

**STAYING SHARP** Junior Will Ingram stares at the now blank white board after the Lions pregame team meeting. Now empty, the locker room provides a quiet place for Ingram and his Lion teammates to prepare for the rivalry game against the Episcopal School of Dallas Eagles.

NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE **SPORTS, GROUPS**

86  
87

ESD RIVALRY NIGHT

# DEFENDING HONOR

**WINS AND LOSSES** come and go throughout the season, but when the cross-town rival Eagles step onto this campus, Lion athletes do whatever it takes to get the win. Junior Will Ingram gives his take on the Lions' 62-42 victory Feb. 5.

*Story continues, next page*

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FINISHING UP THEIR SEASONS AGAINST ESD, THE SOCCER AND BASKETBALL TEAMS LOOKED TO END THEIR SEASONS ON A HIGH NOTE AND CARRY THAT MOMENTUM INTO EPIC SPC BATTLES.

# BATTLING RIVALS

*Continued from previous page*  
We'd been hyping up the game all season. It may not have been our toughest opponent of the season, but we knew we couldn't lose to ESD.

The morning of the game, the Superfan guys introduced the whole Upper School to 'Silent Night,' and from the audience's reaction I knew how pumped the stands would be come game time that night.

The rest of the day went by so quickly, and it was hard for me to focus during school. As the clock struck 3:05 p.m., I rolled into the great hall for our pre-game meal, chick-fil-a as always, and then a bunch of the guys and I headed to Jalen's house to try and relax a little before the game.

Once it came time to get back to school the whole team met in the back of the Hick's locker room for coach [Greg] Guiler's pre-game speech.

He is always very self-reflective in his speeches and in this particular one he talked to us about brotherly love. Although his speech wasn't focused on strategy or really the game at all, knowing that he truly does care for us and wants the best from us each and every day made us go out and play our

hearts out for him.

And so as his speech came to an end, I was ready to step out onto the court.

Warmups were hyped. Wearing the 'Lion Order' spirit shirts, we were going through the motions as we always did. The crowd was there early to watch us, and I remember we did our best to keep the crowd on their feet as Parker threw down some ridiculous dunks.

But once the game began the crowd fell silent, waiting for that tenth point to be scored. It didn't take us long, so after Brannon hit that layup to cap off an 11-0 run, the whole gym went crazy.

I was on the bench in front of the crowd, and I'd never heard anything like that from our guys in the stands. Everyone was going nuts, and we just rode that momentum for the rest of the game.

As the clock struck zero, the crowd joined us on the court for the *Alma Mater*. There was no game-winning three, no storming of the court this year, but it still was a special game for all of us.

It felt good to beat our rivals at home and we rode that win into the SPC tournament the following week."

— Will Ingram, as told to Will Diamond



**COMPETITION** Taking the ball down the right-wing, sophomore Arjun Singh (upper left) looks to cross the ball into the middle of the box. Singh finished the game with an assist to senior Alex Sanchez to tie the game with less than two minutes left. The Lions finished the game on a 2-2 tie, riding the momentum from the comeback into the SPC tournament the following week. In his 'Lion Order' spirit shirt, senior Brannon Rouse (upper right) throws down a slam dunk in warmups of the ESD rivalry game Feb. 5. Rouse also scored the tenth and eleventh points of the game, the cue for Marksmen to go crazy in the stands. Senior Phillip Smart (above) greets fellow senior William Caldwell with their traditional handshake as he walks through the line of Lion cheerleaders.



**SKILL MOVES** With the ESD defender closing in on him, senior captain Graham Gillespie looks to meg his opponent and lay the ball off to junior Scott Smythe in the open field. A 2-2 tie with the Eagles gave the Lions momentum for the start of the SPC tournament a week later.





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**PIPET UP** Senior Joshua Choe examines lung tissue in the Jay Kim lab at the University of Texas at Dallas, searching for a unique type of cancer, lung squamous cell carcinoma.

BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL: LIFE, ACADEMICS

34  
35

ACADEMICS

# MINDS ON FIRE

**AN INNOVATOR OF THE FUTURE**, senior Joshua Choe embodies the essence of an academic Marksman. Recognized as one of 40 finalists for the Intel Science Talent Search in 2016 for his research on squamous cell carcinoma, a type of cancer that accounts for near 30 percent of all instances of lung cancer, Choe works late nights and early mornings to accomplish his goals and add more to the body of human knowledge.

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JOSTENS





**INSPIRED** *Tinkering with a robot in the information and engineering class, senior Noah Koecher (far left) uses programming skills to track a colored ball. Trying their hand at tai chi, Chinese students (above left) get first hand experience with the ancient art in the gym. Presenting their Moby Dick project in GayMarie Vaughan's AP English literature class, seniors Mitchell So and Kevin Kim (left) perform a musical representation of the chapter, "The Grand Armada." The two used their violins to accompany a research paper on the class topic.*

WITH A FULL TIME LAB JOB AFTER SCHOOL, SENIOR JOSHUA CHOE BALANCES HIS EXTRACURRICULARS WITH SCHOOLWORK IN HIS QUEST TO REVOLUTIONIZE CANCER RESEARCH

# IN A PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE

Continued from page 35

It's a morning like any other. A little groggy from being at lab until 1:45 a.m. last night, I know AP chemistry first period will get me back in the groove. While I work on our titration lab, I think about my plans for the weekend: putting the finishing touches on my bait cannon for fishing. I'd seen many air cannons before, but the bait cannon is an invention of my own, a hybrid of two things I love, fishing and building. The final product will be able to shoot 300 yards. My workshop in the garage is one of my favorite places

and a temple where I built everything from catapults to a roman gladius for Latin class. Back to school, as the day continues, I'm excited to find myself in AP English literature. I think again to my workshop and most recent project: a full-scale harpoon for a Moby Dick assignment. When you're reading a book, some aspects don't always make complete sense, but when you're actually doing it and experiencing it yourself, that's when concepts solidify. I want to feel the same wood Queequeg held as he harpooned the great whales we've read

about. Finally, it's 3:10, time for the real day to begin. My real passions, being creative and being curious, while fostered at St. Mark's, come to full fruition when I go to my lab. Only a 30-minute drive, the Jay Kim Lab at University of Texas at Dallas is a home away from home. I get to lose myself in my work, searching for the connections between glucose transporter 1 and squamous cell carcinoma, a rare and deadly form of lung cancer. While there are so many tests to run, I have to keep the big picture in mind, finding a way to starve the cancer

cells of energy and save lives. For me, textbook learning is great and very interesting, but with research, you're writing the textbook. It's something nobody else has ever seen before, and you're the first person to observe a new phenomenon. Ever since I was five, I've had a curiosity to go beyond what's expected. I'd get Christmas presents, and after only a few hours of playing with the toy, I'd move on to the box. With toys, you're restricted to the toy itself, but with the box, you can do anything. I used to make tanks and forts out of them. The

possibilities are unlimited. I've loved that, and St. Mark's has helped me direct it in the science field. St. Mark's has guided me into finding my own passions as I've grown, and I'm glad I took a chance to go outside of my comfort zone. I know it's said a lot, but going outside of the box launched my research career by pushing me into something completely new, and I think there's meaning in that. An insatiable curiosity guides me, and in the end, I'm determined to elucidate the unknown no matter how late I have to stay at lab.



**LAB WORK** *Garbed in his lab coat, senior Joshua Choe — no novice to complex lab equipment — spends a late night researching new ways to fight cancer at the Jay Kim lab at the University of Texas at Dallas.*



*Marietta Johnson points out one of the eight names in her family that appear on the walls of Graduate Hall. Formerly referred to as the study hall, the room was transformed over the summer to list every graduate of the school during its 109 year history.*

Raymond M. Potts

# YEARS BETWEEN

## MARIETTA JOHNSON GETS IT.

"To me, the Graduate Hall is the essence of St. Mark's: it's community, it's excellence. It's following through with each individual student," said the veteran of 43 years in the classroom here.

She gets the significance of history and tradition — those traits that were immortalized this past summer when the study hall in Centennial was transformed into a powerful repository of history: a listing of every graduate of the school, from 109 years back — onward to the most recent graduating class, the class of 2015.

And for Johnson, the names on the wall — eight in her family alone — forever etched on the rich cherry wood panelled walls, Marietta Johnson does most assuredly get the meaning of the new Graduate Hall.

*Story continues, next page*



GRADUATE HALL

WITH A CONNECTION TO  
COUNTLESS ALUMS, MARIETTA  
JOHNSON IS NOW ABLE TO SEE  
THE NAMES OF ALL HER FAMILY  
MEMBERS AND STUDENTS  
WHO HAVE WALKED ACROSS  
THE COMMENCEMENT STAGE.

# HOW THE YEARS HAVE GONE BY

*Continued from previous page*  
Johnson's story is not unlike many other families who, for generations, have entrusted their sons to the teachers and administrators here, to shape them, to mold them, as one of the school's ideals says, "from boys to men."

"There are quite a few people in there that have dads, brothers or cousins up there," Johnson said. "It's unifying and shows the importance of the individual to this institution."

With many of her own family members on the walls, the significance of the names is not lost on her.

"I have an uncle who graduated from the Terrill School [a school from which St. Mark's derived] in 1915 and [my grandson] Walter graduated in 2015. That's a difference of 100 years," she said.

Eugene McDermott Headmaster David Dini recognizes the unifying qualities of the project that took more than 20 years to come to fruition.

"It recognizes everyone that's graduated from the school in a consistent standard way, and I think it's a real equalizer," Dini said. "You may have a distinguished alumnus next to somebody's name that you might not know, and that's really special."

Dini also sees it as an important link to the school's past.

"It adds a greater sense of place, and an enhanced awareness about the importance of our history," Dini said.

For Dini, the school's 18th headmaster, the walls of the Graduate Hall are steeped with

history and are enhancements to the breadboards around campus listing the valedictorians, student leaders and Headmaster's Cup winners of years past — historical markers of the Legacy Project completed only a few years before.

Director of Development Jim Bob Womack '98 views the names on the walls as an opportunity for teachers to connect with the past.

"I hope faculty can walk in and see the years of boys that they've poured into to create success in their lives," Womack said. "Those faculty members can walk in and remember what they've done to make this place special. They're the ones who have created our success."

Johnson herself senses these experiences as she points to the name of students whom she taught in fifth grade, many long years ago.

"I see the names on the wall, and I see how he really grew so much here at St. Mark's," Johnson said. "It makes me aware of them and how they grew, and how they developed, and how they became their own person."

The walls tie her to the past, not just through family but also through all the students Johnson has interacted with over more than four decades she has served the school.

"I think that's a strength of St. Mark's," the veteran educator said. "There's an emphasis on community, and serving the community. All of that is a part of encouraging the whole boy to reach his potential. Not just to educate him, but to reach his full potential."



**LOOKING BACK** Giving a speech at the Graduate Hall Dedication, Board of Trustees President Taylor Wilson '81 (upper left) points towards the name of graduate Wallace Hall '80 as he stands in attendance next to Eugene McDermott Headmaster David Dini. While newly-refitted with names lining all four walls, the Graduate Hall is still a working study hall, and Charlie Hubbard (upper right) puts the finishing touches on an English paper in the peace and quiet. Showing his pride in his son's accomplishments, maintenance staffer Jose Muratalla (above) points to his son's name in the class of 2012 roster.

**UNFORGOTTEN NAMES** Framed by over 5,400 names along the walls of Graduate Hall, Marietta Johnson stands among the names of family members, past students and all the rest of the graduates whom she has gotten to know during her decades at St. Mark's.





# BACKSTROKE FREESTYLIN'

They aren't fish. But  
they're pretty darn close.



**200 FREE** *Racing to the finish, senior Ward Rushton takes a breath before going under for the last push.*

**1** SPC swimming champs. Nine years in a row. While there's always pressure to continue doing well, there's also confidence that comes with a successful legacy. And that's exactly what the Lions brought to the SPC swimming championship in Houston Feb. 13.

Taking no time to get their feet in the water, the Lions started strongly with a first place finish in the first event of the tournament, the 200 yard medley. Junior Jacob Hum, sophomore Edward Ro, and seniors Kevin Kim and Eric Li contributed to the 1:35.46 finish.

As the tournament progressed and more and more events were completed, the Lions continued to earn top places, with sophomore Ben Hurst and senior Ward Rushton taking second and third place in the 200 yard freestyle, respectively.

In addition to finishing among the top swimmers in the competition, many Lion swimmers broke

school and SPC records. In the 50 yard free, in which Lion swimmers took first, second, third, and fourth place, two swimmers broke two records each. Li, who placed first in the event, broke the St. Mark's and the SPC record with his time of 20.92 seconds. Kevin Kim, who finished just behind his fellow teammate in second place, also broke both a school and an SPC record with his 50 time of 20.96 seconds.

The team finished the tournament with a first place finish in the 400 yard free relay, in which the 3:09.42 time set a new SPC and St. Mark's record. With this final race, the Lions finished in first place overall with 197 points. In second place, St. John's of Houston finished with 65 points, and Cistercian finished in third place with 60 points.

Coach Mihai Oprea was proud of the performance the boys showed. Oprea found the qualities his swimmers displayed as impressive as their performances in the water.

"Our guys did an incredible job," Oprea said. "The tournament was a vivid and exemplary show of team spirit, passion, and brotherhood. They truly behaved like champions the entire trip."

“Being part of such an amazing team has been such an honor, as well as an experience that will define my time at St. Mark's. It's nice to see all the hard work pay off.”

— senior **KEVIN KIM**

Soccer, basketball, wrestling and swimming travel to Houston to compete in the winter SPC championships.

3

SPC SOCCER  
SCOREBOARD

SM	1	0	John Cooper
SM	2	1	Greenhill
SM	1	2	Episcopal
SM	3	2	Kinkaid

SOCCER TAKES  
THIRD

Finishing fifth place in the north zone after counter season play, the Lions faced John Cooper, the fourth place team in the south, in the opening round of the SPC tournament. Defeating Cooper 1-0, they advanced to the quarterfinals to play Greenhill, whom they defeated 2-0 to advance to the semifinals. Their championship run was cut short by Episcopal Houston, to whom the Lions lost 0-1. In their next game, the Lions defeated Houston Kinkaid to take third.



**FINISH STRONG** *Running down the line and utilizing his speed, sophomore Arjun Singh beats his defender before he gets a cross into the box.*

“It was my first year at SPC, so I really just wanted to get some experience and get a sense for the competition. I went out, had fun, and did the best I could.”

— freshman **COLIN NEUHOFF**

“It was definitely tough without any senior leadership, but I think we all knew that we had to step up because of that. I'm proud of us as a team for competing the way we did.”

— junior **ROB CROW**

3

SPC swish

BASKETBALL TAKES  
THIRD

SM	58	55	Kinkaid
SM	48	60	St. Stephen's
SM	59	54	Casady

**TO THE HOOP** *With a defender in his face, senior William Caldwell (below) knocks down a three pointer. Looking for a pass, junior Will Ingram dribbles under the net before he finds his teammate (bottom).*



2

WRESTLING TAKES  
SECOND

Despite not having any seniors on the squad, wrestling earned multiple individual SPC champions, taking second place overall as a team.

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golden buckets



**HANDLES** Driving to the hoop in the first half (top left), eighth grader Alek Houllion finishes a smooth lay up (above right), scoring two of the 29 points the Lions' gold team scored in their game against the ESD Eagles. Scanning the open teammates in front of him, eighth grader Anshu Reddy (top right) keeps the ball in the middle of the court. Meanwhile, Reddy's teammate Titus McGowan (above left) tries to body up his defender on his way to the hoop. In the closing seconds of the game, Paxton Scott (middle) splits two defenders to find an assist for the last bucket, ending the game with a loss, 29-55.

rolling through the season

With the JV soccer season in full swing, players step up their game, trying to earn a spot on the varsity squad next season.

5-0

SCORE  
AGAINST  
CISTERCIAN

12-5

RATIO  
OF FRESHMAN  
TO SOPHOMORES

It's great to see all of my teammates getting better and better every game. I'm really happy to see that even the freshman on the team are stepping up their game.

— sophomore DANIEL GARCIA

COMING

Alumni turned back the clock and relived some memorable times as they played current varsity squads.

Muscles ached. It had been a while since many of the alumni had step foot on a court or a field, but that didn't stop them from trying their best to defeat the varsity soccer and basketball teams.

The alums faced off against the varsity soccer squad Jan. 3, hoping to prove that they still had what it took to play the demanding game. The varsity members, on the other hand, were trying to get in some more match practice before the start of the counter season and also have some fun.

The varsity team got off to a strong start as junior Hyer Thomas netted two goals for the side. As the game went on, however, the alumni side began to look stronger and stronger as they got back into their groove. After scoring four quick goals, the alums got on top and kept it that way until the end of the game, finishing 4-2.

Michael Fletcher '15, a former varsity member, played in the friendly "It's always a great experience coming back to 10600 Preston Road," Fletcher said. "Seeing the young guys compete, sometimes against brothers or fathers, is a ton of fun."

The alumni basketball game also took place Jan. 3, as the varsity team managed a convincing win over the alums. Countless alums played against the current varsity team.

Finally, however, the varsity squad emerged victorious. Sophomore Sam Sussman, a first year varsity member, played an important role in getting the win. "We lost last year, so we wanted to get back and win this year," Sussman said. "While the game didn't really count for our counter season record, we wanted to be competitive."

Despite the competition and the little jeers, it was fun to play against the alums. At the end of the day, we're all Marksmen. We respect them for what they've done, and they respect us for continuing what they did in the past.

— junior HYER THOMAS



**FRIENDLY** Heading back to midfield, junior Jake Vaughn and Danny Koudelka '13 exchange some friendly trash talk.

HOME TO PLAY

4-2 SCORE  
ALUMNI SOCCER GAME

**MARKSMEN AT HEART** Defending Chip Pierce '12, sophomore Reece Rabin (far right) enjoys the alumni basketball game. After a fun filled afternoon, the alumni and varsity teams come together for a group photo (right).



**SLIDE** As he makes his way to the goal, junior Hyer Thomas's run is cut short by Dean Itani '11, who takes the ball with a decisive slide tackle.