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# Skyline

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Spring 2019

## **Groundbreaking Hydroponic Lab Dedicated to Pioneering Science Teacher, Roberta Willard By: Skyline Staff**

On Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, after the majority of students had been dismissed for the afternoon, the second floor was bustling with activity, in anticipation of the arrival of Auxiliary Bishop James Massa and Deputy Superintendent of Schools for the Brooklyn Diocese, Brother Ralph Darmento, both of whom had offered to participate in the dedication of the new hydroponic lab. The honoree for this occasion was Ms. Roberta Willard, now retired after thirty-one years of dedicated service to the students and community of Saint Saviour. Ms. Willard was chosen for this honor because of her role in bringing environmental science to Saint Saviour at a time when concern for the environment was still in its formative stage.

The hydroponic lab, which has been in operation since the beginning of the current school year, is part of the not-for-profit New York SunWorks organization, the mission of which is to educate -- through the creation of labs, farms, and greenhouses -- students throughout the New York area. At Saint Saviour, the lab is overseen by science department chairperson, Ms. Eileen Cush, who is assisted by Mr. Tricarico.



**Ms. Willard holding the plaque dedicated in her honor.**

**(Cont'd on page 2)**



**Deirdre Moran '20 reading poem about her passion towards the environment.**

Moreover, a host of students runs the lab, monitoring the health of the plants, planting and harvesting the crops, which include herbs - such as basil and parsley, vegetables - such as eggplant and tomatoes, and, more recently, beautiful nasturtiums.

Over the year, the lab, a truly collaborative and inter-disciplinary place, has become a sought after space where students go to relax, where poetry readings have been held, and where the senior art class has found inspiration in the plants and the light and the uplifting atmosphere of the room.

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, during the school's spirit week, one of the freshman biology classes hosted a class of preschoolers. During the freshman's biology class, they joined the much younger kids in the lab and spent some time with them. The freshman and the preschoolers together planted seeds in the farm's incubator and the older students even read books to the young children.

On the day of the dedication, Ms. Willard, engaged in a far-reaching interview with questions about her experience as a teacher and environmental advocate, about her activities since retiring, and her thoughts about the current state of the environment (see page three for interview) by Skyline staffers. Meanwhile, the lab itself had been carefully prepared for the occasion. Ms. Gans wove together a vine grown in the lab for the ribbon cutting portion of the

dedication; Ms. Cush prepared a presentation recounting Ms. Willard's accomplishments and commitment to creating environmental awareness through courses and community service activities; students Alaina Fagan and Deirdre Moran shared original poetry and reflections; and Ms. Willard herself, after thanking Saint Saviour for naming the lab in her honor, gave a brief talk in which she shared her views on teaching, service, and our responsibility as stewards of the planet. Naomi Thornhill was recognized for her year-long commitment to keeping the plants groomed and properly hydrated. As well, Naomi has trained other students to perform the same tasks, becoming something of a "plant" manager. In presenting the award, Ms. Cush emphasized Naomi's self-less dedication and "indispensable" contributions.

The dedication was given depth by the words of auxiliary Bishop Massa, who blessed the lab and those in attendance. In his own reflection, Bishop Massa reminded those assembled of Pope Francis' own call to Christians to act in accordance with our responsibility to the planet.

The educational value of the Lab was made strikingly obvious through the presentations by students of their on-going science projects, as well as by the paintings now permanently on display as part of the aesthetic of the lab.

Ms. Willard who was accompanied by her life-long friends, Rose and Mary Gerraty, after receiving the plaque, spoke of "being home" in returning to Saint Saviour. She went on to comment: "this day will be with me for the rest of my life," and added "even if I become senile."

## **Interview with Ms. Roberta Willard**

**By: Teresa Kiernan**

The current state of our environment is no laughing matter. Here at Saint Saviour, we find it trivial to provide our students with an education for the future. As the ozone layer continues to erode and natural resources diminish, the unfortunate truth is that this is our future. We will have to learn how to survive without some of the essential resources we currently rely upon. Here, at Saint Saviour, the original environmental lab has been transformed for our students into a new, high tech, hydroponics lab. This new educational program and resource recently was dedicated to the founder of all environmental science programs and awareness at Saint Saviour, Ms. Roberta Willard. Ms. Willard was a member of our prestigious faculty for over 30 years and is still a role model for all who lead women in science. On the day of the dedication, we had the honor of interviewing Ms. Willard, to get a better grasp on her opinions and to glean some of her wisdom.



**Student body president, Teresa Kiernan '19 interviewing Ms. Willard**

**TK:** What do you remember most about your years teaching at Saint Saviour?

**RW:** I was a teacher for forty-five years, thirty-one of those being at Saint Saviour. After many years of retirement, I find the aspect of Saint Saviour I remember the most is the Saviour spirit! There is nothing more visible than students' enthusiasm, from the classroom to the court or stage, panda pride is unmatched. The teachers and students were always respectful of one another, the girls were always well motivated, and the parents were willing to make sacrifices in order for their daughters to excel. In addition, I fondly remember the faculty, including the alumni I taught who eventually became my colleagues.

**TK:** How did your own environmental consciousness evolve? What do you remember the first event or experience that made you aware of the importance of nature and the need to protect our environment?

**RW:** My love for the environment began at a young age. Growing up in rural New Jersey, nature was my playground. The first time I experienced a passion for protecting my environment was on a family trip to Pennsylvania. The area had recently been affected by a series of terrible storms. I learned about the force of nature and was inspired to know more. I began to study erosion, the effects of river curves, and deforestation. My awareness was further stimulated while completing my master's degree at Queens College. I focused deeply on the earth sciences; oceanography, geology, meteorology, and so on. These courses got me out of the classroom and into parks, bays, and ponds, giving me the opportunity to study diverse ecosystems.

**TK:** What were the challenges you remember about bringing that awareness into the school setting? Classes? Activities?

**RW:** Earth science was a new type of study that was filtering into high schools from college. I tried to motivate my students by stepping beyond just teaching information. We had class discussions about air pollution in inner cities, and the uniqueness of Prospect Park. I also wanted to make sure students would receive regent's credit for the class, without taking a regents exam. Often, I would lead the school in beach cleanups and fundraisers. We also would decorate the school for Earth Day, and encourage students to be aware of the potentially harmful impact on the environment.

**TK:** You organized and moderated the SEEK club while you were a teacher at Saint Saviour. Can you tell us about that club? The activities you did, the lessons learned? Goals accomplished?

**RW:** I was the moderator of SEEK, a community service club at Saint Saviour. The members of my club always amazed and encouraged me to continue working. Some activities we were known for were painting pumpkins, or making reindeer clothes pins and giving them out at the nursing home. The best way I can describe SEEK is with a quote from Annie Belletierre, a committed SEEK member, "through SEEK, we have the opportunity to reach out to others with ourselves." I always aspired to teach the girls to live as Jesus did by doing good.

**TK:** What is your sense of the current state of the environment?

**RW:** I believe the environment is resilient. However, it is extremely vulnerable to the rate of pollution and the ignorance of those who are responsible for it. The state of the environment has never been more serious. Politicians still deny climate change, mammals are washing up on shorelines with stomachs full of garbage! This is a critical time to pass environmental laws! Greta Thunberg, a preteen from Sweden, encourages me to fight for the environment.

She recently said, "I don't want your hope, I want you to panic," which is something that I hope speaks to today's decision-makers and to youth. There is an opportunity to make a positive change on every level.



**The many plants in the lab continue to grow at remarkable rates.**

**TK:** What is your greatest hope for the legacy of the hydroponics lab?

**RW:** The hydroponics lab is an innovative and interesting addition to Saint Saviour education! I'm very excited to see the endless possibilities it will bring! Who would have known that the hydroponics, which nurtured the hanging gardens of Babylon would be rediscovered in the 21st century! A variety of plants can be grown using this phenomenal technique. Looking towards the future, conventional ways of growing produce may have depleted. These new techniques could potentially be our only hope of survival. I hope the lab gives students the opportunity to become deeply adverse in environmental science. However, for those that don't find science to be their forte, I hope they are able to enjoy the beauty the lab has to offer. The new eggplants, or lettuce are examples of miracles surrounding you! I hope to see this lab push Saint Saviour forward as a cutting edge science community.



**The lab has been given a name in honor of Ms. Willard's legacy.**

**TK:** What advice would you give to students looking to get the most out of the hydroponic lab? What advice about the actions the current generation can or must take for the environment?

**RW:** Although I find it difficult to give people advice, I hope that all students see the seriousness of our environmental state. I hope the new lab inspires a passion in students, the same way New Jersey nature inspired me. Each of us needs to consume less and produce less waste. Today we live in a throw-away culture that values convenience over the environment. Our future relies on the determination of our youth. You must vote and support issues such as The Green New Deal! The best advice I can give is to stay informed, education is privilege and learning brings opportunity.

**TK:** You've officially retired from teaching? Still environmentally involved? If so, how so?

**RW:** One thing I've learned from retired life is that the important work I did at Saint Saviour is not done! Today, I use what I've learned through school and teaching to ensure I'm aware of the politics affecting the environment. For example, the United States is the only country that is not involved with the Paris Climate Accord. When I can, I donate to Green Peace, Sierra Club, Earth Just Environment Defense Fund, and Defenders of Wildlife. Another thing that I make sure to do, and encourage interested students to try, is sign petitions that impact the environment.

It is no wonder that Saint Saviour High School has dedicated the newly founded hydroponics lab to this wonderful woman! Ms. Willard was the founder of the environmental science program at Saint Saviour and to this day continues to offer love to the world through this lasting legacy. The students who study in the lab can feel encouraged by her words and find strength in Ms. Willard's courage to continue the fight for environmental justice!



**Ms. Willard's legacy will live on forever in the Saint Saviour community with the success of the hydroponic lab.**

**Dedication of the Maria Perrotta  
Griffin Memorial Skyline  
Workspace  
By: Skyline Staff**



**Maria Griffin's family, pictured with her plaque, are proud to see her legacy thriving at Saint Saviour.**

On Monday, May 6th, Saint Saviour High School welcomed Mr. Dan Griffin, the husband of Saint Saviour alum, Maria Perrotta Griffin, who passed away unexpectedly two years ago. Mr. Griffin, along with his son, Brian, and other family members and friends, were here at Saint Saviour for the dedication of the new *Skyline* and *Voices* work space in Room 203, where, thanks to a generous donation from Mr. Griffin, we have two new Dell touch screen computers, a high speed printer/scanner, and a new Nikon camera – equipment that is, even as we write this, helping to enhance the process of producing both the magazine and the newspaper. Mr. Griffin had earlier explained that he wanted to do something, offer something that would benefit the school and stand as a way of both remembering and honoring his wife. While she was a student at Saint Saviour, Maria Griffin [nee Perrotta] was first a writer, and then in her senior year, the editor- in chief of

our beloved newspaper. Mr. Griffin, along with his family and friends, spent about an hour in Room 203, talking with the Skyline staff, sharing stories and pictures of Maria, hearing from the students about their experiences as Skyline journalists, and then getting a sneak peak of the current edition of Skyline as it was being prepared for publication.

We thank Mr. Griffin once again for his generosity and know that his gift will continue to be put to good use for years to come.

Additionally, the Skyline staff had the honor of attending the Tablet Awards, which commemorates Catholic High School newspapers. In total, Skyline brought home four awards: second place for Best Personality Profile (Samantha Hughes '19), third place for best opinion editorial (Samantha Hughes '19), first place for Roger Payne Award for best column (Grace Rosen '19), and third place for best editorial cartoon (Cristina Melian '19).



**The Skyline staff are all smiles after winning big at the Tablet Awards.**

## The Glorious Gospel Choir Concert

**By: Ariana Quintana**

Friends and families came out to the auditorium of St Savior High School to attend the annual spring Gospel Choir concert on Friday, April 3rd. A new gathering of both the artists and musicians, together shared their talents on The Day of the Arts, a new special day that was added to the calendar in early September. The choir walked onto the gym and onto the stage in their traditional red and white robes, setting the tone and mood for a wonderful evening of talent.

Accompanied by the ensemble, choir members also performances some difficult pieces by famous musicians.

The Gospel Choir was directed by Mr. Huie, who also performed a number of pieces, some even composed by him. The choir, ensemble and the senior music students once again gave a spectacular performance. There was also a guest musician, Kevin Nathaniel Hylton, who had previously come to share his music and talent with the students in early April. Because this was a Day of the Arts, many students and families remained for the concert after they had cast their ballots for the amazing artwork.

“Though the concert itself was just under two hours in length, it took months of preparation for the choir to look and sound as great as it did,” explained sophomore, Nicole Aquino. Nicole was not wrong. The choir, the ensemble, and the senior music students all received a standing ovation from



**Gospel Choir performed an amazing show for the Saint Saviour community.**

those in attendance. Speaking as a performer in these music programs, I can say with authority that we don’t play music just for ourselves: we play music to spread joy to our whole school, our whole community.

“My favorite song was the ‘Anthem of Praise,’” stated Mrs. Quintana, parent of Ariana Quintana. “It was so powerful, and there was such a unique distinction between the different harmonies.”

“The two songs from the *Caribbean Mass*: truly amazing. I loved the groove of the ‘Gloria’, ” observed Mr. Tricarico, who had been working with the go-pro device, recording the performance.

When the performance was coming to an end, lower classmen gave their heartwarming speeches to the graduating seniors. It was truly an amazing night. The finale, *This Is Me* from *The Greatest Showman*, was the ideal way for the concert to have ended.



**The Gospel Choir Concert would not have been complete without a performance by the Instrumental Ensemble.**

## The Astonishing Art Show

By: Alexandra Natale

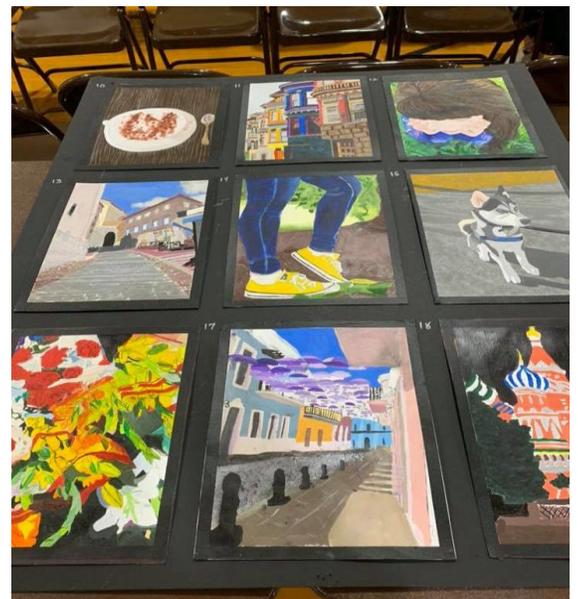
On Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saint Saviour High School held a Day of the Arts, an afternoon and evening to celebrate the students' artistic talent. Our fine arts celebrations have previously been held on separate days, but this year the art show and Gospel Choir concert were merged into one event. Viewing of the art kicked off the event and guests were able to walk around the gym and take in the landscape paintings, scratchboards, and portraits, as well as handmade decorations created by the art club. Guests were also given a scoring sheet so that they could rate the artwork they viewed and vote for their favorites in each category. The artwork was all created by the students in the sophomore art class and senior art elective class. The senior art class even painted self-portraits and guests had a good time discovering which painting resembled its artist. Ms. Draghi organized the whole event, making sure it was a beautiful way for the girls to display the art that they had worked so hard on.



Scratch work projects from the Class of 2020 wowed those who came to the Art Show.



Senior art students had all of their wonderful projects on display, such as these Self Portraits inspired by Picasso.



Value projects from the sophomores show that everyone at Saint Saviour possesses an artistic side.

## **Closing the Gap between the LGBT Community and the Catholic Church**

**By: Samantha Hughes**

“I’m gay, can I still be Catholic?” This is a question that plagues many Catholics today, especially teenagers. At surface level, these two identities seem conflicting. If it’s sinful to be gay why would someone want to remain Catholic if they were? Despite popular belief, there is a way to strike a balance with what the Bible and the Catholic Church say about homosexuality.

First, what does the Bible say about homosexuality? Many of the Bible verses explicitly stating the nature of homosexuality are found in the letters that Paul wrote to Christian communities. It is mentioned in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.” And again in 1 Timothy 1:8-10, “The law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine.” Both verses point to the sinful nature of homosexual relations; however, it is crucial to note that in the eyes of the Catholic Church, homosexuality, itself, is not a sin.

In *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* is a document entitled Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church On the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons, written in 1986, it states “Although the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin, it is a more or less strong tendency ordered toward an intrinsic moral evil; and thus the inclination itself must be seen as an objective disorder.” The Church wants its followers and those outside of the

community to understand that being a homosexual is not a sin, only homosexual acts are. It is crucial for people to understand that the Church does not seek to isolate homosexuals; rather, they are called to follow a life of chastity.

Moreover, bearing in mind that the Church does not wish alienate homosexuals, the Church also does not wish to see mistreatment of homosexuals. The Letter previously mentioned addressed to the bishops in 1986 states, “It is deplorable that homosexual persons have been and are the object of violent malice in speech or in action. Such treatment deserves condemnation from the Church’s pastors wherever it occurs. It reveals a kind of disregard for others which endangers the most fundamental principles of a healthy society. The intrinsic dignity of each person must always be respected in word, in action, and in law.” More often than not, the Church is given a bad reputation for being harsh to the LGBT community and wanting to condemn them, this letter emphasizes that the Church does not wish to do that, in fact the Church condemns negative and violent behavior towards the LGBT community.

Ultimately, there is peace that can be and needs to be made between the two communities. Members of the LGBT community need to understand that those who are truly Catholic and have Jesus in their hearts do not wish them any harm. It is very much possible to gay and Catholic as the Bible says: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16) Likewise, the Catholic Church can be doing more to stop the violence that the LGBT community faces. There are five countries where homosexuality is punishable by the death penalty and in over 70 it is possible to be imprisoned for your sexuality. These communities need to come together for the sake of maintaining peace and love in the world; and most importantly, for those apart of both communities and desperately yearn for the two parts of their identity not to be at war with each other.

## **The Electoral College Will Never (and Should Never!) Be Removed** **By: Alexandra Natale**

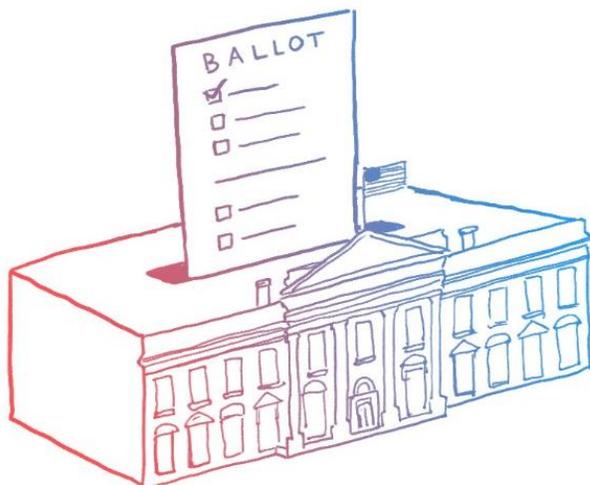
When we vote for our president every four years, we are voting through the Electoral College system. This system was created by the framers of our constitution at the constitutional convention. Its creation came about as a series of compromises between larger states and smaller states. Since larger states were more populous, the election results would only represent their opinions; with the Electoral College, the smaller, less populous states would also have fair representation. Without the system, large parts of our country would be ignored, like Middle America, and highly populated urban areas would always get their way. In 2016, 82 senators in 41 states were controlled by 150 million people, while 18 senators in 9 states were represented by 158 million people. If only a popular vote is done, the vast majority of our states would never be able to make their vote heard.

Though the system has been under scrutiny in recent times, it has a pretty good record: it has correlated with the popular vote in 53 of our 58 total presidential elections. In the 2016 election between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, in 48 states Hillary was down by 3 million votes in the popular vote. Only because of the extremely populous states, California and New York, was she able to win the popular vote. If we elected using that system, 48 states would not have had their votes

represented, because of heavily-populated states. If we went by popular vote, many people would probably lose interest in politics and elections, because they would feel they don't have a voice in the decision. The Electoral College system helps us maintain a true democracy, in which every voter has a voice.

Even if you think the Electoral College system should be abolished, it likely never will. There would have to be an amendment made to the constitution which requires a two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives & the Senate and a three-fourths majority of the states. It is highly unlikely that 38 states who want to be involved in elections would give up a system that represents them fairly. The only other way to change the system would be for two-thirds of the states to petition congress to call a new constitutional convention and rewrite the constitution. Now if you thought the first option sounded far-fetched, you probably think I made that second one up. To sum it up, it would be almost impossible to get rid of this system.

As I stated previously, the Electoral College is most likely here to stay, but even if it weren't so hard to change, we still shouldn't. If you believe in supporting the fair representation of all states in elections, you should be on the side of the Electoral College. I want everyone's voice to be heard, even the voices I don't agree with, because that's democracy, and that's America.



### **Source:**

**<https://www.cnn.com/2016/10/07/politics/what-is-the-electoral-college/index.html>**

## Fun and Convenient Activities To Do Over the Summer By: Lauren Rivera

School is almost over and summer is just around the corner. We are all excited for summer but what happens when it finally comes, when want to make plans but everything is too expensive or too far away, or even both. Well, I am here to help you see other options other than the expensive ones. This list will be a variety of things from the typical ones to a few weird yet fun and unusual ones.

Everyone knows one of our founding father

Alexander Hamilton well

you can visit his estate here in Harlem the admission to this historical place is free! If you are from New York you know the Highline, well the Highline holds star gazing nights for free on Tuesday's. It starts around dusk and it is a beautiful thing to do with family or friends, they put out telescopes and they are free for you to use. Take a walk through battery or Central Park and have a little picnic with a mini photoshoot. Go to a movie in the park Bryant Park and Brooklyn Bridge Park they usually post a schedule with the times and the movies they are screening. Go kayaking for free at Pier 26 and at Pier 25 host games for \$7 adults and \$5 kids. Open mics for music, poetry, and MC's at Urban World. The open mics are free and for teens and college students. Another great thing to do is pick up a new hobby or sport. Whether it is roller-skating, skateboarding, swimming, volleyball, golf, or anything like that is a great way to occupy your free time. Plan a beach day with friends or head down to industry city for fun and new exciting thing.



**Visiting parks in New York City can help students (and teachers) relax after a long year.**



**Senior Art Students had a blast when they took a trip to Industry City for inspiration this March.**

## EF Trip to Ireland

By: Quyn McCaffrey

It's that time of year again... spring! Which means it's time for a recap of our Easter EF trip! The 2019 EF tour was to Ireland, and students and faculty alike had a blast. We visited cities in all four provinces of Ireland; Connact, Leinster, Munster, and Ulster. Cities on our list included Belfast, Derry, Dublin, Cork, Killarney, Cobh, and Galway. We went to Belfast to learn about the historic troubles between the Catholic and Protestant communities, while in Dublin we explored the rich culture of Ireland. In both Belfast and Cobh, we learned about the journey of the Titanic through interactive museums. We visited many Cathedrals, including St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin and St. Colman's Cathedral in Cobh. We also went to several castles, including Bunratty Castle, Knappogue Castle, and Blarney Castle. At Blarney Castle we kissed the famous Blarney stone, which according to the legend, gifts us with eloquence.

Not only did our tour include visits to historic places, it also included many opportunities to go shopping in



**Savourites take a quick picture in front of the beautiful scenery of Ireland.**



**Savourites enjoying the different sights and experiences that Ireland has to offer.**

different cities, such as Galway, where we had an entire day to explore the historic city; and Dublin, where we shopped on the famous Grafton Street. Throughout our stay in Ireland, as we toured the many interesting sites we were led by our trusty guide, Michael. Also accompanying us on our journey was our epic bus driver, Declan. They were our saviors for the entire trip, charming us with their unique wit and personality. Whenever Michael pulled out an Irish whistle, everyone's spirits were instantly lifted. Everywhere we went brought something new and fun to the experience, making so many memories that will last us all a lifetime!

“The seniors and I had a great time in Ireland, our favorite part was shopping!”  
Hope Barone '19

“Our tour director was very talented and good at his job. I loved his tin whistle!”  
Mary Israel '20

## Enrichment Day Trips

By: Shannon McLoughlin and Julia Canny

Enrichment Day is a cherished tradition at Saint Saviour High School. Students have the opportunity to travel to various locations throughout New York City and experience all that the city has to offer, or they have the option to do exciting activities here at Saint Saviour. On Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, students went birdwatching in Prospect Park, on a walking tour of Greenwich Village, to volunteer at CHIPS, to paint at Pinot's Palette, to visit the 911 Memorial, the New York Hall of Science, the Escape Room, and the Brooklyn Museum, or to learn about self-defense in the gym. Students did volunteer work, painted masterpieces, learned about



**Every Enrichment Day, students volunteer at CHIPs to help those in need.**



**Savourites had a blast painting the Eiffel Tower at Pinot's Palette in Park Slope.**

history and science, and did everything in between. All of the students enjoyed their trips and some even felt inspired. Senior Theresa Davidson said of her trip, "I enjoyed the stone wall exhibition. I [thought] it educated students and encouraged us to stand up for justice." Other students, like LuClanderine Leger, felt that they learned valuable skills. She said of the self-defense class, "It was really cool and I felt like in a difficult situation I would now be able to defend myself." Additionally, students felt grateful for the opportunity to help others on Enrichment Day. According to Alexandra Natale, who volunteered at C.H.I.P.S, "It was fulfilling to give back to the community and make a difference in someone's day." No matter what trip the students chose, they had a fun and fulfilling day with their Saviour sisters.



**Ms. Caughey and Mr. Sadushi showed Saviourites how to properly birdwatch in Prospect Park. (Photo by: Mr. Huie)**

## **2019 Mother Daughter Luncheon**

**By: Alexandra Natale**

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, the annual Mother-Daughter Luncheon was held on a beautiful sunny spring day in Coney Island. Garguilo's restaurant served as a gorgeous elegant venue, and the lovely mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters, and aunts really made the room special. All present enjoyed delicious food, drink, and even ice-cream sundaes! Before taking their seats, everyone excitedly placed their raffle tickets for a chance to win valuable prizes. Even with all the excitement of the food and raffles, the Golden Rose speeches still stand out as the highlight of the afternoon. At this time, the girls in senior year deliver heartfelt, handwritten speeches to their mothers in front of everyone in attendance. This gives them a meaningful opportunity to express their gratitude for their mothers' love and many sacrifices. After the speech, they present their mother with a yellow rose and always receive a round of applause. As underclassmen watch this, they can look forward to having this special moment one day. After the speeches, the many raffles are drawn, some even won tropical vacations! Everyone left the evening smiling and excited for next year.



**Multiple generations of empowering women attend the Luncheon, including Saint Saviour alumni.**



**Students of every grade come together during the Mother Daughter Luncheon to honor the female role models in their lives.**

**A variety of extravagant gifts are raffled off at the Luncheon every year.**



## **Community Service at Saint Saviour: An Interview with Sophomore, Elisa Acevedo**

**By: Mina Mai**

Hurricane Maria was a deadly Category 5 hurricane that devastated Dominica, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico in September 2017. It is regarded as the worst natural disaster on record to affect those islands and is also the deadliest Atlantic hurricane since Jeanne in 2004.

While President Trump has insisted that “we did a fantastic job in Puerto Rico ... I think most of the people in Puerto Rico really appreciate what we’ve done,” a recent reporter found that eight in ten residents there give negative marks to President Trump and the response of the United States government, in the wake of the hurricane that decimated the island. Recently, sophomore, Elisa Acevedo, spent her Christmas break to provide assistance to the homeless people who are still suffering from the effects of the hurricane.

During her visit, Elisa learned that Puerto Rico is still in a bad situation, where lack of basics, such as food and electricity, make daily life difficult. Elisa’s generous volunteer work corresponds with the ethos of St. Saviour, which encourages students to help out in the community. To learn more about her experience, I sat down with Elisa to talk about what she accomplished in Puerto Rico. During our conversation, I learned that there are many homeless people in Puerto Rico still in need of our help today. I also learned some lessons about the importance of community service as a means to improve the quality of others’ lives.

**Mina:** Tell us about the service project you became involved with this past winter. Who was involved? When and for how long? Where did you do this service? Why did you participate?

**Elisa:** My dad and some of my friends participated in this project. My dad worked on the community board [in Puerto Rico] for

21 years, so he knows many officers there in the church. This was my first time volunteering there. We went to Portugal with the church called “Times Square Church.” And basically what we did is we went to the church to feed the homeless people. I helped the other girls to give out cotton candy and popcorn. And the next day, we helped to give people oatmeal, and different breakfasts and rice to homeless people. And we visited different parts [of the island] to help give out different supplies. My dad also helped the church to collect different supplies, like food, secretarial items, and we helped to give that to those in need in Puerto Rico. There are many kids who are truly suffering, we helped by giving out whatever toys we had to those kids at the festival and we spent time playing with them. The youngest was 14 months, and the oldest was 8 years old.



**Elisa aiding those in need of food and water.**

**Mina:** What did you learn?

**Elisa:** I learned how there are so many people don’t have what I have, and I’m so much more grateful that I have access to electricity and water, and because many people there are homeless, they do not have access to that. After spending time with



**Elisa in Church praying for those affected by the hurricane.**

them, we started crying, there are so many people who are just living on the streets.

**Mina:** Did you experience anything that surprised you?

**Elisa:** There were so many people flooding into the hospital and many people there were dead. There were some floors that the entire people were dead, because they don't have enough medicine. They can't get the things they need that are necessary to help them. It was nice to see that despite how bad things were, people still came together as a community to help each other. Everyone was very friendly to each other.

**Mina:** What was your single most memorable moment or experience while you were there?

**Elisa:** Just being able to help, at least one person, I may not be able to help everybody, but as long as I know that I changed the life of few people, makes me feel very happy. Because at least I could give one person happiness.

**Mina:** How have you been affected or changed by this experience?

**Elisa:** I definitely learned to be more humble, because there are so many things that we take for granted, like people said the Wi-Fi does not work or they don't have

internet. But, people there would think they don't have water or food to eat, or they that they didn't have shelter. People there lived off of their natural environment, they grew their own food.

**Mina:** Are you planning to go back? Or, are there other projects you plan to undertake?

**Elisa:** Since my dad kept going back and forth for a long time with the organization they had, we're still working with some churches, and my dad is having a fundraiser to give supplies to the children and women over there from New York.

**Mina:** What advice would you give your fellow students about getting involved in such projects? Why?

**Elisa:** I would say definitely do it, because it helps others so much. Although you can't help everybody, at least you can change one [person's] life; it humbles you so much and you get so happy because you know you helped that person.

An experience like Elisa's is valuable, because it provides an opportunity for us - the youth - to connect with those vulnerable people in a way we're not often able to. Whether you build houses for the homeless or mail flyers for a local politician, we can experience the real world through hands-on volunteering. Community service not only can expand the opportunities for us to improve personal and social quality, but can also allow us to experience the broad range of features of positive developmental settings. Spending our break to volunteer might be challenging at first, but thinking about how much joy we can deliver to those in need -- there's nothing worth more than that. The connection between human beings is the most beautiful treasure that all of us have.

## **Class of 2020 Ring Day Ceremony** **By: Sydney Connolly**

Ring Day has been a tradition at Saint Saviour to honor the junior class for many years. Members of the junior class of 2020 received their rings on April 4<sup>th</sup> after a beautiful mass at Saint Saviour Church. The senior members of the gospel choir performed songs throughout the mass and amazed the audience with their voices. Father Frank gave a homily teaching the juniors the importance of cherishing their rings because in the future their rings will be a reminder of all the important lessons they learned and the memories they made during their time at Saint Saviour. Ring Day is a celebration of different generations of Saviourites because several alumni return to their alma mater to present rings to members of the junior class. After the mass ended, Mrs. Bernstein gave a speech about the history of the Saint Saviour ring and its uniqueness. Mrs. Bernstein stated that the Saint Saviour ring is maroon and gold with the Saint Saviour crest consisting of a cross to represent the Roman Catholic traditions Saint Saviour upholds, olive branches to represent Saint Saviour's belief in peace, and a crown to represent Christ the Saviour. Dr. McKeown gave a speech congratulating the junior class for the achievement of receiving their class rings that signify their official induction into the Saint Saviour family. In receiving their rings, the junior class took a giant step towards their senior year and their bright future as Saint Saviour women.

I interviewed several members of the junior class about Ring Day asking "How did you feel after receiving your ring and why?" Megan Mazza said, "It made me feel glad to be able to show my school pride and I felt closer to the school body as a whole." Stephanie Sanchez stated, "I felt happy to receive my ring because I was able to take part in a Saint Saviour tradition." Arianna Quintana said, "I had mixed emotions before, during and after receiving my school ring. It is a sign reminding me that I have only one more year at Saint

Saviour High School. Receiving my school ring gave me a reason to cherish and thank my parents, faculty, and peers that have guided me through my years at the school. It was almost like being inducted into an elite, private community of wonderful, strong women." Members of the junior class have positive emotions about receiving their class rings because it instilled pride within them to go to Saint Saviour High School and be a part of Saint Saviour's legacy. Though for some, receiving their rings made them sad because it reminded them that they were graduating next year and their high school career will soon be over.

I also interviewed members of the junior class asking them, "Did you enjoy the ring ceremony and if so what made you enjoy it?" Megan Mazza said, "I enjoyed the ceremony and how organized Mrs. Cush had made it. It made it feel more official and important." Ariana Quintana answered, "The ring ceremony was very intriguing and inspiring. I loved that the tradition of the ring ceremony has been part of Saint Saviour High School for many years that even some of our faculty members are proud alumna, who wore their very school ring on that day. It brings out the strong sisterhood and pride that our school has to offer as well as being an outstanding academic school." Sinead Fitzgibbon said, "I think it was a great experience because I truly felt part of the Saint Saviour sisterhood. I know from my sister's experience at the school that the bond of this sisterhood will connect us for life, and I think having her present the ring to me truly exemplifies that bond; that was definitely my favorite part of the ceremony. Members of the junior class enjoyed the ring ceremony and did not have any negative words against it. They enjoyed the ring ceremony because of the hard work Mrs. Cush, the coordinator, put into it to make it a beautiful ceremony and they participated in a cherished Saint Saviour tradition. Members of the junior class also enjoyed the ring ceremony because it brought the Saint Saviour community together for a day and receiving their ring reminded them that they



**The Class of 2020 pictured with their new rings and yellow roses.**

were part of an amazing community of women as Saint Saviour students.

As a member of the junior class, I asked myself “How did I feel after receiving my Saint Saviour ring and why? And “Did I enjoy the ring ceremony and if so why?” I felt excited after receiving my class ring because I had taken part in a tradition that many of my family members before me had taken part in as alumni of Saint Saviour and they attended the mass so I was able to share that moment with them. I also felt grateful when I received my ring because it made me realize that I was part of a community of strong and intelligent women as a student at Saint Saviour High School. At the moment I received my ring I realized how fast my time at Saint Saviour is passing by and that my classmates and I have grown so much as young women since the start of our freshman year. I enjoyed the ring ceremony because receiving my ring was a happy moment I got to share with my classmates and family. I believe that during the mass the junior class displayed their most important skill of wearing heels and not slipping on the altar. During the rehearsal of the ceremony, Mrs. Cush repeatedly stated how the ring ceremony is a classy ceremony and she was not going to have it be anything less than that this year. In the words of Ms. Cush, the 2019 ring ceremony was a classy ceremony and a significant moment in the high school career of the class of 2020.



**Juniors received their rings from Dr. McKeown, Mrs. Bernstein, and Father Frank.**

## St. Patrick's Day Parade By: Meaghan DelleCave

This past March, Pandas in the Gaelic Society braved the bitter cold weather to march in the annual New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade and The Park Slope St. Patrick's Day parade. Marching with the parade up fifth avenue in the city is a tradition for St. Saviour's Gaelic Society (led by Ms. Cush (moderator) and Ms. Caughey), a tradition some girls experienced this year for the first time and others for the last. Freshman, Clare Robertsen said of her first parade, "My first St. Patrick's Day parade experience was great! I got to experience marching in a parade for the first time, and it was a very amazing experience. I also got to bond with my classmates and form relationships I never thought I would have." Waiting to step off on to the parade route



**Sophomores show off their bright green Gaelic society sweatshirts.**

can be a wonderful bonding experience for Pandas. Personally, Quyn McCaffrey '21 and I took it as opportunity to try our hands (unsuccessfully) at a few Irish Step moves with Roisin Walsh '21 as our instructor. For

some girls, however, this parade was not only bitter-cold, but also bitter-sweet. Senior, Shannon McLoughlin told me the experience for her was "really exciting and sad at the same time. I always felt such pride and joy marching in the parade. Seeing the excitement of spectators and other marchers is amazing. I'll miss it a lot for sure." Regardless if the parade was our first, second, third or last time, Gaelic Society members can most definitely agree

that showing our Panda Pride at the parades is always an exciting opportunity.



**Seniors, as part of tradition, lead the march by holding the Saint Saviour banner proudly.**

**Seniors prepare for their last St. Patrick's Day Parade with Saint Saviour.**



## Saint Saviour Celebrates National Poetry Month

**By: Samantha Hughes**

Saint Saviour recently celebrated National Poetry Month in April. Ms. May, the librarian, and members of the English Department, Ms. Caughey and Ms. Gans, helped Saint Saviour have a memorable month filled with many fun poetry festivities. Undoubtedly, this was the best poetry month celebration Saint Saviour has ever had.

Everyday students and teachers read poems on the loudspeaker during second homeroom, some were famous poems others were written by the students, themselves. There was also poem in your pocket day, in which students brought their favorite poem with them to school and shared it with others, who would then exchange their favorite poem.

Additionally, there were multiple readings held after school: Ms. Caughey's classes wrote and shared poems dedicated to Walt Whitman. (Participants included: Ariana Quintana '20, Zhanna



Ayapbergerova '20, Mina Mai '20, Kalie Julien-Leach '20, Jade Hill '20, Aisha MiCourt '20 (Moderator), Lily Gregorio '20, Nathalie Thornhill '20, and Yasmin Constant '20). Ms. Gans' classes also read a variety of poems about neighborhoods and home and the alphabet.

(Participants included: Alik Halkias '21, Cristina Melian '19, Kai Owosu '21, Claudia Kilkenny '21, Kylie Galvin '21, Jacqueline

**The Open Mic was a fantastic way to end an already fun month.**

Avignon '21, Quyn McCaffrey '21, Lauren Rivera '21, and Keba Francis '19). Lastly, to end the month's celebration there was an open mic reading in the library. During the open mic reading, many students and teachers participated as well as listened in support of their fellow peers (Participants included: Noellani Hellberg '22, Olivia Temple '22, Kai Owosu '21, Mr. Gunter, Ms. May, Ms. Gans, Ms. Caughey, Ms. Maurer, Mrs. Darcy, and Mrs. Bernstein).



**Ms. Gans' sophomore and senior classes had fun sharing their poems with those in attendance.**



**Ms. Caughey's classes honored Walt Whitman's iconic legacy by replicating their own poems in his honor.**

## Where the Seniors Are Heading Next

After four years, seniors are incredibly sad to say goodbye to Saint Saviour. However, the class of 2019 can look forward with pride as they go on to these prestigious colleges:

Arianna Abdul - Baruch College  
Briann Abruzzese- Fairfield University  
Loraine Aitken- University of New Haven  
Amanda Aquino- Buffalo State University  
Amanda Arrata- Saint Joseph's College  
Samantha Ayala- New York City College of Technology  
Hope Barone- Mount Saint Mary College  
Liana Betancourt – Baruch College  
Caitlin Brown- Mount Saint Vincent College  
Julia Canny- Long Island University, Brooklyn  
Samantha Cassata- Saint Joseph's College  
Azariah Coothe- Hampton University  
Theresa Davidson- Saint Joseph's College  
Briana Esper- Buffalo State University  
Keba Francis- Saint Joseph's College  
Nioka Gaudin- University of Albany SUNY  
Kimberly Hronec- Saint Joseph's College  
Melinda Hudson- University of New Haven  
Samantha Hughes- SUNY New Paltz  
Amayah Hutchinson – Le Moyne College  
Tiana Jaramillo- Queensborough Community College  
Eileen Kelly- York College of Pennsylvania  
Brianna Kenny- Saint John's University  
Teresa Kiernan- SUNY New Paltz  
Margaret Kindschuh- University of Southern California  
Julie Laclide – Concordia University (Montreal)  
Vivien Lerner- Brooklyn College  
Rachel Martinez- Saint Joseph's College  
Shannon McLoughlin- Wesleyan University  
Olivia Medina- University of Maryland CP  
Cristina Melian- Suffolk University  
Alexandra Natale- Villanova University  
Margaret O'Dea- Stevens Institute of Technology  
Justine Peart- Binghamton University BAP  
Allison Ryan- Saint Joseph's College  
Alexandra Salvatierra – Gap Semester  
Caroline Schneider- Fairfield University  
Wajihah Siddiqui- St. John's University  
Eva Sorrentino – Texas Christian University  
Yoemy Soto Ortiz- Saint Joseph's College  
Treasure Stuto- Saint Leo University  
Luander Whitehall- Southern Connecticut State University



## Keeping Track

By: Ariana Quintana

It is the start of a promising season for the girls on the Saint Saviour spring outdoor track team and the track at Icahn is calling their name! Ms. Haywood, or Coach Zee as the girls call her, has been running ever since she was in high school. She began coaching the Pandas in the beginning of March, ecstatic to be able to share her knowledge with the athletes on the team. On Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, athletes participated in the CHSAA Intersectional Season Opener at Icahn Stadium, Randall's Island. It was a breezy, warm Saturday morning as the pandas competed right by the East River. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, Fordham Prep held a



**The track team poses for a group photo before their competition.**

developmental meet at Icahn Stadium as well. The 4x100 meter relay, despite one drop of the baton, still received 3rd place with a time of 1:04:85. Way to go!

Here is a quick question and answer from Coach Haywood:

**Ariana: Where are you from?**

**Coach Zee:** I'm a Brooklyn girl, born and raised. My family hails from the Caribbean, the isles of Trinidad and Tobago.



**Members of the track team bite their bronze medals of victory.**

**Ariana: Did you run in high school and college?**

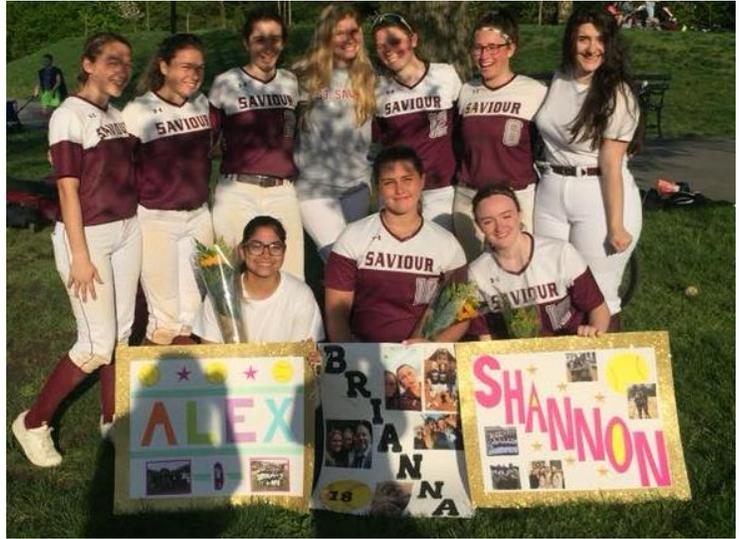
**Coach Zee:** Yes, I ran competitively in high school and college. I was a bona fide math geek at John Jay HS with aspirations of becoming a Supreme Court judge like Thurgood Marshall.

Coach Haywood states that it was a joy for her to coach the girls of Saint Saviour as she could give back to the sport that has provided so many opportunities for her- athletically, academically and professionally. Coach Haywood is an alumna of Colgate University, class of '97. She ran competitively in high school, college, and currently has been focusing on marathons and ultramarathons. She stated in a recent interview "I am a turbo turtle and run longer distance events." As for being a qualified member of the community of runners in New York, Ms. Hayward is an ambassador for Black Girls Run! NYC as well as an affiliation of being the director of community services with the New York Road Runner. Coach Haywood also gives back to her community by sharing all her abilities academically, socially, and spiritually. She helped developed We Run Brownsville as a positive way to address many social problems that residents in her community face.

## Softball: Season Wrap-Up

By: Meaghan Delle Cave

Following a rocky start to the season, St. Saviour's softball team is exceeding everyone's expectations. Just a few weeks prior to the first scheduled game, there was much debate about whether or not there would even be a softball team this year: the coaches had moved on with no one to replace them; the team was short two players; new players didn't have uniforms; and, on top of that, the team also had no field to call "home." However, with the recruitment of former softball players, Roisin Walsh (sophomore), Shannon McLoughlin (senior), and Alexandra Salvatierra (senior), and under the guidance of co-captains, Brianna Kenny (senior) and



Seniors hold their signs with pride during the softball senior game.



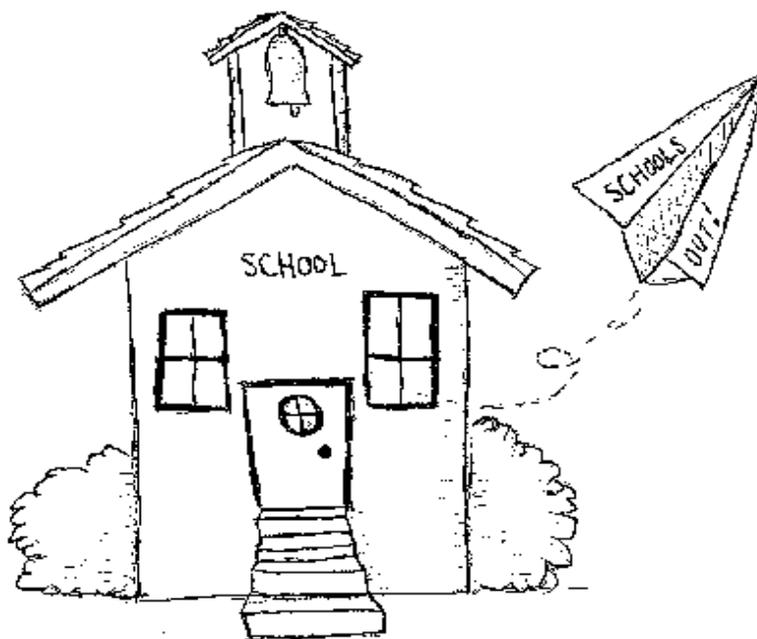
Kayleigh Calvo '20 shown in action during the game.

Kayleigh Calvo (junior), and with coaching by our very own Ms. Sanchez, the team was able to pick up its first win of the season against St. Edmund's Prep. The win came on April 1<sup>st</sup>, after only three games (and also three weeks of two hour practices every day after school) with an 11-9 victory, the winning runs brought in by a home run by junior, Grace Witkowski. With the play-offs fast approaching and the regular season coming to a close, the team sports a 2-11 record, and hopes to go all the way to the championship.

**The softball team hits the ball hard and the books harder.**



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER



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