

SAVIO NOW

March 2023

SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN ACTION:
Savio community participates
in annual Imago Christi Day

page 8

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Savio Family and Friends,



God bless you and your families during this Lenten season, and please know we keep you in our prayers along the way.

Our magazine format is now on a quarterly schedule as we pushed out the first two issues before and during the holiday season. Our goal is to provide timely summaries of what has occurred between issues, current information that ensures you have updates on our school and its programs, and a few items to consider for upcoming events. There are so many activities that are part of our daily program that it is difficult to highlight them all each quarter. Please check out our website and social media posts as they are more reflective of daily and weekly events.

For this March issue, we highlight Imago Christi Day, which is our annual, all-school service event in the local and regional community. We believe that serving others in the image of Christ is an everyday opportunity.

All faculty, staff, and students work together on this “faith in action” day. Teams of students and adult chaperones travel to over twelve sites to offer support for the work and mission needed at each location. We help the young, the elderly, those starting anew, persons alone, those seeking connections, and individuals providing services for the needs of God’s children and adults facing the challenges of life.

The pictures we share in this issue capture a few of these moments. The realizations that our students experience through this day of service impact them and may light a fire within that goes well beyond their time in our school.

Your continued support of our school through the Eagle Fund, your prayers, and your hands-on donations of time and resources help make all this possible. Thank you for modeling servant leadership in all you do. I encourage you to share with us your pictures of how you give to your community through your church, civic organizations, or on your own. We have a lifetime of opportunity to help others and your examples may inspire others to do the same. Please send your information to Susan Laielli at slaielli@saviochs.org so we may share your stories with others.

We are called to be our best and we are compelled to make a difference. I have heard this phrase and believe it summarizes everything being said here, “The world gives you comfort, but you were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness!”

Take care and God bless!

TIM CULLEN | PRESIDENT



DID YOU KNOW?

Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler



Students celebrate Mardi Gras with a campus parade

Did you know that House Families from St. Dominic Savio came up with a genius idea to celebrate Fat Tuesday Texas style - a homemade Mardi Gras Parade?

Aquila, Bos, Leo, and Angelus formed the concept for a Mardi Gras parade using family-built floats sitting on wagons. The creativity of each family was impressive using the months of the year with plenty of props and giveaways.

Each family and the float ended in the gym for one last opportunity to gain House points – a balloon grab n' smash.

The winner of the inaugural Mardi Gras parade float contest and balloon smash was Aquila. Great job to all the House families!



ASHES TO ASHES

Students begin Lent with Mass on Ash Wednesday

The Lenten season is officially underway with Mass celebrated on Ash Wednesday, February 21, for St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School and Holy Family Catholic School students, parents, faculty, and staff at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, leaving standing-room-only.

The celebrant, Father Kyle Nesrsta from St. William Catholic Church, was assisted by Deacon Mark Fair from St. Vincent de Paul. Following the homily, the ashes were blessed in front of the congregation before they were distributed by clergy, students, and teachers.

In a January letter to the Faithful meant to inspire our Lenten journey, Pope Francis offers Catholics words of wisdom to sustain all during the 40-day walk with Christ.


“The Lenten journey of penance and the journey of the



Synod alike have as their goal a transfiguration, both personal and ecclesial. A transformation that, in both cases, has its model in the Transfiguration of Jesus and is achieved by the grace of his paschal mystery. So that this transfiguration may become a reality in us this year, I would like to propose two “paths” to follow in order to ascend the mountain together with Jesus

and, with him, to attain the goal,” wrote the Holy Father.

He continued, “We need to listen to Jesus. Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us. And how does he speak to us? First, in the word of God, which the Church offers us in the liturgy. May that word not fall on deaf ears; if we cannot always attend Mass, let us study its daily biblical readings, even with the help of the internet. In addition to the Scriptures, the Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need.”

His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer, and penance. 



Savio art students receive 37 awards

This year, St. Dominic Savio Art students were honored with 37 Regional Scholastic Art Awards. The Scholastic Art Competition is the oldest and most prestigious high school art competition in the nation. Our artists were awarded 11 Gold Keys, 13 Silver Keys and 13 Honorable Mentions. The Gold Key winners will have their work adjudicated in the National Competition in March. Congratulations to all of our talented artists!





'CAN' THEY DO IT?

Students learn about engineering, hunger relief

HAVE YOU SEEN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS MADE OUT OF CANNED FOOD?

CANstruction, as a part of Engineering Week, is a yearly event at St. Dominic Savio combining the knowledge and skills taught in the engineering courses with the servant leader model to serve others.

CANstruction is a nationwide, international hunger relief charity that raises millions of pounds of food each year for local food banks. Its youth events allow students aged 10-18 to use art, design, math, and problem-solving skills to create fantastic, innovative CanArt® structures using unopened cans of food.

Students learn and flex considerable skills including art/ design, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, brainstorming, creativity, construction, and community service. All food from CANstruction projects will be donated to St. Louis Catholic Church Food Pantry.

Due to the missed days from the winter ice storm, all other Engineering Week activities were canceled.



Two Savio robotics teams qualify for State finals

The First Tech Challenge (FTC) Central Texas Regional Competition was held in San Antonio on February 25 and 26 and was a huge success for both Iron Eagles teams who are now headed to the state competition in March.

The FTC State Championship will be held at the Bell County Expo Center on March 25th and 26th.

At regionals in February, Iron Eagles Optimus (3708) received an unprecedented third THINK Award and was a member of the Winning Alliance. Iron Eagles Prime (6272) received the CONTROL Award and was captain of the fourth seed alliance.


This year, the teams also competed in the Austin Xtreme League hosted by KIPP Collegiate. The League Championship was held on January 28th. At that event the teams were awarded several trophies: Optimus (3708) received the THINK Award and Winning Alliance Member, and Prime (6272) received the INNOVATE Award and Winning Alliance Member.

From the League Championship, Prime (6272) advanced directly to the Regional Championship and will now go on to the state competition. Optimus (3708) earned a spot in the Semi-

Regional event and was able to rank high enough to advance to the Regional Championship. The team also brought home a couple of more trophies: A second THINK Award, a second Winning Alliance Member Award, and Third Place Inspire Award - given to the best all-around team.

St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School had a need to create two robotics teams because of the number of students interested in participating. The first Iron Eagles team is Optimus (FTC 3708). The second team carries the name Prime (FTC 6272). Both teams have had an amazing season.

Each year FIRST Tech Challenge announces the new “game” on the first Saturday after Labor Day. Since then, the teams have been busy designing, prototyping, and building their robots.

None of this would be possible without the assistance of our amazing industry mentors. Michael Butler, Iron Eagles Founder, retired from National Instruments where he worked as a Chief Mechanical Engineer. Michael Gregorio, the original team mentor, is a Solutions Manager, at Global IT with Flex Manufacturing. Scott Barnes, a programming mentor, is a Software Developer 4 at Oracle. 


The coaches and mentors (back row) of the Iron Eagles Prime and Optimus teams celebrate their victories. Both teams qualified and are preparing for State finals.



In the Image of Christ

Learning lifelong habits in service to others

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO TRULY SERVE OTHERS?

St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School students took part in Imago Christi Day on March 7 – a day of service in the image of Christ. The day is planned by Christian Outreach. Students painted fences, fed animals, cleared brush from trails, exercised with seniors, and cleaned houses for mothers and their children. One popular service location was at the Dominican Sisters Priory, where students cleaned the chapel, dusted hallways, cleaned windows, organized the shed, and polished items used when celebrating the Mass. 





Opposite page clockwise from left: Gardening at Brookdale Senior Living; Playing games with Brookdale residents; At the end of the day all gathered in front of the Texas Baptist Children's Home; Gardening at Texas Baptist Children's Home. This page, clockwise from left: Cleaning the chapel at the Dominican Sisters Priory; Clearing a trail; Students at the St. Ignatius Martyr Food Pantry; feeding animals at Horselink; painting a fence at Horselink.

Students march for life in Washington, D.C.

While taking more than four dozen students and nearly 20 adult chaperones to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. from January 17-22, St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School represented the Diocese of Austin beautifully on a pilgrimage of a lifetime.

Students embarked on a unique journey this year on the way to the March for Life, with an initial stop at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the home of the Our Lady of the Angels Monastery (OLAM) in Hanceville, Alabama. The group spent a few hours visiting the Shrine, attending Mass at the crypt Church, walking the grounds, and learning more about the Poor Clare Sisters who live in the Monastery.


"The students were surprised at just how much they were struck by the Shrine," said Sr. Peter Grace, English Instructor with St. Dominic Savio. "The peace and prayerfulness of the Shrine seemed to penetrate the student's hearts because many said we should do another pilgrimage just to the Shrine."

The group arrived for the March for Life Vigil Mass on January 19, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. where 9,000 seats were filled with students from across the United States. Mass Celebrant Bishop Michael Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, told the families, college students, and young people gathered from across the country that "a new, important phase of work in the pro-life movement begins now." He urged those gathered in prayer and to march to communicate the love of God in their public witness for the unborn.

"I came to realize how important the people you surround yourself with are in your own faith formation," said senior Thomas Belomestnov, "An unmistakable compassion and warmth radiated from the hearts of every person we met, and I cherish the experience of having been able to suffer gladly with others and pray for the plight of those suffering."

March for Life co-organizer Mrs. Evie Cascarano says she sees the larger picture over the life of the student. "What I have seen in our Savio students over the years during this special pilgrimage is how much this has affected them and touched their hearts and souls," said Cascarano.

The group also toured the Capitol, strolled by the White House, and stopped at the Smithsonian Museum.

"God works on our hearts with each pilgrimage bringing a life-changing experience, community, and friendship – every time!" said Sr. Peter Grace. 

"The biggest thing I learned on our trip to the March for Life was that both around the country and even just in my own school, I'm not alone in my beliefs, even if it feels like it at times. It really was a God moment seeing all my schoolmates coming together to fight for something we believe in and realize how powerful our voices and prayers really are. I tend to have a more cynical view on important topics like this, but the entire trip really opened my eyes to love."

Lauren Mackowski

"When you're on the March, hearing the joy of the songs, prayers, cheers, and being in a huge community of people who share your similar values, you see that it's truly about human dignity, and love. Love gives life, and when you let God lead your life He will provide exactly what you need."

Mikey Bacon



Savio students and chaperones visit the Our Lady of the Angels Monastery on the way to the March for Life.



EAGLE UPDATES

Our girls' and boys' soccer teams fared well in district play this season against some great competition, as did the boys' basketball team. Our girls' basketball team finished second in the district and advanced to area playoffs. The girls played well and represented Savio well, just finishing short at the end of the game! Our swim team headed to the state swim competition in San Antonio where the girls' team placed second in the State!! The girls' medley relay (Izzie, Liz, Natalie, Ella) brought home first place! The Girls 200 Fr Relay (Natalie, Ananda, Izzie, Ella) earned second place. Individual awards were won by Ella (3rd 200 Fr), Izzie (1st 500 free), and Natalie (2nd 200 IM).



ST. DOMINIC SAVIO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



THE SAVIO DIFFERENCE

Hannah Blood pursues Engineering at TAMU



"The rigorous classes combined with constant guidance from my teachers prepared me for a smooth transition into Texas A&M."
Hannah Blood, Savio '21

When saying Hannah Blood, a 2021 St. Dominic Savio graduate, is intelligent, we don't use the phrase lightly.

Hannah, who now attends Texas A&M, is majoring in Industrial Systems Engineering and Human Factors and Ergonomics, with an eye toward graduating in 2025. Her goal is to make certain products easier for people to use in the future.

During Hannah's four years attending Savio she was involved in orchestra and other activities, but what really caught her attention was the Principals of Engineering class she took to see if she would like it. This, followed by a robotics class and the discovery of the 3-D printer, made for literally a mind-opening journey that would lead her to major in various aspects of engineering in college.

In the engineering class, students worked on small robots, they learned how to hook up motors and conduct programming online. As her only engineering class at Savio, she says it prepared her very well for her future.

"The rigorous classes combined with constant guidance from my teachers prepared me for a smooth transition into Texas A&M," said Hannah. "I learned that when I made a point to ask for help or have one-on-ones with my teachers, I was able to understand the material better. This is still true for my college courses and has helped me throughout my collegiate career."

Hannah returned to Savio to attend the annual St. Dominic Savio Alumni Mass and Luncheon which was held on January 4, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish.



If you want your alumnus story shared in a future edition of Savio Now, contact Susan Laielli at slaielli@saviochs.org, or 512-244-4811.



WHY WE GIVE

**Patrick & Michelle
Kologinczak,
Savio Parents**

Nearly 22 years ago, we toured Holy Family Catholic School when exploring elementary school options for our oldest son, Cameron. Holy Family set itself apart from the rest. In what seems like yesterday, Cameron entered Kindergarten at Holy Family and Andrew followed 6 years later. Cameron graduated from St. Dominic Savio High School in 2017 and we look forward to Andrew's graduation in 2023. While each child was different, both were able to pursue their unique interests in a supportive community of faculty, staff, parents, and volunteers.

I attended Catholic schools in Houston, as did my parents. Michelle was raised in a public school environment in Pearland, TX. We were fortunate to move to Austin in 2000 and find Catholic schools in our area. Although we had differing faith and scholastic experiences, we agreed that Catholic education was the best choice for our boys.

Faith formation opportunities have been provided through Masses, retreats, trained faculty, and theology courses. We have found students to be caring and respectful. Faculty and staff stepped in during the pandemic and continued with exceptional performance in a difficult time while challenging students to remain on level and beyond. Having experienced a community strong in faith, friendship, and academics, our now young men stand on solid footings that will serve

them well throughout their lives.

St. Dominic Savio opened doors for Cameron and Andrew to learn about and explore different career interests as well as a participant in various school programs – Honor Societies, Engineering Club, Bowling Team, Iron Eagles Robotics Team, House Council, and Chess Club.

Cameron has chosen to pursue his interest in the Catholic faith and is attending St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, TX working towards a Master's in Theology. Andrew enjoys engineering and plans to attend Texas A&M in the fall.

The ability of St. Dominic Savio to produce future generations of servant leaders is not possible without your support. The cost to educate each student exceeds the tuition paid. St. Dominic Savio should be an option available to those who desire an opportunity to experience a quality education in a holistic environment. Catholic education is an investment, and many families need support through tuition assistance. We are fortunate to be able to donate annually to The Eagle Fund and our employer in the insurance industry has a matching program that adds to our donation. Why do we give? To support tuition assistance and student programs so that other families may experience the gift of Catholic education and grow the Savio school community for years to come.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 25

Taste of Savio
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

MARCH 27

**Athletic Tryout
Information Session**
6:00-7:00 p.m.

MAR 30-APR 1

**Addams Family The
Musical** 7:00 p.m., \$10

APRIL 6

Blood Drive

APRIL 6

Holy Thursday
Half day of classes

APRIL 7-11

No School

APRIL 14

Adoration in Gym
9:45-10:30 a.m.

APRIL 15

**Lighting the Way
Soiree** 6:00 p.m.

APRIL 17

Cuts for Cancer
2:45 p.m. in the gym

APRIL 18

**Savio Community
Session**
8:30-10:00 a.m.

APRIL 21

**Parent Information
Session**
8:30-10:00 a.m.

APRIL 25

Sophomore Breakfast
7:30 a.m.

APRIL 26

**Freshman Capstone
& Senior Servant
Leader Project
Presentation Night**
6:00-9:00 p.m.

APRIL 29

Junior/Senior Prom

MAY 5

**St. Dominic Savio
Feast Day**

MAY 6

**Diocesan Art Show
& Art for Water**
11:00-2:00 p.m.

MAY 23-25

Final Exams



**St. Dominic
Savio Catholic
High School**
Presents
**The Addams Family
Musical**

Showtimes:
7:00 p.m., March 30
7:00 p.m., March 31
7:00 p.m., April 1

9300 Neenah Avenue
Austin, Texas
Tickets are \$10

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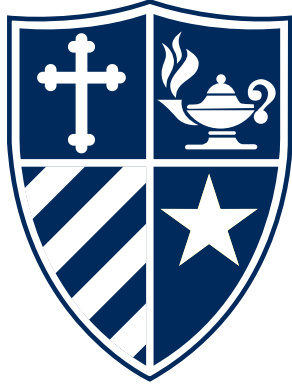
Contact: Susan Laielli
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1/4 page, 1/2 page and full page ads - limited space available in quarterly Savio Now! magazine

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Forming Servant Leaders in the Image of Christ

MARCHING FOR LIFE

Over 60 students and chaperones from the Savio community traveled to Washington, D.C. for the 2023 March for Life. The Savio Eagles not only represented their support for protecting both mothers and the unborn during the march, but also had the opportunity to visit the Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Alabama as well as attend the March for Life Vigil Mass the night before the march. See story on page 10.

