



## Editor's Note



I remember when my fifth grade class from Jennie Moore Elementary attended ArtSmart. I was amazed and slightly intimidated by the walls upon walls of murals, the eccentricity of the students and faculty, and the overall enthusiasm. I still recall in particular **Lauren Dinicola** reading a poem about Rumpelstiltskin for the creative writing performance.

Soon enough, my own creative writing class was starring in the production and I'll never forget the pride I saw in **Mrs. Diemer's** face when I saw her with her new fifth grade class in the front row. And now this year, Mrs. Diemer will be bringing my littlest sister, **Molly Miller**, to see ArtSmart.

Without Mrs. Diemer, I do not think I would be the person I am today. It was her support and encouragement that led to my creative writing audition. I am forever thankful for her dedication to my future and welfare because I have never regretted joining the SOA family. Check out page 16's Question of the Month where *Applause* has decided to ask other students who their elementary teachers were that inspired them to pursue an SOA audition. Also, for those who want to learn more about SOA's art majors, glance at our centerfold, pages 8 and 9, to see pictures and captions depicting every art area.

Besides ArtSmart, October has been a widely anticipated time of year for students. From Caroline Cashion's West Ashley football games (yes, an SOA student IS on a football team), to spirit week, pep rallies, powder-puff football, and of course, Jump, Jive, and Wail. I certainly know I've taken advantage of all these opportunities for our school to show our spirit. *Applause* staff has also been busy at Giuseppe's for their long-anticipated wing challenge, we have attended SOA events, and of course have written about it all.

Thanks again to all of Applause's advertisers and patrons for their continued support!

*Savannah Miller*

## Upcoming Events

October 24, 25, 27, 28: Art Smart.  
 November 1: HS Band Chamber Music Concert, RMMT  
 November 3: HS Vocal Fall Concert, RMMT  
 November 8 and 10: Piano Concert, RMMT  
 November 14: HS Family Information Night, RMMT  
 November 16: HS Strings Thankful Concert, RMMT  
 November 17: PTSA Meeting, Cafeteria  
 November 18: Progress Reports  
 November 19: Region Orchestra Concert, RMMT  
 November 19: Creative Writing Reading (Wordfest), Mt. Pleasant Barnes and Noble  
 November 22: HS Convocation  
 November 23-27: Thanksgiving Break



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## Applause

the official student publication of

### Charleston County School of the Arts

*Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers*

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## Editorial

Remember when we all had at least a chance to get fat? When being a seventh level vegan (eating nothing that casts a shadow) was looked down upon? I do too. It seems like just yesterday it was cool to buy a bucket of popcorn (with extra butter), a large Coke Icee and two boxes of Cookie Dough Bites at the movie theatre for yourself and yourself only. Now, cashiers will laugh in your face and bring their manager out to laugh at you, too.

It seems that our school has followed this trend. While the cafeteria still has options for the gluttonous via Chick-Fil-A and Smart Mouth pizza, our vending machines have taken a turn for the disastrous. Instead of the last few years' affair of candy bars, chips, and incredibly unhealthy pastries, we now have food with names like Bunny Bars (an energy bar) and Somersaults (various organic pretzels). The grub even sounds disturbing.

Outrageous prices (\$1.65 for Crinkle Sticks?!?!?) and new-fangled machines don't help their case either. In the old vending machines, I could've gotten a 2-pound honey bun that would've lasted me through the winter for 2/3 of that price and done it in about five seconds. Now it takes at least a minute to get your debit card authorized and then follow the seemingly nonsensical instructions on screen. Sometimes a light snack is nice, but only if it tastes good. The entire *Applause* staff tried the Sea Salt Somersaults mentioned earlier, and we all agreed they were the worst things we've ever eaten. A dollar and fifty cents for roughly a handful of over-salted, wood-like wheat discs makes me want to kick the glass straight out of the machines like that one kid at Magnet allegedly did. Not to mention the portion sizes. A half full bag of veggie chips isn't even enough for a dance major to get from second block until lunch without feeling faint!

So for your school's well-being and your own interior's degradation, let the administration know we want our spicy, sugary, calorie-laden food back. Not this organic junk. Please, Mr. Reinhart, let us have our physical downfall, and let it taste good.

## Egypt Day



Photo by Jacob Elsey

Sixth grade students participated in a standing SOA middle school tradition, Egypt Day. The day-long event included a dance performance, a mummy wrap, a papyrus race, and of course, food.



By Catherine Santos

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## October Jefferson Award recipients named

By Alex James, guest writer

The Jefferson Service Club gives monthly awards to students who go above and beyond in community service. This month's winners are junior **Isabel Strobing** and senior **Katie Erin Clancy**. Congratulations to both winners!

### Katie Erin Clancy

Katie Erin really became active in her community once inducted into the National Honor Society. She participates in their tutoring program in addition to their other service projects they do. However, it wasn't until the end of her junior year that she decided to branch out in her community service, and take personal initiative. This past summer she volunteered at Ronald McDonald House and this year she is a



Katie Erin Clancy at SOA's Red Cross Blood Drive

part of the Liberty Hill Program. She commented, "To be honest I first started doing community service to get hours for school. However, at Ronald McDonald House I have met some of the most amazing people

and realized the reward of getting involved." When asked what was the best experience she has had volunteering, she told this story:

"When I started volunteering at Ronald McDonald House, I met a little boy who was seriously ill. When I said "Hello," he responded "hola!" Turns out, he only spoke Spanish. I used the little Spanish I knew to speak with him and pretty soon, I became really close with both him and his family.

He would teach me Spanish and I would teach him English. He eventually recovered and had to go back home. I will always remember him running to my car before I left saying, "I love you, mi amiga!"

### Isabel Strobing

Isabel has been doing community service since she was very young, but it was not until this past summer that she really began to commit her time. As a part of the American Jewish Society for Service, she spent six weeks traveling around the southeast to places like Birmingham, Alabama and Louisville, Kentucky, working on many different service projects, including rebuilding after several tornadoes, global water purification plants, a program

called Youthbuild, and Habitat for Humanity. Isabel likes to give back



Isabel helping out in the community.

because she knows what a very fortunate teenager she is. "I volunteer because I can, and because I'm lucky to live the life I have." Isabel takes inspiration from a quote by Matiyahu: "strip away the layers and reveal your soul, you've got to give yourself up and then you become whole" which means that even the small things, as long as they're sincere, count for something.

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## Where are they now: Sara Houser

By Allie Augustine

*Allie Augustine interviews Sara Houser, SOA class of 2005 piano major, now the frontwoman of the Texas-based band A House A Home.*

**Allie Augustine:** How and where did you further your education after SOA?

**Sara Houser:** I went to Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. I ended up getting a degree in Songwriting with a principal in piano there.

**AA:** Are you playing music full time now?

**SH:** I wouldn't say I'm playing music full time but I am a full time musician. It is my focus 90% of the time, even when I'm working my other jobs. I've always been more of a writer/composer than performer. I love performing, but it's hard to make that financially work for you when you play original music. I played a lot of weddings, cocktail hours and such in high school and will take a gig or two every once in a while in that vein for some extra dough.

Money is a goal but I'm not so desperate to have performing pay my bills that I'm willing to take any and every gig tossed my way.

**AA:** Have there been

many risks or sacrifices included in pursuing a music career and if so, what are they?

**SH:** There are always risks and sacrifices when you're trying to pursue anything wholeheartedly. Whether it's music or a medical degree. I'd say the most immediate risks I faced after college were financial. I moved to Austin with no job and no place to live. Thankfully I have an amazingly supportive family in SC but also in Austin so that helped me out a lot.

Other than the obvious hurdles we all face after college, I'd say the biggest risk in pursuing music is that talent does not always equal success. Sadly, we live in a world where good art can go unnoticed if you're not smart about your career. Everyone I know that's successful in the music industry right now are so because they were smart and extremely motivated. Sure occasionally, someone is super talented and gets "discovered" by the right people but more often than not now a days

that doesn't happen. The internet and digital music world have made the industry over saturated which is great because there's so much music available that otherwise would've been completely ignored by the radio. But it's a double edged sword because now musicians/artists have infinitely more competition and there's very, very little money album sales.

**AA:** Having been a piano major at SOA, have you been able to use much of your training in your current musical pursuits?

**SH:** SOA made me a really great learner and listener. I think that's the greatest thing anyone can take away from their education. To listen critically, read critically, but have the humility to think "ok I see what's happening here, I get what's going on, what can I absorb from it." I think that philosophy started for me in high school at SOA. I tried to look at everything as an opportunity to absorb stuff.

Knowing lots of people who have been a student of music for a long time, I think we have a tendency to take our education and kind of wave it around like a flag. "Oh hey, look what I can do with art! I can tell you all about what's going on here and that's why I'm

great." I'm definitely guilty of that mind set sometimes but it's so important to remember humility. And if you don't, you'll be forced to some day when another musician or writer or artist totally wipes the floor with you.

**AA:** In what other ways has SOA contributed to your success?

**SH:** It definitely toughened me up. A lot of kids at Berklee dropped out after the first year because they couldn't deal with the pressure and criticism that comes with an arts education. If Mr. Kerr or Mrs. Benson or Mr. Clarke hadn't called me out when I screwed something up or sounded like crap I probably would've dropped out too. They nurtured but pushed me to do better which I am very grateful for.

**AA:** What so far has been the highlight of your career?

**SH:** I'm not really sure yet I guess. This

*Continued on page 13.*



Sara Houser performing with her band House and a Home

## A Chat with Mr. Grant

By Allie Augustine

*Applause staff member Allie Augustine sat down with Mr. Grant, one of SOA's new vice principals, to learn more about his life before SOA and his plans for administration while at our school.*

**Allie Augustine:** Where did you reside prior to Charleston?

**Robert Grant:** New York.

**AA:** You went to an arts school there, am I correct?

**RG:** You are correct.

**AA:** What was your major at this particular school?

**RG:** I was a vocal major, and in that particular school they allow certain students, who the teacher took a liking to and saw that you were multitalented, then you can partake in more than one skill set, so we called them minors.

Basically you were recommended by someone from that skill section. I had a theatre minor.

**AA:** So was this a musical theatre type thing?

**RG:** Pretty much. It was trying to steer kids toward Broadway.

**AA:** So did you do lots of performances with your school in New York?

**RG:** Oh yeah.

**AA:** Were you ever the main character in any of these?

**RG:** I'm thinking back, and most of the stuff I have done was not for the stage in reference to theatre. It was more vocal performances. I was part

of a group called the chamber singers. In the vocal department you had the choir set up and then you had the solo singers, and I was one of the students selected into the solo voice program.

**AA:** Now when you say you went everywhere did you mean outside of state, or did you just go all around New York?

**RG:** More or less just around New York. The world is New York, so there is no need to leave. We usually went throughout the artistic zones of New York for different places including major hotels out there. The Cathedral of downtown Manhattan, we performed there for the pope, when the pope came to New York. We performed at the Waldorf Astoria, and I remember that performance because Michael Jackson was actually staying there at the time. And he came down where we were performing and came through. Just to see him in the back in the mask was pretty cool. I don't remember the other places we performed, but it was cool

because it got us out of school sometimes.

**AA:** What are some of your hobbies now?

**RG:** I'm into sports. I used to play a lot of softball. I used to love playing and was on a couple of teams around Charleston. I haven't done that recently, but would say that was one of my big hobbies. Softball and music.

**AA:** Where exactly did you go to college?

**RG:** I went to college in New York as well, several different ones. All of the universities I attended where in New York.

**AA:** Where else have you been as an administrator?

**RG:** In New York I started my administrative career. I have also been an administrator at other schools in Charleston County, including Lincoln High for ten years.

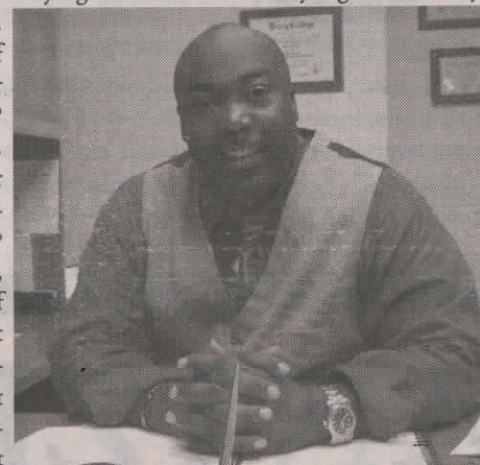
**AA:** So since you have been switched to SOA, have you been enjoying your time here?

**RG:** Of course! I love SOA. It brings me back to my high schools days. It makes me feel like

a kid again. Schools like this are very special. I just love being in environments like this. It's right up my alley. I'm weird just like you guys are.

**AA:** How do you intend to enforce policies at SOA, such as IDs and dress code, that haven't really been enforced before without requiring students to sacrifice their individuality?

**RG:** Well, I think what we have to look at is that rules are in place for a reason, and the rule was established before I came to SOA. Initially my goal is to make sure that kids are in compliance, because there is a reason behind asking children to wear IDs. I want to try to make sure that children are in compliance with that. You've seen me in the hallways with my big signs that say ID hunting and stuff like that. That's just to let you guys know comically that I am watching, and to please adhere to the rules. I have not had any significant problem with kids not doing it. I would say 95% of the students around school are adhering to it. We can always take a look at it, and I am free to talk about it with the student government. We could always talk about the policy or if the policy needs to be revamped, revised or modified, but we would have to do that at a later date so we could take a look at that for next term. As far as this term is concerned, the policy is being enforced.



Mr. Grant attended an arts high school very similar to SOA

**Trance**

by Courtney Wickstrom, 6th grade

Gazing to the sky,  
with a pencil in hand,  
I hum a solemn tune  
too soft to understand.

Though my head is here,  
my heart is away  
to a land that I love,  
where I wish to stay.

I dream, in a trance,  
with my eyes open wide  
I attempt, in vain, to speak,  
my tongue won't abide.

I envision lovely things:  
a dawdling dance,  
a powerful piano's voice,  
a creeping cat's stance.

I fantasize made-up things:  
a fearless dragon's fire,  
a fairy's quick flutter,  
a king's impressive empire.

I daydream of emotion:  
a bright burgundy blush,  
a cherished kiss on the cheek,  
a trail of tears comes in a rush.

I feel a tap on my shoulder,  
It is time to go.  
I pack my pencil and pad.  
The wind whispers low.

My daydream has ended.  
The pictures die down.  
The tune has been lost.  
I speak not a sound.

**Danielle Dungo****Offering**

By Hadley Preganz, 12th grade

Here's ten percent.  
The paper that is my downfall,  
the jewels that are my shame.  
Take my embarrassment  
of mistaking kneelers  
for footrests.

Take my music  
that loses me.

Take my name  
that isn't mine.

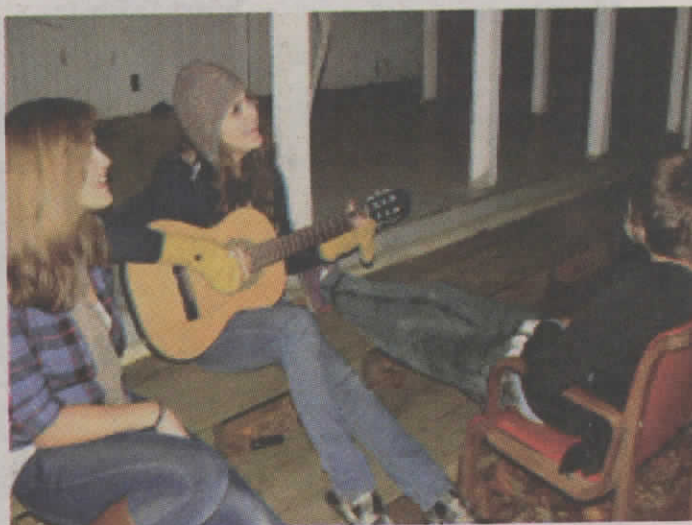
Take my escape  
that seeps from the tin plate.

My brother, take his too.  
The preacher, take his wife.  
The man next to me,  
who sees light before "amen,"  
take his soul, too.

**Jackson Knoll****Kenneth  
Brahmin**



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We're not hippies. We're just writers who play guitars in the mountains.



Hail to the

# A look into major



Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss you'll land among the stars.



It's not a mess,



## A glimpse Spirit





Wreath.

# SOA's art rs



's abstract.

## nto SOA Week



It's not a tempurpedic.

*Call it hate, call it  
love, I call it art.*

-The Kills



Yeahhhh,  
it's a party in the SOA!



Benji Kidder chuckin' his  
deuces up.



## A Night Full of Stars

### By Rachel Lechler

Jump, Jive, and Wail, in my opinion, is the best event that School of the Arts has to offer. It allows all high school students to enjoy the loud and vibrant tunes of our very own jazz band at the Vistor's Center's Bus Shed in beautiful, historic downtown Charleston. October 15th was yet another year to enjoy a night of music, dancing, and food with our classmates and community. The rope lights hanging from the pillars gave an illusion of a starry night, but

also made everyone else look like stars as they twirled and jived in front of the stage. From blocks away, you could hear the energetic cheers as we applauded the band as well as the dance competition winners, 11th grade theater majors, Parker Kelly and Olivia Lodge. Throughout the night

we enjoyed uplifting music mixed with the great voices of some of the vocal majors and danced until our feet were screaming. When we wanted to take a break, there were a variety of refreshments available. 12th grade band major, Ian Walter Jones explained that this was the first year that the band was prepared a week in advance. He also expresses his excitement with working such a strong band this year and says that

he already promised to return and play with them again next year. And I'll be honest; his voice was such a wonderful surprise. Jump, Jive, and Wail is a night to enjoy and definitely not one to miss. If you didn't go last Saturday, I suggest you write down Jump, Jive, and Wail in your October 2012 calendar.



Photo by Alex James  
Sam Funk learning to swing with Hadley Preganz.

## A Day in the Life of a Sixth Grader

By Taylor Kahn-Perry, guest writer



What is the world to you? Is it an empty stage, waiting for a new performance? Is it an open canvas? Is it a blank sheet of paper, waiting to be filled up with words? Is it a note, waiting to be sung? Is it an instrument? Is it a pair of ballet slippers, waiting to be filled with agile feet? Is it the 6th grade classrooms at SOA, waiting for a new group of students to fill them with laughter, joy, and harmony?

SOA is unlike any other school. Aside from spending an hour and a half in your favorite art major every day, you also get the chance to be creative in all of your academic classes as well. And the very first time you step into the doors of SOA, they open like a rose, letting you know that yes, you are in the right place...

I walked towards my homeroom class with a group of people that were strangers to me. I sat down where the teacher told me to and tried to relax. "Be yourself," I whispered in my mind, thinking it would be the hardest thing in the world. Once everyone was seated, the teacher started talking, and although the words flew in one ear and out the other, that day is still very

valuable to me. I can barely remember what happened, but once it was time to go to majors, I already had a friend to walk with me to Creative Writing for the first time.

Everyday after the first, was more and more enjoyable, and today I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't gone to SOA. First impressions are important, and SOA sure knew how to make one; by lunch, I already had friends to sit with, and my afternoon classes went by faster than a speeding car on a bridge. Even the bus ride home was enjoyable, and every day after that was too.

In my eyes, everything was perfect. The clatter of books against metal lockers sounded like angels' harmony. The greasy cafeteria food tasted like Thanksgiving Dinner. The freshly sharpened pencils smelled like a tropical breeze. And today, everything feels like it did the first day. The food from around the world that we sample in Social Studies still taste like chocolate cake. The animals in Science still amaze me. The Macs we use in composition are as fast as ever. The halls we roam every day still feel like a new adventure, just waking up.

What is the world to you? At SOA, it's whatever you make it.

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## Shrug off haters

By Catherine Santos



One of the reasons some people dislike high school is because there are hateful people who seem to take sadistic pleasure in tormenting others. Luckily, I have come up with several fool-proof methods of dealing with these people.

If someone you dislike is glaring at you and pretty much attempting to telepathically make your head explode, just stare back. Two people can play the exploding head game. If you do not want to look at them, then just make a really disgusted face that will make them feel very uncomfortable. If these pestering imposters continue to be creepy, then just laugh at them. They are trying to intimidate you and they can't. It's like having an attack duck, it just doesn't work. If someone insults you, use "reverse insultology."

When someone tries to insult you, he normally insult you using his biggest insecurity. If someone calls you fat, he is probably very insecure about his weight.

Exploiting this newfound weakness can work to your advantage. Let's be honest, these people aren't very intelligent.

When planning your insults, keep in mind that naturally, they will reuse the same boring insults that everyone has heard a million times. They are unable to be creative. The best way to combat their hatefulness is to come up with a scientific insult. For example "Your epidermis closely resembles the surface of the moon," is far more creative than, "you have bad acne." If they try to shove you in the hallway, dramatically fall over and begin planking.

I guarantee that if you do it well enough they will look like a jerk. Killing them with kindness works, but it isn't nearly as fun or amusing.

## Jacob vs. Jacob

*The continuous war of majors. Which is more beneficial: theatre or creative writing?*

Jacob Hallex



First of all, **Elsey**, I want you and others to understand that any harsh comments I make towards the creative department or any other major should be treated as is and literal as this school is in desperate need of a reality check of who the number one major is. Of course that major is theatre.

First of all, let's get this out of the way: theatre teaches valuable skills that have everyday application. Much of theatre relies heavily on team work. Theatre majors understand that one must truly be supportive of the whole effort in order for a final product to look good. Creative writers are just isolationists that choose to sit in a corner by themselves, write on a notepad, drink scotch, and dig their fingers in their belly and wonder how it relates to existentialism. Now I would say that creative writing at least teaches proper grammar but thankfully I commonly hear the phrase "oh I'm a creative writer, I don't have to follow the rules of English." Please Elsey, tell your friends to get off their high horse and obey the rules like the



Let me begin my argument with a scenario. You're the biggest actor in all the land--the love child of Meryl Streep and George Clooney. The producer is about to sign the pay check, we're talking millions of dollars. You're thrown onto the set, makeup done, hair done. They say action...Nothing happens. The actor is deemed useless and sent to the streets to hold up flattened cardboard boxes, that in sprawling letters says: "will act for food." So what happened, what sent this human into his ultimate demise? No script. Because, Mr. **Hallex**, guess who writes the script? The Creative Writers of America. Let's face it; in the great debate of major superiority, it really is no contest, Mr. Hallex. Creative Writing will always trample Theatre seeing as the entire idea of "theatre" would not exist without writers.

Unfortunately these pen-bearing heroes have slowly lost a lot of the "pop star" fame to the actors over the past few decades. We have also noticed a decline in education as well. Coincidence, Mr. Hallex? As the theatre majors of the world have grown in popularity, the people have become stupider. They have decided to watch three hour marathons of Cold Case while eating "late night" flavored Doritos dipped in Spam, instead of reading

rest of us or go stick their heads in an oven.

Did you know that while Charles Dickens was writing his serials, he would recite dialogue straight into a mirror beside his desk? He always wanted to be an actor but no company would accept him because he only wrote about orphans. Most people dislike it when writers frequently write about the same subject since it's kind of boring and unoriginal. Well of course I expect you to say something simian like "well Mr. Hallex if WE didn't write plays, movies and T.V. shows then you would have nothing to perform." True--no arguing this fact--but if you had nobody to perform a play, would you even write one? Honestly when's the last time you thought, " hmmm, I don't feel like watching Modern Family tonight, I think I'll just read the screenplay," never, that's when. No matter are disagreements I think we can agree that no matter what Theatre and Creative writing are King and Queen majors of all other majors. Honestly when's the last time you ever got 3 words out of a visual artist, or how many times have you forgotten that Piano is a major?

Jacob Elsey

*Walden* or *On The Road* and sipping on a beverage that 98% of Americans can't pronounce. If you would like to succeed in life, you're going to have to quote Ernest Hemingway in your term papers instead of Sawyer from *Lost*. Now, has there ever been a time when writers fought back? Do you remember the famous Writers Guild of America Strike? Large groups of writers decided that they weren't getting the recognition that they deserved, and guess what happened? The film industry reported losses in the Billions, televisions shows went down to a small fraction of their usual viewers (most likely those who had no idea what was going on, they probably just figured some writers were struggling in baseball), and we had to constantly hear the script-less celebrities babble on during their award acceptance speeches about how they needed writers. Let's not go through this again. Let's face the fact that the creative writers will always run the world.

However, it is quite obvious that if there were a ranking system, Theatre would come in second place without a doubt. We need them as our minions, our voices when we have a sore throat. And we do make the money in the end (usually). All you other majors can keep your "reliable careers," we enjoy our stuffy city apartments and cabins in the woods.

## Sass Attack-A New Day

By Jacob Elsey



A quick message to all Art Smart Viewers: Welcome elementary school almost-graduates! You finally did it!

You have succeeded in figuring out how to fit that wooden octagonal peg into the wooden octagonal hole, you can write simple sentences using undercase letters, and you've gone above and beyond the paper mache project category! You're practically ready to ship off to southern Florida, to live in the land of Arnold Palmer and Fixodent! I hope you've been working on your shuffleboard and arthri-cise moves! However, not to slow your roll, but you will have to face college applications like the rest of us. These applications are probably the most nosy and particular things you will ever have to fill out, forget to save, and then fill out again. Trust me on this one. You simply cannot fill out college applications without feeling some sort of harsh anxiety. I personally have had this re-occurring scenario where I slowly approach my mailbox and before I reach it, thousands of declination letters rocket at me, sending me striped with paper cuts to the unemployment line.

However, there is one thing that SOA truly has prepared me for on the college application spectrum. I learned how to be creative with my answers. With much research, I found a way for this average size, weight, and skin colored male to be somewhat of a minority. I have over-embellished my 1/16th Syrian blood, exemplified my left hand domination, and considered my house on Johns Island "rural farmland." A bit of a stretch, but hey, rubber bands stretch and we allow them in colleges. I suppose this creative license is a slacker's great escape; we'll just have to see come wintertime. Until then, I'm going to have to ask all readers to keep this article at least 50 miles away from any admissions office. Thank you.

## Sophomore girl kicks it with the boys

### Will Dodge

Tenth grade strings major **Caroline Cashion** is proving just how sporty we Arts kids can be. As the starting kicker for the West Ashley Wildcats varsity and junior varsity football teams, she has proven her worth since joining the team as a walk-on over the summer. On a squad full of boys, she has put the nails in the haters' coffins with a game-winning kick against Summerville on September 30th.



Caroline kicked the winning field goal against SIS. Photo provided by SIS.

Originally a soccer player (she's a starter on the West Ashley soccer team), she saw the opportunity to try out for kicker and took it. She told me "in soccer, I take all the free kicks and corner kicks, and I thought that if I could do those, then kicking on the football team would be a piece of cake." The team practices everyday after school which can provide challenges in balancing her schoolwork and her sports. "It's hard, but I'm able to practice my vio-

## Rugby clubbin'

By Jacob Elsey

Men, are you interested in becoming manlier? If so, the **SOA Rugby Club** is for you! This band of booty short wearing misfits is always up for a challenge. For the past two years the SOA Rugby Team has played a variety of other high schools, as well as clubs in tournaments all over the state! The sport of Rugby has been around 1700s, hailing from the jolly ol' England. Rugby is beginning to take America by storm, high schools all over the country are forming Rugby Clubs due to popular demand. Luckily, we at SOA are ahead of the curve. Now, there is a common misconception that the sport of rugby is "dangerous" or "a little too wild." Well, allow me to disprove that for you. Rug-

by has been proven to be safer than sports like Football, Golf, and even Cheerleading (Cheerleading, people). The main difference between Rugby and Football is that players are taught to tackle in a way so that it will more likely prevent injury, whereas in football it's always head first. Rugby also doesn't stop, the clock is constantly running with only one half time break: there's not one every thirty seconds like those fragile football players need. Rugby truly is a game that requires a lot of thinking, and never skimps out on the action. If you're interested in joining the SOA Rugby Club, tell your teacher you have a cold and go see the nurse, **Mrs. Huff**, also known as our fearless coach. Join today!

lin at school and in my free time, and I find time every night for my studies. I enjoy the challenge." She balances it all quite well, keeping a 4.1 GPA and high marks in her Strings classes. Since her game-winning kick, a 20-yard field goal at the end of the first half against legendary coach John McKissick's Summerville Green Wave, she has caught the interest of quite a few lowcountry football fans. With stories from News 4, The Post and Courier, and West Of, she has become somewhat of a local celebrity. When asked about all the attention, she said, "it's been different, but it hasn't been too much of a distraction." And for any football after high school? "We'll have to see. But it's possible. It just depends where I end up going to college." Maybe one day you'll see Caroline kicking it professionally on football Sunday.

## Allie Augustine: horse whisperer

By Will Dodge

Equestrians don't get the love they deserve. Controlling a one and half thousand pound horse through tight turns, quick jumps and long straight-aways is physically and mentally draining. In turn, **Allie Augustine** deserves a round of applause. In Aiken on September 11, Allie won the South Carolina Hunter Jumper Association's Governor's Cup against fourteen other riders.



Allie Augustine rides to her win at the Governor's Cup Challenge. Photo provided by Allie Augustine.

The competition was only available to those who had accumulated enough points throughout the season. After the first stage of obstacles, including difficult jumps and intricate angles, the top ten riders moved on to a flat stage. She has been riding London, the horse she won with, for two years. Through a mix of grace, skill, and a bit of luck, Allie beat out her opponents to take home

## Powderpuff football: it ain't for softies

By Jacob Elsey

There are a few critical things that the coach of a powderpuff football team must remember: you are working with girls, always wear a whistle that's louder than everyone else, and you are working with girls. Normally, we just see these girls perusing the halls, carrying a purse or the hand of their lover, we see them as innocent. But the second you place a junior-sized football in their arms, they



are no longer those girls you once knew. Femininity is replaced with ferocity, mascara transitions to thick stripes under the eyes, and there is no head of hair not tied up in a pony tail. The process is very similar to the Popeye-Spinach phenomenon. There were a few times where my fellow

first place. Allie said "it was incredibly rewarding to win because I have worked so hard with this horse and I know we both deserved it." Having won competitions in the past, she said "none have been as big as this". Augustine, a senior vocal major, has been riding horses for ten years and hopes to continue with it through college. Inspired by a pony ride on Seabrook Island at the age of seven, she has been riding ever since. "I love the challenge of riding and the friends I've made from it," she told me. Her plans for future riding include three more similar competitions before the end of the year and, if all goes well, a spot on the USC equestrian team. She is, without question, quite the equestrian

coaches (**Coach Enter** and **Coach Hallex**) and I was somewhat frightened by the athletic intensity that these women brought to the field. And boy did they bring it.

Tensions were high at the Bonds Wilson Football Stadium on Friday, October 14th. Juniors and Seniors were calling back in forth from both sides, with only the help of the chipper "manleaders" to ease the tension. The game was action packed and kept the viewers on their toes, with superiority on the line; no one was giving up easily. The senior girls did exactly that, scoring fourteen points and allowing the juniors none, to seal the win. The coaches couldn't have been proud enough. Good job to both grades for going so hard and making it a day to remem-

October is anti-bullying month.  
Remember, that nerd you pick on will  
most likely become your boss.

## Droppin' da bass at Bassnectar

### By Will Dodge

Bassnectar brought his brand of dubstep, dance music full of synthesized sounds and beyond heavy bass, to a hungry crowd at Patriot's Point. The October 13 concert sold out weeks in advance, evident in the cars parked more than a mile from the venue. Most concertgoers were dressed in neon splotted outfits and interesting bodypaint, many proclaiming their love for dubstep on their shirts and hats. The lines of people, some weaving throughout the adjacent parking lot, were antsy to get their spot in the crowd after an hour-long delay in the doors opening. Soon after they opened, afro-adorned DJ Super Dre came out with laptop and turntables, pumping out rhythmic house jam after rhythmic house jam, each one spilling into the next quite smoothly. Only half of the 4000 strong crowd had arrived, but the ones who were there go very into it, dancing dramatically. The sun went down with her closing track and DJs Beats Antique came on to play their brand of ethnic dance music, each track adorned with sitars, female vocals and African percussion. Surprisingly, to me at least, the crowd ate the foreign sounds up.

It seemed that everyone was warmed up for Bassnectar, real name Lorin Ashton, and when he came on stage at eight with his long black hair flowing, the crowd swooned. He was an admirable MC: the crowd responded to everything he played with overwhelming ferocity. Highlights were his bass-heavy remixes of Blur's "Song 2" and Nirvana's "Breed". While the first half of his two-hour set was pure energy, my own vigor started to dissipate as the night progressed. The majority of the crowd was cheering just as loudly and dancing just as passionately, but the sheer volume of the music had taken the drive out of me. Mixed with dehydration and the intensity of the music, I had to leave the crowd for a few minutes. Wind started picking up and Bassnectar seemed excited about a potential thunderstorm, but as rain started falling at 10:30 and speakers swung violently from their supports, the show was called off. "I love you guys", he proclaimed as left the stage. The crowd cheered for this too, but as the lights went off and the crowd ran for cover in their cars, I couldn't but be grateful to sit down. I'm no lightweight when it comes to live music, but Bassnectar just killed me. My ears rang for the next hour before I fell asleep. I could not feel my legs the next morning. I slept like a log. Dubstep: not for the faint of heart.

## Lindgren's ASAP needs you!

By Savannah Miller


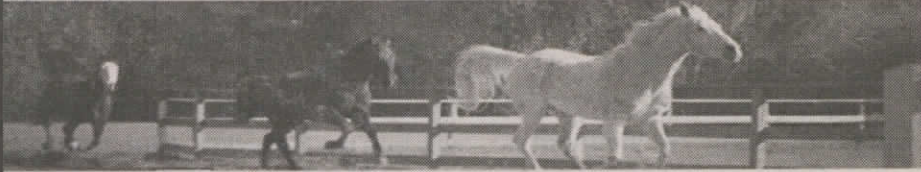
I'll be honest; I was nervous last Thursday when I walked into Morningside Middle School's cafeteria. I certainly was no teacher and had no idea what I signed up for. In summary, **Hadley Pre-ganz**, **Marisa Henthorn**, and I were responsible for putting on a show for about fifty unimpressed, at-risk middle schoolers. Our goal: make creative writing fun.

**Mr. Lindgren's** after school arts program is now on its third year. Students from each major volunteer three hours after school every Thursday to teach the children about their major and encourage the students to pursue it themselves. They are given their own class and the freedom to create lesson plans. According to Lindgren, "The arts have a way of taking kids with a hard exterior, like the kids from Morningside, and softening them up. They feel safe when they can express themselves artistically. This allows our volunteers to connect with them on a deeper level, serving as mentors and as positive role models to them."

The arts program benefits both the students and the volunteers. As Hadley, Marisa, and I conducted our first class we learned how to balance both entertaining and educating the kids. I don't think I'll ever forget when a boy raised his hand and asked: "When's your graduation? Can we come?" Another boy showed me the novel he's already started and I was inspired by his motivation and enthusiasm at such a young age.

When I asked Mr. Lindgren if there were any moments last year that really stood out to him, he told me about **Joyce Waggoner** and one of her students. "One of the students at Morningside really loved to write. She once mentioned 'I thought I was the only person in the world who wrote, but then I met Joyce [Waggoner], and she showed me that being a writer is actually cool!'" Mr. Lindgren explained that Joyce served as her mentor and role model. She helped her edit her work every Thursday and even inspired her to audition for SOA in creative writing.

Morningside is a volunteer program that does require commitment. You learn, through all the bumps, that these kids really look up to you and you find yourself writing for Thursday afternoon. However, it's a program that is a huge learning experience where volunteers develop teaching skills, creative thinking, and learn how to appreciate their art form in new ways. Mr. Lindgren hopes to have more volunteers this year because the more volunteers, the more smoothly the classes run. You can decide to start volunteering at Morningside anytime. Speak with Mr. Lindgren if you are interested. The program is every Thursday from 4 to 5:45 P.M.



**Trail Rides**

**Beginner Trail Rides:** This walking ride meanders through the scenic woods, marshes and tidal creeks of Seabrook Island and lasts approximately one hour with brief pre-ride pointers. There is no floor way to experience the beauty of Seabrook Island. Advance reservations are required. \$65.00/ride.

**Advanced Trail Rides:** A trail ride that includes walk, trot and canter. Advance reservations are required. \$70.00/ride.

**Beach Rides:** This exhilarating ride tours the North Beach area and is for advanced riders only. The rider must have a minimum of two to three years riding experience and have good control at a walk, trot and canter. Advance reservations are required. \$95.00/ride.

**Pony Rides:** Parent-led pony rides are available from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. by appointment for children up to eight years old. Wait until you see the excitement in your child's eyes! \$40.00/half hour.

## Where are they now: Sara Houser

### Continued from page 6

**SH:**...has been an exciting one with music. My band had a residency at a venue... in town that helped put us on the Austin map. We got to do a video shoot for *Austin Music Weekly* at one of those shows. AMW is a site in Austin that shoots high quality live video of new bands in Austin. We played shows in Dallas and San Marcos this year. Met some great bands. Made some great friends. It was all I could ask for.

I wrote some music for a Community in Schools video that got picked up by the national office and is being used in campaigns across the country. I'm also currently assisting a composer by the name of Stephen Barber on a project with Roseanne Cash and the Minneapolis Symphony. So far this week I got paychecks for music which was probably the best feeling ever. Not collecting cash from shows (which is nice too), actual paychecks. Makes me feel like I'm at least facing the right direction.

**AA:** Do you have any advice for upcoming musicians graduating from SOA?

**SH:** Don't rush into the rest of your life. I was a bit of an over achiever in high school and thought that graduating meant I had to know what I wanted to do right then and there and if I didn't, I wasn't going to amount to any-

thing. SOA is an intense learning experience and if you're going to continue studying your art in college I highly suggest decompressing. I went straight from SOA to Berklee and when



Sara with her band, A House a Home. Photo provided

I graduated college I had this realization of "wow, I've been in school for this since I was 11. Now what am I going to do?" It was really overwhelming. Artists need to observe and live life to create. It's hard to do that when all you're doing is sitting at your piano or desk or easel going "be creative! NOW!"

So long story short, live a little and let things fall into place for a while. Then when it's time to buckle down and do something, you'll be ready.

**AA:** Why is A House A Home on a hiatus at the moment, and can we expect them to return soon?

**SH:** I needed a break from shows. We gave it a good run but got so sucked into playing shows, we never gave ourselves time to write and record. We're all taking some time to pursue other musical endeavors. My drummer and guitarist are amazing songwriters and are pushing their solo stuff. Grant, my boyfriend and bassist is in another band called Little Radar that's doing really well in Austin. I'm just focusing on writing music for now. It's a "... for A House A Home. Not a period.

# Applause takes Giuseppe's wing challenge

By Will Dodge

I'm not sure I'll ever be able to forget the night of Wednesday, October 5. My journalism comrades and I traveled to Giuseppe's Pizza and Pasta in Mount Pleasant for a night out of team trivia, good pizza, and life's ultimate challenge: eating seven chicken wings doused in a fiery sauce, each one bedazzled with jalapenos; all in ten minutes. You get a solitary bar napkin to wipe yourself

off with, zero liquid, and if you finish, five minutes of pure agony to sit in your seat and let the sauce soak into your pores. One could say it was my undying love of print journalism or my flair for the dramatic that propelled me into what would ultimately be my stomach's demise. But looking back, I really just wanted to show the haters what was up.

My fellow journalist, **Jacob Elsey**, joined me in competition, with editor **Savannah Miller** and staff writer **Allie Augustine** there to cheer us on. Jacob had told me an hour earlier that mild salsas tend to set his mouth afire, so it was quite brave of him to take on this hellish test. In terms of spice, I personally don't venture much farther than Jalapeño's on my burger, but I felt confident that I could take this challenge

down. I'm not sure why. Maybe it was just my intuition. Our amazing server, **Keith**, was the most awesome waiter we've ever had, helping to arrange a chaperone to sign off on our mandatory challenge waiver

## BEFORE



Photo by Savannah Miller

my pre-meal breathing routine and, in turn, our focus was broken. We pushed through though, starting the challenge while cheers erupted from diners in neighboring booths, wav-

(see below). A very accommodating man indeed.

We ordered the wings and they arrived much faster than anticipated, completely throwing off Jacob's and

ing breadsticks in the air like Italian instruments of inspiration. The first bite was balmy and stung my lips, but I felt confident that I could make it through. After the first wing, my mouth was a bit deadened, but still operable, so I trudged on. I lost feeling in my toes. After the third wing, I couldn't feel my own face. Jacob and I were shaking like deprived addicts of some sort, both of us sporting streams of water flowing from our eyes.

People started looking at us funny. I gave the fourth wing a shot: one bite and the spice kicked me in the teeth. It was over. Jacob agreed, and we ran to the bathroom to wash the

molten sauce off of our hands and mouths. Jacob dined upon a few paper towel squares to try and remove the heat from his fried tongue. We walked back to our table, destitute and reeling from our loss, many in

## AFTER



Photo by Savannah Miller

the restaurant staring with a mix of bewilderment and sympathy. My mouth was still burning fifteen minutes later. My fellow

writers told me I looked like my puppy had died, while Jacob lay down in his car for a good fifteen minutes. "I just had to have a moment." He began, "The stars and the early night breeze, young William, they soothe me."

My stomach was a wasteland for the next two days. Spice was caked on my lips and spelunking in my fingernails. As I played drums three nights later, my hands began to sweat and the spice turned them into flaming batons. Luckily, as I write this article a week later, I have fully recovered, save for the occasional flashback. Never will I wish this experience upon anyone. Try everything once: except for the Giuseppe's hot wings challenge. But if you decide to sacrifice your stomach, and complete Giuseppe's requests, I will forever commend you.

## Wing Challenge Waiver

I, \_\_\_\_\_, realize that I am about to consume some of the hottest wings on the planet. I understand that consuming these wings can cause pain, and strange things to happen to my stomach. I release Giuseppe's Pizza & Pasta of any responsibility, liability, or consequence that may result from consuming or handling these stupid hot wings. I am at least 18 years old, and currently of sound mind and body though realize in 10 minutes I may not be.

X \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

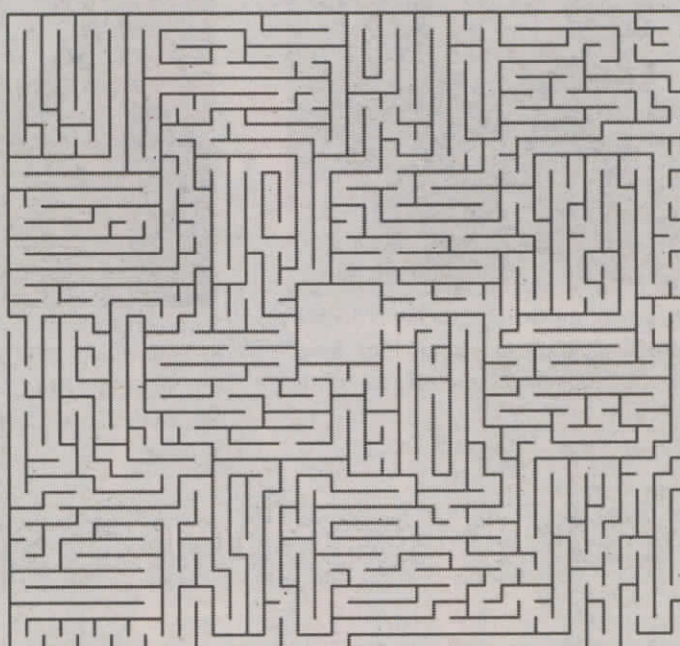
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 Vocal  
 Visual Arts  
 Piano  
 Strings  
 Band  
 Theatre  
 Dance  
 Jazz  
 Poetry  
 Crescendo  
 Monologue  
 Swag  
 Pegasus  
 Paint



## Horoscopes!

**Libra:** Beware of flying lawnmowers.

**Scorpio:** The fungus on your foot is tired of being stepped on.

**Sagittarius:** It is not wise to spit at the wind.

**Capricorn:** Watch out for the giant bear at the McDonald's drive thru.

**Aquarius:** There are snakes in your car. Open a window.

**Pisces:** That nightlight you had as a child is actually the soul of some poor trapped fairy.

**Aries:** Stay away from the pyrotechnic displays at concerts.

**Taurus:** Cookies may taste good but they are bad for your health.


**Gemini:** Never let a rogue toaster into your house.

**Cancer:** Playing chubby bunny while driving down the highway is not a good idea.

**Leo:** Where were you last issue?

**Virgo:** Two people can play the exploding head game.

## SOA Clubs Matrix

Sticker Color	Monday - Gold	Tuesday - Red	Wednesday - Blue	Thursday - Silver	Friday - Green
1 <sup>st</sup> Week	Quiz Bowl/Academic Team (Sponsor: K. Clark) NHS (Sponsor: S. Brennan)	Basketball Club (Sponsor: C. Branscome) Political Activity Club (Sponsor: H. Orvin) FCA (Sponsor: B. Wasiechowski)	Senior Council - officers only (Sponsor: C. Rogers) Junior Council (Sponsor: R. Passarello, B. Crawford) Freshmen Council (Sponsor: H. Rickson, K. Clark)	Spanish Club (Sponsor: B. Crawford) French Club (Sponsor: C. Rednorsczyk) Jefferson Service Club (Sponsor: M. Gazzilli & K. Amick)	Quiz Bowl/Academic Team (Sponsor: K. Clark) Basketball Club (Sponsor: C. Branscome)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	Tri-M (Sponsor: S. Fitzgerald) Quiz Bowl/Academic Team (Sponsor: K. Clark) Chemistry Club (Sponsor: V. Price)	Basketball Club (Sponsor: C. Branscome) Student Council (Sponsor: M. Dannelon) FCA (Sponsor: B. Wasiechowski) Math Club (Sponsor: J. Eushel)	Vegetarian Alliance (Sponsor: M. Dannelon) Foodies Club (Sponsor: M. Dannelon & K. Clark)	Ecology Club (Sponsor: K. Lindgren) Culinary Arts Club (Sponsor: V. Price) GSA (Sponsor: K. MacDonald, K. Clark)	Quiz Bowl/Academic Team (Sponsor: K. Clark) NHS - officers only (Sponsor: S. Brennan) Basketball Club (Sponsor: C. Branscome) Sign Language Club (Sponsors: K. Amick & T. Duffy)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	Quiz Bowl/Academic Team (Sponsor: K. Clark) NHS (Sponsor: S. Brennan)	Basketball Club (Sponsor: C. Branscome) Political Activity Club (Sponsor: H. Orvin) FCA (Sponsor: B. Wasiechowski)	Senior Council - full council (Sponsor: C. Rogers) Freshmen Council (Sponsor: H. Rickson, K. Clark)	Jefferson Service Club (Sponsor: M. Gazzilli & K. Amick)	Quiz Bowl/Academic Team (Sponsor: K. Clark) Basketball Club (Sponsor: C. Branscome) Glee Club (Sponsor: R. Grant)
4 <sup>th</sup> Week	Tri-M (Sponsor: S. Fitzgerald) Quiz Bowl/Academic Team (Sponsor: K. Clark) Chemistry Club (Sponsor: V. Price)	Basketball Club (Sponsor: C. Branscome) Student Council (Sponsor: M. Dannelon) FCA (Sponsor: B. Wasiechowski) Math Club (Sponsor: J. Eushel)	Vegetarian Alliance (Sponsor: M. Dannelon) Foodies Club (Sponsor: M. Dannelon & K. Clark)	Ecology Club (Sponsor: K. Lindgren) Culinary Arts Club (Sponsor: V. Price)	Quiz Bowl/Academic Team (Sponsor: K. Clark) NHS - officers only (Sponsor: S. Brennan) Basketball Club (Sponsor: C. Branscome) Sign Language Club (Sponsors: K. Amick & T. Duffy)
Everyday Lunch Meets	Art Club (Sponsor: A. Cimballa) Senior Creative Writers Club (Sponsor: F. Hammes)		Apple sticker		



"My third grade teacher, Ms. Carol Lee, because she motivated me to use my imagination when writing and encouraged me to apply for creative writing at SOA."

Ashley Prentice, 11th grade Creative Writing



"Mrs. Cross, my Strings teacher at Jennie Moore Elementary, helped me learn how to play my instrument and prepare for the audition."

Rhiannon Heck, 12th grade Strings



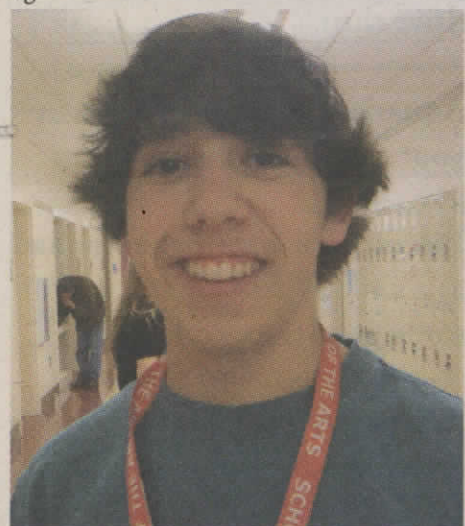
"Mr. Naylor from Buist Academy because he looked over all of my writing to make sure I got into SOA."

Elizabeth Kitchens, 11th grade Creative Writing



Mr. Rivers, my music teacher at Mitchell Elementary, because he helped me with my music.

Alana Haltiwanger, 6th grade Vocal



"Mrs. Elliot-Evans because she taught me clarinet."

Ellison Kareesh, 10th grade Band

## What teacher inspired and encouraged you to come to SOA?

By Allie Augustine and Miki Sugimoto



"My vocal teacher, Mrs. Cheek, by telling me it was a great school and giving her recommendation"

Cameron Lloyd, 11th grade Vocal



"My teacher Ms. Erin told me that after my performance at the 5th grade talent show that she knew SOA was where I belonged! And she was right!"

Sophie Kendrick, 9th grade Theatre



My music teacher, Mr. Farrley. He said that if I didn't get in, he would stop helping anybody else."

Cassandra Whiteside, 6th grade Vocal



"Mrs. Russell inspired me to get into SOA. She told me it would be an honor to come to my concerts and be able to say that I was one of my students."

Angel Polkey, 6th grade Vocal



"Ms. Moore because with her help I was able to be Mr. Grinch in my first play."

Devin Donaldson, 9th grade Theatre