

The PLATINUM PREVIEW

SCHOOL NEWS



Dovhal Perseveres Through Difficult Journey to the U.S.
Page 4

EDITORIALS



Kindness Goes Far Beyond Holiday Season
Page 5

A&E



Epic Games Revives Fortnite with "OG Map" Reboot Card
Page 7

SPORTS



Agostini Shatters XC Record
Page 11

Pumas Spread Holiday Joy Through Kindness

Throughout the holiday season, many cultures interchange gifts as a way to show appreciation. However, others believe that giving gifts is equally as important as receiving them. Student leadership organizations, including California Scholarship Federation (CSF), Veterans Supplemental Support Network (VSSN), and Peer Leaders, have all stepped up to serve this season, giving back tremendously to their community.

Loretta Topp '24
Newsroom Manager

Operation Holiday Cheer

The students in the Associated Student Body (ASB) and *The Platinum Press* were able to share the joy of the holidays with families in tough financial situations. On December 7, the two classes, alongside their advisor, Mr. Ryan Leonhardi, played the role of Santa and gave families at the Valley Restart Center in Hemet a day to remember. Senior Julian Williams, a member of ASB, expressed, "It was eye opening to be just a tiny bit involved in how they live their lives."

Students would sign up for either a child or an adult resident and bring their wishes to life. Each of the students were tasked with buying a gift for their person and personalizing it to fit their interests and passions. The day before the event, the gifts were wrapped and organized. After school, on December 7, the students, Leonhardi, and a few alumni drove to Valley Restart Center and presented the families with their gifts. Students then joined the residents in cookie decorating, musical chairs, and dance battles. Having organized the event for twenty years, Leonhardi has seen how it positively impacts the lives of students and residents alike. Williams emphasized, "Seeing families live this way made me realize we [have to] appreciate what we have." By the end of the night, students were left

with the lesson to be grateful for the little things, something that will stick with them for years to come.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) has been doing their part for the past fifty-three years to give children all around the world a Christmas to remember. In collaboration, the Associated Student Body (ASB) had a donation drive for three weeks to collect as many items as possible to give back during this time of kindness. ASB director, Mrs. Jennifer Deleon, spoke on the goal of OCC, "Whether it is little toys, hygiene products, or school supplies, those are extra expenses that families endure that they might need some support with." The donation drive was a massive success, with ASB receiving a plethora of donations, enough to fill almost all of the shoeboxes to the brim. ASB, teamed up with OCC, sees the impact it has on both the children and students who participate. Deleon urges students to give back to their community as much and as often as possible. "We never know the situation of others. People can put on a good front when they're struggling with something and others wear their heart on their sleeve," she expressed, "If you are in a situation where you can give back, [even if] it's something that seems small [it] might make a big impact to someone else."

Meadow Rivera '27
Staff Writer

VSSN Winter Wonderland

Members of the Associated Student Body (ASB) spread joy this holiday season as they supported the Veterans Supplemental Support Network's (VSSN) Winter Wonderland event in front of



Credit: Jen Deleon

Kids decorate festive cookies at ASB's table during VSSN's Winter Wonderland event.

Edwards Cinema at the Promenade Mall in Temecula. "The families being served in this event are kids in our community. We are supporting our Temecula family," ASB director Ms. Jen Deleon explained. ASB arrived early to help set up tables, decorate the stage, and wrapped presents for children. The Winter Wonderland event took place on December 8, and ASB put smiles on guests' faces by handing out cotton candy, creating ornaments, decorating festive cookies, and making "reindeer food" with the children who attended. "It's always important, especially in leadership, to be a part of a bigger picture and help in ways possible to better a situation or event ... Christmas is magical for kids, especially, and we hope to help keep that magic alive and exciting," Deleon explained. Because of ASB's selfless efforts, many families got to enjoy themselves, "Big events are difficult to run without enough

support and without volunteers, some events wouldn't be possible to host." ASB gave back to their community this year, returning the favor to those who gave so much to our country.

CSF Holiday Cards

When the holiday season rolls around, some of the elderly people in the community are in need of a little extra holiday cheer. Every December, the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) accepts donations of handmade cards to spread holiday joy to the community's senior citizens. This year, the CSF held an in-person event to make the cards, compared to just accepting donations as they did for the past years.

On December 13, the CSF invited students to the first pod in the 400 building to create holiday cards to donate to local nursing homes. "Card-making also allows students to embrace creativity while potentially bringing joy to a senior citizen in the community," CSF club president, Senior Peniel Albe, explained. The event also aims to also be an enjoyable experience for the students crafting the cards, as the environment was cheery and joyful with holiday music in the background. The cards made during the event were collected by the CSF, along with any handmade cards that have been donated to them otherwise. "Rather than a drive where students buy products, I think for December to foster the Christmas spirit, it is better to have an event that is more personal" Albe expressed. The hand-crafted cards will then be gifted to the nursing home across the street by the CSF.

The participating students and the CSF spread this season's joy with each other and the local senior citizens. These holiday cards provide happiness to the elders of the community and the students who made them, and the CSF club's goal is to continue to make that joy possible annually.



Credit: Mia Prio

Pumas go above and beyond to bring holiday joy through gifts and celebrations to those less fortunate at valley restart center.

Puma Pit Roars Its Way to Regionals

Senaya Holloway '27
Staff Writer

Students and staff members alike rejoice in the news of the Puma Pit holding first place as the best student section in Southern California. In a close competition, the Puma Pit was victorious, leading with 111,310 votes from students, staff, and other Puma supporters. The section was student-led by the Associated Student Body (ASB) and the Fab Five. Nights within the Puma Pit were held valuable for the personal memories made with students within the winning games of Varsity Football. The finished product of the workers who made the section what it is recognized for now. The journey, although difficult, proved strong as the Puma nation roared into the spotlight.

ASB and the Event Production team worked tirelessly to ensure the experience of the Puma Pit was one that would stay with students for many years to come. This experience also stayed with the judges of this competition, as the bright lights, screaming crowd, and upbeat music provided for a memorable event. Many elements took place within this accomplishment as ASB worked to create the perfect atmosphere. "The new factors contributed to the pit making so much success. For example, we had a more successful DJ this year, we had the Puma letters that [Seniors] Morgan Johnson and Sara Garcia

worked on very hard at the beginning of the year... those definitely made the overall ambience of our Puma Pit look better, and I think that although people don't really pay attention to the landscape of things, I think that the environment we created for the Puma Pit helped us rise," ASB President Senior Jillian Heeren stated. The success of the Puma Pit was dictated by many factors that went seemingly unnoticed but contributed greatly to the overall environment. The smaller details that were added into

school pride that was present within the pit throughout the season and left the Puma Pit with a long-lasting effect.

This was not the end of the Puma Pit's accomplishments. The Puma Pit has already claimed a victory in Southern California, however regionals and state are left to win. If these are surpassed then nationals will be excitedly taken on. "I'm really hoping that we do get that title because I do think that the Puma Pit deserves it... We outdid ourselves this year by not being ranked last year at

all and then being ranked number one, so I'm really hoping we just keep that momentum and keep moving forward with it," Heeren added. With the many levels of competition left to face, it is hard to remember the origin of the pit. The Puma Pit has developed overtime, an improvement that is not seen through just the awards it receives but also the overall school spirit on campus. Last year, the student

section was not voted into even the top fifty schools in the nation. However, this year, the Puma Pit has surpassed that goal, qualifying for regionals. There has been a noticeable change of Puma Pride that will continue to grow as the competition continues. As the position of the Puma Pit has been determined from the overall effort put into the many aspects of creating a noticeable culture on campus, hope has been implanted for the suspenseful wait of the section's ending achievement.



Credit: Sophia Tran
On October 26, student section scouts visited the Puma Pit for a thorough evaluation.

The Puma Pit helped to emphasize the theme of each game. Many different themes were also applied throughout the course of the year to different games. These themes had meanings, ranging from the promotion of school spirit to even awareness of different issues. For example, the "Pink-Out" game on October 29 helped raise awareness for cancer, while other game themes, such as wearing Puma blue, helped to show school pride. These components created an overall

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Principal Tina Miller

Pumas,

We are coming to the end of the fall semester for the 23/24 school year. As we approach the holiday season, I want to take a moment to extend warm wishes to both our dedicated staff and incredible students.

To our exceptional staff: Your hard work and commitment to providing a supportive learning environment have made a profound impact on our school community. Thank you for your tireless efforts and dedication throughout this first semester. May this holiday season bring you well-deserved rest, joy, and moments of reflection.

To our amazing students: Your enthusiasm, creativity, and resilience have made CHS an inspiring place to learn and grow. As you enjoy this upcoming break, take time to cherish moments with loved ones, recharge, and embrace the festive spirit.

Everyone should be proud of the collective achievements we have accomplished together this year. May the new year and second semester bring even more opportunities for growth, success, and positive experiences. Winter break is right around the corner, and we wish everyone a joyful holiday season filled with warmth, laughter, and the company of those who matter most. I look forward to seeing everyone back when classes resume on January 9th. We will see you in 2024!

Go Pumas!

The Puma Pit's glory will not cease at the title it has earned, and with the support the student section receives from ASB and those who have attended the

games. The chances of making it past the Southern California title are high as students are dedicated to seeing their campus represented on a larger scale.

Pumas Exemplify Their Marvelous Skills at Talent Show

Katherine Ivey '26
School News Editor

Everyone desires to show the world what they are capable of. From singing and dancing to chemistry and mathematics, every individual has a calling. On November 8 at 6PM, special education students from all three Temecula Valley Unified School

District (TVUSD) high schools participated in the Marvelous Show hosted by Temecula Valley High School (TVHS). With the help of members of the Associated Student Body (ASB) and the Impact Peer Buddies club, the show was a night to remember.

During the show, eight special education students from Chaparral performed, with twenty general education students working behind the scenes to support them. At the beginning

of the show, the performers were escorted onto stage. Students then performed various activities, from singing to training a dinosaur. ASB member and escort Sophomore Bella Baldocchi explained the show, "It's basically like a talent show for kids with disabilities." By the night's end, each student was honored for their act. "The show ended with the students

being adorned with a crown or tiara and sash highlighting their skill that stood out," said Ms. Cynthia Salazar, a special education teacher.

The Marvelous Show is an excellent outlet for students to showcase their talents. "It's so important that the whole student population can see that the students that we have, they may have a handicapping disposition about them, but they have so many other things," Salazar commented. "It's highlighting their strengths and their talents." Baldocchi

agreed, expressing, "I feel like it's really cool... It's a different way for kids with disabilities to be able to express themselves... and they get to put on a performance for everyone and do something that they really love." Furthermore, the show works to improve the performers' confidence. "What a great confidence builder. They get out there, and you see them do things that you didn't even know they could do," Salazar noted. "[When] they're all done, and you can

see that same adrenaline that any other student is going to have and their enthusiasm of "I did it, I did it, I did it!"... You can't get away from that enthusiasm and that confidence building."

Not only does the show allow for special education students to perform for their peers, but it provides a way for students to make lasting connections with one another. "The best part

is more about the social aspect, because it brings two student populations together," Salazar said. "[All] they want to do is make friends... I see that, and I get choked up. It's a very emotional time... and you can see these friendships coming together." Baldocchi elaborated, "It's a really good experience to be able to communicate with them and get to know them more on a personal level... and create relationships with them... I've never really had the opportunity to be close with [the special education students]. It's really cool to be a part of their world and see their personalities shine."

Overall, the Marvelous Show was a success. Participants and audience members alike were able to enjoy the night. The Marvelous Show has been a recurring event for years and Salazar is hopeful about what the future holds for the event, commenting, "What comes next is the question... The shows have gone from [singing and dancing] to now we have some crazy things that are happening that we never would have expected."



Credit: Alexia DeLeon
Each contestant was crowned with a themed subdivision that best aligned with their performative talent.



Credit: Alexia DeLeon
Alicia Herbin debuts her talents to the audience.

Campus WASC Report

Meadow Rivera '27
Staff Writer

The Western Administration of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is an organization that gives a high school diploma value. WASC sets school requirements that assure constant improvements are made and goals are met. Schools that do well at this receive accreditations. Six years ago, a full self study was conducted, and Chaparral received a full accreditation term, meaning that faculty and staff members excelled at providing its students with the academic foundation and campus culture that are necessary to succeed. This year, before winter break and then in January, Chaparral will submit their updated reports for WASC after many months of staff preparation.

Much time and effort goes into WASC reports. "It is a process that involves the school conducting a self study of all of its programs," History Teacher Ms. Susan Myers, leader of this year's WASC report, explained. Since last November, staff members have prepared and assembled the report with meetings, surveys, and a fifty-page written action plan. Many different aspects of the school were evaluated, such as classes, instruction, assessment types, extracurricular activities, school culture, California Assesment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) scores, graduation, rates and more. Looking through this surplus of information gives insight to the areas of strength and improvement, and that is what the WASC report is all about. An action plan must also be written, complete with tasks to accomplish over the upcoming years. After the report is submitted, a team of educators from different schools will visit the campus for three days. This team

will then meet with many members of the district to confirm or add to the areas of strength and growth with the overall goal of improvement.

Completing a WASC report is a very lengthy process, but is essential to the growth of a school. "WASC is important because it helps us continually improve as a school ... not just academics, but our culture as well. Rather than an outside organization telling us what we need to do, we get to decide what our greatest needs are and what we can do to improve in those areas," Myers expressed. When a school achieves standout feedback and accreditations, it shows colleges and universities that students who graduate from this school are prepared and the classes they are going to are helping them grow. "We did a full self study six years ago and received a full accreditation term with a one day revisit at three years," Myers explained. "This is the most common term, and means we are doing very well. We had a virtual revisit at the midterm in April of 2021 when we had just come back from COVID[-19]."

Some points of excellency for Chaparral are high CAASPP scores, new teachers with compelling teaching methods that engage and encourage students, school rebranding, and the addition of the Puma Pit. "Our Panorama Survey from October showed growth in almost all the areas that were surveyed," Myers stated. Some main goals that are in the process of being worked on include student and staff connections, mental health, student engagement, real world connections, improving attendance, communication and enhancing school culture. WASC highlights these challenges and ensures that students and faculty make and achieve their goals to provide the best learning experience possible.

Dead Poets Society Embraces Work

Bethel Albe '26
Social Media Manager

The 1989 film *Dead Poets Society* is a coming-of-age dramatic film intended to capture the essence of powerful literature through seizing opportunities and embracing romanticism. In the movie, this club is described as a secret society for young students to analyze literature in a different light. While the main message of the film involves a teacher's eager attempt to get his students to "Carpe Diem" or "seize the day" while making the most out of life, the film often utilized literature and poetry in a way that

creating a safe space where students can share different writing pieces, while also not being solely exclusive to poetry. Students are welcome to bring different books, song lyrics, or written stories they find to be compelling with the overall goal of experiencing and sharing literature in a group setting. Meetings are held in the first pod during CAT30 and are open to all students, even those who do not necessarily have material to share. "You don't need to write something, you can show up to every meeting and just listen," Vice President Senior Jayden Lord stated, "It's a really safe space. Everyone is comfortable sharing [their pieces] and everyone's incredibly supportive."

different pieces that are meaningful to them," Lord stated. Starting a new club can easily warrant a variety of different obstacles, and the Dead Poets Society was no exception with certain hiccups in the club's location and advertising. "It was a struggle to find someone who would support it, [in addition] to advertisements with the club seeming [somewhat] awkward to those who don't know what Dead Poets Society is," Lord explained. Despite these challenges, the club was able to quickly overcome and successfully develop a safe space for readers and writers on campus.

Although the club has gained material inspiration from the 1989



Sandro Garcia, Charlize Lopez, Amelie Cao, and Oliver Marble (left to right), read a poetry segment during weekly meeting

encouraged students to find the power in writing. This year, a few students from the senior class gained inspiration from this film, making it their mission to create a club on campus that reflected its principles and overall goal. Initiated by Senior Alexa Tmekei Peterson, Dead Poets Society is a club emphasizing a shared passion for literature and the strong connections it is capable of creating among students.

The club began as a desire for

The efforts of organizing this club behind the scenes takes a certain amount of preparation and organization as well. The literature shared during meetings are gathered from a variety of different sources in an effort to be as accessible and versatile as possible for interested students. Pieces of writing are shared from personal compositions, poetry books, and even simple online resources. "The main idea is to get people comfortable with sharing

film, the overall intended goal is for students to recognize the ultimate power that lies within literature and further connect off of its message. The new club does great work to ensure this value is apparent within the Dead Poets Society community. "We want [Dead Poets Society] to be a place where you can expand your knowledge on literature and find things that you're able to relate to" Lord concluded, "we're open to anyone."

Women's Conference Influences a Rising Female Generation

Loretta Topp '24
Newsroom Manager

On December 6, the city of Temecula held their annual Women's Conference, an event dedicated to women empowerment and the importance of being true to oneself. Located at the city hall in Old Town, the two-hour-long conference was filled with women leaders from different high schools in Temecula, ranging from students in Performing Arts to Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC). Every table that filled the hall had a mentor. This mentor helped the students throughout the conference and gave advice and life lessons. The event also gave the mentors the opportunity to share their experiences working in male dominated fields, showing the importance of leading with poise and strength.

The event began with a catered breakfast supplied by the city hall for the mentors, speakers, and young women attending the conference. The event started promptly at 8AM, and began with the speakers introducing the mentors at the tables with local figures such as Kim Gerish, the CEO of Michelle's Place, a non-profit organization. After the mentor introductions and opening remarks were made, the table discussions began. Each table discussion lasted fifteen minutes and allowed students to ask the mentors

questions about their career, any pieces of advice they could give, and what it means to be a woman in leadership. The table discussions lasted about forty minutes, with two table rotations built into the allotted time slot. Once the discussions ended, a panel discussion began with five of the mentors speaking about their personal experiences and sharing advice on how to overcome adversity in the workplace head on. The panel went on for thirty minutes,

and in that short period of time, many of the young women were able to take away brilliant pieces of information and advice. Senior Ashlynn Hill's biggest takeaway from the panel was, "learning that as women, we can balance being graceful, beautiful, and kind while also being powerful, perceptive, and intelligent. We also gained more insight into our future careers while learning about experiences in the workplace as a woman." Hill added,

"Going to the women's conference was like a big glimpse into the future. Being able to meet women who were apart of different careers and hearing the things they accomplished made me reflect on my own career choice which only gave me more confidence in my future." Senior Emer Carew expressed her gratitude for the event, "I was able to listen to and learn from very successful women. Seeing how they developed their careers inspired me and made me

realize getting a college education and being successful is attainable with motivation and commitment."

With several young women from all over the city present, there was a sense of comradery as well as unity. Senior Peniel Albe was one of the speakers who worked with the city to organize the event. As this was Albe's second year helping organize the event, she has seen firsthand the positive impact it has had, not only for the students but the adults as well. She spoke on the impact, "The conference definitely emphasized the importance of womanhood. It is easy to feel alone in areas where you feel outnumbered, so this display of togetherness is really special. It is essentially a testimony to the power of uplifting one another."

While the conference was made specifically to help students network with women that share the same interests as them, it became so much more. There was a large focus on empowerment along with the celebration of talents and the duality of women. Through hard work, perseverance, and determination, they were able to make a difference. Albe concluded, "We are the up-and-coming generation, so we're no good sitting around thinking any less of ourselves than we are. By listening to those who have made it happen, young women here are being encouraged to chase their own dreams rather than turn away from them progress and hope for our future."



Each table of students were assigned a prominent woman in leadership of a specific career field or organization for mentoring.

Dovhal Perseveres Through Difficult Journey to the U.S.

Alexia De Leon '24
Video Manager

Every student on campus has their own story, a unique background that defines who they are and sets them apart from everyone else. Senior Mariia Dovhal’s story, like many others, was destined for a transcontinental leap. Dovhal ventured from the hostile country of Ukraine to embark on a transformative journey in U.S. As conflict in Ukraine continued to advance, Dovhal made the tough decision of leaving the familiarity of her home country for the U.S. in August 2022. Dovhal stated, “You never knew what was going to happen because no one is safe and no one can guarantee your safety along the way. I was nervous when I was on the bus [to the capital of Ukraine] and I would hear all of the alarms. You really don’t know what’s going to happen, so you’re always concerned about your life.” Dovhal left everything behind, including her family and friends, in hopes of a better life and new opportunities. With this transition came feelings of excitement interlaced with the fear of the unknown. Dovhal’s journey to the U.S. was not easy. The country of Ukraine was blocked, which extended the time taken for Dovhal to get to the United States. She traveled from her hometown to the capital of Ukraine.



Mariia Dovhal dresses in her traditional Ukrainian clothing.

From there, it took her two days to cross the border to Poland and eventually take a plane from the Netherlands to Los Angeles. Dovhal then faced a new challenge when arriving in the U.S.: English. When she first arrived, Dovhal struggled to speak English as she had no knowledge of it. Dovhal stated, “For me, it was the biggest challenge.

When you talk to someone and people don’t understand, [it] is discouraging and everyday I was supposed to overcome this challenge and talk to people and get to know new people.” Navigating classes and assignments in an unfamiliar language demanded unwavering perseverance. However, with five months of hard work and dedication,

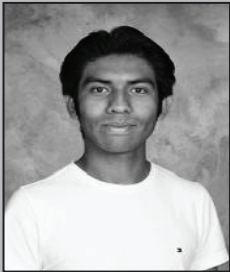


Adjusting to the campus, Dovhal found a passion in running.

Dovhal mastered this new language. With her new profound knowledge of English and her adjustment to American culture, Dovhal explored and discovered her own strengths and used this as an opportunity to become more involved with the school. Dovhal explained, “Now that I know English really well, I tried to get

involved in as many activities as I could, so I joined Track and Field, where I met my friends whom I appreciate so much.” In addition to Track and Field, Dovhal plans on constructing a civil engagement project in hopes of giving back to the community that she has gradually become a part of. Dovhal also possesses numerous musical talents, and hopes to create her own club on campus next semester. Dovhal’s sister is the reason she is here today. As her sister was already living in the U.S prior to her journey, she was able to convince Dovhal to keep pushing forth and pursue a better life. Dovhal expressed, “I am thankful for my sister, that she made me consider moving here. I’m thankful that I chose to pursue my dreams, to overcome my challenges, and I’m thankful for the opportunities here because I would never get such experiences in Ukraine.” Despite all of the challenges and hardships she overcame, Dovhal continues to focus on what she is capable to do in the present to make the most out of her renewed life in the U.S. Dovhal stands as a testament to the transformative power of embracing new beginnings. From her perilous journey, Dovhal explained, “I just want other students to appreciate what they have and understand that there are more challenging things going on in the world.”

NEWS BRIEFS



Abraham Diaz
December Student of the Month



Curprice Luckert
November Tireless Teacher Award Winner

Library’s New Media Technician

On Wednesday, December 13, Kendi Fraitag became the new librarian and media technician. She previously worked for the Home Instead Innovation Academy and will continue her academic guidance here on campus.

Winter Holiday

The winter holiday break will be from Thursday, December 21 through Sunday, January 7th. The last two days of the semester, December 26 and 27, will be finals schedule, with the 26 having periods 1,3, and 5, and the 27 having periods 2,4, and 6.

NHS Gives

On Wednesday, December 20, the National Honors Society (NHS) will finalize donations for both the Retrievers and Friends of Southern California and Camp Kesam drives. The Retrievers and Friends of Southern California drive requests donations such as dog food, toys, and cleaning supplies. Camp Kesam is asking for donated essential toiletries and first aid supplies to assist the camp in continuing its efforts to provide for children impacted by a parent’s cancer diagnosis.

Canned Food Drive

The annual Riverside County Sheriffs and Murrieta Police Department canned food drive competition commenced from October 23 to November 6. Students and staff rallied together not only to help Deputy Chris Bowers win the competition but also to help feed families this holiday season.

Women in Law Hosts a Judicial Panel

Katherine Ivey '26
School News Editor

The Judicial Branch of the United States is a system of courts responsible for interpreting the law. Within this system, there are many important players. From lawyers to judges, each role plays a significant part in expressing the law. A new club on campus called Women in Law (WILAW) works to inform and inspire young women to pursue a career in the field of law. On December 6, the WILAW club hosted an open panel discussion with female lawyers, deputies, and judges that focused on their success as women in law.

According to Zipppia.com, a job-finding website, 39.3 percent of federal judges in the surveyed group were women, compared to the 60.7 percent of them who were men. While these statistics apply only to a small group of federal judges, they help to illustrate that there are gender discrepancies within the law profession. WILAW hopes to lessen this gap by encouraging more young women to invest in the legal profession. “I was ... talking to one of the leaders of Women In STEM, and I ... thought to myself, ‘Why don’t we have a law equivalent? Why are we only empowering women in one field? ... I ... just took this idea and [ran] with it,” club founder and president, Senior Isabella Arrieta, commented.

One way that WILAW helped young women become more interested in law was by holding a criminal justice panel. “I’ve spent a lot of my free time ... shadowing attorneys,” Arrieta noted. “I thought it would be a really good idea for the club members to actually meet people in a legal profession.” However, this panel was not limited to Chaparral students, as students from neighboring schools were invited to learn about the law. “We [expanded the panel] to other schools,”

Arrieta said. “We [invited] Great Oak, [Temecula Valley] ... Murrieta Valley, and Murrieta Mesa ... We [also] invited the Youth Court program.”

During this panel, appearances were made by former District Attorney Judge Raquel Marquez, Deputy LaTisha Stamatelatos, and Defense Attorney Robin Johnson. While the WILAW club directed this

inclusive future. “We do, in the future, want to collab with WISTEM ... I’m hoping that this panel kinda opens up an idea ... where more panels like this can be hosted in the future, and it’s not just strictly law,” Arrieta stated.

Overall, the WILAW panel was a success, with more being planned for the future. This panel allowed young women to learn more about the legal



Members of the panel discussed realities and personal experiences of their industry.

event, it was an opportunity for all young women to learn about the legal profession. “We [opened] the panel to anyone who [wanted] to join,” Arrieta explained. “We [hope] that with these women on this panel, who are kinda just talking about their experiences and answering questions, they will ... be able to inspire girls to ... pursue a legal career.” Some of the lessons and messages the panel shared are not only applicable to the legal profession but many others in which women are underrepresented. Arrieta hopes that this panel will help create a more

profession, inspiring some to want to know more and fulfilling Arrieta’s goal. “I hope that students are able to gain knowledge on the legal field and really just find that passion,” Arrieta said. “[WILAW] is hoping that by having this opportunity to talk to people who have lived these experiences people can kinda understand [if the profession fits them].” The next WILAW meeting will be on Friday, December 15, during lunch in Room 451. For those interested in supporting or joining WILAW, follow their Instagram @womeninlawchs.



The ideas expressed in the Editorials section do not reflect the views of *The Platinum Press* as a staff, but rather those of the journalist who wrote them.

If readers desire to respond to an editorial, *The Platinum Press* values all opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. Just as *The Platinum Press* respects each individual's right to a differing opinion, we ask the same of our readers. Each journalist is well within their rights to express their opinion on any given topic, no matter how controversial that topic may be. This is the intent of an editorial, not only to provide journalists with a medium to express an opinion, but to allow the editorial to be a catalyst for further discussion of a given topic.

All letters must be signed and submitted to Mr. Leonhardi in room 413 or left in his mailbox. They will also be accepted via school email at rleonhardi@tvusd.us

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Businesses Strategize by Capitalizing Crises

Chloë Zuñiga '24
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In the age of digital media, the widespread awareness of global issues is consistently rising. With the significant media coverage of these various worldwide predicaments, companies are taking advantage of marketing their products and launching advertisements to appeal to the new target demographic of activist consumers. From environmental advocacy to racial equality movements, organizations have utilized various causes to create corporate campaigns that boost brand-images and sales. While some may see these efforts to improve the pressing global issues as a positive use of platforms, it is important to see through these facades of activism and recognize that most companies take advantage of the events to maximize potential profits.

A common example of this exploitation is the constant alignment of companies' marketing strategies to current events in society. Typically, brands will market products with improvements made that combat the negative effects of the aforementioned various issues; however, these "improvements" commonly consist of unfulfilled promises. The most prevalent example of these activism facades is a strategy that is known as greenwashing. Greenwashing is essentially just the trend of eco-friendly branding; companies, eager to appeal to the growing environmentally conscious consumer base, utilize buzzwords like "green" and "sustainable" in their products' names and packaging without substantiating these claims. This false marketing not only deceives consumers

and diverts their attention from companies that may actually be trying to make a difference, but also dilutes the genuine efforts of businesses striving to make a positive impact on the planet. In the long run, it can contribute to a false sense of achievement in society. If companies are praised for their purported environmental efforts without genuine accountability, the urgency to address real environmental issues may diminish.

Similar to the negative consequences of greenwashing, the capitalization of social

2017 Pepsi commercial, featuring socialite Kendall Jenner, in which, amidst a widespread protest, the celebrity waved a metaphorical white flag in the form of offering a police officer a can of soda. This controversial advertisement received large amounts of discourse, as it was accused of trivializing the Black Lives Matter movement. Although the company claimed to have only made the commercial in effort to promote universal peace, they made this attempt alongside improving the brand image, doing so by encouraging unity through purchasing a soda from their company. Profiting from global issues tends to shift the focus from addressing the root causes of problems to superficial solutions aimed at boosting sales. This can hinder progress toward meaningful and sustainable solutions to the world's most pressing challenges and overall concerns.

There is a fine line between responsibly contributing to societal well-being, and shamelessly exploiting global challenges for the ultimate goal of financial gain. Alongside companies' discontinuance of the harmful and unfulfilled attempts at aligning with social justice activism values, is the duty of consumers and conscientious citizens to discern between genuine efforts to make a difference and mere marketing ploys. Consumers wield considerable power in shaping corporate behavior. By supporting businesses that demonstrate genuine commitment to societal issues, a shift towards responsible capitalism can be encouraged. Moreover, advocating for transparency in corporate practices, such as demanding verifiable evidence of sustainability claims, can play a pivotal role in curbing the exploitative tendencies of profit-driven enterprises.



Credit: NBC News

Pepsi faces numerous controversies after borrowing imagery from a racial justice movement.

justice movements is another important matter for consumers to take note of. While the fight for equality and justice should be a predominant value in the public's daily lives, some companies seem more interested in capitalizing on the trending hashtags and slogans rather than making meaningful contributions to the causes. This corporate appropriation of social justice issues not only trivializes the struggles faced by marginalized communities, but also risks turning genuine activism into a marketable commodity. A well-known example of this is the infamous

Kindness Goes Far Beyond Holiday Season

Sky Roman '24
Managing Editor

During the holiday season, the act of giving back to one's community is often emphasized to embrace the Christmas spirit. Donating presents to families who are in need, volunteering in shelters, giving money to those who are less fortunate, or even just giving friends gifts are all services that people become motivated to participate in. While these actions should be encouraged due to their generous nature, people will often flaunt these actions in an attempt to make themselves look good, making the overall intent less genuine. Despite their actions being selfless by definition, the underlying motive is a lot more selfish than they let on.

The online trend of influencers posting videos of themselves doing good deeds is undoubtedly one of the most consumed content. Viewers praise these charitable acts and even donate money to these influencers in an attempt to promote the content. Yet, in many cases, both the viewers and the less fortunate are being exploited by these creators. These creators can make a lot of money from these videos they film of other people, without getting their permission to expose their current living situations. If a person needs an incentive to donate to others—only helping out the less fortunate with the hopes that they can go viral from it—it is obvious that

they do not actually care for those they claim that they want to help.

Oftentimes, people even believe that gift giving should be transactional. They believe that because they give someone a gift, they should expect something in return for it. This mindset that is held by many, completely contradicts the entire point of giving. A person is under no obligation to give gifts or donate to others, so in doing so it should be out of the kindness of their own heart, not because they want to be recognized for it. In that

case, a person is being inherently selfish if they think that they deserve something in return for simply being kind. For many, being generous during the holiday is the only time of the year that they actually feel compelled to do so. However, that should not be the case. Being kind and helping others out is not a seasonal activity, and moreover, if someone believes that it makes them a better person despite being apathetic for the rest of the year, then it truly shows that their heart is not in the right place.

Kindness is not just in the

form of gifts, nor should it have a start and ending period. Evidently, people will always shift their emotions depending on the time of the year, and of course even more so during the holiday season. However, overemphasizing it during periodic times of year while having a selfish reasoning for it takes away the entire purpose of the act. People should look to giving back to those who are less fortunate throughout the entire year out of the kindness of their heart, rather than obligation just because it is a certain holiday.



Credit: saohnet.org

Public figures often exhibit performative generosity with the sole intention of gauging more viewership and popularity.

Social Media Starves

Sparrow Magdirila ‘25
Staff Writer

When it comes to food that is expressed across social media, there are many instances where people begin to develop the same eating habits as others. When people begin to listen to other individuals’ advice when it comes to food, it then grows into a greater part of someone’s consumption. The bigger development of eating habits play a big part of an individual’s everyday life. This then plays into insecurities that someone could personally experience based on their body image.

When it comes to eating habits, there are cases where it then develops into insecurities and people begin to cut back on what they consume. These cases, for example, often start when there are people who post what they eat on social media. These posts would possibly contain images of the creator eating something remotely healthy and organic. This would then create an insecurity, as another person viewing that post would begin developing a mindset that they should cut back on what they eat. This specific mindset would then further their own personal insecurities about their body image which would lead them to think about what they eat and look. Specifically when the main product

of food that a person would eat is junk/fast food, a person would then believe that this is what would be considered unhealthy. With this thinking process, it then develops into an individual deeply thinking about what they consume on a daily basis. This mental process would soon lead to someone figuring out ways to not eat unhealthy food, but this leads to one not eating much. Through this, people begin to feel personally insecure about what they consume on their own and in front of others.

Throughout social media and the development of these eating insecurities, it should not matter what one should and want to eat. With the growing use of social media and growing development of what a person’s body figure should look like, it is best to not fully believe what is good to eat to fit those standards. When it comes to the mindset of trying to fit into society by cutting back on the level of consumption, it begins the development of insecurities. Through the insecurities of when it comes to eating, people should stay away from believing that what they eat is not okay.

Overall, it is best to not let social media and society depict what a person should eat on a daily basis. Instead, it is advantageous to not constantly follow social media and what a person thinks people should eat, whether healthy or unhealthy.

Community College Reaps Success

Sophia Preciado ‘27
Staff Writer

It is not uncommon for people to set high goals for themselves, such as going to a four-year university, or like attending one of the surrounding University of California campuses. People dedicate so much of their own time to succeed at going to such a prestigious college, but other alternatives allow much more freedom. Attending a community college should never be looked down upon, and there are many advantages that a two-year college can have that a high-end university does not, especially for receiving the same education that both colleges have to offer.

The main advantage to attending a community college is that it is much easier to pay for. With an average tuition cost of \$26,027 per year at a four-year college, the cost would be over \$104,108 for all four years. With private universities, the cost can add up to over \$220,000 for all four years. The numbers are much lower for small colleges, with an average of \$10,000 and a tuition of about \$4,100 per year. Attending a community college is a lot easier financially, especially if you are learning the same material at a much lower cost.

Time management becomes much more difficult as one grows older. One must learn how to

balance their time with many things including work, school, and other extracurricular and social activities. A strict schedule must be kept while attending a rigorous university, to the point where one may not have any extra time to be involved in anything else that they are interested in. With that, a community college has much more flexibility in course selections. It is a lot easier for one to choose classes that fit their schedule, instead of the

Attending a well-known university is still a great accomplishment. Although, a bachelor’s degree can be earned at any chosen school, which is needed for the majority of careers. To take in consideration the cost of a four-year college and the time being dedicated in order to receive a bachelor’s degree should never be looked over. A community college can offer you an affordable associates degree, which will help build up to



Credit: TheFarmvilleHerald
Community college is a viable option for many looking to further their education.

college’s schedule. Mentally, this creates a much safer environment, without worrying about not having any time to have a comfortable social life. At a community college, time management can become much easier to master and eliminate any worry of balancing time in school with outside life.

transferring to a University to receive a bachelor’s degree. Considering the cost and the time, there are still many benefits to attending a community college, which should not be looked down upon. While some people will strive to go to a university, a community college should never be left out of one’s options.

Biden’s Preventative Payout

Brielle Olson ‘26
Staff Writer

The American economy is constantly changing, and with these fluctuations, people like to look to those who have a plan for the future. Many have to change their lifestyles with the economy in order to continue to maintain the necessities of everyday living. Due to this, President Joseph Biden created a plan to further the economy and get more Americans into the workforce. This plan is called Bidenomics. Bidenomics was created to make jobs more accessible to lower-class Americans and to grow the economy.

To grow the economy, Pres. Biden plans to grow the middle class and move more lower class families into the middle class so that they can support themselves. His plan is to create more jobs that are available to all Americans and grow the number of employed Americans, therefore growing the middle class. Growing the middle class will increase the number of Americans who can pay taxes and be contributing members to the economy and society. This would create a larger consumer market in the U.S., and therefore increase the number of tax-paying citizens and product-consumers, creating a larger income for the government and boosting the economy. Growing the middle class from the bottom up creates a smaller number of lower class citizens who are stuck living in non-ideal living conditions and provides them with a source of income that can help them to put food on the table for their families and loved ones.

The goal of Bidenomics is to grow the American economy so it is able to rival that of other industrial countries and to make the largest profit in the global economic market. The global economy is reliant on the major contributing countries and the U.S. falls into that category, so by using Pres. Biden’s plan for economic growth, it will not only help the

U.S., but it will also help the rest of the world. Consumerism is a large part of the economy, and it is a large contributing factor to the growth of any economy. When Bidenomics was put into action, it created a larger consumer market due to the growth of the middle class. This also provided many people with benefits that they would not have previously had available to them. There was an average of a 4.9 percent predicted growth rate from this economic plan, and it does not end there.

The plan of Bidenomics is one with a truly great goal, and it could bring many people into the middle class and out of poverty. The endless benefits of this plan create no reason

“Badenomics”: Losing Loan

Jackson Gamero ‘24
Staff Writer

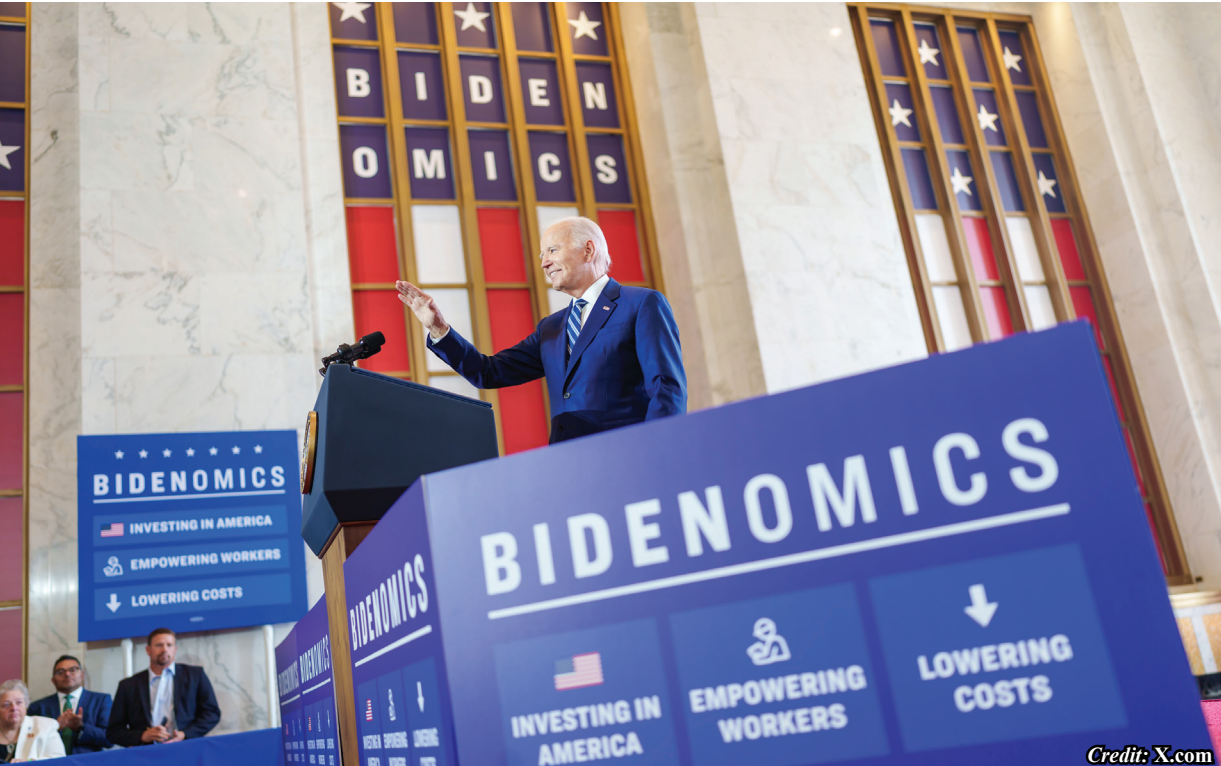
Acting as a centerpoint for President Joseph Biden’s 2020 presidential campaign run and his upcoming probable run for office in 2024, Bidenomics has garnered much criticism from citizens across the country. Pres. Biden’s economic plan was based around empowering workers and market competition. However, his plans have not worked, and the economic agenda has created an economic mess that U.S. citizens across the nation have been stuck

Ukraine or Israel. Although some argue that this is a good use of the country’s available money, it ultimately does not help the U.S., and as President of the United States, it is reasonable to assume that the wellbeing of the U.S. should be the president’s first priority. Additionally, Pres. Biden has spent more money in an effort to remove college debt for some families. These numbers have totaled close to \$127 billion in relieved debt, but the extra spending has left many Americans in poor situations.

The higher inflation rates that Bidenomics has produced has made being able to afford things, especially in appealing

locations such as southern California, difficult for many families. The price of gas, for instance, has risen by sixty-three percent since Pres. Biden took over in office. Home prices have not been immune to this extreme inflation either, as the rates in the real estate market continue to rise. In order to compensate for the rising prices that have led to an overall higher cost of living, Pres. Biden has raised the national minimum wage so that employees can make more, and therefore have a better chance at being able to support themselves. However, this effect has been negated by businesses, as they simply just raise their prices so that they can continue to make a profit that they are pleased with. This makes things even more expensive, and makes purchasing simple things difficult for some families.

Although some argue that Bidenomics has been successful due to the increase in jobs available to people, they may overlook the fact that Pres. Biden took over in the immediate aftermath of a global pandemic, it is easy to see that job recovery as the nation recovers would be inevitable. However, due to his economic policies focused on spending, Pres. Biden’s economic agenda has been largely ineffective, and has made living in the U.S. extremely difficult for some.



Credit: X.com
Pres. Biden’s controversial economic recovery plan is widely debated within the political arena for its impacts on American citizens.

as to why there would be any opposition, as unemployment rates drop to a low three percent with the implementation of Bidenomics, and an average of thirteen million more employment positions have opened because of Bidenomics. This goes to show the benefits that many have reaped from a growing economy, all thanks to Bidenomics. Overall, Bidenomics is a solid plan to increase the American economy.

with. The disaster that Bidenomics has turned into has included higher inflation rates and unnecessary, extreme spending.

A main focus of Pres. Biden’s economic plan has been spending money, and doing so seemingly without refrain. For example, Pres. Biden has recently released specifics for a funding request totaling \$105 billion, most of which would be sent to either

Epic Games Revives *Fortnite* with “OG Map” Reboot Card

Jackson Gamero ‘24
Staff Writer

With a whopping 44.7 million players and 102 million logged hours on Saturday, November 4, the hit videogame, *Fortnite*, has made a resounding return to the center of the gaming world. After releasing one of the original maps from what many consider to be “prime *Fortnite*” on Friday, November 3, the game has drawn in millions of players who have come searching for good memories and nostalgic feelings.

Fortnite first officially announced the return of an original map on Friday, October 27. Shortly thereafter, news broke that multiple maps, along with their points of interest (POI), from the game’s original Chapter One would be returning. This included POIs from Chapter One, Seasons Five, Six, Seven, and Ten, respectively. Apart from the returning POIs, *Fortnite* has also released a variety of old weapons that had previously been taken away. The social media community did not fail to get excited after the news broke, as posts about the game’s announcement spread quickly. With all of this attention, *Fortnite* was back in the spotlight.

The returning interest in the game that first released a battle royale version in September 2017 has been generating record-setting numbers. Many people who first started playing in 2017 have returned, hoping to find the nostalgic

feelings that remind them of fond times. Senior Samuel Perales, who first started playing *Fortnite* just months after the battle royale game mode was released, explained that, “It’s really cool to see the [original] map back in *Fortnite* ... It reminds me of playing *Fortnite* back in

later. Senior Ezra Johnson explained how he was, “super disappointed that I was never [really able to] play the best season of *Fortnite* and it’s really cool they were able to bring back [the map] for everyone to enjoy.”

The video game has also created a storyline that has been carried on

in the past. Due to the complicated storyline that has accompanied the game so far, many people have taken to social media with other conspiracy theories as to what really happened. Some of those include the idea that *Fortnite* has not truly returned to the old maps, pointing out that not

Fortnite OG ended on Saturday, December 2, when an event titled “The Big Bang” took place. In the event, viewers were entertained by a concert from the hit singer, Marshall Bruce Mathers III, also known as Eminem, as well as trips through realms related to Lego and the multi-platform videogame, Rocket League. Later that day, the new map was released, along with a game mode focused around the Lego realm. In the Lego game mode, players can play as Lego characters and interact with a Lego-textured world. Also included in the Chapter Five update was a nonplayer character (NPC) of *Family Guy* character Peter Griffin. The Griffin NPC can attack players, and when defeated, will drop loot for the player to take. By adding in Griffin, *Fortnite* has achieved yet another way of increasing engagement from players. The introduction of Chapter Five has also brought along new POIs for players to explore and enjoy, as well as other ways for players to move around the map. From new character graphics to vehicles that can be operated by the player, *Fortnite* has increased mobility throughout the map.

The return of “*Fortnite* OG” was proven to be very successful in putting *Fortnite* back on the gaming spectrum, and it has allowed many people to relive old memories and create new ones. Due to the showing that it brought, *Epic Games* announced that “*Fortnite* OG” will be making a return in 2024, although with a twist.



Chapter Five, Season One includes numerous collaborations with popular franchises like *Family Guy*’s Peter Griffin and Lego.

middle school when I was younger.” Seeking that nostalgia, players have been able to relive the fond memories that they originally created years ago. The return of “*Fortnite* OG” has also drawn attention from players who started out on the game

throughout a multitude of *Fortnite* seasons. After developing the idea of a time machine on the *Fortnite* island in Chapter Four, Season Four, *Fortnite* OG made a return due to a glitch in the machine. This glitch allowed for the game to go back

everything is exactly the same as they were years ago. This has brought up the possibility of an alternate universe that the *Fortnite* island has traveled to. This storyline has sparked even more conversation about the game throughout the gaming community.



Khiano Abelgas ‘24
PFX Show Choir

As a second-year member of Platinum FX Show Choir (PFX), Senior Khiano Abelgas demonstrates his powerful vocals and outgoing stage presence as a performer every day. This year, he serves as the PFX Tenor Section Leader and is in charge of teaching his section new music for their competition season while also ensuring that they are working together as one. One of the most important aspects of PFX for Abelgas is the sense of community that exists between all the members and how they have helped him and each other become better performers. “The connections and friends you make [in PFX] ...

we really are like a family,” he expressed. “When I joined PFX, it introduced me to a whole new world of performing that I did not realize existed. It definitely made me more outgoing with how I convey myself.” PFX and Choir instructor Mr. Robert Hodo, who praised Abelgas’ leadership, said, “He works hard ... he [does] a lot, he never complains, [and] his voice has gotten so much better since he first started.” Outside of PFX, Abelgas is working on three personal projects, one of which is for a dance company, while the other two are choreographies for The Juilliard School, a performing arts conservatory Abelgas hopes to attend in the near future. Abelgas plans to pursue a vocal arts degree or a career in the theater world.



Natalya Delgado ‘24
Varsity Dance

As one of the Girl’s Varsity Dance Captains, Senior Natalya Delgado shines bright both on stage and behind the scenes through her talents and leadership skills. Delgado has been in Varsity Dance since freshman year but has been dancing since she was six and dancing competitively since the fourth grade. Being captain leaves her a lot of responsibilities, with her and her co-captain taking over most school performances. Delgado makes choreography for the dance team, sideline cheers, and pom for dance shows, games and rallies. Yet despite all the

work, the team aspect makes it worthwhile. “It is really cool, [seeing everyone grow]. I feel these past two years, we have been more of a family. We are always there for each other,” said Delgado. Dance Director Mrs. Alyssa Salas, who praised Delgado for her leadership, said, “She goes above and beyond in everything she does. She stands out ... with the way she leads her team. She creates quality choreography and her creativity does not go unnoticed, [she] is a great person on campus to all.” Dance has its own meaning to Delgado as an artform she connects to. “Being in dance is the expression of myself by telling my own story,” she explained. “I have always loved to express myself, however, I feel the music makes me feel.” In the future, Delgado wishes to join a college dance team and potentially become a choreographer for famous performers.

Alexa Tmekei Peterson ‘24
Improv

Being one of the A-Squad Improvisation (Improv) captains, Senior Alexa Tmekei Peterson strongly expresses the passion she has for acting and directing. As captain, she decides what her performers will do at shows and helps train both the A-Squad and B-Squad teams. Initially, Tmekei Peterson joined the Improv team not just because of her passion for the artform, but also because she wanted to make friends as someone new to the school. Since joining Improv and becoming captain, she has gotten close to her team and has proudly watched their progression. “I have been doing Improv since sophomore year,

but I have only been captain this year,” she said. “I have seen all these people doing Improv alongside me as equals, but now that I am captain ... I get emotional because they have improved so much over such a short span of time. I am honestly really proud of them and I hope they are [proud too].” Both on and off stage, Tmekei Peterson values the dynamic that her team has formed, “I like hanging out with [them] because it is just a really fun environment and it fosters this version of acting you do not really see when doing on stage performances,” she explained. Tmekei Peterson hopes to include improv in her future, potentially minoring in theater and joining the improv team at her future college.



VAPA SPOTLIGHTS

Alyza Reclusado ‘24
Staff Writer

Nate Dickson ‘24
AP Drawing

Senior Nate Dickson, who is in Advanced Placement (AP) Drawing, has been making art for as long as he can remember. For him, art is about conveying ideas, thoughts, and emotions that hold a personal importance to him, as someone with a tendency of isolating himself from others. “When I want to express something ... I tend to go for a brush and easel rather than a speech,” he said. “Just whatever I want to draw or paint — I do not hold myself back.” Dickson’s pieces feature a range of subjects. From animals, to angels, to landscapes, he tries not to adhere to a specific theme as to not restrict his creativity and limit his skills. In AP Drawing, his portfolio’s theme centers around how death affects us in daily living and as individuals, which was inspired by his self-reflection upon a near-death experience he faced in his childhood. AP Drawing Teacher Mrs. Martha Guy, who expressed her admiration for Dickson’s passion for artistry, said, “He is dedicated to developing his art to the fullest extent and he is always coming up with wonderful ideas.” Dickson wishes to pursue art on a semi-professional level and has hopes of opening up a gallery of his own in the future. His main goals are to inspire others to embark on their own artistic journeys and to teach new artists to not be afraid of making mistakes as all great artists have their share of imperfections.



Cleveland's "Killer" Message



Mr Cleveland, AP United States History

"See World"

I will be honest, when asked to provide a message for the next issue of *The Platinum Press*, I had serious reservations. How could I live up to the hilarity of Mr. Rossi's scatological humor/life skills messages or Mrs. Miller's uplifting descriptions on the general day to day developments at Chaparral? Unfortunately, I am neither hilarious nor descriptive but I do have a tendency to strive for completion. So here goes...

As a teacher, I often wonder how students perceive the world; specifically their world when it deals with school. Do students see me in a different light than the way I see them? Do they really know me or any of their teachers? Are students actually learning important life skills and general subject matter? Both? Neither? Are cell phones, or any digital device for that matter, now the 24/7 teacher/parent by default? Do students actually view their teachers as human beings or antagonistic 'opps'; destined to ruin students' ascension towards true social bliss? Do students think that they and their teachers actually inhabit two different spaces? One space above sea level and another below it? One might presume that teachers live in the space above sea level, but what if those dimensional spaces are actually flipped?

A recent excerpt in Smithsonian magazine reads, "Scientists don't know for sure why the orcas are targeting vessels, but they have urged onlookers to avoid assigning human attributes to the creatures".

Facilius dictum quam factum.

Actors Return to Set After Protest

Alana Adams '25
Staff Writer

In 2012, Fran Drescher merged multiple unions on a basis to protect the liberties of media performers and writers. It was developed in hopes of ensuring there was no mistreatment within the industry. In June, an outbreak of disapproval based on new forms of entertainment production began to spread. Then, on July 14, 2023, the Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) went on strike. This meant

During July, SAG-AFTRA provided a situation they wanted changed with two main points. The first was in the hopes of improving the working conditions and the pay grade for actors. Due to actors speaking out on the low amount of money made from popular movies and shows, this caused them to want a just amount based on the media's revenue. Jamie Lee Curtis expressed how she received a residual check with no money for the recent *Haunted Mansion*. The movement's second reason is based on the abuse of power companies have when using AI. This outburst stemmed from an uproar

for compensation to be sure that the company used it to protect the actor in a situation containing AI. The tentative agreement includes a mention of billions of dollars that aid performers in demand. It is now a descending hazard to media producers as well as authors, giving more employment opportunities to the people. This new contract not only supports leading entertainers but also the backup dancers and actors.

Seeing as the strike has ended there will be a small pause in the expected release of TV shows and movies. This is because, during the strike, all contributors ceased work



Credit: The Hollywood Reporter

Actors, writers, and performers all across the entertainment industry protest against unfair working conditions and wages.

that all actors, writers, and other performers were going to boycott all forms of entertainment through peaceful protests. The group had a base of two terms they wanted to be changed, they wanted more rights and negotiation for the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). After four months of consistent demands and conferences, the strike finally came to an end on November 9. That means SAG-AFTRA has discussed and gotten terms that the group can accept.

of complaints, when companies used AI to replace certain actors, taking jobs away from performers.

This November the strike concluded. This means that SAG-AFTRA and AMPTP created acceptable terms and formed a tentative agreement. The compensation for media was raised. In addition, health and insurance coverage was heightened. Not only were the health benefits raised but they changed the requirements to use AI. There is also new requirements

until the protest ended. Now that it has, filming will begin again, but they will have to postpone original release dates. There will be an increase in advertisements coming from the performers and benefactors to the entertainment. Despite the pause in the manufacturing of media, some movies and TV shows are still pushing to release in the upcoming months. Some productions that will be coming out are *Wonka*, *Stranger Things*, *Andor*, *Inside Out 2*, and *Kung Fu Panda 4*.

Temecula Valley Fusion Unites Dancers Across the District

Alyza Reclusado '24
Staff Writer

On December 7 and 8, dancers from all throughout the district dashed across Temecula Valley High School's (TVHS) stage in the annual Valley Fusion event. Valley Fusion is a joint show sharing the talents of dancers from Chaparral High School, Great Oak High School, and TVHS. With all the choreography



Credit: Chloë Zuñiga

Paige Bruce performs a minor solo in a team set. being created and led by students, the event showcased the individual talents of the dancers as well as the collaborative efforts of all the teams, making it quite the memorable event for both the performers and the audience.

At Valley Fusion, attendees enjoyed performances from Chaparral's Agi*lity,

Synergy, Essence and a range of dance styles from hip-hop, to lyrical contemporary, to jazz. In anticipation for the event, Dance Director Mrs. Alyssa Salas expressed her hopes for the performers and the performances. "We really want our students to showcase their arts and really get creative [with] what they want the audience to see," she said. "Each school is unique to their own strengths ... so it is cool to see the differences." Senior RJ Eguilos, one of Agi*lity captains, shared similar sentiments prior to taking the stage. "Seeing the other performers [helps] expand my knowledge in how specific techniques could be executed," he shared. "This will support [me as] an individual in dance and an individual in general. I am honestly looking forward to performing again to a big crowd and watching what the other groups have created."

One of the stand-out performances of the night was a piece choreographed by all the dance captains in the district, a collaboration never seen before in Valley Fusion's past. Such an outstanding performance, as well as all the others, exemplified the most important aspects of the event: team dynamics, collaboration, and the deeper meaning of dance. "Dance is a language," Salas explained. "I hope there are stories to be told within our performances and I hope we can share that with our community." Eguilos, looking forward to the event, added, "There is definitely going to be a whole new crowd ... Truly expressing all of our emotions within the dances [will make it a] night to remember."

With such a variety of dancers, the combination of talents garnered much deserved recognition and support from the community. Senior Yuri Gonzales, a member of Synergy, shared her emotions prior to the performances. "I am excited to collaborate with the other

schools and show our different talents that we have," she said. "It will be good for us ... We love to perform." Senior Khiano Abelgas, one of the dancers in Agi*lity, shared similar spirits as Gonzales. "I am honestly really excited about how hype the crowd is going to be [and] the adrenaline rush," he stated. "[Seeing] the different styles of everyone ... We all do things a little differently, it will be great to see."

After the two-night event came to an end and the performers delivered their final bow, the audience was left with an ever-lasting impression and a newfound appreciation for dance. With all the hard work and dedication from the dancers, together they helped unite the community and bring together the shared passions of all the dancers within the school district.



Credit: Chloë Zuñiga

The Valley Fusion showcase was held at Temecula Valley High School's theater, with one sold-out night.

Loyal Companions Can Improve Individuals’ Mental Health

Svetlana Hohol ‘25
Editor-in-Chief

As final exams approach, so do rising levels of stress and anxiety of grades closing. While there are numerous tactics to combat these overwhelming emotions, there is one method individuals tend to look past. That being the support of a friend, specifically one with a tail, because no matter what the day entails, there is always that one loyal companion waiting for their owner within the comfort of their home. Dealing with heavy exams, projects, or social anxiety can be heavily taxing on a



Credit: Allison Fisher
Fisher loves to play tug-of-war with her six dogs.

student’s mental health. Some days can make someone’s emotional temperature go cold. During these difficult times, pets can serve as a great companion, as well as immense support to get through the week. Whether it is a cat, dog, bird, or lizard, the loving connection one shares with their pet can raise serotonin levels and chase away cloudy minds. Having a pet encourages one to engage in daily activities and time for mental unloading through the act of quality time. For example, going outside and playing ball, or running through the park with a pet allows a person to participate in needed daily exercise for the brain and body. Junior Julia Webber and her dog Bruno, love to go on occasional walks and have playtime. She explained “I love to go on walks with my dog ... they’re very calming and it’s good to know I am caring for another in the process ... never fails to make me happy seeing him happy.” Pets give great reassurance and comfort to their owners, as they only promote positive interactions and genuine love through daily activities. There are other aspects of characteristics that pets provide assistance in benefiting. Pets need to be cared for with the utmost responsibility and accountability from the owner. It installs consistent work habits, dedication, and compassion within a person. Sophomore Allison Fisher is an owner of six dogs and she said, “[Having] to get up and take care of them is part of what gets me out of bed in the morning and gets me through the day.” Caring for another being can be hard work, but it is ultimately rewarding seeing the pet one loves thrive and show endless affection towards their owner. It builds character and always tests one’s patience towards demanding situations. The responsibility of being an owner trains the mind to endure pressuring scenarios. Junior Bella Adkins explained her experience



Credit: Julia Webber
Junior Julia Webber and her loyal companion, Bruno, occasionally go on walks at their local park.

with her dog, Kira, saying, “I definitely think I’ve become a lot more responsible as well as used to her energetic outbursts.” Taking care of a fellow companion only enhances the bond, while strengthening needed skills that will help an individual thrive in today’s society. Animals have high levels of emotional intelligence, so they understand when their owner is struggling. They also share a different type of strengthened bond with their

person. So, just like any other human best friend one may have, an animal companion is no different than any other trusted peer. The responsibility of taking accountability over another being changes a person for the better. It is a relationship that both sides benefit from as they continue to have a loving home. Having a loyal companion by one’s side promotes healthy life-long habits and gives an individual a friendship like no other.

Gaining Confidence Through Style

Lauren Padilla ‘24
Managing Editor

Fashion is a powerful tool for expressing oneself. Often based on social media and the people around them, many use their sense of style as a means of showcasing their creativity. Having the ability to piece together ensembles representative of one’s identity can possess extremely positive effects on their confidence. Though many are hesitant to indulge in these benefits due to the expenses that come alongside a new wardrobe, there are countless ways to inexpensively utilize style to build confidence. While it can be tempting to disregard clothing that does not appear to reflect one’s current identity, looking towards one’s existing closet is essential. Making the most of what is already available to oneself is key to avoiding spending an unnecessary amount of money on new clothes. Junior Kennedy Holley expands her wardrobe by upcycling her clothing, “I grow out of stuff a lot but I find ways to ... [wear old clothes] differently or [sew] them ... to fit.” Upcycling is especially useful because it pushes one to be creative with pieces that they already own. This involves bringing new life to an old piece of clothing by repurposing it to fit ever-changing aesthetics instead of simply throwing it away. Holley

expanded, “it makes it unique to yourself ... no one else has that look to them.” This assists in curating confidence as it allows one to express their individuality in a manner that is special to them. Additionally, examining the different ways that preexisting pieces can be used opens a multitude of different possibilities

worthwhile investment. “I definitely focus on getting essentials first. I stopped focusing on brand names and stuff because I know it really doesn’t matter in the end. What I look for in clothing and pieces is quality over quantity,” shared Senior Alex Borja. Rather than splurging for every micro-trend, taking the time to learn exactly what it is that appeals to oneself will not only save money, but also contribute to a better understanding of what makes them confident. Han commented, “Trends always die. It’s not wrong to follow trends ... [but] trying to constantly keep up ... it’s a waste of money.” By taking charge of one’s own sense of style, it allows them to dictate how they want to present themselves. Senior Nicole Hale expressed, “Knowing that I can go out into the world and wear whatever I feel good in, that’s what brings me confidence ... because I put it on for a reason, I had a vision.” When one is confident with their outward appearance, it empowers them to be confident with their inner personality. By exploring different aesthetics and fashion pieces, many find the ones which make them the most comfortable within themselves, even if it is not always the most popular choice. Freshman Jackie Godina acknowledged, “Everyone’s different in their own way, so you just [have] to accept yourself and be open-minded to stepping out of your comfort zone.”



Credit: Isabel Liles
Isabel Liles utilizes fashion as a medium for self-expression.

for one’s style. Senior Elise Han explained, “Layer with something like a jacket, or a different type of pants to make it look like you have more outfits from one singular piece of clothing.” Staple basics can be paired with a wide variety of fashion combinations, making them a

Gifting with a Budget

Alice Signorello ‘25
Staff Writer

The holidays are near, and it is time to think about gifts for family and friends. Many people tend to buy a present based on musical tastes, favorite foods, or different interests of the person who will receive the gift. While this is an acceptable method, not many students are able to afford such costly presents. Fortunately, there are other affordable ways to make gifts for loved ones. Students like Seniors Robyn Moore and Michelle Maldonado have a different opinion about this. Moore said, “I’m a fairly creative person and I like making things, so I prefer to make gifts by myself.” Talking about why she prefers to make presents by herself rather than buying them, Moore said, “I definitely think I personally prefer someone to make something for me because it shows that they wanted to take the time and effort to do that for me.” While one common advantage is that it saves money, there are additional advantages, such as the love and effort put into the present. Moore commented, “I think it’s mostly the part that you are spending your own time on, and one, you put thought on it. Two, you are putting your efforts into making it for them. I think that also adds a little bit of specialness to it when you are giving it to the person.” In addition, Maldonado stated, “It’s just like a heartwarming feeling that you have, like the excitement and the joy that you get to see in their faces.” Another advantage of making crafts is

seeing the happy face of the people who receive the gift that makes themselves feel satisfied and joyful. Buying the actual item itself is one way, however the price of that one item could possibly be the price of all the materials that they can be bought for separately and make about five or more for the same price. For instance, for her friend’s birthday, Moore decided to create a necklace and matching earrings inspired by her friend’s favorite movie. She shared where she got her materials saying, “I used wires from beads I found from Michael’s and wire cutters ... It took about an hour.” While Moore prefers to make jewelry by herself, Maldonado tends to make drawings and origami, just like she did for her friend. She explained how she made an origami cake, saying, “I first grabbed the papers, cut him out to the right measurements, and then after that I wrote his name on it.” The best tip that Moore gave for those who are interested in trying to do crafts is to be patient. “It takes a lot of patience and it does take time, so you should probably make sure you just have enough time to do it,” she advised. Maldonado also gave some tips to try to make a good craft, sharing what she often relies on when she creates them. “Mainly I use a photo of themselves or with me included, and then, on the side, I’ll write them like a long note,” she explained. A good gift does not have to be expensive, or bought in a store or store bought on Amazon. There are many students out there who would actually prefer to receive crafts, as they show more love and effort put into it.

Huisinga and Masterson Earn MVPs

Navin Gopalan '24
Photo Manager

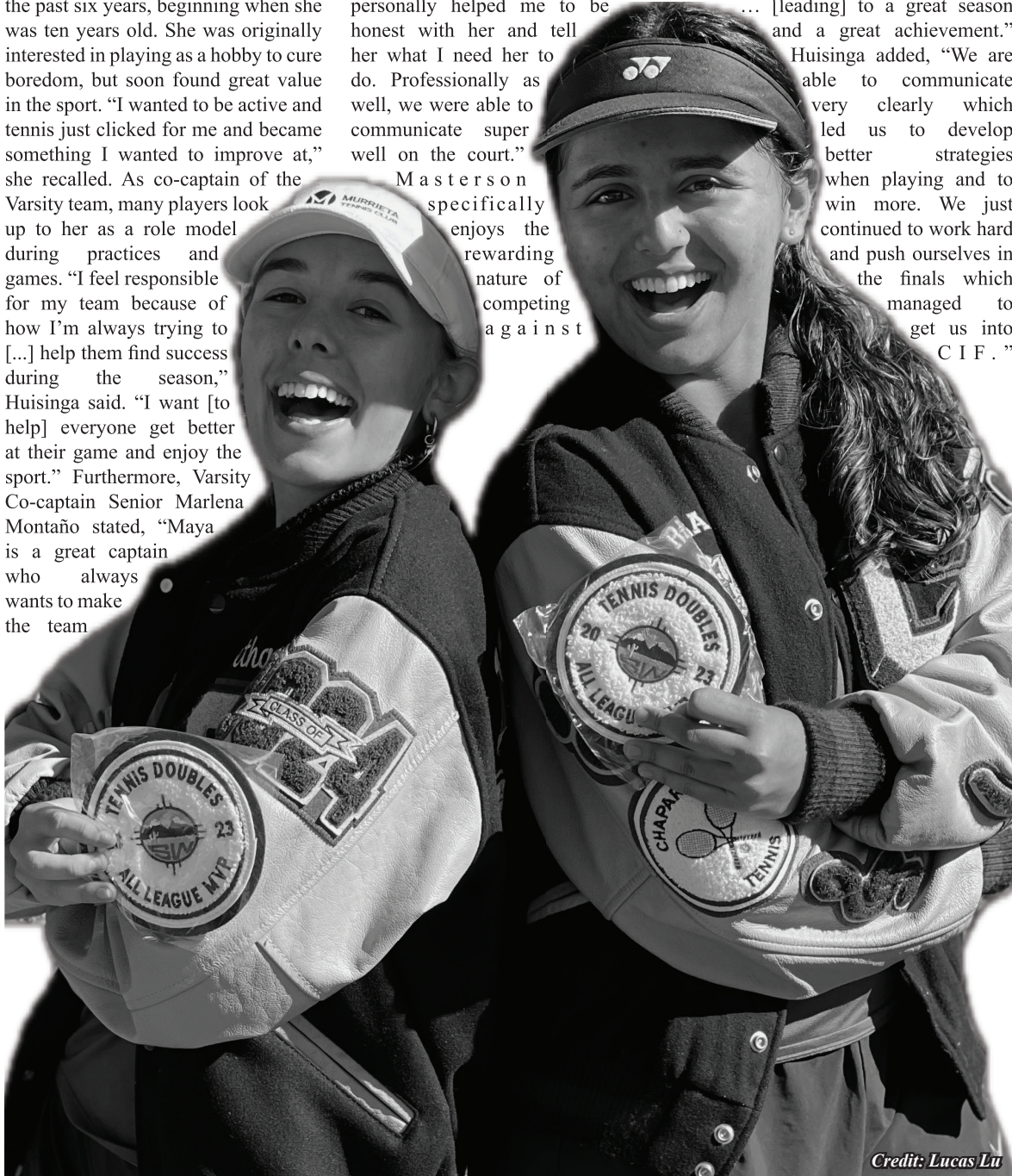
The Southwestern League is competitive in all sports, and tennis is no exception. Featuring top girls' tennis teams from around the region, the League is immensely challenging to compete and win in. However, Girls Varsity Tennis Doubles partners Junior Maya Huisinga and Senior Bethany Masterson have shined in this season's competition, receiving the title of "Most Valuable Players" of the entire league—a major milestone in both their personal and Chaparral tennis careers.

Huisinga has played tennis for the past six years, beginning when she was ten years old. She was originally interested in playing as a hobby to cure boredom, but soon found great value in the sport. "I wanted to be active and tennis just clicked for me and became something I wanted to improve at," she recalled. As co-captain of the Varsity team, many players look up to her as a role model during practices and games. "I feel responsible for my team because of how I'm always trying to [...] help them find success during the season," Huisinga said. "I want [to help] everyone get better at their game and enjoy the sport." Furthermore, Varsity Co-captain Senior Marlena Montaña stated, "Maya is a great captain who always wants to make the team

better, and is always [looking] for ways to improve everyone's tennis skills. She leads the team in stretches and helps guide people in their volleys." Similarly, Masterson began playing tennis five years ago, stating that her main inspiration for joining was seeing others master the sport. Currently, she plays doubles with Huisinga and has won twenty-nine of their thirty doubles games this season. Masterson cites her personal relationship with Huisinga as crucial to their success this season. "I'm a good doubles player, it's what I specialize in, while Maya has always played singles. So the fact that Maya and I were close personally helped me to be honest with her and tell her what I need her to do. Professionally as well, we were able to communicate super well on the court."

Masterson specifically enjoys the rewarding nature of competing against competitive opponents in games. "Tennis is hard and a lot of work," she noted, "but I feel like it's definitely worth the pain it puts you through because it's so rewarding."

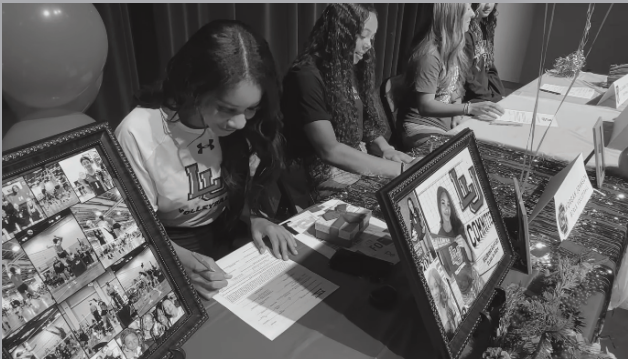
Becoming the Most Valuable Players of the Southwestern League is not an easy feat. However, their mentor, Head Coach Mr. Richard Orona, noted the dedication he saw in their tennis practices and games that led to this achievement. "They exhibited great teamwork," he recalled. "They would discuss a game plan before each match and make adjustments as needed. They set a goal to be the best team in the league and they achieved that goal ... [leading] to a great season and a great achievement." Huisinga added, "We are able to communicate very clearly which led us to develop better strategies when playing and to win more. We just continued to work hard and push ourselves in the finals which managed to get us into C I F."



Credit: Lucas Lu

Through sheer dedication, Huisinga and Masterson were able to overcome the top players in the Southwestern League.

Sports Briefs



National Letter of Intent Signing Day on November 8
Madison Johnson, Volleyball - UCSD
Mauriana Rayford, Volleyball - Lamar University
Morgan Johnson, Volleyball - Bethune-Cookman University
Camryn Brown, Lacrosse - Northern Michigan University
Julianna Torres, Softball - University of Rhode Island

Blake Lowe and Jake Williams will be signing with Brigham Young University and UC Davis respectively on December 20 for football.

Football All Big West Upper Honors
First Team

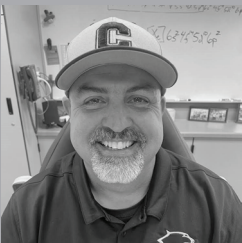
Blake Lowe '24 - S/WR
Aiden Alefosio '24 - DE
Dash Beierly '25 - QB
Jacob Alvarez '25 - TE
Justin Selway '25 - MLB
Corbin Frutos '25 - HY
Shane Klingelberg '25 - DE
Jayce Venable '25 - RB



Blake Lowe, '24

Second Team

Jake Williams '24 - OL
Noah Hartill '24 - HY
Liam Porter '25 - OL
Cole Fuller '25 - OL
Tristan Watters '25 - UTL
Kuron Jabari Jr. '25 - DB
JJ Cravin '25 - DB
Jesse Powless '25 - DT



Coach Ryan Garcia

New Coaches

Justin Roos, Boys Lacrosse
Ryan Garcia, Track & Field
Jordan Searby, Boys Basketball
Harmony Pyper, Girls Basketball
Collin Foss, Boys Soccer

CHS was named a National Banner Special Olympics Unified Champion School by ESPN.

The Varsity Girls Basketball team recently placed second at the Norco High School Veterans' Classic.



Athlete Spotlights



Photos and Spotlights by
Dallin Grey '24
Editor-in-Chief

Isaiah Rossow '24
Boys Soccer



Senior Isaiah Rossow was introduced to the sport of soccer at the age of three when he joined the team that his father coached. Soccer

came naturally to Rossow; "I'm able to, like, think at a fast pace so it's kind of easy to play the sport." Rossow is best at controlling the center of the field, dominating as a midfielder. He feels that the Varsity team is well-poised to conquer their league and make a deep run in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) tournament. "We have a pretty stacked team for [winning league and CIF]," he said. After graduating Rossow plans to enroll in the fire academy in order to become a firefighter for the community.

Julia Neal '24
Girls Water Polo



In her freshman year, Senior Julia Neal joined the Varsity Girls Water Polo team, motivated by her sister to do so. Neal has now started for

the Varsity team for three years and currently plays in the set position for her team as one of their top scorers. In the team's first game of the season, Neal scored four goals alone. She has also been named to the Second Team All-League, Athlete of Character, and been given the Coach's Pick award in her years. "I love how bonded and connected my team is," Neal added. "They're not just my teammates, they're my best friends." Neal looks to attend a university after graduation while pursuing a law degree.

Angela De La Cruz '24
Girls Basketball



Senior Angela De La Cruz first began playing basketball in the sixth grade when her father introduced her to the sport. Since then, she has

grown to be one of the top point and shooting guards on the Varsity team; De La Cruz has scored forty-six points in her last three games alone, scoring as many as eighteen points in one game. Being on the team has been very rewarding for her over the past few years. "I enjoy being with my teammates, and definitely the feeling after [a good, productive] practice is over," she noted. As for her post-high school plans, De La Cruz hopes to attend an in-state school, preferably one in Riverside.

Basketball Teams Kickstart Season with Midnight Madness

Navin Gopalan ‘24
Photo Manager

The Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball teams kicked off their seasons with a swish, featuring in initiatory Midnight Madness on November 9. The crowd was ecstatic as the Varsity Boys and Girls teams played against a team of staff, as well as showcased their extraordinary skills. These skills aided the boys team in a victory over Canyon Springs High School in the

215 Tip-Off Classic Tournament. Although their second match against Temescal Canyon High School was less than optimal, the first match of the season gave them vital strategies to improve their playing as they move into preparing for their League. With tryouts concluding in September and the boys and girls basketball teams set, the upcoming weeks are now focused on training both skill and coordination. Varsity Boys Co-captain Senior Cooper Creamer has taken charge, looking

to improve various skills of the team. “As we continue to play more games, we are looking to improve our execution on the court,” he stated. However, Creamer praised the team’s ability to work together on the court. “The camaraderie has been great so far,” Creamer affirmed. “We have all put effort in creating relationships on and off the court with each other.” There have also been many changes this season, the largest being the introduction of a new Head Coach, Mr. Jordan Searby. Also joining the

campus as a history teacher, Coach Searby is dedicated to the continued growth of the Varsity Boys team. “My favorite part about coaching was my favorite part as an athlete—it’s the ability to prepare and come to work everyday with people who are committed to a common goal,” he recalled. “It’s a process that requires patience but it’s very important to me to make sure everyone on my team knows I care about them, and that I am invested in who they are—as players and as people.” Creamer praised Coach Searby’s ability. “He is a very approachable guy but when it’s time to work he means business,” he stated. “There has been a lot of work done to build the foundation in order to have a strong program here at Chap,” Coach Searby said. “I have a great group of guys on the varsity roster, and I really value getting to be their coach.” Midnight Madness was another change this season. The inaugural kick-off event occurred on November 9, drawing more than 100 students across grade levels, all to support the newly-announced teams as they played a friendly match against Chaparral staff members. “I was definitely surprised at the amount of support and energy that was brought by everyone,” said Senior London Smith, who attended the event. “The student v. staff game was good because the score was so close the entire time.” Coach Searby also praised the event, stating, “It was a great way for the boys and girls players to be introduced and also for the staff and students to celebrate the start of the basketball season.”



Credit: Bharghav Nagaraja
Andrew De La Torre rises up for a shot.

As the 2023-24 season kicks off for basketball, many eyes are on the team’s path forward; Coach Searby remains dedicated to ensuring the team’s success. “The key for us will be continuing to grow both on and off the court as a team,” he stated. “This is a talented roster, and I have complete confidence that we will be able to achieve our goals.” The Varsity Basketball teams are sure to excel in their upcoming season with their stellar leadership.



Credit: Bharghav Nagaraja
AP English Literature teacher Mr. Larry Wells pulls up for a shot during the students versus staff game at Midnight Madness.

Agostini Shatters XC Record

Julian Stanfield ‘24
Sports Editor

Often seen leading the pack, Varsity Boys Cross Country (XC) Captain and Senior Joshua Agostini finished eighteenth place for the California Scholastic Federation (CIF) Finals and broke the school record for the three-mile record with a time of 14:37. With his last XC season concluding strongly, Agostini was able to dominate the competition with consistent first place wins throughout his entire time running. Before his eventual success, Agostini primarily played soccer and only ran to stay in shape during middle school. That soon changed, however, when he experienced an injury that forced him to quit soccer, but also made him recognize his potential as a runner. “I realized I was better at running ... so that’s why I started [to take it seriously],” he explained. Agostini began competing at Temecula Preparatory School as a freshman on their XC and track and field teams, and later transferred to Chaparral High School his sophomore year. He continued racing the year after and placed thirty-third out of 120 for the 2022 CIF Finals. In order to reach his current level of fitness, Agostini runs in the mornings before school, alongside the normal team practices in the afternoon. He also receives advice and encouragement

from his father who is an inspirational figure to him and former high school track coach. He stated, “My dad ... ran in college and he pushes me to continue running.” While Agostini has achieved what many could only dream of through his strong perseverance, he was unable to fulfill his ambition of making it to the state meet as he was off by only four seconds. Nevertheless, Agostini looks back at the season with a positive attitude, stating, “I feel great,

you know. I hope that [my record] stays up for a long time and no one breaks it for the next few years and it felt really good to get that time ... there’s a lot of fast runners out there and I did better than I expected.” Agostini will continue running for track and field in the spring season. After graduation, he plans to attend a four-year university, such as the University of California, Irvine or University of California, San Diego, with hopes of a scholarship.



Credit: Val Vargas
Agostini broke the three-mile school record during CIF Finals.

Super Natceli Wrestling Bros.

Jessica Oler ‘24
Staff Writer

Wrestling is a sport that requires a lot of strength and endurance and sibling duo, Senior Ivan Natceli and Sophomore Dylan Natceli, have shown that on the mats. Both were on the Varsity Boys Wrestling team last year and earned the monumental achievement of winning in the California Interscholarship Federation (CIF), which was groundbreaking for the whole team. After this huge accomplishment, the sibling duo continue to show their strength. Ivan has been on the Varsity team since his freshman year, securing his spot with his abundance of successes in each match. “It feels good getting back into wrestling, so excited for the season,” Ivan explained, looking to further his training. He also noted the important changes occurring this year with many seniors having graduated last year, making the wrestling team “super young.” Even with the massive number of wrestlers that have left the program, Ivan still feels that the team will do well. He shared that he is stronger than wrestlers in his own weight class. Natceli’s solid attitude to his sport gives him a proper amount of pride, with his proudest moment being pinning an opponent during CIF, and he has set a greater goal for himself to make it to state this season.



Credit: Dylan Natceli
Dylan and Ivan have dominated the mats together the last two seasons.

Younger brother Dylan having the urge to be hands-on, he has had experience prior to joining wrestling in jiu-jitsu and mixed martial arts during that year. “What drove me into wrestling was seeing a bunch of fit people wrestling and I wanted to be fit and I realized wrestling was the toughest sport and the hustle kind of grew on me and now I love it,” Dylan expressed. Being on Varsity as a freshman last year had been a great position to uphold. His hard work from the season has helped him make his way to participate with seniors in CIF. This experience has shaped Dylan’s goal for his season to make it to state as a sophomore and to compete at the national level, which he has previously done in the summer. “It felt really good

last year, being a freshman on Varsity, because whenever I won, the crowd would cheer ‘He’s a freshman!’ and that was awesome because most of the time, I was pinning a senior.” Dylan has embraced determination that many tend to overlook due to complacency due to his age. Of Dylan’s many strong suits being his top game he is able to turn a lot of opponents with his, “longer arms and rack up a bunch of points that way.” The Natceli brothers both plan to continue wrestling after high school. Ivan plans to learn at a trade school while also working. Dylan hopes for a scholarship to a Division I school and wrestle throughout college. The brothers’ successes have given them the drive to train harder to accomplish more.



‘Tis the Season!

Information and photos gathered by The Platinum Press Staff



“Go with the flow! Do not let the hustle and bustle of the holidays ruin your season.”
- Mr. Chris Klair



“Take a deep breath and focus on what makes you happy. Also, step away from the noise and distraction that is your phone and focus on the ones around you.”
- Ms. Ginger Brady



“Happy holidays Pumas! Make sure to take some time out [of] this break to spend a bunch of time with friends and family that you recharge for a great spring semester.”
- Mrs. Tiana Fox



“Go to the beach. I mean ... we’re in Southern California.”
- Mr. David Carlson



“If you can’t afford gifts, just wrap empty boxes and watch people’s faces light up with curiosity.”
- Mr. Chris Benson



“Get lots of rest. Do what makes you happy. Eat lots of good food. Spend time with people who fill your cup!”
- Ms. Veronica Titus



“Be grateful and enjoy your families. Remember to not take anything for granted, and live in the moment!”
- Mrs. Susie Fuentes



“A year from now you won’t even remember the gift you got, but you’ll remember who you’re with and how much fun you had.”
- Ms. Tina Olsen



“Holidays are about acknowledging those you love. Tell those around you that you care and are grateful for them.”
- Mrs. Taylor Ciulla



“For students during the holiday season, always be thankful that your parents let you come back home.”
- Mr. Larry Wells



“Don’t stress about having fun plans, grab a friend or go alone, just do something different than usual.”
- Mr. Kenji Oberlander



“The holiday break is a great time to pause, rest, reflect, and practice gratitude. Focus on what brings you joy and protect your peace. Always spread love and kindness.”
- Mrs. Priscilla Neal



“Enjoy the time you have with your family. You never know how long you get with them, so make the most of it.”
- Mr. Aaron Slojkowski



“Take time to reflect on what you’re grateful for, and make sure to do something for yourself.”
- Mrs. Christina Gandy



“Happy Holidays Pumas! Take a drive to enjoy the lights, add peppermint or caramel to your hot chocolate, and make fun memories this holiday season.”
- Mrs. Susan Myers



“Really feel the holiday spirit by helping others whenever possible.”
- Mrs. Candida Canizales