



# **CONTENTS**

3	<u><b>PRINCIPAL'S REPORT</b></u>
5	<u><b>ART</b></u>
8	<u><b>BUSINESS</b></u>
11	<u><b>GUIDANCE</b></u>
12	<u><b>MODERNS</b></u>
13	<u><b>LIBRARY LC</b></u>
14	<u><b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b></u>
15	<u><b>STUDENT GOVERNMENT</b></u>

# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Happy 2024 to the St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS community!

It gives me great joy and Pride (no pun intended) to write this welcome message for the Fall/Winter 2024 version of our school newsletter! I will start with a heartfelt thank you to all of the members of our school community who have welcomed me as the new Principal. Since my appointment, back in late April, I have received countless messages of support from staff, students, families, and community members alike, truly making me feel a part of the STL family. I learned early on that our school has a remarkable tradition (21 years in the making) of academic excellence, athletic dominance, achievement in the arts, exemplary student leadership and diverse extracurriculars. Having now served as Principal 'officially' for 5 months, I have felt and experienced firsthand the myriad of reasons why this school community is a truly unique and special one to be a part of.

Most importantly, our community is rooted in our Catholic faith tradition, and the Christian virtue and vocation to 'love God and love thy neighbour' and as embodied upon so beautifully by our patron, St. Theresa of Lisieux, to do 'even the little things with extraordinary love'. I witnessed and experienced this as our community welcomed our 'Grade 9 Cubs' back in September, and also when we celebrated our Opening Mass in October, and our Advent Mass in December. I witnessed and experienced this 'extraordinary love' as we mourned the loss of our beloved Grade 12 student Serene Dydyna, who tragically passed away in October 2023. Serene exemplified 'the little way' of St. Theresa and showed extraordinary love for her family, her friends and our school community during her short time on earth. As a community, we will continue to support one another as we remember Serene at her Memorial Mass on February 22, 2024 and as we continue to grieve her loss. Along with our Vice-Principals, I witness this 'extraordinary love' everyday as I walk our school halls. I see our students supporting one another in the library when preparing for tests and CPTs, I see them in the English hallway eating their lunch, playing games and reviewing class work (sometimes simultaneously!). I see students after school, preparing for games and practices, attending club and council meetings and doing all they can to contribute to our culture of success and atmosphere of inclusivity! Our students, under the direction of their council leaders and teacher moderators, transformed our Great Hall in November for Remembrance Day, in December for Christmas and on a daily basis, making STL a place that is welcoming and full of energy and spirit!

Here are some other highlights from semester 1 and some exciting events on the horizon:

In September, our student leaders attended their leadership retreat at Muskoka Woods. They returned more energised and enthusiastic than ever to carry out their leadership responsibilities. We thank Ms. Ah-Chin, Mr. Morrison and Ms. Brockest for their dedication to developing student leaders at STL!

In September, we also held our Annual Terry Fox fundraiser. The 5km walk on September 29th raised \$6000 for cancer research. We thank Ms. R. Ventrella, Ms. Vietch, and our Athletics council for organising such a successful event!

In October, our Arts students travelled to New York City with Mr. Meiorin, Mr. Nero, Ms. Maugeri and Ms. Brockest. Our students attended shows on Broadway and participated in workshops, strengthening their love and appreciation of the Arts. The memories made will last them a lifetime.

In December, our students in our Business leadership class organised a successful Business luncheon. Amidst beautiful Christmas-themed decorations, our students put their leadership skills and business acumen on display while raising money for Lupus Ontario. Our Business students also managed to raise more money for various other charities during their annual market fair by selling unique foods and products for the joy and consumption of their fellow students. Congratulations to all students and teachers in our Business department for their efforts!

In December, we also hosted our annual Music concert 'Tinsel and Tunes' and a dramatic performance 'The Last Day of School'. Both events were very successful and well-attended and showcased the incredible talents of our Arts students. More importantly, they were opportunities for our community to come together and celebrate the talents and success of our students.

Throughout the semester, our athletic teams have also been doing us proud winning YRAA banners in Rugby, Swimming, Golf, Cross Country and Tennis. We are so impressed by our athletes and thankful for the dedication of our coaches and organisers.

Coming up we have so much to look forward to at this 'halfway' point of the school year.

In March, our Boys' Rugby team will travel to Spain and Portugal to train and tour these 2 beautiful European countries rich in history and tradition. We wish them safe travels!

Our Robotics team, as well as our DECA, HOSA and Model UN clubs are training for local, provincial, and hopefully international competitions. They have dedicated countless hours to their passions in these areas, we pray that what they hope to accomplish will come to fruition!

Our class of 2024 will prepare for graduation, prom and future post-secondary destinations. We look forward to honouring our graduating students who continue to show incredible leadership and collectively set a positive example for our younger students.

To conclude, it truly takes a village to raise a child: Thank you to all of our parents, staff, students and community members for their incredible partnership in making our school one that thrives and lives out the ethos of our patron saint. I pray that together we will continue to make St. Theresa of Lisieux the safe, inclusive, and Christ-centred school that it was always meant to be!

Mr. Peter Parente, Principal



# STL ARTS

## Embraces the Power of Artistic Expression

Visual Arts! Music! Drama! No matter what artform STL Arts students participated in, their artistic expression was nurtured throughout our first semester of 2023.



Our Music program was busy at work with many opportunities for growth, development and performance. The semester began with a visit from Mark Caswell, musician, founder and President of the Ontario Band Association. Mr. Caswell workshoped with our Senior Band, playing and conducting pieces with our students. His focus on showing us how to breathe together, articulation, tone and listening to one another was not only helpful but strengthened our band for the busy semester ahead.

Our STL Vocal Ensemble shined brightly at various STL events including our opening and Christmas liturgies, Remembrance Day assemblies and various other musical occasions in and around STL.

Both our Instrumental and Vocal students wowed the STL community and got everyone into the Christmas spirit with their remarkable work, visiting 6 feeder schools on tour, as well as our “Tinsel & Tunes” concert on the evening of December 7th, 2023. Playing a mix of Christmas classics and unexpectedly Christmasy pieces, the STL Music program was truly exceptional that night. We would like to thank Ms. Buffa for her outstanding efforts in planning and executing the evening, as well as Mr. Buttice. Their hard work and dedication is so far reaching and is greatly appreciated by all.

STL's Drama Program has had an exciting Semester One with much to be proud of! Our Grade 10 Drama students took part in 4 back-to-back performances of "Remembering Through Learning: The Story of In Flanders Fields". Our students performed a heartfelt and meaningful tableaux which taught our student body all about poet John McCrae and his famous, impactful poem to commemorate Remembrance Day, 2023.



Our Grade 11 and 12 Drama Production students blew the roof off of our theater with their INCREDIBLE performance of Ian McWethy's *The Last Day of School*. A heartfelt play all about the joys and sorrows of teenage love and longing, each student brought so much heart and honesty to all of our performances, as well as production work, we could not be prouder of this incredibly dynamic bunch. BRAVO!!





STL's Visual Arts students have been working around the clock, refining their visual arts skills in a wide range of mediums. Students have worked in paper mache sculpture, printmaking and made custom jewelry from coffee pods. Our Grade 12 Portfolio class completed a collective mural Rene Magritte's "The Clairvoyant" and also worked on creating a piece for our school board's boardroom centred on the of theme "We Are Diverse, We Are One In Christ", among many other incredible projects.



This past October, STL Arts embarked on another trip to New York City with forty-six Grade 11 and 12 Drama, Visual Arts and Technology students. Students were immersed in the city and all of its attractions, including Grand Central Station, 9/11 Memorial, Central Park, Times Square, SoHo, Rockefeller Centre and St. Patrick's Cathedral, to name a few. Students explored the Arts through visits to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Modern Museum of Art, took in Broadway shows, *Pictures from Home* and *Sweeney Todd*, as well as embarked on a graffiti walk to see various famous graffiti works around the city, including a Banksy piece. Students truly immersed themselves in the city and had an engaging experience embracing the Arts.



# BUSINESS MARKET FAIR

The grade 10 business classes held an amazing 2 days of selling yummy and innovative foods. Ranging from snacks and desserts to meals and drinks, the students were amazing. A lot of time and energy was placed into marketing their products and showcasing their learning from the Grade 10 Introduction to Business course. They put concepts learned in class into action engaged the student body and had a lot of fun in the process. All the money raised is going to a local charity. We are so proud of all the grade 10 business students. BRAVO!





# BUSINESS LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

Grade 12 Business Leadership students put on a wonderful luncheon, Thursday December 14th. The gymnasium was transformed into a Winter Wonderland, with handmade decor and props. Teachers and administration were able to enjoy a delicious lunch served by the students. The business leadership classes were also able to have two wonderful guest speakers: Michelle DiEmanuele, CEO of Trillium Health and Secretary of the Cabinet of Ontario and Sarah Wells, Olympic semi-finalist and Pan Am Games silver medallist.

Proceeds of \$1,200 raised from ticket sales went to Lupus Ontario. Congratulations to all the grade 12 business leadership students and to Ms. Ah-Chin and Mr. Deocampo. This amazing opportunity allowed the students to put into practice all of the leadership qualities and skills that they have acquired throughout the semester.



# SHSM

## DAVE & BUSTER'S FIELD TRIP EXPERIENCE

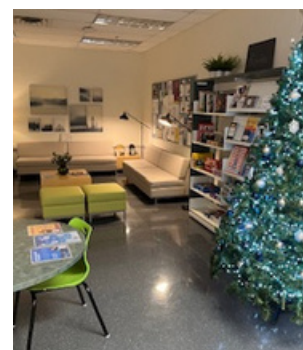
On November 13, SHSM Business students had the opportunity to participate in a Customer Service and Leadership certification at Dave & Buster's. Students heard from industry professionals, participated in collaborative activities, and had fun playing in the arcade.



# Guidance

## The Office

The Guidance Office is the place to be... for quiet work, reflection or just to hang out and have a break from a busy day! Many senior students find solace in the Guidance Office on spare to get some work done. And, while there is no food or drink allowed in the Guidance Office, it is also a calm place for students from all grades to have a quiet moment, focus on their mental health or to find an interesting activity to do such as read a books or play a game. For more information on all things Guidance related, be sure to visit the [Guidance Website](#).



## Grades 9-12 - Google Classrooms



For important information and updates on course selection, university applications, scholarships, field trips and more, be sure to have your child invite you to the "By Grade" Google Classroom. All students have been invited to join the Classroom via email.





The final day to request a course change for semester two timetables is February 12, 2024 at 3:00 pm. Students should NOT email their counsellor about a course changes; they MUST fill out the [Course Change form](#) on the Guidance Website and all efforts will be made to make the necessary changes. There will be no appointments with guidance counsellors February 5th-9th inclusive as the Guidance Office works to process course changes in timestamp order.

## 2024-2025 - Course Selection

Grades 9-11 Course Selection for the 2024-2025 school year will take place in February. Students are encouraged to do careful research and choose their courses wisely to avoid any scheduling difficulties later in the year. Be sure to check the [Guidance Website](#) in early February and keep up with the “By Grade” Google Classrooms for important information and details about the upcoming course selection process.

## University Application Deadlines

January 15th was the Deadline for Ontario high school students to submit their completed application to the [OUAC](#).

Note: The OUAC still processes applications received after this date and distributes them to the universities; however, specific university deadlines will apply.

The initial application includes all final grades from completed Grade 11 and 12 courses, and a list of all current-year courses in progress.

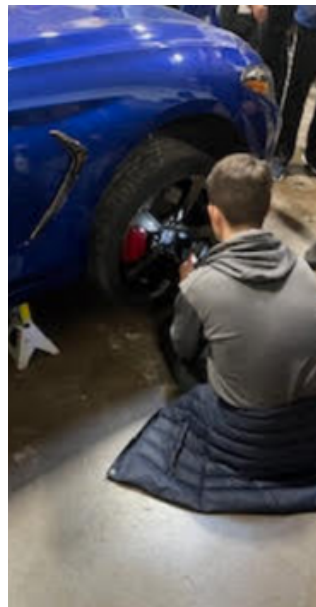
## College Application Information

February 1, 2024: Equal Consideration Date - Applications made on or before this date will receive equal consideration for admission to programs starting in the fall. After this date, colleges consider applicants on a first-come, first-served basis until programs are full.

Note that applications to [Highly Competitive Programs](#) needed to be received by Feb 1st.

Many programs continue to accept applicants after February 1. Use our [Find a Program](#) tool at any time to find programs that are still open.





On November 15th, 2023, a group of 45 students from grades 9-12 ventured to the International Centre in Mississauga, to partake in the Level Up! Skilled Trades Fair. At the Fair, activity and information booths from hundreds of skilled trades shared information and allowed students to try their hand at a number of different hands on activities. It was a diverse and exciting day that enabled students to see first hand the benefits and opportunities that a career in the Skilled Trades offers.

## Dreamer Day Field Trip

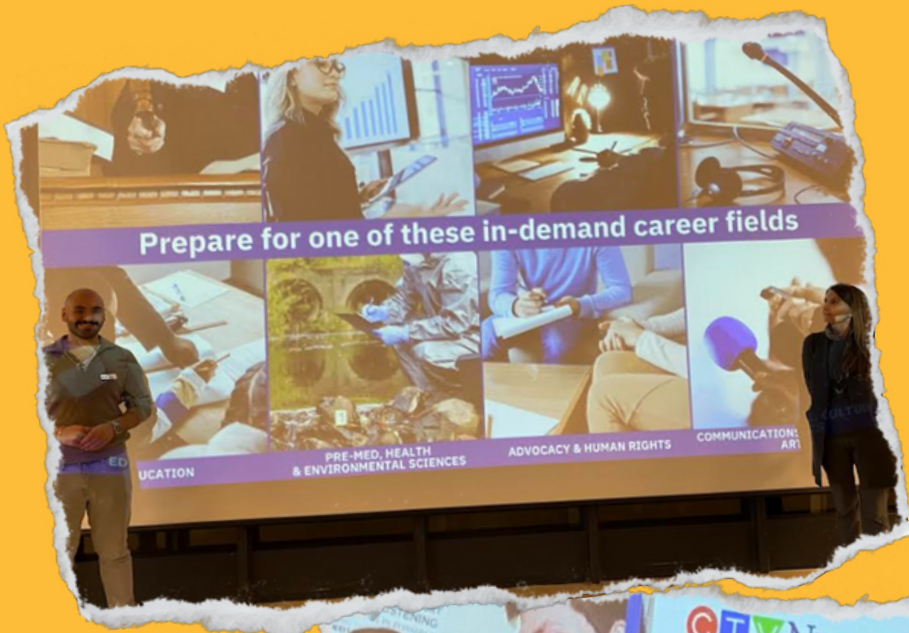
On October 25th, a group of students from STL attended the Dreamer Day Festival in Toronto. Dreamer Day began as a celebration of the United Nations' International Day of the Girl, but has quickly become a festival to celebrate and recognize underrepresented groups working in fields such as skilled trades, STEAM, emergency response, entrepreneurship, and leadership. Dreamer Day provides information and tools to help guide future leaders towards rewarding careers in these fields.



# DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES



On Tuesday, January 9th, students enrolled in French courses in Semester 1, attended a presentation with Mr. Eli Haddad, a student recruitment officer from York University's Glendon campus. He spoke about the faculty, programs, scholarships, research opportunities, the importance of bilingualism as well as different aspects of university life. Additionally, Mr. Haddad communicated to our students about the benefits of continuing with French studies and how it can benefit them in the workforce, with reference to an array of careers. He certainly underscored how speaking French can serve someone both personally and professionally.





## LEARNING COMMONS



The school library has been a hub of activity in semester 1. We are committed to promoting inclusivity and equity within our school community and our ever expanding collection and variety of events continues to reflect diverse voices, subject areas and student interests.

In September, during National Truth and Reconciliation week, our learning commons hosted a docuseries honouring the Indigenous Canadian experience. In October our students participated in a board wide puzzle challenge. In December, Cub Council took over the library to make Christmas cards for 360 kids. While in January, we welcomed our Mental Health ambassadors who offered up tea, colouring activities and a calming space to ease the stress of upcoming exams.

Looking ahead, we have many initiatives in the works, so stay tuned! Come and explore our library learning commons, learn something new, take break and/or make a connection. We are excited to see what's in store for the rest of the school year!



## BOOK CLUB RECOMMENDATIONS



**The Song of Achilles**  
By: Madeline Miller



**The Night Circus**  
By: Erin Morgenstern



**1984**  
By: George Orwell



**The Divine Comedy**  
By: Dante Alighieri



**Cinder**  
By: Marissa Meyer

# HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION



It has been a fantastic start to the year for our Health and Physical Education Students. This year, our students were once again able to experience some of the exciting activities that have unfortunately eluded our programming as a result of Covid protocols.

For starters, our Grade 10 students participated in a one week Wall Climbing unit with guest instructors from Guelph Grottos Climbing Inc. The students performed a variety of challenges using the state of the art equipment brought in by instructors and took their abilities to new heights (pun definitely intended).

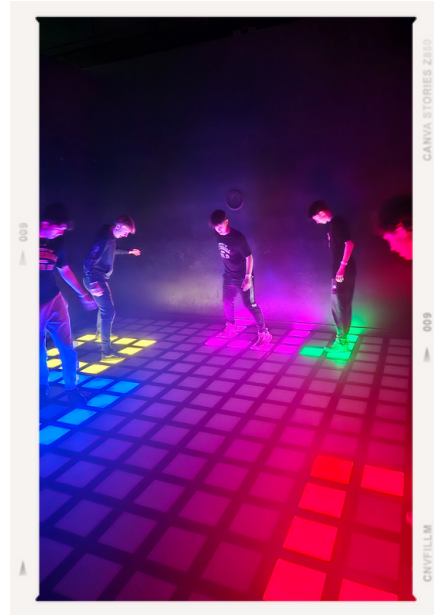
Along with this, our Grade 9s and 10s took part in an extremely informative week with our new Self Defense instructor Sensei Terry Popvich who comes to STL with over 20 years of teaching experience in YCDSB schools as well as running his own private Dojo over that same period. Our students were engaged in learning how to avoid conflict and how to mitigate confrontation while preserving self love and respect and safety for others. The lessons from this unit will surely be life lasting for our students.





# HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Not to be outdone, our senior Grade 11 students took part in the first ever field trip to Activate in Scarborough. Activate is a state of the art facility that offers high tech games that test one's physical and cognitive abilities while engaging in almost sci-fi like games and environments. Our students were struck at how the technology in these rooms created such vibrant and competitive small sided games and challenges for them to complete. Lasers, lights and other illusions provided the medians for students to register points through their electronic wrist -bands. Needless to say, this field trip truly captures 21st century learning opportunities and will now become a staple in our Grade 11 course for the foreseeable future.



Lastly, our HPE Department is proud to unveil our brand new Digital Wellness Wall newly minted as THE HUSTLE HUB where students can find all things Health and Wellness offered at our vibrant school. From Athletics to Intramurals to Mental Health resources, our interactive TV is a live kiosk keeping students up to date with all the opportunities for them to improve their daily lives. The wall is located outside the cafeteria and unveils multiple QR codes to sign up for various clubs such as the Fitness Centre and Futsol Fridays as well as links to nutrition and wellness resources such as stress relief and grounding exercises.

# Student

# GOVERNMENT



Athletic Council embarked on an action-packed fall, featuring two main events that gave the STL community an opportunity to come together to fundraise for two great causes.

In September, Athletic Council, alongside Spirit Council and Intramural Council, helped to organize and run the Terry Fox Walk. Our student body walked 4.5 km and then enjoyed a picnic lunch on the back field. Athletic Council and Spirit Council cheered the walkers along the route and Intramural Council ran fun games on the back field during lunch. Our students were able to raise an incredible \$18,013. A fun and successful day was enjoyed by all.

In December, Athletic Council hosted the much-anticipated Basketball Buy-In where 24 classes donated a minimum of \$2 to buy-in to the event with their period four class to cheer on the teachers as they competed against grade 12 members of the boys and girls senior basketball teams. Of course it was a very close game with the students coming out on top by only a few points. Best of all, \$800 was donated to the Sick Kids Foundation. Stay tuned for AC's Health Awareness Week and Booster Juice Sales during semester two!

BY: Angela Zhao





As we reach the end of our first semester, STL's Chaplaincy Council looks back on what we've accomplished! From our bigger events—like Remembrance Day decorating, Opening mass, and Advent Liturgy—to daily responsibilities like reading the morning and afternoon prayer over the PA, our members have worked hard to make sure everything ran smoothly. We'd like to extend our thanks to all the student volunteers, the custodians, Father Peter Choi and Father Matt McCarthy, and the entire student body for their reverence during our services. We look forward to next semester when Chaplaincy will be back to bring you our annual Change for Jesus fundraiser, Easter Liturgy, and so much more! With these events, we will continue to exemplify the Little Way in the spirit of our patron saint, St. Theresa of Lisieux.

BY: Amilya Lee







## OUR MISSION

At Cub Council, our mission is to foster a stronger and more connected community at STL through the 'Little Way,' guided by compassion, inclusivity, and support. By providing tools, mentorship, and friendship, we are dedicated to helping the newest Cubs smoothly transition into their high school life.

## CREATING A VIBRANT AND SAFE COMMUNITY

Cub Council always hosts unforgettable events, including the Hearts and Roses Dance, Exam Prep Workshop, Hoppy Hunting, and Christmas Card Making. We make high school life fun, educational, and memorable, creating a vibrant and connected community at STL.



## A FEW OF OUR EVENTS

- Hearts and Roses Dance
- Exam Prep Workshop
- Hoppy Hunting
- Christmas Card Making



As always, the Diversity and Equity Council set out on a mission to educate, inspire, and impact the STL community, and our first semester was no exception!

We started the year off strong at Muskoka Woods, where our members bonded with one another through engaging games and activities, and of course, through our stellar California Girls campfire performance (D&E on top)!

In October, our informative event *Where You At* gave students the opportunity to share their cultures and interests by using our interactive map and filling out our surveys, while also having the chance to win some prizes!

In December, our *Season's Treatings* event was a festive hit with students and staff. From hot chocolate, to pins, to trivia, our booth was perfect for getting everyone into the Christmas spirit.

And of course, through our Cultural Calendar, we made sure to keep STL updated on important events and holidays from around the world throughout the semester.

Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported our events! There's even more to come and even more to look forward to from D&E, so stay excited STL!

BY: Elena Jiang



**WHERE YOU AT?**



**SEASON'S TREATINGS**



**READY FOR SEMESTER 2**



Looking back on the last semester, Enviro is grateful to be able to enrich the school community through our events.

Beginning in September, Enviro strengthened our bond as a council at Muskoka!

We re-implemented the recycling program to promote a sustainable and environmentally responsible school.

Most recently, at Enviro's vegan bake sale, we raised more than \$250 in donations for the World Wildlife Fund while providing environmentally-conscious, yet delicious, desserts.

Thank you to everyone who has participated and we hope to continue to spread our message of stewardship and sustainability with your support in the upcoming year.

BY: Christina Beck, Daniella Lopez & Olivia Zhang





As semester one comes to a close, Intramural Council would like to thank all of the students who came out to participate in one of our recreational sports events! Just a little recap of the year so far...

We had a blast at Muskoka Woods, playing fun team building games and singing at the top of our lungs at the campfire (Starships by Nicki Minaj with an Intra twist)!



Intra kicked off the school year better than ever with fun minigames hosted during the Terry Fox Run in collaboration with Athletic Council.



And then came the return of our ever-popular Junior and Senior dodgeball drop-ins! Lots of energy and teamwork here.

Stay tuned for more exciting events in 2024! See you there :)

BY: Yilin Liao





Social Justice council has been hard at work, organizing events and initiatives to promote equality and inclusivity. To start off the year, Social Justice collaborated with Diversity & Equity to cultivate a school environment that honoured Indigenous communities for Truth and Reconciliation Day.

Next, Operation Christmas Child commenced where we gathered toys as a council to donate to children across the world for the Christmas season!

To close out the year we hosted our annual holiday donation drive, Operation Saint Nick where our school donated thousands of items to those in need for the holiday season!



We're looking forward to our next semester filled with more events!

BY: Rylie de Ala





Hey STL, as one of the nine student government councils, Spirit Council strives to uplift our school community through our spirited events! Specifically, we make it a priority to host events that can bring our students together and give everyone a break from the stresses of school. So far this year, you may have noticed our Halloween Costume Contest, Christmas Karaoke, and our Photo Booths as just some of the events we have run. Upcoming, we have our Valentine's Day and Easter events.

Good luck to everyone in the upcoming semester and stay tuned for what's to come from Spirit!

BY: Dev Achria







*Student Council*  
September 2023  
to  
January 2024

S  
T  
U  
D  
E  
N  
T

**Testimonial:**

"My experience in student government, as a member of Student Council, is one that I will forever cherish. From all of the events that we were able to successfully plan and execute, to the friendships I've made along the way, being a part of student council has been the most memorable part of my high school experience. I can't wait to experience what 2024 holds for us! "



Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love.

- St Theresa of Lisieux