

## What's Inside:

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## Russell J. Salvatore Steps Up in a Big Way

Russell J. Salvatore will once again make a huge difference in the Western New York community. He has made a substantial gift to St. Mary's High School in Lancaster to help the school make up the deficit left by the Diocesan cuts announced last April.

Salvatore has been a friend to the town and village of Lancaster for decades and had actually been in discussions with the St. Mary's High School Board of Trustees

and Head of School Kevin Kelleher over the past year to try and determine how to best help the school. The chance to help reverse the deficit caused by the Diocesan cuts provided a great opportunity for Mr. Salvatore to step in and immerse himself in St. Mary's. Mr. Salvatore lives by the mantra his dad always expressed to him: "Give and you will receive."

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*Seniors Alex Denz, Brady O'Brien, Caitlin Bish, and Claire Fabey pose with Dean of Advancement & Alumni Relations Amanda Rebeck, Head of School Kevin Kelleher, and Russell J. Salvatore to receive the gift.*

## New Members Inducted into National Honor Society

On November 19, 2018, 30 new members were inducted into the Marian Chapter of the National Honor Society at St. Mary's High School.

The new members are (in alphabetical order):

Kayla Bestpitch  
Sara Bojarski  
Kelly Cleversley  
Allison Cole  
Grace Haxton  
McKenzie Jensen  
Marguerite Kellner  
Myla Kline  
Jennamae Lipiarz  
Julia Livingston  
Daniel May  
Samuel Mickel  
Ava Miller  
Brendan Murty



Madison Nuttle  
Rebecca O'Connor  
Mary Owczarczak  
Caleigh Pfalzer  
Rachel Pokornowski  
Nicholas Pronobis  
Emily Renkas  
Marie Rhodes  
Emma Ridolfi  
Matthew Rosinski  
Destiny Severn  
Carolynn Steffens  
Kerry Sullivan  
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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

'Tis the season for last-minute Amazon purchases, hearing different variations of the same fifteen songs on the radio, and, of course, that glorious Buffalo snow.

Feeling drained during this season is by no means an uncommon occurrence and has practically become an expected facet of this time of year. What would Christmas be without the hassle of buying gifts for others and emptying our bank accounts just to show someone you love them?

Perhaps I'm being far too harsh on the holiday season because, after all, it is truly a wonderful time for celebrating the birth of Christ in the company of our loved ones and delicious food, but Christmas seems to have fallen into the unfortunate realm of societal over-commercialization.

The pressure of having to find the "perfect" gifts for our family and friends amidst planning holiday parties and Secret Santa exchanges is enough to drive anybody mad, not to mention having to travel on slippery, snowy roads in order to do so. How could we allow such a wonderful holiday to become a blundering, expensive competition of sorts? As Ellen Griswold said in *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, "I don't know what to say, except it's Christmas and we're all in misery."

I don't hate Christmas by any means. Without a doubt, the season possesses the ability to enchant the atmosphere of each town and household, and enables even the smallest of hearts to grow three sizes. However, neither of those are a result of receiving a cool gift or purchasing the priciest decorations to subtly brag to your neighbors. Christmas instills the warm feelings of family, faith, and childlike wonder into each of us.

As cliché as it may sound, the underlying message I hope to convey lies in my belief that the simple aspects of Christmas are most important, and definitely serve as evidence as to why the holiday is so beloved. Visiting with out-of-town family members and/or friends, enjoying one another's company over a home-cooked feast, and simply watching a favorite Christmas classic in the company of loved ones will always bring out the best in us opposed to solely focusing on the materialistic aspects and therefore viewing the season as one giant to-do list.

While there's absolutely nothing wrong with buying a great gift for someone, it's essential to remember that nothing can replace carving out time to spend with those you cherish most, and that the true reason for the season is the gift of Jesus.

Sincerely yours,  
Brianna Propis

## Calling all writers!

Do you like to write? Are you passionate about St. Mary's? Do you have a particular interest you'd like to share with an audience?

If you answered yes to any of the above, then come join us at *The Marian Gazette*! We are currently looking for student writers for all of our news sections. If you are interested, please contact Student Editor Brianna Propis, Mrs. Roberson, or Miss Kawa.

School News

Local Broadcaster Guest Lectures at St. Mary’s

Mr. Herr’s Public Speaking classes welcomed a special guest lecturer this past month. Former Buffalo Sabres broadcaster and current All Square Media LLC broadcaster Kevin Sylvester brought many of the lessons he has learned in the communications world to St. Mary’s High School.

Sylvester gave students some all-important tricks of the trade when it comes to learning how to work a room, knowing your audience along with your facts, and how he has found to most effectively get his points across.

Guest lecturers are all a part of St. Mary’s increasing attempts to innovate how our Lancers learn in the classroom. Adjunct professors and guest lectures keep students engaged and offer a different, real-world perspective for students to better grasp the topics being discussed in various classes.



Scholarship Set Up in Salvatore’s Name

Salvatore has been impressed with the progress made at St. Mary’s and believes in the momentum the school has been able to garner. It is in large part because of Kelleher’s leadership and his administrative team that Salvatore felt confident in the school’s direction and in making his gift. Kelleher and Salvatore both share a passion for education and will work to ensure great schools, like St. Mary’s, are able to continue to offer a safe, innovative, faith-based environment for future generations of students.

Salvatore knows the impact this type of donation can have on St. Mary’s High School, in an email he wrote: “Kevin, I am happy to be in a position to help the St. Mary’s students and their families. St. Mary’s is on such a great path and I see you, your leadership team and the Board working hard, you are making a difference and are doing outstanding things for the young people in our community, following a tradition I remember from when I moved out here 50 years ago. This should help keep the momentum going.”

This gift, along with some proactive measures taken by Kelleher and his leadership team, will be used exclusively to offset the unexpected Diocesan cuts and eliminate the need for a tuition supplement. In conjunction with Mr. Salvatore’s donation, St. Mary’s announces the formation of the Russell J. Salvatore Scholarship for incoming freshmen. If you would like to support the Russell J. Salvatore Scholarship and our efforts to continue our commitment to providing the best

ment to providing the best high school experience possible for future generations of Lancers, please visit [smhlancers.org/support-smh/](http://smhlancers.org/support-smh/).

School News

Dean’s List Announced

It may be hard to believe, but the first quarter of the 2018-19 school year has already come and gone! Below is a listing of the students who have been named to the Dean’s List for this quarter. Please note that the top 5 in each class are listed and the rest of the class on the Dean’s List is listed in alphabetical order.

Freshmen

- 1. Dylan Gurnari
- 2. Natalie Kupczyk
- 3. Dallas Beeman
- 4. Katherine Sieber
- 5. Jordan Hummel

Anna-Valece Bauer  
Jack Bojarski  
Mackenzie Chapman  
Shay Ciezki  
Frances Colby  
Madalyn Covelli  
Anna Dovey  
Isabella Farina  
Riley Faso  
Gabriella Gambino  
Michael Georger  
Dakota Gorny  
Ava Hickok  
Carly Howard  
Grace Kicinski  
Ryan Kobis  
Courtney Kurkowiak  
Matthew Larroque  
Lily Lauck  
Grace LaVarnway  
Derrick Linde  
Bridget Martin  
Hailey Miller  
Katherine Montesanti  
Aiden Murty  
Margaret Nawojski  
Shae O’Rourke  
Charlotte Pawli

Rose Sambuchi  
Jacqueline Simpson  
Madison Stoklosa  
Leah Wierzbowski  
Aloise Wipperman  
Hannah Wolf

Sophomores

- 1. Katelyn Laistner
- 2. Alyssa Okon
- 3. Molly Callahan
- 4. Brandon Thome
- 5. Mackenzie Kwilos

Ava Achtyl  
Jill Bernas  
Abby Broderick  
Sean Brown  
Madeline Cole  
Grace Dempsey  
Katie Fahey  
Riley Fay  
Laura Fontaine  
Benjamin Hadsall  
Camden Hurd  
Jeremy Kandler  
Christina Kocol  
Victoria Loniewski  
Julia Loschiavo  
Madison Meredith  
Lillian Mikla  
Nicole Norton  
Laura O’Brien  
Sydney Ottomano  
Claire Rahuba  
Benni Saladino  
Connor Schmitt  
Emma Seipel  
Allsion Shepard  
Ryan Slade  
Ben Stegmeier  
Jenna Szymkowski  
Matthew Walter  
Makenna Wanat  
Mekensie Weinholtz

Juniors

- 1. Jeff Zoyhofski
- 2. Jill Szeluga
- 3. Mary Owczarczak
- 4. Carolynn Steffens
- 5. Sam Mickel

Skye Baun  
Kayla Bestpitch  
Sara Bojarski  
Sam Carlson  
Hannah Carrow  
James Chmurzynski  
Kelly Cleversley  
Allison Cole  
San Dantonio  
Peter Duane  
Vito Gallo  
Thomas Haefner  
Grace Haxton  
McKenzie Jensen  
Maggie Kellner  
Myla Kline  
Chris Kobis  
Jennamae Lipiarz  
Julia Livingston  
Dan May  
Wylie Maziol  
Ava Miller  
Brendan Murty  
Maddie Nuttle  
Megan O’Brien  
Becca O’Connor  
David Persico  
Caleigh Pfalzer  
Rachel Pokornowski  
Marie Rhodes  
Emma Ridolfi  
Giavanna Sacco  
Destiny Severn  
Jessica Sheffield  
Meadow Slade  
Isaac Stearns  
Kayla Sterner  
Kerry Sullivan  
Max Swiatek

Seniors

- 1. Claire Fahey
- 2. Caitlin Bish
- 3. Jake Wilk
- 4. Kailey Kline
- 5. Nick Pronobis

Anya Achtyl  
Anna Almeter  
Madeline Benzer  
Ashley Cruz  
Alex Denz  
Emma Dillon  
Maddie Ellison  
Sarah Filion  
Haley Fisher  
Francesco Gallo  
Nicole Gorny  
Julia Hartloff  
Joyce Hunziker  
Kyle Karoleski  
Alyssa LaMartina  
Chris Maloney  
Saige Maniscalco  
Bridget Mazurowski  
Athena Mohamed  
Emily Molnar  
Olivia Nasternak  
Brady O’Brien  
Arianna Palmer  
Brianna Propis  
Emily Renkas  
Sarah Rickettson  
Olivia Rodriguez  
Susan Romance  
Matthew Rosinski  
Jenna Stanley  
Sarah Suffoletto  
Emersyn Szczesniak  
Emma Trapper  
Arielle Tyrpak  
Matt Vallone  
Bridget Vogl  
Austin Walsh  
Tara Wanat  
Josh Weiss



Faculty Spotlight

Faculty Q & A with Mr. Herr

Last month's "Guess the Teacher" featured a few facts about Mr. Herr, so here's a deeper interview with one of SMH's favorite teachers...

**Q:** When did you start teaching at St. Mary's and what has been your fondest memory?

**A:** "I started teaching at SMH in August of 1995, teaching classes like Introduction to Performing Arts, Intro to Occupations, and Mechanical Drawing. I was also the Dean of Students back in those days. My fondest memory, I think, was being able to hand my own son, Adam, his diploma as he graduated in 2011."

**Q:** Where did you attend high school?

**A:** "I am a graduate of Clarence High School."

**Q:** Who is your personal hero and why?

**A:** "My wife, Linda is the strongest person I know. When things go badly, there is no one you would rather have standing beside you. When things go well, it is usually because of her planning or support. We've been through some really rough times and she has always been a rock."

**Q:** What inspired you to become a teacher?

**A:** "It was a crime of opportunity. I was asked by the then principal if I

would be interested in setting up a theater program and teaching a few classes. I was working in retail at the time after a failed attempt at being a freelance scenic designer. The new opportunity provided me the opportunity to get back to doing theater. I took it with the idea it was temporary. I loved it and still do, so here I am....still."

**Q:** Knowing all that you do now, if you could give your high school students any words of wisdom, what would you say?

**A:** "I'm a huge believer in following your dreams, but you don't necessarily have to do it for a living, and sometimes that sucks the joy out of it. I love to golf, but I imagine it would be less fun if it were my job. Singers can sing in church choirs, artists can still do art without it being their full-time gig, and writers can write whatever they want if they don't have to worry about selling it. Do what you love, even if you aren't getting paid for it."

**Q:** Any piece of advice for students struggling to decide on a college or major?

**A:** "You don't have to have your whole life figured out at 18, 19, 20 years old. And you are certainly able to change your mind on any of those things. Going to the wrong school? Transfer. In the wrong major? Change it. I started as a Pre-Med major and changed that in the middle of my junior year."

**Q:** Anything else you'd like to share with *The Marian Gazette* readers?

**A:** "Being kind to one another costs us exactly nothing, and yet that return on investment is astronomical. Nothing makes the world better than a little kindness, and we can all contribute to that for free."

Mr. Fay's Corner

Ebenezer Scrooge and the Grinch have become my Christmas heroes. They remind me of what this season has become. It is a time of shopping, spending, soliciting and stress. "What do you want?", "What can I get for ...?". The commercialism that begins the day after Halloween, gets old very quickly and detracts from the sacredness of this time. As much as the church community tries to focus our attention on celebrating Jesus' birth it's all too easy to get caught up in the card sending, parties and secular elements.. The Advent wreath, calendar, and readings help to remind us but very often they become incidentals. Allow me to offer a prayer for the St. Mary's Family;

May you let the presence of the Holy Spirit be your present;  
May the life of Christ, fill your heart;  
May the blessings of God, Father & Creator, be with you now  
and throughout the new year. Amen.

Benedicat vos omnipotens Deus. twf+

Guess the Teacher

Each month, *The Marian Gazette* will feature a different person in our "Guess the Teacher" section. If you think you know who this month's teacher is, submit your guess to Student Editor Brianna Propis at 19bpropis@student.smhlancers.org. *Limit one guess per student and the first to submit the correct answer wins. The winner will receive a Tim Horton's gift card!*

- I Love Lucy is my all time favorite show. I could watch it over and over again, in fact it's on every morning while I get ready for the day.
- I have only seen five Disney movies in my entire life... and it's only been in the past two years that I actually watched them. (Thanks to Miss Kawa and Ms. Jackson)
- I have a musical obsession... where I have to see musicals more than once. I have seen RENT 77 times. (That's my highest one so far!)
- I broke my right arm when I was 8, playing "Double Dare" and jumping off a three wheeler. Exactly 2 months later, I broke my left arm, running from a woodchuck!

Sports

Wrestling Looks to Have Best Season in Recent Memory

A few short years ago, the St. Mary's High School Wrestling Program had just four wrestlers on the team. This year, the program boasts 27 wrestlers on the squad. Reigning Monsignor Martin Athletic Association Coach of the Year Zach Weiss has put everything he has into getting this program to this spot and knows the sky's the limit for this group of wrestlers.

The team has a great mix of veteran, senior leadership, with six seniors on the squad, along with raw, young talent with a whole slew of freshmen and sophomore wrestlers who are just beginning to learn what they are capable of on the mats.

The St. Mary's Wrestling Program also has two female wrestlers on the team—both a junior and senior. Coach Weiss wants to put the league on notice that these girls are not novelties, but they can really wrestle, which everyone will see for themselves as the season goes on.

The future sure is bright for Lancer Wrestling! Make sure to check smhlancers.org to see a match this season.

Women's Basketball Off to Hot Start

The Lady Lancers basketball team is off to quite the hot start, as they have nearly tripled their opponents' scores in their first two games of the young season.

Freshman phenom Shay Ciezki put the entirety of Western New York on notice after scoring 26 points in her Lancers' debut against Fredonia in a 91-30 rout. The Lancers then continued that hot streak against Health Sciences Charter School with a 95-35 win.

These Lancers are something to see, as they have been putting on offensive clinics and look to pose a real threat to traditional Monsignor Martin powerhouses Sacred Heart and Cardinal O'Hara as league play begins after the New Year.



Sports

Men’s Basketball Looking to Retool Lineup

After losing a great deal of players to graduation last year, the St. Mary’s High School Men’s Basketball Team has its sights set on another championship run with quite the different-looking team.

With just three seniors on this year’s squad, it will be up to the juniors and sophomores on the team to really step up in a big way for this team to live up to the great Lancer teams of the past. Thankfully for St. Mary’s, this year’s squad appears to be more than up to the task, as they picked up a convincing seven-point win in their opening game of the season.

Best of luck to the boys as the season really starts to ramp up in the next couple of weeks!



Monsignor Martin Hockey Team Boasts 3 Lancers

Come check out one of the THREE St. Mary’s High School Men’s Hockey Teams this season! The JV, Varsity Club, and Federation teams combine to play at least 68 games this season, so everyone should be able to find a game that works for their schedules.

The reigning Federation Champions looks to take another run at the title—this time in Division A. Follow along with their journey as they look to bring home the cup yet again!

Winter Sports Schedules Online



Want to come out to support your Lancers on the court, on the ice, on the wrestling mat, or on the track?

Check out [smhlancers.org](http://smhlancers.org) for all of the winter sports schedules to see when and where your Lancers will be in action!

GO LANCERS!



The Arts

Cast List Announced for *The Addams Family*

This year’s spring musical will feature some creepy, kooky, all-together ooky cast of characters when the St. Mary’s Performing Arts Department presents *The Addams Family* March 14th, 15th, and 16th. While audiences wait in eager anticipation, the cast list for the show was recently announced:

Grandma

Emma Ridolfi

Fester

Julia Hartloff

Lurch

Isaac Stearns

Featured Ancestors

Bride/Wednesday Understudy - Mackenzie Kwilos

Cavewoman/Grandma Understudy - Anna Radoszewski

Conquistador/Lurch Understudy - Conor Dunne

Flappers/Dance Captains - Molly Callahan & Mekensie Weinholtz

Flight Attendant/Morticia Understudy - Nicole Norton

Puritan - Kerry Sullivan

Saloon Girl - Riley O’Malley

Soldier/Lucas Understudy - Caleb Mangan

Ancestors

Grace Arnold  
Hannah Carrow  
Maranda Cichocki  
Ashley Cruz  
Alex Denz  
Emma Dillon  
Claire Fahey  
Riley Fay  
Sarah Filion  
Dakota Gorny  
Nicole Gorny  
Nora Hayes  
Destiny Hernandez  
Kailey Kline  
Vicki Loniewski  
Julia Loschiavo  
Saige Maniscalco  
JaQwan Manuel  
Bridget Mazurowski  
Taylor McCoy  
Sophie Menz  
Madison Meredith  
Sara Micholas  
Mary Owczarzak  
Sarah Pasternak  
Brianna Propis  
Emily Renkas  
Olivia Rodriguez  
Susan Romance  
Shalion Scott  
Emily Sierk  
Jacqueline Simpson  
Ben Stegmeier  
Jillian Szeluga  
Hannah Wolf





Events

Lancer Gala News and Information



The Lancer Gala combines delicious food, stellar auction items, and no shortage of fun all while raising money to benefit St. Mary’s students.

Last year's Lancer Gala was a HUGE success, and this year, we are looking forward to an even bigger and better Gala this year!

Guests have the opportunity to place bids on the silent and special auction items and enjoy various raffles throughout the night. During the live auction, attendees can bid on fabulous prizes, including vacations, sporting event tickets, golf packages, college tuition waivers and much more.

For more information or to receive an invitation, contact Amanda Rebeck Dean of Advancement & Alumni Relations, at (716) 683-4824, ext. 237 or arebeck@smhlancers.org.

For a listing of items that would make great gifts to be bid on at the Gala or if there is an interest in being a sponsor for the event, please visit smhlancers.org for more information.

Stay tuned to future issues of the *Gazette* and the school website for a listing of prizes as we get closer to the Gala!

Alumni Updates

Know any alumni who have moved, had a baby, celebrated an engagement, just got a promotion, or experienced another exciting life event?

Let us know at smhlancers.org or by contacting Dean of Advancement & Alumni Relations Amanda Rebeck at arebeck@smhlancer.org or 716-683-4824 ext. 237.

Student Beat

St. Mary’s Knows It’s the Season of Giving

As we get closer to the most wonderful time of the year, the faculty and staff of St. Mary’s know how important it is to give back.

There have been several opportunities over the next several weeks to get into the Christmas spirit! The Performing Arts Department took their Christmas Show on tour to Tennyson Court and several local grammar schools to spread some Christmas joy. There have been a couple of dress down days this month to support St. Mary’s families and local organizations who could use some extra help around the holidays. National Honor Society made Christmas cookies and distributed them to local nursing homes. Religion classes hosted two separate families through St. Luke’s Mission of Mercy for the holidays. Classes were asked to buy different items off a Christmas list for these families to help make their holiday one to remember.

The list of things that people can partake in to make this time of year truly a special one is endless. We do our best at St. Mary’s to open up as many doors as possible to as many students as possible for service opportunities. Our Lancers can make a real difference in the lives of others during this Christmas season!



Ornament Drive is Huge Success in Second Year

At St. Mary's, our faculty and staff always stress the importance of giving more than you receive, and what better time of the year to put that into practice? Senior Matthew Rosinski collected over 650 ornaments from St. Mary's families to donate to Elderwood at Cheektowaga for the second consecutive year. Matthew began the ornament drive in 2017 to honor his late grandmother, Ruth Pearce, who was once a resident at Elderwood and loved the Christmas season! Thank you to all those who participated! We are so blessed to have students like Matt as a part of our Lancer family. You can see him here with the Director of Elderwood Larry Piselli and the bins of ornaments that will make some very special residents' Christmases a little merrier.





Student Beat

7 Reasons You Should Watch...

With the Christmas season in full swing, let’s take a look at an under-rated Christmas film!

By: Nicole Gorny

1. Enjoyable for All Ages

The Christmas season typically brings people and their families together to take nostalgic strolls down memory lane and recall the glorious moments of their childhoods, especially when the time comes to pick out the perfect Christmas classics to watch. Some may find these feelings of nostalgia in the Hallmark Channel’s Christmas movies, while others prefer to rewatch the timeless clay-mation classics like *Santa Claus Is Comin’ To Town* or *Rudolph The Red-nosed Reindeer*. However, I believe there is a newer animated film that deserves great recognition and the honor of being named a Christmas classic as well: *Arthur Christmas*. *Arthur Christmas* has a rather simple premise. Released in 2011, the movie is about Santa Claus— the seven-teenth consecutive Santa Claus to be precise— and his second son, Arthur, who, after finding out one child didn’t receive her present on Christmas Eve, tries to make amends and deliver it to her before it’s too late.

2. Characters

Arthur and his father, Santa Claus (also known as Malcolm), aren’t the only characters in the film. As previously mentioned, Arthur is the second son and therefore has an older brother, Steve. Steve, being the oldest, is next in line to become Santa. As tradition has it, after the current Santa Claus’ seventy-fifth Christmas night, he will retire and pass on the name of “Santa Claus” to his son. However, to Steve’s surprise, his father decides not to retire mainly due to the adoration he receives from many while fulfilling the role of Santa. Steve practically fulfills the role already, since he operates the

the entire North Pole while his father is basically the figurehead. At the end of the day, he doesn’t receive any of the recognition he deserves. Along with Santa/Malcolm, Steve, a spunky elf named Bryony, and Grand-Santa (the man who was Santa before Malcolm), there’s Arthur. Arthur is a young, goofy, and slightly naive lad. He’s clumsy, so he’s put to work in the “letters room” of the North Pole. Arthur reads all of the children’s letters to Santa Claus and even writes back sometimes, always promising Christmas joy to reaffirm their belief in Santa Claus since Arthur himself adores his father and views him as a role model.

3. The Conflicting Ideas

Steve has updated the North Pole to become more technologically advanced in its delivery of presents. On the contrary, Grand-Santa believes in delivering gifts the old-fashioned way— with a sleigh and eight reindeer. Writers Peter Baynham and Sarah Smith cleverly delivered both of these ideas in an unbiased light, which leaves audiences to ponder the concept for themselves and truly experience the situation alongside each character, opposed to being coaxed to one perspective over the other.

4. Arthur Himself

Being the the main protagonist and title character of the film with a heart of gold, Arthur cares for all the children and would do anything to make sure each of them receive gifts on Christmas. It’s made clear that Arthur’s father is only fulfilling the role Santa in name, because a true Santa is someone who cares for the children and making it the best Christmas for *every* child— which their father does not anymore. This further enhances the character of Arthur in showing that he’s both genuine and dedicated in portraying the true role of “Santa Claus”— and by no means just interested in the glorious entailments of being adored.

Throughout the film, the most heart-breaking scenes are when Arthur slowly comes to terms with the reality of who his father really is. There’s a scene where Arthur is at an all-time low, and claims his father cares more than anyone about Gwen being missed and how he can’t sleep being just “sick about it.” Bryony then says, “Then why are you here and not him?” It’s in that moment Arthur’s whole image of his father shatters and he is in a boat, in the middle of the ocean fighting to get this present delivered to this little girl and his dad was doing nothing about it.

5. The Message

Due to his older brother’s exceptional leadership skills and innovative mindset, it would’ve been easy to just write an underdog storyline of sorts for Arthur as he struggled to be in the shadow of his successful older brother but *Arthur Christmas* wisely steers clear of this hackneyed plot. Peter Baynham and Sarah Smith didn’t fall into this trope and created a storyline that revolved around showcasing different people and their ideas in an unbiased light. Furthermore, so many of the classic holiday films people watch every year have some form of a villain present (such as the “Bumble” in *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and Burgermeister Meisterburger in *Santa Claus Is Comin To Town*). However, the main antagonist in *Arthur Christmas* isn’t any one person— rather, it’s the conflict that drives the story about whether or not Arthur (or any other character) will deliver the little girl Gwen’s present which further contributes to its originality.

6. The Detail

One of my personal favorite parts of the film is the opening scene of *Arthur Christmas*. Viewers might have to watch it a couple of times before catching each of the details, but the scene depicts Christmas Eve as presents are being

Continued on p. F4

Student Beat

Be “Transported” to the Piece Arrow Museum

By: Alyssa LaMartina

The Buffalo Transportation Pierce Arrow Museum is located in the heart of Downtown Buffalo and harbors a large collection of period automobiles, bicycles, documentation, and memorabilia. The journey all started one day when the company founder George N. Pierce began to do business selling items hand crafted from metal. This propelled the company into producing bicycles and eventually to prosperity when manufacturing luxury automobiles.

In 1906, the Pierce Arrow factory opened in Buffalo on Elmwood and Great Arrow. The factory was located on 34 acres. At its height of production the factory employed over ten thousand men and women.

In 1908, the Pierce brand started focusing less on bicycles and average automobiles and began producing luxury automobiles for the wealthy portion of society. It was no longer just a car in Pierce’s mind, it stood as a symbol of affluence and elitism. Some of the most prestigious individuals drove Pierce Arrow automobiles, including Presidents Taft and Roosevelt, as well as John D. Rockefeller, Orville Wright, and Babe Ruth. The cars were recognized all over the world, due to its distinct features and elaborate hood ornaments.

The company reached an all-time high amidst World War I, grossing over \$4 million in profit. However, during and subsequent to the Great Depression very few could afford to purchase these luxury automobiles. In 1933, under new management, the Pierce Arrow brand declared bankruptcy.

Continued on p. F4



1959 Coupe Deville Cadillac



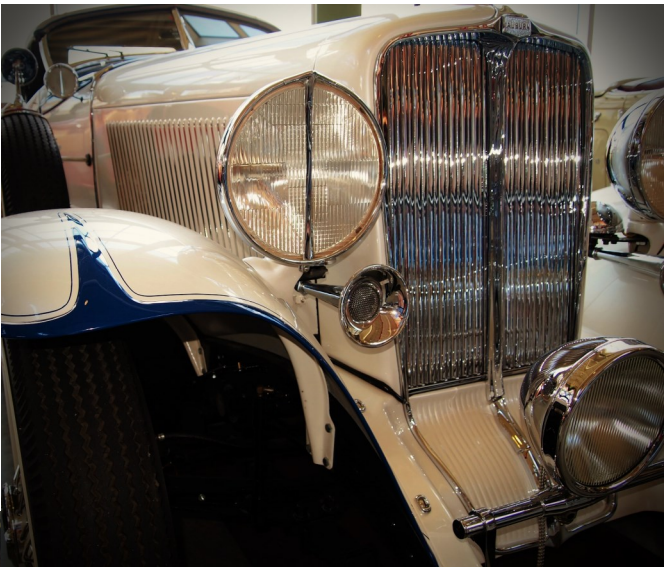
1936 Auburn Speedster “Flying Lady” Hood Ornament



# Visit a Piece of Buffalo History

Continued from p. F3

The Buffalo Transportation Pierce Arrow museum is located on Michigan Street in Downtown Buffalo. The collection features made in Buffalo automobiles such as Pierce Arrow and Thomas Flyer. Other automobiles in the collection include Auburn, Cord, Ferrari and Cadillac, to name a few. It is very interesting to see how the automobiles have changed though the years. Go check it out for yourself, it is worth the trip!



Classic 1930's Auburns

# Arthur Christmas Keeps the Laughs Coming

From p. F2

delivered to the children. It shows a sleigh lowering down all of the elves and Santa himself, using ropes that descend out of the floors near the houses of sleeping children. The elves themselves are extremely active, as the lengths some go to remain unseen by the children or to make sure all the toys are delivered is incredible. In fact, there's one scene in which two elves hold hands and scoot above a doorway against the walls to the other side so that a television-watching parent doesn't notice them. The effort that must've been exerted into the film's detail

by the animation team truly shines through in this particular scene as well as many others, which continuously showcases the wonderfully intricate, yet seemingly simple elements of the movie.

## 7. Humor

With a fun-loving character, such as Arthur, comes the occasional humorous lines and gags. For example, when Arthur's on his trip to deliver Gwen's present with Grand-Santa and Bryony, they accidentally land in Africa in the middle of a pack of lions, but Arthur is able to

successfully distract them with the sounds and colors his fuzzy reindeer slippers make. The scene typically makes the audience feel anxious while the characters aren't in the clear yet, but the lion's mesmerized reactions somewhat eases their tensions with comedy. Besides, with a cast like James McAvoy for Arthur, Hugh Laurie for Steve, Bill Nighy for Grand-Santa, Jim Broadbent for Santa/Malcolm, Imelda Staunton for Mrs. Claus, and Ashley Benson for Bryony Shelfley, there's bound to be numerous funny moments wrapped together with the talent each brings to the table.

**Catch *Arthur Christmas* on Spectrum's On Demand services for \$2.99. Freeform also usually airs it closer to Christmas so keep an eye out!**

# Disney Trip Provides Memories for All

By: Susan Romance

We started our exciting magic-filled adventure at 3:00 a.m. at the Buffalo Airport, anticipating what was to come. For some, it was a familiar feeling, waiting for the flight to Orlando; but for others (like myself), this was our first time going to Walt Disney World. We soon filled up the plane, and in just a few hours, we landed in Orlando with the cold behind us and the sun above our heads. Our destination for the day was Animal Kingdom - a wild place that celebrates the continents of the world as well as some more magical places. We entered Discovery Island and looked up at the Tree of Life towering over us, filled with intricate carvings that depict various animals. We were able to experience the most popular rides and attractions that Animal kingdom offers like Expedition Everest, Dinosaur, Na'vi River Journey, Kilimanjaro Safaris, The Festival of the Lion King (a favorite of Mrs. Junik's) and the "must-see" Flight of Passage. Many of the students when to bed early after having such an early flight, but a few ambitious souls stayed for the later bus.

The next morning, we were up early to visit Hollywood Studios - the rockin' land filled with movie magic and thrilling rides. As we entered, we saw the replica of the Chinese Theater, and if you were lucky, you could even see some Stormtroopers walking down Hollywood Boulevard. You could go on an adventure through the Star Wars universe with the Star Tours attraction (I went on this ride four times) and even meet some of the characters like BB-8, Kylo Ren and Chewbacca. For those students looking for high thrills, Sunset Boulevard held the iconic Tower of Terror and Rockin' Roller Coaster. If you wanted to visit their childhood once again, the new Toy Story Land made even the most mature of us feel like a little kid again. From the Frozen Sing-Along to The Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Spectacular to Muppet Vision 3-D, Hollywood Studios had something for everyone. The end of the night was spent at Fantasmic!, where we were able to look at the incredible magic the Imagineers were able to create.

Our final day in the parks was spent at the classic Magic Kingdom. With so much to do, many students took advantage of the Extra Magic Hours and stayed in the park until midnight. Main Street USA branches off into the five worlds within the park: Tomorrowland, Fantasyland, Liberty Square, Frontierland and Adventureland. We rode some of the iconic rides like Pirates of the Caribbean, Splash Mountain, Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, Haunted Mansion, "it's a small world," Dumbo the Flying Elephant, Seven Dwarfs Mine Train, Tomorrowland Speedway, Space Mountain, Tomorrowland Transit Authority Peoplemover (fun fact: I got stuck on it), Walt Disney's Carousel of Progress, Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin (Miss Kawa's favorite) and so much more. After taking in the sights, meeting characters and going on rides, the class met up together to take a picture in front of Cinderella's Castle. We departed for the night with magic in our veins, and ready for Disney Springs and our last day.

Surprisingly, our final day was as chilly as a day in Buffalo, so we had to bundle up as we did our shopping. After a few delays at the airport, our plane finally arrived, and we had a sleepy flight back home. We arrived home to snow at 3:00 a.m., but thankfully we were able to sleep all throughout the day with a day off of school. This trip created memories that will last us a lifetime, as we all eagerly wait to go back. Viva la disney.





Senior Trip Photo Page



School Calendar—January 2019

January 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 NO SCHOOL New Year's Day	2 Classes Resume	3 College 101: A Panel Discussion 6:00pm	4 Extended Homeroom & PM Lit Sched Class Meetings & Epiphany Liturgy	5
6	7	8 Lancer Parent Partnership Meeting 6:30pm	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 NO SCHOOL Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22	23 Fac/Staff Meeting 2:30pm	24	25 End of Second Quarter	26
27	28	29	30	31		

For the latest school calendar updates, please visit [smblanders.org](http://smblanders.org).