

WILLOW 101

SENIORS REFLECT
AND SHARE THEIR
HARD-EARNED
WISDOM

BEHIND THE SCENES
OF BASEBALL
OPERATIONS

THE WINNING PIECES
OF THE AUSTIN
AUTHORS WRITING
COMPETITION



A Dazzling Night of Dance

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WILLOW 101

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VERITAS • UNITAS • CARITAS



Archbishop Henning Visit

In February, the Austin Prep community welcomed the new Archbishop of Boston, the Most Reverend Richard G. Henning, to campus. Archbishop Henning was welcomed by the entire AP community along with Reading Fire Chief Gregory Burns. Archbishop Henning comes from generations of firefighters in NYC so Chief Burns' welcome was fitting. Local police representatives were also present, showing strong support and unity between first responders and the school community. During his visit, Archbishop Henning celebrated Mass with the students, faculty, and staff. At the conclusion of Mass, in a generous and joyful gesture, he granted the entire student body a day off from school in recognition of the dedication and service of the choir, altar servers, and lectors who helped lead the celebration.



Washington, D.C. Trip

Each spring, the 8th graders embark on a memorable journey to Washington, D.C., where they explore many of the nation's most iconic historical monuments. Touring these landmarks alongside friends and classmates offers both educational value and lasting memories. Careful planning and strong organization help ensure the trip runs smoothly from start to finish. Reflecting on the experience, Sonya Vaysman '29 shared, "Throughout the trip, I learned about how important it is to work together. In such a big group, I had to learn how to make things work and ensure everyone was happy." The teachers accompanying the students never tire of the experience—they look forward to it every year. Their collaboration plays a key role in making the trip both educational and enjoyable for everyone involved.

Best Buddies + Special Olympics

Twenty students from Austin Prep's Best Buddies club recently took part in the 7th Annual Special Olympics of Massachusetts Unified Game Day in Wilmington, MA. They spent the day running the "Olympic Town" station, where they worked with over 175 students of all ages—kindergarten through post grad—who have intellectual and physical disabilities. It was a great day of teamwork and inclusion, with Austin Prep students joining other student leaders, athletes, and advocates to help make the event a success. While the athletes rotated through various sports and activities, they also got to take breaks at Olympic Town—snacking on popcorn, playing games, and doing fun crafts.

Writing by Julia Higgins
Layout by Rose Sperling



NEWS

Writing by Celia Sensale / Layout by Reagan Mercier

BERMUDA: SUN, SURF, SCIENCE

Over Austin Prep's first-ever two week March break, students had the opportunity to go on a research trip to Bermuda at BIOS, the Bermuda Institute of Oceanic Sciences. On their six-day trip, students covered topics like microplastics, eDNA, and plankton. When asked about her experience in Bermuda, Ava Sherry '27 said, "I learned a lot more about what it means to be a scientist particularly in the field of Marine Biology. I think having the opportunity to go on this trip deepened my understanding and knowledge of Marine Biology and conducting research." This trip to BIOS managed to give unique learning experiences to students

while also allowing them to connect and have fun. Students did a nighttime snorkel, played volleyball, and hiked different trails alongside many labs and lectures. Abby Ventullo '27 talked about her favorite part of the trip, "I think that the most memorable part of the trip was the sunset boat ride where we got to collect plankton. I

really enjoyed spending time with my friends while incorporating science into it. Collecting the plankton then getting to inspect it was very interesting." In order to prepare for the trip, students worked in research groups and learned about particular areas of study that were going to be discussed in Bermuda and presented

their research and analysis to their peers. Not only were they able to grow as scientists, but also connect with one another before, during, and after the trip. Overall, the Bermuda trip was filled with lots of fun, learning, and exploration that gave Austin Prep students who attended a truly unique experience.



AUSTIN PREP VISITS THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN

Austin Prep students traveled halfway around the world to visit Japan to learn about Japanese technology, culture, and traditions. While in Japan students visited Tokyo and Kyoto, doing many activities like visiting Tokyo Disneyland, riding a bullet train, and trying lots of Japanese food.

Jasmine Labriola '26 discussed her personal highlights, "My favorite part of the trip was, by far, Disney. It was really fun to spend time with my friends and I definitely made memories there that I won't forget anytime soon." Students were given the opportunity to explore a lot of different aspects of Japan and

witnessed Japanese customs and lifestyles. Dr. Driscoll, one of the group's chaperones, explained the benefits of the trip, "The purpose of the trip was to fulfill our mission to inspire students to think about the world around them and expose them to learning opportunities. We want to shape students to be global citizens and

the interactions that we had with the people of Japan are invaluable, especially in meeting the Augustinian community in Tokyo. We shared a Catholic Mass that was celebrated in Japanese." Travelers were able to see the true reach of St. Augustine outside of just Austin Prep's campus and how the Augustinian

values of veritas, unitas, and caritas span the globe. Additionally, students had the opportunity to prepare in advance, allowing them to approach their travels with mindfulness and respect as they encountered new cultures and customs. Austin Prep's trip to Japan showed students the old world combined with the new and helped kids grow as travelers, learners, and people.



MIDDLE SCHOOLERS KEEP CALM AND SCIENCE ON!

The Austin Prep Middle School students collaborated to organize a Science Fair highlighting all that Austin Prep sciences have to offer. The fair highlighted work from students of all grade levels, focusing on the 8th grade in particular, and had a wide range of experiments, covering topics like food science, marine biology, and botany. Ms. Hibbard,

who worked with the 6th and 7th graders on their contributions, explained, "The 6th graders made posters to create a timeline of what they have learned in Earth and Space Science and the 7th graders conducted experiments." This allowed students to reflect on and apply their knowledge and gave the 7th graders a leg up as they prepare for next year. However, the fair

highlighted the individual projects that 8th graders undertook, with students researching their own interests and presenting their findings to their peers, teachers, and families. In preparation for the big night, students followed the scientific method, researching, creating and conducting experiments, analyzing results, and organizing their findings. Mr. Rocha, who played a large role

in organizing the fair, discussed the freedom the Science Fair provided for students, "It was fantastic to see students research areas of interest that we do not usually cover in eighth grade physical science. Topics such as botany, animal husbandry, marine biology, animal psychology, sports science, and food science were all popular among students... Also, the ability for the students to present to judges was a unique experience. They were allowed to practice their public speaking skills backed by scientific reasoning." The science fair wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of all the 8th graders and was an amazing opportunity for students to explore their interests and gain insight into what being a scientist is all about. The night of the fair was amazing and parents, siblings, and teachers were all impressed by the hard work of all the Austin Prep Middle Schoolers.





Austin Authors

Writing Rivalry

Layout by Emmett Surowiec

This year, Austin Prep hosted several writing contests for students of each grade to participate in. These competitions grant the perfect opportunity for students to perfect their writing and share their achievement with others. The winners are highlighted below. Congratulations to them for their amazing work and effort!



Caiden Calvani '27
Limerick Winner

*A sailor set out on the waves,
With winds that would guide him to caves.
He sailed through the mist,
With treasures to claim,
And dreams of the shores he would save.*



Kendryk Aquino '25
Junior/Senior Writing
Contest Winner

Hailstorm

Everything is still, and so am I—my rigid body stuck to the frozen earth. From each toe's end to every eyelash's tip, I am fixed to this icy hailstorm that is hellbent on holding me here. It's as if pillars of sleet hold my body down, as if frozen chains seize my wrists and ankles. My heavy jacket fails to shield me from the unrelenting blizzard; my snow pants follow suit. Soon, my hands and feet go numb. The snowfall consumes me, biting and carving at my skin. It threads through my hair, sticking chips of frost into my scalp. All but my eyeballs lock in place like a statue constructed from ice. My breath twists and curls until it's cast off into the wind, vanishing as quickly as it appeared. Ice shards fly into and scratch the inside of my lungs with each inhale. Every exhale pushes the fragments back out, grinding at the sides of my throat. My blood thickens, and my bones freeze over. My muscles tense up, bracing for every wall of frost that presses against my ribs and crashes against my face. I am bound to this white cyclone, and eventually, I am lost to the whiteout, fading in its obscurity, astray in its endless hellscape. Very soon, my shivering will cease, and I will feel nothing but the deceiving warmth that greets me with open arms.



Isabella Labriola '26
Junior/Senior Writing
Contest Winner

My arms are sticks, my body a frosty mound, and my nose is a carrot. I stand tall in the middle of the yard, watching the frosty world around me. The children run and laugh, their little feet leaving tracks in the fresh snow. Their joy is contagious, and I can't help but smile, though my smile is frozen, just like me. The cold air around me makes me shiver, though I don't feel it in the same way humans do. I think they get cold, their bodies are not made of the same material I am. I'm made of snow, and snow doesn't mind the cold. I watch as the children roll more snow, building another snowman friend beside me. They decorate it with buttons and scarves, making it look just like me. Suddenly, they are distracted by something else now, a snowball fight, perhaps. The sun begins to rise higher in the sky, and I feel a small change. The warmth of the day is creeping in. I've seen it before, in the slow melt of my body. I start to lose my shape, little bits of me turning into water that drips down to the ground. It's strange, this feeling of fading. But I know I will be reborn again one day when the snow falls and the children come out to play again. Until then, I watch the children play and listen to the world that is full of life, even as I remain still, slowly fading into the winter air.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

Sister Paskazia

Writing by Stella Masciarelli / Layout by Cameron Thompson / Photos by Victoria Tenreiro



Sister Paskazia is an incredibly important member of our Theology Department and school community as a whole. She is from Uganda, a small country in Africa. She came to the United States in 2016 and studied at Seattle University before teaching apostolate at Austin Prep.

Sister Paskazia is a Middle School Theology teacher, working with the youngest minds in the school. She is gentle and patient with her students and puts love into her work. After four years at Austin Prep, she explains that her favorite thing about teaching is, “Following in the footsteps of Jesus as a tender teacher.” She says that she is able to do this by, “Finding God in everything,” which reflects on her loving and joyful nature.

Outside of Austin Prep, Sister Paskazia lives a community life

as ‘Contemplative in Action,’ which is a life rooted in prayer and active engagement with the world. This includes meeting people, working with them, teaching them, and serving wherever she is needed. She remarks, “I go wherever God sends me. That’s why, when I was sent to America, I came. And just as I came here, I will go wherever I’m sent next and continue to serve the Lord with all of my heart.”

There are five sisters here at Austin Prep who work with students in a wide range of subjects, and Sister Paskazia feels blessed to work with her Sisters who support her daily.

Sister Paskazia, as well as the other sisters here at Austin Prep, are true examples of teachers who live out our school’s mission – “Hearts to unite, minds to inquire, and hands to serve” – every single day.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

Mr. Jason Sun

Writing by Stella Masciarelli / Layout by Cameron Thompson / Photos by Victoria Tenreiro

Mr. Jason Sun is a beloved teacher in our Math Department. He is from the Shandong Province in eastern China. He now teaches at Austin Prep in a wide range of Calculus-based classes, including Advanced Trigonometry, AP Calculus AB, and PreCalculus.

When asked what his favorite course to teach is, Mr. Sun remarked, “My favorite one is the Advanced Trig, because I can teach lots of talented students with great passion for math.” Advanced Trigonometry is one of the most difficult math courses, bridging students from an honors Algebra class to an AP Calculus class. Despite this, Mr. Sun helps make the rigorous course doable for the students he teaches.

Mr. Sun has a great passion for math and approaches all of his lessons enthusiastically.

He explains how fulfilling it is to witness students understand concepts and to help them grow both academically and as problem solvers.

Mr. Sun has been at Austin Prep for four years and continues to incorporate the school values into his teaching daily. When he was asked what made him choose to teach here, he explained, “What initially drew me here and continues to inspire me every day is the school’s commitment to both academic excellence and character development. The emphasis on Augustinian values and building a veritas, unitas, and caritas community aligned with my own teaching philosophy.” Mr. Sun describes Austin Prep as a place that pursues academic excellence and personal integrity, which is thanks to all of the teachers and staff members like him.



BEFORE WE GO:

The Advice We Leave Behind

Interviews by Victoria Tenreiro / Layout by Kat Burke



Isabella Fountain

Don't be afraid to branch out and try an activity you've never done before! I jumped straight into Model UN and discovered that I really enjoy it! You'll be surprised to see what you can learn from being part of any club or team!



Anna Klovee

Take advantage of every opportunity; what is meant for you will be.



Danny Holmes

Take advantage of every opportunity and try new things.



Armen Kourkounian

Take advantage of opportunities to meet new people because you never know who will become close to you.



Luke Brezner

Don't take your time in high school for granted because it goes by quick.



Reagan Mercier

Find the people and communities who make you want to come to school every day. Take as many opportunities for fun, growth, and things that interest you as you can.



Nicholas Kuntz

Your biggest limiting factor is your mindset. Never think or say you cannot. I constantly see capable individuals stopped by the simple idea that they do not think that they can. Think of yourself as the 'you' you want to be, and you will become it. You can be smart, you can be kind, and you can apologize and make things better. It is NEVER too late. You just need to think and do. The hardest part is taking the leap, even when you have learned that you should try. Sometimes, you just need a little inspiration. Take this as your sign.



Norah Wright

I would advise underclassman to make the most out of every opportunity!



Colin Walsh

Think good things.



Marianna Tavano

Go into every new day with a smile and a positive attitude.



Owen Sperling

Do your college applications early. You do not want to do them last minute.



Lauren Ouellette

Your life doesn't end with a bad test score or a denial from your dream opportunity. Keep your head up. What is meant to be will be.



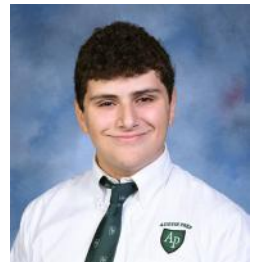
Robert Nakashian

Do not put off your work and service do them in a timely manner so you don't get bombarded with tons of things to do.



Bruce McGinley

Always be open to trying new things and welcome advice from coaches and experienced teammates.



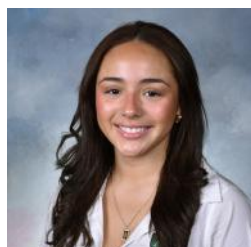
Ethan Molettieri

Do what you love.



Vera Masciarelli

Enjoy the moment!



Sailet Galvis

Choose your friends wisely.



Victoria Liwanag

Staying up past midnight just to do homework is almost never worth it. Just go to sleep at that point.



Davis Callaway

Get involved with your community.

Dancing into the Night

Writing by Paige Martin
Layout by Emma D'Agostino



The annual Spring Dance Show was a great success this year. All the dancers got out on stage and gave it their all. They practiced and choreographed all spring and it paid off tremendously. Behind the scenes, there were tons of rehearsals, costume changes, and choreographing but it all came together in the

end. Even though the spring show happens annually, each year new dancers create a whole new show. "Getting to perform after all the hard work," was the best part of it all for Jessica Shield '27.

The show had everything from graceful ballet to upbeat group dances that had the crowd cheering. The mix of styles made the performance exciting and full of energy. It was clear that all the long hours in the studio were worth it. Dance teacher Mrs. Pascucci-Byrne remarked, "I am really

proud of the ballet variations; they are really challenging and complex, but when they are done perfectly, they look effortless. It takes many hours of practice to perfect this choreography. Much of it was created more than a hundred years ago, but it is timeless, and with the right ballerina, it looks magical."

The Spring Dance Show wasn't just a performance, it was a celebration of all of the determination and hard work the amazing dancers put in to create something amazing. The show gave every dancer a chance to shine, whether in a solo, duet, or group number. Each piece had its own vibe, and the variety kept the audience engaged throughout the night. The lighting, costumes, and music choices all came together to make the performance even more



impressive. It was clear a lot of thought went into every detail. Margaux Fleming '29 expressed, "My favorite part of the spring show was watching all the dances and being applauded by all my friends backstage. I loved that when I was dancing I could look into the wings and see so many people's faces cheering me on!" Everyone had an amazing time at the show and gave it their all. The 2025 Spring Show will be one to remember!



BASEBALL OPERATIONS

Meet Baseball Ops: The Team Behind The Team

Writing by Stella Masciarelli / Layout by Ty Mathieu

While the spotlight on game day often shines on the players, a whole different kind of team is hard at work behind the scenes – Baseball Ops! From creating graphics and taking photos to changing music, announcements, and hospitality, this student-run club created in 2020 plays a crucial role in every Austin Prep Baseball game. Co-Leader of Baseball Operations and Lead of Media Ops, Imogen Moro '25 describes the efforts that go into a typical game day. “We arrive about an hour and a half early to play music and write the script to

announce the game,” she explains. “After the game, we create a final score graphic and interview whichever player won the belt.” The belt is awarded to a player who showcased determination and perseverance during the game, it is given to a different player each game.

The job also includes more than just game-day responsibilities. “There’s a lot more that goes into it than the surface-level stuff,” adds Kayla Gallagher '25, Co-leader and Lead of Gameday Ops. “There are many meetings and hours spent organizing and planning

before things are posted or happen during games,” she describes. Each member of Baseball Ops has a specific role, whether hospitality, operating the scoreboard, managing social media, or running GameChanger. They also collaborate with coaches and players to ensure their work reflects the team’s values and performance. Every detail, from announcing walk-up sounds to tracking lineups, is handled with precision.

Many students join Baseball Ops because of their love for the opportunity to lead and help out. Ms. Flaherty

helps the students run the club and provides guidance. Ms. Flaherty said, “The energy and the competitive nature of the baseball program made me want to get involved. The culture of the program is something I really appreciate. Students who ran the club prior to my involvement were also very impressive, such as Ava Colella '23, Ryan Hickey '23, Kate Beckel '23, and Liv Ferri '23. I wanted to make sure their legacy made a lasting impact for future classes.” Baseball Ops is more than just a club, it’s the engine behind the game day experience.



2024-2025 STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Week of 9/9



Olivia Siden
Field Hockey



Jackson Guy
Golf

Week of 9/16



Victoria Tenreiro
Cross Country



Danny Holmes
Soccer

Week of 9/23



Bianca Renzullo
Soccer



Tyler Gilman
Soccer

Week of 9/30



Sophia Brown
Game Day Cheer



Matthew O'Malley
Football

Week of 10/7



Liv McSorely
Volleyball



Shane Miller
Football

Week of 10/14



Ava Daniel
Soccer



Ted Nolan
Soccer

Week of 10/21



Sofia Sibella
Soccer



Anthony Rizzo
Golf

Week of 10/28



Leila Connelly
Field Hockey



Thomas Casale
Cross Country

Week of 11/4



Mikayla Field
Soccer



Aiden Green
Football

Week of 11/11



Vanessa Privitera
Volleyball



Kirin Shah
Soccer

Week of 12/2



Competitive
Cheer Team



Chase Green
Hockey

Week of 12/9



Kayleigh Norton
Hockey



Angel Efosa
Basketball

Week of 12/16



Maria Jimenez
Swimming



Mason Curran
Basketball

Week of 12/23



Alex Herbert
Hockey



Isaac Skehan
Basketball

Week of 1/6



Claire Connelly
Swimming



James Vahey
Basketball

Week of 1/13



Stella Masciarelli
Ski



Warren Dubois
Hockey

Week of 1/20



Maggie Little
Indoor Track & Field



Vincent Barone
Swimming

Week of 1/27



Allie Jenks
Ski



Danny Holmes
Ski

Week of 2/3



Lexi MacKinnon
Hockey



Mason McGovern
Hockey

Week of 2/10



Fope Ayo
Basketball



Tyler Mathew
Indoor Track & Field

Week of 2/17



Grace Buser
Indoor Track & Field



Luke Brezner
Hockey

Week of 2/24



Colleen Simmons
Basketball



Nareg Minassian
Ski

Week of 3/3



Lauren Ouellette
Swimming



Aaden Caralis
Swimming

Week of 3/31



Luciana Igoe
Softball



Aedan Provo
Baseball

Week of 4/7



Amber Boardman
Lacrosse



Bruce McGinley
Outdoor Track & Field

Week of 4/14



Isabelle DiGiammarino
Tennis



Logan McGovern
Lacrosse

Week of 4/21



Gabby DeNardo
Outdoor Track & Field



Nick Ranaldi
Baseball

Week of 4/28



Ava Savino
Softball



Leo Centinaro
Outdoor Track & Field

Week of 5/5



Annina DeSantis
Lacrosse



Alex Fernandes
Baseball

Week of 5/12



Aly Toto
Softball



Cavan O'Leary
Lacrosse

Week of 5/19



Eliza Martin
Outdoor Track & Field



Girls Outdoor Track
& Field Team

Week of 5/27



Reagan Fish
Lacrosse



Charlie Hickey
Outdoor Track & Field



Welcome *Pope* Leo XIV

Austin Prep
shares in the joy of
the Augustinian
family and joins
with Catholics
around the world
in offering our
prayers for
His Holiness,
Pope Leo XIV.

