



Boarding Department E-Newsletter 10

On Friday evening, Mrs. Battaglieri took a group of boarders to see *The Philanderer*, by George Bernard Shaw, directed by our very own Sandra Provost, a St. Stephen's director, and starring one of our boarders, Jax! In this 1893 play about the silliness of traditional marriages, Jax played Sylvia Craven, a decidedly "unwomanly" woman with whom the "philanderer," Leonard Charteris, must contend.



Back on campus we spent the rainy evening devouring chocolate and pistachio cannoli in 1-1.

On Saturday, we began the day with a two-hour study hall in the library followed by lunch and a quiet afternoon on campus.



Saturday night, our Prefect on Duty, Laura, organized a movie night in the auditorium. We put down yoga mats, spread out our blankets and pillows, and enjoyed “Now You See Me 2,” a movie about a team of illusionist magicians who pull off a series of successful bank robberies. As we settled down to watch the movie, Laura passed out face masks and Sophia and Lily arrived armed with a delivery from our favorite local Japanese restaurant, Sushi & Noodles. It was the perfect, relaxing end to a rainy Saturday.

The sun came out on Sunday, inspiring Mr. Powers, Octavio, Lily, and Sophia to head to Villa Pamphilj for an afternoon of frisbee, football, and, of course, fetch with Wilson (Ms. Battaglieri and Mr. Powers’ lovable Vizsla).



Back on campus, study hall was held from 11 to 1 pm. The library remained open for studying until dinner time. The seniors commandeered classroom 1-1 for the day, turning it into their de-facto Extended Essay writing headquarters. As you can see, there was a lot of brainstorming going on!



Meanwhile...

Just three hours away in Tuscany, 10 of our boarders enjoyed a magical weekend getaway to [Spannocchia](#), a lovely agriturismo near Siena. The stuff that romantic dreams of the Italian countryside are made of, Spannocchia boasts spectacular views and wonderful food (all produced on the farm). Kabir and Abby led the trip, which departed Friday at 3 PM sharp (students were excused from their last class, which they had few qualms about). After a 3.5-hour bus ride of rousing singalongs (led by Ian), the group arrived in time for dinner, which is enjoyed family-style with all the guests of the lodge.



Clockwise: The majestic Spannocchia complex and 13th-century tower; views of the countryside from a room; boarders testing the resistance of antique furniture; and the distinctive cypress trees that were a marker of wealth and fertility in Etruscan times.

After dinner students got to hang out in the very charming library, where they eschewed reading and homework in favor of socializing, coloring, snacking, and comparing their favorite Tik Tok videos. Saturday started with a prompt 10:00 AM breakfast, followed by a delightful cooking class, in which students made gnocchi and tagliatelle from scratch, as well as tiramisu, all of which they later enjoyed for lunch!



After a hearty home-cooked meal, students braved the rain for a meet-and-greet with Spannocchia's pigs, a unique local breed known as *cinta senese* (*cinta* meaning belt in Italian, a reference to the distinctive yellow band in their fur). The pigs were very accommodating despite the inclement weather. Students got to observe firsthand how the farm prioritizes ethical and sustainable food production — Spannocchia prides itself on treating its animals humanely and not wasting any part of their produce.



On Sunday, the group went on a guided walk through the forest, where they learned about the behaviors and cultural significance of cypress trees, boars, wolves, *corbezzoli*, chestnuts, porcini mushrooms, and more. We eventually arrived at the tiny medieval village of Torri, where we were granted special entry into the historic cloister.



Eventually, we did have to return to Rome, but we are confident that students left with fond memories and perhaps an eye on returning next year.



Till next time, Spannocchia!

What's On This Weekend

On Friday, students will relax and enjoy a special snack with the duty teachers in 1-1. On Saturday morning, Mr. di Blasio will lead a gardening activity. Later in the evening, Mr. Ostrow will hold a video game tournament at his apartment with hot chocolate and cookies (games still TBD). Depending on the students' preference, board games are also a possibility! Sunday's plan includes a waffle making session in the morning.

Useful Information

Celebrating birthdays in boarding

- Please [click here](#) to learn more about how we celebrate birthdays in boarding and how parents can send something special to their child on their birthday.

Our next dorm closure is Winter Break: Wednesday, December 18th - Monday, January 6th

- Travel should be scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, December 18th or the morning of Thursday, December 19th.
- The dorms close at noon on Thursday, December 19th.
- The dorms reopen in the morning on Monday, January 6th.
- Classes resume on Tuesday, January 7th.
- Please schedule returns by 18:20. If returns will be later than 22:00, please arrange travel plans for arrival the following morning.

Important Travel Dates This Year: Please make travel arrangements for the dates [listed here](#).

Supply & Expense Account Information

Name: St Stephen's School
Bank: Banca Popolare di Sondrio
Cod. IBAN: IT16U0569603229000003901X16
Cod. BIC: POSOIT22

Include your child's name in the wire transfer so that the Business Office credits the appropriate account. Please notify Michael Mottola

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(mike.mottola@sssrome.it) if you would like to place a limit on your child's weekly allowance.