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The PLATINUM PREVIEW

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Boys Soccer Wins League Championship

Nerissa Moore '23
Sports Editor

The Puma Varsity Boys Soccer team has always made fans proud and with the 2021-22 league season being the third consecutive and twelfth year for Chaparral's league championship win, they have made history out on the field.



Credit: Julie Parra
The team celebrates after their victory.

Ending preseason with an undefeated record, the boys were set for greatness early on in the season. Focusing on the team's mentality, the team was determined to keep both their game and their attitudes in check. Junior Angel Parra stated, "We always made sure to stay focused on the next game and not let our egos get out of hand." Aside from mental growth, was growth within the team. Even equating the team's success to their family-like bond, Senior Kaelem Walker commented, "Team success comes from the chemistry and fight of the team. Everyone loves playing with one another and we all agreed at the beginning of the season that we would never let a team outwork us." Combining each other's drive, the boy's "heart[s]" allowed them to "put in everything they had into every game," according to Head Coach Mr. AJ Covarrubias.

As the boys headed into league, Covarrubias concentrated heavily on the style and technique of the team's play. With six new varsity players on the team, "We spent time on strengthening areas of our game that are weak as well as looking to work on



Credit: Don Whelan

This will be the third consecutive league championship win for the boys soccer team. areas we were strong in," Covarrubias commented. Describing league in many ways, this season totaled up to be a season of "confidence" and constant "rollercoasters". Even coming back from a coronavirus 19 (Covid-19) outbreak surfacing from winter break, the team powered through. Parra added, "We had a lot of key starting players gone yet we still beat [Vista Murrieta High School]." Believing one of their biggest setbacks was the lack of "capitalizing

on our opportunities early in the games," Walker shared how the team collectively jumped right back and "[did] whatever else we had to do."

The team is excited to advance into the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). "It felt great to have all of our hard work pay off," Junior Danny Whelan commented. The team hopes to see the stands full tonight when they play their first CIF game against Garden Grove High School at 5PM in our home stadium.

NJROTC Achieves High Honors at Competitions

Svetlana Hohol '25
School News Editor

Since the start of the second semester, the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) has already achieved many team goals. With their dedicated hard work they have succeeded in various competitions such as orienteering, CyberPatriot, drill, and even have received the chance to attend high-class events, such as meetings with high military officials. Through all of these events, NJROTC is working on preparing their cadets to

attend greater competitions both state and nationwide.

NJROTC qualified for the orienteering nationals during their competition at the NJROTC Area 11 championship that was held at Bonelli regional park in San Dimas. Orienteering is a navigational sport where cadets are given a map and a compass to help find points that are scattered across the land; these points can be hidden beneath some bushes or rocks. The goal is to find all the points in the shortest amount of time possible. Senior Walker Maze, a cadet who participated in the championship, said, "I almost collapsed at

the end of it, I ended up going 6.76 miles, so I was really tired in the end." The school's NJROTC will be the largest group competing with thirteen cadets participating at the national competition from March 13-15 in San Jose.

They also have been competing in drill competitions which consist of NJROTC groups competing in their area's group of activities such as unarmed regulation, armed regulation, exhibition, and color guard. There are many different area competitions across the country and Area 11 consists of other JROTC groups across

Southern California and Arizona. While attending a drill competition at El Camino Real in Woodland Hills back in December, NJROTC qualified for the Area 11 championship otherwise known as the Superbowl. The Superbowl is what determines whether NJROTC can move to the National competition. Since then, they have attended many other competitions as practice for the championship. The Superbowl was held on February 5, at Santa Ana High School. The Superbowl is considered a field meet with the same competing factors as a regular drill competition; however there are more factors like an academic test and physical training. Senior Eileen Paniagua, a cadet who plans to attend the competitions, shared her past experiences at competitions. She said, "As weird as it sounds, I enjoy all of the stress that comes with performing. We as a team get to show off creativity; it's really enjoyable to watch because we get to scream at our friends and just [give] them encouragement."

With NJROTC proceeding to high-level competitions, they have just wrapped up a fulfilling season with CyberPatriot. CyberPatriot is typically a six hour event where

students compete on three different operating systems; Cisco, Windows Server, and Linux. Teams of four or five students complete tasks based on those operating systems to gain points. A student may lose points if they make an error in a task. NJROTC closed their season with one of their teams making it to the national semifinals. Senior Dominic Rincon has been participating in Air Rifle Marksmanship since his freshman year. He shared, "You get to bond over something you guys are good at, and you get to get better as a group." Even with these events ending, there is more to come as NJROTC is sending twenty-two cadets to have breakfast with the Secretary of Navy at the San Diego Convention Center on February 18. Many high officials from different military branches will attend, and cadets will be able to connect and learn from this experience.

The dedication of cadets has made many great achievements in the name of NJROTC. With so much already done and achieved, NJROTC has already started teaching cadets how to fly drones and setting up future drone competitions. There are already many more future plans that NJROTC is striving to complete to their best ability.



Credit: William Lauper
The Freshman NJROTC Orienteering team placed second at the competition at Bonelli Regional Park.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Principal Tina Miller



Pumas,

We are well into the second semester of the 21/22 school year. This semester has been challenging due to a surge of absences in January for both students and staff. Things seem to be slowing down for the month of February as absences are down and COVID protocols are more streamlined. We are happy to have more students and staff back on campus this month.

We are excited to kick off the month of February celebrating our awesome counseling team at CHS. It is National Counseling Week from Feb. 7 - Feb. 11. Thank you CHS counselors for all that you do to support our students! Please continue to check out the CHS Instagram page for all upcoming school events this month. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy in the coming weeks and take care of you and your family.

Go Pumas!

Cuevas: A Passionate Animal Activist

Catie Mitchell '22
Staff Writer

All over the media there are constantly posts about endangered animals either at risk of going extinct or having their habitats ruined due to climate change and deforestation. Destruction happens all around the world and animals need help being protected.

Freshman Ava Cuevas is someone who takes this issue very seriously and tries to do anything she can to help. Cuevas found her love for animals at a young age. As she grew up, she was able to learn how to connect with rescue companies. "Ever since I was around seven I started writing to animal rescues and sanctuaries, and they wrote back to me, and they just really inspired me to see the good in everywhere around the world," Cuevas said. Ever since those letters she has developed an even greater passion for saving animals who need help. She has gone out of her way to donate and help raise awareness for them and is involved in animal activism and support. She has donated all around the world from Mexico to Australia as well as China.

As a result of her love for animals, and all of the animal rescues she has been involved with, she was inspired to begin writing an educational book on animal issues. "I'm expecting it to be around 200 pages," Cuevas said. Her book is currently halfway



Credit: Ava Cuevas

Due to her love of animals, Cuevas is writing an educational book about animal issues. complete. "I'm also working with a lot of animal rescues to get copyrights of their pictures of rescued animals," she added. It is no question that Cuevas will continue being an involved animal advocate over the next few years as she learns more about how she can help.

On top of her contributions to animal life, Cuevas is an amazing student. She works hard to stay on top of her work because she prioritizes her grades. Aside from her schooling, Cuevas is involved in a program called Youth Leadership Council. This program is targeted to youth to help them get involved in real-world issues. Cuevas is a perfect example of how

this program indeed works based on her actions. She willingly tries to make a change and help animals in need by donating and spreading awareness. "I have my own Facebook page where I post articles raising awareness towards the problems animals face called *Ava's Rescue Friends*," Cuevas said.

In the future Cuevas plans on attending college in hopes of becoming an exotic animal veterinarian. She wants to publish more books about her interests, and partner up with rescue organizations. As time goes on she will only continue to do more and more to rescue animals, and she hopes to inspire others to do the same.

CAASPP Testing Q and A with Mrs. McFedries

Information Gathered By: Josiah Lee '22

Q: Who is required to participate in CAASPP testing?

A: Only juniors and seniors will be taking the test this year. Freshmen and sophomores will not be testing and will attend their regular classes.

Q: What subjects will juniors and seniors be tested on?

A: Juniors will be completing the science, English, and math tests, while seniors will only complete the science exam. The science exam will take place on March 11, English will take place from March 15 to March 17, and math will take place from April 12 to April 14. Seniors will attend their regular classes during the block scheduling.

Q: What will students be doing on March 11?

A: Freshmen and sophomores will be taking the PSAT, while juniors and seniors begin the CAASPP with the science portion.

Q: Why is the CAASPP important for students?

A: The CAASPP works with the Early Assessment Program (EAP). EAP scores are used for placement in college classes.

CHS CAASPP STUDENT Testing Schedule 2022

Monday, March 7th	Tuesday March 8th	Wednesday, March 9th	Thursday March 10th	Friday, March 11th Minimum Day
Late Start Schedule Normal Bell Schedule NO TESTING	Normal Bell Schedule NO TESTING	Normal Bell Schedule NO TESTING	Normal Bell Schedule NO TESTING Spring Showcase	9-Week Grading Period Ends 9th- PSAT 10th- PSAT 11th- CAST Sci & ELA CAT 12th- CAST Sci & Career/CCGI activity
Monday, March 14th	Tuesday, March 15th	Wednesday, March 16th	Thursday, March 17th	Friday, March 18th
Late Start Schedule Normal Bell Schedule NO TESTING	Rolling Block Schedule Per 1 7:30 - 9:00 (90 min) Break 9:00 - 9:08 (8 min) Passing 9:08 - 9:14 (6 min) Per 2 9:14 - 10:44 (90 min) Passing 10:44 - 10:50 (6 min) Per 3 10:50 - 12:20 (90 min) Lunch 12:20 - 12:54 (34 min) Passing 12:54 - 1:00 (6 min) Per 4 1:00 - 2:30 (90 min) Finish ELA CAT then English Performance in English	Rolling Block Schedule Per 1 7:30 - 9:00 (90 min) Break 9:00 - 9:08 (8 min) Passing 9:08 - 9:14 (6 min) Per 2 9:14 - 10:44 (90 min) Passing 10:44 - 10:50 (6 min) Per 5 10:50 - 12:20 (90 min) Lunch 12:20 - 12:54 (34 min) Passing 12:54 - 1:00 (6 min) Per 6 1:00 - 2:30 (90 min) Finish ELA CAT then English Performance in English	Rolling Block Schedule Per 3 7:30 - 9:00 (90 min) Break 9:00 - 9:08 (8 min) Passing 9:08 - 9:14 (6 min) Per 4 9:14 - 10:44 (90 min) Passing 10:44 - 10:50 (6 min) Per 5 10:50 - 12:20 (90 min) Lunch 12:20 - 12:54 (34 min) Passing 12:54 - 1:00 (6 min) Per 6 1:00 - 2:30 (90 min) Finish ELA CAT then English Performance in English	Normal Bell Schedule NO TESTING
Monday, April 11th	Tuesday, April 12th	Wednesday, April 13th	Thursday, April 14th	Friday, April 15th
Late Start Schedule Normal Bell Schedule NO TESTING	Rolling Block Schedule Per 1 7:30 - 9:00 (90 min) Break 9:00 - 9:08 (8 min) Passing 9:08 - 9:14 (6 min) Per 2 9:14 - 10:44 (90 min) Passing 10:44 - 10:50 (6 min) Per 3 10:50 - 12:20 (90 min) Lunch 12:20 - 12:54 (34 min) Passing 12:54 - 1:00 (6 min) Per 4 1:00 - 2:30 (90 min) Math CAT then Performance in Math	Rolling Block Schedule Per 1 7:30 - 9:00 (90 min) Break 9:00 - 9:08 (8 min) Passing 9:08 - 9:14 (6 min) Per 2 9:14 - 10:44 (90 min) Passing 10:44 - 10:50 (6 min) Per 5 10:50 - 12:20 (90 min) Lunch 12:20 - 12:54 (34 min) Passing 12:54 - 1:00 (6 min) Per 6 1:00 - 2:30 (90 min) Math CAT then Performance in Math	Rolling Block Schedule Per 3 7:30 - 9:00 (90 min) Break 9:00 - 9:08 (8 min) Passing 9:08 - 9:14 (6 min) Per 4 9:14 - 10:44 (90 min) Passing 10:44 - 10:50 (6 min) Per 5 10:50 - 12:20 (90 min) Lunch 12:20 - 12:54 (34 min) Passing 12:54 - 1:00 (6 min) Per 6 1:00 - 2:30 (90 min) Math CAT then Performance in Math	Normal Bell Schedule NO TESTING

*On the rolling block schedule, each period meets 2 times for 90 minutes each week

Students Take College-Level Classes for Advanced Education

Reagan Delahunty '25
Copy Editor

With a passion and drive to succeed, anything is possible. This was proved over many years by students and is once again being proved this year. Students like Senior Mary Handler, Senior Luke Vinson, and many more are taking part in dual enrollment courses in order to step ahead in the academic world and earn early college credits.

With online college classes becoming more common, Mount San Jacinto College (MSJC) has taken to offering online courses for high school students as an opportunity to advance in the academic field. Handler first started the path into graduating with an associates degree in the seventh grade as a challenge and found the path was right for her. The pathway extended through all of high school and "before I knew it I had enough units to graduate," Handler stated. After a heavy workload her first three years

of high school, Handler has a more relaxed schedule for her senior year. With more free time, it gives her "much more time to kind of enjoy that time frame and it gives [her] a lot more options," Handler stated, for extracurricular activities and more enjoyable classes. Handler is now graduating with an associates degree with honors from Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society as a Valedictorian nominee. With all the college classes she took, it allows for her to enter college as a transfer student as a freshmen in her junior year.

Vinson decided to take Spanish 101 and English 101 in order to challenge himself and pull ahead in the academic world. Like many students, Vinson wanted to be ahead and by taking college courses, he did just that. Though he is not graduating with a degree, Vinson is farther ahead in his college career after taking courses during high school. Vinson stated, "[These courses] were beneficial because I was able to get experiences that I

wasn't able to get here and I was able to get ahead in high school so I was able to have an easier schedule [this year]." Vinson took college classes on top of many Advanced Placement (AP) classes including AP Research, AP Government, AP Statistics, AP Macroeconomics, and Calculus D and was involved in many extracurricular activities. With his extensive list of AP classes and added college classes, Vinson is graduating as Valedictorian as well as ahead in the collegiate world.

Counselor Mrs. Tina Mey gave her opinion on the dual enrollment courses. She stated, "It's a lot of work in high school," but it is a great experience and "if you want to do this then I'm in your corner cheering you on." Mey explained that the course load is a lot of work that is not meant for everyone and is going to take away regular high school opportunities. Though, if that is what the student wants, it is a good challenge and Mey recommended students "take

advantage of the concurrent enrollment" while they can.

With so many students stepping ahead in the collegiate

world, concurrent enrollment classes are becoming more popular in the technological world and many students

are taking advantage of the opportunities thrown their way and involving themselves in the advanced courses.



Credit: Mary Handler

Senior Mary Handler has taken enough college classes to earn her Associates Degree before graduation.

Writing Makes Bank Hosts Competition

Svetlana Hohol '25
School News Editor

The Writing Makes Bank club was established in the 2020-2021 school year by Junior Dylan Choi with the purpose of giving students an opportunity to win scholarships through their creative writing entries. The club has been working to send students who have a passion for writing to compete nationally. The club also runs school-wide competitions with its own unique theme that students can express themselves through their own form of writing. Not only do these competitions let students present their skills in writing, but it has students competing for a cash prize.

The club is holding their first writing competition of the school year

with the topic of interest being "My Life." Students will get to express any event in their life through any form of writing, such as poems, journals, narrative, etcetera. Students will have until March 31 to send their submissions to the club president's email at dylanmanse05@gmail.com. With the competition being announced mid-January, it already has sparked interest in many. Freshman Denzel Ladero is one of the many passionate writers entering the competition. He stated, "I feel like this was a chance for me to explore my creativity and write a story other people would like to read." Ladero will be writing a story about an unfortunate mistake he made in the fourth grade and how he grew from it, in hopes that the story will inspire others. With the rapid interest for these competitions,

Ladero stated, "I feel like the amount of people entering, I feel like everyone is a great writer, and there will be great stories too, but I wanted to do it because it seemed fun." Student's entries will be judged by English teachers Mr. Donald Forhane and Mrs. Sonja Grover and the winner of this competition will receive a cash prize along with school-wide recognition.

With the club hosting school-wide competitions, the club also finds national competitions for their members to compete in. This gives students the chance to earn some cash and win possible scholarships for the future. There have already been students who won previous competitions through their creative writing skills, such as Sophomore Julia Neal who won a \$25 Amazon gift card from last year's school writing competition. Neal stated, "What was cool is that they even gave me feedback on how to be a better writer." Students can gain so much by just using their writing skills. Choi stated, "I see a lot of enthusiasm and passion about writing, there are a lot of kids who are interested in poetry and journalism and many other things." The club holds meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month during lunch in Forhane's room. They get together to discuss each other's passion for writing and possible competitions to enter or create.

This club serves as many opportunities for students to express their interests as writers, with competitions and events the club presents to its members and the campus. It will spark the start of many more young creative writers and help those find opportunities through their unique pieces of writing. Writing Makes Bank is serving its purpose in getting creativity flowing through campus through fun competitions.



Credit: Svetlana Hohol

Sophomore Julia Neal, winner of last year's competition, sits down to write for the club.

NEWS BRIEFS



Annabelle Persaud '22
January Student of the Month



Amber Nguyen '22
February Student of the Month

Weight Room Remodel



Blood Drive

Sign up for the CHS blood drive taking place on Friday, February 25. Your donation can help save lives.

Check Out Spring Showcase

Check out Spring Showcase on Thursday, March 10. See all the elective and academic classes you can sign up for.

Prom Tickets

Prom tickets are \$80 with the ASB card and \$95 dollars without. On April 4, the prices will go up to \$85 with the ASB card and \$95 without. On May 2, the prices will further increase to \$90 with the ASB card and \$100 without. The last day to purchase tickets is May 10. All students must turn in a signed permission slip to purchase tickets and attend the event. Guest Passes are \$90 and are due on May 4 along with the Guest Pass Form located on the Activities website.

Gender Neutral Bathroom

Chaparral is using modernization funds to create a gender neutral bathroom beginning Fall 2022.

Chaparral High School - The Platinum Press - February 11, 2022

BSU & AAPAC Host Third Annual Black History Month Event

Alexa Neal '22
Editor-in-Chief

Black Student Union (BSU) is a club on campus dedicated to creating a safe space to celebrate black students on campus and their voices. BSU was awarded the "African American History Month" Proclamation by Mayor Edwards on Tuesday, February 8. On Friday, February 25, along with the African American Parent Advisory Council (AAPAC), BSU will be hosting their third annual Black History Month Event. It will take place in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) from 6:30PM to 8:30 PM that night.

The main purpose of this event is to celebrate academic excellence in order to highlight black student excellence on campus. Along with awards and a ceremony to recognize academic achievements, there will also be live performances throughout the event. "You can expect a celebration of black culture from our community since Black History Month will be coming to an end,"

explained Junior Chelsea Ross, President of BSU. In the past, singers, dancers, and public speakers have all performed at the event. The night will begin with an opening introduction, followed by the performances and award ceremony, and will end with a closing speech. Currently, BSU is still searching for dancers, musicians, and singers to be a part of the live performances for the Black History Month Event. If students are interested in performing, they can meet with BSU Advisor Mrs. Dianne Cox in room 517, or email her at dcox@tvusd.us.

This night is looked forward to by many, as Ross stated she's "looking forward to recognizing our friends achievements at this event, we love to see them strive for greatness and continue to cheer them on." Furthermore, as this event is taking place during Black History Month, having this celebratory event is important to many students and staff on campus. Ross explained that the Black History Month Event "gives black students a chance to be seen, heard, and recognized

within the community for their academic goals that they've worked hard to achieve throughout their high school careers so far."

In order to help fund this event, AAPAC and BSU are asking for donations. If students on campus wish to donate to this event, money donations can be turned in through the bookkeeper. Additionally, students can also purchase BSU shirts for \$10 through the bookkeeper and turn in the receipt to Cox in room 517. However, perhaps the best way to support AAPAC and BSU would be to attend the Black History Month Event and celebrate the black excellence and academic achievement on campus. Ross stated, "This event is important to me personally because it's a great opportunity to see how my fellow black students have achieved their academic goals, along with discovering new performers and entertainers that I can start to support and to allow the community to experience black culture." Admission is free and all are welcome to join in the celebration of black students on campus.

HOSA: Allowing Students to Jumpstart their Medical Careers

Svetlana Hohol '25
School News Editor

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) is a national organization that recently made its way on campus this school year. The HOSA groups across California are divided into different districts that separate

them for future collaborations and events. Chaparral's HOSA is specifically part of California district five. The program brings together students who are interested in pursuing a career in the medical field and helps them collaborate with one another in order to gain more knowledge about medical terminology topics. They participate in

medical-based competitions and optional tests that give students an opportunity to be a part of a nationwide medical conference. Meetings are held every Tuesday at lunch, in room 516.

After making its debut this school year, HOSA already has many passionately-driven students who have taken interest in

this program. Freshman Axel-Ryan Legaspi, one of HOSA's members, stated, "I was already in medical terminology, so I thought I should take advantage of HOSA since what I want to do in the future is medical-related." For some students, the organization can be a step closer to their dream career. They will be able to

network with other members in order to build confidence in medically related topics. To get into this program, there is a \$20 fee that goes to the California HOSA. The fee accommodates for the uniforms and the recognition of being a member of HOSA. When students join, students also receive an official certificate for being involved with HOSA. The certificates can also be shown as medical experience when applying to colleges. There are other ways students can receive certificates as well, including participating in a series of medical competitions against other California districts who are competing. Throughout this month, students have the chance to compete in singular or group competitions that consist of themes including CPR, human anatomy, and other medical terminology topics. The finalists of these competitions get to compete against other HOSA groups nationwide. The purpose of these competitions is to collaborate with others about medical related topics. However, depending on the finalists, students may have the opportunity to attend the HOSA State Leadership Conference in March.

HOSA members have been working hard in achieving the goal of attending the national

medical conference. In this conference, students will be able to meet with other HOSA groups around the country and talk about medically-related topics. This year, the conference will be held on March 24 at the Long Beach California Convention and Entertainment Center. However, only a selected number of members will be able to attend. To decide which students will be attending, there are two factors that weigh into the decision; a student's performance in medical competitions and the medical terminology test taken through February 15-17. HOSA students have been preparing for these events since January and will not stop until they achieve their goal of attending the conference.

This organization is an open gate to a medical career for driven and dedicated students. As the administrator for HOSA, Medical Terminology, and Medics assistant teacher on campus, Dr. Milangela Corona said, "If you are interested in pursuing a medical career, join HOSA, it is going to build your curriculum." There are many experiences that students can build off of through HOSA. This program is the start of many great medical careers in the future and will be the beginning of many student's dreams.



Credit: Sebastian Tellez Martinez

HOSA is raising money to attend a medical conference in March where they will compete against other districts with their medical knowledge.



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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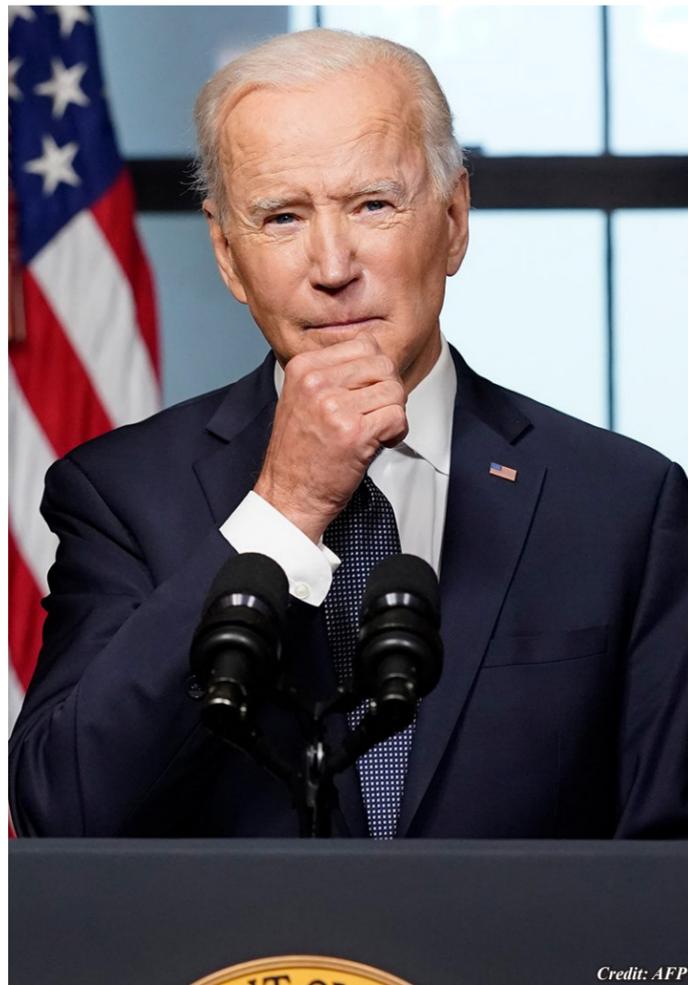
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President Biden's Broken Promises and Failures

Sophie Hall-Schorn '22
Copy Editor

After one year in office, President Joe Biden has left most of the American people harboring feelings of dissatisfaction towards their current administration. In fact, according to Pew Research Center, only forty-one percent of American adults approve of Pres. Biden, while a mere twenty-seven percent strongly approve. With such abysmal ratings, the administration has kicked into high gear in order to perpetuate their plans for 2022 into action; however, this false sense of hope from the Biden administration concerning their goals for the upcoming months, (including the potential nomination of a Black female Supreme Court Justice), are simply more lies and trivial "feel-good" actions that are being fed to the people in order to quell their obvious dissent. Pres. Biden's future is looking grim, and it is extremely doubtful he will be able to pull through the next few months in time for November midterms due to the past year of inaction.

The White House official website claims that Pres. Biden's actions have been improving the economy "from the bottom up and the middle out", and apparently "workers and small businesses are seeing the results". What a baseless claim by the administration. These 4 million jobs "created" by Pres. Biden were not created by him at all: as Gwen Moore for Politifact stated, "There had been monthly increases from May through November of 2020, followed by a drop in December 2020, then an increase of 233,000 jobs in January 2021. That's evidence the economy was getting back on track before Biden did anything."



Credit: AFP

There is not much Biden can do before midterms to improve his approval rating.

By falsely claiming Biden had a hand in "creating" these jobs, the White House glosses over the poor economic handling of the administration. Just this past year, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by seven percent, the highest increase within a year since thirty-nine years ago. The state of the economy is dreadful. The inability of the administration to truly fix this problem is quite apparent with the CPI rise alone, and the approval rating across most of the country is

awful. How can they claim on the official government database that "workers and small businesses are seeing the results?" Short answer: they can not. They are simply fluffing up Pres. Biden's actions in order to nip the dissatisfaction among the American public.

Not only has the administration failed to find a suitable solution for the constant rise in prices, but they have also failed to live up to their own promises to the voters that they pledged to. One of Pres.

Biden's most notable promises was his campaign to cancel student loan debt. Despite this promise manifesting into one of Pres. Biden's strongpoints throughout his campaign for the presidency, he has still failed to take any action on this idea. The third stimulus checks that are a part of Pres. Biden's "American Rescue Plan" have also not been released to the American people; this is yet again another example of a promise made by Pres. Biden that remains unfulfilled.

Even more tragic? The President of the U.S., the leader of the free world, is not "allowed" to take questions about these promises and other various matters; after almost every single announcement or speech held by Pres. Biden, his so-called "handlers" usher every journalist out of the room. If the President can not even be trusted to handle questions from journalists, what does that say about the state of the current administration? Nothing positive, that much is clear. Pres. Biden has even been recorded as stating that he can not take questions from reporters or else he will "get in trouble." He has also stated that he is not "supposed to take any questions" when he was asked about matters concerning Afghanistan. Calling his words a sign of incompetence would be an understatement. Even if Pres. Biden's statements pertaining to the press are said to be humorous, they simply do not paint him in a very positive light, especially due to the fact that it is heavily rumoured that he is nothing more than a mouthpiece for the rest of the administration behind him. Humor concerning these situations is in bad taste, at the very least; at the worst, they are a truthful showcase of his inability to act as a stable leader for the U.S.

Being Out of a Relationship is Not Being Alone

Bella Martinez '22
Staff Writer

Teenagers today have been trained by entertainment and the media to idealize romantic relationships. In the spotlight of fame, being in a relationship is almost inevitable. Being that famous relationships are so open to the public, it is only natural that teenagers will begin to idolize them and desire something similar. Though there is nothing harmful in wanting a relationship, it can become damaging when it is sought out for the wrong reasons. Seeking a romantic relationship with

someone should be motivated by reasonable inclinations, not by the fact that one is too afraid of being lonely. Teenagers are now more worried about being lonely than ever before, and it causes harm to both parties involved. A variety of people of different ages deal with the fear of being alone, teenagers especially. Being that teenagers are in the midst of one of the most confusing periods of life, it is not difficult to believe that many adolescents make questionable choices. At the cusp of adulthood, teenagers often feel the stress that seems to be a symptom of growing up, which can lead them



Credit: thehopeline.com

Students can enjoy time on their own and do not have to be with someone in order to find happiness.

to feel stranded and alone. This is a common reason why most young people tend to rush into short term, meaningless relationships in high school. That, combined with the simple fact that teenagers are still growing and developing as people are two of the largest factors that can influence adolescents into rushing towards negative relationships.

Throughout high school, the definition of "love" can differ from person to person. More often than not, teenagers will experience what is referred to as "puppy love" throughout high school. Many people can convince themselves that it is true, real love, when in reality, it is nothing more than a high school relationship between

two young people who are equally confused about life as the other. Now, if that relationship ends, many children will hold onto that feeling they had, and will become heartbroken over it; for many people, this can become very extreme. Students can fall into intense depressive episodes all because of one failed high school relationship. This is because teenagers put too much importance into significant others, and this causes them to become dependent on their partner for happiness. This is in no way healthy for either person in the relationship; putting such pressure on someone in their vital years of growth can cause more damage than some may think.

In high school, everyone is at roughly the same points in their lives, and everyone is figuring out how to become successful young adults. In this confusing time, difficult times are unavoidable. Students should be prioritizing themselves and their own mental health rather than looking to a girlfriend or boyfriend for solace. It is not right nor is it healthy to depend on any other person for happiness. To be truly happy, children becoming young adults need to learn how to be happy with themselves and support themselves through hardships. There is nothing wrong with getting extra help from others, but a shallow, surface level relationship will not do anyone any good.



Credit: Pinterest

Being in a relationship is not always all that it is made out to be.

Chaparral High School - The Platinum Press - February 11, 2022

Grades Do Not Define Worth

Hailey Mera '25
Newsroom Manager

When pertaining to school, everything comes down to grades. In society, and the viewpoints of many higher authorities, such as colleges and even parents, grades say a lot about a person. Receiving bad grades usually portrays one who is either lazy or dumb. Good grades give a sense of authority to that person, and can typically be expected from those who are smart or hard working. While this current stigma is students' reality and should be changed, it also raises a question: why should the grades one receives be a determining factor of one's capabilities?

For most, the routine stays the same. Attend school, participate in any extracurriculars, and then find the time to complete school work in order to receive a good grade. With tests and many hours of studying, many students tend to lose that motivation to complete their homework, therefore resulting in numerous incomplete grades. The issue with the grading system is that it puts a certain amount of pressure on students, and they essentially put those individuals in a certain category.

It is also very common for one to tend to stress over little things because of how much grades have an effect on that individual. Not only for academic recognition, but the validation from one's guardians also takes its toll on one's performance in school. As time goes on, all a student does is stress whether they are smart enough to graduate, worthy enough to make it to the next grade level, or intelligent enough



Receiving a lower grade can often unnecessarily distress students.

to receive certain academic validation that allows them to attend college. Acceptance rates promote that one person must study tremendously and become "smart" to attend college. All that this does is make a divide between the "smart" individuals from those who believe they are not.

Furthermore, many teachers show fondness over students who engage more in class, and receive better grades rather than those who do not. While some do not maliciously degrade students, it is still done and further explains how grades affect the way that person is treated. Even through student interactions such as competing for a better score on a test, being the first one to get a certain answer correct, or completing the most work in the shortest amount of time can affect one's perception of that person. After every bad grade, the mindset of that student tends to change, and it later

shows in their performance. Every percentage dropped makes those students feel as though they are less than, and what becomes lost is that they are human themselves and are capable of making mistakes, and learning from them.

Grades do not define a person's intellectuality nor do they determine one's worth. A student's intelligence goes beyond being able to correctly identify a certain variable, or read a page per minute. An A+ does not mean one is better than any other person. It simply means that an individual took the initiative to earn that grade; anyone can do that. What most fail to understand is that although grades do take one to a certain point in an academic career. They do not determine one's learning capabilities. Learning something new does not come more easily to smarter people; it comes more easily to those who have a desire to better themselves academically.

Progressiveness in Rebranding

Alex Tupala Horwood '22
Editorials Editor

With more of the population becoming mindful of diversity, it is common to see brands capitalizing on this and incorporating more diversity for their financial gain. While this in and of itself is merely a marketing strategy to win public favor, sometimes the intentions behind this can be more sinister. From Nike's supposed support of People of Color (POC) and LGBTQ+ issues to M&M changing its M&M characters to be more progressive, moves like these are simply a facade put up to distract from their moral failings. Brands are using shallow progressiveness as a shield to avoid scrutiny for unethical business practices.

Recently, the rebranding of M&M's character by assigning them less revealing outfits has been the main focus whenever the Mars brand is brought up. Their decision to switch the green M&M's shoes from gogo boots to pants and sneakers has been both widely praised and criticized. While some think of this as positive as it desexualizes the character, thus breaking away from the trend of using female objectification as a marketing trend, others think that this is another unnecessary attempt to be "politically correct." No matter what the result of the redesign is, it is merely a shallow shot at supposed progressiveness that should not be the focus of attention. Perhaps not so coincidentally, this sudden redesign came directly after Mars faced a child slavery law suit. Eight children have come forward to share their experiences of being used for slave labor on cocoa plantations on the Ivory coast. Mars, Nestle, and Hershey faced a class action

lawsuit from the victims of the exploitation used to procure their ingredients. However, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the cocoa industry since the abuse of human rights did not take place on American soil. Mars is facing their second lawsuit over the aiding and abetting of child labor within two years. Despite the atrocities committed to attain their raw ingredients, more people seem interested in discussing the green M&M redesign. In fact, when looking up information about M&M, the most prominent searches are merely arguments over this "progressive move." The redesign of the green M&M is the farthest thing from progress, it is a shallow distraction from the overwhelming evidence that the Mars brand is profiting from the labor of enslaved children.

Strategies such as this are not new, with brands quick to imitate the liberal beliefs of the public as a way to avoid fundamental change. This can be seen in Nike's promotion and support of Colin Kaepernick, a football player who lost his position as quarterback after kneeling during the anthem in protest of police brutality. Nike soon after plastered his face all over billboards, applauding his sacrifice, accompanied by their signature swoosh. What was

not seen on the advertisements was the hours of meetings with analysts over whether or not to back Kaepernick and risk the brand's relationship with the National Football League (NFL). As he was out of a job, the brand nearly decided to sever ties with him before deciding not to do so at risk of outraging the general public. They were able to gain the admiration and brand loyalty from those who also supported Kaepernick's kneeling all as a means of damage control for their image. They will almost invariably present whatever facade they deem necessary to win public favor. Despite Nike's supposed support for human rights, the brand itself continues to use forced labor to manufacture its shoes, including the labor of Uighur citizens who have been forced into detention camps in China. Brands do not have opinions, they have carefully calculated marketing strategies.

When it comes to making progress as a society, actions speak louder than words. It is important to see past the superficial gestures made by brands and demand that they change their business practices to create tangible differences. What kind of shoes the green M&M wears does not matter, the welfare of children is of the utmost importance.



Attempts at promoting brand image often cover up unethical practices.

Feel-Good Stories Can Often Hide Reality and Hinder Solutions

Nathan Ayala '22
Staff Writer

In the current epoch, marred by great misfortune, the appeal of the media, which attempts to bring good news, is understandable. It can be viewed by some as relatively refreshing to read a story about how an elementary school student was able to pay off the lunch debts of their peers rather than another article about the perpetual greed of humanity. These crop up countless times within the media, drawing audiences and maintaining some trivial popularity among news consumers. If they were given any semblance of thought for more than three seconds, the true question and popularity should focus upon the fact that students need to result to child labor to pay off debt. These types of reports have become commonplace in recent years and, in reality, are nothing more than methods to divert attention from actual solutions to societal problems.

Given that these stories are pushed by the oligarchical media, many of them involve subtle ways to quell potential workers' demands. In 2018, an Alabamian worker traveled for eight hours a day for his work, as a result of having insufficient funds to acquire a car. Eventually, the company's chief executive officer (CEO) heard and gifted him one. This type of method of trying to rehabilitate the image of CEOs is incredibly common in these

types of narratives. The CBS program, *Undercover Boss*, serves as a powerful propaganda tool that attests to the willingness of the media to paint CEOs in a favorable light. One episode draws attention to an employee at the retailer, Modell's Sporting Goods. They explain that despite laboring at the company for years, they lack the funds to leave their residence at a homeless shelter. In response, the CEO promoted the

worker and paid her off, though he did not do anything to better the lives of any other workers, who likely have similar struggles while working for a company that generates hundreds of millions per year. Both of the stories serve the same objective: to ignore the economic and corporate structure, which allowed these hardships of their workers to transpire. CEOs are able to look good while doing nothing meaningful. By keeping the

struggles of the political economy out of focus, legitimate and effective efforts that aim to find solutions are stifled.

These so-called "heartwarming" stories go beyond worker conflicts and do also focus on other issues, such as the environment. Late last year, *YouTubers* MrBeast and Mark Rober launched the fundraiser TeamSeas. The purpose of the project was to raise thirty-million dollars to remove

thirty-million pounds of trash from the ocean. This was well-intentioned, but there were complications. The problem here is that the visual format of *YouTube* and apolitical portrayal are a hindrance. Ignoring that the project will clean up a microscopic amount of the waste, the main problem here is that the facts are hidden behind misleading numbers and visuals. To the credit of the project, some of these issues are acknowledged but it is drowned out by the consistent idea that the efforts of TeamSeas will drastically improve the quality of the ocean, or will make a sizable dent in the amount of pollutants within it. Instead of focusing on resisting the corporate interests which drive this pollution, creating better infrastructure, or stopping the flow of trash to the global south from the imperialist core, the creators choose the marketable ideas of mass complacency. The self-licensing phenomenon, which makes the masses feel accomplished despite the lack of action and ensures a lack of future commitment, is well manifested in these types of projects.

These types of narratives have to be rejected and be seen as what they are—a manner to hide the horrors that the capitalist economy has induced. If allowed, these types of stories will continue to undermine resistance to some of the greatest issues. It is possible to demand more from institutions and these short pieces of propaganda should not try to make the masses feel otherwise.



Although admirable, these stories miss the tragedy of elementary school students having to resort to manual labor to pay off debts.

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Reality TV's Comeback

Sky Roman '24
A&E/Lifestyles Editor

The raging pandemic over the past two years has prompted entertainment companies to provide their growing number of viewers with at-home entertainment. Reality shows have risen in popularity ever since more people have been confined at home, and large production companies such as *Netflix* have gained an incentive to provide their subscribers with new reality TV. By observing others' lives and circumstances that are perhaps far different from the viewer's own, many are able to insert themselves back into the real world.

One show that has really captured the attention of this generation is *Hype House*. This reality show has cast many internet influencers, most of whom have earned their fame through *TikTok*, and were filmed living their day-to-day life while staying together in a Los Angeles mansion. The series looks into their personal lives, highlighting their creative endeavors and showcasing dramatic moments that have created a great deal of buzz in the media. Considering how the influencers in the series are all people who are very well-known to the younger crowds, it has become very appealing to many.

There are also many popular shows that are planning to release new, long-awaited seasons. *Netflix* recently returned for a third season on their hit series, *Too Hot to Handle*. Contestants on the show compete to win a cash prize, however, the concept is different from the usual reality series where contestants are usually encouraged to pursue romantic relations.

Too Hot to Handle rewards those who are able to stray away from those temptations while living on a remote island. Sophomore JoyCelina Smith liked how "people started to open up about their insecurities [throughout the show]." These shows, though often seen as dramatic or over the top, also showcase real, human emotions that viewers at home can really relate to. This is especially true for the hit show *Love is Blind*, which is set to begin its second season today. This series plays like a social experiment to find out whether or not people can truly build connections with others only based on their personality, and not what they look like. Contestants are put into pods where they can talk with others but are not allowed to see each other until later on. Many find it entertaining to see some struggle without physical contact, while others are fine without it.

To many, these shows are crucial for entertainment, especially considering how the current global situation has made it difficult to truly interact with others and form that connection. Smith believes that many are fans of reality television because "it is like entertainment to see others suffer or experience happiness while being lonely at home." Being able to watch others engage with each other serves as escapism for most who are stuck at home, unable to see their family and friends. However, it is clear that in this day and age, many see it as necessary and one of the more entertaining ways to experience that human connection, all while staying safe in the comfort of their homes.

Life Behind the Scenes with Rosen

Joshua Flack '24
Video Manager

Although balancing various extracurricular activities may seem like an intense challenge for most students, some excellent pumas are able to participate within multiple activities while still keeping their stress under lock. Junior Liam Rosen is one of these students who



Liam Rosen (middle) acting as the lead in the drama production *Silent Laughter*. Credit: John Davis

works hard to be able to balance his time with a multitude of activities.

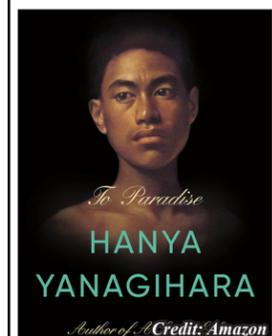
Rosen is involved in Advanced Drama, Improvisation (Improv), Writing Makes Bank, Cyber Patriots, Peer Leaders, California Scholarship Federation (CSF) and National Honors Society (NHS). Having been a part of drama for many years, he has been able to land many roles, most recently as the lead in *Silent Laughter*. When speaking about drama, he stated, "I knew a lot

of people that already did it [joined drama] because my brother was also in drama and I could tell it was like a great experience to grow as myself, so I took it that I would learn and would become more sociable because I'm really an introverted person." Rosen's success was rooted in his passion and dedication to the art of acting.

Rosen has been a large part of the drama department during his years on campus. Besides drama,

these things is because I want to; it's not just to, like, look good on my high school report for colleges. I actually want to do these [because] I feel like I can grow from it and they have a good purpose." Although Rosen has been able to successfully participate in many clubs, he has had to sacrifice clubs such as Science Olympiad due to a lack of time in his schedule. Nonetheless, his achievements can be considered impressive. Moreover, he stated that Improv is "demanding in the sense that, like, it takes a lot out of me, but I also I think I get the most out of Improv too, like, being with all my friends, being with, like, people that are basically family to me." His clubs may be difficult to keep track of, but the challenge can be seen as worth it, for the active social life he is experiencing. Not all of the activities are just social though. Rosen explained, "For most of it I do see, like, the purpose in it. Improv and, like, drama. . .Entertainment for myself, for audiences, for my friends, my family. . .Things like Cyber Patriots I see, like, there's a purpose to that, cyber security, it has a goal to eventually help the future."

Overall, having a full schedule is challenging, but the memories and skills Rosen have for life outweigh the challenges. Furthermore, Rosen wants to go to college in Sweden. He wants a PhD in Clinical Psychology, so that he can focus on suicide prevention. His work now is something he enjoys and it also is helping him with his future goals. These experiences can help shape his future because of the dedication and skills he is learning.

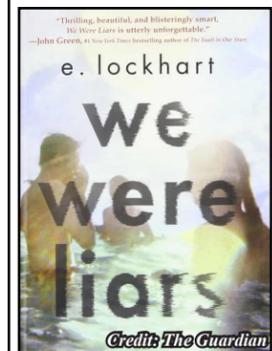


Sophie Hall-Schorn '22
Copy Editor

To Paradise is the latest release by Hanya Yanagihara, an award-winning author who also penned the tragic novel *A Little Life*. Perhaps best known for her immaculate world-building and characterization, Yanagihara utilizes her most valuable writing assets in *To Paradise*, a novel set in the time periods of 1893, 1993, and 2093. The novel follows three main plotlines across these time periods and weaves them together in order to illustrate an achingly beautiful story about the power of life and its ability to drastically change who we once thought we were in order to experience our dream life, or "paradise."

Yanagihara's descriptions of both the world (and food) within her character's lives echoes her strengths as a travel writer. She brings a specific style that enriches the reading experience and allows one to fully embrace the unique settings of her stories. After reading a work by Yanagihara, there is an intense desire that arises to experience life and all that thrives within it. *To Paradise* is yet another successful addition to Yanagihara's literary works that highlights upon human struggle and incentivizes its readers to escape the confines of all that they have known in order to live with what could be.

Yanagihara's writing stands the test of time and transcends beyond the actual stories she provides. The ideas behind her writing are of a more interesting focal point than perhaps the plots themselves: her characters speak truly, as if they are real people. Yanagihara's writing impacts the reader like no other, and her ability to relate her characters to common human struggles and yearning characterizes *To Paradise* as a markedly well-crafted third novel.



Reagan Delahunty '25
Copy Editor

We Were Liars, written by New York Times bestselling author, National Book Award finalist, and Printz Award honoree E. Lockhart is a suspenseful young-adult fiction novel following the path of Cadence Sinclair Eastman and her family's trauma after an unfortunate tragedy within their home island on the coast of Massachusetts. The novel follows the Eastman family and their island friends through many years after a horrific tragedy that caused heartbreak and tension between the privileged families. The story shares the relationships, both good and bad, between friends Cadence Sinclair Eastman, Mirren Sinclair Sheffield, Johnny Sinclair Dennis, and Gatwick Patil along with her family. As the friends explore their relationship after years apart, realizations of change and heartbreak are exposed as the friends fight to stay together and become what they used to be. The novel shows through the eyes of Cadence how privileged and ungrateful her family is as she tries to make a difference in the thick of things. With nobody to truly support her, Cadence is left to deal with her friend and family drama while trying to revive the life she once had before the accident. With no memory of the accident, the story builds suspense as the novel reveals what truly happened between the four friends who called themselves The Liars.

I recommend this book for all preferred genres because of the mix of mystery, comedy, and romance combined to create a suspenseful novel to keep readers craving more. The characters' self conflicts are very relatable and the novel told a story that was both compelling and mysterious with a wow factor that took my breath away. With relatable characters, heartfelt emotions, and palpable tension drawn throughout the novel, it is a perfect read for any student.

Alexa Neal '22
Editor-in-Chief

Historical romance meets Greek mythology in *Lovely War* by Julie Berry. Aphrodite stands trial in front of her husband, Hephaestus, and lover, Ares, and spins the tale of two couples during the height of World War I in order to soften her husband's anger over her affair. Hazel, a shy pianist, and James, a soldier set for the trenches, meet the night before he is sent off to the battlefield. Aubrey, a talented musician, is a member of an all-African-American regiment and during his journey to Europe to help end the war, he meets Collette, a Belgian singer who has already endured much suffering caused by the Germans. Their stories are woven together in a beautiful map of love, music, war, and tragedy.

After reading *The Book Thief* with its unique narrator being Death, I was immediately drawn to *Lovely War* for the same reasons. The presence of the Greek gods and goddesses in this book was not overbearing, rather, they had a subtle influence on the events of the book that made it much more enjoyable to read. Additionally, although the romance is the primary plot, I greatly appreciated how there were other relationships being explored. Hazel and Collette do end up meeting, and I enjoyed seeing their friendship develop knowing that they were both intertwined in the same story without them knowing. Furthermore, I admired Berry for keeping a solid balance between love and tragedy, as both relationships travel rocky roads that leave the reader wondering if there will ever be a happy ending. Overall, the beautiful writing style and unconventional plot made this book a definite five-star read in my eyes.



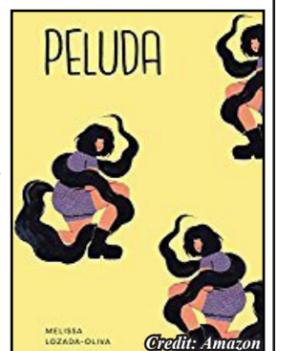
Niyara Gray '22
Copy Editor

Peluda by the 2015 National Slam Poetry champion, Melissa Lozada-Oliva, is an astounding poetry book that preaches the importance of understanding femininity, life as a minority, feminism, intersectionality and much more.

Button poetry is a subgenre within poetry that is performed for an audience, which makes the message even more powerful. *Peluda* excellently displays the abundance of difficulties that come with intersectionality, and creatively answers how to conquer in the midst of life's various struggles.

This book is quite captivating, not only because it is poetry, but with each new poem, you are getting a new story to look forward to every time. Given that poetry in general is a literature style that takes time for context to brew, I would recommend this book to any poetry-loving, individual who loves a witty sense of humor, and people who just enjoy messages that take a while to fully bloom. It provides timeless lessons and beautiful commentary on things that have plagued our society for centuries. *Peluda* has become a remarkable tribute to self-confidence or lack thereof, and the liberation from the stigma surrounding it.

A work of literature, poetry specifically, can not only change our perception of the world itself and how it functions on a societal level, but can also aid us as a generation to better understand each other as individual people. Through *Peluda*, we are reminded to stay uncomfortable with the standards that we so often consider "normal" and challenge our personal beliefs so that society is forever changing and evolving emotionally into its most mature state.



JV Awarded First Place in SHARP Competition on January 29

Jillian Flack '22
Editor-in-Chief

With captivating performances and determination, members of the school's dance teams have had an eventful and successful year thus far. On January 29, the Junior Varsity (JV) Dance team was able to even win first place in the jazz and hip hop categories at a SHARP competition.

There are a myriad of international events held by SHARP that have received much attention from performers. Particularly, this competition was held at Knott's Berry Farm and dancers from all around participated. The on-campus team performed to two musical sets, featuring songs from artists such as Paula Abdul and Britney Spears. Their fast medleys required them to move



Despite the time constraint to prepare, the JV team worked hard to show their dedication to the art of dance.

quickly, which can prove to be challenging, but the team did not let it show. A JV captain, Junior Cassidy Villamil, explained, "It was a very new experience for us. With the time constraint, I think it was a really great outcome." In each category they participated in, the members were put against several other talented teams

from schools from all around and in the end, they showed they earned their first place spot. Senior Sofia Velasco, a captain of the JV Dance team, expressed, "We were all really nervous because we were so scared, but then winning, we were just so excited and we were, like, screaming." Though earning first place

in these two divisions was exciting for the team, this competition was not simply about placing well. The members were excited to get the opportunity to showcase their skills and enjoy what they all commonly love: dance.

Performing in both shows and competitions throughout the year, they have learned

much about the intricacies and hard work that dance entails. In order to prepare for the SHARP competition, they dedicated much of their personal time so they could perfect every twist and turn that each of their dances required. Velasco shared, "We had so many practices. We practiced during school [and] after school, for, like, more than two hours sometimes. It was a lot, but it was, like, so worth it." Because of their many practice sessions, they were able to grow as dancers and further not just their skills, but their close bond with one another, allowing them to improve. Villamil stated, "I think it's probably been probably one of the strongest [performances] we've had to be honest. We've had a lot of revamping through our team and our team has gotten a lot stronger; we've grown together and it's been a lot

more exciting. There's... a lot more new opportunity that's been thrown at us, which is super exciting." Throughout the semester, the JV Dance team has participated in several different events, including at the Unified Sports game on January 28. They still have plenty of time ahead of them to continue preparing for more successful showcases and are sure to put their best foot forward as they perform.

Overall, this competition was clearly a success for the books. Though JV does not have any upcoming competitions, the members of the dance department will be performing in their annual show, CHS Dance Production, on March 3 and 4 at 6:30PM. If students would like to see more from dance, this show is not one to miss. Tickets will be \$10 with an Associated Student Body (ASB) card and \$12 for general admission.



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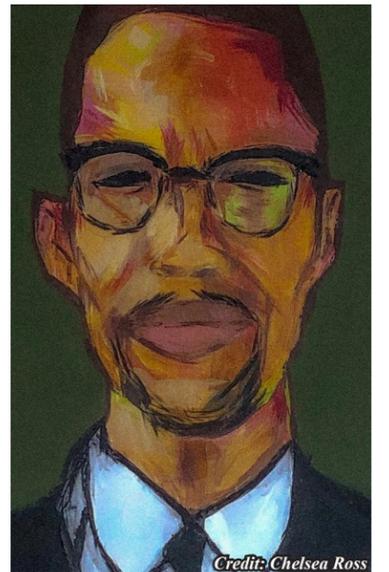
Ross: The Artist Standing for Activism

Sky Roman '24
A&E/Lifestyles Editor

The creation of art has consistently captivated many, as it has the ability to communicate a powerful message without the use of words. This certainly holds true for the art pieces that the talented artist on campus, Junior Chelsea Ross, strives to create. Even with just a stroke of her paintbrush, Ross has produced a handful of pieces that truly convey what she is sincerely passionate about. Primarily focused on uplifting Black culture within her artwork, she provides a voice for many who have been silenced, and creates discussions of the struggles they face, all while doing it in her own style.

Ross's interest in art started from an early age when she was only in the first grade. "I had the opportunity to have one of my oil pastel pieces in a museum," she stated. Since then, her love for art has blossomed beyond art class in school. Just as her interest

in art developed, so did the style of her art. She finds herself constantly experimenting with different styles such as realism or cartoon-style art. She has experience with a variety of mediums, such as acrylic paint, oil pastel, and digital art. However, she prefers to use acrylic paint or pen as mediums because "acrylic paint is easier to layer colors... and pen art because it is convenient." Though the biggest development in her art is through the incorporation of Black culture into her pieces. With her paintings, Ross likes using a style of semi-realism to really bring her art to life. "Most of my paintings are Black characters or models that I admire," she explained. Ross uplifts Black features through her portraits, showcasing a diverse amount of looks and the aspects of their culture. However, she also works to bring attention to Black suffrage, something that has been widely ignored in the past. In reference to her piece on civil rights activist, Malcolm X, she stated that she "initially made that piece as a reminder that freedom is the basis



Ross' portrait that showcases Malcolm X.

to being at peace with one another, and although Black people as a whole have come far when it comes to freedom, I do not believe we are fully free." She plans to continue working on incorporating these important topics in more depth into her future projects by finding new ways to create a mix of vivid imagery and details that convey a deeper meaning.

Ross not only captures the attention of her peers on campus but has also captivated many people worldwide. With over a hundred thousand followers on her TikTok account, @chelccreatez, her sudden popularity took her by surprise. She also utilized her personal Instagram, @chelcc, to sell her artwork. Becoming more known for her artwork, not only affected her social media presence but also provided her with opportunities. During Black History Month in 2020, Ross was the head artist for her first mural. She created a twenty feet acrylic painting of historical Black figures. "It was very exciting, and also extremely hard," she explained, however, the process was rewarding, considering "it was shown to the mayor of Temecula and I believe it was in a newspaper or two, and I was recognized as a head artist." Considering her skills, there is no doubt that she will be given more opportunities to showcase her artwork.

Although her future is still undecided, Ross is considering pursuing a career in art. She has always wanted to attend the California Institute of Art, and possibly get into game design or character design. No matter what her future holds, whether she pursues the art field or decides to go another path, the influence her art has will continue to carry on with her wherever she chooses to go.



Chelsea Ross working on the mural that she created for Black History Month back in 2020.

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Valentine's Day: Emphasizing Self-Love

Isobel Sierleja '25
Staff Writer

Many students on campus may start to experience the budding romances of their first few relationships. While individuals can be eager to jump into an exciting new connection, learning to love one's self first can be even more rewarding in the end. When people focus on themselves first, an inner confidence may assure them that they need not rely on others for contentment and joy.



By practicing meditation, Senior Riley Finch is able to show self-love this coming Valentine's Day.

As Valentine's Day approaches, students without a special someone can still find fun things to do on their own. Freshman Kelis Reeder shared, "Pampering yourself, hanging with friends at the mall, seeing a movie, taking a bath, or eating a nice homemade meal with family are all nice things one can do this holiday." Letting go of the stereotypical romantic ideals of what people are "supposed" to do on this holiday, and just having fun can free people from unnecessary pressure. Students that spend this day for themselves may experience even

better romances in the future because they have practiced self-love first.

Beginning a relationship before finding inner love is a common mistake young students typically make. Reeder shared, "If you don't love yourself, you cannot fully give all of yourself to a relationship. The relationship will become draining for both sides, and you may fall into toxic behavior and lower your standards." Reeder voiced that it is especially important as a teenager to have this self-defining experience so that one can find out who they are and who they like. Once one finds happiness enjoying the wonderful qualities within themselves, they may be able to harbor healthier romantic relationships.

Along with pampering oneself to build self-love, practicing these habits can also improve inner discipline. When choosing between going on *TikTok* or doing homework, the homework option will always be the more beneficial option, even if it is not as appealing. Another example is working out. It is not something that people will have the motivation to do everyday, but by having discipline, the hard work can turn into a six pack. Freshman Joseph Guevarra gave his own opinion on why it is so vital for people to enjoy themselves and their own company. He stated, "I know it can be hard to love yourself when some people try to bash you for it, but when you gain confidence and trust the fact that other people's opinions... of you are not valid, you may begin to be yourself." Some steps people can take to focus on themselves are to stop comparing themselves to other people, start feeling comfortable being alone, finding hobbies that spark inner joy, and spend as much time doing anything and everything that puts one in a place of happiness.

When people start to focus on themselves, they can find improved satisfaction and happiness within their lives. The journey to blossoming one's inner confidence and self-love is not always the most appealing or easy, though its effect can be quite remarkable for a myriad of students.

Healthier Habits For Relieving Anxieties

Isobel Sierleja '25
Staff Writer

As the second semester of school begins, it is quite common for some students to feel anxious. Some might fall into a cycle of procrastination and lose their motivation to continue persevering through the school year. However difficult this transition may be, there are ways of coping with the nerves that tests and assignments can bring on.

When beginning high school, the pressure to mature and become more serious about maintaining good grades can really sneak up on a person. With the mixed pressure of having a pristine transcript for college, keeping up with sports, and staying social, feelings of apprehension are bound to arise. Freshman Ava Berroteran also harbors anxieties when it comes to school. Berroteran shares, "School may be one of the biggest causes for anxiety and stress because your grades define your future. These feelings limit the things I love to do. I feel that trying to balance fitting in, being popular and always having



Freshman Brianna Cisneros utilizes productive ways of studying in order to avoid school-related stress. great grades can be a lot." worries are warranted or just be extremely helpful at times. Many know that high school is not forever, but sometimes, it can feel as though one failed assignment means life is over. It can be helpful to decipher between if one's anxious thoughts taking over. Sometimes anxiety can trick a person into believing their worries are much more serious than they really are. Taking an outward look at one's life can be extremely helpful at times. There are other ways of coping with the nerves too. Counselor Mary Campo shared her advice on how students can deal with school. She expressed, "The

Mandich's Message

Self-Compassion



Elyce Mandich

MSW, LCSW, PPSC

Temecula Valley Unified School District
Licensed Clinical Social Worker | Chaparral High School

I don't know who needs to hear this, but you don't need to be harder on yourself. What you actually probably need is a little self-compassion. Take a second to think about how you "talk to yourself" when you make a mistake, get a bad test score, or forget something important. Are you like, "hey, you're human, it's totally okay," learn from it, and move on or are you more like, "you're so stupid," "you should know better," "why can't you be more like ___?", etc. If you're like a lot of the students I work with, you might be somewhere in the middle or on the end of being your "best" worst-critic. Self-compassion is meeting yourself exactly where you're at. One great way to start thinking about how to be more compassionate towards yourself is to ask yourself, "what would I say to a friend struggling with this?" Would you berate them and put them down? Probably not—at least, I hope you wouldn't. So why do you do it to yourself? Well, I don't have enough capacity here to write about WHY you do that, but I can tell you that working on self-compassion can help A LOT and definitely cannot hurt.

Instead of bombarding you with a bunch of information, I am going to give you a starting point. The next time you mess up, make a mistake, fail at something—whatever it might be, really notice how you respond to yourself.

Your thoughts are not facts, so question the thought that you just had. Ask yourself if you have evidence to support that thought. Ask yourself if there are any other explanations for that thought. Chances are, more often than not, you're going to find that you're being pretty unnecessarily hard on yourself. For example, let's say you overslept and were late to school. That first thought might sound something like, "I'm so lazy." So, what evidence do you have to support that you're lazy? Is there any other explanation for why you overslept? Lean into this practice and see if you start to notice any shifts in how critical or kind you are to yourself.

beginning of a new semester is the beginning of a new academic record. It's great because students have the opportunity to start fresh. Checking grades regularly, coming to school everyday, and staying on top of things can prevent the stress that comes with having to catch up on hundreds of things. Also, communication is key. As you get older, advocating for yourself is an important and helpful skill for school and in general. Lastly, I just want to voice to any students that are struggling, that they always have a place to talk in my office or with any of the other counselors." Asking for help can seem embarrassing; however, reaching out is nothing to feel ashamed about. Even if one has made a mistake, there is absolutely no harm in reaching out to others for guidance in order to mend the mistake.

It is important to live in the moment and not focus on past slip-ups lest one dwells on them and falsely equates them to the reality of who they are. Mishaps are an unavoidable thing for every single person. What is important is to strive for improvement in the here and the now. With everything that has happened over the past few years with the pandemic one cannot be too hard on themselves. There has been so much weighing on so many students that setbacks and stress are bound to arise.

Keeping in mind that other students have similar struggles can reduce feelings of anxiety and stress for a multitude. The pathway to self-growth requires putting in a little effort every day. When one begins to implement positive habits daily, they will start to slowly see different changes in their soul and wellbeing.

Football Season Ends on High Note

Nerissa Moore '23
Sports Editor

With a look back into 2021, some of Chaparral's finest highlights included school dances, lunchtime festivities, and many sporting events. With many of the varsity teams progressing into the California Interscholastic Federation tournament (CIF), along with beating some major rivals, Chaparral has had one of the best fall and winter seasons possible. Seeing that within these major sports, the Varsity Football team left many with a season to remember.

Jumping into the season with a preleague loss to Mission Hills High School, players and fans were left disappointed, but the feeling did not last. Winning the next three consecutive games, including two major wins against Santiago High School with a score of 44-16 Chaparral and a win against Rancho Verde High School with a score of 47-6 Chaparral, the Pumas were off to a great start. As the season progressed, it quickly became a season of learning. "This season was a learning process . . . we had a lot of younger guys starting. The season did start off



A select few skilled athletes were chosen to compete in the Riverside Sheriff All Stars Game.

slow but it was fun to see some of the younger guys grow and we did better in the second half of the season," player and Senior Hunter Roddy commented. Fellow player Senior Cody Stordahl also described the season as "bumpy but exciting." With every win and loss, the boys took each hit with strong hearts. Practicing intensely throughout the entire season, the athletes persevered through weight room sessions and morning practices then pushing every Friday night lights.

As the season progressed, the players left their preseason with a lasting record of 3-2 excited to jump into league. They were ready to advance and did, seeing major highlights on the defensive side. Player and Senior

Carsten Mamaril added, "I think we did really well in our season, I was pretty impressed with the defense and how we did especially with such a young team." Frequently calling attention to the younger players, some highlighted mentions include the seven starting freshmen placed on Varsity, along with the twenty-six total underclassmen holding major experience looking forward.

With an overall look regarding the season, this year is described similarly by most. To Head Coach Mr. Andrew Ramer, this season was "successful." Proceeding the league being Temecula City Champs, Quarterfinalist in the playoffs, and winning a home playoff game, this season was a year of success for both

coaches and players. They award themselves for a season well-done and are grateful for it. Seeking words to fit this description of this season, Mamaril, Roddy, and Stordahl share it was a mix of learning, gratefulness, and extravagant moments.

With the end of every season comes the end of some fabulous high school football careers. Saying goodbye to twenty-three seniors, the coaches and players end the season on a good note and with wonderful lasting memories. Forever remembering team meals before a game, playing in front of a full student section, and winning another City Championship, the Fall 21-22 Football season gave players and fans both an exciting and fulfilling year.

Girls Water Polo Improves

Julian Stanfield '24
Staff Writer

Determination and the bonds of players are the main driving factors behind any great team's success. For that team, the passion to play runs through their blood, but for the Varsity Girls Water Polo team, it is so strong that it emanates from them. With the team improving greatly when compared to past years, the future of the water polo program appears to be promising. The team did well in the preseason with a record of 5-2, but unfortunately had a league record of 0-7.

Regardless of who they had faced, the team always stayed positive and determined. "No matter what, if we win or lose, we're all still in it together. . . and [we'll always] work hard the next game," stated player and Junior Avery Swarouth. The team's goal was to improve from past seasons and they had hoped to still have a chance at making it to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) games. According to the Varsity Girls Water Polo assistant coach, Mr. Tyson Cleveland, "We are in one of the toughest leagues in . . . southern California. . . and some of the well-known league teams like Murrieta [Valley] and Vista Murrieta are [the top

teams] in their own CIF division or close to it." The team mainly worked on communicating and understanding the basic fundamentals of the game like positions since the program gained many new players.

The arrival of these new, talented players had helped the team to improve overall, despite the fact that some of them were new to the sport. Both the older and newer players worked together to use their specific strengths in a way that allowed them to keep possession of the ball and score. Due to this, the team worked as a whole with each player being an important component to successful plays. The older players had also been helping the newer players to adjust to the high school level of competition. They had been giving advice and words of encouragement to bond with the new

players while also helping them to become better. "We bond over the fact that we're in it together," Swarouth stated, "[and I also] think it's, like, everyone being super welcoming and just ready to help. . . [that made] everyone way more bonded." The chemistry between players and the attempts to integrate the new players into the team had been successful.

Throughout the season, the team persevered and fought hard like warriors on the battlefield. With the rate at which they were improving, the girls water polo program will be a formidable team for opponents to face in the future. Though that is not to say this year's varsity team has not been successful; if anything, the team has shown themselves as tough individuals willing to go up against even the strongest of opponents.



Senior Mya Santacroce shoots the ball against Murrieta Mesa.



Athlete Spotlights



Photos and Spotlights by
Julian Stanfield '24
Staff Writer

Naseem Abedsalam '24

Varsity Boys Soccer



Being only in his first year of playing for the school soccer program, Varsity player and Sophomore Naseem Abedsalam has already proven himself to be a hard-working player with lots of talent by his side. Abedsalam has been playing soccer for eight years and decided to start playing the sport because of his father. He stated, "My dad played [soccer] with me when I was younger so I just followed his footsteps." Abedsalam mainly plays

positions in the center of the soccer formation like central or defensive midfielder. He is good at controlling the ball and feels that he "is pretty smart with the game." He also stated that the large amounts of practicing he has done over the years has helped him to become a good player and he sees himself becoming a leader in the next couple of years. His teammates and parents are the main reason for his success though, as they push him to keep on going. Due to the pandemic and because he was trying out for the school's football team at the time, Abedsalam did not try out for last year's season. Abedsalam plans on going to college and possibly attending law school. There he hopes to continue playing soccer and try to make it to the professional level. After graduating college, he is thinking of becoming a cop or firefighter.

Justin Herrera '23

Varsity Boys Wrestling



Notable wrestler Junior Justin Herrera is now going into his third year of wrestling and being a part of the Varsity Boys Wrestling team. Being a tough wrestler for opponents to handle and working hard every match, Herrera has only lost one match and has been placing high in tournaments for the school. He started wrestling during his freshman year and he explained, "I did jiu jitsu when I was . . . little, so then, once I got into high school, I just joined

wrestling." Herrera claimed that having two practices have helped him to improve his wrestling ability. He practices at school with the Varsity team and at night he practices with his club wrestling team. He is currently state-ranked but he is still driving himself to become one of the top ten wrestlers in the state. "[I want] to be the best [and] do the best for my team," he explained. According to Herrera, he has good stamina and is a tough wrestler. Herrera excels at doing single-leg takedowns, a move in wrestling in which the wrestler attacks one of the opponent's legs with their head on the inside of the leg. Herrera has great chemistry with the team as he continuously pushes himself to be better for them. "We have a really good bond. We're all really close," he stated. He hopes to continue to further his wrestling career in college after high school.

Emily Pulido '23

Varsity Girls Soccer



Playing since she was four years old, Junior Emily Pulido has always been showing off her soccer skills and determination after she joined the school's program in her freshman year. She found a passion for the sport and made it onto the Varsity team in her first year of playing for Chaparral. She plays in the middle of the team formation as a center midfielder and makes smart plays with the benefit of her tactical skills and knowledge of the game.

She does well in all aspects of the game and she claims that this is "due to [the] different types of coaching and levels of play" that she has been through and faced over the years. A leader on the field, Pulido is friendly with her teammates and shows good sportsmanship on and off the field. When she originally became part of the Varsity team, Pulido had some difficulty adjusting since she was only one of two freshmen that joined. "I had to face, like, older people, standing out more, and me being underestimated with my age," she mentioned. To combat this, she trained herself to be more independent and to not rely on others all the time. This helped her become a stronger, more skilled player and teammate. Right now, Pulido is trying to commit to Florida State University (FSU) and hopes to play professional soccer in her future.

Girls Soccer Strengthens Team Chemistry

Dallin Grey '24
Copy Editor

The Varsity Girls Soccer team has been working hard on the field since November, practicing almost every weekday for almost two months before their league season began. The Pumas had a difficult season, however, and unfortunately fell short of some of their goals in spite of their efforts. The team was able to succeed both on and off the field, strengthening both their relationships, and strong communication.

Varsity Girls Soccer Head Coach Mrs. Heidi Solis explained that the past two seasons have been

“rebuilding seasons” for the team. “We are building up the program from the ground up,” she stated. “We have seven freshmen this year and I am hoping to have a strong 2023 and 2024 class [next season].” Many players this year were brand-new to the program, and the older athletes did their best to help new athletes adjust to the environment of high school soccer. The team had goals set for themselves going into the season, their main focus being scoring more goals and creating more scoring opportunities.

During practices, they worked on recreating game-time situations so that when the situation arose in a

match, they would know how to play and where to be so that they could take a shot on goal. A large part of the success of these plays was due to the team’s formation on the field, which they put countless hours of work into maintaining.

The team put much of their efforts into building relationships and cohesion between athletes. “We did a lot of team building and activities to bond as a group,” Coach Solis said. These activities included boba runs, yogurt outings, and a game in an escape room. “In addition, we always read a book each year,” she continued. “This year we had the opportunity to read *The Energy Bus* by

Jon Gordon. This was also a great bonding experience as we were able to learn about creating a vision, positivity impacting a team, and leading with love.” Reading the book taught players new ways to inspire themselves and drive themselves to work hard together. Junior Malia Widman, a member of the team, said, “Being cohesive as a team was very important this year to understand how every player plays on the field and how they communicate.” As cohesion grew among athletes, it became easier to communicate. This led to continual improvement and successes in areas where they had previously struggled.

Over the course of the season, the team grew in multiple aspects of the sport. Coach Solis explained, “I am super proud how we came together as a unit this year. We are slowly bringing back our culture of leadership, positivity and encouragement.” Widman has also been able to grow individually through soccer, making friends through soccer as the unity of the team helped to support not only her but her teammates as well. “I feel that next year we will be stronger as a team,” Widman stated. “We have a mostly younger team and I think we will start to mesh a little more next season. . My goals set for then is to keep in touch at school and feel more comfortable playing with each other.” Though their games were often difficult, the Pumas’ most important successes came off the field with the creation of a strong team that persevered despite difficulty.



Senior Elysa Martel sends the ball up the field during a home game against Oak Hills High School. *Credit: Malia Widman*

Jaw-Dropping Juniors

Information gathered by
Nerissa Moore '23
Sports Editor

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Junior Mallory Benedict has been a key player on the Varsity Girls Water Polo team for the past few years. First getting into water polo her freshman year, Benedict jumped in the water “without knowing what it even really was,” Benedict stated. Benedict jumps between the four and five spot in the water along with Set D. After her time at Chaparral, Benedict sees herself at Dixie State University studying nutrition while playing for their co-ed competitive water polo team. As Benedict progresses, she will continue to succeed with her fellow Pumas.

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Joining the Puma family her freshman year, Junior Kamryn Salcedo has grown as a player on the Varsity Girls Soccer team. Picking up the ball for the first time when she was just five years old, Salcedo plays a mix of forward/ striker and wing. When in need of encouragement, Salcedo looked to her father for that motivation. “My dad has always been my number-one fan and he continues to support me throughout my club and high school seasons,” Salcedo commented. With her success stemming from her strong discipline, Salcedo is sure to have a long and successful career.

Boys and Girls Wrestling Finish Out Their Successful Seasons

Milyn Francis '25
Assistant Video Manager

Wrestling is a complex, combat sport and getting on the mat alone can be challenging. Wrestling may seem intense, but the Varsity Boys and Girls Wrestling teams seem to have this year’s season in check. The Varsity Boys Wrestling team has worked hard, 4-2 in dual meets, finishing third in league, as well as the Varsity Girls Wrestling team, having a 4-1 record in dual meets to finish as league co-champions. Although this past year’s

lockdown was a struggle for the Varsity wrestlers and Head Coach Mr. Max Irvin, this season has taught them to be confident and determined after an unforgettable season.

With the aftermath of quarantining, each athlete for both the boys and girls wrestling teams have to follow the coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) safety protocols. This wrestling season is different from others because they have to worry about consistently testing and working with the constant risk of getting shut down. Yet, it was a “bit of a culture shock,” Irvin said,

for some of the athletes as they went from going only a few matches last season back into a full regular season. The Varsity Boys Wrestling team is back with fourteen athletes. Junior Vaughn Tyler stated, “My main inspirations for wrestling are my team captain [Senior Jon Paino] and my two main coaches. . . Watching my teammates win inspires me to push forward and look on the bright side.” The boys have each other’s back throughout this season, making teamwork a main factor in their practices, matches, and friendships.

Moreover, the eleven athletes on the Varsity Girls Wrestling team have given their all this year. With sisters Junior Isabella Sanchez and Freshmen Jasmine Sanchez as captains, the Varsity Girls Wrestling team are believed to be in good hands. Isabella commented how having a good mindset is an important part of wrestling. She stated, “If you can’t mentally prepare yourself before matches, it is going to be really difficult to succeed. You need to be mentally tough to get far in this sport, it is all about pushing yourself and having confidence with what you’re doing.” Isabella has learned self-confidence and how crucial teamwork is through wrestling and believes the other girl wrestlers have too.

This is the third year coaching at Chaparral and second year as head



coach for Irvin. He believes teamwork plays a bigger role in wrestling than people realize. Wrestling is in majority a solo sport, which may be a surprise of how teamwork fits into it. Nonetheless, Irvin remarked, “The biggest two ways being having a good partner in practice that will push you to work hard and be better, as well as momentum during matches is a huge factor. A couple big wins from the team early can get the adrenaline of the rest going and really get the ball rolling for the team as a whole.” Irvin is proud of both the boys and girls wrestling teams. Each wrestler put in their work needed and their results have shown. In fact, this year there was a full girls’ team for the first time in program history, which has led to a completely new team dynamic now and for future seasons. Overall, the transition from COVID-19 online learning to back into a regular season was significantly changed for everyone involved. In dual meets in 2019 and 2020, the boys finished 2-3, taking fourth in league, and the girls finished 3-6, placing 5th in league. A definite improvement this year for both the Varsity Boys and Girls Wrestling teams when compared to previous seasons. Both wrestling teams learned lessons, mentally and physically, to make wrestling a part of their future.



Senior Jon Paino (right) secures a win in a match against Murrieta Mesa High School. *Credit: @jon.paino*

VALENTINE'S DAY



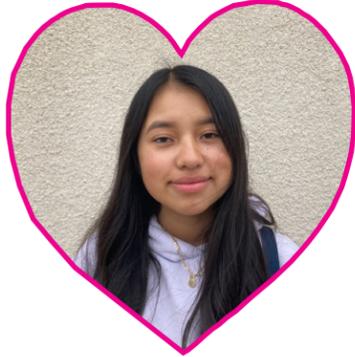
INTERVIEWS

WHAT IS THE BEST QUALITY OF A PERSON YOU LOVE?



"The best quality of my boyfriend is his laugh and smile."
-Kaylee Steele '25

HOW DO YOU PLAN ON CELEBRATING VALENTINE'S DAY?



"I am going to eat chocolate and spend time with loved ones."
-Giselle Ayala '25

WHAT IS YOUR FUNNIEST VALENTINE'S DAY MEMORY?

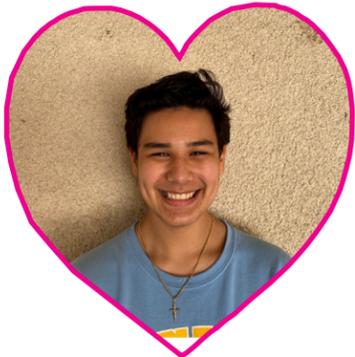


"My mother kept the car door locked until I handed over the chocolates."
-Vaughn Wilmer '22

WHAT WOULD YOUR IDEAL DATE CONSIST OF?



"Take a girl out on a romantic picnic at a view or somewhere with a nice scenery around."
-Julian Escobar '22



"The best quality of my sister, Abby, has to be her style and humor."
-Ethan Sandoval '25



"I plan on celebrating. . .by spending the whole day with my girlfriend."
-Sarah Hayes '24



"When I asked four girls to be my valentine, but they all said no."
-Brennan Stevens '25



"My ideal date would be a shopping trip."
-Jordan Florendo '24



"The best quality of my husband is that he is so caring and loving."
-Missy Ellis



"[I plan on] laying in bed with my cat [and] watching Disney+."
-Marissa Crowder '23



"In kindergarten, I ate too much candy, ended up getting sick, and had to leave school early."
-Kaitlyn Pruett '24



"My ideal idea would be a walk on the beach or an amusement park."
-Cadence Dill '25



"I really like how caring and detailed my boyfriend is. He always does his best to help me out wherever I need."
-Erika Flores '22



"I plan on. . .spending quality time with my loving boyfriend, we do not get to see each other that often so I'll make sure to make it special."
-Hunter Nielsen '23



"My funniest Valentine's Day memory was when someone asked if I wanted a kiss and then they gave me a Hershey's chocolate kiss."
-Bryn Ankeny '24



"My ideal date would be being together, laughing and talking, watching movies we both like, sitting on the couch and ordering pizza."
-Heidi Salvador '25