

The Name News

Winter 2020

Fun Things To Do This Holiday Season

Caroline Zebrak '21 - News

The holiday season typically consists of time spent baking cookies, shopping for gifts, decorating the Christmas tree, and lighting the menorah. However, the holidays will look different this year as limitations on travel, time indoors, and contact with other people will alter the normal dynamic.

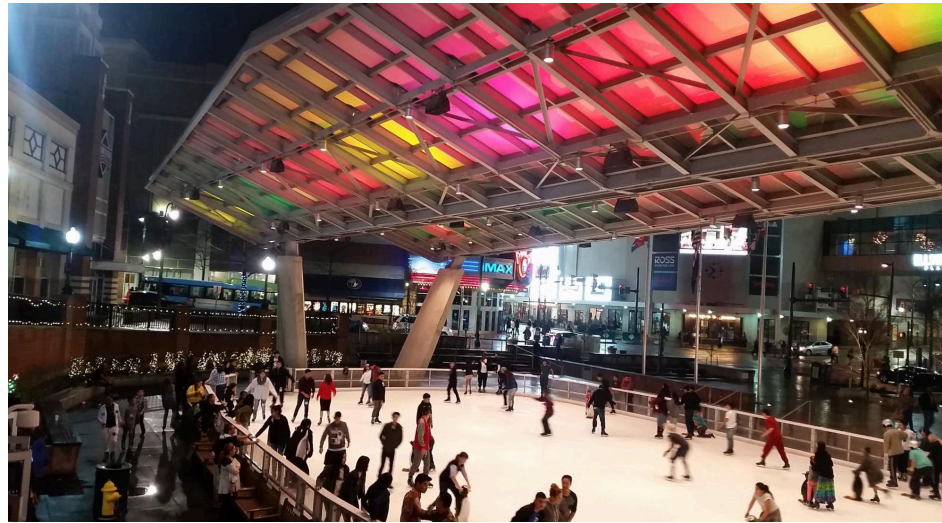
Despite limitations, there are still plenty of fun, local activities that students can participate in while staying safe from the coronavirus.

Dr. Delia Fine, an Internal Medicine Physician who treats adolescents and adults, said that the biggest challenge this holiday season will be to avoid being inside. She recommends that students “find clothing to keep you warm,” for all the time that will be spent outside this winter. When going to any of the following activities, Dr. Fine advises students to avoid carpooling in a car with non-family members.

Here are five local holiday activities that Dr. Fine considers safe for students to participate in this winter:

1. Watch holiday movies at The Wharf

On Transit Pier at the Wharf, you



Photograph by Silver Spring Ice Skating Rink
Silver Spring Ice Skating Rink

and three people can gather around a personal fire pit to stay warm while watching holiday-themed classic movies such as “Elf,” “A Christmas Story,” and “The Polar Express.” There are showings available most days at 2 and 6 PM, and tickets must be reserved online for \$60 per group. In accordance with DC’s current COVID-19 guidelines, group size is purposely limited to 4 people and masks are required.

While watching the film, movie-goers can grab snacks and drinks from the nearby “Cantina Bambina.” Dr. Fine said that because the movie is outside, “If you need to take your mask off for a few min-

utes to eat or drink your hot chocolate or whatever, then that’s safe.”

2. Shop at the Downtown Holiday Market

Shop through an annual DC outdoor market with over 70 exhibitors featuring artwork, clothing, crafts, jewelry, and specialty items such as antiques, soaps, and candles. While perusing the pop-up stands, shoppers can enjoy the music of local artists or grab a bite to eat from stands of donuts, churros, empanadas, and more. According to their website, the Holiday Market has put multiple procedures in place to ensure shopper safety, including a mask requirement, Jump to 3

Mutunga’s View

Mutunga Lamin '21- Opinion

“Christmas is the season of giving.” Although this saying seemingly played on repeat during my childhood, I never fully internalized the message, as I was always on the receiving end of holiday giving.

The truth is that people often struggle to empathize with or understand the perspectives and decisions of those whose lives differ from their own. That is one of the reasons why I could never fathom the possibility of an absence of gifts on Christmas morning because I had never woken up to a tree with no presents under it. My parents would persistently remind me of how fortunate I was, but it never resonated with me as a young child.

As I grew older, changing my perspective on holiday giving became essential for my long term growth. I began to see the world through a wider lens. I understood the importance and, moreover, the joy that comes with not only receiving gifts but giving them as well.

For the first time, I made it a priority to ask my friends and family exactly what they wanted for the holidays. For the first time, I was able to truly empathize with the “season” Jump to 4

Inside Look Into the Life of a Reporter

Joe Masters '22 - Sports

In recent months the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic have been felt across every major sport. It has affected the players, coaches, and fans worldwide. First hand accounts from the players themselves reveal that they’ve struggled to find a return to normalcy. Rarely, however, do we get the chance to hear from the people who get the answers out of these players. Luckily, I had the opportunity to connect with Washington Post beat writer Sam Fortier who covered the Washington Nationals during their world series run in 2019, and now follows the Washington Football Team amidst one of the most controversial years in the franchise’s history.

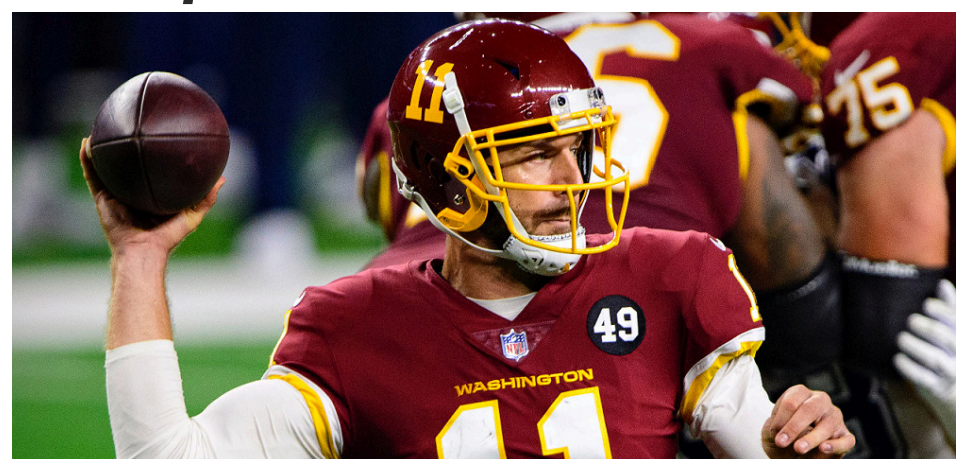
“10 minutes later, I have 100 emails”

That is how Fortier described the hectic moment when the formerly known Washington Redskins announced that they would be retiring their nickname

effective immediately. The news came after countless sponsors announced they were done backing the team. Fortier, at the time, was hiking with his father; when he went back to the car to check his phone one last time, he was hit with the news. That was July: in the midst of a pandemic, that was the new reality. In-person reporting was no more, depriving reporters of crucial relationships to help corroborate rumors and solidify their stories. Fortier, who had covered the Nationals in 2019 during their illustrious World Series run, highlighted the importance of having those interactions and relationships and how they made him a better writer.

“I don’t get invited to game 7 after-parties without those relationships... I wouldn’t have known who told Stephen Strasburg to warm up during the wild card game.”

Fortier said that although he can’t build these relationships in person, the virus hasn’t deterred him from reaching out. In June, Fortier wrote an ar-



Photograph by Jerome Miron-USA TODAY Sports

Washington Football Team Quarterback Alex Smith throwing a football

ticle detailing the quarantine workout routine of starting Football Team offensive lineman Wes Schweitzer. The beat writer reached out to the lineman’s agent and was then able to connect with Schweitzer himself. Through his hard work and dedication, Fortier was able to build a relationship with a player during a global pandemic. That display of persistence can serve as a model for aspiring journalists who look

for answers on how to tackle the pandemic.

“The pandemic has made the difficult task of building stronger relationships harder. But those relationships are key to being a good reporter, and they can be personally rewarding. The challenge is to discover new ways to build, and you shouldn’t be afraid to embrace new or unorthodox ideas -- because you never know what’s going to click.”

New Covid Restrictions and Vaccine Updates

Rosa Casey-Teeley '24 - News

The expected spike in COVID cases has left many Maryland residents feeling worried and confused. During November and December Maryland Governor Larry Hogan made multiple public statements addressing how the COVID-19 is currently affecting Maryland. Due to false information and conflicting political views about the virus, it is crucial that Maryland residents stay informed about COVID-19.

During a press conference on November 23rd, Hogan emphasized the current threat of COVID-19 by saying “our COVID hospitalizations have increased by 80%.” and that there is a record amount of COVID patients in the ICU. Hogan also said that, despite the fact that the Maryland state government has provided more than 6,000 hospital beds, around 29 of the hospitals in Maryland are at more than 90% capacity. This trend is not likely to go down anytime soon. In an attempt to slow the spread of the COVID-19, Maryland has reinstated precautions such as 50% capacity at public facilities such as restaurants.

Soon after news of a vaccine, the Maryland Health Department submitted a distribution plan to the CDC that consists of two phases. The first targets those at high risk of contracting the virus such as first responders, healthcare workers, staff and residents of nursing homes, and essential workers. Phase Two is releasing the vaccine to the general public but will be limited due to availability. The Maryland Health Department publicly released their COVID Vaccine Distribution Plan in November. This plan dedicates the first vaccines to front-line healthcare



Photograph by Brian Witte | Credit: AP

Governor Hogan speaking at a press conference

workers, with it next distributing to at-risk age groups such as the elderly.

On December 1st, Hogan held a press conference where he revealed that he just received news that Maryland will be receiving 155,000 vaccines, 50,000 from Pfizer, and the rest from Moderna. Unfortunately, 155,000 vaccines are not nearly enough for the entire state or even everyone on the front lines. For immunization, you need two shots which means only 77,500 people will be vaccinated.

Overall, Hogan along with other Maryland officials and political figures (such as Johnny Olszewski, the Baltimore county executive, and Marshal Weston, the president and CEO of the Maryland Restaurant Association, have made it clear that if everyone follows

the restrictions and rules, the pandemic response will be easier because fewer people will contract the virus. Most Maryland residents have been following these guidelines, but despite these warnings, some people refuse to wear masks and follow social distancing. This is where problems arise with covid transmission and the main reason that the Maryland government has chosen to create a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment of up to 12 months if one is found in public without a mask. This decision has been widely accepted with an anonymous Maryland resident saying “if the law is the only thing they [those not wearing masks] will listen to, then so be it. People need to recognize the dangers of this virus and put the community before themselves.”

Georgia Senate Race Tightens

Jonas Blum '22 - News

On January 6, 2021, two Georgia runoff races will determine the balance of power in the Senate for the next two years. Incumbent Republican Senators Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue are facing opposition from Democrats the Rev. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff.

In the special race, Loeffler and Warnock have been clashing on typical left-right political issues. Loeffler, the wealthiest member of the Senate, has campaigned on restricting abortion rights and continuing President Trump’s “America First” foreign policy. She currently holds an “A” rating from the Susan B. Anthony List, a political non-profit which rates politicians on their support of pro-life positions.

On the opposing ticket, Warnock, a newcomer to politics who has spent most of his adult life serving the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, falls on the other side of the spectrum. He’s a strong supporter of the expansion of Medicaid, which the Governor of Georgia opposes, and has called for the passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, protecting the franchise for millions of Americans.

Notable in both races here, Loeffler and Perdue were both involved in insider trading scandals earlier this year regarding the coronavirus briefings elected officials received prior to the public. Along with that, Loeffler is married to current New York Stock Exchange chairman Jeffrey Craig Sprecher.

Warnock is not free from his share of controversy either. After a sermon quoting the bible verse “nation shall not lift up sword against nation,” he delivered an anti-war and anti-military message that his opponents see as un-american.

On the national front, Warnock and Loeffler have both been endorsed by major figures of their respective parties, with Elizabeth Warren and Nancy Pelosi backing Warnock and Mitch McConnell and Joni Ernst backing Loeffler. Warnock and Loeffler are currently tied in the polls, with Loeffler appearing to have a slight edge in the latest NPR/PBS Newshour/Marist poll. The same can be said for the other race, featuring Ossoff and incumbent Perdue

Something interesting about this election is the use of newer social media platforms. Ossoff has found a strong

base in the usually bright red state through the use of the social media platform TikTok. He is currently one of the most-followed political figures on the act, despite only posting 6 videos to his account. He has also used TikTok’s sponsoring system to enlist other users to make videos in support of his campaign.

Perdue has held true to Georgia’s conservative roots by sticking by an anti-gay stance, limited government, and strong support of the 45th President. Perdue and Ossoff are neck-in-neck in the polls, at a near 50/50 split.

Around St. Andrew’s, opinions are less strong on this election than on the national one. Some of the students with vocal opinions on this election seem to be overwhelmingly in support of the Democrats.

Holden Sherman '22 told the Mane News these elections will determine the balance of power in the Senate and that “it’s time for change in the Senate, a change back to Democratic power.”

Supporter of Ossoff, Sasha James '22 says, “Ossoff will revive dignity and respect in the government and people of the United States.”

Local Officials Offer Confused Message on School Re-openings

Samuel Sandler '24 - News

Opening schools during the current COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be an extremely difficult decision for local school leaders and their colleagues. This situation has become even more complicated because of the conflicting information given to Montgomery County school leaders from local, state, and federal officials.

At the end of November, Montgomery County health officer, Dr. Travis Gayles wrote that in-person learning was inadvisable in a letter to local school leaders. “Current data shows that COVID-19 cases attributed to exposure in schools have been low. However, maintaining low levels of in-school transmissions will become more difficult as the cases continue to soar throughout the community, leading to more disruptions in learning.” He also said that schools are recommended to stop in-person learning and return to virtual learning until the number of cases per one hundred thousand residents goes below fifteen.

Contrary to Dr. Travis Gayles’ statements, Maryland’s State Schools Superintendent Karen B. Salmon and Governor Larry Hogan believe that students should be brought back to in-person school even if only a small number of students can attend. In late October, Salmon cited the detrimental social and academic effects on students, along with low infection numbers, as key reasons to bring students back to school. She was frustrated that the two largest jurisdictions for Maryland public school education, Prince George’s County and Montgomery County, are not bringing their students back for in-person learning. Center for Disease Control director Dr. Robert Redfield seconded Salmon’s concern, stating that, despite recent increase of infections in Montgomery County, the DMV, and around the world, “one of the safest places [kids in K-12] can be, from our perspective, is to remain in school.”

Headmaster Robert Kosasky said that the conflicting information between different officials made the situation more complex. In late July, Mr. Kosasky closely followed Dr. Travis Gayles’ statement that it was unsafe to open schools in person. While Montgomery County released its statement about one and a half months before school opened, Governor Larry Hogan did not release his guidance about opening school until late August, after St. Andrew’s had made its call to stay closed.

Mr. Kosasky said

Returning from College in 2020

Cece Fainberg '21 - SAES News

College students across the country are coming home to be with their families, while bringing laundry, textbooks, and the possibility of the coronavirus along with them. So far, COVID-19 has infected more than 15 million Americans and killed roughly 300,000. In light of these sobering statistics, traveling, college students coming home, and family time are now stressful instead of joyous and relaxing.

According to CNBC, the United States is about to brave the “darkest days of the pandemic.” Furthermore, they reported that “the next few months of the coronavirus pandemic will be unlike anything the nation has seen yet.” With this in mind, many families and their college students are trying to devise a plan to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Many colleges and universities have different guidelines when it comes to health and safety during this pandemic. In some cases, students were asked to remain at school for Thanksgiving and final exams before heading home for a month or two. Other schools asked their students to come back after Thanksgiving, and then return home again before Christmas. However frustrating they may be, these regulations are imperative to contain the spread of the coronavirus. Once home, these young adults need to practice stricter safety regulations that might not have been enforced in college.

A freshman at Duke University, Malaika Bhayana, discusses how her

university and her family are handling this pandemic. “It’s really nice to see everyone from home because it was a disorienting first semester... there were a lot of rules and regulations so it was more stressful than a typical freshman year.” In order to get together with friends, Bhayana has planned a lot of outdoor activities like “going on long walks or hikes, making s’mores around a fire, or screening outdoor movies.” Bhayana continues by explaining that her family has certain rules they have all agreed upon, such as no driving with other people, no indoor dining, and no entering others’ homes.

Ava Fainberg, a sophomore at the University of Colorado Boulder and sister of St. Andrew’s senior Cece Fainberg, stated that “not being able to see friends and most of the family is harder than I imagined it would be.” In Fainberg’s case, her family wore masks around the house and didn’t hug her until her second COVID-19 test came back with a negative result. “It was really upsetting to not be able to hug my family after not seeing them for months,” said Fainberg. She ended up going back to school after Thanksgiving, and may not return home for the remainder of the holiday season.

Jake Kowitz, a sophomore at Davidson College and brother of St. Andrew’s senior Sophie Kowitz, reports that “coming home from college has been really different, and a lot has changed for me socially.” This week, he had to take his final exams at home, reminding him a lot of the first few months of quarantine. Kowitz went on to say that “now that finals



Photograph by Jared Lazarus, Duke University Communications.
Duke University staff setting up a COVID-19 test site

are over, I’m starting to miss college a lot more... and it’s really hard without that social interaction.” Like most, Kowitz has been seeing a select group of friends since being back home, but makes sure to stay outside and maintain social distancing.

Chandrani Ghosh, a local mother of a college freshman, mentioned how wonderful it is to have her daughter home for the next couple of months, and that her family is “working to have some semblance of a ‘normal’ holiday season.” The Ghosh family picked up their daughter from school once her COVID-19 test came back with a negative result, and celebrated Thanksgiving with a “small family gathering after everyone got tested.” They expect to have a few small outdoor gatherings this winter, with firepits and masks, while hoping for normality next year.

The students and families interviewed have been following the CDC’s safety guidelines and have been mindful of the COVID-19 spread, specifically related to college students. Although health experts have outlined how to combat the virus, colleges, college towns, and many students themselves are making it more difficult to keep COVID-19 from spreading further. Traveling, getting together in groups indoors, and refusing to wear masks are all key elements in the most recent spread of the virus, and the people that are doing this are asymptomatic much of the time.

Bhayana noted that “with the news of an imminent vaccine, there’s finally some hope of interacting with friends normally soon!” Hopefully, the 2021 holiday season will be filled with good health, joy, and maskless celebrations.

Fun Things *continued*

hand sanitizer stations, contactless payment methods, wide walking aisles, and “Streamlined, one-way socially distanced foot traffic.”

St. Andrew’s senior Maya Noboa attended the market in early December with friends, and stated that “It was a great way to get out of the house, where I was able to be both festive and safe at the same time”. Maya felt completely comfortable while shopping, and said, “There were temperature checks, masks were obviously required, and everyone around me was super respectful

of keeping their distance”.

3. Go outdoor ice skating in Silver Spring

Enjoy the traditional winter activity of ice skating at an outdoor rink in Silver Spring, MD. Visitors must reserve a time slot in advance, wear masks, wait to enter the facility until their scheduled time and maintain social distancing from non-family members while on the rink.

Dr. Fine thinks this is a great activity because it is outside, spread out, and safety measures are being implemented. However, she warned

that “It’s going to get crowded”, so students hoping to skate at this rink should come prepared with a protective mask and only enter the rink if the crowd size looks safe and they are comfortable.

4. Drive or walk through the Zoo Lights in Baltimore

Visit the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, MD for a colorful light display offered every evening through January 3rd. Visitors can choose to either walk or drive through the light experience, but all tickets must be purchased in advance. Masks and

6-foot social distancing is required, and zoo pathways will only allow for one-way traffic. With the precautions in place, Dr. Fine says that this event sounds safe, especially if you do the drive-through with your family to avoid interacting with people outside your household.

However, Dr. Fine said that you should not go through the walk-through zoo lights with friends. “There is no point in doing a pandemic safe activity if you are going to be in a car with other people right before,”

Jump to 6

St. Andrew’s Managing Sports in Troubling Times

Alexandra Cannon '22 - SAES Sports

For athletes at every level, Covid-19 has disrupted training and threatened a major component of students’ identities. To adhere to federal guidelines and to ensure the safety of students, schools all across the country have halted or adjusted their sports seasons, including St. Andrew’s.

During this period, student athletes find themselves unable to train as they would under normal circumstances, and because of this, many athletes have worries regarding their future in their sport. Many student athletes are

facing difficulties with motivation, and coaches are worried about whether or not their teams will compete.

Simone Doumbouya-Foreman, a junior on the St. Andrews varsity basketball team as well as a member in her out of school AAU team, describes the sports scene this year as being a mix of emotions for her and other players alike. “Recently it has been so hard to even find a gym to workout out in, and so many places I have worked out at have closed down,” she said. Much like Simone, many other students are finding themselves in this same predicament—without access to equipment

that would be available under normal circumstances.

For many students at St. Andrew’s, coaches have been very supportive and have kept their athletes updated on the latest virus and sports information, and although there is much uncertainty about the sports seasons, keeping on top of training is the most important priority for the time being. Although, another concern for many athletes is whether or not they will get to play in their next season, along with safety and staying protected during coronavirus. That is why many sports teams, such as the basketball teams, are focusing on

individual skill based drills.

Dane Smith, the head coach of Varsity Boys Lacrosse, said that the team was fortunate enough to have 8 weeks of modified training from late September through the end of November before campus closed due to Covid. Currently, students are being encouraged to spend the holidays resting up and catching up on school work. In regards to training, the lacrosse team is prepared for any scenario, “we hope to be back in hybrid learning soon and be working with our players on campus, though in the meantime we will prepare for both scenarios,” said coach Smith.

Biden Names Early Cabinet Officials

Matías Heitner '22 - News

Biden's cabinet and staff may seem like an issue far removed from the St. Andrew's community, but the President-elect's choices have strong implications on how the entire country functions. A cabinet is integral in righting inequities and guiding us through crises. They are some of the president's closest aides and are in the direct line of succession for the presidency should he be incapacitated for some reason. Biden, however, is faced with numerous limitations as well as expectations that he must rise to.

For one, the president-elect is faced with a tough confirmation process in a senate that is shaping up to be Republican. They may attempt to block his push for more Democratic government, though there is a certain level of uncertainty as President Trump's unorthodox political tactics test our institutions.

Jason Ralston, a democratic media consultant and partner at Ralston Lapp who worked on everything from Obama's 2008 campaign to Gabby Giffords's winning bid for congress, said, "Whereas in years past there's traditionally been a great deference the senate has given to new presidents to fill the cabinet with the people that they want and can rely on, a lot of those traditions have gone out the window."

Overall, however, Ralston sees the cabinet passing through the Senate fairly easily, as Biden has pledged to choose well-respected experts. Janet Yellen, who oversaw the massive economic expansion from 2014 to 2018, is an example of a candidate who is very likely to pass without a hitch. She is also exemplary of Biden's attempts to bring in economists who helped the US in times of recession in the past.

Ralston said, "I think Yellen is widely respected within the financial community and there will be reluctance on the part of Republicans to try and

knock down her nomination." It is also important to note that Yellen was approved in the past, and the same senators who did so would be reluctant to suddenly change perspectives. Also part of Biden's economic team is Neera Tanden, a highly controversial pick with republicans and democrats alike. Her announcement caused immediate pushback from the GOP, who argue that the Office of Management and Budget, where Tanden is being appointed, should be unbiased. Tanden is well known for being a large part in passing President Obama's Affordable Care Act and being integral to the Clinton campaign, but in recent years has come to be known for her criticism of other policymakers in DC. Additionally, concerns about her ties with strong economic players are viewed as problematic for many lawmakers on the hill.

Health is currently a massively important topic, and many of Biden's early announcements have been in this field. Ron Klain fits into the highly important role of White House Chief of Staff. Klain is famous for his role as the "Ebola Czar" during the ebola epidemic, and has been highly critical of President Trump's handling of the pandemic. He is a seasoned expert in public health and will attempt to bring organization to Biden's COVID response and vaccine distribution.

Additionally, Xavier Becerra was announced to be Biden's pick for the Department of Health and Human Services. An unexpected choice, Becerra made his name fighting for healthcare as California's Attorney General. Mr. Becerra, however, may face some challenges during confirmation, as medical officials expressed frustrations that a physician was not nominated to this role.

Climate change is also an issue high on Biden's docket, and fighting it was one of his campaign promises. The president-elect chose John Kerry as his special envoy for climate, a

new position in the White House. On Kerry, Ralston explained, "I think it's also a huge reinforcing signal that we are going to re-engage with the global community." Kerry was one of the people who wrote the Paris Agreements, which President Trump exited in 2017, and could signal a re-entry into international cooperation on climate.

Ralston said that this fits within a general message of Biden's cabinet so far about international cooperation. Antony Blinken as Biden's choice for Secretary of State is another highly important pick, as his history of interventionism strengthens this sense of involvement with the global community. Blinken was deputy Secretary of State under President Obama, and he has extensive experience in diplomacy. He is another member who needs confirmation, and may cause more problems for Biden than Yellen.

Biden also declared that sometime this week, his attorney general will be made public, a highly anticipated move that could define many of his decisions moving forward. The position of attorney general is not the only hole in the president-elect's cabinet as around a dozen seats wait to be filled, both at the cabinet and staff levels. Questions of whether past political rivals such as Amy Klobuchar or Pete Buttigieg will claim positions remain unanswered, but will soon be known as more announcements filter in.

A promise of the Biden campaign was to fill the cabinet with more diverse voices, as the Trump presidency hailed the least diverse cabinet since Jimmy Carter in 1977. Already, this promise has been fulfilled, but some in the Democratic circle are worried that it is not enough and hope for more diversity as the cycle continues. Between upcoming elections in Georgia and unstable times that could lead to changes in the Biden team's decisions, this is a developing issue and factors may be different by the time this is read.

Mutunga's View continued

of giving" that had seemed absurd to me when I was solely on the receiving end of all that Christmas had to offer. For the first time, I appreciated the research, time, and genuine love that went into each gift I gave. It became second nature to me, to the point that it was rather tempting to judge people who only receive gifts like I once did.

I hope that anyone reading this will attempt to see beyond themselves and beyond the receiving end of the holiday season. Make a point to hold yourself to the "season of giving," whether it comes in the form of time, money, love, or even just a smile as you pass someone in the street.

School Re-openings continued

he views state metrics about the current pandemic as the most important governmental guidance for St. Andrew's. He also emphasized the importance of government organizations in continuing to develop our understanding of the coronavirus. He explained, "The CDC is the primary government agency that issues guidance. Their guidance has changed frequently as the scientific understanding of COVID-19 and the possibility of infection have changed." For example, at the beginning of the pandemic, there was great concern about coronavirus transmission through surfaces. Now, however, we know that the risk of transmission through surfaces is much lower than previously believed, and guidelines have been updated.

In terms of St. Andrew's' success in safely managing hybrid learning during the end of the first trimester, Mr. Kosasky credited the wearing of masks, maintaining social distance, and following all other safety protocols. He proudly reflected, "We have had 0 infections on campus in hybrid to date." The coronavirus cases we have seen in our school have been spread from outside communities.

Since speaking with Mr. Kosasky, situations have changed on campus. St. Andrew's has returned to distance learning with a tentative return-to-campus date of January 8th. The school accredited this change to a rise of cases in the area, not specifically mentioning if St. Andrew's had directly been hit with a surge of cases.

Hopefully, state, federal, and local officials can come to some agreement on school openings in the future. Nonetheless, school leaders will be forced to make more difficult decisions as COVID-19 continues to ravage communities across the country.

Weighing the benefits of distance and hybrid learning

Garlan Reading '22 - SAES Opinion

As we started school at the beginning of September many wondered, when will it be normal again?

As St. Andrew's Episcopal School started hybrid learning in the middle of October, many were skeptical not only about the safety of themselves, but the learning environment that came with it. Desks being six feet apart, masks mandatory, and walking in a single file line on the right side of the hallway were some of the changes that added to the oddity. But, whether we are in distance learning or in hybrid, we now

have an idea about what worked, what didn't, and what needs to be changed for the enjoyment and success for the student body.

Junior Yulia Molina said "St. Andrew's did a great job in marking sure everyone was safe and following protocol, to make it easy to communicate with teachers. I also enjoyed being able to have more time to do my work because of distance learning."

Although Yulia spoke of what worked during the month and a half period of hybrid learning, there were also issues. Sam Weitzman, a sophomore, said, "I did not like that

I had to sit in front of my computer all day... I feel the difference is that I am less motivated and focus during distance learning than in person."

In addition, senior Mutunga Lamin told the Mane News, "Some classes could definitely involve many more group activities in order to connect the students on a larger scale."

As we wrap up 2020 and move towards the beginning of 2021, many students are left with a dilemma. Do they go in-person and take advantage of the benefits of a classroom, or do they stay at home and maintain all the comforts of home.

THE ABORTION DEBATE

How Pro-choice Students Feel

Ana-Lucia Chalmers '22 - Opinion

Especially for pro-choice students, the growing tension in debates surrounding reproductive rights have created anxiety over *Roe v. Wade* and the possibility of it being overturned.

The confirmation of Justice Amy Coney Barret has led to some discussion over *Roe v. Wade*, and the possibility of a complete abortion ban. On the latest Court, the highest court in the land is majority Catholics; Six Justices practice the Catholic faith, despite Catholics only making up 20% of the US population. The question is, does it matter? Will the Justices take religion into account when voting?

As students at St. Andrew's have been engaged in these debates, the possibility of an abortion ban has created concern among the student body. Junior Catherine Colbert said that "when a pro-life advocate thinks of abortion, I believe they only focus on the gestational period of the fetus itself and do not take the rest of its life once it is born into consideration. In my opinion they do not think enough about its effect on lower income areas as well."

According to a recent story in *The New York Times*, it is unlikely that abortion will be completely illegal everywhere. Instead there would be a "tremendous inequality in abortion access", said Caitlin Myers, an economist at Middlebury College. This would, in turn, affect low-income neighborhoods the most, making it so that it is only the women that cannot afford to travel to far-away clinics that will be carrying out these pregnancies.

The other class-based issue is the disproportionate quantity of illegal abortions that would occur if *Roe v. Wade* were abolished. A study by the Center for Disease Control's Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System found that when abortion is illegal, the number of abortions, legal or otherwise,

goes up drastically. The increase of restrictive abortion laws directly correlates with the amount of abortions going up, with the majority of these abortions being off-the-book procedures in the low income communities.

Even while abortion is legal, the state legislatures in highly conservative states still make it difficult for women to access abortions. This comes in the form of restricting insurance coverage or putting extensive wait times for women that need an abortion. This leads to the women who need the abortions, specifically women in these low income neighborhoods, being turned down. These women know they cannot emotionally or financially support a baby, yet are being forced to carry a pregnancy to term.

St. Andrew's students have seen the direct impact that abortion debates have had on the student body.

The conversation has become increasingly polarizing, with the latest question being how involved men should be in the legal aspect of the abortion debate. One sophomore, Neeka Sadeghi, questioned how involved men should be in the legal aspect of the abortion debate. "Every woman should have the right to be able to choose, and that male students can have their own opinion on it, but at the end of the day it's a woman's body and it is ultimately her choice." As a male pro-choice student at St. Andrew's, junior Charlie O'Keefe says that "at the end of the day, my reproductive rights aren't on the line, so I usually assume I should back off and let women take lead of the conversation, even though I am 100% pro-choice."

The effect of these debates on students and the fear of abortion bans have created a sense of anxiety among St. Andrew's students, so as state legislation regarding abortion continues to change, pro-choice students wish for the best in the coming months.

Biden's Victory: A Day to Remember

Bea Marcus '22 - Opinion

On November 7th, I turned the TV on to MSNBC and heard the words "Joe Biden is going to be the 46th president of the United States". I immediately ran outside, grabbed the Biden / Harris sign in my front lawn, and headed to DC. On the way there, I opened up the sun roof and held the sign as high as I could while my mom and I screamed out the windows as the songs "Celebration" and "Oh Happy Day" blasted.

When we entered DC, the city erupted with excitement; it was as if everyone had exhaled in relief. There was cheering coming from every corner as cars honked their horns and people danced through the streets. Thousands gathered at Black Lives Matter Plaza right

in front of the White House with posters, speakers, flags, and masks. It was nothing like anything I had ever experienced before. It's hard to put into words what I was feeling, but all I was thinking was that there was hope in America once again, and that democracy had been restored.

We weren't only celebrating the fact that Joe Biden was deemed the president-elect, but also that America had elected Kamala Harris. As the first female African-American and South Asian-American Vice President-elect, she is making history. The most touching part of my entire day was walking past a young girl as she gazed at the posters of Kamala and said to her mother, "mommy she looks like us!" with the biggest smile on her face.

There were different groups of peo-

How Pro-life Students Feel

Hannah Dourgarian '21 - Opinion

According to a recent study done by the Barna Group and Impact 360 Institute, only about 30% of Gen Zers consider themselves pro-life. A survey conducted by the Pew Research Center found that 7 in 10 Americans believe *Roe v. Wade* should not be completely overturned.

The St. Andrew's student body seems to reflect these statistics, but the abortion debate is rarely discussed at school.

The abortion debate is "definitely politicized and I definitely think that does add into kind of the divisiveness of it" said senior Joe Anillo. This raises the question of whether or not the abortion debate can be interpreted and discussed in a way that explores it in a greater and more meaningful context than just another political divider.

"Because abortion is not really something we talk about or learn about at school, you're sort of expected to build your opinion based off what you hear in the news and what you hear at home, so it's harder to hear from both sides if you've just grown up hearing from one side or one perspective," said senior Zara Blake. "The more I hear from both sides, the more I agree with, so if someone mentions an argument that's pro-life, I'll be like 'Oh, yeah, I totally see that, I get that', and if somebody gives a real-world example of why pro-choice is the better option then I'll go like 'Oh yeah, I see that.'"

The caveat to this, however, is that there are significantly more students at St. Andrew's who consider themselves pro-choice than students who consider themselves pro-life, and the minority often does not feel comfortable expressing their perspective on the issue. "I think more people are pro-choice than pro-life, so that it's like, if I think pro-life then I'm like 'Oh, I'm not going to share my opinion that much because clearly there's not a lot of peo-

ple that agree with me so I'm just going to get hated on or judged,'" Blake said.

Headmaster Kosasky said intellectual disagreement is an important aspect of the school.

"I would say in any community, I'm actually rather glad if a student's having the experience of having a minority opinion within the community because if you go to school in a place where everybody thinks the same thing as you do, you'd never really have to explain why, and that's not really preparing you for the world... I hope all of us have some minority opinions because if not, we don't have a mind of our own," said Headmaster Kosasky.

This relates to the question regarding the role St. Andrew's should be playing in educating its students about this debate. Are St. Andrew's students knowledgeable, not just about the side their family, friends, or neighbors support, but about both sides of the issue? Are students being introduced to enough pro-life perspectives to be able to formulate informed and open-minded opinions? Should St. Andrew's be doing more to ensure that students from both sides are not only more informed about the complexities of the issue, but also respectful and empathetic of those who hold different views? In short, should this issue be taken a little more seriously, and discussed in a more structured environment?

"More information and more education on it can't hurt," said Anillo. "The more information you have, the more well-informed your opinion is going to be on it and who knows whether whatever piece of information it is that you're going to get will change your opinion on it and be that influential fact."

"What I think can be, and should be taught," said Mr. Kosasky, "is history, law, science, around the topic. It's probably important to know in our own nation's history, for example, when

Jump to 7

ple throughout the plaza, including an immigration activist group, a reproductive freedom group, and an anti-facism group. They were handing out stickers and using megaphones to express their enthusiasm.

News reporters and photographers from different stations made their way through the crowds, turning to question different people to ask about why they were celebrating and taking photographs to try and capture the electrifying energy that filled the city. Chants of "thank you Stacey!" echoed around the square, expressing large amounts of appreciation for Stacey Abrams tireless efforts to combat voter suppression in Georgia.

Junior Sasha James also attended the celebrations in DC that night. "It was a magical experience to be a part of all

these people who felt liberated by the removal of an oppressor and to celebrate alongside people of all genders, colors, and identities. There was a shared euphoria in the streets that democracy had been saved."

Junior Catherine Colbert was also downtown that day, and she expressed that "it was by far one of the happiest days of my life; people were dancing in the streets, cheering, and waving the American flags and signs out of the sunroofs of their cars. It was incredible."

After an anxiety filled four days consisting of little sleep and checking the electoral map every two seconds, the celebration that took place that Saturday afternoon was worth it. It was a great day to live in the United States capital.

Keeping Up With Ms. Shields

Caroline Zebrak '21 - SAES News

Ms. Shields is always keeping up with the Kardashians and other big-name celebrities, so it's finally time to keep up with her, and her transition from a police officer to a teacher during a world health crisis.

Brittany Shields is an upper school Chemistry and middle school Physical Science teacher, assistant track and field coach for both the indoor and outdoor seasons, and the club sponsor for people for pets, Ms. Shields always brings extra liveliness to the St. Andrew's community.

Just 10 months ago, Ms. Shields worked as a police officer in Washington, D.C, responding to crime scenes of burglaries and homicides. She worked the field for two years before realizing that it didn't align with her bubbly personality. However, teaching does. She strives for engaging and hands-on classroom experience, and finds it especially rewarding when students learn something, apply it to labs and figure out answers themselves.

"I try to make my classrooms warm and try to make science fun," she explained. "We have a lot of topics in science that are a little bit difficult, but I try to make it seem less frightening and more welcoming in a friendly way"

Ms. Shields described the transition from in-person to online as "emotionally exciting and draining". Each day is filled with lots of multitasking, as she is constantly switching between devices to teach, respond to emails, create lesson plans, and answer questions. Even with triple the amount of work that she had before distance learning, Ms. Still Shields makes sure to prioritize student-teacher relationships.

"A lot of my students would come



Ms. Brittany Shields

and vent about the day they had," Ms. Shields explained, describing the importance of having someone you can talk to when you need to get something off your chest and have someone just listen. Ms. Shields always sends emails to check in on her students. "I think I'm that ear for a lot of the students who I had before," she expressed.

At the age of 24, Ms. Shields shares similar interests to a lot of her students. She loves to stay up-to-date on pop culture and entertainment news, paying special attention to the happenings of the Kardashians, Zendaya, and Chris Brown. She enjoys listening to Megan The Stallion and Roddy Rich, and often plays the instrumental music of popular artists while students work. She is looking forward to being back in the classroom so she can get to know this year's students and reconnect with her old ones, and hopes to incorporate educational tiktoks into the classroom.

Welcome Ms. Cooper-Mullin

Cece Fainberg '21 - SAES News

St. Andrew's Episcopal School (SAES) welcomes Elizabeth Cooper-Mullin, the new 9th and 10th grade history teacher. Before SAES, her work experience included teaching at a number of schools, such as, The Dalton School and The Pingree School. Ms. Cooper-Mullin has taught various ages from 5th to 12th grades, and says this increased her understanding of developmental milestones in her students' education. Further, she says seeing "the progression" in each age group "has helped me become a better teacher."

Growing up in Irvington, New York and attending Connecticut College, Ms. Cooper-Mullin never lived south of New York before working at SAES. She loves to travel, and lived in Italy for 8 months with her fiancé before the pandemic caused them to return to the United States.

Ms. Cooper-Mullin has always loved



Ms. Elizabeth Cooper-Mullin

history. She recalls that her family played trivia history games at the dinner table, and that she always enjoyed "the story part" of an historical subject. She studied music, classics, and history in college and explains that the courses "expanded my mind in a way that was really interesting." Her long standing interest and love for history led her to pursue a career as a history teacher.

Bob Ross of St. Andrew's: Mr. Stanger

Caroline Zebrak '21 - SAES News

Moving to Maryland, a pandemic, and a folk-punk music phase—3 things that Matthew Stanger never imagined happening in 2020.

Mr. Stanger, at the age of 23, just recently began teaching Physics I and Honors Geometry at St. Andrew's. This spring he will be an Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach, and once traveling is viable, will aid in running the ski club.

St. Andrew's has been a big change for Mr. Stanger. One year ago following his graduation from Dickinson College, he began his teaching career at Squaw Valley Academy. At Squaw Valley, a small boarding school in Lake Tahoe, California, Mr. Stanger's classes were filled with just 4-9 Students. At St. Andrew's, his class size has more than doubled. Before teaching, Mr. Stanger considered a few careers.

"I wanted to be in a field where I could help people," Mr. Stanger stated, explaining how he also considered a career as a therapist or police officer. "I eventually chose teaching, because you can incorporate math." The transition between schools amidst a world health crisis has not come without its challenges. Joining St. Andrew's during the Pandemic "felt weird, to say the least". Mr. Stanger has only ever met his students through a computer screen, making it difficult for him to bond with his pupils. This school year has provided challenges, but Mr. Stanger says that his students have been doing a great job.

However, there has been one thing not as great about his new move to Maryland--the Pizza. A New York native, Mr. Stanger has been desperately missing the food his home state



Mr. Matthew Stanger

is known for. His go-to's and top recommendations? Pizza Grill for a plain slice, and Gigi's for a Sicilian. But when it comes to New York Pizza places he loves, the list goes on.

He is a teacher who loves tomato sauce on his pizza, but stays away from another tomato staple that most people love-- ketchup! He has never once tried it, and is proud of his avoidance. "I'm afraid of ketchup, it frightens me", Mr. Stanger joked. "I like to be weird". Among his other quirks, Mr. Stanger has recently found a love for folk-punk music, and loves to play board games and baseball.

Mr. Stanger has a long school year ahead of him, hopefully one that is filled with better pizza. One thing is for sure, Mr. Stanger is very excited to meet his students in the coming weeks.

Fun Things *continued*

she said. If possible, she recommends commuting there separately. If it is absolutely necessary to carpool, masks should be on and windows should be rolled down despite the cold.

Senior Ashton Rubley recently visited the drive-through zoo lights with three of her friends. "It was a long line at first, but once we finally got to drive through the lights we listened to Christmas music and enjoyed the view. It was fun to spend time with friends and still feel safe," said Rubley.

5). Visit the Meadowlark Botanical Garden Lights in NOVA

Like the Baltimore Zoo Lights, the Meadowlark Botanical Garden Lights in Northern Virginia allow people to view a beautiful light spectacle while staying covid safe. Social distancing and masks are required, except when eating treats or drinking hot chocolate from the

Snack Shop. Workers will be cleaning counters, credit card keypads, and high-contact surfaces.

Dr. Fine thinks that this activity sounds great, pointing out that "If you go with your family, then you don't have to worry about distancing yourself from the people you went with."

According to data provided by the New York Times, the DMV has reached a total of 462,685 coronavirus cases at the start of December. With cases on the rise, it is essential to note that spending time in any public place provides a risk of exposure to COVID-19, especially if people from various households are present. Do not attend any of these activities or go in public if you are showing any symptoms of COVID-19, and maintain social distancing from families other than your own.

Interview with Dr. Gilcher

Matías Heitner '21 - SAES
News

Dr. Gilcher is a new teacher this year at St. Andrew's. After receiving her Masters and PHD at Duke, she went on to teach French at both university and pre-collegiate levels. Today, she has founded Your Brain Can Learn French, a program that not only teaches French, but trains new teachers to more effectively be employed in the field. Much of her work has been funnelled towards diversity training and inclusion, and she has led countless workshops on the matter. I sat down with her to have a long distance chat about what entering a new ecosystem during distance learning is like, and how her specific skill sets prepare her to meet the challenge head on.

This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

How would you like for me to address you?

I'm Dr. Gilcher. Madame Gilchère in French, either one is fine.

And this is your first year teaching at St. Andrew's, right?

It is indeed.

What classes do you teach?

I'm teaching French one, two sections of French two and French for all of them in high school.

How are you liking it so far?

I really like it a lot. I'm really enjoying it. I did a lot of teaching online

already for the past several years and then a ton starting in March so I'm really comfortable with the online format. That part wasn't hard for me. And it's been really, really fun getting to know the students.

How has the transition into a new teaching position during distance learning been?

I had the benefit of already knowing a lot of people in my department. Ms. Adams and I have worked together for 11 years. We were in another school before and we actually run a business together. Ms. Clyburn, the department chair, is somebody I've known for quite a few years as well, so I had the benefit of knowing a lot of people. On the one hand I miss how it would feel to be at school, but on the other hand, I definitely feel like I'm part of a community and I'm part of something. And like I said, I'm used to teaching online, so it's not hard for me to create a community in my classes online because I'm already used to doing that.

What made you decide to study language and then eventually teach it?

My dad speaks French and German. He actually now also speaks other languages, but when I was growing up, I always heard French and German and we spent time in France and Germany. So I started speaking French in middle school, but I already knew that it was something important and something real, it wasn't just kind of this vague idea. And then I was an AFS student in France when I was 16. I lived with

a family in France, went to high school there.

That's the point where my life just changed and it became really part of who I was to speak French. Really from then on, I knew I'd be teaching in some way and I've taught in some different formats. I've taught at university and I've taught a lot of individuals, and I used to help out at my kids' French immersion school. I just love languages. I also speak German and Spanish and it's really fun to share it. I'm really passionate about how everybody can learn a language. It's not something that is reserved for talented people. And so that's, for me, a really huge part of what I do is make sure that everybody knows that their brain can acquire the language.

In an environment like distance learning where it's hard to be heard correctly or come across the way you intend, do you think your training in nonviolent communication has helped?

Yeah. I'd say that the work that I did in nonviolent communication for many years has become a big part of me. I don't necessarily analyze things with NVC in mind anymore, but it's very much how I interact with people. What it taught me to do was to listen for what the message really is. Whatever someone's doing, they're attempting to meet a deep human need that we all have in common. Even if I don't like their strategy for getting there, I'm always listening for what's underneath. And I think that's a core of teaching, no matter what it's like really meeting ev-

eryone and seeing, "Well, who are you underneath? And what are you really asking for?" Which is to be seen and to be heard and to be cared about and to be known and to be autonomous and all these things that we all care about.

This last one's a bit of a tongue twister, does your experience teaching teachers help you teach better?

Yeah, I've learned a lot. I learned a lot also from watching other teachers. So one of the benefits of teaching teachers has been getting to observe them. I've gotten to see so many wonderful things happen in other people's classrooms that I have learned countless diverse styles of teaching. I benefit a lot from that.

One of the things we do in our teacher training, we look for and then ask people to tell us how the teacher is making the language comprehensible, how they're creating a positive and supportive environment for students. And then maybe how they're making the message compelling. And those are the three elements that you need to learn a language. That's all you need. You need to understand the message and be comfortable. We look for the positive. That helps me also look for that in myself. It's easy to be very critical of your own work, even if you're generous with other people, so I think teaching teachers has helped me also look at what I'm doing well, and then try to do more of what I do well, instead of berating myself for what I'm not doing well.

How Pro-life Students Feel *continued*

abortion became either legal or illegal, or how it has evolved as a political issue, how has it evolved as a sense of personal right, why not only for religious or ethical reasons is it such a hotly debated topic, but why also for legal reasons? There are specific reasons for how abortion found its way in to federal law, that contribute to that debate, and I think actually people on both sides of the issue agree on that."

While many members of the St. Andrew's community may agree with this statement, whether or not any of this material is actually taught is another question. "None of my classes have ever discussed this issue in depth. We've had brief conversations here and there, specifically around the time of Judge Barrett's hearing, but other than that no," said Blake, and "I personally am unsure whether St. Andrew's students know the details of the historic debate as it is not touched upon a lot at school".

St. Andrew's strives to know and inspire each and every student. But there are members of the community who wonder if it is a problem that many students, regardless of whether they are pro-life or pro-choice, feel that they can not express their beliefs because they are afraid of judgment, ridicule, or even as some students mentioned, hate.

At a school such as St. Andrew's that prides itself on diversity, acceptance, and community, this should not be the case.

"You can have a community in which it's safe to express minority opinion but somebody doesn't want to feel wrong, somebody doesn't want to feel like more people think something different than they do. Or you can have a community in which if you express the minority opinion, even if it's a deeply held conviction or even if you have a really well-thought out position, you know, people are going to react not only negatively, but in a kind of personally negative way," said Mr. Kosasky. "That latter thing is really problematic, but to me it's also sort of problematic if people don't sort of have the courage to say 'It's ok with me if I think something and it's not what everyone else thinks.'"

"If students are sort of having a hard time being friends or communicating across differences in faith or differences in politics or differences in individual beliefs, unfortunately they're mirroring adult behavior, because as you know, more and more in our country and elsewhere around the world people are kind of sorting themselves into groups of like-thinking adults, and that's a real problem, because it's one of the things that contributes to people

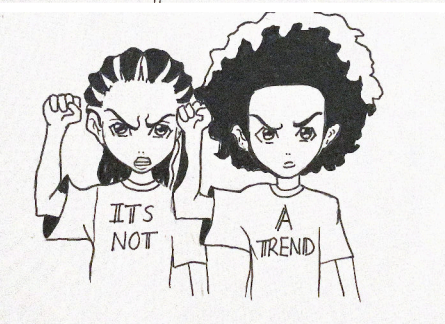
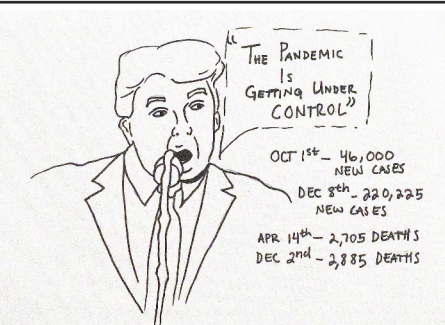
feeling like they don't understand other people, or nobody listens to them, etc., because they're not in regular interaction with people who think differently than they do."

do hope those conversations take place," he said. "but before people listen, people have to be willing to speak, and do it respectfully."

The fear and silence at St. Andrew's relating to this debate is startling. But now there is a new problem, maybe one even more troubling than the prior. Whose responsibility is it to break the ice and begin this conversation? Do students have the right to complain about being judged for their opinions if they don't have the courage to voice their views openly? Or should the school be doing more to address this issue directly?

St. Andrew's as a whole has shown significant effort in the past addressing several other important issues to the student body, not only in the classroom but also in round tables, advisories, assemblies, and chapel talks. Racism, anti-semitism, drug and alcohol use, and most recently, the controversial history of Thanksgiving have been just a few of the topics St. Andrew's has actively opened up for discussion within the community. Should the abortion debate really be any different?

Cartoons



Snaky Tiles

Mr. Ternes

Divide each grid into groups of cells that form snakelike tile groups

Rules:

1. Each snaky tile group contains within it exactly two matching numbered squares, which may not be adjacent to each other.
2. Those numbered squares must be equal to the total number of squares in the snake
3. No snake can touch itself, even diagonally.
4. When completed, snakes will fill entire board

Easy:

		6		4		
		6		5	4	6
6			6			
6				5		5
	5	6			6	6
	7				4	5
5			7		6	
	4			4		4

Medium:

			6			9			
			9			5		5	
6			5			6	5		
			8	5					
	5		5		8	8	6	4	8
			8						
			5					4	
			8			6			
			7			8	6	8	
						7			

Difficult:

	4	6							
4		7				7			7
		4					4	6	
	6			6					
	4					6	5	4	6
			7						
6	6	5	6				7		5
6					6		6		
	5				7				
	6					4		4	6

Example:

	4			4
	6		6	
	4		7	
4				7
			4	

Solution:

	4			4
	6		6	
	4		7	
4				7
			4	

Illegal snakes:

5		

Not
snakelike

	6	
	6	

Adjacent
squares

10		

Touches
itself

		7
7		

Touches
itself

Word Problem

Witch's Stew

Find the digits for which the following sum is correct? Each letter represents a different digit.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{DOUBLE} \\
 \text{DOUBLE} \\
 + \text{TOIL} \\
 \hline
 \text{TROUBLE}
 \end{array}$$

Answers will be revealed next issue

Answers to last issue's puzzles:

Hitori

Easy:

5	2	3	3	4
4	3	4	5	2
4	5	5	3	2
2	4	5	4	3
4	4	1	2	4

Medium:

2	1	1	5	4
3	1	2	3	5
4	4	3	3	5
4	5	3	2	1
2	2	1	1	4

Difficult:

7	1	6	6	4	7	4
3	2	4	7	5	6	1
1	5	6	5	2	3	3
5	4	3	3	3	5	1
7	5	1	2	6	3	4
2	2	3	3	7	7	5
5	3	1	1	4	2	5

Word Problem

Thomas's fish was 132 inches!!!

The Mane News is edited by:

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