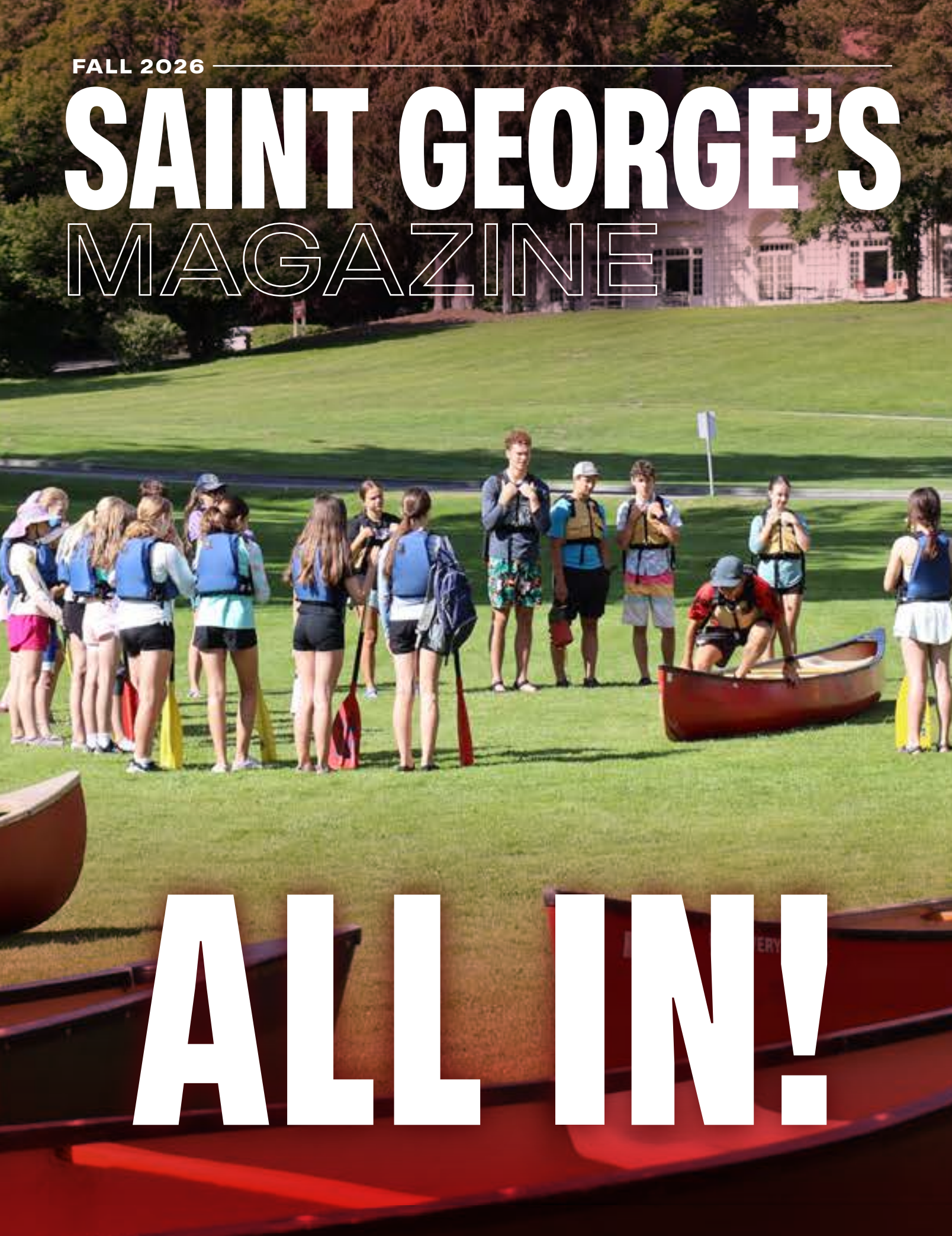
FALL 2026

SAINT GEORGE'S MAGAZINE



ALL IN!

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Saint George's Magazine is published periodically for the Saint George's School community by the Advancement Office.

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Volume 32, Issue 1,
Fall 2026

Postmaster send address changes to:

Office of School Advancement,
Saint George's School,
2929 W. Waikiki Rd.
Spokane, WA 99208

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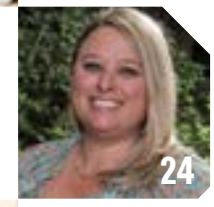

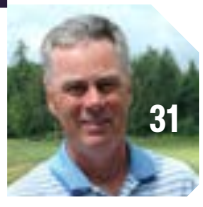

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COVER PHOTO:
Students prepare to go on the river.
Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Mix.
Cover design by Noah Johnson.

SGS Mission Statement

Inspiring Scholars, Athletes, and Artists to Explore, Serve, and Lead.

ON THE WEB

View the full Saint George's Magazine and added special features online at
www.sgs.org/magazine

Scan the QR Code to be taken to the page!

THIS YEAR, WE ARE ALL IN

Jamie Tender,
Head of School

"All In is not about doing more. It is about how our mission actually works."

Dear Families, Alumni, and Friends,

During the opening week of school, I stood outside and watched 343 students arrive for their first day of the 2026-27 school year. Sixty-eight of them had never walked through our doors before. Our returning students walked confidently, eager to see friends and faculty, smiling ear to ear. A few held onto a parent's hand a beat longer than they had planned to and eventually took the independent leap. In that moment, each student was taking the next step and considering how they wanted to show up for a new year, a new school, or both. **Our answer, and our theme: ALL IN.**

All In is not about doing more. It is about how our mission actually works. We inspire scholars, athletes, and artists to explore, serve, and lead, and not one of those happens halfway. You cannot explore without taking some risks into the unknown. You cannot serve without putting another person first. You cannot lead without committing before you know how it ends. The growth occurs on the other side of the commitment.

Our students understand this better than we sometimes give them credit for. It is the seventh grader who auditions for the play after two years of telling herself she is not a theater person. It is the senior who joins a team for the first time in their life. It is the third grader who tells a joke at Friday assembly, voice shaking and finishes anyway awaiting the laughter. Our faculty build the conditions where that kind of risk feels survivable, and then they make sure it gets noticed. That is the daily work of this school.

Who We Are This Year

Altogether, our 343 students from kindergarten through twelfth grade, including our 68 new Dragons—will experience the 2026–27 school year as one connected community. Ninety-four percent of our returning families chose us again, a number I do not take lightly. Families renew that decision every spring knowing exactly who we are, so retention is the most honest feedback a school ever gets. They are All In!

This year we also complete the second year of our self-study for reaccreditation with the Northwest Association of Independent Schools. A self-study asks a school to look hard at every part of its program, name what is working, and be specific about what is not yet where we want it. Our faculty and staff have brought real rigor and real candor to that work, and it will shape our priorities well beyond this year. They are All In!

Gratitude

I want to close with the moment when "All In" became more than a theme—it became something I witnessed firsthand.

When the Spokane Complex fires upended the lives of families in our community, our school responded immediately. The SGS Community Relief Fund raised over $7,200 in monetary gifts, gift cards, clothing and personal donations, housing opportunities, and all the quieter kinds of help that never appear on a list. It was a wonderful demonstration of the strength of our extended community and capped off a horrific event with renewed hope.

That is what All In looks like in practice. Not a posture we adopt for a season, but the way this community shows up when it counts. It is why I am so glad to be standing at the start of this year with all of you.

Thank you for being all in with us.

With gratitude,
Jamie Tender, Head of School

ALL IN ON THE ARTS

Spring 2026 was full of creativity, talent, and school spirit at SGS. From the 5th Grade *Madagascar Jr.* production, the LS Spring Concert, and 1st Grade's *Rumpus in the Rainforest* to the 6th Grade's Famous Artworks on Ceiling Tiles, the 5th Grade Art Exhibition, and the US *Clue* performance, our students shined in countless ways. We also celebrate the SGS Jazz Choir for winning its second straight Lionel Hampton Senior Division III Crown!

PERFORMING ARTS CALENDAR 2026-27

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO ATTEND!

- **Nov. 4 & 5:** US Play - "Treasure Island: A New Adventure"
- **Nov. 19 & 20:** 7/8th Grade Play - "A Wrinkle In Time"
- **Dec. 9:** MS + US Concert
- **Dec. 17:** LS Winter Concert
- **Jan. 21:** Sound System Benefit Concert and Senior Night
- **Feb. 19:** LS Variety Show (Friday Assembly)
- **Feb. 25 & 26:** 6th Grade Musical - "Dare To Dream, Jr."
- **Mar. 18 & 19:** 7/8th Grade Show - "Seussical, Jr."
- **Mar. 24:** All-School Talent Show
- **Mar. 31:** LS Spring Concert (Friday Assembly)
- **Apr. 27 & 28:** US Musical - "The Addams Family"
- **May 14:** 5th Grade Musical

SEE PHOTOS
from the US Boys Tennis state championships

ALL IN ON ATHLETICS

US Boys Take Second at State

The boys' tennis team traveled to Yakima to defend their state title. The Dragons fought valiantly, with all competitors winning their opening morning matches. The Dragons earned enough points to finish tied for second place as a team alongside Manson and Liberty Bell.

Off the court, the team celebrated a major achievement: they were crowned Academic State Champion — a tremendous honor for the entire boys tennis program!

Regan Thomas

Gavin Eliason

SGS Graduates Set to Compete at Collegiate Level

Congratulations to these 2026 Saint George's graduates as they take their athletic talents to the next level.

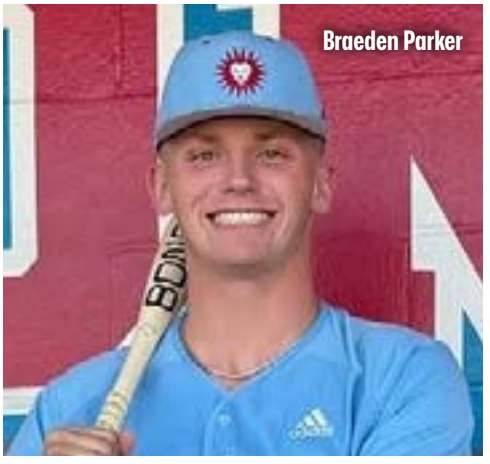
Regan Thomas will continue her cross-country and track & field career at Middlebury College. Gavin Eliason will compete in soccer at Carroll College, and Braeden Parker will play baseball at Loyola Marymount. We're proud of all they've accomplished at SGS, and wish them the very best as they begin this exciting next chapter!

SGS's Regan Thomas Finalist for Girls High School Athlete of the Year

We are proud to announce that Regan Thomas was one of three local finalists for the Spokane Youth Sports Awards: Region Girls High School Athlete of the Year, recognized for her outstanding achievements with SGS cross-country and track & field. Regan's performance, leadership, and impact on teammates have earned her this incredible regional honor. Great work, Regan!

MS '26 Track & Field Recap

Coach Mark Rickard praised the team's progress after the MS Track & Field Championships in Chewelah: "I think generally the kids showed a lot of growth from our first practice to our final effort in Chewelah. At all five of our track meets there were personal bests, exceptionally gritty performances and exciting team efforts from our relay teams. Our kids learned how to push through dis-


Braeden Parker

comfort and physical challenges to do their best when it mattered most."

Across the season, middle school athletes consistently improved, achieved new personal records, and delivered strong relay performances that showcased teamwork and determination. Congratulations to all MS track athletes for a season of hard work, growth, and grit!

Luca H. competing in the long jump during the MS Track Championships at Chewelah

Dragons Track & Field Finish 2026 Season on the Podium

Coming off a historic stretch that included six team titles in four years, Saint George's Track & Field entered the 2026 season with a familiar focus: growth, development, and collective success. By season's end, the Dragons had delivered a State Champion, 13 individual and relay podium finishes, five new school records, and a new State Meet record.

Regan Thomas capped an extraordinary career with her third individual State title, winning the 1600 meters and placing second in the 3200. She was joined by distance teammates Remmy Kiltz and Delaney Nachreiner, who also earned State podium finishes, while the girls' 4x400-meter relay of Edie Wolff, Kiltz, Sarah Harbaugh, and Thomas placed fourth.

On the boys' side, seniors and co-captains Per Sande and Jake Werner led a strong sprint and hurdle group. Sande placed fourth in the 100 meters and third in the 200, while setting school records in both events and in the pole vault. Werner added school records in the 110- and 300-meter hurdles and battled through a late hamstring injury to finish fifth and seventh at State.

The weekend's biggest highlight came in the boys' 4x100-meter relay, where Thatcher Canady, Werner, Solomon Chen, and Sande ran 43.39 to finish second at State and break the previous State Meet record.

Beyond the medals and records, the 2026 season reflected the team's depth, progress, and potential — all signs of a bright future ahead.

Golf Spring 2026 Highlights

Congratulations to our SGS Golf Team on a rewarding spring season!

The Dragons continue to build on an impressive tradition of excellence. Matthew Longstreth earned second place at the state championship last year and has enjoyed an outstanding career at state, placing second, third, second, fifth, and sixth over his career.

Ella Rich also made her mark, earning 11th place at state last year as a freshman. We are proud of the dedication, skill, and sportsmanship our golfers bring to the course.

Congratulations, Dragons, on a memorable season!

2026 FALL PREVIEW

View full fall sports teams and schedules

Fall sports are already underway, and we're excited to cheer on Dragon Athletics at all three levels!

The Lower School is off and running with cross-country. The Middle School is competing in cross-country and Girls volleyball, while the Upper School soccer team is off to an exciting start. The Upper School volleyball and cross-country teams are also competing with determination.

SGS fans, come out and support our Dragons in action! Your energy and encouragement make a difference to our student-athletes and help create an incredible game-day atmosphere.

2026 Varsity Cross-Country team

2026 Varsity Soccer team

2026 Varsity Volleyball team

SPRING '26 HIGHLIGHTS

Passion, Problem-Solving, and Discovery

Spring Term '26, held last May, gave US students the opportunity to explore subjects that aligned with their passions through a series of in-depth, team-taught, interdisciplinary courses focused on experiential learning and problem solving. This year's six unique offerings were Dance, AI for Humanity, Film, Spring Out, Escape Rooms & Puzzles, and Gather in the Garden. Together, these courses gave students the chance to think deeply, collaborate creatively, and learn by doing.

Dance classes

2026 Spring Out

AI For Humanity

SGS Film Spring Term students proudly present three original short films. Each piece showcases strong writing, engaging performances, and thoughtful direction. Congratulations to all the writers, actors, and directors involved!

Scan the QR codes to watch the films!

Scholarly Exploration

SEE PHOTOS
from the 6th grade Nez Perce/Salmon Trip

3rd Grade History Hike to Interpretive Center

Last May Denie Inman's 3rd Grade class hiked from Saint George's School to the trailhead at Highway 291. They continued to the Spokane House Interpretive Center, where students learned about the history and development of the Hudson's Bay fur trade and the Spokane Tribe in the region.

The visit helped students connect classroom lessons to local history by exploring how early trade, cultural exchange, and community life took place. Hands-on exhibits and stories about daily life at Spokane House gave the students a tangible sense of how the region's past shaped present-day Spokane.

6th Grade Field Trip Explores Nez Perce Heritage and Salmon Life Cycles

Last May, our sixth graders, led by MS teachers Brad Kirsch and Heidi Schillinger, completed a 2-day (1-night) field trip that capped off their unit on the watershed, salmon and trout life cycles, along with Nez Perce history and culture. Students visited the Nez Perce National Historical Park, Spalding Mission and Museum, Ft. Lapwai, Tolo Lake, White Bird Canyon, the "Heart of the Monster" in Kamiah, Dworshak Hatchery and Dam, and Lower Granite Dam. They had dinner and spent the night in the Wa-a'yas Community Center gymnasium in Kamiah, Idaho.

This place-based, hands-on experience gave our sixth graders direct encounters with the land, waterways, and stories they studied—sparking deeper understanding, respect, and curiosity. The lessons and wisdom they gained on this trip will stay with them for years to come.

SEE PHOTOS
from the MS Genius Hour Presentations

Middle School Genius Hour Showcases Curiosity, Creativity, and Confidence

This year's Middle School Genius Hour presentations were fantastic—full of innovation, artistic talent, and insights shaped by experience. Students shared five months of work, demonstrating curiosity, research, and polished final projects.

MS Student Muhammad S. launching his rocket during Genius Hour Showcase

Roman Z. presenting his LEGO creation during the MS Genius Hour Showcase

Dragons 2.0 Robotics Team Competes at Western Edge Premier in Long Beach, CA

From May 28–31, Saint George's FIRST® FTC Team 7935, Dragons 2.0, traveled to Long Beach, California, to compete in the Western Edge Premier Event. The dual-division competition hosted 88 top teams from around the world, offering a postseason opportunity to revisit the game, share ideas with global peers, and gain experience in a large-scale tournament while sharpening competition skills.

The Dragons 2.0 performed well in qualification play, finishing 15th out of 44. They did not enter alliance selection and therefore did not advance to the semifinals, but the team returned determined and motivated to work toward earning a spot at the FIRST® Championship next season.

Golden Dragons Compete at the American Robotics Open in Madison, NJ

On June 6–7, Saint George's FIRST® LEGO League Team 40707, the Golden Dragons, traveled to Madison, New Jersey, to compete in the American Robotics Open. They joined 67 teams from across the country—representing the top 3% of FLL teams nationally—for a postseason opportunity to challenge themselves, share ideas, and sharpen their skills as robotics engineers. The weekend began with judging presentations and networking and culminated in Lightning Rounds, where the Golden Dragons partnered with a team from Pennsylvania in a modified game. They finished with a standard set of three 2.5-minute matches (top score counted). Overall, it was a strong event: the team gained experience, returned more confident, and is ready to tackle the next step of their robotics journey this fall season.

9th-Grade HomerX Projects and Junior TOK Exhibitions

Last May, Saint George's welcomed families and faculty for an evening celebrating student inquiry, research, and creative expression. Ninth-grade students presented their HomerX Projects through "Minds on Display," explaining their complex examinations of self-selected issues to visiting parents and guests. Each student paired an extensive research paper with an original piece of fiction that explored the issue through creative prose.

Nearby, juniors transformed the courtyard into a lively forum for their Theory of Knowledge exhibitions, presenting carefully researched displays centered on compelling knowledge questions, supporting evidence, and real-world examples. As students discussed their work and responded to questions from peers, faculty, and parents, they demonstrated critical thinking, intellectual adaptability, and a genuine capacity for thoughtful dialogue. Together, the two exhibitions showcased Saint George's students as rigorous researchers, creative thinkers, and confident communicators.

SEE MORE PHOTOS

from the 9th HomerX and 11th TOK Exhibitions

Students Present Research at SNRC Conference

Last Spring Break, seven juniors presented their research at the Seattle Nursing Research Consortium (SNRC) in Seattle. They collected blood pressure, heart rate, and survey data from participants assigned to either a therapy-dog or underwater-video group, then analyzed the results and prepared their presentation.

With 149 participants—an exceptional 90% response rate—the team presented their findings to about 200 people on Day 2. Their presentation received frequent applause and a rare standing ovation, giving students the opportunity to conduct and communicate research as real scientists.

ALL IN ON SERVICE

During last spring's Middle School Theme Days, students across all three grades embraced hands-on service, environmental stewardship, and meaningful community connections.

Sixth graders partnered with high school students from the outdoor-themed Spring Out term for a river cleanup. After learning canoe safety and paddling skills, they worked together to collect litter and care for the waterway, building stewardship, confidence, and intergrade connections.

Seventh graders spent a muddy morning removing invasive species from the creek near the middle school. Their efforts restored habitat while giving students a deeper understanding of local ecosystems.

Eighth graders focused on service across generations, reading books they had written and illustrated to children at Green Gables Learning Center before visiting the Veterans Home for conversations and games of BINGO.

Across the three Theme Days, students demonstrated compassion, creativity, environmental responsibility, and a strong commitment to serving their community.

The Great Outdoors

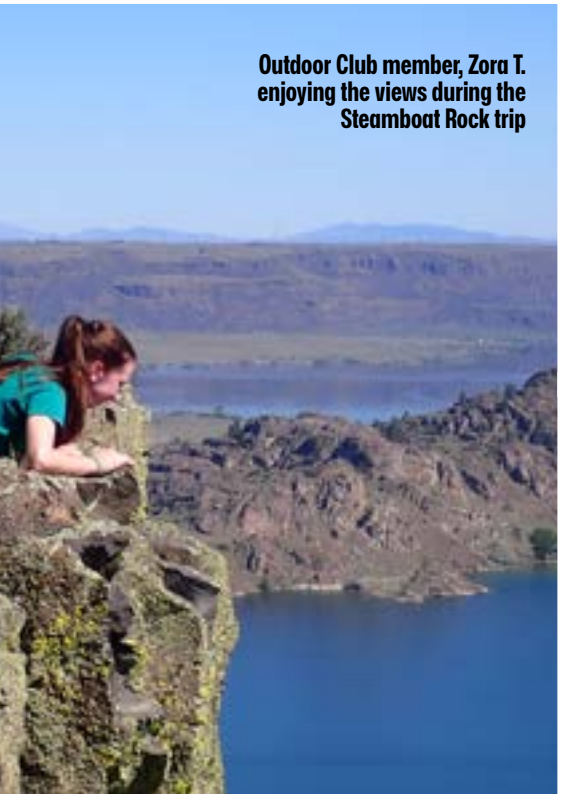
SGS students cleaning up litter along the Glen Tana sanctuary

Last spring, Saint George's students embraced a range of outdoor experiences that fostered stewardship, exploration, and personal growth. Students helped restore the Glen Tana corridor along the Little Spokane River, removing litter and tending areas that support local wildlife. Outdoor Club members in grades 5–7 explored Steamboat Rock, where they practiced outdoor skills and observed spring wildlife in a beautiful natural setting. Eighth graders capped their year with the Coast Trip, a four-night camping trip to the western Olympic Peninsula, where they conducted field studies, explored beaches, rainforests, tide pools, waterfalls, and sea arches, and developed independence through camping, meal preparation, shared responsibilities, and team challenges.

Together, these experiences connected students with the natural world while strengthening collaboration, confidence, curiosity, and community.

8th Grade Coast Trip

Outdoor Club member, Zora T. enjoying the views during the Steamboat Rock trip



SEE MORE
photos of the 8th Grade Coast Trip

SEE MORE
photos from the Steamboat Rock trip

LS Red & White day

Students cross the bridge from 5th grade to 6th grade

6th Grade students sail across the water in their newly-constructed cardboard boats!

ALL IN ON TRADITION

At Saint George's School, end-of-year traditions across all divisions mark the close of the school year with celebration, pride, and plenty of fun. From the 6th Grade Cardboard Boat Race and Middle School Awards and Stepping Up Ceremony to LS Red and White Field Day, the 5th Grade Bridge Crossing Ceremony, and Prom 2026, each event reflects long-standing SGS traditions and creates lasting memories as students and families look ahead to summer.

Students receive awards during the Stepping Up ceremony

Students enjoy prom on a boat on Lake Coeur d'Alene

Class of 2026

The Class of 2026 on Graduation Lawn

SEE FULL GALLERY
of photos from the 2026 Graduation

On Sunday, May 31 at 2:00 p.m., Saint George's celebrated the Class of 2026 with a heartwarming commencement ceremony on Grad Lawn. Under blue skies and beside the Little Spokane River, graduates received their diplomas amid cheers from family, faculty, and coaches.

The ceremony honored students' dedication, sense of community, and their many achievements — and sent them off with our gratitude for who they are and our best wishes for what lies ahead. Class of 2026, we know you will carry your SGS experience into the world and do remarkable things!

Per Sande gives speech at 2026 Graduation

CLASS OF 2026 GRADUATION

Summer Travels 2026

SEE PHOTOS
from the MS Washington D.C. and NYC trips

From Classroom Lessons to East Coast Adventures

Every two years, seventh and eighth-grade students have the opportunity to bring their classroom learning to life through an unforgettable journey to the East Coast. This year, a group of 50 students spent six days exploring the history, culture, and energy of Washington, D.C., and New York City—often walking more than 20,000 steps each day.

Throughout the trip, students connected their experiences to lessons they had studied in class. They revisited the immigration journey explored through their fifth-grade Ellis Island simulation, toured remarkable memorials and museums, and witnessed Broadway performances featuring professional actors.

Along the way, students embraced the heat, humidity, and vibrant culture of the East Coast while building lasting memories with their classmates and teachers. More than a trip, the experience was an opportunity to see history come alive, deepen their understanding of the world, and discover the excitement of learning beyond the classroom.

From Ancient Wonders to Modern Marvels

From June 9–17, 2026, 27 members of the Saint George's community—students (grades 9–12), parents, and teachers—traveled to Beijing, Xi'an, and Shanghai for an unforgettable cultural and educational journey.

In Beijing the group visited Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and climbed the Great Wall of China. In Xi'an travelers explored the world-famous Terracotta Warriors

Students stand outside the Supreme Court building in D.C

museum. In Shanghai, highlights included: Yuyuan Garden, the Bund, and a scenic Huangpu River cruise.

Participants enjoyed authentic Chinese cuisine and experienced both traditional and modern China: Taiji practice, the Hongfu and Tang Dynasty cultural shows, an overnight train, a ride on Shanghai's high-speed Maglev, cashless payments with Alipay, and interactions with service robots. Students had many opportunities to practice Chinese while communicating and shopping.

The trip was a great success—full of learning, adventure, and lasting memories!

2026 Summer Outdoor Trip to White Clouds Wilderness

Led by David Holte, History Teacher and Department Chair, and Melanie Mildrew, Director of Outdoor Adventure and Community Service Programs, the 2026 Summer Outdoor Trip brought participants to Idaho's stunning White Clouds Wilderness.

Over five days, the group backpacked approximately 35 miles and summited David O. Lee Peak, taking in breathtaking wilderness and expansive mountain vistas along the way. The challenging journey provided meaningful opportunities for team building and camaraderie as students pushed beyond their comfort zones, supported one another, and developed greater resilience.

Surrounded by the area's remarkable natural beauty, the trip was an unforgettable experience of adventure, personal growth, and shared accomplishment.

SEE MORE PHOTOS
from the 2026 Upper School China Trip

Students summit David O. Lee Peak

SEE MORE
from the Summer Outdoor Trip

HANNAH L. JOSS TRIP TO SOUTH KOREA & JAPAN

Jana at Kintaikyo Bridge in Iwakuni, Japan

Each year, Saint George's School selects a new recipient of the Hannah L. Joss Fellowship, an award that supports meaningful professional and personal exploration. Established by the Joss family in 1997, the fellowship honors the teaching career of Hannah L. Joss, who taught history at Saint George's from 1961 to 1969. Hannah was a dynamic teacher of history and economics, remembered for her scholarship, mastery of her subject, contagious passion, lively classes, and rigorous expectations. She was devoted to her students, respected them, and inspired them. The ideal fellowship recipient embodies the spirit Hannah Joss personified.

This year's distinguished recipient was fifth-grade teacher and self-described "certified bridge nerd" Jana Dietrich. With support from the fellowship, Jana traveled to South Korea and Japan this summer with her best friend, an English teacher who is half-Japanese. Over 22 days, they traveled from Seattle to Seoul, continued by high-speed train to Busan, took a ferry to Japan, and journeyed north through Fukuoka, Kobe, Kyoto and other destinations before arriving in Tokyo. Along the way, Jana studied 16 bridges in detail, exploring their engineering, history, cultural significance, and beauty.

Jana's interest in bridges began in the classroom. As she taught Saint George's Bridge Unit, she recognized connections to her previous work with the Forest Service, particularly the physics and problem-solving involved in understanding structures. She also began teaching herself Korean seven years ago, making South Korea and Japan—two island nations that depend on bridges to span long distances—an ideal destination for her fellowship experience. "I had the time of my life," Jana says. "I would wake up in the morning feeling incredibly grateful."

Among the many remarkable sites, two bridges left especially strong impressions. At the Korean Demilitarized Zone, Jana visited Freedom Bridge, also known as Dokgae Bridge. Built for the exchange of approximately 10,000 prisoners of war, the bridge was used only once. Today, families visit the site to pray for relatives on the other side of the border. "It was all about war and peace, pain and hope for the future of a divided nation." Jana says. "That left a highly emotional impression." In Japan, the Kintaikyo Bridge became her favorite. Its graceful, hand-constructed arches are held together through an intricate interlocking design. Located near a former samurai palace and surrounded by a landscape shaped by centuries of conflict, the bridge seemed to connect not only two sides of a gorge, but also past and present.

Jana discovered that bridges are more than feats of engineering. They are expressions of cultural heritage, national pride, tourism, religion, art, and community. In both Korea and Japan, the word for "bridge"

carries religious associations, evoking a passage toward the divine. Everywhere she traveled, she saw signs celebrating bridges as sources of identity and connection.

The experience also deepened Jana's humility and curiosity. Two full days spent in bridge museums revealed technical details she could not have learned from a textbook or classroom model. She left inspired to learn more about engineering and mathematics—and eager to share that enthusiasm with her students.

Back at Saint George's, Jana is incorporating new resources and anecdotes into the fifth-grade Bridge Unit, including lessons connected to the DMZ, Hiroshima Peace Park, and even her Korean cooking class. Students will have access to richer research materials, international examples, and fresh perspectives for their bridge-building and weight-bearing projects.

For Jana, the trip's most meaningful bridge may have been language itself. After years of studying Korean, by the end of her time in South Korea she was able to hold conversations with people she met. "The language was my bridge into a vibrant culture, history, and community, and crossing that bridge was so very rewarding," she says.

Through the fellowship, Jana has returned with more than photographs and stories. She has brought back a renewed sense of wonder—and a passion ready to inspire the next generation of bridge builders.

Erika Mullins,
Head of Lower School

AN INTERVIEW WITH ERIKA MULLINS

For Erika Mullins, becoming Saint George's new Head of Lower School feels like the next step in her educational career. She began her Saint George's journey during the 2000–01 school year and has since served the school in a variety of roles. Her family's connection to SGS runs even deeper: Her children attended SGS through eighth grade, and when they were young, the family lived on campus.

"What I love most is the community," Erika says. "I'm excited to build the culture and community that makes SGS so special." That sense of belonging is central to her vision for the Lower School. She hopes every student feels "cared for and loved" when they arrive each morning—and, most importantly, knows they belong. "I want them to have a space where they can be themselves."

Over the years, Erika has learned as much from Saint George's students as they have learned from their teachers. She admires their willingness to try, even when success is not guaranteed. "It's okay if it's not perfect," she says. "If it doesn't work, how do you handle it?" Whether students are learning in the classroom, exploring outdoors, or participating in the arts, Erika values the opportunities they have to practice resilience. Her encouragement to students is simple: Don't be afraid to fail. "If I could give them a superpower, it would be the ability to not be afraid to fail," she says. "Get out there and do it, and don't worry about what people think about you."

For Erika, building confidence also means recognizing that every student has unique gifts and potential—some of which may not be visible through traditional measures of achievement. Younger students bring "innate curiosity" and an eagerness to try new things, while fifth graders are developing meaningful relationships and learning how to navigate the trials of growing up and gaining independence. As part of a K–12 school, Erika also treasures seeing former Lower School students eventually walk across the graduation stage.

Traditions will remain an important part of her leadership. Erika looks forward to the annual Dragon Dance, which brings K-12 students and families together to begin the school year, as well as Lower School Friday assemblies. These student-driven gatherings give children opportunities to share their talents and ideas while building confidence as communicators. She also hopes to be visible in classrooms and build relationships with all Lower School students. She will continue to host "Lunch Bunch" gatherings with different groups of students.

At the heart of her educational philosophy are curiosity, creativity, wonder, and joy. By responding to student individual interests, teachers can help children discover "their unique love of learning." By the end of the 2026–27 school year, Erika hopes the Lower School community will look back and say, "This was a great year!" one marked by growth, countless happy memories, and the many successes—big and small—that can make a school year so special.

The Senior class leads the Dragon Dance

ALL IN ON THE NEW YEAR!

ALL IN! A New School Year

On August 24th – 26th our SGS campus came alive as students and families gathered to begin a new school year. It was wonderful to welcome both familiar faces and new Dragons back to campus for the first day of school!

With our 2026–27 theme of "ALL IN!", we're looking forward to a year filled with connection, growth, enthusiasm, and shared experiences. Here's to an amazing year ahead!

SGS Brings the Spirit to Dragon Dance!

SGS K–12 students kicked off the school year with the Dragon Dance. This beloved Saint George's tradition brought our entire community—Lower, Middle, and Upper School—together for a spirited celebration filled with energy and community pride. Students Dragon-Danced their way from Davenport House to Graduation Lawn, where each class performed a unique cheer. With our ALL IN! theme leading the way, our Dragons proved they are ready to make 2026–27 an unforgettable year!

SEE THE FULL GALLERY
of photos of this year's Dragon Dance

Upper School Class Trips Take Students on New Adventures

During the first week of school, the Upper School took its learning on the road as each class embarked on a unique grade-level experience. Ninth graders explored the natural surroundings at Upper Priest Lake during "Freshman Outback," their annual backpacking trip, while 10th graders visited colleges throughout the region. The 11th grade spent time camping and participating in community service at Lake Spokane, and seniors traveled to Camp Reed for an overnight adventure that featured an exhilarating high ropes course!

A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE CLIMBING GYM

The SGS community is invited to explore our newly renovated climbing gym, Katie's Rock-climbing Adventure Gym (KRAG), named in honor of former SGS student Katie Thew.

The updated space features brand-new rock-climbing walls and mats, along with a beautiful mural and plaque celebrating Katie's life and legacy.

A huge thank-you goes to the SGS Booster Club for generously funding the new mats. We are also grateful to the SGS community volunteers who helped out last May during our Climbing Gym Community Workday, as well as our incredible Facilities crew—George, Jelena, Orin, and Sean—along with US faculty member Alexis Sampson and alumni Carson Field and Alex Watkins. Their hard work and dedication helped Melanie Mildrew, Outdoor Program Director, bring the vision for this renewed space to life.

MS Climbing Club students enjoying the newly renovated Climbing Gym

Tyson Bostrom, President of Saint George's School Alumni

CONNECT WITH SGS ALUMNI

Find SGS Alumni online by visiting **https://linktr.ee/sgsalumni**

DEAR FELLOW ALUMNI

On behalf of the Saint George's School Alumni Association, I hope this message finds you well. Since the spring, we have had the privilege of reconnecting with old friends while also planning opportunities to gather and enjoy a little friendly competition during the 2026–27 school year.

Over the summer, campus was busy with several alumni gatherings, including the Class of 2016's 10-year reunion and the revival of Alumni Soccer. Members of the Class of 2016 gathered on campus to catch up and share what they have been doing since graduation. We were also excited to bring back Alumni Soccer, giving generations of Dragon athletes the opportunity to compete against our 2026–27 soccer team in a preseason scrimmage.

Looking to the future, we will be returning to the hardwood and the greens. Our annual Alumni Basketball matchup is scheduled for **Sunday, December 27th** and alumni from all class years are invited to dust off their sneakers, test their jump shots, or simply cheer from the sidelines.

We are also pleased to tentatively announce the return of the Dragon Drives the Green Golf Classic in 2027. Dates and pricing are still being considered, but please email Tyson.Bostrom@SGS.org if you are interested in participating in the tournament. We plan to release additional information by December 2026.

As always, we appreciate your continued support of and participation in Saint George's School. Go Dragons!

–Tyson Bostrom '11, MHA, MPH
President, Saint George's School Alumni Board Trustee, Saint George's School

CLASS OF '76 50TH REUNION

The Class of 1976 celebrated their 50th graduation anniversary with a weekend of events that culminated in a brunch at the Davenport House on graduation Sunday and a campus tour. Alumni then followed the bagpipers onto Graduation Lawn to lead the faculty procession, helping kick off the Class of 2026 commencement ceremonies.

Thank you, Class of 1976, for joining us and helping celebrate this special day with our graduates.

DRAGONS REUNITE: SGS ALUMNI SOCCER & BBQ

On Thursday, July 30, current and former Dragons gathered with their families and friends for a fun-filled SGS Alumni Soccer Match and BBQ. Following warm-ups, the friendly exhibition match featured two energetic 30-minute halves and plenty of teamwork, laughter, and camaraderie on the field.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity for alumni to reconnect, current players to wrap up their summer training, and families to enjoy time together as part of the SGS community. After the match, players and guests gathered for a BBQ, sharing good food, great memories, and an enjoyable summer evening.

THE IMPACT OF VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

As we reflect on Saint George's 70th year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our donors and volunteers. Your generosity of time, talent, and resources helped our students explore new opportunities, serve their community, and develop as leaders.

Thanks to your support, students conducted and presented original research, competed on a national robotics stage, participated in meaningful service-learning projects, benefited from campus improvements and technology upgrades, and achieved excellence in academics, arts, and athletics.

Last year, our community raised more than $1.16 million through 781 gifts from 378 donors, while volunteers strengthened every aspect of school life through events, programs, mentorship, and community-building efforts.

Your impact is visible every day in the experiences we provide and the opportunities our students embrace. On behalf of our students, faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees, thank you for helping fulfill our mission of inspiring scholars, athletes, and artists to explore, serve, and lead.

With gratitude,
Jamie Tender, Head of School

FUND	AMOUNT *(CASH IN HAND)*
ENDOWMENT GIFTS	$481,675.47
SGS ANNUAL FUND	$263,682.23*
OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS	$210,744.88
GALA AND AUCTION	$194,904.08*
ROBOTICS PROGRAM	$9,925.00
TOTAL:	**$1,160,931.66**

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SCAN
Scan to read the full 2025-2026 Donor and Volunteer Impact Report

Alumni Spotlight

FROM SGS TO DAVIDSON:

John Nowland's Journey to College Basketball

SGS alum John Nowland '23 never expected to play college basketball. When he arrived at Davidson College intending to pursue medicine, he thought his basketball days were over—but his dedication and perseverance opened a new door.

After starting as a practice player for Davidson's women's and men's teams, John earned a spot as a walk-on with the men's basketball team. His journey—from high school's C team to varsity captain and first-team all-state honors, and ultimately to Davidson—reflects his commitment to hard work, teamwork, and growth.`

While pursuing his dream of becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon, John continues to make an impact on the court by embracing his role, supporting his teammates, and doing whatever the team needs. His story is a powerful reminder that persistence can turn unexpected opportunities into meaningful achievements. Great work, John!

WATCH JOHN
share his inspiring journey from Saint George's to Davidson basketball on Instagram

"From practice squad to walk-on: John Nowland '27 joins Men's Basketball"
READ FULL ARTICLE →

FUN FACT: John recently completed a minicamp with former Davidson player and NBA All-Star, Steph Curry, in New York and shortly afterward travelled to Germany with the Davidson team.

REMEMBERING TOM PHILLIPS

Tom Phillips '71 was, in one of his favorite turns of phrase, a rare combination of prodigy, scholar, and gentleman. A four-year letterman for Saint George's School (1966–71) and a fixture on the high school golf team, he left Spokane with achievements that would follow him through decades of competition, study and quiet generosity.

Tom's relationship with golf began in adolescence and became almost a vocation. At Saint George's he helped put the program on the map: match medalist dozens of times (conservative counts record 23), a member of the 1968 team that became the first Dragon team to qualify to play in a State Tournament (Tom also qualified as an individual to the 1971 State Tournament) and winner of the Inland Empire High School Championship in 1970 against more than 130 players. Teammates—many later inducted into the SGS Athletic Hall of Fame—remember a competitor who knew "every blade of grass" at Indian Canyon and thrived on head-to-head contests.

That competitive rigor was matched by analytical curiosity. At Stanford (1971–75) and later at UCLA, where he earned a master's degree in social psychology, Tom treated golf like a laboratory. He studied swing mechanics, course strategy, and the quirks of human decision-making with equal intensity. Friends say he became, in effect, a PhD in the game—methodical, precise, and always seeking a better line of play. Those qualities produced a remarkable record: more than 20 club championships, the Inland Empire Amateur title in 1973, and qualification for the U.S. Senior Open in 2012. He was also a seven-time member of the Senior Amateur Hudson Cup Team, reflecting both ability and peer esteem.

Yet Tom's legacy is defined less by trophies than by character. A story often told about him: in 2007, likely costing himself a U.S. Senior Open qualifying berth, he called a penalty on himself that no one else had seen. That private act of integrity captures a man who delighted in the perfect word, the well-crafted sentence, and the quiet moral choice. Troy Andrew, CEO of the Pacific Northwest Golf Association, highlighted not only Tom's championship record but his generosity—a steady support for causes including a meaningful commitment to Saint George's legacy and vision.

Tom's curiosity extended beyond the fairway. Classmates remember long conversations on obscure topics—one recalled Tom explaining electronic mail years before it became common—and his quick wit on the high school bowl team. He could spin a tale, make a room laugh, and teach with patience; in his final week he taught his hospice nurse to play cribbage.

When Saint George's inducted Tom into its Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017, it honored his accomplishments. The remembrances that follow him—by teammates, coaches and the community—reveal something broader: a life of curiosity, rigorous honesty, and generous humility. Tom Phillips will be remembered not only as one of the region's finest golfers, but as a man whose intellect, wit and integrity enriched every circle he entered.

Tom holding his trophy after winning the 2008 PNGA Senior Men's Amateur

EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE

We are deeply grateful to Tom Phillips for his generous support of Saint George's School. Prior to his passing, Tom arranged for a gift of **$100,000** to the Saint George's Endowment, helping to strengthen the school's financial foundation. He also donated an additional **$5,000** to the Saint George's Annual Fund. These gifts will provide meaningful support for our rising Dragons for years to come.

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GIVE TODAY

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE "ALL IN!"

Being "All In!" at Saint George's means investing in the people and experiences that make our school community extraordinary. Your gift to the Saint George's Fund gives you a direct role in shaping every student's experience, providing flexible support where it matters most—from academics and athletics to the arts and outdoor programs.