

Watermark

News for Saint Edward's School
Alumni, Families and Friends



SES CELEBRATES THE FIRST ALL FEMALE CLASS OF ADVANCED STUDIES
PRESENTATION CANDIDATES AND SUCCESSFUL WOMEN ALUMNI.
THIS IS GIRL POWER.

Fall 2023



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COVER: Shelly Kirkland '00 celebrates
with the inaugural all-girl Advanced
Studies Presentation students.

Not pictured: Selma Memet



CELEBRATING GIRL POWER

STUART HIRSTEIN, HEAD OF SCHOOL

This edition of the *Watermark* is dedicated to “girl power.” As a father of three girls, I have seen firsthand how confidence, persistence, strength, empathy and compassion have become the perfect recipe for success in their lives. They are all three uniquely different people, yet similar at the same time.

Girl power emphasizes the idea that girls should be confident, independent and capable of achieving anything they set their minds to. The term is often used to promote a sense of solidarity among women, encouraging them to support each other.

At Saint Edward’s, we promote girl power by encouraging our girls to be community leaders and support each other in their personal, academic, athletic and artistic endeavors. Our Advanced Studies Program saw eleven of our girls present on various topics they had researched. The topics included presentations such as Examining the Viability and Methods of Sustainable Travel and the Effects of Climate Change on Endemic Galapagos Species. In the words of Mr. Mitchell, “I am very proud of each of these young ladies for staying the course and completing their project. They demonstrated that word we like to banter about -- GRIT!”

Our girls volleyball team showed “girl power” this season by winning the FHSAA 2A District 8 championship over the Brevard HEAT. The Brevard HEAT had beaten us both times during the regular season. The term GRIT certainly applied to this group of girls. This team went on to win their Regional

Quarterfinal match to Geneva 3-0 before falling in the regional semi-finals. This group finished the season 15-7, and we look forward to continued success with our volleyball program as the number of girls playing in middle school continues to grow.

Finally, as an alumna of Saint Edward’s, Shelly Richardson Kirkland ‘00 leads a non-profit organization as Chief Executive Officer. Her organization, Boot Campaign, has been in existence for over a decade and provides support to active-duty members, veterans and their families. Their mission is one that is close to my heart: To unite Americans to honor and restore the lives of veterans and military families through individualized, life-improving programs. Shelly’s compassion and empathy for helping veterans is truly inspiring and has made a difference in the lives of so many. She epitomizes a person’s power in a community, and we are grateful to celebrate her accomplishments.

We Shape the Future is our vision statement at Saint Edward’s. Our girls at Saint Edward’s are harnessing the power they have to make a difference in the world while shaping their future. I will never underestimate “girl power!”

Best wishes to all in our School community as we begin a new year.

Stuart Hirstein, Ed.D.
Head of School

FOSTERING SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

LOUISE DUNN, HEAD OF LOWER SCHOOL

In the ever-evolving landscape of education, there is a growing understanding that introducing students to design and coding early can have a profound impact on a student's problem-solving abilities. While the terms "design" and "coding" might seem advanced for elementary school students, they can be presented in a way that's both engaging and age-appropriate. With this thinking in mind, the Lower School rebranded its tech room to the Innovation Lab. The idea behind the change is that in this space, the students could problem-solve, design and create using technology.

Design and coding offer several benefits for elementary students, fostering skills and qualities that are crucial for their future success:

Creativity:

Design encourages creativity by allowing students to express themselves through art and aesthetics. Coding, on the other hand, nurtures creative problem-solving as students find innovative ways to make their projects work.

Critical Thinking:

Both design and coding require students to think critically and logically. They learn to break down complex problems into smaller, manageable parts and work systematically to solve them.

Collaboration:

Design and coding projects often involve teamwork, helping students develop essential collaboration and communication skills.

Persistence:

Students learn that mistakes and failures are part of the learning process. They develop resilience as they troubleshoot and refine their designs and code.

Future Readiness:

In an increasingly digital world, the ability to design and code is a valuable skill. Introducing these concepts early helps students become comfortable with technology and prepares them for future educational and career opportunities.

In the Lower School, we have been incredibly excited to bring online multiple 3D printers and 3D pens. We now have one open 3D printer and two closed devices. The magic of the open unit is that it allows the students to view the printing process from 360 degrees. The benefit to students is that they experience seeing their digital designs turn into physical objects. The big win for the students is that the 3D printing process encourages creativity and innovation. The students can design and print their toys, inventions or artistic creations, tapping into their imagination.







EMPOWERING YOUNG SCHOLARS

ALLISON BARATTA, HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our middle school program plays a pivotal role in realizing Saint Edward's vision statement "We shape the future." During these formative years, students undergo significant cognitive, emotional and social development, laying the foundation for their future endeavors. Educators in middle schools are the architects of these crucial stages, helping students discover their talents and passions and instilling the skills and values necessary for success in the years to come.

Recently a former colleague posted a quote on social media that prompted me to think about our vision at Saint Edward's School: "Prepare the child for the road, not the road for the child." Rather than attempting to remove obstacles or shield them from every difficulty, the emphasis is on fostering a robust sense of independence, self-advocacy and problem-solving capabilities. This philosophy acknowledges that life's path is unpredictable, and the ability to confront and overcome obstacles is an essential aspect of personal growth. This principle encourages an empowering approach to education, emphasizing resilience and a mindset that embraces challenges as opportunities for learning and development rather than viewing obstacles and setbacks as personal failures that define their futures.

Several of our middle school programs help "shape the future" and "prepare the child for the road," such as:

- Our Exploratory Wheel courses allow students to delve into Visual and Performing Arts, Technology Innovation, Health and Wellness, Civics and Character Education.
- Our Advisory program connects students with a teacher who helps with life skills such as prioritization of assignments, self-efficacy, and digital citizenship.
- Our academic program is designed to provide real-life experiences for students and develop collaboration and problem-solving skills.
- Our physical/wellness education and athletics program balances self-care and a constructive competitive spirit balanced with teamwork and leadership.
- Harkness seminars and inquiry-based learning encourage students to prepare, consider others' opinions and share their ideas.
- Our daily study period requires students to self-advocate and seek out help from their teachers.
- The middle school team of teachers models the traits of life-long learners who are passionate about their calling.

The commitment to "We shape the future" in the context of Saint Edward's middle school program recognizes the profound impact that meaningful learning has on the trajectory of students' lives and their preparation for "the road." Our goal is to empower our young scholars to become active contributors and leaders who will shape the future of their communities and the world at large.

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

JACK MACMULLAN, HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL

It's been a fantastic start to the year in the Upper School! Our seniors, the Class of 2024, have done a wonderful job as leaders and role models, setting the right tone for all of us. Whether it is painting their parking spaces in the August heat, demonstrating their many talents in the classroom, field or stage, or walking hand-in-hand with their first grade buddies in the Halloween parade, these seniors have consistently proven themselves to be a creative, respectful, motivated bunch. As of late November, 100% of them have applied to at least one college or university, and many will anxiously await decisions in the weeks to come. Wherever the members of the Class of 2024 land, we know they will represent us well.

It's not just about the seniors, however. We count on grades 9 through 11 to follow the lead of the seniors, and their energy and enthusiasm is vital to the success of our community. This year's Homecoming Week - and especially the Unity Day competition and pep rally - is widely regarded as one of the most fun in recent memory. These future leaders of our School continue to learn how to find the proper balance between fun and work, and to discover and develop their own strengths and interests. The future of the Upper School is bright.

Finally, the backbone of any quality school is its teachers, and we at Saint Edward's are blessed with a remarkable group. Our teachers know their stuff, work hard and consistently seek new and better ways of doing things. They care - about the students about their subject and about our school. It is my pleasure to work with these great professionals, as well as our many terrific students and families.

I hope to see you on campus soon!



SENIOR BUDDIES





MICHAEL J. MERSA

R

S

SHE

MARY
JOE

MK

SHE



START YOUR ENGINES

AUGUST 21, 2023

These seniors know how to celebrate their last first day at Saint Edward's School in style! Grace Haller, M.K. Watson, Carrington Brown, Millicent Critchfield and Elliotte Kahler joined 649 fellow Pirates on a steamy morning in late August to kick off the 2023-2024 school year.

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The **varsity cheerleading squad** saw the exciting and much-welcomed addition of Pirate mascot, Jack Engle.



The **varsity volleyball team** was far as the 2A Region 2 Semifinal.



The **varsity boys swimming team** qualified for the Class 1A Region 2 Tournament.



The **varsity girls cross country team** captured first place overall at the SSAA Championship.



The **varsity volleyball team** was crowned Class 2A District 8 Champions and advanced as state finalists.



The **varsity girls golf team** competed at the SSAA Golf Championship.



The **varsity football team** proved tough competitors this season, making their way to the SSAA Class 4A Semifinals.



The **varsity boys golf team** competed in the Class 1A District 13 Championship.





HANDS-ON LEARNING

Art teacher Patricia Michos teaches the art of ceramics to both MS and US students. Colton Steinfurth and classmates worked on a holiday surprise for Mom.

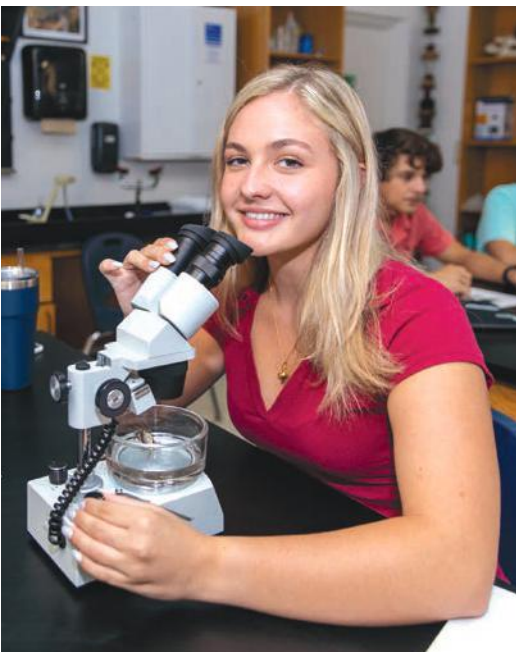
NEW FACULTY & STAFF

HAPPY TO HAVE YOU ABOARD!





Our community is **100% SES**



Saint Edward's School continues its long-standing commitment to providing an excellent educational environment that is complemented by our dedication to the physical, cultural and character development of each student. This commitment is supported by the generosity of our alumni, parents, faculty, staff, grandparents, parents of alumni and friends through gifts to the Saint Edward's Fund.

*When you give to the Saint Edward's Fund,
you help us with our 100% commitment to giving children
the best educational experience possible.*

You may give by mail, through a secure online gift at www.steds.org/giving,
or by scanning the QR Code below.



ALUMNI NEWS



1984

Dana Stewart (above) is in a rock band, Dr. Dana & the Jam Dept., in which Dana sings and plays rhythm guitar. Her husband, Bob, also sings and plays lead and slide guitar. They have recorded and released several songs on Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube, etc. and on their website, thejamdept.com.



1990

Louise Kennedy (above) returned from a year abroad in Scotland and is now working under her brother **Andrew Kennedy's '92** brokerage license at Proctor Kennedy Properties. Louise is loving life in Vero, which allows her more time with family and friends and the ability to travel. It's been fun for her to run into former students in professional settings. SES is clearly still a big part of her daily life even though she no longer teaches there. Louise also enjoys the live connection she has with her niece and nephew who are in seventh and ninth grade.



1997

T.P. Kennedy (above) and Shannon O'Leary were married in a private ceremony surrounded by their families on April 14, 2023, at The Moorings Yacht and Country Club.



Ty Ueltschi and his wife, **Sallie Ann (Sims) '03** (above), welcomed their daughter, Allie Grace, in December of 2022.



2000

George Beuttell (above) is a physician assistant in Cleveland Clinic's Emergency Department in Vero Beach. He also practices aesthetics and integrative medicine at Vero Beach Medical Spa and Wellness Center with Dr. Stephanie Million.



2001

Frank Smith, his wife, Cinthya; and son, Brayden (above); relocated back to Jupiter, Florida, after living in São Paulo for one year. In September, they welcomed a healthy baby girl, Summer Rae, to their family and are happy to be living in Florida as a family of four.

2003

Sallie Ann (Sims) Ueltschi and her husband, **Ty '97**, welcomed their daughter, Allie Grace in December 2022. (see photo to left)



2005

Rennie Gibb (above) is a broker associate at John's Island Real Estate Company and recently joined the Indian River Community Foundation Board.



Zach Kappel and his wife, Alexis (Corry) '06 (above), welcomed a healthy baby boy, Griffin Lindsay Kappel, on May 7, 2023.



2009
Kristen (Greene) Kirkendall and her husband, Henry Kirkendall '10 (above), welcomed their second daughter, Hannah, in June. Big sister Ella and Hannah are already fast friends and can't wait to cheer on the Saint Edward's Pirates!



2010
Zoey Gutierrez-Nickel (above) opened her own business, Zoey Orthodontics, this past June, in the old Vero Beach Book Center.



2012
Timothy Norton (above) has been on active duty with the US Navy since graduating in 2012 and has earned the rank of Petty Officer First Class. Tim is currently based in Iwakuni Japan with the VFA-27 Royal Maces attached to the USS Ronald Reagan. Tim has been in Japan for over two years and is enjoying his travels exploring Japan and all of its culture.



2016
Caroline Campione (above) earned a graduate degree in occupational therapy from Nova Southeastern University. She graduated with honors after completing Level II fieldwork at Ranchos Los Amigos in Los Angeles, California, and Progressive Pediatric Therapy in Boca Raton, Florida. In September, Caroline said "YES!" to Philip "PJ" Helderlein when he proposed on the beach in Vero. PJ attended undergrad at UNC and is in his third year of medical school. The couple is planning an October 2024 wedding in Charleston, South Carolina.

Please keep us updated, visit www.steds.org

ALUMNI NEWS



2017

Evelyn Grace Cutting (above) started her own business, Unbridled Beauty, which specializes in medical aesthetics in Fountain Hills, Arizona. She is also in the process of obtaining her Master of Science in Nursing from Frontier Nursing University's Family Nurse Practitioner Program.



Alyson Intihar (above) received her BS in psychology with a minor in theatre from the University of Central Florida in 2020. She received an MS in applied behavior analysis in July of 2023 from Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida. She is now working on a PhD in applied behavior at the Florida Institute of Technology. She is forever grateful to Saint Edward's School for shaping her into the competent and confident professional she has become.



2018

Alie Miller (above) is currently studying for her master's in hospitality administration from Kansas State University. She received her bachelor's degree in hospitality and tourism management from Flagler College in 2022, where she was a founding member of Alpha Sigma Alpha's Iota Lambda chapter. During her free time, Alie volunteers in the community and is starting to grow a photography business.



2019

Catherine Campione (above) graduated from Clemson University in May with a BS in psychology and a minor in economics and business management. She is living in Charleston, SC and began working for Techtronic Industries a field sales and marketing representative.



Britt Reisman (above) received his white coat in August after completing the first of nine trimesters at the University of Evansville's Doctor of Physical Therapy program in Indiana. Britt started the program two days after graduating in May from Florida Southern College in Lakeland.



2020

Bridget Nelson (UVA), **Hailey Rhymes** (UC Boulder) and **Catalina Pratt** (Auburn) (above) - also known as the Class of 2020 Triplets - got together for a fun fall weekend at the University of Virginia to celebrate Bridget's 21st birthday.

IN MEMORIAM

We are sorry to report the passing of the following alumni and major supporters of Saint Edward's School. They will be deeply missed.

Sean Biggins '83

Alumnus who attended Saint Edward's from 1979 until 1983, when he graduated. As a student, Sean played varsity basketball and football. As an alumnus, he served as a class agent, and he could always be counted on to help during phonathon fundraisers. Sean's friends remember him as an incredibly loyal, generous and devoted friend with a one-of-a-kind personality.

William "Bill" Caldwell

Father of alumnus Catherine Caldwell '22; husband of Shelly Caldwell, who volunteered for many years with the Parents Association; and longtime supporter of Saint Edward's School. Bill was predeceased by his parents; his first wife, Nancy; his son, William; and his brother, George. He is survived by Shelly and their daughter, Catherine; his sister, Hester Brinster; sons Kit (Nora) and Dan (Sue); his daughter-in-law Priscilla; and eight grandchildren.

Marge Coupe

A member of the Saint Edward's College Counseling Office for over 35 years from 1980-2015. Marge stayed engaged with the School after she retired, and even into her 90s she enjoyed helping with registration at the annual Alumni Holiday Party. Former students whom she had helped in the College Counseling Office always remembered her and were delighted to see her. Marge was predeceased by her brothers, John, Francis and William. She is survived by her five daughters, Kathleen Coupe (Paul Shoop), Rosemary Bogdan (Stefan), Christine Kraus (George), Marguerite (Alan) Bowker and Patricia Ramsey; her sister, Sister Rosemary Hayes; nine grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; her special friend, Terri Giles; and her devoted caretaker, Maria Ambrose.

Charles "Chuck" Ellis '76

An alumnus who attended Saint Edward's School from 1970 to 1974 and who played varsity football and baseball for the Pirates. Chuck was predeceased by his father, Charles, and his nephews Jason Vann and Zachary Vann. He is survived by his mother, Joan; his siblings, Carol Ellis and Steve Ellis; and his daughter, Darrell Ellis.

Barbara Hugenberg

Former Saint Edward's School teacher, who taught Latin and English from 1984 to 1994 and who was the chair of the English Department. Fellow teachers remember Barbara as a wonderful mentor and role model. Barbara was predeceased by her parents, Paul and Ruth Burke; husband, John; and two brothers, Paul Burke, Jr. and Thomas Burke. She is survived by her children, Ann Franklin, Mary Foley (Michael), Margaret Jennings (Jerry), and Cathy Hugenberg (John Burke); four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

David Mellinger '77

An alumnus who attended Saint Edward's School from 1973 to 1975. While at SES, David played varsity football, basketball and baseball. He is survived by his wife, Jill, four children; five grandchildren; and three siblings.

Richard "Dick" Neill

Former Trustee (1967-1982) and an Honorary Lifetime Trustee of Saint Edward's School and father of alumni Richard Neill, Jr. '76, Will Neill '78, Ann Mason Neill '80 and Carrie Neill Benway '85. Dick is survived by his wife, Ann; their six children, Richard (Nancy), Will (Donna), Ann, Taylor Hensley, Mary Cotton (Bill) and Carrie; his brother, David Neill (Betty); 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Mary Sullivan

Great grandmother of current students Harry '32, Teddy '34 and Warren Brewster '36 and a supporter of Saint Edward's School. Mary is survived by her son, Robert Brewster (Brenda) and step-daughter, Lynn Dooley (Jeffery); grandsons William Brewster (Beata), Mathew Brewster, and Patrick Brewster (Maria); and her four great-grandchildren, Harry, Teddy, Warren and Sophia Emma.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

FIVE QUESTIONS FOR SHELLY RICHARDSON KIRKLAND, CLASS OF 2000

1 What specifically drew you to the idea of supporting our military? Do you come from a military family or have a specific sense of patriotism?

I do come from a military family; my dad was a physician for 11 years in the Air Force. My grandfather served in the Army, and my cousin was a Marine during Desert Storm. However, more than a decade ago, I met several veterans who changed the course of my career, and frankly, my life. Those who were on the front lines, protecting my freedoms, in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and other key locations around the world. Some returned home with marked differences than how they left. Some scarred physically; some scarred morally; some scarred mentally. All were certainly changed. And my encounters with them, in turn, changed me. These were folks who were my age who were quite literally putting their life on the line for me. And doing it selflessly. Courageously. Without question. It was humbling. It made me proud, and it made me more committed than ever to make sure that when veterans come back, we give back in a meaningful way – a way that changes their life for the better and for the long-term. I'm inspired every day by those who wear or have worn the American flag to protect and defend our freedoms as part of the United States Armed Forces.

2 How did you identify this need for the services offered by The Boot Campaign? How do you prioritize the services that you can offer to members of the military?

Boot Campaign has always adapted to the most pressing needs of the military community, and our programs have evolved to meet those needs. Estimates suggest that of the 21 million veterans who have deployed to protect our freedoms, approximately 20% suffer from hidden wounds of war that make it difficult for them to succeed in the civilian sector. Moreover, the Department of Veterans Affairs recently released a report showing that suicide rates among veterans aged 18 to 34 have been swelling steadily for more than

10 years. Thus, in 2016, Boot Campaign created a Health and Wellness Program which delivers personalized treatment plans to veterans and their families to treat diverse health challenges resulting from post-traumatic stress and/or traumatic brain injury, as well as addressing trauma-based insomnia, chronic pain, and substance abuse. One of my favorite quotes is, "Every time I witness a strong person, I want to know: 'What dark did you conquer in your story?' Mountains do not rise without earthquakes." Powerful, right? We all have winding roads in life that lead us to the present day. But oftentimes it's in the process of traveling a route full of potholes, steep hills and rough terrain that we develop a passion to help and serve others. My path certainly hasn't been easy, but it helped shape me into who I am today and has fueled my professional career. It brings me joy to meet the veterans and military families that we have impacted and to hear from them directly about how their lives have been changed by our programs.

3 Thinking back to your time at Saint Edward's, what do you think are the most impactful skills you learned in terms of founding and running an organization like The Boot Campaign?

Growing up in Vero Beach, giving back was a key cornerstone of my childhood. My friends and I volunteered - at the hospital, the special ed school and animal rescue; my church created days of service and Saint Edward's offered various opportunities to support those in need. That foundation, instilled in me at an early age, has continued to mold my professional career to where I am today.

The most impactful skills I learned at Saint Edward's that help me run Boot Campaign are selfless service, hard work and teamwork. I'm truly grateful for the 13 years and dozens of teachers and staff of the School who helped instill those qualities in me and made a lasting impact in my life.

*“Every time I witness a strong person, I want to know:
‘What dark did you conquer in your story?’
Mountains do not rise without earthquakes.”*

4 Do you have any funny memories from your time here?

Funny memories...The Eddys were always a riot as students and staff showed off their talents and bus rides to and from away games for cheerleading, basketball and lacrosse. The Powder Puff football games my junior and senior year come to mind as memorable as well as cheerleading camp with current teachers Rikki Bischoff and Tori Barnett. I'll always remember teaching the football team one of our halftime dance routines for a pep rally; the guys had some serious moves!

There are so many memories that come to mind, but I'll always be proud of our collective achievements as a captain of the national champion dance team and multi-year state champion lacrosse team and the lasting friendships made that are now carrying on to the next generation.

5 The theme of this issue is “Girl Power.” For the first time in history, the Advanced Studies Candidates were all young women. Our varsity volleyball team has seen record-setting success this year, just to give a couple of examples. As a successful leader, what advice would you give to young women today?

As a leader and the mother of a 10-year-old daughter, I want young women to know that they can do anything they set their minds to. No goal is too lofty, no dream too big. You just have to have faith and flexibility. Eight years ago, I felt stuck professionally. I knew I wanted a new challenge, but despite several positions that I had been presented, the door always closed before I could cross the threshold. So, I started a 40-day prayer journey with Mark Batterson as a guide and his book *Draw the Circle* as my map. On Day 40, I received the job offer from the board of directors at Boot Campaign. Did I feel qualified to lead a national non-profit to serve veterans and military families? No. Was I sure that I was capable of being a CEO? No. But I had faith that the opportunity was divinely directed, and I accepted. It's been said that change is the greatest stimulus for growth, and flexibility to meet change head on is key to success. I can tell you that in the last seven years as CEO of Boot Campaign, I have grown -both personally and professionally - and look forward to what's in store.



“Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”

- Ferris Bueller



10 WEEKS • 650 CAMPERS
50 DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES

101 Reasons to Have Fun!

Registration for Summer 2024
begins February 1!



SAVE THE DATES

January 22, 2024
COLLEGE NIGHT WITH THE DEANS

February 13, 2024
MARDI GRAS JAZZ PICNIC

February 23 & 24, 2024
SPRING PLAY

March 1-3, 2024
TRUNK SHOW

March 11-15, 2024
SPRING BREAK

April 6, 2024
PIRATE BALL

May 24, 2024
BACCALAUREATE

May 25, 2024
COMMENCEMENT



32ND ANNUAL TRUNK SHOW SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA! March 1st • 2nd • 3rd

