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Top Ten Memories From This School Year

Nerissa Moore '23
Editor in Chief

CIF Boys Wrestling

Dominating the mat, the Varsity Boys Wrestling team made the 2022-23 school year their own by becoming California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Champions. The team achieved a victory of 50-21 against Servite High School on the night of February 1.

Working hard all season, Head Coach Max Irvin saw a great year ahead for the team, but pinning a CIF victory was not in the boys' original sights. As the season continued, every practice reflected the P.R.I.D.E. in every wrestler and the team's future seemed bright. Creating not only strong work ethics and physical talent, the bond between the wrestlers showed in every step throughout their journey.

Armstrong & Nielson HOCO Kings

The storm of Homecoming royalty had never been as universally notable as it was in 2022. Seniors Armstrong Simpson and Hunter Nielson being crowned as Homecoming kings made this year's Homecoming one like never before.

Making an army of his own, Simpson's *Fortnite*-based campaign riled up Pumas and was unparalleled by past contenders. Nielson, hoping to encourage individuals who might feel lost, ran with the intention of making people feel seen. Being crowned during the Homecoming football game halftime show, the excited crowd roared to cheer on their royalty. Met with the stands cheering their names, Simpson and Nielson are sure to be royalties that will not be forgotten.

Junior Madi Galat and Senior Natalie Evans celebrate one of their many victoriws.

Dancing with the Pumas

Establishing a new tradition, the Varsity Dance team, in collaboration with Associated Student Body, brought Hollywood to the gym with "Dancing with the Pumas." The thrilling event included each dancer choosing a partner representing a club or extracurricular on campus.

Performing in front of five judges, the duos displayed their pieces on March 9 after weeks of training. Pumas were awarded titles from Best Costumes to Best Choreography. As Seniors Gwenyth Kolb and Makai Pahoa were crowned the Ultimate Champions, the audience erupted with applause, proving a job well done as the campus united together in celebration of this monumental moment.

Porta-Potties Stink Up Campus

After experiencing plumbing issues, the campus was burdened with a tragedy like no other. Stinking up the year, the addition of porta-potties made a lasting impression on students in the 2022-23 school year.

As the closing of bathrooms within each wing called for immediate temporary replacements, porta-potties seemed to be everyone's worst nightmare. Along with the stress of second semester, homework, and assessments, students had the addition of being unsure if their need for the restroom was truly dire. Soon after, bathrooms were swiftly reopened and porta-potties were removed. While the time with porta-potties was brief, they certainly made all Pumas grateful for the usual lavatory systems.

ESPN Recognizes Unified Sports

Unified Sports displayed excellence on and beyond the Puma field. Receiving the National Banner Recognition and being titled an official Unified School, Chaparral's Impact Unified Sports team left the 2022-23 school year with a powerful message for all Pumas.

On October 14, Chaparral was announced by Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) as a Special Olympics Unified Champion School. The program enlists the understanding in all Pumas that there is no limitation to what any individual can do. Unified Sports is sure to make the most of their awarded title, while simultaneously being an inspiration to all.

JV Dance Wins Nationals

Taking over Las Vegas, Nevada, the Junior Varsity (JV) Dance team left it all on the dance floor and came home "National Champions" on April 8. Earning four first-place titles as well as two second-place titles, the team owned their weekend in "Sin City."

After securing the previous State Championship victory at Knott's Berry Farm, the team was invited to compete in contemporary, hip-hop, and jazz dance categories. Carrying the title of "National Champions," the JV Dance team has amazing hopes for the program's future. *See page 12 for the full article.*

Homecoming Flu

Homecoming commonly brings up many unexpected things: fresh relationships, arguments, or hot new gossip, but nothing has taken Chaparral by storm like the 2022 "HOCO Flu." Wiping out nearly half of the student population, many Pumas found themselves stuck at home in the weeks after the 2022 Homecoming dance.

With many students believing to be experiencing COVID-19, campus halls were clear and bare, undergoing a loss of over 1,000 absent students. The horror of the Homecoming flu left everyone wondering, "What in the world was in the air in that mosh pit?"

Juniors Jonas Ballesteros (left) and Karis Anderson (right) finish their performance.

Benny on the Street

This year, students became comfortable with the possibility of being asked a variety of random questions for exciting trivia. *Benny on the Street*, hosted by Junior Benjamin "Benny" Burch, started a new craze on campus, making Pumas eager to get on camera.

Inspired by *Billy on the Street* with Billy Eichner, *Benny on the Street* follows Burch asking his fellow Pumas various quirky questions that excite KPAW viewers. The segment allows each and every student to find laughter and make a greater connection with the campus.

Chad Influences Campus

Every year, new students tend to influence the atmosphere on campus, but no one had an impact the way a specific new senior did this time around. From being chased down by campus supervisor Ms. Cathy Barber during the Homecoming Rally, to cheering for the Varsity Football team during the Homecoming game, Senior Chad shook up the fall semester in every way possible.

Overall, Chad's primary goal for the school year was to emphasize the importance of mindfully utilizing resources and to encourage other students to embody the acronym of P.R.I.D.E.

NJROTC Goes to Nationals

Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) are always grabbing the limelight, and the 2022-23 school year is no different. Traveling to Maryland to compete at the national competition, the NJROTC Cyber team competed in the National Cyber League's Team Competition where they finished top twelve in the nation.

The crew of **Benny on the Street** *take advatnage of the porta-potties on campus.*

Next Year's ASB President and VP

Lorretta Topp '24
Staff Writer

Juniors Elizabeth Maggiore-Anet (left) and Jillian Heeren (right) display Puma P.R.I.D.E.

Every year, students run for the title of Associated Student Body (ASB) Presidents, but only two extraordinary students who exemplify what it means to be a Puma are chosen by the students to the lead the school to success. These two students are none other than upcoming Seniors Jillian "Jilli" Heeren and Elizabeth "Ellie" Maggiore-Anet.

With the title of ASB President and Vice President (VP) comes a lot of responsibility in terms of creating and managing events to keep the entire student body entertained and excited to be apart of the school environment and community. One of the biggest things that Heeren and Maggiore-Anet wish to incorporate is more school run dances for all grade levels. Seeing as how prom is only for upperclassmen and Homecoming is once a year, they campaigned for more dances that would ultimately bring more spirit and opportunities for students to look forward to. "One of the things that [Ellie and I] campaigned [with] was wanting to add more dances," Heeren explained. "It's [unfair] that underclassmen have only one dance and not everyone goes to prom. We were thinking of a winter formal or a Sadie Hawkins dance. We were thinking we could do a homecoming type dance" The newly elected president and VP also shared their desire to create more spirit weeks and days that are more fun, enjoyable, and overall less traditional than normal dress up days. With the addition of the previously established class distinction days, Heeren and Maggiore-Anet wish to liven up spirit days, with one example being "Dogs Out Thursdays," in which students wear sandals or do not wear socks to school. Speaking on their campaign and the initial process of running for such an important position, Maggiore-Anet said, "The biggest thing to win was going up to people that we didn't know and asking them if they had voted. Our campaign [consisted of] us making flyers that would grab people's attention and posting a lot." It seems as though this rather tedious action was a step in the right direction to securing their ultimate victory. Their catchy slogan: "Vote for Jellie," a mixture of their nicknames, did not hurt either.

The election of Heeren and Maggiore-Anet was wildly popular among the entire student body mainly due to the school spirit the two of them bring and their visible determination and passion towards ASB and making the school a better environment. Heeren shared her long time passion that she has had towards ASB, "I work so hard in this class. This is the class I care most about and ASB has truly become my passion. I'm constantly working extra hours, working at events." She continued, "This entire year I don't think I've missed a singular event from just being at school all the time. I always say this but I love to be at school, be around people, and make good relationships with teachers. I feel like that sets me apart from other people because I bring good energy." Heeren elaborated on the reason why she decided to run, "Originally, I wanted to run for senior class president, because both [of]my siblings were senior class presidents, and then Summer [Rashidi], the current ASB president, convinced me to run for ASB president because she said, 'This is your passion.'' When asked why she decided to run for the position, Maggiore-Anet said, "I've done leadership my entire life and me and Jilli work well together. We would make the school fun for our last year and have good ideas, come up with fun events, and ways to make people participate more."

The ASB director, Mrs. Jen Deleon, thinks highly of both Maggiore-Anet and Heeren saying, "I'm excited for Jilli and Ellie to have the opportunity to show and grow their leadership practice as they navigate through this upcoming year. They both show desire and enthusiasm to make it a great year for our Pumas." Since the votes have been counted, both staff and students alike are filled with excitement to see what new changes and ideas the upcoming school year will bring. Along with the guidance of the newly elected, determined and passionate ASB President and Vice President.

Graduation Expectations for Seniors

Nerissa Moore '23
Editor in Chief

After four long years, the wait is almost over. Inching closer and closer to graduation, graduating seniors are eager for the day on which they will officially receive their diplomas .Commencing on Thursday, June 8 on the Chaparral field, graduating seniors will walk across the stage, becoming members of greater society.

To ensure a smooth performance, graduation practice will be held on June 7 on the field, and is a requirement in which all seniors who wish to walk at graduation must attend. At graduation practice, seniors will walk through the entirety of the graduation ceremony. Seniors will also be given their graduation tickets during practice. This includes any extra tickets that were bought as well as those won through raffles through out the duration of the school year.

On the day of graduation, seniors should arrive not wearing their cap and gown. Administrators will search students for any phones, and other prohibited items, after which seniors can then put on their cap and gown. While there are no serious requirements regarding dress code, graduating seniors, family members, and friends are not allowed to wear spiked heels on the field, and are encouraged to wear wedges instead. Estimated to be a run time of one to two hours, the ceremony will hold multiple speakers, and performances throughout the duration of the night, including addresses from Seniors Dylan Choi, Mia Scranton, Jafaar Sameer and Lana Riesenberg. Performances during the commemoration will include appearances from Seniors Sydney Vinson, Gwenyth Kolb, Ethan Ortiz, Jaydin Villegas, Yujie Wang and Ty Smith.

Closing the ceremony, seniors will conclude the night by celebrating with fellow graduates, family, and friends on the field. The following morning, graduates can pick up their diplomas through a pick-up line in the senior parking lot.

A Letter of Gratitude From Co-EICs

Svetlana Hohol '25
Nerissa Moore '23
Editors in Chief

We would like to start off by saying thank you to all of our dedicated readers. The excitement of distribution day motivates the newsroom to provide the most timely news. This year provided us with a variety of memories and laughs and with that, we are incredibly grateful to be able to feature the work of our Pumas and share the events of our campus.

We cannot express this enough, but with print journalism essentially coming to an end due to the never ending changing times, we thank you for keeping our newspaper alive and thriving. We deeply cherish your support for *The Platinum Press* and thank you for giving us an amazing year. As one of us is a graduating senior, this time of year is extra sentimental.

Now just remember Pumas, no matter what the challenge may be, you can always overcome it. Stay strong and we cannot wait to share all the latest news and work with you all in the next school year.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Principal Tina Miller

Pumas,

I can't believe that the 22-23 school year will soon be coming to an end. We still have lots to do in the next several weeks. Spring brings renewal and refreshment, and it is also a busy time of growth. Our seniors are preparing for the next phase of their lives. Our freshman, sophomores, and juniors will soon be moving forward into their next year and their next Puma adventure.

As we look forward to our end of the year activities and graduation, we have so much to celebrate moving forward. The class of 2023 is an amazing group and special to me as my first year at CHS was with this class their freshman year. It has been a privilege to watch our seniors blossom throughout the past four years.

We still have a few weeks left, so keep going strong and continue showing Puma PRIDE. Enjoy the rest of the school year!

Go Pumas!

NEWS BRIEFS

Marinne Sheldon
April Student of the Month

Bianca Ganal
May Student of the Month

Puma Staff Moving on:
Assistant Principal **Kelli McFedries** will be the new Assistant Principl at Summit Academy in the fall. Language Arts teacher **July Hill-Wilknson** will be the new Assistant Principal at the Paris Unified School District.

Advanced Placement Government Election:
The AP Government classes are currently instituting party mock-elections. Read their policies, and vote for your favorite Senior Candidate. As all students across grade levels can vote, this competition offers a chance for students to learn the voting process—as many students will soon turn of voting age. Voting will conclude on May 24.
Note: This is a mock-election. The campaign attitudes in the respective parties are not reflective of the AP Government class, teacher, or The Platinum Press.

Spirit Week:
ASB is celebrating the end of the year with a *Netflix*-themed Spirit Week. On Wednesday, dress *Wednesday*-themed black and white. On Thursday, dress in your Class Distinction shirts, inspired by Giancarlo Esposito's hit-show *Kaleidoscope*. On Friday, wear a jersey—college or team—influenced by *Netflix*'s *All-American.* Celebrate the end of the year with school spirit.

Broadway San Diego Award Nomination:
Freshman Madeleine Green has been chosen among the top twenty performers in the region for the Broadway San Diego Awards for her performance in *Anything Goes*. If she makes it through the next round, she will be competing on a national level in New York this summer.

***Madeleine Green performing as Irma in the production of* Anything Goes.**

Gilleland Celebrated as T.O.Y.

Daschle Davenport ‘24
Staff Writer

Chaparral’s “Teacher of the Year” is a title awarded to only one teacher each year for their demonstration of dedication, respect, and pride amongst students in the classroom and fellow teachers and staff throughout the campus. This award in which is given to impactful teachers on campus, Was awarded to English 9 teacher Mr Joseph Gilleland. Gilleland began his teaching career seven years ago and has been at Chaparral for the past three years. Prior to the start of his teaching career, Gilleland had a bit of struggle with his previous career path until he made the decision to return to his original plans of teaching. He soon discovered this to be the right career path for him due to his desire to interact, teach, and support kids in the classroom. Gilleland has shown nothing but great dedication to the school through his participation as an English 9 teacher, Yearbook Advisor, and helping with both peer leaders and Associated Student Body (ASB) events. Fellow teacher Dr. Hill Wilkinson explained, “He has taken on big programs in just his first few years here, and loves participating in all he can at our school.”

Gilleland always wants to see his students truly succeed and does so through an understanding and comfortable learning environment. Gilleland is always sure to make learning a fun experience for his students by looking through the lens of what they may like while also teaching in a way that he finds joy in. “What I really like is having some fun with the things I enjoy and getting the kids to experience it as well,” Gilleland explained. Beyond teaching in a style that is enjoyable for his students, Gilleland always remains understanding and respectful of all his students’ needs both in and out of the classroom. “A lot of kids have other things going on. Their day doesn’t start with my class and it doesn’t end with my class. There’s sometimes so many things going on for them [and] I have to remember that because my focus is my classroom but they’ve got six other classes they’re working on too,” Gilleland stated.

Gilleland’s positive attitude toward his career does not end when he steps outside the classroom; he is always sure to carry on his positivity to his fellow staff and teachers. Gilleland has always had a drive to help staff and meet any requests they may have. He stated, “Whenever they need me for help, I always end up saying yes.” These actions have had a great impact on students and teachers leaving him with a positive reputation all around campus. Counseling Secretary Mrs. Christina Gandy expressed, “He cares deeply about the students and goes above and beyond the call of duty whenever necessary. ”Being such a respected teacher on campus, there is no doubt that Mr. Gilleland will only improve and continue to serve a great role in making the campus a better place.

Gilleland is constantly ensuring to create an inclusive environment for all of his students.

District Honors Ballesteros

Loretta Topp ‘24
Staff Writer

It takes lots of work for a staff member to be considered for the title of Classified Employee for the district or their school, but it takes an outstanding person to be considered for both. Secretary to the Assistant Principal, Mrs. Amber Ballesteros exemplifies all of the qualities of a good leader, communicator, and an overall hard worker. With all of these characteristics in mind, it is no surprise she was selected to be this year’s Classified Employee for both the Temecula Valley District and the school.

Having worked at the school for seven years as an instructional assistant and three and a half years as a counseling technician, Ballesteros has been a friendly face around the school. She brings a warm and welcoming feeling to the school and allows students to come to her whenever they need help. Ballesteros has been a loyal and hard working employee during her twenty-three years of working within the district. Throughout those years, she worked at LaVorgna Elementary School and Nicolas Valley Elementary School as an instructional assistant. On campus Ballesteros once sat at the front desk in the counseling office, across from the library, she has recently changed spots. She is still working in the office area, though her new position as Secretary to the Assistant Principal has moved her to a desk in front of Assistant Principal Ms. Ingrid Taylor’s office. When asked if she missed her old job, Ballesteros was quick to respond with one motive, “I do because of where my desk is now. I don’t see as many students as I used to. I hope that anyone who used to come to my old desk comes to my new one to check in and [know that], if they need anything, I am literally ten feet away from my old desk.” The Secretary to the Assistant Principal has several responsibilities to complete every day. “My job consists of assisting the assistant principal with discipline. I am also in charge of field trips and scheduling campus supervisors for events. I also do the typical office duties such as filing, copying, and checking [and] sending emails.” Ballesteros explained. The promotion came quickly after Mrs. Susan Gonzales retired and Mrs. Tina Olsen took over the position of Principal’s Secretary. The change, still fairly recent, has had some bumps in the road. “It has definitely been a challenge learning new things,” she reflected. “I have worked in the admin office before but now I’m here permanently. It has been a pretty smooth transition,” Ballesteros stated. “Since my position is now open and Ms. Olsen moved over, we both are working two jobs at once.”

Mrs. Ballesteros has worked effortlessly to create a positive atmosphere for the students and staff on campus.

The award for Employee of the Year for the district was awarded to Ballesteros back in February, and in the span of a couple of short months she earned the same award once again, this time through the school. Ballesteros commented on how it felt to be privileged and recgonized by both the school and district, “I’m very honored because there are very many well deserving staff members that I thought deserved the award. I am humbled and appreciative [of] the recognition.”

Salazar Given the Title of TVUSD’s “Teacher of the Year”

Kayla Wiley ‘24
School News Editor

For fourteen years, Mrs. Cynthia Salazar has worked diligently to provide students with the necessary tools for success within a school environment. As a teacher in the Life Skills Bridge program, she focuses on special education. Salazar was recently recognized as the Temecula Valley Unified School District (TVUSD) High School Teacher of the Year in early April. With her dedication to each and every one of her students, along with her never-faltering passion and devotion to her work, there is no doubt that Salazar is deserving of being recognized as an exemplary educator.

Initially, Salazar began her career as an instructional assistant, then went on to be a preschool teacher, and afterwards an elementary school teacher. In the end, she chose to pursue special education for her teaching profession. “I [became a special education teacher] because I saw a great need for love and support for these children,” Salazar explained. With an abundance of kindness, she has developed her classroom into a safe and comfortable place for all students. Within the Bridge program, students are taught important life skills that are necessary outside of a high school setting. These lessons range from vocational and domestic learning to functional reading, writing, and math.

It is evident that Salazar genuinely cares about the well-being of her students and what their futures hold. “She has a lot of knowledge about the special needs community,” instructional assistant Ms. Haleigh Marquez said. “She has special needs children herself, so she’s got that to look back on to bring into her job.” On campus, Salazar has proven to be someone that both staff members and students can turn to in times of need. For many of her fellow co-workers, she is seen as a steadfast and nurturing friend. “She’s always smiling and she’s just right there helping anybody out that needs it,” expressed instructional assistant Ms. Rose Estrada. Ms. Susan Vanny, an instructional assistant who has been working alongside Salazar for fourteen years, said, “Any time that there’s a learning lesson, she’s there to help me … she’s been there every time I’ve needed her.” In every situation, Salazar does her best to provide support and guidance to all.

Salazar has been in the teaching field for fourteen years and specializes in the skills Bridge program.

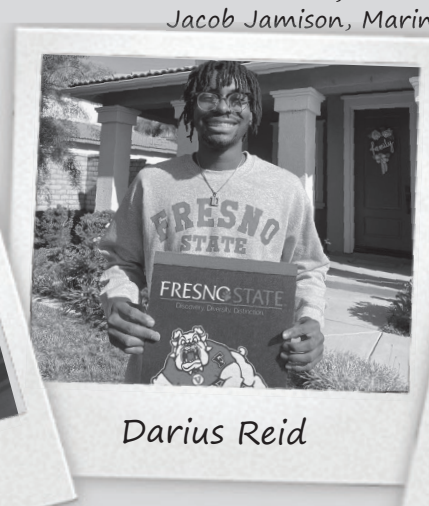
With multiple years of experience in special education, Salazar has been taught numerous lessons by her students. “I wish everybody could be in my classroom,” she stated. “The most valuable part that I see is how the students in my classroom … have no boundaries or walls for judging other people. They have so much love and compassion for everybody.” Salazar reflects this mindset herself, doing her best to make people feel accepted as they are. This is a fundamental aspect in what makes her an outstanding example of what it means to be a teacher. “[You have to] be dedicated and let others know that you care about them,” she advised. “Complete all expectations … and make things happen while collaborating with those you work with, making everyone around you look good too.”

Moving forward from this prestigious award, Salazar hopes to continue to strengthen programs like Unified Sports and Peer Buddies. Her main goal is to make sure that they will stay for many years to come, as she hopes they leave a lasting impact on the school community. “I want to see that everybody in the whole campus is a part of something bigger than just their small portions,” Salazar expressed, “because it’s not just what happens in the classroom, it’s really what happens in our campus.” As the school year comes to an end, it is extremley important to recognize dedicated and passionate teachers like Salazar for creating a life changing atmosphere for students and staff around campus.

Class of 2023's Post-High School Journeys

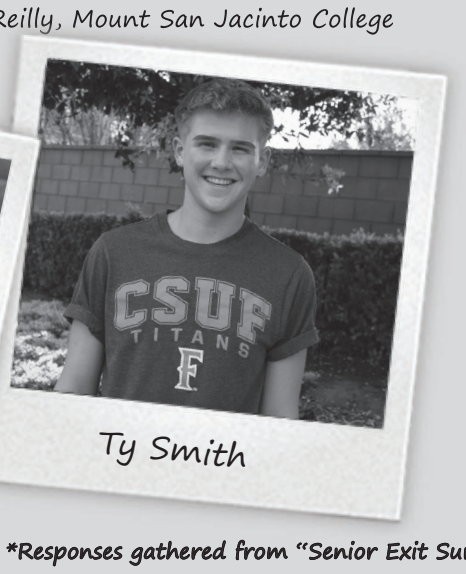
Angel Lopez, Air Force
Isaiah Griffin-Spratling, Air Force
Isabel Ocasio, Air Force
Aaron Fernandez, Air Force
Ashley Leal, Air Force
Christopher Atteberry, Air Force
Makayla De La Rosa, Alliance University
Angelina Lopez, American Career College
Brad Calloway, Arizona State University
Kaylee Offor, Arizona State University
Maral Fathi, Arizona State University
Madison Bouffard, Arizona State University
Katelyn Peebles, Arizona State University
Keeyon Henderson, Army
Annegel Arce, Army
Tatsuya Murakami, Army
Ethan Ortiz, Army National Guard
Madison Morales, Art Center School of Design
Addyson Jarrell, Au Pair
Aaron Eagleton, Boise State University Honors College
Alilah Alvarado, Brigham Young University
Nicholas Crawford, Brigham Young University
Makai Ford, Brigham Young University-Hawaii
Victoria Newbold, Brigham Young University-Hawaii
Emily Faanunu, Brigham Young University-Hawaii
Jacob Snoke, Brigham Young University-Idaho
Kyle Neilson, Brigham Young University-Idaho
Marinne Sheldon, Brigham Young University
Cooper Rasmussen, Butler Community College
Jacob Bruen, Cal Poly Humboldt
Elizabeth Sipra, UC Santa Cruz
Janelle Monsalud, Cal Poly Pomona
Rainand Jen Umali, Cal Poly Pomona
Concordia Peterson, Cal Poly Pomona
Darlene Magee, Cal Poly Pomona
Jessica Cowan, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Logan Clements, California Baptist University
Andrew Elias, California Baptist University
Kaylee Harwood, California Baptist University
Giselle Miller, California Baptist University
Chloe Herman, California Baptist University
Isabella Herman, California Baptist University
Mia Scranton, California Baptist University
Spencer Molinaro, California Conservation Corps
Javier Diaz, California Institute of Arts
Liam Mooney, CSU Channel Islands
Logan Uresti, CSU Chico
Skylar MacFarlane, CSU Chico
Ashley Donaldson, CSU Chico
Andrew Alkhatib, CSU Chico
Luke Weeg, CSU Chico
Avery Page, CSU Chico
Cynthia Cobian, CSU Chico
Drea Quick, CSU Chico
Melanie Manuel, CSU Chico
Darius Reid, CSU Fresno
Jairus Ramos, CSU Fullerton
Ty Smith, CSU Fullerton
Lania Amin, CSU Fullerton
Natalia Carrillo, CSU Fullerton
Sihyun Lee, CSU Fullerton
Marella Barit, CSU Fullerton
Robert Besanson, CSU Fullerton
Mohammed Omar, CSU Fullerton
Owen Pelicot, CSU Fullerton
Mykayla Trejo, CSU Fullerton
Emily Pulido, CSU Fullerton
Jade Sanchez, CSU Fullerton
Kamryn Salcedo, CSU Fullerton
Julianna Roche, CSU Fullerton
Colby Ayres, CSU Fullerton
Kaylee Oliveria Neiva, CSU Fullerton
Gina Shin, CSU Fullerton
Veronica Vehring, CSU Fullerton
Anissa Neri, CSU Long Beach
Avery Swarthout, CSU Long Beach
Madison Brown, CSU Long Beach
Christina Peralta, CSU Long Beach
Autumn Joya, CSU Los Angeles
Jonathan Vargas, CSU Los Angeles
Celeste Basabe, CSU Los Angeles
Meagan Ulery, CSU Monterey Bay
Kaelynn Josey, CSU Monterey Bay
LindaJoy Carpio, CSU Northridge
Brendan Maniaci, CSU San Bernardino
Marvin Ramirez, CSU San Marcos
Jack Blankenship, CSU San Marcos
Ava Olds, CSU San Marcos
Alexandra Jurado, CSU San Marcos
Jayden Caputto, CSU San Marcos
Taylor Peri, CSU San Marcos
Isaac Madrigal, CSU San Marcos
Jayden Caipo, CSU San Marcos
Hans Cajlel Abano, CSU San Marcos
Ryan Phillips, CSU San Marcos
Kylei Laureles, CSU San Marcos
Matthew Samson, CSU San Marcos
Malachi Handford, CSU San Marcos
Joshua Caballero, CSU San Marcos
Jamie Woodland, CSU San Marcos
Esabel Abriam, CSU San Marcos
Dayanara Zapot Chagala, CSU San Marcos
Emilia Hernandez, CSU San Marcos
Kevin Coba, CSU San Marcos
Amber Vinas, CSU San Marcos
Heaven Vick, CSU San Marcos
Evan Forhane, CSU San Marcos
Oliver Jovel, CSU San Marcos
Andrew Smith, CSU San Marcos
Evan Salas, CSU San Marcos
Nathaly Fuentes, CSU San Marcos
Jacob Haskins, CSU San Marcos
Onelo Lorberter, CSU San Marcos
Ahmed Hassan, CSU San Marcos
Andrew Ramirez, CSU San Marcos
Isabelle Castaneda, CSU San Marcos
Briannah Gonzalez, CSU San Marcos
Anthony Santana, CSU San Marcos
Hunter Rashott, CSU San Marcos
Breaunna Hayes, CSU San Marcos
Nevaeh Quitoriano, CSU San Marcos
Rema Alabbadi, CSU San Marcos
Jayden Tayco, CSU San Marcos
Mason Lewis, CSU San Marcos
Cole Janis, CSU San Marcos
Morgan Quijas, CSU San Marcos
Nathan Diaz, CSU San Marcos
Jacob Sorensen, CSU San Marcos
Elyan Aguirre, CSU San Marcos
Kairui Zhang, CSU San Marcos
Tyler Aughenbaugh, CSU San Marcos
Elijah Heffernan, CSU San Marcos
Miranda Dick, CSU San Marcos
Allison Finnegan, CSU San Marcos
Emily Marston, Colorado State University
Robbie McAllister Stebbing, Colorado State University Pueblo
Mackenzie Johnson, Crafton Hills College
Kaitlyn Kunze, Cypress College
Kaiya Hooper, Depaul University
Brandon York, Emergency Medical Technician School
Leah Marie Baluyot, Georgetown University
Adrian Frias, Grand Canyon University
Emma White, Grand Canyon University
Leilani Vivanco, Grand Canyon University
Audrie Larsen, Grand Canyon University
Julia Tiffany, Grossmont University
Yesenia Ruiz, Hawaii Pacific University
Shannon Nafzgar, High Desert Medical College
Aiden Olivarez, Institute of Culinary Education
Robert Ly, Irvine Valley College
Samantha Roldan, John Hopkins University
Eric Miramontes, La Trade Tech
Zack Burrow, Lubbock Christian University
Anthony Pavon, Marine Military Police
Milo Zamudio, Marines
Jacob Jamison, Marines
Keaton Milkovits, Marines
Andres Salazar, Marines
Akiles Lemus, Marines
Ethan Conn, Moreno Valley College
Christian Deeble, Mira Costa University
Makayla Ward, Mira Costa University
Esther Magbagbeola, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cedric Jefferson, Montana State University
Elijah La Cross, Motlow State Comunity College
Vaughn Taylor, Mount San Antonio College
Justin Herrera, Mount San Antonio College
Daniel Resendiz, Mount San Jacinto College
Ariel Boden, Mount San Jacinto College
Lamees Habazi, Mount San Jacinto College
Giselle Penserga, Mount San Jacinto College
Farah Rakouki, Mount San Jacinto College
Rosalyn Ontiveros, Mount San Jacinto College
Antonio Ontiveros, Mount San Jacinto College
Jalen Zentner, Mount San Jacinto College
Liam Rosen, Mount San Jacinto College
Kai Vu, Mount San Jacinto College
Nicolas Huxoll, Mount San Jacinto College
Matthew Tamayo, Mount San Jacinto College
Emiliano Corona, Mount San Jacinto College
Elle Risbrudt, Mount San Jacinto College
Jasmine Padilla, Mount San Jacinto College
Derrick Fliear, Mount San Jacinto College
Emme Rogers, Mount San Jacinto College
Andrew Shearer, Mount San Jacinto College
Jada Kuan, Mount San Jacinto College
Kamryn Cox, Mount San Jacinto College
Kaden Fisher, Mount San Jacinto College
Arcadia Rivera, Mount San Jacinto College
Daniel Amen, Mount San Jacinto College
Troy Sheley, Mount San Jacinto College
Ricardo Martinez, Mount San Jacinto College
Izariah Romero Flores, Mount San Jacinto College
Samantha Tiscareno, Mount San Jacinto College
Sofia Galvan, Mount San Jacinto College
Carolina Branch, Mount San Jacinto College
Talia Galindo, Mount San Jacinto College
Benedict Ramos, Mount San Jacinto College
Taylor Alvarez, Mount San Jacinto College
Joseph Latham, Mount San Jacinto College
Maily Estrada, Mount San Jacinto College
Austin Bingham, Mount San Jacinto College
Mateo Luna, Mount San Jacinto College
Gavin Bell, Mount San Jacinto College
Joshua Richardson, Mount San Jacinto College
Nalani Rathbone, Mount San Jacinto College
Rani Makarem, Mount San Jacinto College
Ally Pasarilla, Mount San Jacinto College
Bradley Buckingham, Mount San Jacinto College
Takoda Ung, Mount San Jacinto College
Makenna Gauna, Mount San Jacinto College
Jocelynn De La Torre, Mount San Jacinto College
Lainey Salas Park, Mount San Jacinto College
Stephanie Andrews, Mount San Jacinto College
Derrick Romano, Mount San Jacinto College
Andrew Castellon, Mount San Jacinto College
Cassidy Vilamil, Mount San Jacinto College
Kai Plco, Mount San Jacinto College
Nahely Ramirez, Mount San Jacinto College
Amy Algendones, Mount San Jacinto College
Christian Manalo, Mount San Jacinto College
Krista Morrow, Mount San Jacinto College
Romina Lecca, Mount San Jacinto College
Michael Delgadillo, Mount San Jacinto College
Yu Shan Zhang, Mount San Jacinto College
Colin Stairs, Mount San Jacinto College
Marissa Crowder, Mount San Jacinto College
Riannah Strejc, Mount San Jacinto College
Lucas Amundson, Mount San Jacinto College
Jason Allen Baltazar, Mount San Jacinto College
Gilah Reilly, Mount San Jacinto College

Anissa Neri



Darius Reid

Dallas Sandoval



Ty Smith

Responses gathered from "Senior Exit Survey"

Ricardo Reis, Mount San Jacinto College
Kori Walker, Mount San Jacinto College
Mariejoanne Bandola, Mount San Jacinto College
Alexander Chanthavony, Mount San Jacinto College
Natalie Guevara, Mount San Jacinto College
Megan Comstock, Mount San Jacinto College
Angela Isorena, Mount San Jacinto College
Naomie Haro, Mount San Jacinto College
Benjamin Rochon, Mount San Jacinto College
Derek Lopez, Mount San Jacinto College
Alisa Keo, Mount San Jacinto College
Emily Stein, Mount San Jacinto College
Mikenzie David, Mount San Jacinto College
Jonathan DaPrato, Mount San Jacinto College
Alexander Sanchez, Mount San Jacinto College
Lynnei Santa Romana, Mount San Jacinto College
Hayden Cocchiaro, Mount San Jacinto College
Savannah Fafard, Mount San Jacinto College
Nathaniel Smith, Mount San Jacinto College
Ardina Velasco, Mount San Jacinto College
Jakob Steging, Mount San Jacinto College
Liam Lohrman, Mount San Jacinto College
Jacob Delgado, Mount San Jacinto College
Mia Sanchez, Mount San Jacinto College
Dylan Mendoza, Mount San Jacinto College
Cristina Maxwell, Mount San Jacinto College
Mirakle Wilson, Mount San Jacinto College
Emily Monnartz, Mount San Jacinto College
Luis Larios, Mount San Jacinto College
Daniella Doe, Mount San Jacinto College
Naomy Christensen, Mount San Jacinto College
Ronald Bazard, Mount San Jacinto College
Riley Spurlock, Mount San Jacinto College
Lucca Nunes, Mount San Jacinto College
Anjo Garcia, Mount San Jacinto College
Jairhiz Rojas, Mount San Jacinto College
Tania Diaz, Mount San Jacinto College
Adam Gromko, Mount San Jacinto College
Aylin Matias Ventura, Mount San Jacinto College
Kaylah Bernal, Mount San Jacinto College
Emily Moran, Mount San Jacinto College
Amaya Johnson, Mount San Jacinto College
Christian Gutierrez, Mount San Jacinto College
Elisa Gourgue, Mount San Jacinto College
Orion Carrel, Mount San Jacinto College
Emilio Decristofaro, Mount San Jacinto College
Bruno Salinas, Mount San Jacinto College
Grace McCafferty, Mount San Jacinto College
Amaya Vaughn, Mount San Jacinto College
Edward Martinez, Mount San Jacinto College
Oliver Ladera, Mount San Jacinto College
Ian Tracy Chopitea, Mount San Jacinto College
Celeste Ventura, Mount San Jacinto College
Ignacio Amezola, Mount San Jacinto College
Katelynn Ng, Mount San Jacinto College
Cambria Farley Doyle, Mount San Jacinto College
Adrian Sanchez, Mount San Jacinto College
Ana-Lynne Maya Sanz, Mount San Jacinto College
Peter Myers, Mount San Jacinto College
Nathaniel Steele, Mount San Jacinto College
Sophia Johnson, Mount San Jacinto College
Summer Griffis, Mount San Jacinto College
Dillon Ellingworth, Mount San Jacinto College
Kallie Salzwedel, Mount San Jacinto College
Kendall Hong, Mount San Jacinto College
John Gonzalez, Mount San Jacinto College
Dames Anthony Esguerra, Mount San Jacinto College
Kennedy Bice, Mount San Jacinto College
Alana Ochoa, Mount San Jacinto College
Karolina Jimenez Gonzalez, Mount San Jacinto College
Chloe Buchholz, Mount San Jacinto College
Lauryn RIboni, Mount San Jacinto College
Brandon Garcia, Mount San Jacinto College
Nathan Huff, Mount San Jacinto College
Alexandra Lising, Mount San Jacinto College
Damian Chase-Davila, Mount San Jacinto College
Romulo Emilio Garcia Corona, Mount San Jacinto College
Myles Martin, Mount San Jacinto College
Gracie Wagner, Mount San Jacinto College
Enrique Martinez, Mount San Jacinto College
Jeremy Flores, Mount San Jacinto College
Samantha Ng, Mount San Jacinto College
Savannah Cross, Mount San Jacinto College

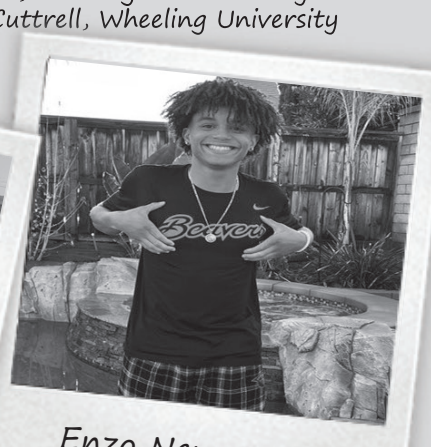
Siannamari Emeses, National University
Jajuan Alford, Navy
Tyson Nambounmy, Navy
Dany Fuentes Guzman, Navy
Noah Moreira, North Central College
Zachary Galvez, Northwest Lineman College
Dylan Choi, Northwestern University
Hannah Torres, Orral Roberts University
Alexander Salinas-Flores, Orange Coast College
Ryan McCulloch, Orange Coast College
Enzo Newman, Oregon State University
Jacob Chapman, Oregon Tech University
Bryce Teachout, Pacific Union College
Trent Jones, Palomar College
Ian Smith, Palomar College
Connor Alexander, Palomar College
Jake Whitehead, Palomar College
Andrew Wessels, Palomar College
Amberlee Frakes, Palomar College
Andrew Skallerud, Palomar College
Giselle Hopfner, Palomar College
James Hougland, Palomar College
Sarah Macam, Palomar College
Malak Aboulhosn, Palomar College
Johana Lizarraga, Palomar College
Elijah Erese, Palomar College
Linnea Holmgren, Palomar College
Ryan Ong, Palomar College
Katie Pineda, Palomar College
Jody Emanuel, Palomar College
James Lauper, Palomar College & MSJC
Lacey Salgado, Palomar College & RCC
Miko Bulacan, Palomar College
Gabriella Mink, Paul Mitchell Cosmetology School
Desiree Johnston, Paul Mitchell Cosmetology School
Dylyn Franco, Paul Mitchell Cosmetology School
Karlee Rehnquist, Paul Mitchell Cosmetology School
Kaelynn Hodges, Paul Mitchell Cosmetology School
Jenesis Bluhm, Paul Mitchell Cosmetology School
Izaiah Rivas, Pikes Peak State College
Chelsea Ross, Rhode Island School of Design
Damarion Mixon, Riverside Community College
Cadence Sullivan, Riverside Community College
Tristan Anderson, Riverside Community College
Devyne Pearson, Riverside Community College
Vincent Perryman, Riverside Community College
Angelina Dalrymple, Riverside Community College
Anthony Salas, Riverside County School of Education
Shania Bamfield, Rutgers University
Leland Godfrey, Sacramento State
Andrew Choi, Saddleback College
Ayleen Cecena, San Diego City College
Morgan Smith, San Diego State University
Malia Widman, San Diego State University
Lana Risenberg, San Diego State University
Yujie Wang, San Diego State University
Sensi Fowler, San Diego State University
Isabelle Brehm, San Diego State University
Dallas Sandoval, San Diego State University
Sydney Vinson, San Diego State University
Reynaldo Najarro, San Francisco State University
Ella Huckabey, San Francisco State University
Kaitlyn Banuelos, San Joaquin Valley College
Cody Roripaugh, San Joaquin Valley College
Anthony Martinez, San Joaquin Valley College
Ava Munoa, San Joaquin Valley College
Ysabella Ramos, San Joaquin Valley College
James Reyna, San Joaquin Valley College
Roman Lopez, San Joaquin Valley College
Donovan Punsalang, San Joaquin Valley College
Krystal Rivas, San Jose State University
Lucas Fox, Santa Barbara
Riah Kellum, Santa Barbara City College
Audrey Bradshaw, Santa Barbara City College
Grace Ha, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Jakob Olson, Seton Hall University
Autumn Salazar, Sonoma State University
Christina Antonio, Southwestern College
Logan Sloane, Spokane Falls Community College

Nerissa Moore, Syracuse University
Sean Le, Texas Tech University
MiKaylin Tibbs, Tuskegee University
Mason Slojkowski, University of Alabama
Daniel Whelan, UC Berkeley
Sofia Santos, UC Berkeley
Bianca Ganal, UC Berkeley
Dawson Vongphakdy, UC Davis
Xinxin Zhang, UC Davis
Izaiah Souriolle, UC Davis
Jaafar Sameer, UC Irvine
Athena Winn, UC Irvine
DeShawn Walker, UC Irvine
Nalia Nyema, UC Irvine
Kylie Ross, UC Irvine
Angela Chang, UC Irvine
Benjamin Sullivan-Douglass, UC Los Angeles
Andre Johnson, UC Merced
Trinity Martinez, UC Merced
Yifei Miao, UC Merced
Abigail Smith, UC Riverside
Klara Aziz, UC Riverside
Carol Bautista, UC Riverside
Marcelo Leon, UC Riverside
Connor Clemens, UC Riverside
Kiana Mendiola, UC Riverside
Pedro Chaidez, UC Riverside
Bethany Rangel, UC Riverside
Ryan Jara, UC Riverside
Parsa Tehrani, UC Riverside
Ethan Howard, UC Riverside
Noah Billan, UC Riverside
Rachel Salas, UC Riverside
Michael Grembowiec, UC Riverside
Kalia Narciso, UC Riverside
Charissa-Irene Gillette, UC Riverside
Camden Weaver, UC Riverside
Adrian Huerta, UC Riverside
Brad Perez Vilches, UC Riverside
Cedric Celebrado, UC Riverside
Armstrong Simpson, UC San Diego
Audrey Tinh, UC San Diego
Priscilla Pollard, UC San Diego
Summer Rashidi, UC San Diego
Paige Schumsky, UC San Diego
Jaydin Villegas, UC San Diego
Peyton New, UC San Diego
Evelyn Mendoza, UC San Diego
Anjhela Coloma, UC San Diego
Cameron Vaughn, UC Santa Barbara
Nick Taylor, UC Santa Barbara
Sofia Perez, UC Santa Barbara
Mya Salcedo, UC Santa Barbara
Angel Parra, UC Santa Barbara
Kyla Aldrete, UC Santa Barbara
Jylian Potter, UC Santa Cruz
Cortney Hernandez, UC Santa Cruz
Tony Tran, UC Santa Cruz
Walker Maze, University of Colorado Boulder
Makai Pahoa, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Nolan Frasso, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Cayden Goebel, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Samantha Goffman, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Madison Asbury, University of Monterey Bay
Qingyu Wang, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Mya Macias, University of North Texas
Bella Rittenberg, University of Pennsylvania
Kristiana Dinsenbacher, University of Redlands
Evan Lackey, University of San Diego
Gabriel Romero, University of San Diego
Justin Hougland, University of South California
Alexxis Deinlein, University of Tennessee at Martin
Kyra Parker, University of Utah
Mason Goggins, US Marine Corps
Damian Rodriguez, US Marine Corps
Mallory Benedict, Utah Tech University
Cailyn Griebe, Utah Tech University
Collin Crilly, Utah Tech University
Giselle Shupe, Utah Valley University
Cambelle Peterson, Utah Valley University
Jesse Davila, Universal Technical Institute
Ryan Fierro, Universal Technical Institute
Cesar Quiroz, UTI Techinical Institute
Ruby Choi, Washington University of St. Louis
Carson Cuttrell, Wheeling University

Malia Widman

Sofia Santos

Esther Magbagbeola



Enzo Newman

Compiled by: Lauren Padilla, Chloe Zuniga, Sky Roman

Top Three Seniors

Navin Gopalan '24
Copy Editor

Dylan Choi

This year's valedictorian is none other than Senior Dylan Choi. A leading grade point average (GPA) of 4.84 has not come without grit, hard work, and determination; Choi displays these exceptional qualities with an exceptional work ethic, having taken twenty-one Advanced Placement (AP) classes and six courses through Mount. San Jacinto College (MSJC), along with being a co-captain of the Varsity Boys Tennis team.

One of Choi's many accomplishments is being an integral part of many prominent clubs on campus. "I am in Peer Leaders, the California Scholarship Federation … as the Senior Representative, the National Honor Society, and the President of Rho Kappa," Choi listed. He juggles all these heavy responsibilities with a genuine passion to benefit the Chaparral community and culture. "I enjoy the unique experiences and lessons that you learn from being a part of these activities," he said.

"Being valedictorian means so much to me," Choi reflected. "For me, it has meant dedication, hard work, perseverance, discipline, confidence, and most importantly excellence. Taking on such a packed course load has caused great deals of both physical and mental stress; however, looking back on my journey, I am proud to say that I have no regrets." Currently, he plans to attend Northwestern University in Illinois, double majoring in economics and political science, while minoring in international studies. "These subjects are all things that I enjoyed learning about in high school that I see myself having a future in so I am very excited to further my education in these areas into college as well."

Choi strongly urges anyone to strive to achieve the valedictorian status. "For others that want to achieve a high rank, or anything else for that matter, I strongly urge you to create a bold, ambitious plan early and stick to it. Never change or falter in the face of difficulty," he advised.

Noah Billan

Coming in with a GPA of 4.82 is Senior Noah Billan, the second highest in the class of 2023, having taken nineteen AP classes and four college courses through MSJC, ranging from English to Computer Programming, Billan demonstrates essential traits for a top student—determination, excellence, perseverence, and passion for his academic performance.

Being second rank is not an easy commitment. Besides performing well in top AP classes, he has had to accelerate his education, including taking Mr. James Caldwell's Introduction to Differential Equations course, an extremely difficult class that encompasses university-level math into two semesters. "Noah is a diligent, hard-working student that excels in academics," Caldwell stated. "It is difficult to properly convey in words his remarkable mathematical capabilities. Such impressive fluency and in-depth understanding in mathematics is something I've seen only a handful of times in my career."

Yet, Billan also finds time in his busy schedule for extracurricular activities. In his junior year, he started a new club to tutor and advise students on their academic goals. "Myself and [Senior] Benjamin Sullivan-Douglass started a club last year for AP courses and the SAT test, just to help out other students," Billan recalled. "[It] was quite successful."

Billan has committed to the expectional University of California, Riverside, due to their prestigious medical pathways. "Currently, I'm thinking of [going into] chemistry. I remember during my first year [of high school], I was really enthralled by chemistry," Billan explained. "I also want to go into the medical field—I feel like chemistry is a great gateway to everything else." Reflecting back on his high school career, both professional and personal, Billan advised, "If you're purely doing it for rank, … [b]ut if you're not enjoying it, if it's not you, there's lots of other ways to get into college [besides a high rank]."

Ben Sullivan-Douglass

With an overall GPA of 4.80, ranked third in the class of 2023, is Senior Benjamin Sullivan-Douglass. Popular around campus, Sullivan-Douglass is known for his exceptional work ethic, openness, and desire to help others. This is evident in the many clubs and extracurricular activities he is involved in, including being a founding member of one of the largest clubs on campus, C.H.A.P. AP/SAT Prep Club; an officer on the Science Olympiad team; and the captain of the Varsity Boys Swim team. "All these clubs—officer or not—helped me discover and focus my passions," he reflected.

Creating a balance between his passion for academics and extracurriculars, particularly swimming, was a challenge of Sullivan-Douglass', but one he accepted readily. "I've been swimming since I was three years old," he said, "and with [swim], … I've been able to do things outside of school that let me put pent-up energy into something other than sitting in my room studying." Sullivan-Douglass has performed exceptionally in these activities, taking the Varsity Boys Swim team through its first winning record and placing them third in League overall as captain.

Sullivan-Douglass has committed to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Seeking to study aerospace engineering, he hopes to utilize UCLA's unique research opportunities to become an eventually become an astronaut. "When I was three years old," he recalled, "I asked my mom, 'What's behind the sky?' and ever since then, the exploration of space and the unknown have fascinated me."

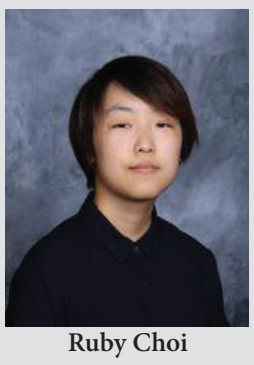
Although Sullivan-Douglass is quite proud of his rank, he reaffirmed that rank does not define a person. "What matters most is studying the classes and skills that best prepare you for your exams," he reflected. "At the end of the day, ranks don't determine your worth or the schools you get into."

Summa Cum Laude

Leah Marie Baluyot

Noah Billan

Dylan Choi



Ruby Choi

Justin Hougland

Esther Magbagbeola

Jafaar Sameer

Class of 2023
*Top 2% of seniors

Armstrong Simpson

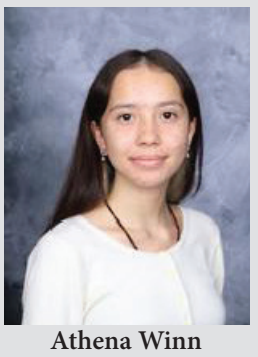
Mason Slojkowski

Benjamin Sullivan-Douglass

Audrey Tinh

Jake Underwood

Jaydin Villegas

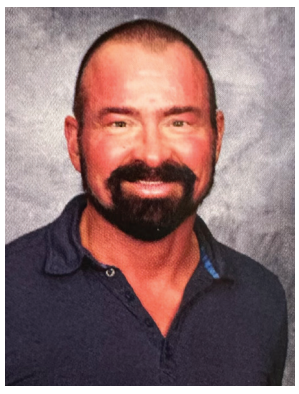


Athena Winn

Farewell to Retiring Pumas

Kayla Wiley ‘24 and Daschle Davenport ‘24

Mr. Bryan Brown



Having been teaching since the school’s opening, English teacher Mr. Bryan Brown has spent more than twenty-six years teaching at Chaparral. With a great passion, Brown originally found himself driven towards a teaching career as he has always found interest in helping students and doing work within the English field.

Brown holds a degree in both English and History—such credentials have allowed him to teach a handful of different subjects, including English for grades nine through twelve, U.S. History, Creative Writing, and Sheltered English. Being in the field of teaching for such a long time, Brown has been able to learn many new things from different experiences and events which has allowed him to improve as a teacher along the way. “One thing I’ve learned is that everybody is different and learns at a different pace,” Brown shared, “so you as a teacher have to accommodate for that.”

Although Brown is sure to enjoy whatever lifestyle and plans the future holds for him, there are many different parts of teaching that he will miss. “Being a person of habit, I’ll probably miss the structure like arriving at a certain time and leaving at a certain time,” he reflected. One of the things Brown will also miss is being able to see the learning processes of students for himself. Brown explained how he finds it very meaningful to take a student from the beginning of the year where they may be struggling in the class and help them develop and improve as a student by the end of the year. After his retirement, Brown is planning to just take a few months to himself to discover what kinds of things he wants to do and what pathways he wants to take in his future. As he enjoys travel he has considered joining the travel industry by possibly working at an airport as a gate agent or a ticket agent. After many years of learning such amazing skill sets and significant life lessons, Brown is sure to make the best of all the opportunities and events that await him in the future.

Mrs. Kathleen McFadden

For nineteen years, Mrs. Kathleen McFadden has worked tirelessly to provide students with unforgettable lessons in different science courses. Throughout her teaching career, she has taught Earth Science, Chemistry, Biology, Global Science, and Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science; she will be finishing the school year teaching Biology and AP Environmental Science. With love for these subjects and her students, McFadden’s preparation for retirement has proven to be a bittersweet process.

While McFadden did not start teaching until she was in her forties, her role as an educator has brought great fulfillment to her life. Throughout the years, she has gained valuable lessons and made irreplaceable memories.While there are many aspects of teaching that McFadden enjoys, her favorite part is getting to know her students. In particular, she loved going on field trips and making memories outside the classroom. “You get to be with your students in a different setting and just enjoy learning together … exploring, and having fun,” McFadden explained. Her science classes were often treated with trips to the zoo and tide pools to enrich their learning experiences.

In retirement, McFadden plans to explore other great passions in her life. Already, she is enrolled in a course to become a life coach, and is looking forward to working more closely with her favorite animals. “I work with horses and I have my whole life,” she commented. “I realized over the years how intuitive horses are … horses will reflect whatever is going on with you.” McFadden hopes to be able to discover more about this side of the animal and use it for the benefit of others.

While this journey into retirement is exciting for McFadden, it is also accompanied with a heavy heart. There are many people who will miss the light that McFadden shines on campus; and the same can be said about her. “This is a really awesome, welcoming, loving, warm school and I think that I’ll really miss everything here,” McFadden expressed.

Mrs. Cathy Olszewski

After working in the Temecula Valley Unified School District (TVUSD) for twenty-seven years, Mrs. Cathy Olszewski is preparing to retire. For eleven years, Olszewski has worked as a counselor, providing students with the necessary resources to graduate and prepare their futures. She has made a significant impact on campus, leaving behind a strong legacy that will be remembered by many.

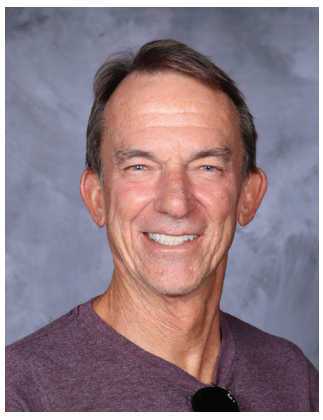
Olszewski has always been someone that students could turn to in times of need. Her passion for the job has never diminished, and as a result, she has been able to reach many students. As a counselor, she aids in scheduling, enrollments, and college applications, but Olszewski’s favorite part about her job is making connections. “It’s so different between a classroom interaction [and] one-on-one,” she described, “It becomes more personal.”

Some of the best memories for Olszewski come from being a part of the exciting moments in her students’ lives. She loves witnessing them pursue their dreams and being passionate about their lives after high school. “That’s where I find my joy; it’s helping kids do better, helping kids improve in their grades, helping kids get into college,” Olszewski expressed. “Watching them excited about their future just makes my day.”

While Olszewski is not entirely sure what she wants to do once she is retired, there are many aspects she is looking forward to. Specifically, she is most excited about traveling whenever she wants to. Her main priorities will include exercising, running and hiking. Additionally, Olszewski plans to explore some of her favorite hobbies, such as photography.

The process of retirement is a rewarding process, but it also involves emotional goodbyes. There are many students and staff members who will miss Olszewski and the prominent role that she plays. “I love the people I work with … they’re amazing at Chaparral,” Olszewski remarked. “There’s so many good people here and I’ll miss them.”

Mr. Jim Smith

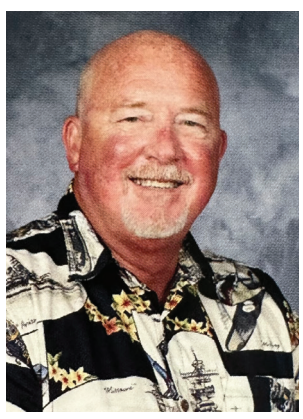


After teaching for thirty-nine years, with twenty-six of them as a Puma on campus, Mr. James Smith will be leaving for retirement this year. He has taught multiple classes in the science field which include Chemistry, Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry, and AP Environmental Science. Having the opportunity to teach on campus for over two decades, Smith was able to utilize all the experiences, lessons, and memories he created to leave nothing but positive remarks behind with his many students and fellow teachers on campus.

Something that originally drew Smith toward his career choice was the idea of a job where he could have a lot of free time during summer to do what he wants to do. “It was kinda sad to admit, but it was truthful,” Smith said. This was surely not the only reason Smith chose to teach as he realized that he enjoyed all the aspects of his job once he began teaching. He found much fun in helping kids improve and truly understand how they could be successful in whatever they did. Being a teacher for such a lengthy time has taught Smith many great values. “One of the most important things I’ve learned is that the only limits to success are that we think of ourselves,” Smith stated . Sharing these values to students is one of the many things that Smith will miss about teaching. “I will surely miss when a kid struggles, and you try to help them become motivated to push themselves further but also give them the tools they need to understand the material,” Smith recalled.

After retirement, Smith has a simple plan for his future—which consists of more surfing, fishing, and spending more time with his wife. Smith described how his time teaching could be summed up. “For 39 years I’ve been telling rad jokes, playing good music, blowing stuff up, and setting off the fire alarm,” Smith reflected. “I find the fire alarms to be only mildly alarming.” The positive attitude Mr. Smith carried around him throughout his time teaching is sure to leave a lasting effect on the school.

Mr. Nathaniel Spence



After teaching on campus for almost seventeen years, History teacher Mr. Nathaniel Spence will be leaving for retirement at the end of this school year. Stepping away from campus for the first time since 2006, Spence is sure to have nothing but positive impacts on the success and futures of many students and teachers from his time teaching.

Teaching a variety of classes, including US history, World History, AP Human Geography, and Economics, Spence was able to learn many valuable lessons to not only improve the overall effectiveness of his teaching, but the positive impact he had on students. He has learned that as a teacher, it is important to always have patience and give each and every student an opportunity. “Always give them the benefit of the doubt,” Spence stated, “because not everybody learns at the same speed and not everybody achieves exactly what you think they should achieve.” Keeping such important values in mind, Spence has had the opportunity to help many students improve and grow into successful individuals. Spence explained that it is always satisfying to see people grow as he even has students from times as far back as middle school return back to him later in life to share the success they had as adults; All made possible by the opportunities they were given and the valuable lessons they were taught. “It’s nice to see that what you tell people will help them, actually helps them,” Spence shared.

In his future, Spence has a life of travel awaiting him. Inspired by stories and experiences shared to him by his uncle, who served in World War II, Spence would like to live in Europe for a few months, in countries such as France and Spain, seeking to see Europe on his own terms and spend his time to truly take in the experience without rushing from place to place. As Spence has surely impacted the atmosphere on campus during his time teaching, there is no doubt that his future of retirement will bring him many great experiences.

Ms. Nancy Young

French teacher Mrs. Nancy Young is spending the last few months of the school year preparing for retirement. Young began working at the school when it first opened in 1997, making her one of the original Pumas on campus. For twenty-six years, she has been dedicated to providing her students with all the tools they need in order to excel in her language classes. Through this, Young has always done her best to extend her knowledge of different countries and cultivate a desire for exploration within her students. “I’m hoping I inspire people to expand their world by learning about other cultures,” she stated.

Some of Young’s most unforgettable memories from her time as a teacher come from the international trips she has taken with her classes. As a French teacher, she has received multiple opportunities to provide her students with firsthand experiences of the cultures and languages they spend years studying together. “The cultural exchanges I’ve done [are my favorite],” Young said. “[They have] motivated students to stick with it long term and stay in touch with people they never would have met [otherwise].”

Once Young retires, she is planning to stay busy and use a lot of her free time to help others. Her plans include coaching young teachers as they work towards obtaining their credentials, getting more involved in volunteer work within the city, and traveling off-season. Young is looking forward to traveling the most, as it has always been a great passion of hers. In particular, she hopes to be able to visit South America, Scandinavia, and many other places in Europe.

Throughout her time as a teacher, Young has made a great impact on many of the students that have sat in her classroom, and the same can be said in reverse. “I’m leaving with a heavy heart,” she expressed. “[I’ll miss] my students.” While it is bittersweet to say goodbye, the memories that Young has made at this school are unforgettable. It is undeniable that Young’s influence will remain at Chaparral for many years to come.

Emerald Puma Nominees

Final nominees were selected by staff members who best exhibit Puma P.R.I.D.E. Finalists listed alphabetically below.
*The following quotes are from nominating teachers who will remain anonymous

Bianca Ganal

"Bianca leads some of our largest, most inclusive events at CHS, while participating in multiple clubs and holding the elected position of Senior Class President. In addition to her accomplishments as a student leader and academic scholar on campus, Bianca is a lovable, fun, inspiring individual. Her character is true; she has an excellent work ethic, respects others, and understands the importance of making positive connections with her peers. Bianca is reliable; she consistently volunteers to assist ASB with events, publicity, communication and creates ways to include all students and staff in activities. She raised the morale of our staff this year by initiating and monitoring the Staff Puma Games after realizing how much our seniors enjoyed their version."

P

Passion

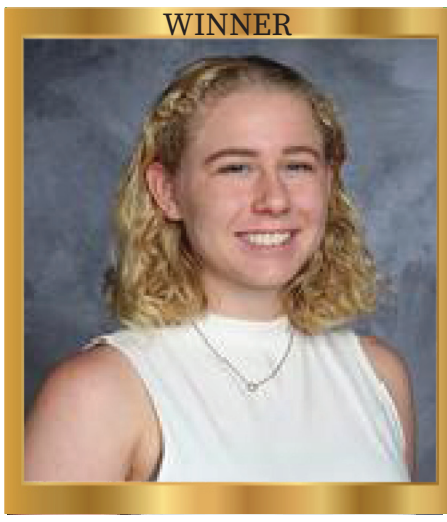
R

Respect

Justin Hougland

"First off, Justin is an extraordinary young man. As a teacher, I have long been impressed by his kindness, diligence, and work ethic. Justin is always respectful, helpful, and kind to peers and teachers. I have seen him personally, on his own time, make math tutorial videos for peers that are struggling, just because he wants to help them succeed. Justin is ranked in the top 1.8 percent of his class. He is a member of the National Honor Society and has been in ASB [Associated Student Body] for all four years, he was even the Freshman Class President. He has been on the Varsity Boys Water Polo and Swim teams all four years. He was the Varsity Boys Water Polo captain during his junior and senior years. [He] shows his P.R.I.D.E. and love for being a Puma."

WINNER



Marinne Sheldon

"Marinne is more of the complete package of a fabulous person and student than I've ever had the pleasure of knowing in fifteen years of teaching. I know her mostly as a stellar member of the student-run morning announcements team, but my awareness of all her accomplishments and involvement in and out of school is vast. She is a member of the FAB 5 squad at Chaparral High School, and as such, leads students in cheers at various sporting and other events. Her excitement and energy is contagious as she and the other FAB 5 members whip the crowds into a frenzy. I could go on and on and on, but you probably get the point. When you add up all the parts that make up Marinne, you get the most complete, highest quality student and person, I've ever come across."

I

Integrity

D

Determination

Izaiah Souriolle

"I believe [Izaiah Souriole] is the best representation of a Puma on this campus. He is the total package of being a student-athlete. In the classroom, he maintains a 4.0 GPA [Grade Point Avergage] with rigorous classes during his time at CHS. On the football field, he was a three year Varsity starter, numerous accolades such as All-League, All-CIF, All-Area, All-State, and is attending UC Davis on a full-ride scholarship. Izaiah was recently named the Male Athlete of the Year for Chaparral. Izaiah volunteers and is a leader with the Special Olympics and Spirit Games on campus. Izaiah lives his life demonstrating Puma P.R.I.D.E."

Jaydin Villegas

"I am very excited to nominate Jaydin Villegas for 2023's Emerald Puma! I have gotten to know Jaydin well these last two years and have witnessed not only her amazing strength of character, but also her positive disposition in everything [that] she is involved with. She is a respectful and conscientious young lady who epitomizes what being a Puma [really] is. Jaydin represents the very best that Chap[arral] has to offer, both in the classroom and in [her] extracurricular activities. She exemplifies what a student leader should be and her school spirit is absolutely contagious. She is a beautiful human being, [both] inside and out. She has been an absolute light here at Chaparral High School and will be missed when she is off to bigger and better things."

E

Excellence

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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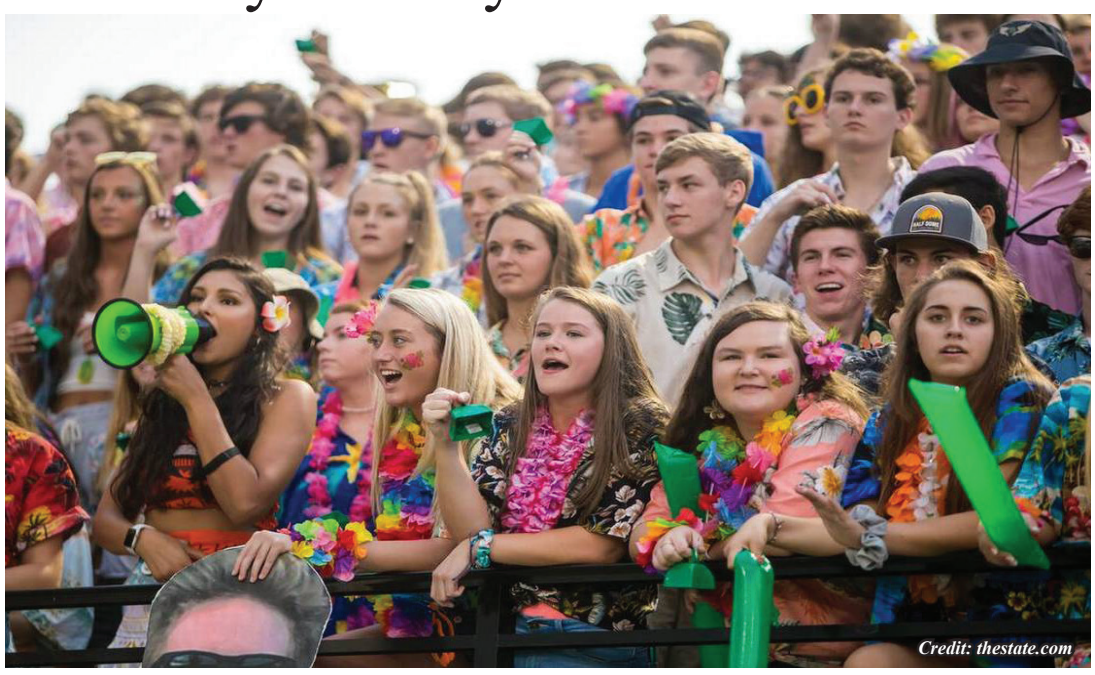
Is High School Really What you Make out of It?

Editorials Staff



Credit: thestate.com

Even the samllest acts of school spirit can accumulate to the overall atmosphere of a high school campus.

School culture is heavily influenced by the spirit of the students who attend it. Many students will reject the idea of embracing school spirit simply because it can be perceived as embarrassing, but in reality, it builds a more unified student body that determines whether or not the environment of a school is perceived as a positive or negative one. Furthermore, one should not allow another's perspective to interfere with the activities they desire to participate in. At the end of the day, the quality of one's high school experience is decided by the attitude and actions of the individual— if they choose to view it as positive and exciting, then it will be.

A strong sense of community promotes participation in activities whilst allowing others to not have a sense of discouragement, especially when it is solely just to "fit in." In some cases, the spirit amongst students lacks so poorly to the point in which students will attend other schools' events just to feel the strong energy that their school lacks, elsewhere. If individuals embrace one's own campus spirit rather than shame the few who do, then not only can individuals feel connected to the campus, but feel this way at one's own school. It is one thing to want to enjoy a Friday night football game with peers that attend another school, but it is another when students' first choice is to go somewhere other than their own home field simply because the crowd, which is built mostly of the students, is incapable of forming an eccentric atmosphere. Although school spirit may be the last thing on the checklist, it influences a huge part in a student's life. Even so, the simple act of wearing the school's logo on a piece of fabric contributes to the community a school needs in order to build for the environment surrounding it.

While, the lack of school spirit does affect how the environment of a school is perceived, it is not the only underlying problem. Many people fail to embrace high school for all that it is due to the fear of being judged for becoming actively involved on campus as it is not the popular choice. Instead, they focus solely on academics, keeping their head down in order to get through their high school years, and failing to realize that there is so much more to being in high school than just academics. While academics are important, the social and extracurricular aspects of school are just as vital. Getting involved in a unique club or attending school events may help individuals to flourish on campus. If people decided to participate in games or other events rather than opting out because they are afraid of what others may think, people would begin to feel more accomplished and even find that they enjoy their high school experience so much more.

Although it may not seem like a big deal, the presence of a school spirit on campus is essential to shaping one's high school experience. When someone is constantly looking to find faults with a school regarding its lack of culture, they tend to disregard the fact that oftentimes it is the students who contribute to this issue. In order for there to be an exciting atmosphere on campus, it is important that students acknowledge how they contribute to the campus, and how the attitude they hold is what matters most to uplift a school's climate and personal experiences.

Someone's Trauma is Not Another's Responsibility

Sky Roman '24
Copy Editor

Credit: i-d.vice.com

Trauma dumping can lead to the overall increased stress of the individual on the other line, and it is important to keep that in mind.

The normalization of mental illness and expressing one's troubles with others is something that should be celebrated within society, as it allows people to be open with one another and heal from the problems that they face. However, as this has become a more commonly accepted phenomenon, many problems derive from it. The concept of knowing when it is appropriate to share these intimate details of one's life, as well as with whom, is something that has been lost both online and in the real world. This phenomenon is known as trauma dumping, unloading personal problems and trauma on to others without their consent. Trauma dumping has become an emerging problem that causes a lot of real harm to those on the receiving end of it.

The concept of venting about a problem with a trusted friend is not something that should be discouraged as it can be a healthy way of addressing the problem and gaining the ability to recover from it. The problem lies when this venting is unsolicited. It has become all too common for people to often just start speaking on their life problems without even asking the other person if it is okay for them to do so. There are many factors that come into play when it comes to the harm that this can do. One of the main factors is that the current mental state of the person being vented to is never considered in these situations. It is unreasonable to believe that others are obligated to listen to someone's problems, or oftentimes trauma, when the person themselves has a lot on their own plate. It is not other people's responsibility, regardless of who that person is, to help someone work through their trauma. Any form of venting should be done consensually in order to ensure both parties can handle such subject matter.

Trauma dumping is not an occurrence limited to relations in the real world. An even more common form of trauma dumping happens online through forums and social media platforms. In these instances, it is even oftentimes worse because through apps such as *TikTok* where it is random individual's videos on one's feed, it leaves many people susceptible to hearing about extreme cases of trauma with no warning at all. Even in cases where a post is supposed to be wholesome, individuals who interact with these videos will find a way to make it about their trauma. It is one thing to create an outlet in which a person expresses their problems, however it is completely different when people direct every situation back to their trauma. It leaves many with an unnecessary feeling of guilt when those who trauma dump feel as though if they are not happy, then others also do not have the right to be happy either.

All in all, there is a fine line that separates the act of simply venting to a person who has expressed willingness to help and the act of making others deal with one's trauma without warning them. Mental health issues and other problems are ones that should be taken seriously, however this can not be done when these issues are sprung up on people who do not care to hear about it. Taking into consideration the feelings of those around oneself is something more should work toward to prevent these issues.

Trans-Athletes' Current Hurdles

Hailey Mera '25
Editorials Editor

In regards to sports, transgender women athletes face numerous obstacles simply because they are seen as a weapon rather than an equal amongst other biological women. Society cannot preach for inclusivity, empowerment, and all things beneficial for the people as a whole if this only applies to some rather than the majority. The chances of eligibility that most transgender women struggle with in comparison with cisgender women has raised many concerns regarding fair competition. In doing so, the controversy primarily stems from the fact that transgender women obtain higher testosterone levels than biological women, thus giving them an advantage in their strength and thus in their performance.

Technically speaking, it is stated within the Women's Sports Foundation that, "If a transgender student transitions after puberty, medical experts increasingly agree that the effects of taking female hormones negate any strength and muscular advantage that testosterone may have provided and places a male-to-female transgender athlete who has completed her transition in the same general range of strength and performance exhibited by nontransgender females who are competing." Evidently, because most transgender women decide to transition at a young age due to the fact that they grow up uncomfortable within their given gender, the differences between transgender women and cisgender women become increasingly lower.

It is a contradiction to heavily promote inclusion, yet be the very thing that falls short in the name of athletics. Gender is not chosen, but it is rather a fifty-fifty chance. A factor that is not chosen by a mother nor chosen by a father; merely fate in which they are simply defined by the biological terms which coincide with the anatomy of a human. Even so, it is anyone's choice whether or not they feel comfortable with their gender and whether or not they want to become transgender. However, within every sport, the strength of an athlete is only one factor that goes into one's performance: endurance, precision, and dedication play a big role as well. To say that high schools should not be inclusive of transgender athletes is to promote ignorance and hatred, and with this says the same throughout higher levels of athletics. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) requires, in its 2010 NCAA policy, that a transgender athlete undergo one year of testosterone suppression treatment. Which essentially means the act in which transgender women take in order to decrease how lean they biologically are being male, as well as the decrease in testosterone and body mass.

With the inclusion of trans athletes within cisgendered sports, many individuals are considering the fairness of their inclusion.

It is so heavily proclaimed how unfair it is that transgender women are allowed to participate with other biologically born women, but perhaps these individuals should be given more credit rather than criticism. It is difficult enough that society as a whole tends to shame those of different gender identity, but to strip transgender women of their right to athletically perform in sports that they have not only worked for, but accommodated their body for, is purely wrong. What more can be asked of these athletes? Rules and regulations are followed, granted that a transgender woman might not be the same as that of a biological one, it does not make them any less female. If the work is done and changes are made, then no individual should be stripped of their right— born female or not.

Different Bodies, Different Game

Jackson Gamero '24
Staff Writer

Over the past year, transgender athletes participating in sports designated for the other biological gender has seen an increase and has therefore received an influx of attention from political news sources. Specifically, Lia Thomas, a biological male, has received criticism as a result of her winning the women's 500-yard freestyle event as a member of the University of Pennsylvania collegiate swim team. However, Thomas, as well as other transgender females participating in female sports, hold an unfair advantage over biological females who are competing, as biological males and females undergo different stages of growth and development and exhibit different areas of strength and weakness.

Biological males and females undergo vastly different stages of development as they go through puberty, resulting in unfair advantages for those born a male when competing over those born female. During development, biological males create testosterone, a hormone that helps with muscle mass. It is obvious that an increase in muscle mass goes on to help one have an advantage in athletic performance. Therefore, it is fair to argue that someone who developed so much testosterone should not be competing with those who naturally do not develop that hormone at such levels. In nearly all sports, more strength will almost always prove to be a huge advantage for those who have it, and if testosterone provides that strength to biological males more than it does to biological females, in no situations should those two genders be allowed to compete against each other at the high school level, let alone the collegiate level.

Apart from biological and physical advantages, transgender athletes should not be allowed to participate in female sports due to the fact that it discourages biological females from competing at all. Nancy Hogshead-Makar, an Olympic medalist for the U.S. Women's National Swim Team, has openly stated before how she was constantly discouraged by the presence of steroid use by some Olympians, as she felt it put her at a substantial disadvantage in her events. When transgender females participate in sports with biological females, they essentially have the same type of advantage over those who have grown and developed as a biological female, and can thus evoke such discouragement from females who are competing. This can lead to other problems, such as decreased involvement in sports from biological females and increased mental health issues for those who have felt the need to quit because of unfair advantages for males participating in female sports.

Although some argue that transgender females should have a right to participate in female sports because of the fact that some females are naturally bigger than other females, this is simply not true. There is a difference between natural advantages and unnatural advantages, and it is unnatural advantages that should be regulated. In fact, there have been some measures introduced by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) aimed at ensuring fair matchups amongst athletes, such as deciding whether or not to allow transgender athletes in sports depending on the sport itself, but there is work to be done. In order to ensure completely fair matchups, it is vital that the NCAA only allow those biologically born within the designated gender to participate in sports.

The Theft of Private and Cultural Practices Within the Modern Media

Milyn Francis '25
Newsroom Manager

On social media, the term "whitewashed" does not get thrown around lightly. Online is an easy place where people are able to share information and interests to others about anything possible. Things, such as cultural and private practices, should be able to praise their art and express themselves on the Internet without others' influences upon it, especially when there is no proper credit nor knowledge to the matter.

Everyday, culture appropriation is a trend that affects everyone. A culture's private practice is based on a shared common set of values and beliefs through today's culture in the media. A good example is shown on *TikTok* where people participate in hair oiling, where they apply different oils such as coconut, olive, castor, and rosemary to the scalp before washing their hair. While nothing is wrong with hair care, videos are seen with people who are not educated with the content of oiling their hair for likes and numbers. Especially when the videos that should be reaching the audience are those of non-ethnic background sharing their own method of hair oiling. Minorities are ones who get bullied and feel ashamed for hair oil when at the end of the day, it was their technique to begin with. While those can try to claim their work as their own, they will always try to take away the culture behind it unless viewers do something about it.

These trends may not seem offensive, yet for tons of minorities, they feel completely different. Despite how those may feel, cultural differences are accepted and celebrated everywhere. However, not everyone everywhere is educated regarding the topic of said culture. Therefore, tons of misrepresentation, appropriation, and even racism is portrayed along the internet. Even as a cultural aspect, these practices are being altered to become something completely imprecise from the ancient tradition. Another example is emphasized with the use of henna. These leaves of a henna plant from India, Pakistan, Africa, and the Middle East have influenced creators on TikTok to create fake freckles and take away the cultural background in the first place. Some went as far and felt as if creators were mocking South Asian and Middle Eastern culture.

Misrepresentation of cultural and private practices is getting out of hand. On the surface, cultural practice may not seem as a big deal to those who it does not concern, however it plays a lot in the day-to-day lives of those who have their culture stolen. The act of taking inspiration without crediting the original sources continues to turn practices into trends and lose the real meaning and beauty behind it. Creators within social media are allowed to feature cultural enactments without having the fear of inaccurate information being spread around, affecting those who are involved.

The genuine cultural significance of Cleopatra is lost within its modern whitewashed adaptation.

New *Barbie* Adaptation

Riley Sy ‘26
Staff Writer

With a strikingly cinematic view of a sunset in the desert, the first trailer of *Warner Bros. Pictures*’ upcoming movie opens with the monologue, “Since the beginning of time, since the first little girl ever existed, there have been … dolls.” The nearly apocalyptic scenery is contrasted with the remarkably tall— as well as unrealistically perfect— Barbie doll, the center of attention in this new film, coming to theaters July 21.

After several exchanges between a multitude of production companies and various directors within the past fourteen years, Greta Gerwig was finally given the responsibility and opportunity to lead the filming process of the *Barbie* movie. She co-wrote the script with Noah Baumbach, who is known for working alongside filmmaker Wes Anderson in works such as *Fantastic Mr. Fox*. Gerwig’s reputation as a director is nowhere near poor, with one of her most notable qualities being her willingness to dress according to her sets in order to create a sense of comfort and immersion for her crewmates. Fans pointed out her dazzlingly pink outfits during the shooting process, emphasizing their excitement for just how vibrant this movie will be.

Despite the sentimentality that comes with the plastic dolls and their fashionista-esque outfits, many believe that the film will bring a fresh twist to the typical Barbie image. In contrast to the standard look that many of the dolls maintained throughout the brand’s prime years, the various Barbies featured in both trailers are strongly diverse, ranging from modern and vintage outfit trends, differing ethnicities, and design concepts yet to be seen on the Barbie dolls of today. For instance, Margot Robbie’s nearly doll-like appearance in her role as the leading Barbie presents a polarity to John Cena’s intimidating build as a character that has yet to be disclosed. Additionally, the idea of several iterations of Barbie is being highlighted, with Dua Lipa as a mermaid Barbie and Issa Rae as a president Barbie. Undeniably, the range from political leaders to punk rock stars is bound to create interesting chemistry throughout the plot, as well as excite the audience with the countless possibilities.

The reception of this movie has proven to be quite positive across campus. Sophomore Zhénora Beaudoin, who was initially discussing the film with her classmates, expressed, “When I first moved to America, I really liked Barbie— I watched all of the movies and TV shows, so I’m hoping it’ll be good.” With the heavy social media advertising and both trailers, discussion has been sparked amongst students who hold high expectations for what they predict is going to be the movie of the summer, especially considering the beach-type aesthetics surrounding the film. There is also high hope for hints of childhood nostalgia, due to how integrated Barbie is in many American childhoods.

Several fan-favorite actors and actresses are set to appear, which leads to the increasing anticipation for just how well they will carry the iconic vibe that Barbie holds. With the movie releasing in the peak of summer, many students can look forward into watching the comedy, discovery, and nostalgia that the *Barbie* film will be sure to be jam-packed with.

Marinello’s Lowrider Inventions

Athena Ebuen ‘24
A&E Editor

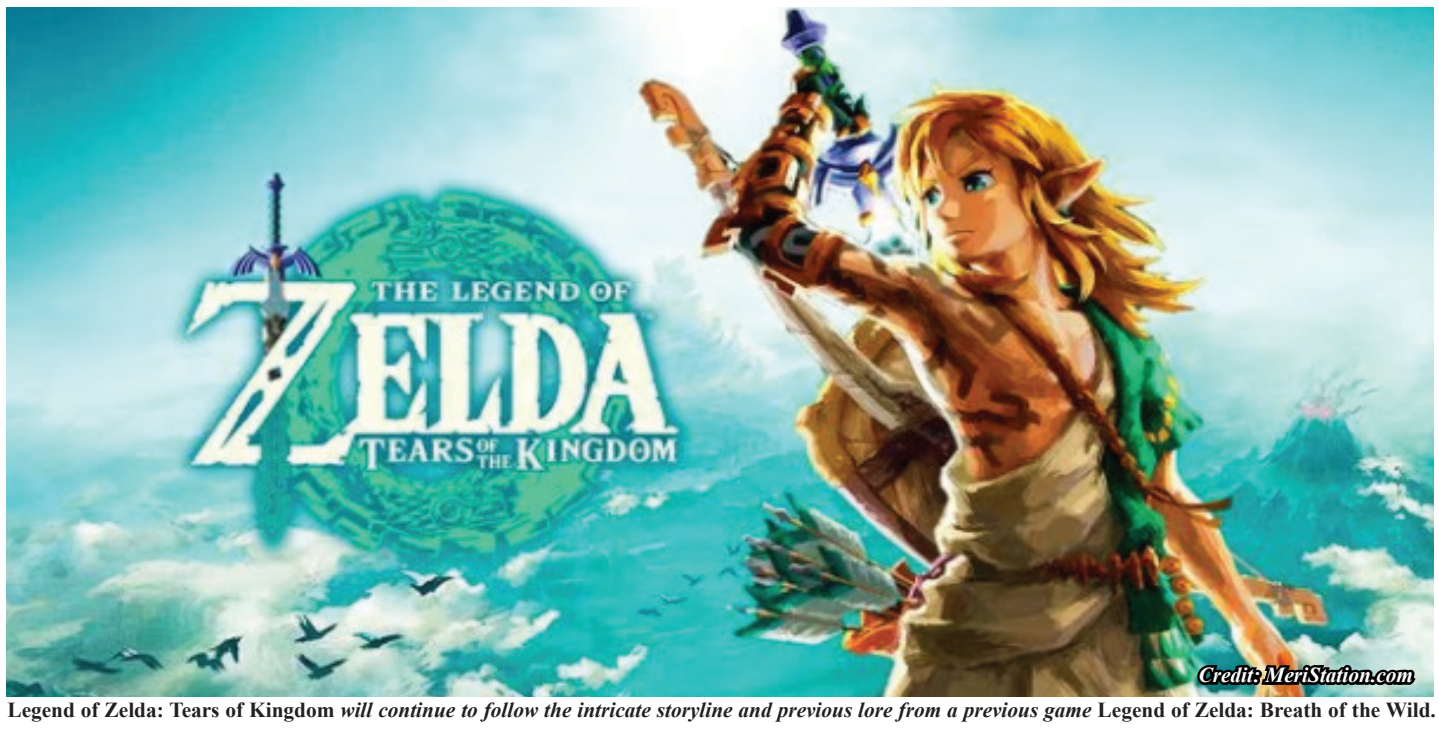
Marinello displays the final product of one of his dedicated passion projects.

Bike riding is a common pastime for many students that enjoy scenery rides, aerobic exercise, or simply riding around their neighborhoods for fun. Although most students purchase their bicycles from stores, many of them, like Freshman Giovanni “Gio” Marinello, build their own bikes from scratch. From the frame to the wheels, Gio is one of many that creates his own bikes, allowing him to control whether the bike is built for speed or comfort.

Early last year, Marinello’s older brother showed him different products on the internet that people made from scratch. Out of all the ones he was shown, customizing and building bikes caught his attention. There are many types of bikes, including mountain, road, and electric bikes. He began building and customizing his own lowrider bikes. These type of bikes are designed to simply cruise through a neighborhood and allows an individual to express their creativity through customization. On his birthday, his older brother purchased him a bike frame as a gift so that Marinello’s ride could match his brother’s 1980 Buick Regal Lowrider. When creating the bike, Marinello claimed to not know exactly what he needed to build one. Creating a bike includes parts like the frame, bike headsets that allow the handles and wheels to steer in sync, goosenecks that connect the bike handles to the frame, and others. Many of these parts were mostly found on eBay and Walmart. Marinello shared his process of how he created his first lowrider bike. He started by deciding the frame and the colors it would have, created a checklist of all the parts he needed, and topped it off with some decorative pieces to make the bike stand out. As easy as it sounds, Marinello recalled difficult obstacles while building his bike. “Installing wheels on the front fort [was] difficult,” he stated. Installing wheels onto the bike is the last step he does, seeing how tedious it is to connect the wheels to the fork arms of the frame. There were other parts of the bike that Marinello had difficulty with on his own, however his older brother was there as his assistant to help finish the job. After the completion of Marinello’s first bike, he shared his brother’s wholesome comment about how Marinello can now ride along with him while he rides his lowrider bike. Building lowrider bikes has become a hobby of Marinello’s as they are “fun to make [and are] stylish.” Building a bike from scratch allows students to design it to their personal needs. “When you customize your own bike, it is special to you. No bike is ever going to look the same when it is being built,” Marinello expressed. This allows plenty of freedom and creativity to personalize a vehicle that feels best for them. Marinello advised students that they should be unique and express it in a way that showcases their aesthetic if they choose to design their own bike. “[When] someone looks at your bike, they’ll say, ‘that’s your signature. That’s you,’” Marinello commented. Creating these personalized bikes from scratch is fun for people that love to get creative with the appearance of a bike, and also for those who are willing to take the time and effort to personalize it. Although manufacturing bikes may not be Marinello’s long-term career, he plans on keeping it in his future either as a hobby or a side business while he determines what he wants to do in the long run.

Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom Excites the Fanbase

Svetlana Hohol ‘25
Editor in Chief



Legend of Zelda: Tears of Kingdom ***will continue to follow the intricate storyline and previous lore from a previous game*** **Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild.**

There has been four years of trailers, sneak peeks, and theories surrounding the initial announcement of the game *Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom* (TOTK), after years of development. The game was officially released on May 12, with it being a sequel to its famous predecessor *Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild* (BOTW). Fans are excited to see how this game will continue to expand the storyline and contribute to the lore of previous games.

The storyline takes place after the defeat of the antagonist “Calamity Ganon” from BOTW, and as Hyrule begins their recovery process from the casualties of Ganon’s reign. A new force of malice begins to terrorize Hyrule once more. The main protagonist of the game (Link) embarks on a journey to save Hyrule from the controlling forces of evil. When it was revealed that the villain of this game will be returning as the evil “Ganondorf,” fans could not help but be filled with excitement and nostalgia. TOTK is filled not only with easter eggs from previous games of the Zelda series, but also with new features and characters that will only enhance the storyline even further. Sophomore Diego Whitmore said, “The storyline is completely different … all the new mechanics bound that lore.” Although there will be significant changes to the storyline, fans are still eager to see what the game will offer as there will be recurring characters, technology, and features that fans cherished from BOTW. With nostalgia and new changes going hand in hand, TOTK will be yet another heartwarming experience for fans.

TOTK is filled with many updates and additions that will give fans yet another enjoyable experience, as the map will be undergoing an extreme makeover and will be expanding tremendously since the previous game. The world of Hyrule will contain new villages and areas for fans to explore and will add to the gameplay experience. Sophomore Isabella Miramontez said, “Keep an open mind playing this game, there is so much to do … and so much to explore.” The new graphics, areas, and secrets the new map will offer will enhance the gameplay significantly and will only continue to impress and leave fans with excitement for new features and secrets.

The plot will continue to advance on the quest of Link and his journey to saving Hyrule from the powerful power of Ganondorf. Although it is too early to tell what will happen along the way, fans have been creating numerous theories on advancements that will be made within the plot. One theory is the return of the spirit of the popular weapon “the master sword,” which Link yields throughout his journeys. The spirit that inhabits the sword goes by the name Fi, who was first introduced in the late *Legend of Zelda Skyward Sword* game back in 2011. Miramontez said, “In BOTW after you complete the trial of the sword … you hear Fi, the same audio she makes in Skyward Sword.” The game offers a variety of possibilities and experiences that fans will get to undergo and leave theorists on the edge of their seats to see the outcome of their speculations.

The *Legend of Zelda* series has been filled with secrets and features for the fans to discover. TOTK’s addition to the famous series will hopefully answer many fans’ questions, concerns, and doubts about its complicated lore. TOTK will be a thrilling game as it utilizes nostalgia and the world of never-ending change to exceed fans’ expectations and fill the hearts of many.

JV Dance Secures a National Title

Lauren Padilla ‘24
Copy Editor

The weekend of April 8, JV Dance made Chaparral Dance history as they earned the title of “National Champions” against competing teams of higher levels in Las Vegas. After obtaining the State Championship victory at Knott’s Berry Farm, JV Dance was invited to showcase their talents among three prominent dance styles: contemporary, hip-hop, and jazz. Of the six categories they competed in, JV Dance took home four first-place titles and two second-place titles.

Lacking experience at the national level, many members of the team were doubtful of their ability to secure the championship. In addition to weekly two-hour practices, for the month prior to Nationals, JV Dance devoted all of their class time to reworking previous show sets for Las Vegas. Rather than stressing to create new sets, focusing on perfecting familiar sets ultimately served them best for this competition. Junior Captain Mariana Velasco expressed, “If I have to be completely honest, I was very scared … but winning, it was so surprising and it definitely made us closer.” The familial bonds that tie the JV Dance team together undoubtedly contributed to their performance in Las Vegas. Throughout this season, and the years before, the team has made it a priority to cultivate a united front. “We are all kind of like a family. Everyone had a role to play, no one is more or less valuable than anyone else, so it was really nice to share this moment with the rest of the team,” Junior Kaila Moore stated.

These positive bonds are a quality that JV Dance intends to spread throughout competition culture. This National Championship reinforced the importance of sportsmanship and camaraderie within the team as they were awarded points for such qualities. Senior Captain Meagan Ulery explained, “The word competition isn’t necessarily everything, it is more so a community. It’s not just being rude to your peers and being rude to the competition, [but] supporting them.” These morals are fundamental to the identity of JV Dance. Dance Coach Mrs. Alyssa Salas ensures that her team does not lose sight of who they are, even if the result is negative. “I always tell my dancers that it’s not about the destination, it’s about the journey … hard work gets you places, and [Nationals was] the perfect example of hard work, dedication, and staying humble [getting] you to the next level,” expressed Coach Salas. Personal growth is of utmost importance to this team, regardless of the outcome. Senior Captain Cassidy Vilamil stressed the importance of “still remaining humble … using both those critiques from the professional judges and using it in … the performances we are gonna use later on.” Utilizing both audio and visuals feedback will serve to enhance the team’s performances moving forward in upcoming competitions.

Achieving the title of “National Champions” for the first time is a testament to the abilities of JV Dance. Commonly underestimated, Moore detailed how Nationals “told us that we were capable of doing it, and even though we are ‘Junior Varsity,’ we are not secondary.” The weeks of hard work and dedication to their craft affirmed their talents and pushed each team member to recognize the importance of their own contributions to every performance.

JV Dance competed with a total of six sets and placed first with four of the sets.

Wave to Earth’s Debut

Riley Sy ‘26
Staff Writer

Ranging from ballad-esque melodies in the winter to upbeat rhythms in the spring, music embodies life and emphasizes the atmosphere of the world one is surrounded by. *Wave to Earth*, an indie-rock band based in South Korea, wishes to center their music around this idea— and in doing so— they have proven to slowly but surely climb the charts. With their new album “0.1 flaws and all” and their first North American tour, the band is close to accomplishing their goal of creating natural music that is universally enjoyed.

Daniel Kim, singer and songwriter of *Wave to Earth* and *The Poles*, initially met his bandmates in middle school through music extracurriculars. In 2019, they debuted with their single titled “light,” which developed into their first EP “wave 0.01.” Since then, they have released various other singles and EPs, with their most recent work being a full album, “0.1 flaws and all.”

Prior to the album, *Wave to Earth* had been gaining popularity through their singles and their most popular album, “summer flows 0.02.” Freshman Audrey Garcia, who discovered the band around August, expressed, “The instrumentals make you feel like you’re floating. Each song is unique and different so it makes you want to hear the next one and be excited for it.” She added that “seasons” was the first song she listened to, and since then, the group has become one of her favorites.

Alongside the release of “0.1 flaws and all,” *Wave to Earth* also announced their first North American tour, with four August dates in Southern California. Many students on social media have expressed their excitement for the event, as it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness the band live, due to the rarity of their performances. The setlist mainly consists of their newest tracks, while also featuring their older iconic songs, such as “seasons,” “light,” and “bonfire.” In addition, they published a self-made documentary titled “0.1 flaws and all_documentary 01” on *YouTube* uncovering the process behind the creation and intention of “0.1 flaws and all.” Kim, who led a majority of the documentary, shared, “The theme that we valued most was capturing our naturalness. For our album … [we incorporated] ambient noise such as opening doors during the recording. From the engineer’s point of view, it may have been a flawed album, but we wanted to break that mold.” The documentary offers various perspectives from each members, and adds depth to their reputation as *Wave to Earth*.

In a world where everything is changing, there comes growth. Kim, Shin Dong Kyu, and John Cha each encapsulated this concept within their music and their journey to success. Kim ended the documentary stating, “Whether it was mixing, mastering, composing, writing lyrics, or arranging, we really put in all our effort and worked really hard without holding anything back.” The mood the group captures in their new album is undeniably phenomenal and students can expect to see more from *Wave to Earth* as they continue to create music for everyone to enjoy.

Drama Delivers a Classical Production with *Anything Goes*

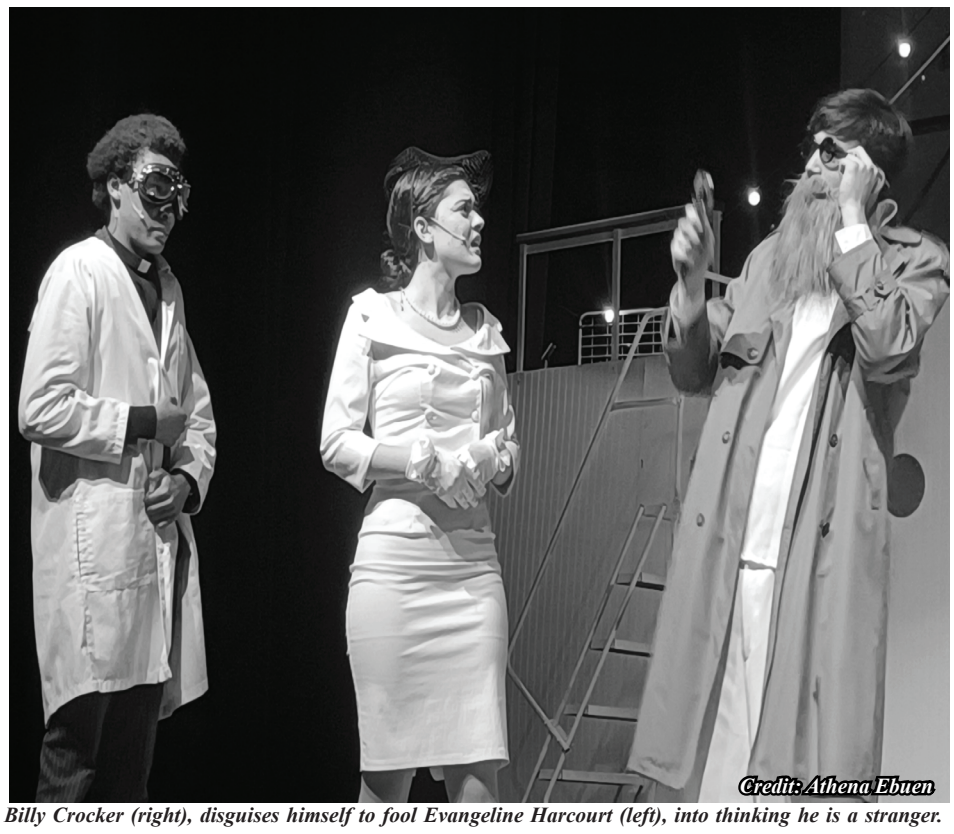
Athena Ebuen ‘24
A&E Editor

Anything Goes was originally a book written by Guy Bolton and P. G. Wodehouse. It was later revised by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse, then turned into a musical, composed by Cole Porter. Members of Chaparral Actors Troupe (CAT) delivered yet another enjoyable production that occurred on April 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29 at 2PM and 7PM. From singing to tap dancing, audience members were entertained by many of the events as they join Billy Crocker on his journey to hopefully be able to one day marry heiress Hope Harcourt.

Taking place on the luxurious SS American ocean liner bound for London, a stowaway businessman named Billy Crocker, portrayed by Junior Liam Davis, finds himself in love with a débutante named Hope Harcourt, depicted by Junior Vivienne Lacko. After hearing the terrible news that Harcourt was engaged to a British nobleman named Lord Evelyn Oakleigh, acted by Senior Adam Gromko, Crocker, along with Public Enemy Number “13” named Moonface Martin, portrayed by Junior Elijah Jackson, and nightclub singer Reno Sweeney, acted by Senior Sofia Santos, joins him on a scheme to break up the engagement. Through the course of the story, Crocker and Martin faced numerous challenges, including avoiding being caught on the ship without a ticket, as well as being seen by their boss on a ship they knew they were not supposed to be on. These actors also sang many songs as well, including “I Get a Kick Out of You,” “You’re the Top,” “Anything Goes,” “Public Enemy Number One/Let’s Step Out,” “It’s De-Lovely,” and many more.

These characters had their own individual crises, accurately portraying the year of 1934 amidst the Great Depression. For instance, Mrs. Evangeline Harcourt, portrayed by Junior Mia Merida, was one of those upper-class mothers that only cared about money and social status. Considering the adverse effects that this event had on the citizens, she attempted to set up a marriage for her daughter with a wealthy Englishman, who would be able to provide for them in the future. In addition, each of the characters had their own distinct personalities, which added depth and complexity to the storyline. This was not a problem for the actors, since each of them were able to find a character in the drama that practically matched their existing personalities. Davis shared his thoughts about his character, Billy Crocker. “[He’s] very energetic, constantly moving, constantly doing something, [and always] had an idea what he wanted to do,” he explained, “There was always something he had to do next. [He was] a very fun character to move with.” Similar to his character, Davis is an energetic, physical individual himself. The fact that his personality closely matched the character eased the difficulty of playing Crocker. In terms of acting, being able to sing was another challenge. Davis recalled that during his first week of practice, he attempted to sing with a higher pitch, but realized it was not suitable for his voice. He tried to lower his pitch and eventually sang at a level he felt comfortable at. After attending so many practice sessions and rehearsals, the cast were able to pull off another successful show. However, all of this would not have been possible if it were not for the behind-the-scenes crew and actors’ dedication. “[We’re] just trying to make people as happy as possible and entertained,” Davis expressed. At the end of the night’s performance, actors, family, and friends recalled many funny moments and experiences, showing their enjoyment for the musical.

Putting together these shows is not an easy task. The stress CAT and Mr. Christopher Irvin underwent as they practiced so many songs and lines, planned costumes and props, and others are well worth it because of their dedication and motivation to bring the musical to life. Despite the bittersweet conclusion of the final drama of the year, CAT aims to leave the audience with a lasting impression of their enjoyable performance.



Billy Crocker (right), disguises himself to fool Evangeline Harcourt (left), into thinking he is a stranger.

Billy Crocker is taken away for being a stowaway.

2022-23 ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Dallin Grey '24
Sports Editor

Athletes were chosen by the Citrus Belt Area Athletic Directors Association

Bella Rittenberg: Girls Volleyball

Over the past four years, Senior Bella Rittenberg has been an important part of the Varsity Girls Volleyball team. Clocking in over 1,000 kills and 1,500 digs throughout her high school career, the outside hitter was at the top of many college scouts' lists before she committed to the University of Pennsylvania, an Ivy League school. Her unmatched talent, impressive academic record, and exhibition of the elements of P.R.I.D.E. also caught the attention of the Citrus Belt Area Athletic Directors Association (CBAADA), who, on May 3, announced Rittenberg as the Female Athlete of the Year for Chaparral.

Throughout her career, both on the school's team and on club teams, Rittenberg has given her best effort. "These past four years: Bella has provided enormous value to our volleyball program," Varsity Girls Volleyball Head Coach Ms. Gale Johnson said. "But she's more than her physical and athletic abilities; Bella values her teammates and has [an] amazing work ethic." Her genuine love for the sport and for her teammates shines through in every practice and game. This award has similar meaning to Rittenberg; she stated, "It just means, like, all my hard work has paid off … it means a lot to get recognized for my abilities." Rittenberg has had numerous coaches from school and club volleyball teams that have made a large impact on her life, yet she stated that her family has definitely been her driving influence and attributes the majority of her success to them. "It costs a lot of money to do what I do and for so long and all the skills camps [my family has] allowed me to go to, driving me to far places," she explained. Rittenberg's passion has taken her across the country, to Kansas City, Florida, Illinois, and more. "Without them, I don't think I'd be where I am today." Her family has even had a large impact on the rest of the coaches and team, with their jubilant dancing in the stands during each and every volleyball game.

Senior Bella Rittenberg delivered over 1,000 kills to her opponents throughout her high school career.

Rittenberg's talent and aspirations to become a nurse led to her commit to the University of Pennsylvania.

Alongside this award, Rittenberg received 1st Team All-League Honors in 2021 and 2022, has been named All-State, All-Region, and All-League; the Most Valuable Player of the Dave Mohs and Inland Empire Tournaments, is in the top 150 players in the country, and received countless awards from her time playing for Coast Volleyball Club. "I think Bella being named Athlete of the Year is the perfect end to her amazing high school career," Coach Johnson said. While playing volleyball for the University of Pennsylvania, Rittenberg looks to help and care for others through her college route as she majors in nursing, with hopes to become an anesthetis.

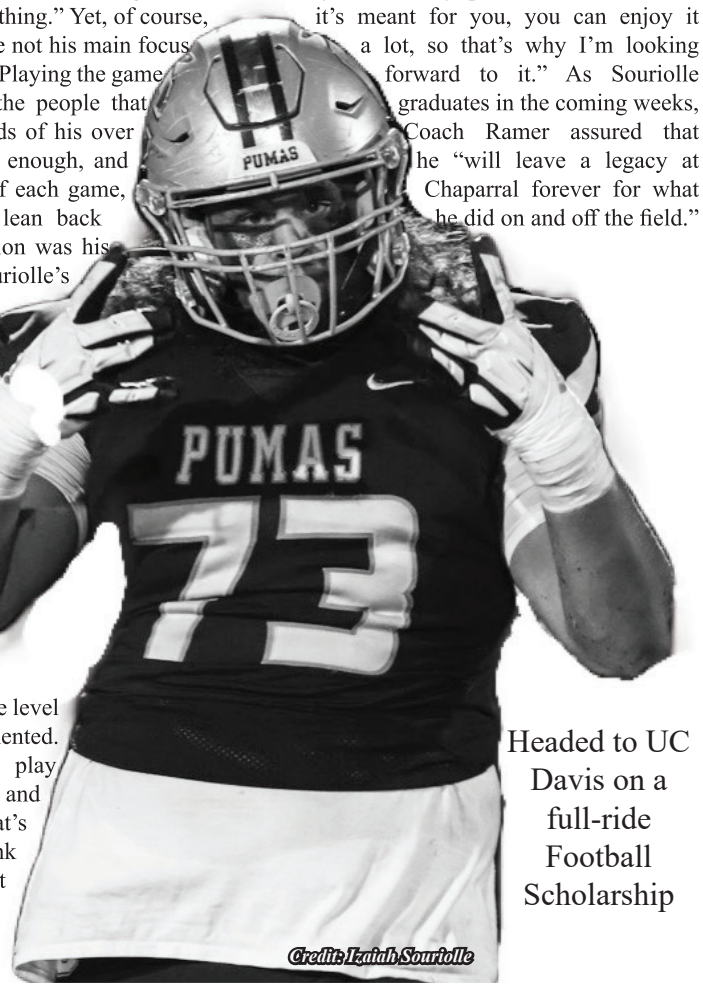
Izaiah Souriolle: Football

Souriolle plans to return to Chaparral to give back.

As a three-year starter for the Varsity Football team and two-year captain, offensive tackle Senior Izaiah Souriolle has been a driving force both on and off the field. Souriolle has received countless honors throughout his career, including All-Southwestern League, All-Big West, All-Riverside County, All-Area, All-California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), and even All-State as an underclassmen. Souriolle's efforts and work have culminated in perhaps the most prestigious award of his football career, an exemplary honor given to him by the Citrus Belt Area Athletic Directors Association (CBAADA); Male Athlete of the Year for Chaparral.

This honor came with no surprise to Varsity Football Head Coach Mr. Andrew Ramer after he had seen Souriolle fight through injuries, a rough season during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the physical, mental, and emotional battle that is football itself. "Izaiah Souriolle was a tremendous student athlete for [four] years at Chaparral," Coach Ramer stated. "His outlook and approach through his high school journey was phenomenal. … Izaiah was dominant in the trenches playing [offensive] line for us but was just as impressive with his leadership skills in the weight room, team meetings, team bonding activities and volunteering for the Spirit Games." Souriolle's ability to keep his teammates motivated throughout practices and games contributed greatly to the CBAADA's decision. His training in football began early on in his life with his father and older brother, but since he joined the school's football team, Coach Ramer has had a profound impact on him. Souriolle took everything that Coach Ramer gave him and used it to improve himself.

Receiving this award was very meaningful to Souriolle. "It definitely means a lot," he explained. "I've put my whole life into … a game and to be recognized at such a high level is definitely a really cool thing." Yet, of course, praise and accolades were not his main focus throughout every season. Playing the game that he loves and with the people that have become close friends of his over the years was rewarding enough, and no matter the outcome of each game, Souriolle could always lean back on the fact that his passion was his fuel for all that he did.Souriolle's work earned him a full-ride scholarship to the University of California, Davis, a valuable asset that only a select few outstanding athletes and students will receive. "I think the things that went into making that decision was definitely the level of education," he commented. "Not many people can play sports at a high level and also get an education that's just as good, so I think that had a large impact on my decision-making." A teaching degree is in the details of Souriolle's college experience and he hopes to return to Chaparral as a football coach and special needs teacher. "Dealing with special needs kids, it's definitely one of my passions," he said. "If it's meant for you, you can enjoy it a lot, so that's why I'm looking forward to it." As Souriolle graduates in the coming weeks, Coach Ramer assured that he "will leave a legacy at Chaparral forever for what he did on and off the field."



Headed to UC Davis on a full-ride Football Scholarship

Boys Swim: Diving into Success

Jackson Gamero ‘24
Staff Writer

In a year marked with winning, the Varsity Boys Swim team has finished their season. Led by Head Coach Mr. Josh Stone, the team experienced more success than in previous years and was able to send multiple swimmers to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs, and finished third in league. Highlighted by swimmers including Junior David Toschak and Junior Jack Hougland, the team ultimately had an enjoyable season.

Throughout the season, the swimmers constantly put in work to improve their skills and achieve better results in the pool. Coach Stone explained, “All we can ask for is consistency with their work ethic, and by the end of the season, most of the swimmers were swimming their personal best times.” However, this success did not come without hard work. The team practiced every day after school from 3:30-6:00PM, working on their durability and overall stamina, as well as their sprint sets. The hard work culminated in a CIF appearance, which would not have been possible without the work put in by Coach Stone. According to Hougland, “Coach [S]tone helped the team to succeed over the year by getting us in shape in order for us to perform at the level we needed to make [CIF] and succeed in league.” Ultimately, without the consistent work contributed by both Coach Stone and the athletes, the team would not have been as succesful as they were..

The boys also achieved a level of team chemistry that allowed them to work together more fluently. The main way that this happened was by competing with each other. These competitions helped to boost the morale on the team, which can improve the performance of the team overall. Apart from competing against each other, competing together also helped to build the team chemistry.

Overall, the team was not only able to work together, strengthening their team bonds, but also work individually to improve thier personal skill levels to become the best swimmers that they could be. However, without the work of Coach Stone, this success would not have been possible, ultimately leading to a team effort that ended in a CIF appearance.

Senior Benjamin Sullivian-Douglass, along with his team, puts in hard work, perseverance, and dedication into his events.

MTB Competes for Victory

Julian Stanfield ‘24
Staff Writer

Fast-paced, intense, and completely terrifying at times, mountain biking is a sport that requires riders to maintain the utmost confidence and bravery while also controlling the bike in dangerous spots. Due to the appeal of the sport and the sense of adventure it invokes, the Mountain Biking Club was founded by Senior Walker Maze three years ago and continues to attract the attention of the brave.

The Mountain Biking Club occurs on-campus club where students learn more about bikes and also consists of a separate team outside of school called the Chaparral Mountain Biking Team (Chaparral MTB), that participates in competitions against other schools in the area. The team includes most of the on-campus members as well as some middle school students. Chaparral MTB races in six events every year and they train using three different types of workouts on Mondays and Wednesdays. As explained by Mountain Biking Club President and Junior Nathan Feduniw, “We have one [workout] that’s kinda like running and stuff where we do sprint training and then we have hill repeats, which builds up your muscles, and … we just got distance rides to build up your endurance and vascularity.” The reason for the separation of the on-campus club and team, which posed a challenge for the club’s officers, is that the school club cannot cover certain material, like hands on learning, due to safety concerns.

Regardless of the possible harmful constraints imposed, the club still offers members the chance to explore the outside world around them while simultaneously enjoying their sport. Feduniw stated, “The appeal [of mountain biking is being able to] experience the outdoors and we live in such a digital age [that] it’s nice to get a break and just ride a bike.” Feduniw further explained that biking can help “clear your mind after a busy school day” and that the scenery that goes along the sport is an added benefit as well. The sport also aids in improving ones’s physical health and mental durability. According to Feduniw, the team can be a place for those who desire a family and that the sport itself can also act as an escape for some or a hobby for others, but “no matter what, you’ll be having fun.” Chaparral MTB has also earned many great accomplishments and have made themselves known in local mountain biking races. The high school bikers of the team were able to place several times throughout this year, including but not limited to: Ben Wilson placing eighth in the Socal Championship race in Junior Varsity 1 and Feduniw winning the Lake Cachuma race. Riders from the middle schools also finished among the top five multiple times in the series. Due to Chaparral MTB gaining recognition by the school, Feduniw hopes that the club and the team’s riders become more well-known on campus.

One of the club’s main priorities is to expand the number of members it has and showcase the enjoyment students can gain from mountain biking. They are also trying to recruit more female students to the team since the club has yet to gain any. With their main goal of making its members better bikers in mind, the club plans to continue helping its members in the future pursue the next level of mountain biking.

Varisty Girls Lacrosse Shoots Their Way to Strong CIF Finish

Jairus Ramos ‘23
Video Manager

Led by Head Coach Mr. Pat Mawhinney and Assistant Coach Mr. Noel Trout, the Varsity Girls Lacrosse team surged through the Southwestern League rankings, finishing third—resulting in them qualifying for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs for three straight seasons. The team’s opening matches in both non-league and league ended in their favor, winning against Orange Lutheran High School (11-2) and Temecula Valley High School (15-4).

The girls kept their composure throughout the regular league season and maintained long win streaks to keep playoff hopes alive. Coach Mawhinney and Coach Trout ensured that the players stayed in top form by using time in practice sessions during the off-season to improve execution of different variables of the game, such as attacking and defending. The team ended up playing scrimmages against opponents who compete outside of the Southwestern League to gain valuable experience by encountering a variety of play styles.

The team pulled off a strong start to this year’s CIF run and made it past the round of 8, an improvement from last year. They defeated Dana Hills High School 14-2 in the round of 16, and routed Lutheran Orange High School 15-5 following that victory, sending them to play against Huntington Beach High School in the semifinals. The team’s CIF run came to an end after being edged by Huntington Beach, with a final score of 9-8. They finished with a final cumulative record of fourteen wins and six losses. Despite the disappointing end to their season, Coach Trout, along with the rest of the team staff and players, have their heads up knowing they made great strides this past year and will continue to fight for seasons to come. “We are certainly capable of winning a championship,” Coach Trout commented, “the girls put in some seriously hard work this year.”

Out of all the factors, their chemistry has been the biggest improvement. Junior Holly Handler reflected on how this year’s results showed how close they grew together, and become more cohesive on the field. “Our chemistry really made a huge impact,” said Handler, “we have so much trust in each other.” Their family mentality allowed them to build chemistry even further, and create lasting memories. Junior Camryn Brown noted the relationships among the players as a vital attribution to the team’s success. Brown elaborated, “This year, more than ever, we really focused on team chemisty and the bond that the team had with each other was definitely unbeatable and one of the main reasons that we got as far as we did [in the CIF games].” Team co-captain and Senior Kristiana Dinsenbacher looked back upon the overall progress the staff and players made together. “It’s definitely a really big deal that we made it far into the playoffs,” she remarked. “We can come out and dominate the field.” Though they faced numerous obstacles throughout their season, the Varsity Girls Lacrosse team displayed the necessary perseverance and motivation to dominate much of their competition throughout their league season and CIF playoffs.

Junior Holly Handler attributes the team’s success to their combined work ethic.

The hard work and dedication during practices helped the team to suceed this season,

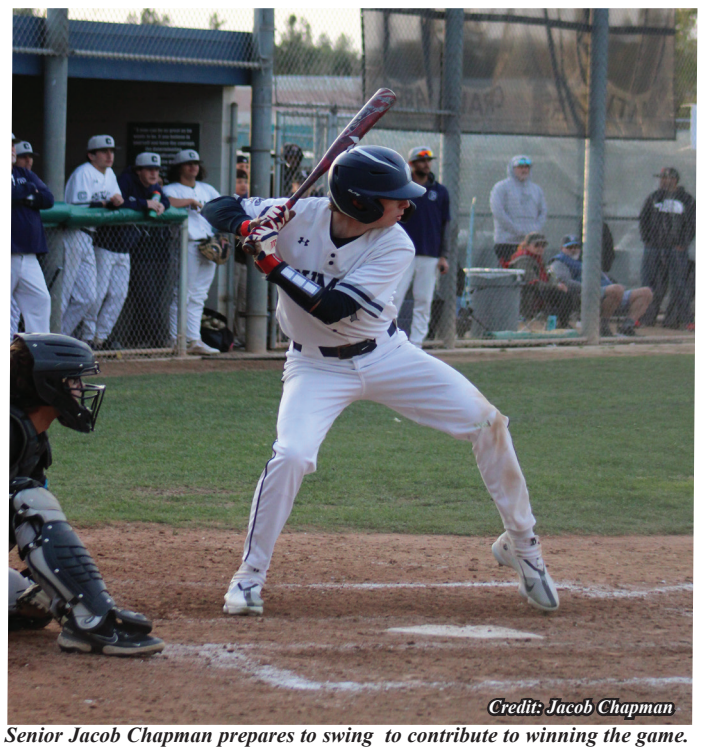
Varsity Baseball Shines Like Diamonds on the Field for CIF

Julian Gamero ‘24
Staff Writer

Finishing fourth in the Southwestern League with a record of 6-9 and an overall season record of 15-12, the Varsity Boys Baseball team made it to the quarterfinals in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs, going above and beyond what past decades of teams were able to accomplish. “[T]he baseball program hasn’t won anything since 2002. So we wanted to be the team [to] break the twenty-one year drought,” Junior Mikey Ong explained when talking about their motivation.

In the first half of the season, the team was doing extremely well with an overall record of 10-1, which put them among the top five teams in the state. However, the team started to face issues as the season progressed when key players became injured. This heavily affected their performance, but the players and coaches still believed that they had a chance at making it to the playoffs. Eventually, the team achieved a huge win in their game against Great Oak High School, leading them to become viable to play in CIF.

To prepare for league season, the team primarily focused on practicing their bunting, or situational hitting and base running, with an emphasis on having the team at bats. They also consistently worked on learning the fundamentals of baseball, since, as Head Coach Chriss Dress stated, “It’s the small details that loom large in games.” The team was also concerned about their offensive output and runs but fortunately, the players this year had refined their skills in almost every offensive category. After qualifying for CIF, they continued to train hard in their practices with the understanding that only one game is ever guaranteed to them throughout the playoffs, pushing them to do their best in each match.


Credit: Jacob Chapman

Senior Jacob Chapman prepares to swing to contribute to winning the game.

The Varsity team’s success in this season lied in a number of factors, including their thorough understanding of the positions and the competitiveness within players. “Hitting is definitely our strong side as a team,” Ong added.

In addition to the team’s incredible success, this season also stood out in the amount of games that had to be rescheduled. “This season has been unlike any other with all of the rain that we had, [but] I wouldn’t want it any other way,” Coach Dress said. “What we went through made us what we are today. We have had our ups and downs like any team, but these guys have stuck together better than any previous team we’ve put together.” The loss in playing time due to weather allowed for the team to spend more time practicing and scrimmaging against each other as well as evaluate their talent.

Credit: The Press Enterprise

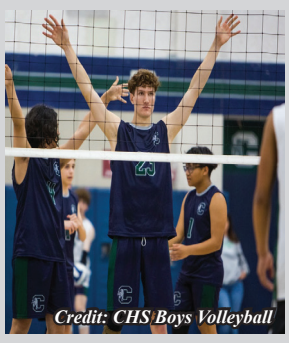
Junior Braylon Doughty winds up to deliver strike three during a 6-2 victory over Great Oak High School.

Compared to last year, the players and coaches have improved their relationships and chemistry with one another. Coach Dress stated, “Each year that I’ve been here, the chemistry gets better. Last [year] really changed the culture to what the coaching staff wants from a [team]. This year’s group surpassed that and have been a tighter group by far.” Junior Jonas Ballesteros further explained, “Most of us have played together since middle school and [the chemistry] builds up by [spending time with each other] in and out of school.” In the end, this year’s varsity team were able to accomplish many great and amazing things but regardless of their triumphs and losses, they are still training hard for next year to once again show that they are the best that Chaparral High School has to offer.

Sports Briefs

Credit: Valley News

Boys Golf: Varsity Boys Golf captain Senior Chayce Frye competed in the CIF-Southern Section Individual Finals on May 18 in Oxnard, California. During the league season, Frye placed second overall.


Credit: CHS Boys Volleyball

Boys Volleyball: Senior Bryce Teachout was named the Most Valuable Player for the Varsity Boys Volleyball team. Teachout was on the Varsity Boys Volleyball team for three years and has been a dominant player throughout the season.

Credit: Val Vargas

Girls Track & Field: For the Varsity Girls Track and Field season, Senior Morgan Smith received the title of the Most Valuable Player on the team. Smith has been committed to competitive running since her freshman year, and consistently finished at the top of the leaderboard.

Credit: PrepCalTrack

Boys Track & Field: On April 26 at the SWL Finals, Senior Leland Godfrey broke his shot put record with a throw of 55 ft. and 8 ¾ in. and Senior David Magbagbeola broke the 400 meter record with a time of 48.85 seconds, qualifying for the CIF-SS Division 1 Prelims and State.

Fox Duo: Successful Siblings

Navin Goplan ‘24
Copy Editor

Led by Coach Mr. Simon Bernaldo and Coach Mr. Pat Mawhiney of the Varsity Boys and Girls Lacrosse teams, respectively, both teams have shown exceptional performances in their leagues. In a sport that requires high endurance and technique, brother and sister duo Senior Lucas Fox and Sophomore Malia Fox stand out as integral parts of the Varsity Boys and Girls Lacrosse teams.

Lucas Fox has played lacrosse for the past four years, starting in the months leading up to his freshman year of high school. He cited his experiences with the sport of hockey as an inspiration for journeying onto the lacrosse field. “I figured that the stick-and-ball aspect of [hockey] would translate well,” he recalled. Currently, he plays ‘attack’ on the team, a position he particularly enjoys for its “emphasis on offense and quick movements,” he stated. Developing these skills in his previous hockey ventures allowed him to quickly advance to the varsity level in his sophomore year.

Malia Fox has also been playing lacrosse since the beginning of her freshman year. Similar to her brother, her previous hockey experiences inspired her to continue the same form of sport into high school lacrosse. Currently, Malia plays defense on the team. “I really enjoy being able to shut teams down and cause turnovers,” she stated. “I’m able to contribute to my team without having to score.” Malia particularly appreciates the teamwork aspect of the lacrosse team. “I really enjoy the team bonding before and after games for the high school season,” she recalled. “[With regard to] Club Season … I get to travel, hang out with my teammates, and play games all day.”

The different playing styles have allowed for the siblings to learn about different aspects of the sport through each other’s plays. Lucas explained, “Watching her play has allowed me to understand the less physical side of the game and has helped with overall zoning and tactics.” Similarly, Malia learns from Lucas’ more experienced skills to improve her own play. “He has more experience playing this sport, so I’m able to talk to him about both of our games, and I enjoy learning from him … and hearing his input,” she explained.

Lucas plans to play at his committed college, the University of California, Santa Barbara, and hopes to help coach the next generation of lacrosse players. Malia also aspires to play in college—as a sophomore, she is currently seeking more exposure to college coaches.

Credit: Andrew Fox

The Fox Siblings have found a stronger connection.

STAND OUT 23NIORS

Information collected by Dallin Grey & Katerine Ivey

Kai Vu

"Kai is an amazing writer with a strong proclivity for literary analysis that is both insightful and enlightening.
-Mr. Larry Wells"

Joseph Latham

"Joseph it has been a pleasure. I am confident you will be a huge success in life!"
-Mr. Aaron Slojkowski

Natalie Guevara

"Natalie is an exceptional artist, student, and person! She goes above and beyond to create beautiful works of art! Way to go, Natalie!!"
-Mrs. Grace Donnelly

Kylie Farnham

"Kylie is an outstanding performer. She shines on stage everytime she takes the stage. Congratulations on your upcoming graduation. You will be missed."
- Mr. Rob Hodo

Alexxis Deinlein

"Alexxis, you have done an amazing job throughout your time at Chaparral High School. The tutors and I are all very proud of you and your accomplishments."
-Mr. Joe Ruzzamenti

Anjhela Coloma

"Anjhela is an amazing young woman and student. She is an extraordinary writer and thinker. She is one of the kindest, most compassionate young people I know."
-Mrs. Trout

Kylie Hutchins

"You have done an excellent job in class. You made your Economics class better through your active participation."
-Mr. Robbie Robinson

Michael Grembowiec

"Keep on being you, keep on asking questions, and keep on being the positive force that inspires others."
-Mrs. Teresa Childs

Jacob Snoke

"Jacob- You have been an undeniable asset to our school and deserve to be recognized. Your strengths have been depended upon for every single ASB event and we appreciate you."
-Mrs. Jen Deleon

Cassidy Villamil

"This student without a doubt will leave an imprint on our dance program by how much she has shown determination and excellence while being a leader in JV dance."
-Mrs. Alyssa Salas

Andy Wang

"Andy is a standout senior! He's an individual determined to succeed through hard work, persevering against challenges, all while helping to maintain a sense of belonging for all Pumas as a valuable member of Peer Leaders."
-Mrs. Alva Ruiz

Orion Correll

"He has been the founding member and president of my Down the Hall Club for the last two years [and he] has been very helpful and very passionate about it and I appreciate him."
-Dr. July Hill-Wilkinson

Jakob Olson

"He's a great student and helps other people in the class; just a good person overall."
-Mrs. Karen Walker

Sofia Santos

"I choose Sofia not only for, just like, the quality of work and dedication she has given the drama department in the last four years, but also doing so with maintaining an exceptional academic history at this school as well."
-Mr. Chris Irvin

Amaya Johnson

"Amaya has been a joy to have in my Digital Media Arts class all year. Not only does she do great work, but she is an amazing and kind human being. I'm lucky to know her."
-Mr. David Carlson

Devyne Pearson

"The student is always positive. It doesn't matter the work load, it doesn't matter what's going on, he's just really got a good attitude."
-Mrs. Curprice Luckert