

SAVIO NOW

December 2022



**GRANDPARENTS DAY:
Celebrating Catholic Education
with Savio Grandparents**

page 8

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Savio Family and Friends,



This is the second edition of our new magazine format and I want to start my comments with a “thank you” to Susan Laielli, Director of Communications, for her effort and expertise in creating two quarterly magazines, for two schools, within two months. We believe it is important to get this information to you now, and to get us to a more typical cycle of seasonal, quarterly pacing starting in March 2023.

The “Did You Know” section highlights this year’s honoree for the “Celebrating Catholic Schools – Saints and Scholars” event in January. Joanie Butler is representative of all those who give of time, talent, and treasure to support our school. Congratulations!

As we prepare for the birth of our Savior this Advent, and hopefully make time for family and friends, we truly are blessed with so much and we also are given what we need to face the challenges of life. On the other side of rough times are the opportunities awaiting us. We prepare a place for God in our hearts, and in our lives, and do our best to serve others in need. As a school, we strive to do the same. We are already planning for next school year at the same time we reboot and refresh for a strong second half of the 2022-2023 school year.

For those of you who have given of your time, talent, and treasure, we thank you so very much. Your support through our events and annual fund, allows us to provide over \$500,000 in tuition assistance to needy families longing for a Catholic school education at St. Dominic Savio. This has an impact overall, and specifically, for that young adult who walks through our doors each day.

If you read something in this quarterly magazine that catches your attention, touches your heart, or inspires you to action, just reach out. We welcome and encourage you to tell us your story, as we share ours with you.

May God be with you and yours during the Christmas Holidays. May 2023 be a year filled with hope, joy, and renewed dreams. May you know we pray for you and humbly ask that you include us in your thoughts and prayers too.

Take care and God bless!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Cullen'.

TIM CULLEN | PRESIDENT



DID YOU KNOW?

The Diocese of Austin celebrates our Catholic schools during the annual “Saints and Scholars” gala. At this event, they recognize the “unsung heroes” of our schools – those who support the schools in various ways through their time, talent, and treasure. This event also raises funds for much-needed tuition assistance throughout the Diocese. Our honoree this year is Joanie Butler. We thank her as a parent of Savio alumni, for her ongoing support for our fundraising events over several years, and for her invaluable consulting with our staff to help “tell the story” and “cast the net” for Savio.

SAVE
THE
DATE

SATURDAY
JANUARY
14
2023

SAINTS & SCHOLARS

Celebrating Catholic Schools
Dinner and Awards Ceremony



Congratulations!

JOANIE BUTLER

ST. DOMINIC SAVIO
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT SUPPORT TUITION ASSISTANCE

Visit CSDATX.org to purchase tickets, become a sponsor or donate online.

FRIENDSGIVING

Savio students break bread in annual tradition

Many years ago, Friendsgiving was created at Savio to bring each of the Houses together to break bread just before Thanksgiving. This year, hundreds of students and many faculty prepared food for their House families to share as witnessed by these eye-popping displays. 



Left: Students have a multitude of delicious choices for their dessert!

Above: This event couldn't happen without our dedicated volunteers and House Council students!

Below: The spread was truly amazing!





Open House

St. Dominic Savio welcomed more than 60 families to an open house for the 2023-24 academic year on November 9. Families were treated to a warm welcome by Savio's Orchestra, Band, and Choir. Guests also experienced student led tours and informational sessions including Fine Arts, Engineering and Computer Science, Servant Leadership, and Athletics.

Clockwise from top: Bosco the Eagle directs the band; President Tim Cullen welcomes prospective families; Iron Eagle Robotics demonstrate their skills; members of the Cheer Team with a future Eagle; Eagle Swimmers share about their sport.



Trunk or Treat

When it comes to the annual Trunk or Treat celebration at St. Dominic Savio, one might assume it takes a village to make it happen, however, it takes nearly every group or club at the school to pull it off.

Hundreds of families begin their Halloween festivities at Holy Family Catholic School before walking over to St. Dominic Savio grounds for part two – Savio’s Trunk or Treat!

Organizers include Ms. Jenna Sommer and Ms. Maria Busker, co-chairs of the Student Activities Board, the Student Activities Board members, teachers who sponsor clubs, all the athletic teams and coaches, dance, cheer, and of course our amazing students.

The students from Holy Family were eager to

get over to Savio grounds, where games, prizes, and stick-on tattoos awaited them. The Savio students create the games and organize each booth, so the younger students have a night of fun. They did an outstanding job and made a lot of children smile.





No Shave November sets record

Thanks to the amazing participation from the Savio student body, students from Christian Outreach successfully raised \$900 for the American Cancer Society during No Shave November this year.

There were three different ways for Savio students to participate: through buying votes for teachers to have to shave, by buying a No Shave November t-shirt, or male students could sign up for the privilege of not shaving for the entire month of November. On December 1, we had an all-school assembly where the twenty-five students who had not shaved competed with their peers for different beard awards. The student winner of Overall Best Beard was senior Raul Ramirez. He gets to keep his facial hair for the rest of the semester!

It is also at this assembly that we revealed which faculty or staff member received the most votes and had to shave off their beard. For the second year in a row, and “winning” by only one vote, was Mr. Moya! This was to the great appreciation of Mr. Murphy and Coach K, who were in second and third place.

Christian Outreach would like to thank the other faculty and staff who participated in the beard shaving voting competition: Mr. Pendergrass, Mr. Stanford, Mr. Molinar, Mr. Gamboa, Mr. Azeez, and Mr. Baker.

Senior Alfonzie Stepney shared, “This year’s No Shave November was a different experience from last year, but I enjoyed seeing us have great success raising money and getting the whole school to participate in the beard-growing competition. Julian and I having to step into the forefront of leading every single step of the planning process was a great experience for us. I loved seeing so much enthusiasm during the assembly, and I’m incredibly happy that Savio set a new school record for fundraising.”

BEST “GOERTZ” GOATEE

Julian Lopez

BEST OVERALL BEARD

Raul Ramirez

MOST CREATIVE BEARD

Brian Laster

BEST “STACHE

Justin Below

PATCHIEST BEARD

Jack Caramanica

BEST CHOPS

Patrick Chauvin

INVISIBEARD

Colin Spanhak

BEST FRESHMAN BEARD

Garrett Smith

FACULTY “WINNER”

Mr. Moya (not pictured)

Grandparents Day

Sharing the Catholic faith across generations

IN A SHOW OF BEAUTIFUL SUPPORT

for Catholic education and for their younger generation, more than 80 grandparents of St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School students spent time on campus on November 16 for the annual Grandparents Day celebration.

Students met their families in the Commons for light snacks and coffee before being welcomed to the occasion by Savio President Tim Cullen and Director of Advancement, Gina Kerley.

Families have been honoring this tradition since the school's early years, interrupted only by a pandemic. This year, grandparents were eager to continue the custom of joining their grandchildren on campus, seeing their classrooms, and spending precious time together.

Following the opening prayer, grandparents were encouraged to design thoughtful cards of support for St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Fort Myers, which suffered severe damages

from Hurricane Ian. These cards will offer encouragement to the students, faculty, and staff of St. Francis following the Category 4 storm which devastated Fort Myers Beach and was the deadliest storm in Florida since 1935.

On the lighter side, families were treated to a small sample of the fall play, Mr. Barry's Etchings, which had everyone laughing at the shenanigans of a counterfeiter.

To conclude the day, grandparents attended the weekly all school Mass with their grandchild(ren) held at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

For one family this year is bittersweet as their last grandchild will be graduating. Fred and Marietta (Rita) Patek woke up at 3 a.m. and drove in from Katy to be here on time for the day. The couple has three daughters and seven grandchildren, so in all they have attended 19 years of Grandparent's Day celebrations.

"It's important that the kids know each one of





them are very special to us,” said Fred Patek, from his home. “We try to support all the kids in their activities.”

On January 31, 2021, Pope Francis announced a new celebration in honor of grandparents and the elderly, who are so important to our communities and our Church. This new World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated each year on the fourth Sunday in July.

“The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you, and does not want to leave you alone!” said Pope Francis. He also granted a plenary indulgence to grandparents, the elderly, and all those who participate in a solemn celebration of this day as well as to those who spend time (actually or virtually) with an elderly brother or sister in need on this day.

It’s been reported that about one in six grandparents provide childcare when the parents are at work or school. The purpose of Grandparents Day is well stated in the federal statute “to honor grandparents, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children’s children and to help children become aware of the strength, information, and guidance older people can offer.” President Jimmy Carter signed a federal proclamation in

1978 designating Grandparents Day as an official holiday which is often celebrated in September each year.

One grandparent who attended the Grandparents Day at St. Dominic Savio this year said, “We try not to miss this special day at Savio because it’s one-on-one time that is set aside just for us to be together.”

Opposite page: Caleb Kyburz shares time with his grandmother. Above: President Tim Cullen chats with families. Below: Camille Fleury spends time with her grandfather.



Eagle Golf Classic

A record number of 132 golfers arrived on Veterans Day, November 11, at Crystal Falls Golf Club for the 7th Annual Eagle's Golf Classic Tournament to benefit the St. Dominic Savio Booster Club which supports the athletic program.

Tim Cullen, President of the St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School, welcomed the teams with an opening prayer followed by remarks from Booster Club President Danna Kelemen and Athletic Director Louise Swain.

A group of Savio students served as athlete ambassadors for the day, welcoming golfers, driving golf carts, and running errands.

"The Booster Club is thrilled with the success of this year's golf tournament. We had an unprecedented number of players and raised a record-breaking amount of money for Savio Athletics," said Danna Kelemen. "We are truly grateful for the support of the Savio community."

Two teams, one group of men and the other of women, split up to play in the tournament. All ran into each other at the 11th hole, which was a hole designated to support veterans, The Hero Golf Tour, in honor of Veterans Day.

In lieu of an auction, the Booster Club decided to hold a Golf Ball Drop this year. The Austin Fire Department Ladder #8 arrived at St. Dominic Savio with a ladder truck to drop the 800 golf balls from the truck in front of the entire school. There was one winner, golf ball #209, whose purchaser was Patricia Ring. She won a \$2500 gift card.

"The Savio Eagle Classic was a fantastic success, despite being cut slightly short due to heavy storms," said Coach Swain. "We cannot thank you all enough for your support of our program!"

SPECIAL THANKS

- Crystal Falls Golf Course Staff
- Savio Administration
- Savio Advancement Office
- Savio Athletic Department
- Savio Booster Golf Tournament Committee
- Savio Business Office
- Savio Communications Department

WINNING GOLFERS

- 1st place: Bryan Edwards, Tyler Martinez, Bryce Helcamp and Jason McMinn
- 2nd place: Rhett Riviere, Calvin Schiraldi, Bo Stewart, and Frank Muir
- 3rd place: Craig Hallenberger, Jason Lee, Steve Parks and Tad Hatton
- Longest Drive: Toni Hakula
- Closest to the Pin: Tyler Martinez

SPONSORS

- Dr. Moya Griffin, Texas Breast Specialists & Texas Oncology
- Dr. Jeremy and Sarah Leland, Austin Oral Surgery
- Dr. Brett Hamilton
- Dr. Maria Quintanilla
- Dr. Ray Sexton
- Round Rock Eyes
- Whimzical Creations
- Rhett Riviere, Covert Chevrolet
- Daniel Valadez, Austin Defense Logistics
- Garrett Reddehase, RS3 Turf
- Nathan Hille, BSN
- Hunter Stewart, Twisted X Brewing Company
- Dr. Steven Stancey, Buttercup Dental
- Matt McKay, Merrill Lynch
- The Cook Family
- The Football Team Managers





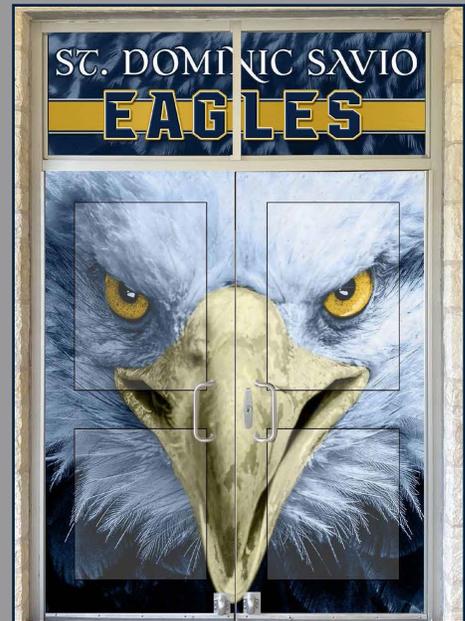
Branding The Nest

Athletic Director Louise Swain insists there is no time like the present to begin “Branding the Nest” at St. Dominic Savio which will begin during the Christmas break.

“We are so excited to have our dream become a reality with the help of our design team, who will help us create a new look for Savio Athletics!” said Swain.

The new look will be ready for students in the next few weeks. 🔥

Clockwise from top right: Doors in gym, locker endcap, athletics entrance, storage closet in gym



Oh, What Fun!

Christmas concert features talent, holiday cheer

Families arrived early to get the best seat in the house for the annual Christmas Concert at St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School on December 7!

Mr. Ronnie Stanford, Savio's Director of Music, was joined by Ms. Jaclyn Johnson, Choir Director, Ms. Michelle Pish, Accompanist, and students from the Applied Music Ensemble, Guitar, Jazz Band, Chamber Choir, Wind Ensemble, and Orchestra making for an unforgettable sound emanating from the school gym.

The Applied Music Ensemble kicked off the night with Christmas Mash-up and First Winter's Sleigh Ride, followed by Guitar, who strummed Jingle Bells, Greensleeves, and Angels, We Have Heard on High.



The Jazz Band took the stage to perform Winter Wonderland, followed by the Chamber Choir, who sang Sparklejollytwinklejingley, Gloria, Carol of the Bells, and Sing We All Noel, with a solo featuring Alfonzie Stepney. His

voice illuminated the room!

Wind Ensemble gently delivered Jingle Bells Forever, with a solo by Makayla Leal, followed by A Winter's Carol and Scenes from The Nutcracker featuring soloist Mary Teal.

Mr. Stanford told the audience that several of the Savio musicians had applied to perform with the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-State Band and told the audience we should receive the news very soon. He did announce that he



Above: The orchestra delights with several Christmas songs.

Left: The choir sings Christmas carols.

Top right: Guitar strummed several songs during the concert. Right: Santa conducts a sing-a-long with the audience.



only found out a short time ago that cellist Taylor Cordill had made the band, which caught her by surprise.

The Savio Orchestra, including Soloists Taylor Cordill and Helene Chaumont, performed O Holy Night, A Charlie Brown Christmas, and Christmas Eve Sarajevo 12/24.

For the Choir and Orchestra combined performance, Santa and Bosco the Eagle joined in the fun for an all-family Christmas Sing-a-Long and Sleigh Ride, and were joined by a few alumni who brought their instruments back to school for the night.



Eagle Appeal

2022-2023

When determining your year-end charitable giving, we pray you include Savio in one of your choices. Our students are the **DIRECT** recipients of your generosity.

Thank you for your caring and faithful support!



SCAN ME

YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS: FORMING SERVANT LEADERS!

- ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
- SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT
- STATE-OF-THE-ART LEARNING
- TUITION ASSISTANCE



UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN. 4
Classes Resume

JAN. 4
Alumni Mass &
Luncheon

JAN. 4
Experience Savio
Breakfast

JAN. 10
Savio Community
Session - Coffee &
Learn

JAN. 12
Junior Breakfast

JAN. 12
Winter Sports Pep
Rally

JAN. 18-21
March for Life in
Washington, D.C.

JAN. 26
Blood Drive on
Campus

JAN. 30 - FEB. 3
Catholic Schools
Week

FEB. 2
Imago Christi Day
Students, faculty,
and staff will travel
to 12 sites to perform
more than 1400
hours of service and
participate in prayer
and fellowship.

FEB. 9
Freshman
Breakfast

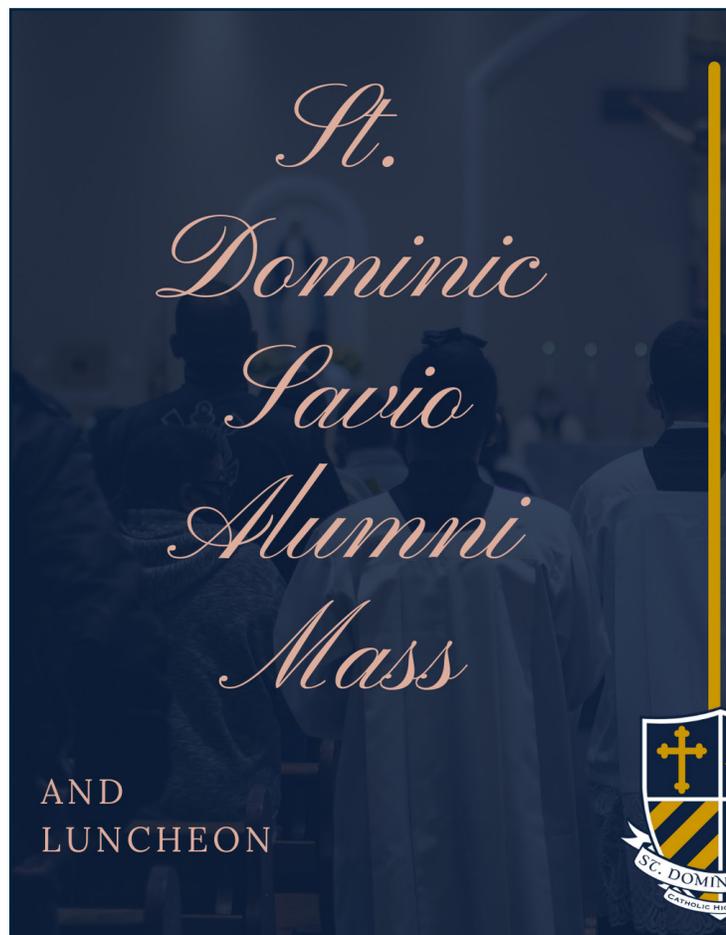
FEB. 17
No School
(teacher in-service)

FEB. 20
No School

FEB. 22
Ash Wednesday

FEB. 27
Savio Community
Session - Coffee &
Learn

MARCH 13-17
Spring Break



*St.
Dominic
Savio
Alumni
Mass*

AND
LUNCHEON



January 4, 2023

St. Vincent de Paul
Catholic Church
9500 Neenah Drive
Austin, TX 78717

10:00 a.m. Mass
11:15 Lunch on-site

Alumni of St. Dominic Savio are invited to join in the celebration of the Mass followed by a luncheon.

Lighting the Way

S O I R É E



APRIL 15, 2023

Save the Date!

Something new is coming your way!



ST. DOMINIC SAVIO
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

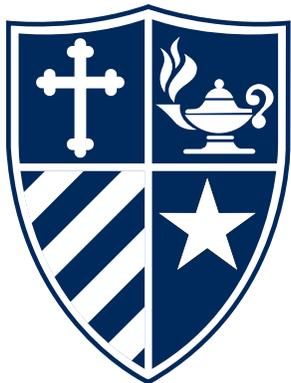
**COMING
SOON!**

**HALL OF FAME
& HERITAGE AWARDS**

2023-2024



ST. DOMINIC SAVIO
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
9300 Neenah Avenue | Austin, TX 78717



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTIN, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 1149

FOLLOW US ONLINE!

www.saviochs.org



Forming Servant Leaders in the Image of Christ



CONGRATULATIONS TO SAVIO'S NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS!

First row, left to right: Austin Nguyen, Ella Gonzalez, Anne Zimmermann, Amaryllis Guevara, Caitlin Poblete, Maeva Charvet, Dianna Cruz-Arzate, Natalie Merkin. Second row: Matthew Escamilla, Theda Wilkens, William Wells, Luke Mikosh, Evan Kuo, Juan Basauldo, Samuel Carrillo Barajas, Alfonzie Stepney. Third row: John Henry, Daniel Madison, Jared Lillie, Robert Teal.
Not pictured: Makaylah Haygood, Julian Lopez.