our library has been replaced by tech help and homework is done on iPads and students have the luxury of editing while they write. Gone is the period of multiple typed or hand-written drafts being marked up and rewritten.

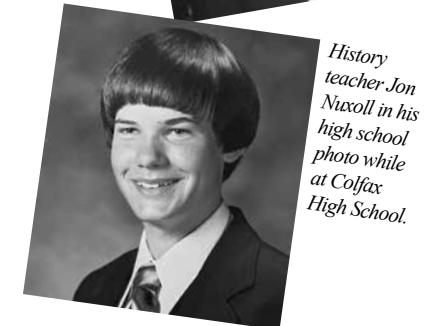
iPads are a tool that most students see as critical but a tool that wasn't invented until most teachers were well into their adulthood. Marist theology teacher Nick Olszyk a 2004 Marist grad remembers thinking of them as silly when they first came out; unnecessary devices that didn't advance lives.

What started as a rental cart of iPads for teachers to check out for their classes, is now a necessity for every student to have. With websites like Kahoot, Blooket and Nearpod and apps like Notability and Google Docs, iPads have become a fundamental part of students' learning.

Students still go to school, listen to lectures, take notes (physical or digital), and write papers and lab reports just like past generations, but our education is centered around technology unlike before.



English teacher Becky Boyd in her sophomore school photo while at Thurston High School in 1988.



## LIFE'S A JOURNEY

Br. Brian Poulin visits theology classes to share how he heard his calling

## Jackson Anderson

EDITOR

**B**r. Brian Poulin, the Vocations Director for the Marist Brothers in the United States who has been traveling to Marist schools to help promote the Brothers, visited us last week. He is hoping to visit all Marist schools at least once a year.

Last Tuesday Br. Brian visited our campus for the first time. Previously, he had met about 20 of our students at a Marist youth gathering in Esopus, New York and at a Marist Leadership Camp in Indiana, so this visit was sort of a reunion.

On both Tuesday and Wednesday, he stopped by 13 of our theology classes to talk about his journey through life.

"No matter how you feel about yourself, no matter how many times you said yes to God's invitations, no matter how many times you've said no to God's invitations ... I believe God's always inviting you to something new," Br. Brian explained.

"Whatever your journey has been so far, it's an important part of what's shaping you," Br. Brian said. While in Catholic high school, like many, he lost interest in church, religion and God which led to him spending 13 years apart from the church. "When God calls us, God calls us together in some ways, but individually in other ways."

He was 27, not yet confirmed, when he felt his call



Senior Sam Thornton snaps a selfie with Br. Brian and fellow classmates who attended Indiana Marist youth camp and the Esopus retreat. Selfie by Sam Thornton '23

back to church while living in China. He questioned if God was calling him to the relationship in the same way as before, or if there was a different call; making him wonder if it was a call to priesthood.

He became a Marist brother in 2008 as a non-committal, two-year period. In 2010, he started making annual commitments and in 2016, he made

his lifelong commitment as a Marist Brother.

Br. Brian earned an undergrad degree in philosophy and while a Marist Brother he earned a masters degree in sustainable international development. For a number of years, he used his masters degree in his role as a Brother living in the Dominican Republic and helping those in need.

## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Matching coursework to future endeavors

## Rachel McConaghie

EDITOR

**W**hen students first enter Marist, the lingering question is always "which classes are the hardest?" Most students are asking only to avoid certain courses that require outside-of-class time and greater critical thinking.

Some however, are looking for a challenge and a way to deepen their knowledge.

I was curious to see if some senior students purposefully select challenging courses that are specific to a career they are pursuing in college. I asked three Marist students who excel in academics this question and why they do it.

"AP Calculus is the pinnacle of math at Marist," senior Evan Hackstadt said. This is perhaps the most challenging course offered at Marist — at least for some. Hackstadt says he can't comment on it, because it's not hard yet, but knows it is good to have exposure to it going

into college.

"If I were to retake that class again, having a high school experience with it, is definitely helpful with anything related to mathematics," Hackstadt said.

Looking to pursue something "sciency," Hackstadt enjoys the more specific field that AP Physics offers. "I feel like Mr. Moser does focus on trying to create skills that are transferable out of physics ... even though we're doing a physics lab or practicing lab write ups. It's a good skill to have and is definitely useful in college," he says.

Isaac King has already completed the pinnacle of math at Marist. "The hardest classes I'm currently taking at Marist are AP Physics and AP Chemistry." While King is not looking to pursue a career specific to chemistry he knows the course has many benefits.

"It's definitely very frustrating to have so much stuff on the plate at a time, but I think it is positively preparing me

for the future. I'm pretty sure I'm going in for mechanical engineering degree so physics is vital to what I'm doing," King said.

Sage Bus is also looking to pursue a career in STEM, maybe engineering as well, and is challenging himself this year by taking AP Physics and AP Calculus. "I take these classes because they are opportunities presented to me that I don't want to miss out on because they challenge me academically ... and because they offer valuable education and career skills," Bus said.

A common misconception with hard classes is the lack of free time you will have. While those who are enrolled in difficult courses often have a sizable course load, many are involved with sports, clubs and community service as well. It often seems that most people that keep a busy schedule are the ones who are most productive and appreciate the value of education at Marist.



Senior Evan Hackstadt



Senior Isaac King



Senior Sage Bus

# BRING BACK THE BLUE AND GOLD

*Sharing the Marist spirit starts with us*

**Paige Doerr**

EDITOR

Tradition is one of the first things we learn when we step foot onto campus. We are taught about the traditions of Marist and we quickly learn the importance of the 'We Are One' motto and how to incorporate it in our everyday lives as a Spartan.

One of the reasons traditions stay alive is with school spirit. That begins with healthy and positive attitudes.

A good crowd is not about the number of students but more about the energy you bring to your competing team. This is not always the case at Marist. Often we see the same people at the same events and it doesn't vary much. Not everyone can go to every event, but it would be nice if we chose a couple of events that were not in our comfort zone to go to and support a fellow Spartan.

This is not only talking about football games. The sports that do not naturally get as much attention rarely have a crowd of students for support. Sometimes all it takes is a

small group of people to share the Marist spirit.

A really good example of setting the tone for the competitive environment is the Pep Band and the cheerleaders. This has been the case for at least the past thirty years and probably more. "The band would play at sporting events, so there was always a festive atmosphere," Spanish teacher and '98 Marist alum Nicole Mombell said about her time as a student.

This is just a simple example of how to incorporate greater community while at the same time making the environment more spirited.

Being an athlete myself, seeing people come support my teams, it feels good. When this happens it encourages us as a team to want to show up for others. Maybe it is because I am a senior, sometimes it is important to set your homework down and build a friendship with someone you wouldn't expect and go support them and what they love to do. I also realize as a senior it is also enough to just show up, especially for playoff games.

2016 grad Maclain O'Leary remembers fondly taking a bus to

playoff games during his time at Marist. "If people wanted to go who couldn't drive, Marist normally supplied a bus to take students," O'Leary said. "It felt even at away games there was support. When we saw support at away games we wanted to take the time and go encourage another sport."

School spirit is not just developed at sporting events. There are many ways we could and many ways we have in the past helped students find a way to be involved and form a sense of belonging. What you put into high school, you get out of it. The more active you are in your participation with school spirit, the greater your sense of belonging will most likely be.

Mombell remembers having multiple opportunities to show school spirit and involvement. "There used to be more all-school programming ... assemblies with guest speakers and presentations. Peace and Justice Day was an annual event that was really meaningful and impactful for the whole school. There were many, many activities and events that allowed a wider range of students and fami-

lies to engage with the school in fun and dynamic ways: an annual Dance-a-Thon, Powderpuff Football, He-Man Volleyball, fashion shows, Career Day, the Calendar Party, Marist Auction, and more," Mombell said. "Students were super active in making all of these events happen - there were a lot of leadership and engagement opportunities for many different groups and types of students."

"I also really appreciate that students not only want to bring back traditions but also understand why they started and look at how we can revamp them to be even more relevant to current teenagers," Natalia Zreliak communications director and '15 alum said.

For example, many students have had conversations with the Student Council and the Marist administration to bring back He-Man volleyball and Powderpuff football as an annual tradition because it is something fun that we can do at school together.

Another tradition some kids would like to see happen again is a Homecoming Week competition bigger than just the dance. "When

I was a student, everyone competed for the Homecoming Cup. Each grade could get points for each person dressed up in the spirit week theme that day, and then grades got points based on how well they did in the Trivia Bowl and Class Dance competition. All those things added together made the week exciting and allowed people to participate differently," Zreliak said.

Zreliak gave some ideas on how she thinks we can increase our Spartan spirit to enforce the 'We Are One' mentality. "Taking the time to look around and see who isn't there. Then the next time you see them ask why they weren't there inviting someone to join... Sometimes all a person is waiting for is just to be invited to join," Zreliak said.

O'Leary suggested we use a well-known and traditional strategy. "Word of mouth is my best advice because unity is very hard to get back after we lost it the way we did the past couple of years," O'Leary said.

## BORN IN CHICAGO, RAISED IN EUGENE

*"We are bold, We are brave, We are Marist"*

**James Warner**

STAFF WRITER

If you've ever been to a football game here at Marist, you've definitely heard the Marist fight song being sung as a Marist touchdown has been scored. However, if you went to school here in the 2000s, you would have had to learn and sing it as a freshman while being doused in water.

The Marist fight song is an important part of our school tradition and culture, but where did it come from, and who made it?

The Marist fight song was not born here in Eugene, but instead grew up in Chicago, at another Marist High School whose colors are red and white and have a Redhawk mascot. It didn't make it here to Oregon until the early 1970s when the previous math and band teacher Jack Fertal brought it to our school. Fertal brought both the music and lyrics, but while the music stayed the same, he made minor changes to the lyrics, such as replacing "Redhawks" with "Marist."

Interestingly enough, the Chicago lyrics begin with "Might and strong, we are one," but it was replaced with "Mighty and strong, Marist High." Po-

tentially this is because our motto "We Are One" had not been chosen until the 1973 football champion team used it and it caught on.

Eventually, Fertal retired, and chose Jim Reinking, the current band director at Marist to be his successor. During the 80s, Reinking looked at the fight song and decided to make changes making it easier to play for his band students. He rewrote the trumpet and flute parts, and even wrote a whole new bass line.

Throughout the years, knowledge of the lyrics was mostly only used by the Pep Band and during Freshman Activity Day, where freshmen would recite the fight song

while being sprayed with water – an activity which has since been removed from school tradition.

Now, most kids know the fight song since it is sung at many athletic events. This started in 2008 with the arrival of head football coach Frank Geske who had his team sing the fight song after a win to create an atmosphere of winning.

To Reinking, this is what really makes the fight song special and as a result, it has become an important part of school tradition.

*Mighty and Strong Marist High  
Loyal and true are we  
With all of our might,  
we'll stand up and fight  
to gain our victory  
RAH! RAH! RAH!  
  
Go out and win this game  
Bring honor and glory and fame  
we are bold, we are brave  
we are Marist  
and we are proud of  
our glorious name!  
M - A - R - I - S - T  
GO MARIST!*

## SOS Save Our Sparty!



*Hi, I'm Sparty and I have a big problem. Before I let you know my problem, you need to know a little bit about me.*

*I was born in 1997 and have grown up cheering for the Marist Spartans. I'm now 25 years old and the last time I really felt complete was when I cheered at my last football game on October 18th, 2019 just before COVID-19 hit the West Coast. Then for all of the 2020-2021 school year, I was stuck at Marist and spent the year in my sweatpants journaling for the 2021 yearbook. Whew, that was a big job!*

*Anyway, it wasn't until the fall of 2022, when it was time to get back in the action. I discovered that my blue and white striped dress was missing! I still have my boots, helmet, chest piece and cape, but it's just not the same.*

*What's a Sparty to do without his clothes? I don't think it would be in the dress code to come to school*

*without my clothes. So, this fall I've resorted to 21st century sweats or jeans when I go out to meet the fans.*

*Luckily, some kind students have understood and responded to my dilemma — I need a make-over! I brought my story of woe to Student Council and they loved the idea of helping me! They started fundraising right away at football games and at school. They held fundraisers like Scones for Sparty, Spooky's for Sparty and Sports for Sparty. Together, they have raised over \$1000 so far!*

*Even Marist guidance counselor and past activity director Shari Pimental, who brought me to Marist way back in 1997, is helping me with my make-over.*

*I'm super excited to feel whole again and get back out to the fields and courts. I hope I'll see you out there soon my fellow Spartans!*

*-Sparty*



I've always loved the universe, looking up into the sky on a clear night and seeing all the stars wondering just how far it all went. I love coming home late at night because my mom and I would always stop and she would point out the constellations to me. We do it every time because I can never remember where they are and what they look like. I hope sharing some dates of beautiful events will help connect you with your loved ones.

# LOOK TO THE SKY

with Kaylynn Guevara

## DECEMBER 13-14, 2022

### Geminids Meteor Shower

Considered by many to be the best shower in the heavens, it will produce up to 120 multicolored meteors per hour at its peak. It was produced by debris left behind by an asteroid known as 3200 Phaethon, which was discovered in 1982. The best viewing will be in a dark location around 2 a.m. The meteors will radiate from the Gemini constellation but can appear anywhere in the sky.

## DECEMBER 21, 2022

### Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation

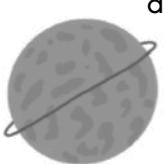
Look for Mercury low in the western sky just after sunset. This will be the best time to view the planet since it will be at its highest point on the horizon for the year.



## DECEMBER 21-22, 2022

### Ursids Meteor Shower

This will be minor shower, producing about 5-10 meteors an hour produced by dust grains left behind by the comet Tuttle, which was first discovered in 1790. They will radiate from the constellation Ursas Minor but will appear anywhere in the sky you just have to be in a dark area.



## JANUARY 3-4, 2023

### Quadrantids Meteor Shower

This shower will produce up to 40 meteors per hour at its peak and is thought to be produced by dust grains left behind by an extinct comet, 2003 EH1 that was discovered in 2003. They will radiate from the Bootes constellation but will appear anywhere in the sky.



## APRIL 11, 2023

### Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation

Look for Mercury low in the western sky just after sunset. This will be the best time to view the planet since it will be at its highest point on the horizon for the year at 19.5 degrees.

## APRIL 20, 2023

### Hybrid Solar Eclipse

The Hybrid Solar Eclipse happens when the moon is too close to the Earth to fully block out the sun. Because of our location we will see an annular eclipse. Hybrid solar eclipses happen roughly once a decade.



## APRIL 22 - 23, 2023

### Lyrids Meteor Shower

At its peak the Lyrids Meteor Shower will produce about 20 meteors an hour. The dust particles were produced by a comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher which was discovered in 1861. The crescent moon will leave dark skies for what should be a great show. The meteors will radiate from the Lyra constellation but will appear anywhere in the sky.

## MAY 5, 2023

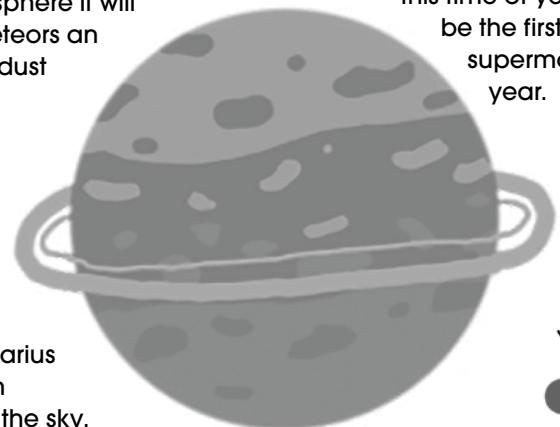
### Penumbral Lunar Eclipse

A penumbral lunar eclipse is a type of lunar eclipse that happens when the moon passes through the Earth's penumbra (shadow). Sadly North and South America won't be able to see it unlike the rest of the world.

## MAY 6-7, 2023

### Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower

In the northern hemisphere it will produce up to 30 meteors an hour at its peak. The dust particles come from comet Halley, which has been observed since ancient times. The full moon will sadly cause some problems with viewing. They will radiate from the Aquarius constellation but can appear anywhere in the sky.



## MAY 29, 2023

### Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation

Mercury will reach its farthest distance above the morning horizon at 24.9 degrees. You should look for the planet in the eastern sky before sunrise.

## JUNE 4, 2023

### Venus at Greatest Eastern Elongation

Venus will reach its highest point above the horizon in the evening sky at 45.4 degrees. Look for the planet in the western sky after sunset.

## JULY 2, 2023

### Supermoon

The moon will be on the opposite side of the Earth as the sun which will cause its face to be fully illuminated. It will happen at 3:40 a.m. This full moon was known as the Buck Moon to early Native American tribes because the male buck deer begins to grow their antlers during this time of year. This will be the first of four supermoons this year.

"I'm still here!!!"  
-Pluto

## TAKING A LOOK AT A LONG-STANDING TRADITION

### Jordan Andreasen

STAFF WRITER

The Kissing of the M, a tradition that has new Marist students kiss the tiled M at the bottom of the fountain in the courtyard while dressed up in costumes, has both good and bad parts to it.

Many students and teachers say it creates community and is a rite of passage to be a Spartan, but some students believe that there is a lot of pressure to participate and a fear of not being included if they choose not to.

Freshman student, Mary Cebra, wrote that she "did NOT participate in the Kissing of the M," and said she felt uncomfortable with the whole initiation process and felt "pressured to participate."

Junior Arath Gutierrez, who kissed the M as a sophomore, said that he has an "unsure feeling" about the tradition and how some teachers encourage students to participate "because everyone else has done it."

Freshman Henry Brown discussed how he felt pressured to participate because he would have felt "disappointed to not do something that literally everyone

participates in."

Sophomore Kennedy Powell, on the other hand, says that she felt comfortable participating, even if she did feel embarrassed over the dress-up piece of the tradition. She also mentioned how her friends helped her feel less uncomfortable and embarrassed because they were doing it with her.

Both freshmen EJ Roedl and Taylor Murphy described their own experience this year of feeling comfortable and welcomed into the community.

Junior Student Council members Claire Saxman and Anastasia Horizon echoed that sentiment, both describing the tradition as a "rite of passage" and that it can help incoming students build community with one another.

English teacher and Student Council moderator Beth Wirth agreed that the Kissing of the M is a "rite of passage," and that the tradition is not meant to discriminate against any students. However Wirth mentioned, and both Saxman and Horizon agreed, that the dress-up piece of the tradition needs to be monitored, school appropriate and non-discriminatory.

Assistant Principal of Student Life and Culture,

Stacey Baker, also agrees with Wirth, Saxman, and Horizon that the costumes or "dress code" need to be enforced. She believes that the purpose of the Kissing of the M is to build community, and unfortunately due to the wacky costumes "the focus [to] become a part of the community has been lost."

I can see that the message of the Kissing of the M might have strayed from being a welcoming ceremony into something that might make others uncomfortable or feel left out. I can also see some changes we can make to remedy this.

If we eliminate the use of costumes, that could help create an inclusive environment that makes everyone feel like they fit in since not all students have someone to dress them up. Also, I think if parents were not at the event, that would allow this tradition to become less of a spectacle and more about us, the students. Finally, if we make sure students know this tradition is optional, I believe this will ease many nervous newcomers.

If these ideas are put into place, I think that this will help make everyone feel included and welcome, rather than feeling pressured or alone.

*The views and opinions expressed on these pages are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Spartan Spear staff or Marist High School.*

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# RUNNING TOWARDS A COMMON GOAL

*The cross country team knows what it means to be a team*

 **Rachel McConaghie**

EDITOR

The Marist cross country bond perfectly demonstrates what it means to be a team.

"Our team chemistry was a big part of our success," sophomore Conor Thompson said about the team's fourth place



Senior Avery Hedden approaches the last 30 meters in her Sky-Em district winning performance on Oct. 27. Photo by Toni Cooper

finish at the OSAA 4A State Championship meet held on the first Saturday of November at Lane Community College.

"It was the perfect way to end the season," Thompson said, leading the Spartans with his 17th place finish.

"I'm thankful for all the people it has brought into my life," senior Elias Santin said looking back at his high school cross country career.

At the Sky-Em District Meet, Santin and senior Gabe Olsen led the team placing 4th and 5th respectively. As a team they finished in a rare situation; both Marist and Marshfield had an overall score of 43 points but because of the strength of their league, both teams were able to secure a spot at state.

After a 2021 season that left them hungry, their trip to the state meet and a fourth place trophy was all the sweeter.

The girls varsity team this year was much smaller than the boys. Injuries proved to be a major setback that the Lady

Spartans struggled with this year. From shin splints to IT bands, the girls learned to take it one meet at a time.

With such a small roster, every girl competed in the varsity race at the district meet. Only senior Avery Hedden qualified for state after winning the Sky-Em Championship title at the district meet held at LCC.

Hedden was competing in cross country this fall for the first time as a Spartan after transferring from her previous high school in Santa Rosa, California just in time to compete in track and field last spring.

"When I moved here, coach Luke helped ease my transition and helped me tap into my competitive spirit. He pushes me every day in practice by challenging me to run a pace that I first thought was impossible. When I hit that pace, I realized that I was underestimating myself," Hedden said.

Pushing yourself is vital to success. "I am motivated by my inner drive to do something hard.



The boys cross-country team receives their 4A 4th place state trophy at LCC on Nov. 5. Photo by Mya Snyder '24

COVID pandemic.

"This will be a full circle moment being a senior ... the last time we went, I was a freshman and the seniors that were on the team were very welcoming. I have strived to offer the same welcoming attitude to all the underclassmen through the season and I am excited just to be able to have one last race with the team," Olsen said.

## A COME BACK SEASON

*Boys soccer crowned Sky-Em league champs*

 **Sophie Mahalak**

STAFF WRITER

The boys soccer team was ready for a comeback.

"Last year was disappointing, so this year is a bounce back year," senior captain Jackson Coffman said. "Mainly our goals were to make a deep run in the playoffs."

But their high aspirations wouldn't come without their share of challenges.

A brand new coach was one of them, as a new coaching staff always comes with new ways of doing things. "They had a lot of bad habits, and some technical things they weren't very good at. So early in the season we were working to try and fix that and we didn't perform very well because we hadn't mastered the new habits yet," head coach Jonathan Rea said.

"But as they practiced and played and listened and implemented the things we were trying to get them to do we got better and better. So we started at 1-5 but then we went undefeated the rest of the way – it exceeded my expectations for the team this year," Rea added. Of those early losses, two were to 5A teams and three were to top 10-ranked 4A teams.

For senior captain Jackson Coffman,

leading by example, instructing and leading drills, and using his voice – along with the other captains senior Jesus Medina-Cortez and junior Javi Sandoval Gongora – was significant in bringing the team closer together — especially since there was not a junior varsity team this year meaning the team was bigger and had more freshmen than usual.

It was clear that their team dynamic played a role in their success this season as they were on a winning roll for league play. They ended with a 7-0-1 league record and were 8-6-1 overall.

One of the better moments of the season, according to Sandoval Gongora, was when they beat Cottage Grove 2-1 at home which won them the Sky-Em league championship title after being down 0-1 the whole game until they scored two goals in the last ten minutes.

The Spartans lost 0-3 in the first round of playoffs at home against North Marion in a cold, rainy game. They had a tough time defending North Marion's fast offense, but never gave up and played hard as a team until the end.

"We have improved our team chemistry, which has contributed a lot, as the season



Soaked by the driving rain, senior Jackson Coffman fights for the ball in first round of playoff loss at home against North Marion in November. Photo by Jackson Anderson '23

went on," senior Kai Villano said towards the end of their season.

"Everyone is more like a family. Everyone's together and it shows on and off the field that we're just more united,"

Sandoval Gongora said.

This sentiment was also echoed by Rea before the first round playoff game. "They're very coachable, and have a good culture."

## THE SPIRIT IS BACK

*T-R-U-C-K, keep on truckin' all the way*

 **Paige Doerr**

EDITOR

Have you seen the spirit in town? With the arrival of experienced cheerleaders, Marist 2020 grad Regan LaCoste and her assistant Greg Martin, the cheer team has brought school spirit to the crowds at football games this season, revamping the Marist cheerleading program with new enthusiasm.

LaCoste was a competitive cheerleader growing up and Martin was a previous cheerleader at the University of Oregon.

The team of five freshmen girls led cheers and even passed out candy and

little toys to go along with the theme which the students loved and helped create an atmosphere of togetherness to encourage our Spartans.

The Cheer team also made banners for the football team to run through when they took the field and they even cheered in front of the parents to bring the whole crowd together.

Tryouts for the winter cheer team were last Monday and Tuesday. They will be cheering for the boys and girls basketball games on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They will start their competition season in January.



Freshman Ariel Stuckey holds a sign to encourage the crowd to make noise. Photo by Kennedy Powell '25

The 2022 fall cheerleaders pose with their coaches after the Philomath football game win. Photo courtesy of Regan LaCoste

# POSITIVE ENERGY = POSITIVE OUTCOMES

*Volleyball stresses the importance of creating an encouraging atmosphere*

## Maddie Haywood

STAFF WRITER

Marist volleyball senior captains made a change to prioritize unity on and off the court at a meeting with head coach Shari Pimental last spring. Pimental said they vowed to make sure they got along and were good teammates. "All the wins and losses," she said, "that's going to take care of itself."

The five seniors on the team agreed, prior to the beginning of the season, that a shift towards a more unified team and program could not be achieved without also having a shift in senior leadership.

"Being on varsity for four years, I have seen how the seniors impact the team morale, and I knew coming into this year, the other seniors and I really had to turn things around. Volleyball is such a mental sport, and when you don't have the supportive leadership, you really won't go anywhere," senior Tyler Harding said.

By supporting the younger players the seniors have also "created a different kind of leadership piece – that has been their legacy for us," Pimental said.

The coaches and seniors' goal to become a team that played as a team was quickly changed into a team wide goal. "Not just the seniors helped with this, but the sophomores and juniors, because they all know

the importance of supporting and lifting up your teammates," Harding said.

With the seniors leading by example, the volleyball program started to make a shift towards the success they were aiming for. "Our team has definitely improved this year! We've been ranked extremely high compared to the last few years, but that's not because we necessarily have the most incredible skill all around the court, it's because of our ability to cheer people up if a mistake is made," Harding said.

The team finished league play tied with North Bend. They beat them 3-0 in a league playoff game to win the second place title in the Sky-Em League. Last year they finished fifth in the Sky-Em League.

Not only did they finish second in league behind the No. 1 ranked 4A team, the Marshfield Pirates, they were also ranked No. 9 in the 4A state which earned them a chance to compete with the final eight teams at the state tournament.

They beat St. Helens in a OSAA Play-in game at home 3-0, then had to travel three hours to meet Crook County in the first round of the 4A State Playoffs on the Cowboy's home court. They lost 0-3, finishing 5-3 in league and 12-7 overall and met their goal of going to state.

The team's dedication to the sport and to each other showed on and off the court by



The volleyball team celebrates a point at home game against North Eugene. Photo by Jackson Anderson '23

their sense of unity they cultivated. Senior setter and captain Camryn Sydow said that senior leadership was a strong part of it, but also because everyone really enjoyed being with each other and were friends on and off

the court.

The senior's success at cultivating unity was affirmed by Pimental. "The chemistry was so good that the wins kind of took care of themselves," she said.

# THE WILL TO WIN



Senior AJ Sargent runs towards the end zone after catching a pass from senior Jackson Gibeau. Photo by Madison Holmes '23

## Varsity football earns district championship and state bid

### Rachel McConaghie

EDITOR

With only four returning starters from last season, the Spartans had big cleats to fill.

Starting off strong, the Spartans swept 5A Churchill and Springfield. The real challenge came with a long bus ride to the No. 1 ranked Mazama that led to a hard 7-42 loss.

But the passion and love for the game is what inspired this team throughout every play, every practice and every down.

They bounced back, winning six consecutive games to secure the 4A Special District 3 League championship title, after a thrilling 21-7 victory over Junction City.

Senior Jackson Gibeau, a 2nd Team All-League Quarterback selection, was one of the many who stepped up. "Do your job and remember all the lifting and hard work that we've done,"

Gibeau would remind his team before games.

Not just strong leaders, but also dependable teammates led to Spartan success. Senior AJ Sargent led the Spartans with the most receptions this year. He was named the Sky-Em Offensive Player of the Year, and also an All-League 1st Team Defensive Back, 1st Team Kick Returner and a unanimous 1st Team Wide Receiver.

"AJ and I are best friends on and off the field ... he makes my job a lot easier ... we just have a connection where I know where he is on the field at all times ... like a bromance," Gibeau said.

The Spartans defense and special teams unit was also relentless this season — blocking punts, recovering fumbles and catching multiple interceptions.

"My biggest mentor has been my teammates who help me out by giving me little pointers on defense to improve my

game," 2nd Team All-League outside linebacker senior Roman Rasmussen said.

After last year's 34-49 loss in the state championship game to Marshfield at Cottage Grove High School, the Spartans were eager for redemption.

Unfortunately, the ride was cut short with a brutal battle against Gladstone in the first round of the 4A State Playoffs. The rain downpour meant they had to stay with the running game and the receivers didn't get much action.

The Gladiators defensive line was ruthless, handing the Spartans a 20-21 loss. The way the Spartans stuck together despite losing, proves that when team bonds are built through battle they are hard to break.

"The reason that we keep going is for each other and we're all brothers and doing it for our families in the stands," Gibeau said.

# "SINK OR SWIM"

## Two seniors lead a very young team



Sophomore Piper van Buskirk, a Marist Spartan, shoots against a Hillsboro Spartan goalie. Photo by Irati Perez '24

### Elizabeth Tucker

STAFF WRITER

Water Polo was a small team of eight but what they lack in numbers they more than make up for in unity.

"We have a really small team which makes it really tight so you become really close to all the members of your team and your coaches... it makes us a team in the pool and out of the pool," sophomore Gwyneth Westover said.

The team had two seniors: Rachel McConaghie and Maddy Miller. There are four sophomores, three of which are team captains: Steen Swartley, team captain Piper van Buskirk, team captain Gwyneth Westover, and team captain Luke Manning. There are also two freshmen Hallie Walker and Sara Hutton.

Two new coaches Sierra Webster and Katie Fitzgerald

directed the Marist team this year. Both coaches were engaged with their team throughout the match, encouraging their players along the way, calling out plays, and working to keep their team's spirits positive.

At their last home match at Echo Hollow Pool the team honored their seniors before the match with gifts, posters, and heartfelt words of appreciation from their coaches in front of gathered family, friends, and teammates.

A hearty group of Marist students and parents cheered the team on throughout their match against the larger men's team from Hillsboro. Marist was on the offensive many times throughout the match but it was Hillsboro that won the day.

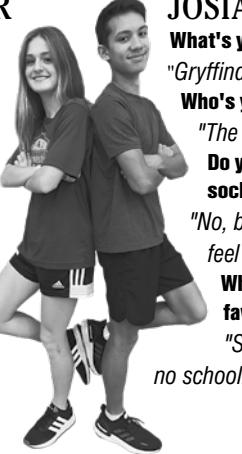
Though they might have lost the match, the tightly knit Marist team never lost hope.

# Students of the Issue

## FRESHMEN

### AVA SNYDER

**What's your Hogwarts house?**  
"Slytherin."  
**Who's your favorite celebrity?**  
"Bella Hadid."  
**Do you sleep with your socks on?**  
"No, that's gross."  
**What's your favorite season?**  
"Summertime because it is fun and there is no school."



### JOSIAH HERRING

**What's your Hogwarts house?**  
"Gryffindor."  
**Who's your favorite celebrity?**  
"The Rock."  
**Do you sleep with your socks on?**  
"No, because it makes you feel hot."  
**What's your favorite season?**  
"Summer because there's no school."

## SOPHOMORES

### ALEXA HENDERSON

**What movie would you be in?**  
"Tangled, because I want long hair."  
**What is the worst song ever written?**  
"Water Fountain" by Alec Benjamin.  
**What's the strangest thing in your backpack?**  
"Grip spray for baseball bats."  
**If you could lose one of your five senses, which would it be?**  
"Smell because my life would change the least."



### DAWSON RELING

**What movie would you be in?**  
"Star Wars to have a lightsaber."  
**What is the worst song ever written?**  
"Any song by Justin Bieber."  
**What's the strangest thing in your backpack?**  
"An orange peel."  
**If you could lose one of your 5 senses, which would it be?**  
"Smell because it is unnecessary."

## JUNIORS

### AALIYAH MARTINEZ

**Which Disney character do you identify with the most?**  
"Mater from Cars."  
**Which smells better, fresh-cut grass or bread baking in the oven?**  
"Grass because it reminds me of summer."  
**If you could invite three people to dinner, living or dead, who would you invite?**  
"Paul Rudd, Ryan Reynolds, and Chris Evans."  
**What's the most ridiculous fact you know?**  
"A shrimp's heart is in its head."



### MICAH HUGO

**Which Disney character do you identify with the most?**  
"Woody because I look like him."  
**Which smells better, fresh-cut grass or bread baking in the oven?**  
"Bread baking because I love bread."  
**If you could invite three people to dinner, living or dead, who would you invite?**  
"Ken Ham, Bill Nye and Pope Francis."  
**What's the most ridiculous fact you know?**  
"There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar."

## SENIORS

### ZAC HAGENGRUBER

**If you could shrink any animal to puppy-size, what animal would you own?**  
"Whale, so I can put it in my pool."  
**If you had an entrance song play every time you entered a room, what would it be?**  
"Homecoming' by Kanye West."  
**If you could go famous for anything what would it be?**  
"Saving a plane from a crash landing."  
**If you could only watch three movies for the rest of your life, what would they be?**  
"Knives Out, Daddy's Home, and Stepbrothers."



### JESSICA ARTEAGA-BOCANEGRA

**If you could shrink any animal to puppy-size, what animal would you own?**  
"Elephant."  
**If you had an entrance song play every time you entered a room, what would it be?**  
"Make Way' from Moana."  
**If you could go famous for anything what would it be?**  
"Being sassy cuz you know Sassy Jess."  
**If you could only watch three movies for the rest of your life, what would they be?**  
"Home Alone, Moana, and The Lion King."

## SOPHIE'S BLAST FROM THE PAST

*Senior Sophie Mahalak's movie and music review*

### WISH YOU WERE HERE

Pink Floyd 1975

Yes, I know this album is probably as old as all of our parents, but this album is proof that some things just get better with time. *Wish You Were Here* is layered and complex. You cannot simply listen to one song to fully understand it, you must let it leisurely unwind itself through its five songs, which totals to 44 minutes and 12 seconds. The album's opener "Shine On You Crazy Diamond

(Pts. 1-5)" rolls in at a whopping 13 minutes and 31 seconds. It is mostly a dreamy instrumental, full of guitar playing that is reminiscent of their previous album the "Dark Side of the Moon," before bursting

into the uplifting chorus that is intended to remember a former member of the band. It also has a sequel, "Shine On You Crazy Diamond (Pts. 6-9)" which closes out the album similarly to how it was opened. "Wish You Were Here," the title track, which ended up being one of Pink Floyd's most popular songs, has a certain detached feeling to it when you listen to it, the lyrics sounding longing yet uncertain about oneself and one's life. "Have a Cigar" has arguably had the most experimental production out of all the songs on the album, taking on a sarcastic tone as it depicts money hungry record company executives. This album contains consistent themes of absence and longing, with a particular distaste for the corruption of the music business. It provides what anyone who listens to Pink Floyd will expect, lavish, experimental production, and elusive lyrics that are up to interpretation.



### DAZED AND CONFUSED

"You just gotta keep livin' man. L-I-V-I-N." This quote perfectly encapsulates the breezy, laid back attitude of the nineties, coming-of-age film *Dazed and Confused*. Although this movie takes place in 1976, it still captures the familiar teenage spirit that is present today just as much as when this movie took place. It follows no specific plot, but aimlessly follows a group of high school seniors making the most of the last days of school in 1976. It mainly follows Randall "Pink" Floyd, the star quarterback of the football team. Unlike the typical star football player stereotype that is often portrayed in movies, Floyd is friends with everybody, the jocks, outcasts, nerds, constantly befriending those around him with his easy-going personality. Through his eyes we are exposed to the breezy relaxed attitude the students have, living their lives like there are no consequences. It was a box office flop on its release in 1993, but has since become a cult classic with many iconic pop culture references. It encapsulates the uncertainty of oneself and identity as you finish high school, as well as what comes with entering adult life. And of course, what would a movie taking place in the seventies be without a killer soundtrack, including Aerosmith, Steve Miller, Alice Cooper and more.



## Letters to the Editors

Dear Paige,  
How do you feel about PDA?  
Love, Smoochin' in the Halls

Dear Alex,  
What's the most embarrassing moment that has happened to you at Marist?  
From Nosey Reader

Dear Paige,  
How do I build the mental toughness to withstand everything that comes with being the best athletic fan?  
Sincerely,  
I Bleed Blue and Gold

Dear Smoochin' in the Halls,  
You mean PROBLEMATIC DISGUSTING and AWKWARD?  
Please just don't do it.  
It is weird and gross.

Dear Nosey Reader,  
My sophomore year I ripped my pants and had to hide in the bathroom for an entire period. Don't sit on Mrs. Nielsen's stool because there's some loose nails that will screw you over. Shout out to Maddie Baker for letting me know.  
Sincerely,  
Alex

Dear I Bleed Blue and Gold,  
It's about drive its about power. You must be willing to stand in the rain for 4+ hours with no hesitation, soaking wet, and never missing a beat of the cheers. Make sure to stay hungry and devour.

Sincerely,  
Paige

Dear Jackson,  
How do you get through being a newspaper Editor being dyslexic, don't you have to read stories or write one here and there?  
From,  
Joe

Dear Rachel,  
Will you make a hype video for our Chess Team? We really need some spirit on the board.  
From,  
The Rook

Dear Alex,  
Do you think your stuffed animal has feelings? Because I know my Bun Bun misses me when I go to school.  
From,  
Build-a-Bear Member

Dear Momma,  
I do semi get threw, although I am dyslexic I write monday stories which are always covered in red squiggly lines under words. I did actually write a story, it's about Br. Brian who came to visit on Nov. 9 it's on page three. You should go and read it ;) make sure to ignore my spelling errors.  
From,  
Jackson

Dear The Rook,  
A hype vid for a board game might be kinda tricky, but I'm up for the challenge!  
From,  
Rachel

Dear Build-a-Bear Member,  
No shame. People who don't think their teddy bears don't have feelings are crazy (or just lying). My teddy has witnessed a number of my crying sessions and always talks me through my problems.  
Love,  
Alex