

Tradition Returns. The upperclassmen retreat is all about traditions. At the retreat, the senior girls decorated white jeans and the senior boys started a new tradition by painting denim shorts. **Matt Van Dyke**, with **Damien Edlund**, shared, "It was really fun sitting around with my friends. I made a mistake and painted somewhere with glitter which made it more fun." Another activity at the upperclassmen retreat was the bonfire. Students bonded over trying to start the fire despite the rain, and then spent the night singing and making s'mores.

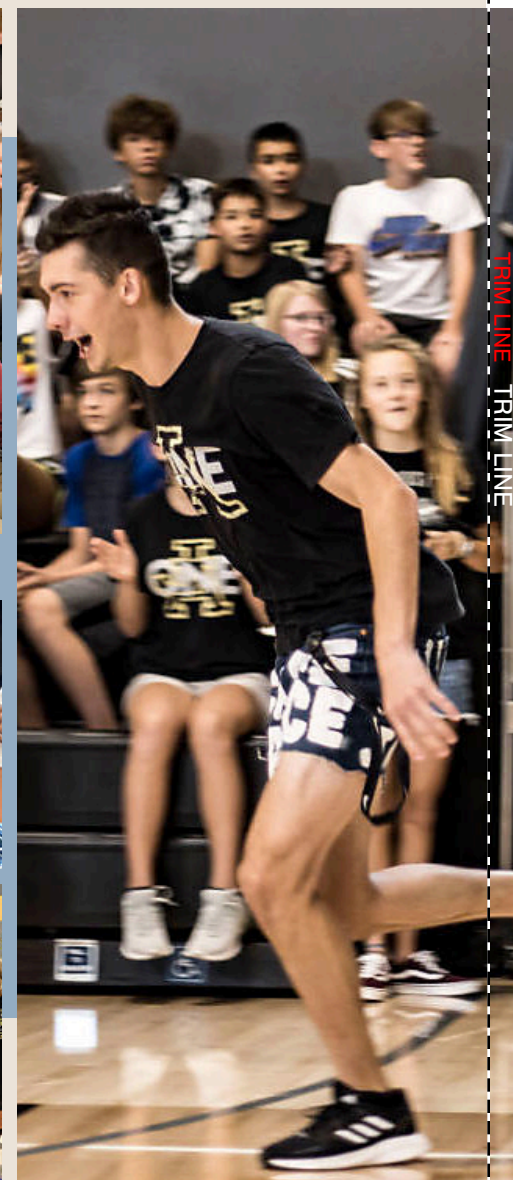


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To kick off the new school year, StuCo holds a school wide assembly full of fun activities. There was a singing battle against the grades, tug-of-war against all of the fall sports teams, and an ice cream social to celebrate the end of the first day. **Grace Beck** participated in the tug-a-war with the high school cross country team and shared, "We got to destroy the junior highers, and I think that it brings competition in a fun way." **Lilagrace Huffer** and **Elliot Waters** were both excited during the singing battle against the grades. After the assembly, StuCo hosted an ice cream social where students like **Emma Schneider**, **Carolyn Ennis**, **Lili Foss**, and **Marin Baltz** all ate ice cream.



TRIM LINE TRIM LINE





Rainy Days. Juniors and seniors kick off the new school year with rainy day activities at the upperclassman retreat. Although the weather was unexpectedly gloomy, students still managed to have a good time and bond with their peers. **Gracie Navas-Lillie**, who spent most of her time with **Grace Tomasko**, shared, "It actually turned out to be a good experience because when all of the activities got rescheduled, we got to go back to our room, hang out with everyone, and play card games with our roommates." **Noah Montgomery** also found free time entertaining, "We spent a lot of time at the recreation center because they had basketball hoops, a volleyball net, and ping pong." Although the weather did prevent some activities from happening, upperclassmen were quick to find activities that were just as enjoyable.

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Caden Fullerton and Jordan Quach made their entrance by breaking through the senior banner.

POLICING NEW POLICIES

thoughts on new school rules



" I understand the need for a dress code and I understand it is there for personal safety and professionalism, but in the end we're teenagers. Live and let live.
Colette Lynn



" I would rather have my phone in class. It's easier to not forget and more easily accessible in case of emergency.
Devin Carter

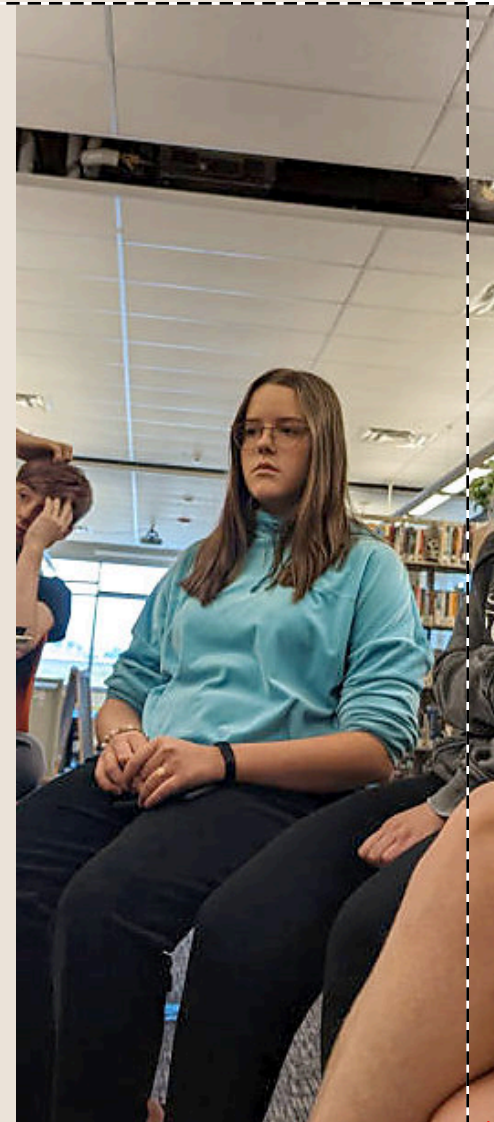
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Sideout Showdown

Serve after Serve. The Jags fought strong for their way to the top in the first tournament of the season. "The Sideout Showdown was our first tournament and it went really well. I think our record was 3-1 so we made it to the championships and then we lost to Stargate. But for starting off the season, we definitely did so much better than I expected," described Libero **LiLi Foss**, who played alongside teammates **Jessie Schaffer**, **Emilee Harding**, and **Laila Gallaher**. Emilee had an equally positive perspective and explained, "We were able to communicate really well as a team and execute the skills we had practiced." She added, "We're definitely way better this year, I think that all of us have matured as volleyball players and since we only lost one person last year, we were able to move all together as a team."



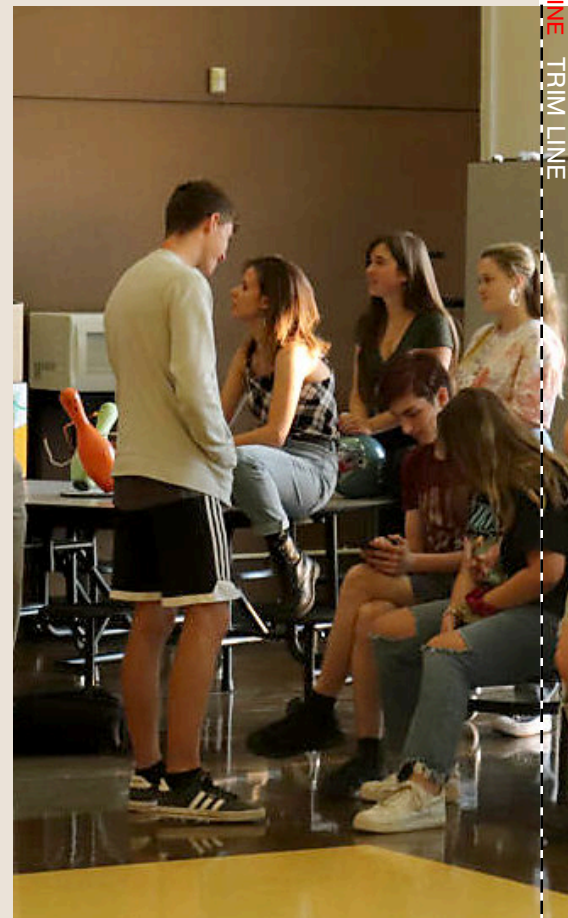
HERE BECAUSE I LOVE IT



Ava Chung has been a part of StuCo since her sophomore year. She would recommend it to anyone who wants to "be a part of a really great group of people who care about our school." Ava enjoyed Back to School Night and sharing her club with others. She loved hyping up StuCo. "It's a really awesome way to meet new people, while hanging out with your friends too.... You get a look into the behind the scenes of all the awesome events we host and get to make your voice heard."



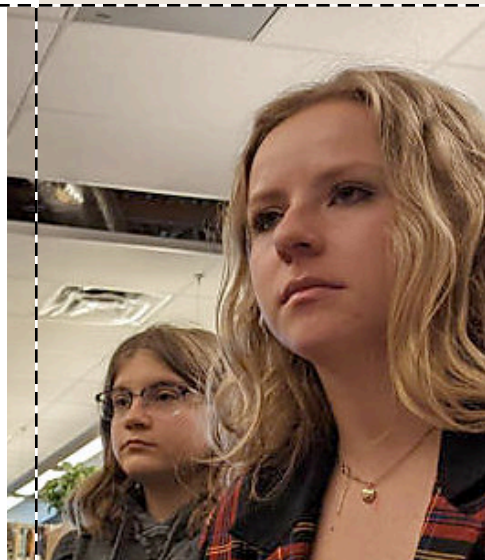
Sonia Mathai enjoys visiting with all the different clubs for Back to School Night. "I'm in NHS, Key Club, and my Zero Hour is StuCo. Those were the clubs I was most interested in. I definitely looked at a lot of different options and when I was considering, those were just the ones that piqued my interest the most. I did learn about a lot of different clubs which was cool. I do like NHS, I think it's a really cool club. I also really like Key Club. I think it's a great club for volunteer opportunities and getting involved with your community," Sonia shared.



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Avery Linton, Eden Woodward, and Elise Lien discuss *The Hate You Give*.

Banned Books. SLAB held book clubs, read-ins, and shared announcements to spread awareness about how some literature is being restricted in schools. One such event was Banned Books Book Club, in which participants read "The Hate You Give" by Angie Thomas. "Book club was very somber but important. Our generation needs to have discussions about these topics and book club was able to have these discussions. We talked about why it is crucial to hold banned books week," shared **Sofia Hiller**, who participated with **Chris Meier** and **Eva Richling**. At the end of the week, a read-in was hosted to celebrate all banned books where students got free books. **Eden Woodward**, co-president of SLAB, exclaimed, "I was so proud of banned book week! I feel like it went so well and I feel like the student population really got the message driven home about banned books and the consequences of them and the impact that they have on our education." She added, "I think that banning books is bad because I believe that students should have the ability to have access to all the knowledge that they want."

behind the banned

prepared or scared?



"It's literally the most depressing part about school. The fact that we constantly have to do drills in case somebody comes into school with a gun. Absolutely terrifying that we have to do a drill on how to hide from an active shooter." **Elliot Waters**



"I think it's good that we practice it but it's sad that we have to because of all the danger that happens. In case something bad happens, we know what we're supposed to do - we're supposed to hide away and not go out." **Sofia Meyer**



Troy Brown strongly believes that lockdown drills are important because his father survived the Columbine shooting. "They matter a lot and they should be practiced. People should know what to do in that situation. I do trust lockdown drills. They're important." Reminiscing on his father's story, he concluded, "There's not a crazy amount of stuff you can do, you just have to be ready."



Leyna, how do you **language** in Mandarin?

Leyna Gibson went to Global Village Academy before JA where she learned Mandarin for many years. She believes that language is crucial to who she is. "I think it's important because there are more languages out there than just English, it helps people to converse and interact with other people and as I said before, it also teaches you about other cultures... I could see myself without it, but I wouldn't want to"

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Don't Rain on My Parade

After many setbacks, last minute plans were made for the Homecoming Parade to be set at Woodrow Wilson Academy. Clubs banded together to create something wonderful for the elementary students. RC Club president, **Sam Rizzo**, who decorated his car to look like Lightning McQueen from the movie *Cars*, rode with his friend, **Myriam Gonzales-Castellanos**. Sam commented, "I left it up to the kids in my club to decide what they wanted to do, a lot of middle schoolers in the club like *Cars* so we ended up making a *Cars* float."

Puff it Up

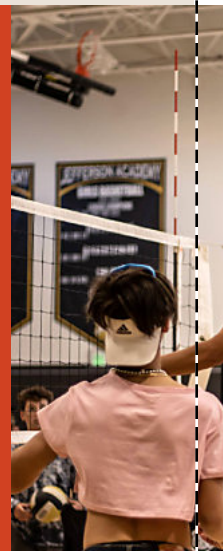
Football with Friends. A Homecoming Week tradition, Powder Puff is one of the most anticipated games of the week. Junior and senior girls play against each other in a game of flag football. It rained throughout the game, but that's what made it so distinctive. According to **Emilee Harding**, "Powder Puff was memorable because, for one, it was very cold and rainy that day, but it was also a lot of fun and a great way to spend time with my friends. I was also able to become friends with people in my grade who I would not originally have hung out with." **Jessie Schaffer**, who played for the juniors, shared her favorite part of the game was when they scored. "It was awesome to watch **Laila Gallaher** run up the field unopposed for our first score and then it was cool when Emilee scored and I was the distraction to draw the other team away from her. It was my first football game and it was pretty exciting!"



PEACHFUZZ

Testosterone on the Courts. Homecoming Week provides many fun activities all around and Peach Fuzz is one of the many anticipated traditions. The boys Peach Fuzz teams had a lot of excitement between preparing for the games after school and actually playing in them, culminating in a game during the Homecoming Assembly.

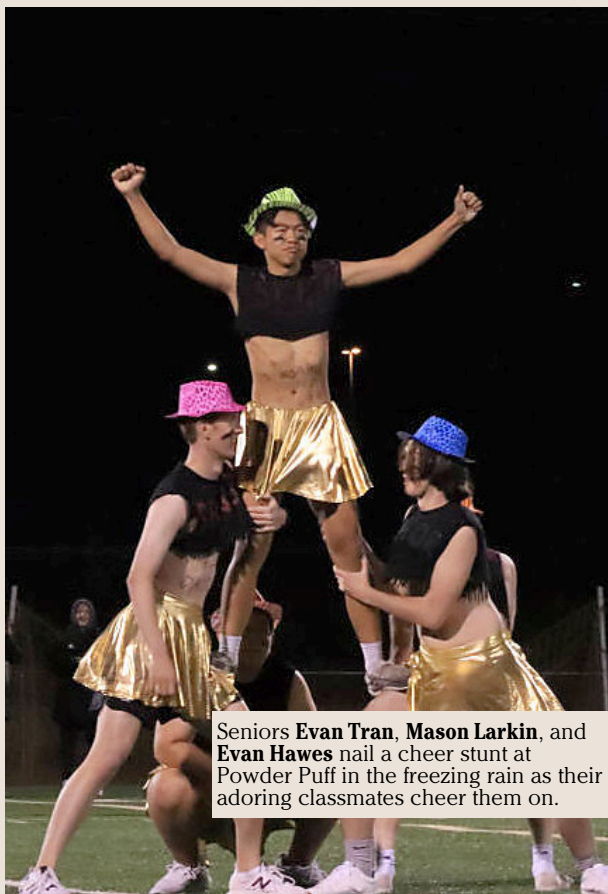
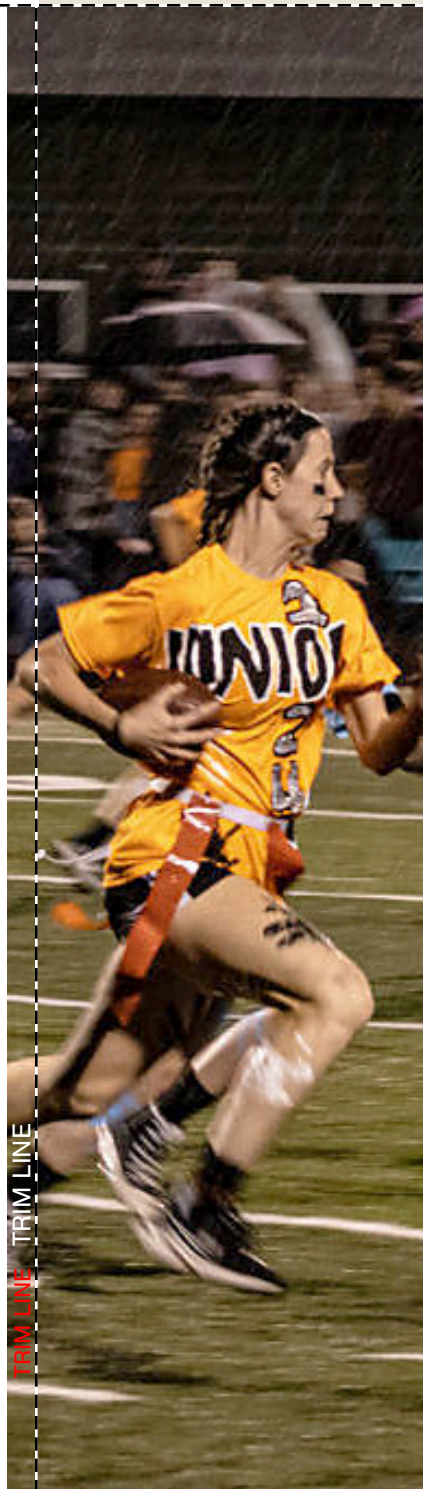
Senior **Logan Johnson** reflected on his final Peach Fuzz game, "It was a fun experience, our first game was tough but we crushed it." Others enjoyed the preparation to the games more. "My favorite part of Peach Fuzz was getting to bond with my teammates who were also my best friends," exclaimed **Mario Sawaged**. The competitive environment was a thrill and many students cheered on excitedly as the boys tried to keep a calm head. **John Sanborn** and **Mario Andreev** used a huddle to hype up their team and prepare for the next set.



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Seniors **Evan Tran, Mason Larkin, and Evan Hawes** nail a cheer stunt at Powder Puff in the freezing rain as their adoring classmates cheer them on.



44 HOCO Spirit



"My favorite part of Spirit Week would have to be seeing everyone in the school and how they are so invested. That does not just go with Spirit Week, it goes for every event, but it is the best showcase of it."

Jacob Brackney



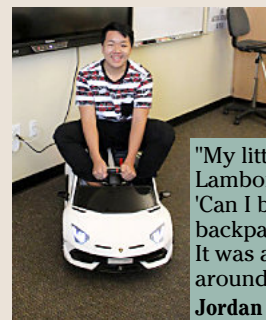
"My favorite Spirit Day was Twin Day because I got to dress up with my best friends. I love Spirit Days because it is fun to see what everyone is planning!"

Brynn Sorice



"Adam Sandler Day was an interesting day because I thought that it was a very clever and funny idea for the whole school to show their spirit."

Cassandra Davis



"My little sister has a little Lamborghini and I asked her 'Can I bring your car as my backpack?' and she said yes. It was annoying to carry around but was so fun."

Jordan Quach



"I dressed up as a grandma. I think a lot of people when they think grandma they think, gray hair, curlers, and robes but I actually live with my grandma so I knew that was not the vibe."

Grace Parker

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