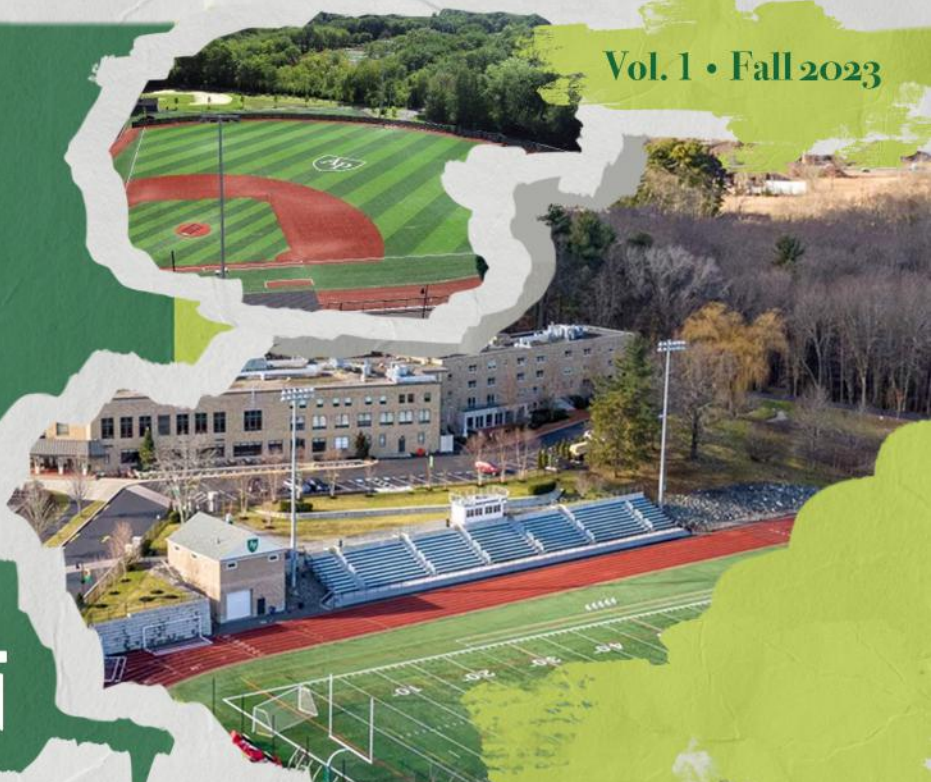
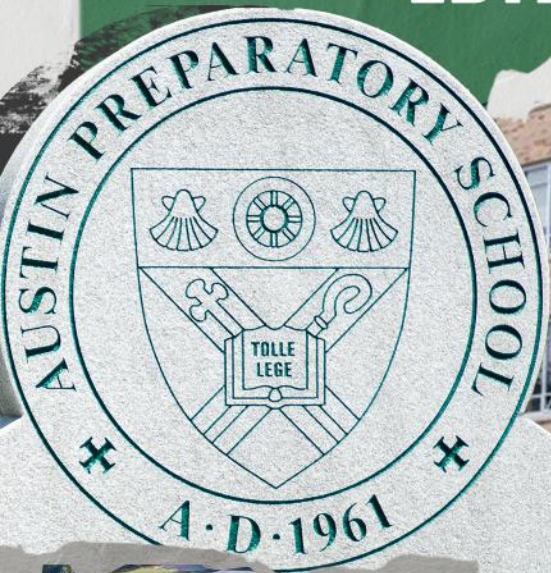


Vol. 1 • Fall 2023



# WILLOW 101

THE INAUGURAL  
EDITION



COMMUNITY MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT • FALL ATHLETE GAME DAY PREP • PEER TUTORS HERE TO HELP



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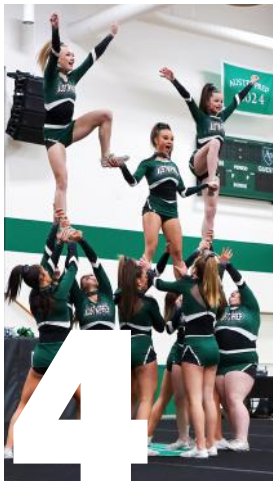
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# Veritas



## Race Amity, Atlanta

This year, a group of students went to the Race Amity convention in Atlanta, Georgia. Race Amity is an initiative with a goal to bring together people of all races and to promote equality, unity, and social justice. During this trip, students took a tour of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, where King grew up. MLK preached about the importance of truth: he spoke the truth, advocated for the truth, and favored the truth. Dr. King brought justice to light, and spread the truth whenever he could. The entire trip was deeply rooted in the ideas and values of Dr. King. This value of truth perfectly represents the value of Veritas. The students on this trip were blessed with the opportunity to be able to absorb all of the core values of Dr. King, and bring it back to Austin Prep. All of the students who attended said that the experience was eye opening, and that, overall, it was extremely reflective of what Veritas means in every aspect of our lives. Read more about the trip on page 7.



*Writing by Max Domenici  
Layout by Thomas Casale*

# Unitas



## The Nutcracker

The annual Nutcracker tradition at Austin Prep went smoothly as always this year. Many students came together to make the show a huge success. The value of Unitas was crucial in bringing the Austin Prep community together to create something magical. Whether it was getting all of the parts filled, practicing together for rehearsals, or finally bringing everyone together for the ultimate show, Unitas was present. Cecilia Goldsmith '26 had some very inspiring words to share about how the Nutcracker represented Unitas, "I think that the Nutcracker does a wonderful job of bringing lots of students from across different grades and with varied levels of dance experience together into an amazing show! I had a great time performing alongside other incredibly talented dancers and growing closer together as we practiced our dances on the weekends leading up to the Nutcracker." The Nutcracker is, and will continue to be, a perfect way to spread Unitas throughout the Austin Prep community.



# Caritas



## Malvern Prep Trip

Earlier this school year, four young men representing Austin Prep took a trip to Malvern Prep, an all-boys, Augustinian school, located in Malvern, Pennsylvania. During this trip, these students visited the campus, took part in many activities, and spoke to many students. They observed and understood how other students at other schools exhibit the same core values that Austin Prep holds dear. They were also able to share some of the ways in which they exhibit these values in their lives, most specifically Caritas. Mark-Henry Novas '26, a student who attended the trip, said, "During the trip, we helped a local school have fun with the kids while they learned English and how to count. This showed Caritas because it shows that people everywhere can gain from the core values of love and charity, no matter who they are or where they come from." Novas also gave an Adeodatus reflection, just as at Austin Prep, to the students at Malvern. By giving this reflection, it was almost as if the entire Austin Prep community and its value of Caritas was represented through the gift of the speech. The trip overall was a great experience for all the students, and it truly showed how the core values of Austin Prep are strong anywhere.





# NEWS!

Writing by Josie Palermo  
Layout by Steven Reyes

## Student Government Plans

The Student Council is working hard to make sure that 2024 is a great year. There are some exciting events planned, such as more pep rallies and Prom for the Juniors and Seniors. Later this spring, there will be some new Senior activities to close out the year. This gives the entire school something new and exciting to look forward to! As you can see, there

on Day Six. Then, on Day Three, the entire schoolwide council meets and gets each other's opinions on past events and brainstorms new ideas. Finally, on Day Four, each class council meets alone to work on class-specific projects. When asked how she handles all of her responsibilities, Ava says, "Juggling all of my responsibilities is not easy, but at the end of the day, I do it because I love being someone that other students can come talk to and share their ideas with, and being someone that can do their best to at least bring those ideas or concerns to attention." Being part of the school council can be challenging,



last year as the reigning Catholic Central League (CCL) champions, the team learned this year they would not be competing in the CCL anymore. Although this was an adjustment, the girls didn't let this affect them. Lily Caron '24 says, "Our biggest challenge was perfecting our routine. We typically will get our routine in August, and then have until the middle of October to perfect it before we take it to the mat at competitions. In cheerleading, every single

person in the routine has a specific role that they play, so we cannot do the routine without someone. This year, our team started with 17 girls and ended with 13. This meant that every time our team decreased in size, we had to redo our routine." Although this was a struggle, the girls got back on their feet and relearned routine after routine. At their first competition, they didn't place, and at their annual Austin Prep invitational, they placed second. At the time of the



is a lot to think about as a member of the Student Government. There needs to be organization and collaboration. School-wide President Ava Intoppa '24 gives us some insight on the meeting schedule. On Day Two of the class schedule, the Senior Council meets to plan things like the legendary community meetings that take place

but every single person and their contributions matter.

## Cheer Team Competes at States

This year, the Competition Cheer team had some significant changes to their season format. Coming off of an amazing season





Regional Competition, they accepted that they weren't advancing to the State Competition. After leaving Regionals on a low, they left thinking that their season was over. However, the next morning, as the Seniors were leaving for their annual class Disney World trip, Lily got a call from a member of the team, informing her and the other Seniors that they had received an At-Large Bid to States. At-Large bids are generally awarded to runner-up teams or teams scoring next highest to the bid-winning team(s). Immediately, they called the coach to confirm the news! That week, the team practiced without the Seniors everyday before school, with early practices at 6:00am. With the anticipated Senior arrival on Friday, the team had a full practice, along with another on Saturday morning. As a Senior, Lily says, "Sunday morning felt extra special. Not only were we getting a second

chance as a team, but it was the Seniors last time representing the Austin Prep Cheerleading team at a competition. It was truly bittersweet." The girls worked harder throughout that week than ever, and it really showed! When they took the routine to the mat, they delivered their best performance of the season. After every stunt and tumbling pass, they placed in the top group of the competition and earned their highest score of the season.

## New Ristuccia Hockey Rink

For the first time ever, the Boys and Girls Ice Hockey programs have a dedicated home rink at Ristuccia Memorial Arena in Wilmington. Mr. Driscoll, the Athletic Director, says, "The locker rooms, fitness center, and film room will provide an opportunity for the teams

to join as a community. It will enable them to train at a high level that's necessary to compete in the NEPSAC." As you can

Besides the Varsity teams, the new rink will also benefit the sub-varsity teams as they can also share the building's amenities.



see, this new rink will grant all the players an experience they never had before. It's very convenient to have an official home rink, because with both Varsity teams having all their practices and games in the same location, it allows them to have a true home ice advantage.

The Athletic Department and Administration are always looking for a way to better Austin Prep, and facilities are one of those ways. This new rink is an excellent example of Veritas and Caritas since the new rink unites all the teams together, and they can build a united community.



# PEER TUTORING

*Writing by Steven Reyes | Layout by Alexa Schiela*

## We're Here For You!

Sometimes school can be really challenging, but don't let that get you down. Whether you don't know where to start for a creative writing piece, are having trouble with Algebra, or need help studying for a Spanish quiz, you can succeed. Austin Prep's peer tutoring program covers a wide range of subjects. We offer tutoring for writing, math, Spanish, French, Mandarin, and Latin. If you're struggling in a class, or just need some help understanding something, the tutors are always willing to help.

## Writing Tutoring

Run by Mrs. Putney, the writing tutors aid students in a number of ways. They can look over essays or creative writing and offer critiques and advice. Writing tutors can also serve as editors who can look for grammar mistakes. To meet with a writing tutor, visit the lower library on Days 2 or 4 during Cougar Block. If you have a study hall, tell or email your study hall teacher so they know where you are and don't mark you as absent. Just go up to one of the tutors who

are available, tell them what you need help with, and start working.

## Math Tutoring

Run by Mrs. Pliskaner, the math tutors can help on any type of math up to calculus. To meet with a math tutor, visit the lower library on Days 2, 5 or 7 during Cougar Block. If you have a study hall or a club, email the teacher who runs it so they know where you are. After you sit down with a math tutor, tell them what math class you are in and what you need help with. If you need help with a specific assignment, the tutor will walk you through it, see what parts you don't understand, and explain the topic step by step. Math tutors can be very helpful because they can offer one on one teaching and strengthen your understanding of what you learned in class.

## Language Tutoring

To meet with a language tutor, email Mrs. Sherry and whoever teaches your world language class about needing a tutor. Your teachers will reach out to one of the language tutors and look for a classroom to meet in



and a Cougar block where both you and the tutor are available. You can either meet them every cycle, or just when you need help. Just email your tutor so they know how often you want to meet. Language tutors will aid you with grammar, vocabulary, studying, or anything else that you might need. The language tutoring program is run by Mrs. Sherry.

## Cougar Academic Training

Cougar Academic Training, or CAT, is a program that helps students in grades 6 through 9 with skills like studying, time management, and organization. It is run by Mrs. Choate. It meets on Days 1 and

5 in the lower library during Cougar Block.

## Come Join Us!

To become a math, writing, or world language tutor, email the head of the program and tell them that you are interested. Remember to say which days you are available to tutor. For Cougar Academic Training, teachers and advisors recommend Juniors and Seniors to become tutors. They receive their applications in September of every year. Tutoring is such a valuable tool for students to use, and genuinely helps students improve. If you want to sign up, there is no better time than now!

# Race Amity Trip

Writing by Jay Voica | Layout by Angel Gong

For the first time, the National Center for Race Amity held a nationwide conference in Atlanta. The conference consisted of a dinner Thursday night, speakers and breakout rooms throughout Friday, and a tour of the MLK monuments in downtown Atlanta on Saturday. Six Austin Prep students were chosen to attend the trip: Jack Sweeney '24, Jay Voica '24, Amelia Amadin '26, Grace Ditchfield '26, George Mamakos '26, and Aidan O'Neill '26. The group was led by Dr. William Driscoll, the Dean of Faculty and graduate of Austin's class of '89. In his words, "The students for this trip were selected because they were active in providing service for the community and were nominated by faculty members."

One of the key moments of the trip was the award ceremony dinner, held on the opening night at a 1900's tea house in downtown Atlanta. The awards were created by the National Center for Race

Amity in 2013 to recognize and honor individuals who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to advancing access and equity in society through interracial partnerships. The Medal of Honor recipients included: Kentucky basketball coach and college legend, John Calipari; founder of Wayfarer foundation and renowned billionaire, Steve Sarowitz; Fortune 500 and management consultant and long time social activist, Robert C. Henderson; and bestselling author and renowned social activist, Debby Irving. Austin students were able to meet all the recipients and network with them as well. The award winners provided the students with valuable information and insight as they make their way through life and continue to college.

Though the group participated in a lot of fun events, attendee Grace remembers, "My favorite part of this trip was going around Atlanta and getting to see all the history there.



We got to visit Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s house and learn about his family life while he was younger. We also went into the Martin Luther King Museum and not only learned about King, but also people such as Rosa Parks and Gandhi." The students not only saw MLK's house and surroundings, but learned about his teachings and the movements he started. As well as learning about Dr. King, the students learned the true meaning of race amity and how to apply it to both their community as well as school life. Dr. Driscoll recounts his most memorable part of the experience as follows; "The most memorable event for me was observing the artifacts in the King Center, especially the Nobel Peace Prize; specifically, I was impressed with how students responded to that, and seeing students soak up all that the King Center had to offer."

There are plenty of ways to continue the legacy set

forth by these leaders. Dr. Driscoll encourages students; "My advice for interested students is to participate in active service opportunities that make a difference in the community." Beyond Austin, Dr. Driscoll urges students to go further in their quest to make a difference. He states, "The best step forward is to pay attention to the Race Amity Summer Arts Festival, which is a much larger opportunity for students to engage. It's located in Boston so it's easier to send a larger delegation from Austin and involve more students. They can also visit the website and see additional ways to get involved there." Finally, Grace encourages, "I would definitely recommend this trip to kids next year. It was a very fun experience, but also a learning experience. I hope that this trip continues so other students get to have the chance to have the fun that I did, and to learn more about Race Amity and the community."





# GET TO KNOW OUR NEW

# Head Chef!

*Writing by Josie Palermo | Layout by Ryan Thompson*



**T**his year, Austin Prep welcomed the new Head Chef, Bill Carter, to the Sage Dining team. He has been in the culinary industry for over 20 years, and has always shown a passion for cuisine. Growing up, both of his parents worked, so he did most of the cooking for his

siblings. When asked why he became a chef, Chef Carter said, “I have always loved working with young people, learning along with them and bringing smiles to their faces, because lunch is a good time for students to take a break from studies and just enjoy food and each other’s company.” Chef

Carter also says his favorite part of being the chef at Austin are his interactions with staff and students, and getting to know and understand what people like and dislike. When asked about his favorite lunch, Chef Carter gave a surprising answer, “The next one, every day has its

own set of challenges, which makes it fun.” Chef Carter is a wonderful addition to the Austin Prep community, bringing big smiles and great food! We look forward to seeing him around campus and tasting his delicious meals!



# Staff Spotlight on Mr. Iapicca

*Writing by Steven Reyes  
Layout by Olivia Mersch*

Austin Prep wouldn't be what it is without all of the faculty and staff who work here. Although we see them every day, we don't always get a chance to speak with them. A member of our staff who has been working here

for a long time and deserves recognition is Mr. Pat Iapicca.

Mr. Iapicca has been working at Austin as a CSO (Campus Safety Officer) since 2018. Before working at Austin Prep, Mr. Iapicca was a police detective and court prosecutor for thirty-six years. After retiring, he saw in the local

newspaper that Austin Prep was looking for a campus safety officer. He decided to apply and has been working here ever since.

As a CSO, he has many different jobs that he does throughout the day. In the morning, the CSOs direct the traffic going in and out of the

school. During the day, they patrol the campus and oversee the Dining Hall. If students, teachers, or guests are in need of any help, they are always willing to lend a hand. In the afternoon, the CSOs direct the traffic again. They also help out with most after school events like dances or athletic events.

Mr. Iapicca has been working at Austin Prep for nearly six years and has been here the longest of all the CSOs. He has seen many changes to AP in his time here. Some of his favorites are the construction of the lower fields complex and the renovations of the Dining Hall. Outside of work, Mr. Iapicca is an active member of the Austin community, attending games and going to performances whenever he has the chance. His favorite Austin Prep tradition is seeing the student body sing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" together after Lessons and Carols. He commented that, "It's pretty special to see everyone all excited about the upcoming Christmas season."

Mr. Iapicca loves the food that Sage Dining serves. His favorite dish is the Kung Pao Chicken. He also enjoys the soups. A lifelong football fan, Mr. Iapicca's favorite team is the New England Patriots. He has good taste!

Hopefully, you have gotten to know Mr. Iapicca a bit better by reading this spotlight. If you see him in the hallway today, stop and say hello!

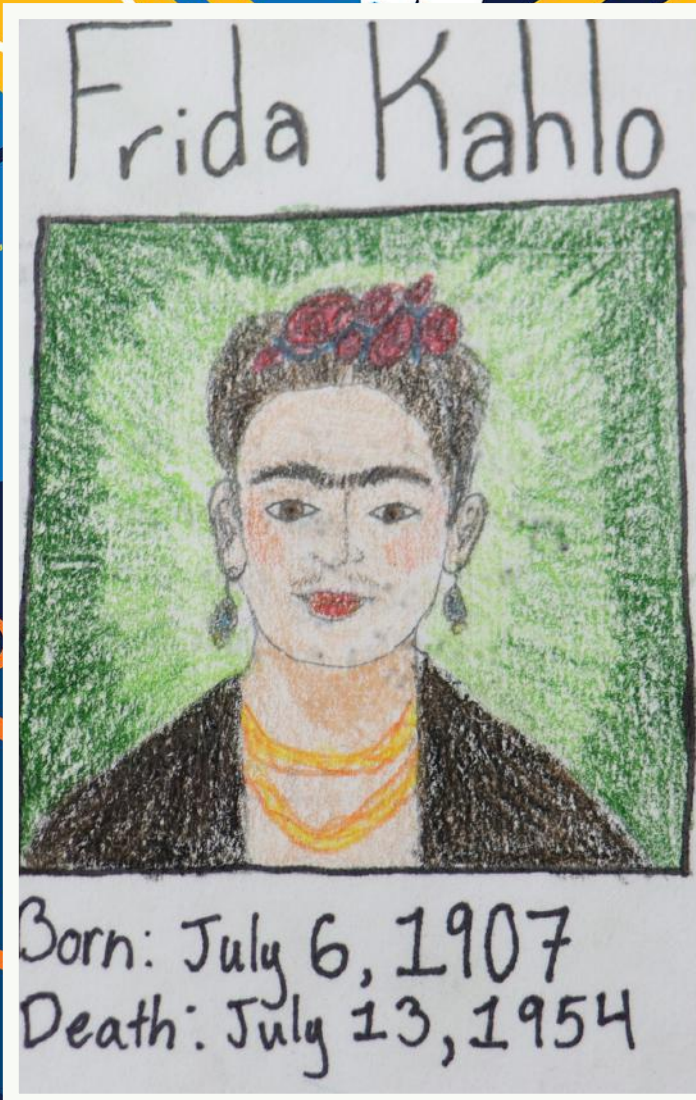


*Photo by George Mamakos*



# Austin Artists

Layout and photos by Noah Rivera



Above: Expressive typography by Installation Art 1 & 2 and Creativity Lab.



Above: Art 1, Installation Art 2, and Creativity Lab made trading cards of major art historical figures.



CLAUDE MONET



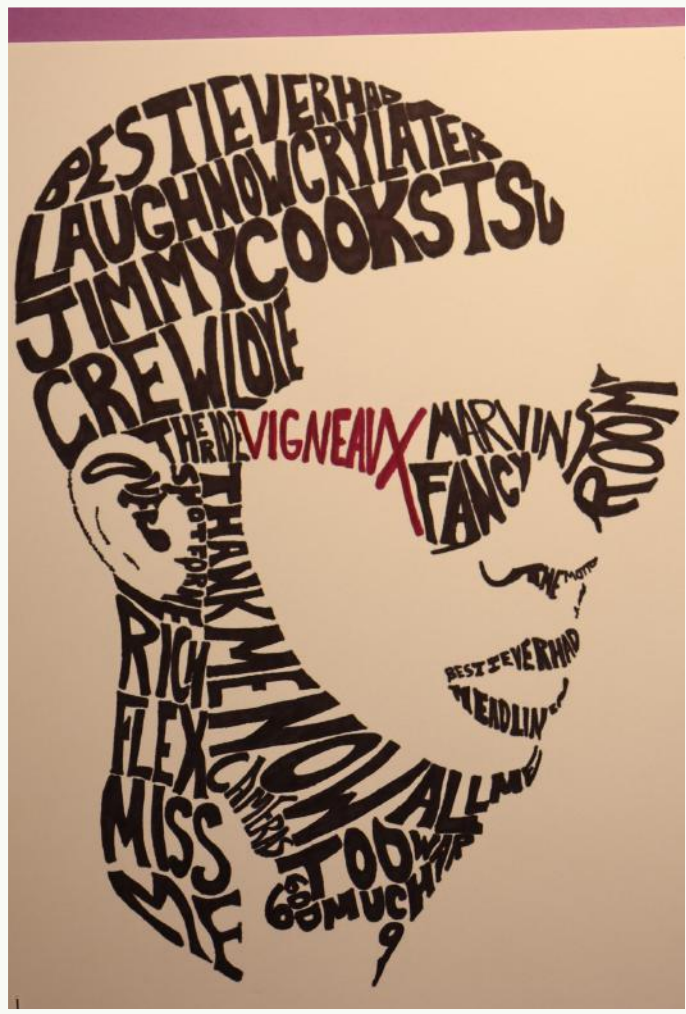
Born: November 14, 1840  
Death: December 5, 1926



Yoyoi Kusama



Born: March 22, 1929  
Death: N/A



Above: Lauren Vugneaux 26' from Instalaton Art, created Drake for her expressive typography project.



# Class Projects

Writing by Josie Palermo | Layout by Sofia Cataldi



## 8th Grade Starbooks

Due to the popularity of the coffee chain Starbucks, the 8th grade English classes participated in a Starbucks themed book talk, called Starbooks. This experience provided students with an opportunity to use their public speaking skills in a creative and fun way. Teachers Ms. Dell'Anno and Ms. Cavanaugh worked together to bring this idea to life. According to Ms. Dell'Anno, "Our 8th-grade

Starbooks activity in class was truly so much fun, and it was a great way to combine creativity and engagement into the 8th-grade Independent Reading Projects. When I attended the Association of Middle Level Education Conference back in 2022, I had the opportunity to speak with teachers from around the country who also wanted to find ways to make presentations more engaging. One teacher had done a Book Cafe, which

sparked my interest." After they researched and gathered sources online, the teachers came up with a plan to bring Starbooks to life. They decided on a Book Menu that listed students' independent reading books, a coffee shop banner, posters, custom-made Starbooks sleeves, coffee-themed bookmarks, stickers, and more! To motivate the students and make it feel like a real coffee shop, there was hot cocoa, and snacks for everyone

to enjoy. As you can see, a lot of work went into this project. Ms. Dell'Anno, although not participating in the project, thoroughly enjoyed it too. "The best part about the activity was witnessing the enthusiasm the students brought to their presentations." Overall, this activity was very successful and it was a great representation of Unitas and Caritas, as the students got to engage with others' projects and have curated discussions.



## Freshmen “Gross Me Out!”

Every year, the freshman class looks forward to the annual “Gross Me Out!!” contest, run by the Austin Authors club. This club usually submits articles and creative writing pieces on Austin Prep’s news site, “The Legend”. The contest was

started around 5 years ago, and then evolved into a school-wide contest for the freshman. The freshmen were tasked to write a horror short story, which included gruesome details and the abundance of adjectives. Mrs. Putney described the project as, “not

just a fun Halloween activity, but also a chance for students to practice using sensory details and figurative language in their writing.” Some previous winners have even had leadership positions in the school’s writing club because of the contest. The finalists

and winners of the contest are published in the school’s literary magazine, *Tolle Lege*. All in all, this contest is an excellent example of Unitas, as it brings the freshman class together over their short stories.

## Honors Trigonometry/Geometry Robots

The Trigonometry/Geometry Honors math class participated in an engaging and unique project that let students showcase their knowledge on the material: The “Robot Project.” Students were tasked to create a robot made from various rectangular prisms, a cone, and a sphere made of things ranging from

toilet paper or paper towel rolls to styrofoam balls and cones. First finding the surface area of each body part, then assembling the robot with duct tape. The trick was, once you added the areas together, that number would be the amount of aluminum foil you needed to cover your tin man. However, the students had to use the foil

without running out or having any left over. Math teacher Ms. Brewer remarked, “I really enjoy the Robot Project because it takes what we are learning in class, and lets students express their creativity, while showing their mastery of area and surface area.” After building the robot, there were reflection questions that varied based

on the results of the project. Some questions included, “What was the hardest shape to form, and why?” and “Did you have enough foil to cover your tin man? Why or why not?” Ultimately, this project helped students improve at calculating area and surface area while also strengthening their partner communication skills.



Above: A Santa robot made by Will Putney '26.



Above: A skier robot made by Grace Buser '26.



# SPOTLIGHT ON COACHES

## BOYS SOCCER COACH

### RYAN PATRIE

Writing by Ava Cote | Layout by Mikey Brosnan

Everyone who plays a sport has a coach. Coaches are essential to a team and players depend on them. This year, Austin Prep Boys Soccer welcomed their new head coach, Ryan Patrie. Mr. Patrie is the Director of Admissions at Austin Prep and was excited to take on this new role.

Mr. Patrie's first coaching job was when he was in high school when he coached a kindergarten team in Wilmington Youth Soccer. The kindergartners were lucky to have him as a coach, and some of them still play the game today. While in college, he spent a semester in Uganda doing mission work and coached the Middle and High School teams at Heritage International School in Kampala. How incredible that one of our coaches had the opportunity to coach in Uganda! Soccer outside of the U.S is as popular as American Football here in the United States. Having that experience and knowledge on the culture of the game and how soccer is played outside our country is a big contributor to the success of the Austin Prep Boys Soccer program.

Prior to Austin Prep, Mr. Patrie coached both the Girls and Boys Varsity Soccer programs at Lexington Christian Academy. He spent 11 years as Head Coach of the girls program and two as the boys Head Coach. Patrie

commented, "LCA is also a NEPSAC school and so I have coached against many of the opponents that Austin Prep plays across all sports." Mr. Patrie knows how to play the game. LCA is a good



soccer school and he was a big part of their success. Additional coaching experience includes coaching in the Mass Youth Soccer District Select Program.

Ever wonder how a coach can manage coaching and taking on the demanding role of working in Admissions at Austin Prep? "It certainly adds more to my plate, but truthfully, the roles are complementary. The ability to get on the field and work with student-athletes

strengthens my connection with the student body. In Admissions, it is so important to have my finger on the pulse of what is going on in school and coaching provides another way to do it.

Yes, I need to manage time effectively and plan for travel days, but I encourage all members of the Admissions team to get involved in areas throughout the school because it makes us more effective in our 'day job,'" Mr. Patrie says. He continued, "Athletics has always been a big part of my life and coaching provides the opportunity to impact the lives of the student-athletes the same way my coaches poured into my life. The balance is doable if you plan accordingly and effectively

manage your time. In the end, both coaching and working as a school administrator compliment one another."

Having to find time to do your day job and coaching can be overwhelming. But Mr. Patrie is up to the task. He once was a student-athlete, and wants to help and impact student lives not just in sports but also in the classroom. Coaching is fun because you get to create so many memories with the players. When asked about what he remembered most this season, he responded, "I really enjoyed my first season at the helm of the Boys Soccer program. I'd say my favorite memory occurred in October when we were playing at the Wheeler School. It was a competitive game and both teams were evenly matched. It was also a very physical game. The boys never stopped working and had tremendous chemistry that game. We went on the road and secured a 2-1 victory against a team that beat us at home last year. It was a great team win and one of our best performances. As a team we try and work on things day in and day out at practice and it's amazing when it all comes together on match day." Games like these can be nerve-racking, but are fun because of the lifelong memories made. Mr. Patrie secured the win that day and Austin Prep secured a winner in Mr. Patrie.





*Photo by Brendan Carpenter*



# FALL ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Writing by Ava Cote | Layout by Sydney DeRoche

Here at Austin Prep we have six fall sports: Football, Boys and Girls Soccer, Cross Country, Volleyball, Field Hockey and Golf. All of these sports are great programs to be a part of and many athletes try out for each sport. This fall season, we are highlighting three athletes from the varsity sports teams. Sydney DeRoche from Girls Soccer, Jared Hickey from Boys Soccer and Caroline Brabeck from Volleyball. These athletes worked hard all season to have the best outcome that the team could have.

Sydney DeRoche is a senior who plays for the Girls Varsity Soccer team. Her role on the team is striker. To be able to play striker you have to be fast and Sydney is just that. Sydney is a very team first player and was named captain of the team for this recent season. She was a great role model for new underclassmen who joined the team. She makes sure that she and everyone is prepared and hyped for a game, and makes sure everyone's game jitters are out including her own. School can be hard to balance as an athlete, but we asked her how she does it all, "It is always hard to be a student-athlete and manage your time with school work and practices or

games. So, throughout the day, I try to keep myself occupied with as much as I can one because it helps my nerves and I can also get all my work done, that way I don't have to do any school work before the game so my attention is all towards the game. I will also watch game film to review the team we are playing as well as watch my own film to see what I need to do or need to do better." Being able to balance school is a skill that athletes have to have in order to play a sport. She makes sure to have all of her assignments completed and will go somewhere quiet to try and get her work done. After that she will watch game film to prepare for the match.

Sydney DeRoche '24



Caroline Brabeck '25







Jared Hickey is a senior and plays one of the most crucial positions on the Boys Varsity Soccer team, the goalkeeper. Lots of athletes have different ways of preparing for a game. When we asked him how he does it, he replied, “Well for me, a typical game day is usually during the week so I have school. I wake up, get ready for school and I make sure I have a healthy breakfast to start my day. I start to ‘do my homework’ on my opponent leading up to the game. Things like look up the roster, their previous seasons record compared to this

season’s records, how many seniors and if they have any commitments and any film I can watch of games they have already played this season. Once I do all that, I create an analysis and share it with my teammates so everyone can have a heads up about the opponent before heading into the game in the afternoon.” He comes mentally and physically prepared for every game so he knows his opponent and makes sure to win. Jared does a lot for his team to prepare for a game. It can be a challenge to manage school and sports as an athlete, but he does it and that’s the life of an athlete.

Caroline Brabeck is a junior at Austin. She plays on the Varsity Volleyball team, and has been on the team since her sophomore year. School can be tough for an athlete and can take up a lot of your time. It’s hard to prepare yourself sometimes for a game and to watch a film. Here is how she told us she prepares for a game while dealing with school: “Within school, I prepare myself for the game by reviewing films and listening to music. I carve out time in my day to watch films to recognize the good things that I have done and the things that I need to improve on. Before game time, I will put in headphones and listen to music that makes me pumped up to play and

focused on improving myself along with lifting the team. I try to focus throughout the day on positive things, so when game time comes I feel as though my head is clear. I sometimes try to make myself a little mad before I start warmups to play with aggression and as much spark as possible. Overall, I focus on myself throughout the day so I can focus on my team and bettering the ball during game time.” It’s important for an athlete to watch their opponent because there could be little parts in the game the opponent isn’t good at, and you could use it to your advantage. Caroline demonstrates what an athlete’s life is as a high school student is by putting work into her sport and making time for school.

Jared Hickey '24





# JUST TEAM

Writing by Cecelia Goldsmith | Layout by Sofia Cataldi



## JV BOYS SOCCER

JV Boys Soccer triumphed again this year with another strong season. The team rose to the challenge of developing a primarily new squad and even defeating the Hillside School with a score of 7-0. Recounting a rewarding game, Leo Centinaro '25 said, "My highlight of the season was a game we had against Kents Hill, where we had a rough first half and were down 3-0 at half... But then we scored back-to-back goals and the game seemed a whole lot closer to a win, [and] we then scored a third goal to tie it in the pouring rain. It was an amazing moment." Overall, the team was proud of such a triumphant season and many great memories.



## JV GIRLS SOCCER

JV Girls Soccer had another amazing season with opportunities to both grow closer as a team and make progress individually. When asked about one of her memories of the season, Sydney Danese '26 shared, "I remember my game in New York the most because it was fun to play music and talk to my teammates on the bus." The team had similar bonding experiences throughout their many games and was able to develop tremendously. An example of this was how much the team improved between two games against Phillips Academy. After losing by a large margin the first time, they brought their A-game for the second match and shrank the gap significantly. Overall, the team did an incredible job throughout the season.



## JV FOOTBALL

JV Football showed their fighting spirit in all of the games that they played over the season. They stayed strong in several games with tight scores and persevered to win against Phillips Exeter Academy 42-6. Mark-Henry Novas '26 explained how the team remained motivated in all of their games, "I love the game and the people I'm playing with. Every down, you risk a lot to help your team win the game, and everyone on the field makes the same sacrifice. Football is truly a team sport because it takes everyone, and it brings everyone closer than any other sport does". Congrats on a successful season!



# SPORTS



## JV FIELD HOCKEY

The JV Field Hockey team had a very successful season! The team finished with a record of 12-2 that exemplified the team's incredible improvement since last season. Gianna Buscemi '26 shared, "The highlight of our season was winning five games in a row, which was a major improvement from last year! Along with this, we wanted to keep our streak going, so this really motivated us to play harder each week". They also worked on developing their skills and becoming more connected during their games. The team showed a lot of determination and cannot wait to play again next year.



## JV VOLLEYBALL

The JV Volleyball team had a strong season with many team bonding moments that brought them closer together. Ali Joyner '26 described how the team was able to develop and hone their skills over the season, "Our team was able to be successful because we all put in a lot of effort, whether it was working on and improving skills, or even just supporting each other on and off of the court. Over the season, our team grew closer, especially through bus rides and other team bonding events. This allowed us to be a stronger team, which made for an even better season". The team looks forward to playing next year and having another rewarding season.



## JV GOLF

The JV Golf team had a successful season and was able to develop tremendously with the addition of a number of new players. When asked about her favorite experience in the fall, Coach Michelle Flaherty replied, "[The] highlight of the season was the Ryder Cup at the last practice. It was a fun way to end the season and compete with and against our Varsity members. Our JV captain Matt Janian '26 did a wonderful job leading the team this year, as we had many new program members. The whole team showed good character and sportsmanship throughout the season". Altogether, the team was able to progress and improve with each match and came away stronger than ever before!



# Austin Authors

Layout by Jasmine Labriola

## Creative Writing

### **One Hundred Acre Wood by Julia Coelho '27**

The gift that was placed into my tiny hands at the age of one was a warm, fluffy bear.

Gifted by the one who understood me through it all, this soft bear meant the world and more.

The bear helped bring heaven to me, to see the one I loved.

The tiny bear was magical and was my life.

The bright yellow bear floods my head with numerous memories of my past years.

The best memories, the ones that remind you to smile more everyday and the dark memories that show the pain and grief.

The bear held my biggest secrets and wiped away my tears.

It was as if the bear was always there helping me through life's greatest challenges.

The yellow bear was dressed in a vibrant red shirt that barely fit over its rotund stomach.

I truly believed that he could not wear the shirt due to how many honey pots he ate.

His velvety arms surrounded me, comforting me through the darkest points, when no one else could.

### **Mia Dinunzio '24, Editor in Chief of Creative Writing**

Birds chirping

To children today this is an annoyance

A constant that cannot be silenced

An annoying animal

Yet, to me, birds chirping reminds me of the days when I was young and free of worries

Free to be in the world without care

A bright day yet to be explored

Full of color and awe

To play pretend mermaids and go rock hunting

It was a sense of wonder

A sense of belonging and complete serenity

Where time stopped and age ceased to exist

Something I yearn to feel once more

The sweet melody of birds chirping

They watched as I grew up

Now I can't seem to hear them as well

I wonder what happened to them?

## Newspaper Writing

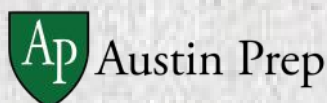
### **The Veritas Student Leadership Council – A New Step For Austin Prep's Athletics by Anna Ferranti '24**

Austin Prep is home to over 50 athletic teams among 18 different sports. These sports are made up of driven student-athletes who are deeply dedicated to their various teams. Recently, the school has

implemented a new program called the Veritas Student Leadership Council, in order to foster leadership qualities among Varsity student-athletes. The Council is specific to each season of sports, with one for the fall teams, one

for the winter teams, and one for the spring teams. With frequent meetings and think-tanks among the teams, it is an important initiative to foster leadership both in and out of the athletic sphere.

**To keep reading, go to the Austin Authors website, the Legend at [www.apsnews.org](http://www.apsnews.org)**





# Spring Calendar

## April



**Friday, April 5th:**  
Last day of the 3rd Quarter



**Wednesday, April 10th:**  
Spring Dance Showcase



**Thursday, April 11th:**  
Siblings Day



**Monday, April 15th - Friday, April 19th:**  
April Vacation



**Thursday, April 25th:** Prom

## May



**Wednesday, May 1st - Thursday, May 2nd:**  
Grandparents Day



**Friday, May 17th:**  
Baccalaureate/Commencement

## June

Finals Week



**Thursday, June 6th - Tuesday, June 11th:**  
Final Exams



