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THE PLATINUM PRESS REVIEW

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Winter Wonderland Gives to Veterans in Need



Credit: Kristy Baron



Credit: Louise Kim

Associated Study Body and California Scholarship Federation wrapped over 1,000 gifts

Many individuals who served in the military left with toys, blankets, prizes, and more

By Louise Kim '19
Editor-in-Chief

Friday, December 7 marked the eighth annual Winter Wonderland Military & Veteran Holiday Festival. The gymnasium and quad on campus became a winter wonderland where the Veterans Supplemental Support Network (VSSN) and The Winfield Group came to put together this free event for military and

veteran families. Parents and children spent the night enjoying the festive atmosphere while students from the Associated Student Body (ASB) and the Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NJROTC) helped out with the event by ensuring everything would run smoothly. The Winter Wonderland Military Holiday Festival was abundant with activities people of all ages could get involved in. Children eagerly got in line with their parents for a picture with Santa

Claus or played with arts and crafts while adults enjoyed themselves at the free food and dessert bars. In addition, employment and community resources were available for individuals who needed them. Outside in the quad, jumpers spanned the area, and throughout the night veteran and military families collected presents and won give-a-ways. Performers also came to entertain guests as they dined and mingled with others. The various live performances ranged from a soloist dancer to a children's

choir and even members of The Rock Church coming to sing some Christmas tunes. The event brought families together for a festive celebration that warmed the hearts of many. Military and veteran families that are in need received a hot dinner along with items like toys and blankets in appreciation for the service they are giving or have given to the country. "We participated because our school feels it's good to give back, and Mrs. Baron gave us the opportunity to showcase our

skills with event planning," said Junior Vincenzo Montesano, one of the ASB students who helped lead the event. To further support the Winter Wonderland Military and Veteran Holiday Festival, the school offered community service hours to students who donated brand new toys from November 12 to December 4. To encourage students to donate, a Movie Night was said to be awarded for the class who brings the most items. Students on campus collectively donated over

one thousand toys, stuffed animals, and blankets. With their box in the office filled to the brim with toys, the freshman class ended up winning the Movie Night. Both the Winter Wonderland Military & Veteran Holiday Festival and the VSSN toy drive were a success. The festive event celebrated military and veteran families, and the toy drive became a way for students to both earn community service hours and give back to their community.

Students Bring Christmas to the Less Fortunate



Credit: Christina Gandy

Senior Dolores Aguilus smiles as a child at the Valley Restart Center, in Hemet, excitedly opens his presents

By Elizabeth Clavin '20
Staff Writer

Operation Holiday Cheer is an annual event that takes place during the second week of December to help those in need and provide both students and families with a unique holiday experience. This year, Operation Holiday Cheer took place at the Valley Restart Center in Hemet on December 11, 2018. For the past fourteen years at Chaparral, Mr. Ryan Leonhardi has given his students and alumni the opportunity to join him in giving the act of kindness, gifts, and love to the less fortunate at the Hemet Valley Restart Center. Forty-six students and alumni attended this year's event, while another forty-eight participated

in the wrap party. The origin dates back to when Leonhardi was in college when he wanted to give to the less fortunate during the holiday season. Because of the gratification he gained from helping those in need, he continued the tradition when he became a teacher in 1995 and created Operation Holiday Cheer. The idea behind this project is to bring holiday cheer, song, laughter and give personalized gifts to people who do not have the means to provide gifts for their children or loved ones. Students and alumni purchased gifts for sixty-two children and adults. Unlike gift drop offs, this was a more personalized experience where everyone at the shelter received four to five gifts on their wishlist. At the event, the families

opened their gifts, listened to Chaparral's own The Oddity perform live Christmas music,

sang carols, played games, interacted with the kids and shared many laughs and dance moves. Students who participated in this project speak of how special this one is and not an experience they have had before. Giving to the less fortunate provides insight into others' lives, and gives attendees a feeling of gratitude. Junior Jillian Green, who has gone the past two years, stated, "I think it's opened my eyes to the realization that Christmas is not always about receiving gifts, it is very much about giving gifts and giving people the joy that they deserve. It has also really helped me realize the importance of participating in charities." This event provides both the students and the families with memories they will cherish forever.

This year's outing was very successful and much love, kindness and tears were shed by students and families. The joy and the gratitude from the residents at the shelter were overwhelming. Lucy Bennett, a woman living at the shelter, stated, "My favorite part about

this event is how you guys [students and alumni] take the time to come and bring us the gifts, along with spending time playing with the kids it gives us all a wonderful Christmas experience." This project positively affects a great number of lives, and can be life-changing. For instance, Senior Jasmine Hernandez stated, "I have never seen any other school do something like this. Our students are willing to put themselves out there and go to the Valley Restart Center and actually show kindness and love, along with helping others in need."

Operation Holiday Cheer has changed the lives of participants and those who have benefited from the cause. The gift of giving during the holiday season, when most students only think about what they will be getting, helps students come to the realization of how fortunate they really are and the benefits of helping others in your community. This event benefited everyone involved and will be a memory that all who participated will remember for a very long time.



Credit: Elizabeth Clavin

Junior Jillian Green and Senior Luka D'Abreu with children and their gifts, at the Valley Restart Center

Spreading Cheer One Box at a Time

By Joyce Kim '22
Copy Editor

With the holiday season being just around the corner, students and staff had the opportunity to help children in need of general and unused items through Operation Christmas Child (OCC). OCC is a project that was created by Samaritan's Purse, which is a ministry that works with areas all around the world that are dealing with crisis. This ministry has partnered with several groups internationally to help kids around the world who are facing problems such as poverty, famine, wars, natural disasters, and diseases. Since 1993, this organization has provided shoe boxes that are packed full of specific items which are then sent out to children in other countries who would greatly benefit from it, and the school has participated to help increase the number of boxes being sent out.

Organized by the Associated Student Body (ASB), students got together to spread the holiday cheer. Through OCC, students were able to receive an hour of community service for every five donations they gave. More importantly, they were able to gift a child with items that they have trouble gaining access to. Freshman Payton Gapen, Co-Leader of OCC, explained, "It's [OCC] basically just to help kids around the world, like needy children, and they don't have a lot and we do." Gapen has also gotten involved with OCC before she went to high school because she has taken part in it within her community, as had her mother. "I [would] encourage people to join because it's just, like, a really good thing to do," Gapen said, "[and it shows to] not just think about ourselves and our life." With the sole purpose of lending a helping hand to those who need one, ASB was pleased with the good outcome.

This year, OCC had its start date for dropping off donations on October 8, and it



Credit: Charlene Gapen
Sophomore Katie Rutherford and Freshman Payton Gapen led Operation Christmas Child

ended on November 4, as well as packaging that took place on November 5. Over this month-long period of accumulating contributions from staff and students, ASB suggested certain donations that would be acceptable to pack and found different ways to advertise this project to students on campus. These suggestions included any new toys, personal care items, and school supplies while some prohibited items were liquids, foods, toothpaste, war-related items, and delicacies, due to custom regulations. With the help of students from ASB, items were able to be neatly packaged by hand. Last year, Sophomore Katie Rutherford, also a Co-Leader of OCC, worked in the packing party along with other volunteers from ASB. "We [volunteers from ASB] take the items that we collected and we just basically pack the shoe boxes by putting in some soap, some toys, and different items like that," stated Rutherford. After packaging all the boxes, they were shipped internationally to Africa and these boxes

were then distributed to the children in need. This year, the main countries the shoe boxes were sent to were the Philippines and Peru.

For the ASB students, they were able to gain knowledge and skills from being involved in OCC. "I just learned that, I mean, there's just a lot of benefits from being able to get this experience [being a participant in OCC] and just being able to give to needy kids," said Rutherford. Furthermore, she explained how OCC is a great way to be educated on how people in other countries go through different hardships in their daily lives. With the help of last year's leaders, they were able to get their message across: make a donation to come to the aid of the less fortunate.

With a good turnout and the participation of students and staff, ASB wishes for the donation of a shoebox to be of good use to a child's life. As once stated by the President of Samaritan's Purse Franklin Graham, "It's incredible to see the difference a simple shoebox gift can make in the life of a child."

Escape Room Puzzles

By Emily Pham '21
Distribution Manager

There are a variety of activities that students partake in to prepare for upcoming tests. Mrs. Teresa Childs and Mrs. Susan Myers created a team building activity as a way to help students review for their tests and quizzes. The activity was an interactive escape room where students had to work together in order to solve the puzzles and riddles. In the activity, there were a total of five challenges that cover the main concepts of each unit of the curriculum. This activity continues to be used by teachers to prepare one for their tests and finals.

Every escape room consists of different themes and challenges for the students to participate in. Students were separated into groups of four and given a task card and other materials that are needed to complete the challenge. Each task card had a total of five levels with challenges such as jigsaw puzzles, equations, and matching.

Each group was given a few Help Cards which allowed them to receive a clue from the teacher. There were several boxes with locks spread around

the room. Students had to complete the challenges in order to receive the code to unlock the box. Childs recently constructed an escape room for her students in her Biology and Advanced Placement Environmental class to review for their midterms and the theme was based on the unit regarding the structures of the cell. Childs explained, "The class' mission was to shrink and explore the cell by using a special laser beam. . . However, everyone must be located outside of the cell in order to grow back to their normal size. In order to grow back to their [students'] normal size, they must use their skills and knowledge of cellular structures to escape the cell." Once students have completed all required challenges, they must run to one of the boxes with a lock on it before the other teams get to it first. Myers also created an escape room for her students in her world history classes to review the chapter regarding the Dust Bowl that took place during the Great Depression. Myers stated, "Basically, there is a box that is locked and it has several different locks on it and students have to solve [the] clues in each level to break [open] the box. Each one [escape

room] has a different story to it and today's theme was the Dust Bowl during the Great Depression." Each level in the escape room has approximately four questions that must be decoded in order to progress to the next level. Those who have completed the activity and have successfully "won" or "escaped" were given candy and extra credit as the prize.

Students' favorite part of the activity was getting to work together in order to complete the tasks which allowed them to review for their upcoming tests and quizzes. Freshman Caillin Hu explained, "I believe the purpose of this activity was to get us [students] to remember what the cell parts look like and what their functions were. My favorite part was moving on to the next level to learn more." Hu and other students were able to partake in this activity to go over the cell parts in preparation for their unit.

This immersive learning game enhances team building, critical thinking, and collaboration skills and helps review the unit. Students continue to partake in this activity as a way to engage in their learning and review for their upcoming tests.

NHS Recognizes New Members at Induction Ceremony

By Elizabeth Clavin '20
Staff Writer

The National Honors Society (NHS) is a program designed to recognize outstanding, overachieving high school students. The club acknowledges students who have demonstrated good work habits, leadership, and excellent character. In order to qualify, students must be either a junior or senior, have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.8 or higher and possess various leadership positions in organizations on campus. Meetings are held in the Chaparral Conference Center (CCC) during lunch on the last Friday of every month. During meetings, members

typically plan community service events, which encourages students to become more involved in helping the community.

Students who are interested in joining must fill out an application and write an application essay, along with submitting two teacher recommendations completed in their name. Once applicants are chosen, NHS makes sure to celebrate those students who go above and beyond. For instance, students are celebrated for getting accepted into NHS by attending a ceremony called "induction". In fact, the NHS board members held this event on December 3, 2018. During this, the officers gave speeches and explained how important leadership is amongst the students. Towards the end, they had a lighting ceremony which

welcomes all the new members. However, they also hope not to discourage students who did not get accepted, Senior Josiah Davis, a club officer, stated, "To the people who didn't get in, don't give up. Keep trying harder and there is always a second chance to be accepted in senior year." The program also has their members partake in many community service outings. For example, some activities that NHS members took part in last year were beach clean-ups and making military packages, which typically contain bare necessities such as soap, deodorant, and sunscreen. They do this because they truly care about their community and have a goal to help others. Additionally, having more community service hours is favorable for college applications. The community service ranges from helping other groups on campus to different organizations in town. They have not done community service yet this year due to them just finishing the application process, however, they hope to participate in many forms of community service this year and will be planning these events soon. Senior Michelle Gunawan, a club officer, stated, "Last year, we did some community service, but this year we are hoping to do a lot more. I like doing community service together because it helps us bond more and get to know each other." Overall, community service in NHS is not only helpful to other organizations, but is also creating stronger bonds between the members while promoting teamwork.

Every member that is in NHS is proud



Credit: Louise Kim
New members of National Honor Society light candles during the induction ceremony

of their involvement and express their gratitude for the program. Senior Emily Chlebek, a club officer, said, "What I love about NHS is diversity in the types of students we have. This club is not just based on grades and academics but also on service and character which I think is so important and beneficial because that is what colleges look for in their applicants. NHS strives to keep its members on track to success, whether that be on the road to college or careers." Overall, they aspire to give students a successful future while making the process engaging and rewarding. The club members hope to have a positive impact on students and be an inspiration every day. They do

not regularly give out awards; however, senior members are eligible to acquire a stole if they remained in the club the entire school year and completed all of the community service requirements presented.

The program's overall desire is to give recognition to those students that go beyond what is expected of them, and it helps students stand out when applying for college. All upperclassmen can apply next year and meetings are held in the CCC on the last Friday of every month. Student who are interested or have questions should go to Mrs. Tina Mey, NHS's advisor or the club's four officers: Seniors Josiah Davis, Brooke Larson, Emily Chlebek, and Michelle Gunawan.



Credit: Louise Kim
NHS officers begin the ceremony by giving speeches on the qualities held by a member

Coffee and Creativity for a Cause

By Louise Kim '19
Editor-in-Chief

Tuesday, December 4, marked the day where student musicians and poets of all grade levels gathered at Intazza Coffee Works and brought in quite the supportive audience. These local singers and artists collaborated with Intazza to create an open-mic night event where onlookers could sip coffee at a discounted price and experience various student performances. The event was led by Juniors Allison Cassasola and Jasmine Dimapilis, co-presidents of the Sole Hope branch on campus. They

along with their other officers intended to raise funds for Sole Hope, a nonprofit organization that supports Ugandan communities by providing jobs, education, medical relief, and shoes from recycled materials.

Through Miss Jeannie Young, the Californian representative of Sole Hope, and the club's advisor, Mrs. Trisha Shea, students were given the support to put the open mic-night event together. To begin raising funds for this nonprofit organization, members promoted their event on social media sites through a video explaining the purpose of the open-mic night and how students could get involved by auditioning. Audition tapes containing one to two minutes

of students showcasing their talent were sent to Dimapilis before performers were chosen to represent the school and entertain the audience for a cause. Local singers, musicians, poets, and artists were all given the platform to show off their creativity and skill in their craft while knowing the money they were raising would go to support a nonprofit organization.

The open-mic night was memorable for the many students who performed songs and slam poems, a good handful of them showcasing original pieces. The eventful night consisted of Juniors Liana and Gina Brass singing covers of songs, such as "Lovely" by Billie Eilish and Khalid, in front of the

crowd at Intazza; Cassasola and Junior Kristin Grandin singing Christmas tunes; and much more. "The turnout was crazy. There was no space in the parking lot and an estimate of one hundred and fifty [people]," said Cassasola, "Everyone who performed [was] incredibly talented."

December 4 was remembered by the open-mic event attendees as an inspiring night full of good coffee and performances. Local artists from Temecula and Murrieta were given a platform, all to perform for a good cause that will help communities on the other side of the world. The funds raised will go to supporting the Sole Hope organization and their goals to aid the Ugandan communities.



Credit: Katherine Phung
Juniors Kristin Grandin and Allison Cassasola close the night with Christmas tunes

NJROTC Awarded Fourteen Trophies



Credit: Michael Tan

Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps proudly posing with the fourteen trophies they were awarded at a competition in Phoenix, Arizona. By Alexa Neal '22 Copy Editor

On Saturday, December 1, Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) attended a competition in Phoenix, Arizona at Moon Valley High School. Students left on Friday, November 30 in order to compete. Cadets were tested in personal inspection, color guard, armed regulation and exhibition, PT, unarmed exhibition and regulation, and an academic exam. NJROTC has been working tirelessly, starting over the summer and even spending days after school to prepare for this competition. The students began the competition by changing into uniform in order to

be inspected by the midshipmen, who are students from the naval academy. Soon after, the armed and unarmed teams were tested on their regulation and exhibition skills, which involves basic marching. Color Guard was also given the chance to be graded on how well they presented the nation's flags. The PT team was then graded on their performance level. Cadets had to do sit-ups, push-ups, and a relay around the track. "[One of my favorite parts] was watching the PT compete because we did a bunch of chants," Senior JaeAnne Ramos, Unarmed Drill Commander, recalled. "We have our own ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) chants, and we did some of the chants we do at football games." Senior Kyle Cayanan, Armed Drill Commander, agreed, stating that he enjoyed being able to cheer

everyone else on. For Ramos, it was very special to see her team doing their best, and to see how far they had come. Students were graded based off of a point system. Judges from outside of the school went to the competition so that there was an unbiased opinion. "So, all the judges come together, they tally up their points, and that's how they decide who wins the drill meet," explained Ramos. Cayanan said that they were graded on more than just how well they performed—the teams were graded on "things like professionalism, military drill, how good we look, how well we move." He also mentioned that in order to attend the competition, all they had to do was simply sign up. However, in order to qualify for the NJROTC Super Bowl, "that's something you qualify for, so that's something you

have to get into." The top two percent of the winning teams get evaluated by the area level manager, who ultimately decides whether or not they will go to the NJROTC Super Bowl. This is a regional competition for the top sixteen units in Area 11. NJROTC worked extremely hard for the past couple of months, and their hard work paid off. They came in first in academics and second overall, which means that they qualified to go to the NJROTC Super Bowl. The team brought home two trophies in unarmed, two in armed, one in color guard, one in drill, two in running, two in sit-ups and pushups, one in PT, one in academics, one in inspection, and one overall for the competition. The students now have fourteen trophies to showcase their dedication at the competition.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Principal Nicole Dayus



Dear Pumas,

Congratulations on reaching the end of the first semester for our 2018/2019 school year! This is a good time to self-reflect, to keep up the good work, or to make some adjustments in work habits and time management skills. Overall, it is a perfect time to consider what you are going to do to continue the improvement of our individual and campus-wide EXCELLENCE, the "E" in Puma PRIDE. Looking for a New Year's Resolution? Join something on campus! Already involved? Channel your excellence and use your leadership skills to inspire others to get involved. This is a perfect time of year to show your excellence as a contributing community member by offering time or donations to families in need. Why not reconnect with families and friends, giving them your undivided attention and the excellence that they deserve? Our Puma PRIDE does not stop at the school gates, it should be something that you carry with you wherever you go. We want our Temecula community and families to think, "Wow, that student is amazing -- s/he must be a CHS Puma!". Chaparral High School students are leaders, and leaders strive for excellence! Go out of your way to set an example of excellence (on and off campus) that will make others want to follow. Good luck on your semester finals. As always, let that PUMA PRIDE shine through!

Sincerely, Mrs. Dayus

AP Government Election Comes to Close

By Elizabeth Clavin '20 Staff Writer

The Advanced Placement (AP) Government election occurred on Friday, November 16, 2018. The election was open to all students and was a mock election that is done through the AP Government class at school. It offers students a chance to learn how elections truly work, and they are able to experience its entirety first-hand. Through it, students learn the electoral process and its complexity, along with how voting works, which will help them when they are old enough to vote. This is an annual event and it took place on the last day before Thanksgiving break. The winners of this year were as follows: first period was Senior Sam Ebersole, who represented the Independent Party, the second period winner was Senior Claudia Qi, who represented the Democratic Party and third period was Senior Ethan Johnstone, who also represented the Democratic Party.

Each candidate ran with a political party that came with strong beliefs or ideals. Ebersole chose the Independent party, meaning that he does not stand with a specific party. Independents may support policies which are different from those of the major political parties, such as the Democratic and Republican Party. Ebersole stated, "My political beliefs were basically to maintain a strong economy. My motto for my campaign was 'Keeping America Exceptional,' so basically, I want to keep America as one of the strongest economic countries in the world, as well as keeping Americans safe." As said before, Qi ran with the Democratic Party, and this party's philosophy of modern liberalism advocates social and economic equality. It seeks to provide government intervention and regulation in the economy. She is very ecstatic about her victory, along with experiencing such an insightful election which has furthered her knowledge regarding politics. Lastly, Johnstone chose the Democratic party because he supports their

vision for the future and believes the future will be more inclusive towards everyone, along with growing economically. His slogan was the 'American D.R.E.A.M.', the 'D' stood for decency of politics, 'R' represented relief of student debt, 'E' was environmental protections, 'A' stood for affordable healthcare, and lastly, 'M' represented middle class tax relief. Evidently, each candidate was strong and sure of their beliefs, and strives to see change in America, one step at a time. The competition was high for each runner. Candidates would participate in things such as handing out candy, putting up posters, and interacting with students around lunch in order to promote their ideals and earn their vote. For example, Johnstone said, "The main strategy that we used, besides talking to people around lunch, was giving out some candy to everyone. The election was really competitive and both of the other candidates were really well qualified." In addition, students in the election expressed

their admiration for the class, and most expressed how their knowledge of politics was furthered. The class and the election has truly helped them make a connection to real-world events. Candidates expressed that young people typically do not care for politics as much and push them to the side; however, the election and the AP Government class each show how large of an impact they truly have on Americans and their daily lives. Johnstone expressed that "politics can be kind of nasty sometimes. It is important that when it does get nasty that you stay true to your morals." Overall, many students feel that they have gained from these experiences and are grateful for their time in the class. All in all, the AP Government election has assisted students in gaining insight into real-world problems and first-hand politics within America. The mock election was handled as a real one, and the runners learned not only how to campaign for themselves, but also how to express their ideals in society.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Senior Anjali Sivanandan - Student of the Month for November



Senior Josiah Davis - Student of the Month for December



Senior Victoria Winn - National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist



Seniors Robert Agnew, Miriam Cepeda, and Graham Block - spoke at the Four Seasons Retirement Community's Photography Club



Old Town Temecula Hosts Santa's Electric Light Parade

By Emily Pham '21 Distribution Manager

It is the time of year again where lights shine and glisten through the

night sky and holiday spirit begins to spread. A music light parade located in the heart of Old Town called Santa's Electric Light Parade had dozens of floats with twinkling lights and holiday music from school marching bands. Each float

had unique Christmas decorations that lit up to the beat of a variety of Christmas songs. There were a total of ninety-five entries this year consisting of magical floats, classic cars, equestrians, dancing groups, marchers, holiday music, school

marching bands, and, of course, Santa himself. The light and music display, which took place at the end of November, encouraged people to get a feel of the holidays and to participate in the holiday spirit.

The Santa's Electric Light Parade was hosted by the Temecula Community Services Department. The first parade was held in the year of 1992 and this was the Twenty-Sixth Annual Santa's Electric Light Parade. The parade began at the intersection of Del Rio and Jefferson, traveling south through the streets of Old Town. This festive parade has a different theme each year and the theme this year was "A Storybook Christmas". Each designed float had a special meaning guiding the audience through a holiday story throughout the parade. Some floats represented a holiday book or movie, one being The Polar Express as well as the Grinch of Whoville who also made a special appearance during the parade. Once the audience were finished viewing all of the stories, they saw Santa Claus riding down the streets on a Temecula Fire Truck helping keep

the community safe. This one of a kind parade took months to design and create; Hundreds of Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights were used in order to bring this parade to life. Old Town Community Services Manager Jeff Lawrence stated, "These collective experiences are part of a celebratory culture that we embrace here in our own backyard. Although, it is always a bit of a challenge getting everyone in their correct staging areas and have everyone ready to go on time." This festive parade was a memorable experience and ended up creating a night one will be sure to remember.

Numerous schools from all over the area applied for a spot in the parade and over ninety entries were accepted. This year, Cheer, Platinum Sound, and Emerald Guard had the opportunity to be a part of the parade and perform to the spirited crowd. Senior Cheer member Suzette Fuentes explained, "[This] is my third and last year performing in the parade. . . This [parade] gets everyone in the community excited for Christmas and put[s] everyone in that Christmas spirit." Cheer

and band have been participating in this annual event for many years and wish to continue to partake in this event as a tradition. Before the parade started, a few clubs and other members of the parade were greeting people with warm smiles and some passed out donuts to enjoy during the event.

Hundreds of people in the community came to witness this parade and enjoyed the magical lights and holiday music. Sophomore Juaymah Gonzales explained, "The parade is really beautiful. . . and it is worth standing for. . . and something special to remember." This event brought the community together and helped make the Christmas season special for the residents and visitors. Many viewers chose to go early for good seating and to avoid road closures and traffic. Santa's Electric Light Parade is a place for families and friends to gather together and get into the holiday spirit as they are taken through the magical parade. Old Town will continue to host this special parade annually for family and friends to enjoy.



Credit: Emily Pham

Emerald Guard and Platinum Sound marched down the streets of Old Town during the holiday light parade

A Fun Place to Buy Locally Grown Foods



Credit: The Patch

Some of the items sold at the farmers' market held at the Promenade Mall

By Madison Vanesler '22
Staff Writer

Many people in the area go to local farmers' markets to buy fresh food that is grown in the community. One well known farmers' market is in Old Town Temecula and it is open from 8AM to 12:30PM on Saturdays, as well as the farmers' market at the Promenade Mall, which is open from 9AM to 1PM on Wednesdays.

In addition to these well-known farmers' markets, there are also organic food stores like Sprouts, Rancho Fruit Market and Best Wei Chinese Health Food Market. Both of the Sprouts are open from 7AM to 10PM everyday of the week. The Rancho Fruit Market opens at 9AM and closes at 6PM all week on normal weeks. Local Farmers' Market Best Wei Chinese Health Food Market opens at 9AM all week and closes at 8PM on Mondays through Sundays.

There can be many benefits to buying foods like fruits, vegetables, cheeses, herbs, spices, and meats from a farmers' market. Some of these benefits include supporting one's local farmers and knowing where all of one's produce is coming from. Senior Madison Dayus said, "You get to meet the people who are growing your food and that's kind of a cool connection." In addition to supporting the farmers, people can know exactly where the food they are buying and eating is coming from. Along with this, not all farmers' markets are limited to produce. Many of these establishments also sell flowers, homemade jewelry, and bath bombs which can each be positive ways to support one's local businesses in methods besides purchasing food products.

Supporting local businesses can be important to different members of the community and that can be achieved through a visit to the farmers' markets in one's town. Dayus stated, "It's supporting local farmers and vendors who work really hard to produce what they do. It also eliminates the travel time of food." When locally grown food is sold at farmers' markets, it will be fresher

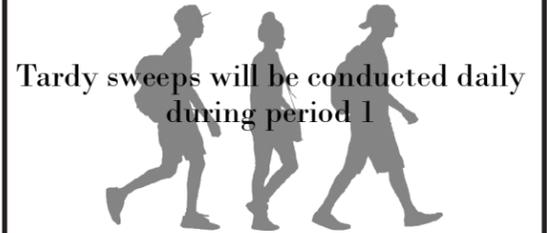
than food that was delivered over a longer distance because locally grown food is sold sooner after being picked. As well as getting fresher food, when people eat organic foods, it can help them to become healthier and to feel more energized on a day-to-day basis. It can also decrease the risk of getting diseases or high blood pressure, making it a desirable choice for a longer, healthy life.

In addition to these benefits, organic foods have less pesticides than most other fruits and vegetables and oftentimes have no preservatives. These traits combined with the locally grown foods' freshness mean that organic fruits and vegetables have a higher nutritional value than produce from the supermarket, and the lack of environmentally harmful chemicals can also be a benefit for the ecosystem.

Farmers' markets are a place for members of the community to support local vendors and local farmers that work hard on growing and selling their products. Purchasing produce from these establishments not only supports local farmers, but is able to provide one with a healthier way of living along with protecting one's environment.

Chaparral Tardy Policy

Starting Tuesday, January 8th



Tardy sweeps will be conducted daily during period 1

Upon getting your 2nd tardy, you will be assigned a detention for the following "Late Start Monday" before period 1 starts

If you do not serve your detentions, you will be put on a "No Go List" meaning you will not be able to attend Athletic Events, the Homecoming Dance, Prom, and even Graduation.

Spirits Unite at Annual Rally in Six Flags Magic Mountain



The D37N Spirits cheer at the annual fall rally with the various chants they practiced before the event

By Joyce Kim '22
Copy Editor

There are a variety of clubs on campus in which different activities and events are organized within the club for members to participate in. Key Club, an international organization led by students that focuses on the community to build strong leaders, had its biggest event of the school year

on November 10, which was known as the Fall Rally. This annual event at Six Flags Magic Mountain, which is specifically titled as Fall Rally South due to there being another rally in Northern California, consisted of exciting spirit rallies that helped raise money towards the Pediatric Trauma Program (PTP). The PTP focuses on decreasing the rate of children who become injured or die from traumatic experiences as well as providing happiness to the well-being of children through local projects,

and students were able to help the organization in an interactive way.

Key Club has several divisions scattered all around the world and some of the divisions went to either Fall Rally South or Fall Rally North. At Fall Rally South, some schools from the Temecula Valley Unified School District (TVUSD) and some from outside of the district were representatives of Division Thirty-Seven North (D37N). Senior Isaiah Lara, president of Key Club on campus, stated, "There's another number of divisions [outside of TVUSD]

that consist of multitudes of schools, but we [were] pretty much out there [at the rally] just to get to know everyone [who attended the rally]." There were four rallies, D37N took part in the fourth one with about ten other divisions, and during each rally, there were three rounds. There were three judges and in the first round, the judges had to pick the top five divisions based off the unity, clearness, and loudness of each division's cheer. In the second round, three divisions were picked among the five while using the same criteria, then in the final round, one division was selected to be the winner and they were awarded with a spirit stick. Senior Cailla Contreras, vice president of Key Club on campus, said, "This year, D37N made it to round two which was really cool since we [D37N] haven't in previous years." Along with spending the day with peers at the theme park, students had the chance to contribute to the PTP's main goal. To fundraise for the organization, lieutenant governors (LTGs), who are officers that help develop the growth of their division as well as being supportive members, and executive officers were "auctioned off" to the divisions in between each of the three rounds. Contreras explained, "The division who bids the highest on an LTG [or] executive officer get to spend time with the officer they 'bought.'" The funds raised from the auction and a fraction of the ticket

sales were donated to the PTP. As well as lending a helping hand to the organization, the rally engaged students with entertaining activities. One activity divisions participated in was spirit battles in which one division went up against another. Created by each division's spirit coordinators, cheers were organized with a theme based off each division's mascot. "We did chants and we had them memorized. We just bawled out [and] got to have a great, old time with each other," Lara said.

The battles helped the different divisions interact with other key clubbers while maintaining a lively atmosphere. These friendly competitions helped each division show their pride for Key Club while meeting new people.

The Fall Rally was an exciting event to those who spent time with fellow peers while working towards a good cause. For those who are interested in joining Key Club, the club is open all year. All students are encouraged to join, and meetings are held every Friday in room 345.



Members of D37N show off their spirit around the Six Flags park

Band Showcasing Free Winter Concert for Holiday Season

By Rex Garcia '19
Staff Writer

Christmas is coming closer, and coming even faster than Santa Claus is the school's band concert, which is entitled Winter Concert. Directed by band teacher Miss Stephanie Rittenhouse, it will feature both the newest and the veteran band members of the distinct ensembles. With select Christmas pieces from all of the instrumental groups, the concert will showcase performances by the major band ensembles including, but not limited to, jazz band, the freshman band, the orchestra and concert band, which is also known as advanced band. Both the musicians and viewers of this free admission performance on December 18 at 6:30PM will be enchanted by the band's work, passion and time they have put into the show.

The Winter Concert will showcase the classical and lovable tunes of the Christmastime to get the audience into the holiday spirit. "We're doing selections from *The Grinch* and I'm really excited about that," said Senior

Abigail Heffernan, a musician in concert band, jazz band, orchestra, marching band and winter drumline. For practice, the musicians often spend most of their day at school long after class hours, allowing them to bond, train and grow into a second family as a home away from home. "Sometimes practice can be difficult because there are certain things in a piece of music that we have to perform well, such as articulation and dynamic," said Heffernan. "Miss Rittenhouse helps us with it and she shows us how we can make it better to perform to the best of our abilities." Apart from music, the musicians have also learned how to approach their daily tasks with confidence. "I learned how to be more professional in front of an audience and how to carry myself better," said Junior Justin McCafferty, a musician in concert band, marching band and winter drumline. With days away until the concert and with Rittenhouse's guidance to the party, viewers should feel right at home listening to the refined and live Christmas jingles.

As the date comes closer, this will also be the first performance this

semester where all of the ensembles will perform in the same show, bringing great variety and high spirits to this event. "For me, I'm looking forward to playing," said Senior Christopher Brady, a musician in concert band, marching band and winter drumline. "I did band to have fun, it's a nice relaxing thing." The Winter Concert will be a time of gathering for both the musicians and the audience. "We've been working on our music for a long time so it's going to be good to show our parents and friends what we've been working on for such a long time," said McCafferty. Looking even closer into the spirit the musicians are in, it is clear that the Winter Concert has a positive influence on them. "It's not just this one band," said Brady. "It's a bunch of different band classes, and it's nice to see how they're all growing and learning the music together. It helps build relationships." With the unified effort and appreciation of each individual person leading up to this moment, the Winter Concert will charm its participants in a fashion as festive as the holidays themselves.

The Winter Concert is not just

a concert, it is an event that holds its place with the winter holidays, bringing together a community

with the happiness and relations of Christmas cheer which welcomes all faces, both new and familiar. The Winter Concert welcomes the experience of the nostalgic and origins of Christmastime.



Rittenhouse's fourth period Concert Band class practices for the Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 18

Watkins' Passion for Dance

By Alyssa Helsel '19
School News Editor

Through dance, there is no apparent need for words; emotions and stories are conveyed through the tapestry of gestures and movements. Art reveals who a person is aside from everyone else. For Senior Ashlyn Watkins, her favorite form of self-expression is dance. Watkins has been practicing dance for fourteen years through the Temecula Dance Company, located near Temecula Old Town. In her more recent years, she has become the Captain of Varsity Dance, called Divas. The different styles of dance that she performs are jazz, tap, contemporary, lyrical, hip-hop, and ballet.

An excessive amount of training and leadership skills are required as Captain of Divas. Watkins stated, "Us captains have to choreograph many different dances for our performances. . .the styles range from tap, jazz, hip hop, ballet on pointe, contemporary, and lyrical." After choreographing, she has to make sure the dances are well presented so her peers are on the correct beat of the music or doing the right dance move. Then, the captain moves onward to design the costumes. Her favorite two dance forms to perform are hip-hop and contemporary. Although these two forms of dance are vastly different, Watkins explains that she likes these two in particular because hip-hop is more aggressive and energetic while contemporary is soft and can tell a story. Last year, her contemporary team won the national championship at Star Systems Dance Competition Nationals.

While she is not planning on making dance her profession,

she believes that self-expression through different means of art is important for a person's individuality. She believes self-expression is the main weapon society has towards an ever-growing spectrum of like-minded people. Dancing is how she demonstrates her individuality. She said, "the way you express yourself in the form of another language. That's what I love about it." Watkins also acknowledged that people who love what they do are the foundation for creativity, giving that individual their own voice. It is also through this act that a person has the capability of inspiring someone else.

She says that the hardest part about Varsity Dance is hearing the bell ring because it marks the end of class. She mentioned, "I fell in love with dance, so for it to end is the hardest part."

Watkins believes that even with a busy schedule, there is room to add in what she loves to do. She stated that it is through the means of time management that everything she has done can be made possible. Other hardships many other dancers like Watkins face are sprained ankles and fractured feet, none of these are "out of the norm in the dance world." Although dance has put her through much pain, it has also caused her great joy and pride in her skills.

As always, the comeback is greater than the setback, for even through the trials and tribulations, Watkins has been able to win many championship titles, compete at national levels, earn different scholarships, be a part of award winning dances, and receive top recognition from well-known dance influencers.



Credit: Ashlyn Watkins
Senior Ashlyn Watkins with trophies marking her accomplishments

Blanket Drive Warms Hearts

By Joyce Kim '22
Copy Editor

Junior Charlene Miciano has taken the initiative of collecting blankets, with the contributions of fellow peers, as a way to help the people in her community. Recently level-one interning at Palomar Medical Center Escondido, she noticed how some patients on the oncology floor did not have blankets of higher quality than the standard hospital ones. Therefore, Miciano was motivated to lend a helping hand to those patients while they spend their time in the hospital.

On the oncology floor, many cancer or other long-term patients wanted fuzzy blankets as the weather began to get colder. Miciano decided it would be a good idea to gift those who wanted them during the season of giving. She explained, "[I wanted to start the Blanket Drive because] the thing is with oncology patients, or usually patients who are much older, their skin is very sensitive. . .At my last shift, there's this one patient who has the really nice, like, plush blankets. I was helping him fix his bed and it was so soft, and it gave me the idea, like, every patient should have one of those blankets."

The standard blankets used at the hospital were made to keep in heat, however, they were not the most comfortable. Because of this, she proposed the idea to the Associated Student Body's (ASB) Activities Director, Mrs. Kristy Baron, and the idea went through. Starting on November 26 and ending on December 4, about 170 blankets were accumulated. Being the one who initiated the idea, Miciano has been put in charge of managing the Blanket Drive, and with the help from ASB, students,



Credit: Christina Gandy
Junior Charlene Miciano with the blankets donated for the blanket drive

and the club, Future Doctors of America, the blankets are going to be delivered on December 15. Although the sole purpose was to donate blankets to hospital patients, students who donated were able to get one hour of community service for each used blanket and two hours for every new blanket.

From having the opportunity to create a program to help hospital patients, Miciano has learned the goodness of giving to others. Miciano said, "[I learned that] I like talking to people and I like hearing other people's, like, stories and their lives and just like wisdom from others. Even though I can't understand fully what people are going through, I can definitely, like, empathize." Furthermore, Miciano continued to say how one can help others, not just through words, but by being a good listener and being there when someone needs it. In other words, she explained how there is a great importance

to being a listener rather than talking about oneself. "You take that gratefulness and you turn it into something that you can give to others, so others can be grateful as well. I think it's just realizing that we're just, like, one person on the Earth when there's so many other people you can meet who have different experiences and different lives," stated Miciano. These selfless acts from Miciano and her peers have made a positive impact on a number of those in need.

Despite being enrolled in several Advanced Placement (AP) classes, as well as extracurricular activities such as Peer Leaders, ASB, Science Olympiad, Math Club, and Future Doctors of America, Miciano has still found time to help those around her. Miciano and all of the other students who participated in the Blanket Drive have expressed their generosity through their charitable acts of kindness.



Credit: Kodi Williams
One of many photos Senior Kodi Williams took with his team

Embracing Confidence Through Modeling

By Rex Garcia '19
Staff Writer

On any social media platform in this generation, looking good on camera is a value in itself for many, with filters and bedroom lighting bringing likes to portrait posts. Beyond aesthetically pleasing looks, modeling companies look to find not the most attractive people, but those who make a statement with their looks, who can stand out from a crowd by simply standing in one. While many people fit this criteria, these businesses selectively pick people who they find could define the name of fashion with looks that are not often seen or appreciated in an everyday atmosphere.

For the most part, not being at least an adult blocks off most students from being a featured model, though those who have met this formal requirement of reaching adulthood have found a potential career path for the future. To reach out to a modeling company takes perseverance and diligence, and takes a certain amount of media attention and luck to be asked directly to partake in the business. "I couldn't believe it was real when they first contacted me," said Senior Kodi Williams, a model for Franks-Models. "Once I met the people after attending a meeting, I knew it was real and I had to be serious about it, because my future was right in front of me." As the

team worked, Williams put as much effort in as he does constantly in the classroom. After a number of meetings, Williams learned that good looks were not just about clear skin and perfect hair. Williams said, "Owning your own individuality and having a good attitude is key." Being a part of the modeling business gave Williams the confidence to stop being self-conscious about what people thought of him. In turn, this also enlightened him that his style and personality are different, along with everybody else's, and that the individuality of a person should be appreciated.

Living as a model is not so different from the lifestyle of others. The life of a model consists of taking many hours

of the day driving around venues to take photos of the specifically clothed models. This could be right after school or early in the morning, depending on what specific place and time the group wants to take pictures. "I thought coming in that I had to lose weight or change myself, but they said I was fine the way I was," said Williams. "I don't think the modeling industry is what people think it is. They want you to be yourself with your flaws [and] individuality. It's more diverse and open minded." Williams has discovered with Franks-Models that it is okay to look a certain way, which provides the media with a statement of being happy about having imperfections, as imperfections

are a part of what make an individual especially unique in their own beautiful way. As if looking at a forest of trees, each one has a different order of the branches, and the marks people carve into them tell special stories distinctive to every tree.

The life of modeling is not about looking pretty in front of the camera or praising the youthful features, but ultimately about finding beauty and happily accepting the old and bad parts of oneself. Not everyone is content about having pictures taken of them for a living, though it is truly important for all to have confidence, a positive outlook and an open mind in life. No matter how life is going, it is a key element to enjoy life while one is alive.

Behind the Scenes: CTE Event Production's Dilligent Work

By Katie Flack '20
Copy Editor

The final product displayed on the night of a school event often makes one think of the talent of those front and center—actors and actresses, dancers, athletes, and more—but without those working behind the scenes, these productions would be drastically different. The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Event Production class on campus works tirelessly to pull together the campus' biggest events each school year. Spending several hours working inside and often outside of class each week, their dedication is apparent through the time they put into their work and the precision with which they complete their tasks.

In the class, students learn about various subjects from wiring to using tools such as hand saws, and they then apply it to building sets and such for on-campus productions. Junior Riley Campo, a first-year student in the class, said, "The class means a lot to me because it's like I'm learning life skills, you know, like learning how to build things and wire things and it's, like, I just feel like it's going to be useful for me later in life." In terms of the value of the class, many other

students agree with Campo's perspective, enjoying the class whilst appreciating the skills the class can teach them. One of these students, Senior Anthony Shain, who is in CTE Event Management for his second year, explained, "The class gives me a really good opportunity to learn how to wire and to work with speaker kind of work. It kind of just gives me great fundamentals of basic carpentry and kind of just gives me a way to build myself off of high school." Typical weeks in class consist of receiving invoices on Monday, which Campo explained is because the class is treated like a job, one in which students are "paid" with the points they receive in the grade book and spending the rest of the week either learning a new skill from their teacher, Mr. Scott Carey, or working on sets for upcoming productions. Some of the events the class sets up for include dance competitions, choir shows, plays, and football games.

In addition to learning important skills, CTE Event Production students cherish their time in the classroom. Campo stated, "[The class is] a lot of fun because Mr. Carey makes the class a better experience because he's, like, always joking with us and also he's, like, he's a good teacher because we are always, like, hands-on, you know, he's having

us build sets for plays and all the events at school so it's just a great experience." When one walks into the classroom, its environment will easily stand in stark contrast to others on campus as there are tools and materials scattered about the room whereas in the average classroom, there will be whiteboards and rows of desks taking up the space. The hands-on experience that the class provides is the reason why a multitude of students enjoy it and it helps many to better grasp the material. Additionally, when successfully completing one's work, students feel a sense of accomplishment. Shain said, "My favorite part is probably when everything goes right [and] it [the project that we worked on] will look really awesome and really cool. I've had multiple sets, like, just look really awesome because, like, [one time,] we selected this special paint that would have any color we shined on it reflect off and it just looked really cool and it's always great when everyone else just realizes, like, it looked great because the tech [students] did good and all that." He went on to add, "[When someone looks at our work,] I hope they see that we are very professional on how we lay everything out. . .[and] that, you know, teenagers can actually do quality level work and, you know, hopefully get



Credit: Riley Campo
Juniors GaBryella Diaz-Narte and Dalia Nofal worked TedxYouth with the rest of CTE

paid about it one day." The class is able to teach beneficial skills to many young adults and the lessons learned will be available to students for the remainder of their lives. Despite being hidden behind the scenes, CTE Event Production is able to make an impact on campus through the productions they make possible. This school year, their

work has been seen in productions such as Homecoming, Rivals dance competition, and the independently organized Technology, Entertainment and Design (TEDx) event on campus. Throughout the remainder of the year, the class members will continue to enjoy creating their work while other students will have opportunities to admire it.

Marvel's Stan Lee Passes Away

By Rex Garcia '19
Staff Writer

Monday, November 12, 2018 was the day a father figure of Marvel Comics and a childhood hero for many passed away at the age of ninety-five, and his name was Stan Lee. The co-creator of many popular comic book superheroes, Lee's works are now commonly seen today on the big screen in films from *Black Panther* to *Spider-Man: Homecoming*, and he was an employee of Marvel Comics since late 1922. The immediate cause of his death has been recognized as cardiac arrest, with respiratory failure and congestive heart

failure being contributing underlying causes, along with his suffering from aspiration pneumonia. Though he is gone, his published work left a dynasty of legendary comic book characters and a special universe that will live on in the world of entertainment. Lee, throughout his lifetime, produced thousands of comics that have and will continue to entertain, inspire and gather people together. "Stan Lee's comics allowed me to spend time with my dad," said Sophomore Anjelo Guthrie, "My dad is a big fan, too, so we would always talk about the movies and what Lee would do next." In addition to the comics' impact, there have been

nostalgic movies that fans of Marvel will consistently refer back to when talking about what Lee has given to the community. "When I was five years old, the greatest movie I ever watched was *Spider-Man 2*," Guthrie said, "It inspired me to protect the ones you love and got me into reading comics with my dad." Lee's consistent success with his diverse comics encouraged him to intertwine his characters into one unique comic book universe, which eventually became the world of *X-Men* and *Avengers*. With Lee's recent death, it is now up to fellow partnered writers at Marvel to, if they choose to, continue his comic book series and advance this world.

As for the future of Marvel licensed movies, some fans are skeptical about if directors will introduce their own twists to Marvel characters and their plots in contrast to Lee's fixed narrative. "I feel like they might get Lee's vision wrong," said Sophomore Levi Gunn, "They could possibly mess up what he had planned for those movies." Regardless of the tradition of Lee's stories, fans of both the movies and the comics can be pleased about the continuation of Marvel movies.

Due to Lee's death, both directors and fans can no longer expect to see Lee's signature cameos in future Marvel movies. "I'm going to miss Lee's cameos in every Marvel movie," said Gunn. Fortunately, Lee had already filmed his cameos in the upcoming *Avengers: Endgame* and *Captain Marvel* movies before his death, marking them as the last two movies with Lee's appearance. With the amount of movies already filled with Lee cameos, fans of him and his legacy will find no shortage of his presence in the previous Marvel movies.

Lee was a figurehead of the comic book and entertainment industry throughout much of his lifetime. His mental will and work will live on in Marvel with what he provided, and to his fans, friends and family, he will be missed. And so the living legend Stan Lee is now only legend.



Credit: Bankrate
Stan Lee passed away on November 12, 2018; pre-recorded cameos will appear in future films

Queen's Biopic Rocks Fans

By Katie Flack '20
Copy Editor

On November 2, 2018, the biographical drama *Bohemian Rhapsody*, based on the history of the band Queen, was released. The film overcame negative reviews and a series of other blockbusters' successes to be triumphant in box office and to impact the audiences it drew in.

While focusing on Queen's history, *Bohemian Rhapsody* is mainly centered around Freddie Mercury, the band's lead singer. The tale begins on the day he became a part of the band, continuing to journey through Queen's rise to fame, explore their personal lives, portray the emotions as Mercury went solo and venture into the creations of their biggest hits. Throughout the movie, all events spiral towards Queen's performance at Live Aid, a dual-venue benefit concert that many of the time's biggest musical stars were involved in both Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States, and London, England, United Kingdom, to raise money for relief for the Ethiopian famine that was ongoing at the time. Freshman Anna Venegas said, "*Bohemian Rhapsody* was definitely an emotional film. It was also a very funny film. It seemed like the directors really knew what they were doing with the help of Roger Taylor and Brian May [the executive music producers for the film and

real-life members of Queen] and, you know, I grew up with Queen as a little girl. My dad played it all the time and just to hear their music and to know Freddie's legacy is really the best thing that could ever come out of the movie." Queen's story spoke volumes to many viewers of the film and the impact it had on the audiences is sure to live on in many hearts for the years to come. Venegas went on to add, "It also didn't stray away from Freddie's downfall and uprising. I feel like it really went into his life and Rami Malek, the guy who plays Freddie Mercury, is a phenomenal actor and he did help bring the movie to life, and I think that's what makes everything unique." The different elements in the film, from the music to the powerful messages to the acting talents to the idiosyncratic costumes, contributed to the distinctive style of the movie. Freshman Isabella Herrera explained, "[What made the film unique was] basically everything from the history of Queen [and] how they made it all into just one movie." The movie's use of different components aided it in telling the story of Queen to its audiences in a way that multitudes saw as beautiful. Prior to the film's release, many were skeptical of it due to the poor reviews a large number of critics gave it; Rotten Tomatoes gave it a sixty-two percent, Metacritic bestowed a forty-nine percent upon it and one out of four was received from Roger Ebert. However,

many people disregarded these ratings and went on to see it anyway. Venegas explained, "I think it exceeded my expectations. At first, I was expecting something not really too great, like all the reviews had suggested, and then, you know, at the end, I was crying, my tears were just flowing, and I didn't understand why until I looked at the theater and everybody else was crying. It was an emotional film and, you know, just something about it made the film really relatable and, you know, I'd watch it a hundred times over and it would just still feel as emotional and I would recommend it to everyone I know." The raw emotion portrayed in the film has captivated scores of cinephiles like Venegas and has been a major contributing factor in *Bohemian Rhapsody's* success, proved by the fact that the movie had grossed over \$596 million worldwide as of the beginning of December, won its first weekend in theaters and was nominated for two Golden Globes in the drama category for Best Picture and Best Actor.

Despite the obstacles that stood in its way, *Bohemian Rhapsody* managed to reach the hearts of a large number of moviegoers through its emotional and powerful story consisting of stunning performances and heartfelt moments. Its success is likely to continue throughout its run in theaters and its story will linger in the minds of many who viewed it for the years to come.

Final Night to View All Valley Dance Production in PAC

By Summer Folger '19
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Last night was the opening of the two-night performance of All Valley Dance Production. This is a Christmas-themed event where students in beginning, intermediate, and advance dance perform dances they learned throughout the semester as well as having other dance groups in the valley be able to be a part of the production. There were twenty-one dances that were performed from both students and Artist Dance Academy (ADA). Tonight, there will be nineteen dances since ADA only performed for last night's show. It will be held in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at 7PM to 9:30PM, and the price of admission is five dollars.

The All Valley Dance Production was created by Mrs. Carol Brooks, who has been the original dance teacher on campus for twenty-one years. Currently, Brooks creates all of the dance shows for the dancers to perform to students and the community. When Brooks first started teaching on campus, there was only one dance show which was held in March so she wanted to create another dance show. This led Brooks to ask the administration for another show around the Christmas season which is how when The All Valley Dance Production was created, Brooks wanted it to be based on "everything that we learned first semester. . . I wanted to do all the dances we

had so then there's not a lot of new stuff but. . . I wanted to invite other people in the valley so I had TDC (Temecula Dance Company) would come. . ." Not only that, but for the past fifteen years, Advanced Dance has been able to perform the dances for the show at Disneyland. Brooks explained how it took five years of auditioning throughs means such as sending in videos to be able to perform there. This year when they went, it was raining so they were unable to perform ten out of the twelve dances they had for the show. When it comes to the dances being performed, an equally important aspect of the show is that it has as a variety of genres such as jazz, tap, ballet, lyrical, modern, contemporary, and hip hop. This year, there are four beginner's dances, three intermediate dances, and twelve advanced dances in the show. Each dance is choreographed by a different dancer, such as alumni from Brooks' previous dance classes. Brooks made the show have the beginning dances first, then intermediate, and then into advanced dance. For beginner and intermediate, it is optional to perform in the dance while most of advanced dance performs. Not only that, but the first and last dance of the show has both advanced boys and girls performing together in the genre of hip hop. In addition, the second dance, titled "PPF," is a modern, co-ed dance that is performed by beginning dance that also has special educational students performing in it. Moreover, these dances bring holiday cheer to their audiences as well as showing the hard work and effort students bring to each performance.

Students participating in this production have practiced since the beginning of the school year since these are dances that are taught in class throughout the year. While preparing for the show, students rehearse during lunch and after school until 5PM everyday until the last show ends. Junior Emma Heiting recalled her own experience with the show from last year, "Before the show, we all [hung] out in the Black Box and we kind of [cheered] each other up and, like, [prepared] ourselves mentally. We [played] games. We'll

listen to music and get ourselves ready for the show." This year, Heiting is performing in two intermediate dances and went in depth with how the show has helped her out as a dancer, "Before this, I was not really a dancer but I joined Cheer so it kinda helped me. Dance and Cheer together, I would say for sure that I was very shy before I did Dance. It kinda brings out something inside of you." Whereas, Junior Briena Cotta, who is in beginning dance, shared, "It's helped a lot because I mainly focused on hip hop and now I'm in the

dances that aren't hip hop. . . I'm learning new skills and techniques and different moves." Showing how students are able to learn a variety of dance styles during and after school.

All in all, All Valley Dance Production is a platform for students to perform the dances they learned throughout the school year. To the point that students are able to learn from alumni who used to perform in their place. As well as having different dance groups come to campus to perform, showing the variety of styles that each group has in the dance community.



Credit: Summer Folger
The beginning dance class, taught by Mrs. Carol Brooks rehearsed during lunch in the Performing Arts Center to perfect their moves

Happy Holidays!

SADD in December wants to #cualive in January 2019!

Remember

- Car crashes are the number one cause of teen deaths. Drive smart!
- Keep your eyes on the road and make sure to buckle up.
- Don't become a statistic. Drive smart. Drive safe this holiday!

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November was for the Creative Writers

By Kylee Seamans '22
Staff Writer

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) is an annual event where writers challenge themselves through the internet to achieve a certain word count in their writing. NaNoWriMo began on November 1 and continued on until November 30. It was expected that writers have achieved their word count and that their novel was completed and ready to be edited by that time period.

The event was created in July of 1999 when freelance writer Chris Baty and twenty-one other people engaged in his project. He moved the event to November in 2000, when 140 people participated and only twenty-nine completed the challenge. In 2015, around 431,626 participated and over 40,000 people completed the challenge. As it is the only month dedicated to writers and their work out of the whole year, NaNoWriMo is a highly anticipated event for content creators all throughout the nation.

Some writers begin to prepare for the event months prior to when it takes place. "When I'm writing, I like to plan out the whole thing," said Freshman Katherine Passage, "I use a lot of bullet points and I format it the same way I do with essays. Then, I go through and make sentences and then make paragraphs." With the stress of meeting word count, pre-planning works TO PLAN THINGS OUT.

Having an outline can help piece together scenes and chapters, along with being able to help writers work around their writer's block, it can be better for them to know which strategy they prefer to use when writing. Traditionally, writers are to reach a goal of 50,000 words by the end of the month. However, word counts differ from person to person as levels of experience vary. When participating in this event, writers must follow very

harder, more difficult scenes for later. This helps writers by giving them options on what they want to write and gives them more freedom to write. It also keeps them from getting stuck which can help writers get closer to reaching their word count. However, this strategy is not guaranteed to work for all writers as some prefer to come up with a basic idea and write as they go. Planning a work out beforehand can make some lose interest in their story so whether one is writing for fun or for events such as NaNoWriMo, it can be better for them to know which strategy they prefer to use when writing.

Traditionally, writers are to reach a goal of 50,000 words by the end of the month. However, word counts differ from person to person as levels of experience vary. When participating in this event, writers must follow very

few rules. Although writers may plan out a story before the month of November, they are not allowed to start writing their novel until 12AM on November 1. If a part of the novel was written before then, it is not considered a part of NaNoWriMo because it was started before the challenge began. NaNoWriMo is open to all, spanning from award-winning novelists to fanfiction writers to beginners. As long as the writer is writing, no style or genre is off limits. For those struggling, there are countless online tools that can be utilized for help with NaNoWriMo, providing prompts and inspiration, along with giving newer writers helpful tips and insights on how to overcome struggles they may face and helping them progress their stories.

The event has now become a long-awaited challenge for writers, as a month dedicated to writing can encourage them to grow in their talents. In the future, it is expected that novelists of all kinds will continue to participate in the challenge and grow as writers.

SHOW SCHOOL SPIRIT!

Monday the 17th is Pajama day!

Tuesday the 18th is Blizzard day, wear white and blue!

Wednesday the 19th is Ugly sweater day or Holiday wear!

Thursday and Friday are Finals Good luck!

Esports Picking Up 'Steam' Tuning in to the 1940s Radio Hour

By Yalena Aguirre '21
Social Media Manager

Computer gaming is an interesting pastime for plenty of active gamers on campus. The variety of online games available throughout the Internet have allowed gamers to connect and play together. The electronic sports (Esports) computer gaming club on campus has allowed students with the common interest in gaming to come together and participate in different activities and competitions.

Esports club had several goals in mind when it came to impacting campus in some way. Senior Victoria Winn wanted to establish a club on campus that allowed students with an interest in competitive gaming to create teams to compete in local tournaments and teach students about competitive gaming, as well as having fun in the process. In her junior year, she created the Esports club and about fifty students signed up for it in the club's first year at Club Rush, while about thirty students met up every Monday during lunch to learn different strategies and to raise awareness for the rising activity. "There's the competition and being able to play a game you really love and being able to play it on a different level because there's so much, you can really go in depth with it," Winn elaborated on the feeling

of her enjoyment of doing Esports and her appreciation of how much effort that goes into everything. The club partakes in going over different tactics to use in various games to the teams dedicated to the specific game. Going over strategies helps teams win in tournaments against other teams dedicated to the same game. In the process of learning and criticizing their performance, they encourage each other to improve on their skills and strategy on gaming.

Not only did Esports club rise in popularity in the past year, but the club members' connections with each other and friendships built not just because they are teammates, but because of their common interest and their support for each other in improving their tactics. Creating Esports club was a turning point in both Winn and co-president Senior Evan Gibson's lives as they now guide aspiring gamers and benefit from running Esports club. "I think when you make something like a video game that most people see as a waste of time, you make it competitive and you start investing your time and actually thinking about every second that you're putting into this," Gibson explains, "It's much more work than wasting time. You're actually benefiting yourself in many areas of your life." Gibson goes on to explain how gaming is not just a timeless

activity, but it builds up social aspects that help people create bonds as well as helping them develop life skills such as social bonding and better teamwork amongst peers that will help them in the future. Being in a club that surrounds students with people with the same interest as them gives the opportunity for students to build friendships and a sense of community. "Last year was really rough and I was just trying to figure out how do we coordinate these teams. . . So we really weren't like a family, it wasn't the community I wanted it to be," Winn explained. The teams Winn has coached meet together at lunch to review their gameplays together and review, as well as practice after school and play matches at home. This allows the group to spend time together and hang out together outside of practice, which allows them to build a stronger connection with each member like Winn hoped it would.

There are many clubs on campus that have allowed many students to build connections with other students through their common interests and the same goal of expanding their club and members. Esports club has worked nonstop to help their different gaming teams to build new strategies that will help them in competitions and tournaments, as well as build a community and friendship of gamers that are passionate about gaming.

By Benjamin Garner '19
Editor-in-Chief

On November 10 at 7pm the final showing of The 1940's Radio Hour, written by Walton Jones, directed by Chris Irvin, and performed by members of the Chaparral Actors Troupe, began. The show opens to a small empty radio studio, its near Christmas and one by one characters are introduced as they walk into the chaotic scene prior to the beginning of the broadcast.

The first few minutes of the show depicts a scene wherein the various staff members of a New York radio station, WOV, frantically enter and exit the stage, yelling incoherently at each other. Most of the audience did not catch

on immediately, but soon realized the scene's disorderly nearly unintelligible nature was an attempt to set the comedic tone of the show, and soon had the house enthralled and laughing. As the show progressed, the host, Clifton Feddington played by Junio Vance Johnson, lead the audience through an elaborate radio show. The show featured different skits, live music, and ads voiced by the cast. There was a narrative that underlines the show which only the audience is aware of, that allowed for a compelling and believable recreation of a 1940's radio show, and a funny story happening off-mic.

The set was incredibly detailed, placing the audience in the era. The rather mediocre looking radio room had a very busy feel, and portrayed the messy run down radio station. Junior Katherine

Phung, a yearbook photographer who shot the event, said, "It was so cool. The set is so detailed and cool looking, they did such a good job, I'm so glad I could take pictures." The play was very well received by those who have seen it.

Irvin said, "This was a really fun show to do, it was much more difficult than I anticipated although with ever show we try to find something to challenge us from previous shows. . . This is the first holiday show we've ever done, it was really fun to just jumpstart the holidays. And it was my hope that we were able to achieve that 1940s feel." The 1940s Radio Hour is just one of many plays that will show this year in the Performing Arts Center, and the drama department will strive to maintain their high standard of detail and quality.



The show, 1940s Radio Hour, featured different skits, live music, and ads voiced by the performers at WOV radio station

Students in Choir Pull Off a Festive Holiday Performance



In just a month of preparation, Chamber Choir performs their holiday songs successfully

By Jillian Flack '22
Staff Writer

The choirs on campus, Platinum FX, Chamber Choir, and Dynamics performed their Holiday Concert on Thursday, December 6. With little time to prepare for their performance, each of the choirs had to put in the hard work to exhibit their singing talent. A great deal of these students were proud of their show and they were happy to exhibit their passion for singing to others.

Even with a short time frame, the choirs were able to pull their show together. Sophomore Amber Baranek from Dynamics stated, "We prepared when the Halloween show ended. Right afterwards, we began preparing for the Christmas show. So, as soon as one's out, another one's in and so we'd been preparing since around the end of October [or] the beginning of November, so we put together a lot." All of the choirs had to constantly work on their songs in order to get the singers well-prepared and their hard work paid off for the Holiday Concert as a multitude of the choir students felt that the concert was a success. Mr. Rob Hodo, the choir teacher, said, "I thought all the kids did great. They stepped up and worked hard with the music and I thought they had a

really good show." Through singing, the choir students were able to show their talent and appreciation for music and their dedication was revealed through their powerful performance. Baranek shared, "Overall, I think the concert went really well in terms of everybody working together and a lot of the groups came together in the end and everybody put in all of their effort, so that was impressive, the way that they put it together." Their hard work shone throughout their performance and the reaction of the audience proved that their talent did not go unnoticed. Each choir was able to be something special to their performance. Dynamic's rendition of "Where Are You Christmas," was both meaningful and melodic, while the flawless performance of "Carol Of The Bells" by Chamber Choir showed the true talent of the performers. Platinum FX's presentation of "This Christmas" brought a fun and festive sound to the night. All of the choirs also participated in a sing-along with the audience that included a few Christmas classics, which many found as a fun way to include the crowd and conclude the festivities. Sophomore Claire Rollins from Platinum FX remarked, "They just kind of helped create the holiday spirit." Additionally, there were a number of soloists and duets singing their own songs, which was a real treat for the audience. Many of the students with a passion for

singing found performing in the concert to be meaningful to them. Baranek shared, "I like to sing one, because it relieves stress and two, because I feel like when I get to sing with other people, it brings you together to have a common passion." In the lives of singers like Baranek, performing can play a huge role, sometimes leading them to pursue singing as a career or life passion. There are a variety of reasons why each individual student might enjoy singing. It could be a form of self-expression or a way to let loose. Being with others who share the same passions can help one to form bonds that last a lifetime. Rollins stated, "[I like] just being around other people that love the same thing." Students such as Rollins put in diligent effort in order to deliver the best of their capabilities. Freshman Holly Jackson from Chamber Choir said, "[I hope audiences thought] we're a good group. . . It's my passion." For Jackson, the hard work that goes into this pastime is well-worth it. For this show and in future shows, Jackson wants her audiences to appreciate her singing as much as she does.

Although it was difficult to prepare for the Holiday Concert, an abundance of people thought it was a success and are looking forward to what the choir students will bring to the stage next. Singing plays a large part in many of the choir students' lives and performing can help them to exhibit their talent to the world.

Simple Ways to Keep New Years' Resolutions

By Jillian Flack '22
Staff Writer

As 2018 comes to an end, a large amount of students have goals they would like to accomplish in the coming year that can help them to improve in certain areas. However, for a great sum of people, it can be difficult to follow through with their resolutions, often due to a myriad of variables, such as not having the will to keep them or creating unrealistic goals.

A fair amount of people do not keep their resolutions because they have made unrealistic goals that can overwhelm them. There are an abundance of solutions to this problem that can help one to achieve their goals. One solution is to set

smaller resolutions, which can be easier for many and helps one to complete their goals one step at a time. Other than setting realistic goals, creating a plan of how one will accomplish their goals can help many to follow through with their resolutions. To get the best results, it is recommended to make this schedule have realistic plans, since having too high of standards at one time can cause one to be stressed and they will be more likely to give up on their resolution. Creating a long-term plan can help one to gain determination, encouraging them to keep their resolution.

Along with making unrealistic goals, a large number do not keep their resolutions because they have lost the desire to put in the necessary hard work.

Freshman Victoria Moore advised, "Actually stick to it. Like, don't say, 'oh, I'll do it,' and then, like, wait two days and you're like, 'nah'... Actually do it the next day you make it." Moore believes that students should put in the hard work if they want their goals to become reality. "[Many resolutions fail because] people are lazy," she added. There are several ways that can help to keep one on track to complete their goals. Vision boards, which are posters that include pictures that represent the goals of a person and they can be made easily using a poster board and printed-out images or pictures in magazines. An abundance of people hang up their vision boards in a place they see everyday, since one seeing their goals



Credit: Michael Van Emde Boas

Various strategies can be utilized to create a productive new year full of goals

can help one to visualize themselves accomplishing them. Other than creating vision boards, getting support from family and friends can encourage one in working towards their goals. Someone there to support another can remind one that they

are not alone when trying to improve themselves. All of these methods can help to keep one on track to complete their New Year's resolutions, since they can help one to stay encouraged. This can help those who need assistance in finding

ways to accomplish their goals. They can help one to improve or grow as a person and so therefore, these methods can be helpful to many in keeping their resolutions. Using these methods can help a larger amount of students keep their resolutions.

Now Trending: Vintage Fashion on the Rise

By Yalena Aguirre '21
Social Media Manager

Countless students have expressed their personalities through outfit choices and sense of style. Their attire allows them to express their unique personality and allow them to connect with other people who have the same interests. The rise of 1980s and 1990s fashion throughout campus has created an expressive trend of students wearing vintage attire and expressing their interest in old school vibes.

Since the beginning of the trend, old school outfits have

gained the attention of various students who are interested in the authentic vibes of the eighties and nineties. Students who have taken interest in the trend have been shopping at thrift stores such as Savers, Goodwill and more stores to buy clothes that fit the nostalgic trend, filling up many closets of students who wear vintage attire. Freshman Paige Beardsley commented on her own introduction to wearing vintage clothing by stating, "I started wearing my dad's clothes because I thought they looked cool and then like I was like 'oh, other people are doing this, too' and I made friends because of it." Beardsley

was inspired by vintage clothes' originality as well as how cheap they are compared to high brand stores that sell more expensive clothing like Forever 21, Hollister, and more. "I have been wearing eighties/nineties attire since freshman year. I heard from vintage clothes from my mom, sister and social media," explained Sophomore Genevieve Maczko. Ever since Beardsley and Maczko have discovered old school clothes from different influences, they turned away from higher brand stores and went to more thrift stores that sold stylish clothes for a lower price to help form their new choice of style as well as gain new friends who share the same interests as them.

Vintage fashion has impacted numerous students as they find the popular choice of fashion complimentary to their interest in the attire. Its originality and the opportunity for students who share an interest in vintage allow them to express their likeness of authentic outfits. "I was inspired by music. I have been listening to eighties/nineties music since I was little and just listening to it [made] me want to live back in the eighties," Maczko elaborated, "Also, watching eighties movies, which are my favorite, and seeing their style made me want to dress like them." Multiple students have found that vintage styles suit



Credit: Genevieve Maczko

Sophomore Genevieve Maczko enjoys various vintage clothing

their personalities better than modern trends going on. "I didn't like high school stores because the clothes were super repetitive and [I] just stopped liking them. They didn't really fit my style," Maczko explained, "I enjoy the vintage/skater surfer look... because I feel like [it is] my true style and it fits me more." In addition, Beardsley stated, "I think they're just made better, they are a lot better quality and they're just cuter and more original." There are many students who have found inspiration



Credit: Genevieve Maczko

Maczko sports a vintage outfit that is reminiscent of the past

Mouth-watering Treats to Enjoy During the Holiday Season

By Jillian Flack '22
Staff Writer

As winter arrives, an abundance of students are looking for simple foods and desserts to make. Along with the taste being enjoyable, these foods can help it to feel like winter, which can help many get into the holiday spirit.

During the wintertime, not

everyone is always feeling cheerful. Doing festive food preparation can be just the right way to get one into the holiday spirit. One way to make it feel like the holiday season is to make appetizers, such as penguins made out of cream cheese and olives, which can be made using a can of large black pitted olives, a can of small black pitted olives, cream cheese, carrots, and toothpicks. First, slice part of a

carrot to create a circle and cut off a small, triangular piece of the carrot. Next, slice the side of a large olive top to bottom to open it up and fill it with cream cheese. Place the previously cut round carrot under the olive to serve as the feet. Next, put a small olive sideways on top of the large olive and place the small triangular slice of carrot into the hole on the small olive to act as the penguin's nose. Lastly, stick a toothpick into the penguin to hold it together. This can be done several times to make multiple penguins. Many people enjoy this food because it reminds them of the festive holidays approaching, which means winter-themed food can help students become cheerful for the holidays.

For those that prefer sweet over savory, desserts are also an option. Some of these desserts include snowball cookies and marshmallow snowman cupcakes. Some people like cookies, since they often remind them of past winters. Freshman Aieme Apilado stated, "My favorite wintertime dessert is cookies because it reminds me of my childhood." Because of feeling sentimental, many like to make snowball cookies. Snowball cookies can be made with one cup of softened unsalted butter, one and a half cups of powdered sugar, one teaspoon of vanilla extract,

two and one-fourth cups flour, one-fourth cup of salt, and three-fourths of a cup of chopped pecans if desired. Before one begins cooking, their oven should be preheated to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and they should set out two large baking sheets with parchment paper on them. After doing this, one should mix the butter and half a cup of powdered sugar together. After the ingredients are well-blended, mix the flour, salt, and the pecans into the mixture. Next, use a one-inch cookie scoop to shape the dough into a circle and place the cookies onto the baking sheet. Finally, bake the cookies for about fifteen minutes and roll them into the remaining powdered sugar when cooled for about five minutes. Another dessert that can help it feel like winter is snowman cupcakes. One can make the cake for the dessert with one stick of butter, two-thirds of a cup of sugar, one teaspoon of vanilla extract, two eggs, one and one-fourth cup of flour, and half a cup of milk. The frosting can be made using one stick of unsalted butter, three to four cups of powdered sugar, one-fourth of a cup of milk, half of a tablespoon of vanilla extract, one marshmallow per cupcake, orange food coloring, and a black icing pen. Before one begins cooking, preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and place paper cases into a muffin



Credit: Notebook of a Wife's Life

Penguins made of cream cheese is a creative and festive dessert to bake

tin. To begin making the cupcake, mix the butter, sugar, and vanilla together until the batter is well-blended. Next, add one egg at a time to the mixture and beat for about one minute and the flour and the milk. After blending the ingredients, pour the mixture into the paper cases and cook the cupcakes for seventeen to twenty minutes. While the cupcakes are baking, the frosting can be made by mixing the butter well and add the powdered sugar, milk, and the vanilla extract. More powdered sugar can be added to make the frosting have a thicker consistency. After the ingredients are mixed, one should take a small amount of frosting aside and color it orange to be used for the snowman's nose. When the cupcakes cool down, frost them and add a marshmallow on top to serve as the snowman's head. Finally, use the black icing pen to create facial features on the snowmen and use the orange frosting to make the noses. Creating and eating these cupcakes can lead people to reminisce past holidays. All of these desserts can help get students into the holiday spirit, often due to the flavors. These winter-themed foods can help it feel like it is wintertime to many, which can brighten someone's mood. Making or eating winter-themed foods is also a way to get one excited for the holiday season, even with the absence of cold weather. These foods are just a few that can be made for the holidays.



Credit: Cupcake db

Snowman cupcakes are a delicious winter-inspired dessert one can make

Russian Tea Cakes



Ingredients

- 1 cup butter or 1 cup butter
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup finely chopped nuts
- Powdered sugar

Directions

Heat oven to 400 degrees F.

Beat butter, 1/2 cup powdered sugar and the vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed, or mix with spoon.

Stir in flour and salt.
Stir in nuts.

Shape dough into 1-inch balls.

Place about 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 8 to 9 minutes or until set but not brown.

Immediately remove from cookie sheet; roll in powdered sugar.

Cool completely on wire rack.
Roll in powdered sugar again.

Get a Move On: What Exercise Does for the Mind and Body

By Rex Garcia '19
Staff Writer

A lazy lifestyle can often be satisfying as not everyone is a gym fanatic, though studies suggest that sitting on the couch all day is a more destructive lifestyle than smoking. Studies surfaced by newsgroups, including Time magazine and Cable News Network (CNN), have reported that failing to work out routinely is more punishing to health than diabetes, smoking and heart disease. As a healthy lifestyle is ideal for one's longevity, exercise may now sound more appealing, though exercise is not just to be healthy. A simple morning jog or occasional push-ups may prove far more beneficial for a longer and happier lifespan, dealing with mental stress and avoiding medical problems such as severe cardiac disease.

Like every defining moment, exercise could at the most unexpected moment change lives for the better. "I was depressed and tired," said Senior Andrei Denila, "Looking at my body with a fixed mindset thinking I was never going to change." Denila's freshman year was the year he began to work out and through his effort, he overcame depression, emotional distress, and even boosted his confidence and joy. Denila said, "All the adrenaline and working out can reduce stress from school, work or even at home." From working out, negative emotions could easily disperse, allowing one to go on with the day with a positive mind.

With exercise not only being a stress relief, it also provides one with a strong work ethic. Denila explained, "I had three tests and essays due on the same [day], but when I worked out, all the stress was gone and I felt good about myself, and my confidence elevated because I knew I could finish all the work." Senior Isaiah

Batton, who also gets an elevated high from working out, said, "It helps me get energized for the day because it gets the blood through everywhere and [helps me to] not feel sluggish, and that it's an easy transition from working in the gym to working in the classroom." Adding exercise as a part of a lifestyle can promote healthy habits including punctual work ethic, a consistent sleeping schedule and healthy eating. "I cut out eating candy and junk food to maintain my muscle growth because it defeats the purpose of going to the gym to build muscle," Batton said, "I also used to say I was going to do ten reps and only do six, so I fixed my work ethic, too, and started to do what I said I was going to do." Besides being mentally awake and gaining solid muscle, productivity with activities outside of the gym also become handled with the same attention, hard work and dedication.

Working out, whether the reason is from mental illness,

to improve physical fitness and be slim, or for the thrill of being active, can lead to a brighter lifestyle with freedom

of negativity, and the skill to get work done. What makes this different from other goals is that it is never too late to get into shape.

Exercise of any kind, whether it be push-ups to begin the day to sports on the field, starts with the choice to pursue a healthier lifestyle.



Credit: Andrei Denila

Senior Andrei Denila finds going outdoors and exercising an enjoyable and important aspect of his life

Artist Inspiration: The Elements that Conjure Creative Work

By Jillian Flack '22
Staff Writer

Around the campus, there are a multitude of talented students

who partake in activities such as creating art, writing, and making music. These students often get inspiration from their surroundings or their emotions. Although it can be difficult for these students to come

up with ideas for works to create, they can often get inspiration for their works in many different ways.

A great deal of the students around campus get inspiration from things they see in their

daily lives. From movies, books, songs, people, and even their surroundings, students can often discover new ideas for their works. Junior Miriam Cepeda Aguilar, an artist, shared, "I think that there's many different things, like, in the world that are beautiful. . . There's so many things that you can look at in a person like their expression, their emotion, the way that they're positioned, the way that they carry themselves, and body language as well can be, like, shown through art, so I like that a lot." Cepeda Aguilar is intrigued by people with unique features and she is inspired to paint them to capture their distinct beauty. Along with Cepeda Aguilar, many other students create their works based on the beauty they find in the world. Other creative thinkers make their projects based on other factors, such as the environment.

Freshman Candice Lindholm, artist and writer, said, "For the most part, I'd probably say music [inspires my artwork]. The, like, environment, and my surroundings generally do, too. So, like, people in. . . those surroundings

or environment or just, like, the physical environment [inspire me]." Lindholm incorporates her surroundings into her artwork to exhibit the things she sees in her daily life. A large number of creative thinkers also include things they see everyday, often to express themselves through objects in their daily lives. Other than her artwork, Lindholm also writes stories that are shaped by her daily life. Lindholm shared, "They do tend to be inspired by things I find in history, so like, if there's a historical era I'm super into then I'll like either tie parts of that era into our modern era or just set it there." Lindholm often uses historical events that she finds interesting. Plenty of talented students also use the past in their creative works to display a new work, which can help them to express themselves through the past.

Along with getting inspiration from daily life, a multitude of other talented students get ideas from their own emotions. This can help a student to figure out how they feel about something going on in their life. Sophomore Ariana Abordo,

musician and songwriter, stated, "Sometimes I try to, like, write little songs here and there and try to, like, express how I'm feeling in a way. . . You know, sometimes I don't know how I feel, so, like, I'm trying to put something to it and it makes me feel a little bit better, but sometimes when I'm happy, like, I'll write about, like, my friends or my family." Many others also believe that writing songs and playing songs that reflect their emotions can help them figure out complicated feelings or even those that are not confusing, which inspires many as creative thinkers. For some, emotions can be strong and having a way to reveal how they are feeling can help them feel better about what they are going through.

Writers, artists, and musicians are often inspired by the things and people they see. These students often create their works to reflect how they are feeling or to capture the unique beauty in the world. The works created can help one to portray who they really are. This can help many to express their views of situations happening in the world or of objects in their environment.



Credit: Jillian Flack

Freshman Vanessa Sandoval plays the violin, a hobby she enjoys in her spare time where she can be creative

Preparing for Job Interviews

By Summer Folger '19
Arts & Entertainment Editor

When it comes to being interviewed for a job for the first time, students often feel anxious or nervous, to which they will have a harder time during the process. But if students come into the interview prepared with questions, answers, and appropriate attire, they will have a better chance at impressing their possible employer. Not only that, but knowing the types of interviews can help for adaptability when being interviewed.

Before heading into an interview, one should be prepared for it. The first thing for the applicant to do is to research the business they are applying to. Based on his own experiences Senior Leonard Anthony Conner advised, "Always come in with a resume and ask if they are hiring." If the business says no, Conner explained that students should ask if they may leave their resume in case the company is hiring in the future. If a student is able to have an interview, they may create personal questions to be more involved in the interview, as well as being sure to express interest in the job. Mainly, this involves gathering more details about the job and the business. After creating questions, one must practice giving answers for the interview. There are websites like themuse.com that give students the basic questions that are often involved. When heading to the interview, students should wear more neutral colors, along with attire that makes one appear neat and tidy. Conner talked about how "[he] made sure [he] had, like, a good shirt on, like,

[he] had a button up on instead of [his] normal T-shirt." Besides wearing nicer clothing, students should also bring a few copies of their resume in case there is more than one person interviewing them. Not only that, but Senior Sophia Solorzano went into detail about her own experience where "before [she] had a job and, like, interviewing and stuff, [she] felt so little but, like, after doing interviews and, like, talking to, like, an adult, like, one on one. . . it made [her] feel more like an adult." When going through this experience, Conner advised students based on his own job experience where he now is the manager at The Baked Bear, saying, "Don't be afraid to get a job because before this is my first job and. . . beforehand, I was really afraid of getting a job. I felt like I would hate it and, like, I wanted more social time but after I got the job. Like now. . . I'm still able to manage that with my social time." Equally important is that during the introduction, one should have a good posture and maintain eye contact with the interviewer when shaking their hand and talking to them. After the interview is over, one should make sure to do a follow-up with a thank you letter talking about the experience and thanking the interviewer for conducting the interview.

When it comes to being interviewed, there is more than one way an interview can be conducted. It normally starts off with the screening process where the employer looks over the application, which usually has a resume attached to it, and if they deem one qualified, then they schedule an interview. One way the interview could be handled is as a solo interview where one goes to an office

or the business where they are hiring. It mainly depends on the place the student is applying to. Another way companies handle their interviews is through a group interview. There is usually more than one person conducting the interview so that they can each observe how an applicant interacts around others. During this time, the interviewers could ask questions, create a group activity, or create a problem to see how one responds to it. When partaking in a group interview, the way one can create a good impression is by being friendly towards the others while also trying to be more of a leader, which can be done through methods such as including everyone in the group. When others are being questioned, students should make sure to listen to the answers of others and when it comes to their turn, making the answer more unique than the others' answers can be beneficial. Furthermore, another way students could be interviewed is through a phone call. There are two ways that a phone interview is handled: scheduled and unscheduled. Mainly with phone interviews, the ideal way of managing it is to talk slower and to listen to the questions. One should make sure to ask questions in response while also researching the company and job description, along with pulling up one's resume.

All in all, with preparing for an interview and being oneself, students can help to ease their nerves for the interview, as well as to create a deeper impression on the interviewers. By researching and knowing the different types of interviews, students can become more versatile towards not only the interview, but the job as well.



Mrs. Elyce Mandich
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

MANDICH'S MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

Depression. We've all heard of it, many have experienced it, but WHAT is it? Depression is more than just feeling sad. Depression is something that lasts longer and feels much heavier than normal sadness. Some people report symptoms associated with depression such as: Feeling like a failure, forgetfulness, frequent crying, self-harm (such as cutting), feeling helpless, a lack of motivation to partake in things that used to make them happy, missing class, feelings of worthlessness, thoughts of suicide, etc. Some people ask, "Why am I depressed? What caused this?" and the answer is, well.... the answer is GRAY. The cause of depression can be different from person-to-person and is typically a combination of different variables. Some causes of depression are related to traumatic experiences, genetic predisposition, experiences of abuse or neglect, personality types (for example, somebody who is more of a "perfectionist" is more vulnerable to depression because they can sometimes have unrealistic expectations and are highly critical of themselves), physical illness, biochemical factors, substance abuse, etc. Also, during the winter months, a lot of people experience "winter blues" or "holiday blues." Since this time of year typically is cloudier, darker, and generally less "California sunny", there is MORE melatonin produced- which is a chemical related to sleep and LESS serotonin produced- which is a chemical related to

good feelings. This increase in melatonin and decrease in serotonin can result in increased feelings of depression. Depression IS NOT a weakness and it IS NOT a choice. Depression IS treatable. In fact, there are a lot of things that can really help you if you are feeling depressed. For example: Some people manage their depression by having a strong support system of people that love and care for them, some utilize therapy and mental health services to talk with a therapist or begin taking medication. Separate from receiving mental health treatment, here are a few tips that can potentially help you cope and manage your depression: Talk to somebody, give somebody an 8-second hug (YES, 8 seconds... kind of awkward, but it can increase those serotonin levels we talked about. It also will probably make you laugh, which causes a release of endorphins- more feel-good chemicals), challenge your negative thoughts and try to replace them with positive thoughts (our thoughts affect our feelings, which affect our behavior, so by changing our thoughts, we can begin to impact positive change related to how we feel and behave), and practice gratitude (such as making a list everyday of three things you are grateful for). Just like people experience depression differently, coping and managing depression differs from person-to-person as well. If you or somebody you know is struggling with depression, there is help- such as the Crisis Text Line, just text HELLO to 741741.

The Pink Tax: Gender Discrimination



The pink tax refers to the fact that feminine health products, are charged sales taxes, categorized as luxury items, despite being necessary

By Emily Lusung '20
Staff Writer

The Pink Tax might sound appealing and pretty, but is the complete opposite. The Pink Tax refers to the fact that the average woman spends more than the average man on comparable personal care products, clothing, and accessories. Because of the Pink Tax, women pay an additional \$1,300 annually for feminine necessities. While there is no federal law against this gender inequality taxation, California has made several attempts to pass this issue through legislation, being unsuccessful thus far. Products have become signified, not by quality or function, but simply by color: pink and blue. Feminine products are charged sales tax because they are considered luxury

items, however, these products are vital part of a woman's livelihood, not a luxury. In the same way, men's necessities, which include razors, shaving cream, shampoo, etc., are not charged sales tax because they are not luxury items. The fact that women are charged more than men on similar products that are vital to life suggests that society fully condones gender inequality. The existence of the Pink Tax increases gender discrimination for women, as they earn eighty cents for every dollar a man earns and are expected to spend more money on necessities. "Pink products", which are marketed towards female shoppers, give an excuse to the marketing industry to raise prices over the "blue products," which are targeted towards male shoppers at a cheaper price. There is no reasoning that justifies

why a woman should carry the burden of overcharged personal care products. Women are not obligated to intentionally realize that they are spending more money on similar products of men than they should. The gender pay gap proves that women should not be overcharged on similar products of men. Gender discrimination has been incorporated into the everyday life of society to the point where it is not easily recognizable. Marketers have taken advantage of every female customer by discreetly raising the price of female products, and deliberately separating the pink and blue items to make a decent profit. In other words, female consumers are blind to these unfair prices. Even if the issue is not completely acknowledged by the entire female population, it does not

mean that a formal address should not be created and passed through legislature. The discussion of the absurd Pink Tax has been undermined for a long time while the financial injustice that women are experiencing is continued. Female consumers are objectified by the corrupt desires of companies who only prioritize making money. A majority of California's population is blind to the Pink Tax and its detrimental effects to the female population, which is why this topic must be brought into light. If the discussion about the Pink Tax is amplified to everyone, women's lives can change in positive financial ways, while eliminating the targeting done by corporations. Spread the word of the gratuitous Pink Tax; the discriminatory acts of corporations need to be put to an end.

Buying Volunteer Hours

By Benjamin Garner '19
Editor-in-Chief

In 1988 Temecula Valley Unified School District (TVUSD) implemented a community service requirement for high school graduation. When the policy was first implemented students were required to complete only ten hours of community service. The community service requirement has since increased, now requiring graduating seniors to have at least forty verified hours. The purpose behind this requirement is to help students get involved in their communities, learn valuable skills and morals, and build up their college applications. Yet, in recent years this positive motive has been perverted by instances of donation drives, where donations yield community service hours.

involved in the community. It is undoubtedly understandable why donation drive organizers would offer hours in return for donations, it seems like a small harmless trade-off that brings massive numbers of donations for a good cause. Yet, these events teach students nothing about actual community service and only provide an outlet for those who are not willing to dedicate their time and effort to actual community service. If donation drives were used by students to gain a few supplemental hours, that would be a different scenario, but this is simply not the case. With the sheer volume of hour-granting donation drives a student could easily coast through four years of a high school, never volunteering, but receiving all the required

a key understanding, that there is a stark difference between spending money to just buy and drop off generic items for people a student has never met, and actually going out into the community and sharing the experience of helping out, with the people they are helping, but there is a way to get the best of both situations. A good example of this is Operation Holiday Cheer, where students both donate gifts, and interact with the recipients of those gifts. Holiday Cheer gives students the opportunity to buy personalized gifts for people living in the Valley Restart Center, in Hemet. Senior Isiah Batton epitomizes this blend of donation and service. Batton states, "I prefer stuff like this because I think it's better to get something for someone and get to see the open it, rather than just giving it to anyone. If you can get something for someone it's a way different feeling, and you're not just doing it for community service hours, but you can see the joy." Batton's point is the true problem with receiving hours for donations, students never get to experience good their work can do. Students should, undoubtedly, continue to bring in canned foods, blankets, and toys, these drives do greatly benefit people in need. Yet, the administration should strongly reconsider whether or not donations should continue to yield hours.

The intention behind this is clear, donation drives can do a lot of good for groups of people who really use it, and getting students to donate can be difficult. Through an incentive for donating, especially one that allows a student to essentially opt out of any real volunteer work expressly contradicts the purpose of the community service graduation requirement. By allowing students to donate goods in return for hours, they are quite literally buying their way out of actually getting

"I PREFER STUFF LIKE THIS BECAUSE I THINK ITS BETTER TO GET SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE AND GET TO SEE THEM OPEN IT, RATHER THAN JUST GIVING IT TO THE OFFICE FOR ANYONE. IF YOU CAN GET SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE ITS A WAY DIFFERENT FEELING, AND YOU'RE NOT JUST DOING IT FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES HOURS, BUT YOU CAN SEE THE JOY."

- ISIAH BATTON '19

California Sex Education Reform to Take Effect in 2019

By Juleah Rasmussen '22
Graphics Manager

Research has consistently shown that abstinence-only education has no effect on the number of teenagers choosing to partake in sexual activities. Unfortunately, very few states offer anything more than abstinence-only education. The time to incorporate formal sex education is now. Due to the lack of content in sex education, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and teenage pregnancy rates are unnecessarily high. Clearly, the current curriculum has failed. No action done in schools has decreased the number of students having sex either, but by providing education on important topics, such as STDs and the various forms of contraception, students who are having sex will be safer. The only purpose of abstinence-only sex education is to decrease the amount of teens having sexual intercourse. With forty-six percent of high school students partaking in sex of some form, telling kids to "just say no" is no longer beneficial to the large population that will say yes. In 2015, bill 329 was passed; it called for reform on sex education in all public schools across California. This revolutionary law, known as the California Healthy Youth Act, mandates that schools teach "medically accurate" and "age appropriate" comprehensive sex education. Since the bill was passed, parents have been protesting. The problem is that the parents protesting have not even read the new material being taught. In order to understand why the reform in sex education was needed, it is important to understand exactly what was being taught before and what is going to be taught now under the new law. In the years prior, students in California have received an abstinence only sex education. Under this curriculum students are told to wait to have sex, when most

students don't even understand what sex is at that point. Another huge problem with the old sex education material was that there was no written standard, therefore teachers could add or subtract information from their lessons according to their own beliefs, creating a biased education for students. The reforms give educators the tools to ensure teenagers receive integrated, comprehensive, unbiased and accurate sexual health and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevention instruction. The new curriculum provides teenagers with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect their sexual and reproductive health from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and from unintended pregnancy. The changes in the curriculum normalize sexuality as a part of human development, and provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to develop healthy attitudes concerning adolescent growth and development, body image, gender, sexual orientation, relationships, marriage, and family. It is very important that the curriculum stays in place in order to promote healthy relationships. Although many students can access information on these topics through parents, friends, doctors, and the internet, schools are the best opportunity for a formal sex education. With so much information out there, it is better that students get information from school educators so that it is reliable. Also, schools are a good opportunity for sex education to be available for everyone, not just the teens who ask their doctors or look information up online. Parents who are worried about their child becoming aware of the information about their bodies that will be taught in the new curriculum should simply opt their child out of the class, instead of taking this information from every adolescent. If students can only receive a sex education from a biased source, such as from their

church or their parents, they might not get accurate facts. This causes them to be at risk of contracting an STD or becoming pregnant at a young age if they are deciding to have sex, and sixty percent of students have sex in high school. People in protest of the new and improved sex education syllabus justify their views by saying that the new curriculum misinforms young girls and empowers boys to pressure others to have sex. In reality the law allows students to learn about healthy relationships on top of learning abstinence. Rather than encouraging

students to have sex, the curriculum merely informs them about safe and effective contraceptive methods for when they choose to have sex. Many parents are worried that their kids will decide to have sex earlier because they will have an understanding of it, but studies conducted by Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrom (AIDS) and Behavior over the past twenty years have shown that offering a sex education and giving students access to condoms does not increase the rate of students having sex, it only protects the teenagers that were going to have sex to begin with.

With only thirteen states requiring sex education to be medically accurate, there is no wonder why America has the highest adolescent birth rate in the world. Statistically, about three in ten girls get pregnant before age twenty and only forty percent of teen mothers finish high school. The new sex education class includes information that will help teens to safely prevent things like unplanned pregnancy and STDs. Teens and young adults, ages fifteen through twenty-four, account for half of new STD infections. With a formal education for teens

on STDs and STIs, teenagers will be more aware and educated on how to avoid contracting them, and the rate of transmission will go down. It can be hard for kids to talk to their parents about relationships and sexual reproduction, and some parents do not provide the information their kids may need. If parents are not comfortable with the sex education program, they have the option to opt their child out, but taking the program away from all students will only cause the number of teen STDs and teen pregnancy to stay the same or even increase.



California's comprehensive sexual education curriculum, soon to take effect in 2019, includes the teaching of both straight and LGBTQ+ topics

Euthanasia Provides Peace for Terminally Ill

By Emily Lusung '20
Staff Writer

The question of whether or not voluntary euthanasia should be allowed has always been a giant controversy; whether or not voluntary euthanasia should be allowed or if it is morally correct is a difficult question. Voluntary euthanasia is a physician-assisted suicide with the intent of ending the life of a patient who is enduring a great amount of pain. Voluntary euthanasia seems to be ironic since a physician's purpose is to practice medicine in order to protect their patients lives in terms of health, however in almost every case it is justifiable. Voluntary euthanasia is entirely the patient's decision because no one should ever have to live through excruciating pain if they do not want to.

Physician-assisted suicide occurs rarely and it typically involves patients with terminal illnesses, like cancer. In places where voluntary euthanasia is legal, such as Oregon, Vermont, California and Washington, adults were entitled to voluntary euthanasia due to their failing

health conditions. Although Studies from The Journal of the American Medical Association claim, "Pain is not the main motivation for PAS (physician-assisted suicide)... The dominant motives are loss of autonomy and dignity and being less able to enjoy life's activities." Some patients also simply want to end their lives because they do not have the ability to perform or enjoy everyday activities. Another aspect that validates the use of voluntary euthanasia is the convenience of a patient being allowed to choose how they end their life. People should have the right to claim their life to an end if they are willingly aware of the conditions they are currently in and thoroughly understand the concept of making the decision between life of suffering or death. Voluntary euthanasia should be legalized and considered as an option for future patients who might need to or want to undergo this procedure. It does not necessarily need to be used commonly but it should at least be an option.

Of course there are certain reasons why the use of voluntary euthanasia in some places have not been



Credit: FSSPX

Voluntary euthanasia provides terminally ill patients, like the elderly, the ability to pass peacefully legalized yet such as certain religions, criminalization and morality. Voluntary euthanasia would be used after thorough examination of the patient's condition and case, and initiated by doctors who believe in the right to show mercy to patients. The morals behind voluntary euthanasia are dignified upon consent, it is an act of mercy. In order to consider voluntary euthanasia as a humane act, it must be analyzed beyond the criminal view. Voluntary euthanasia allows terminally ill patients to choose a painless death, which is a decision that should be left to them.

How a "Lack" of Religion Shaped America



Credit: Shutterstock

American Society and Religion have become increasingly intertwined as they share core values, despite being constitutionally separated

By Madison Brown '19
Staff Writer

Contrary to popular media reflection, America displays an extraordinarily high appreciation of religion, with sixty-five percent of Americans placing religion at the forefront of daily lifestyles and choices. These statistics come as no surprise, considering that American culture focuses on independence and the First Amendment, including the freedom of religion. The 'lack' of government-based religion in the United States is often attributed to the Establishment and Free Exercise clause within the Constitution.

Also, Thomas Jefferson, a proclaimed forefather of America and Atheist, successfully excluded Baptists and Methodists of early America from influencing politics. However, excerpts such as, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," came straight from Article I of the Constitution and directly contradict this theory, proving that individuals, like

Jefferson, were hypocritical in their efforts.

In early 1776, English migrants had finally reached the sanctuary from monarchy and class-based oppression left behind in England and further separated themselves from the Pagan influenced governments through the instatement of the first Ten Amendments. As time progressed with formations of the Democratic and Republican parties, history began to repeat itself as the more conservative party gained votes heavily based on religious affiliations. It became the responsibility of government elected officials on all levels to inspire and uplift the growing lower classes. Unbeknownst to most, by keeping the masses of poorer individuals at the mercy of ballot-based voting, despite the use of the electoral college, the less populated upper class gained more control within politics and facilitated increasing amounts of religious propaganda within voting terms. With mentalities similar a flock of sheep blindly following a herder; blame for decades worth of political 'faults' which had been influenced by religious beliefs can not be shed onto the shoulders of said government officials, but, rather on the large masses of people willing

to let one idea speak for millions of lifestyles.

Today, all fifty states have references to God in their constitutions. Sudan uses Sharia (Islamic) laws, similar to the United States' principles as the morality based punishment mirrors America's judicial system; individuals are sworn in by the Bible before being able to dictate the fate of someone being prosecuted. Those that argue that religion has no place within politics are blind to the fact that religion-based interactions take place in day to day situations, from being sworn in on jury duty to the traditional "bless you" after a sneeze. The contradiction of religion having no place our government, while also being a fundamental pillar of American culture, only deepens the doubt and instability of an accusation such as our government being completely unaffiliated with religion. The United States is no longer desperate to drop religious affiliation and branch out to newer possibilities. President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have been proactive in the revival of a more reserved, and ultimately Christian, America. In looking back to former President Barack Obama's speech at the 2010 National Prayer Breakfast, similar ideas were shared as the

citizens of the United States were called upon to rejoice in the name of religion in service of building a better society, meaning one with a stronger foundation in religious unity.

On the contrary, religion being taken on as a reserved, Republican characteristic, has divided America into those that consider themselves worthy of proper governing versus the leftover population that should suffer for straying away from the true message of the book. Democratic or 'liberal' individuals regard the majority of right-wing republicans in the same pretense as the old slave masters that would galavant around doing what they pleased while stating that they were "ordained by God". Most of these allegations are made in light of similar efforts to the above mentioned Vice Pres. Mike Pence's idea in reinstating decade old torture methods such as shock therapy for LGBTQ+ individuals. Unfortunately, both sides of the debate are built upon founding fathers that harbored slaves of their own while crying out for freedom in all aspects of society. Without mention of both progressive and regressive presidents living in the White House which was built by slaves. Personal culture and viewpoints on sensitive topics can be dangerous, especially when paired with religious sentiment however, we must also realize that it is the tolerance and peace taught within the Bible that comes as a result of loving free of judgment that led to things like the end of segregation and gay rights in America when many of said individuals were not viewed as citizens previously.

With today's society benefiting from the application of personal beliefs in secular and non secular nature, the endless miscommunication as a result of biased views has to come to an end. In order to better understand the goals of those that do not hold the same beliefs as ourselves, the selfish, pride filled rat race to proving that one person is correct over another should be replaced with open avenues of communication to effectively convey the message. When looking at the involvement of religion in politics, a big picture lens is necessary in being able to prevent what the true intention of separation between the church and the state stood for.

Rewind Approaching Most Disliked Video Ever

By Benjamin Garner '19
Editor-in-Chief

Since 2013 the higher ups at YouTube have created what they deem to be a culmination of the year's trends, popular culture, and general happenings within the YouTube community, known as YouTube Rewind. YouTube Rewind was initially well received, for the first few years. The videos featured many popular YouTubers from different genres dancing and partaking in the trends of the year, with a mash up of popular songs, in what was the biggest collaboration video of the year. It was a solid capstone for every year that brought together

the community and gave proper recognition to many sects of the platform. Unfortunately, this year was quite different. The number of failures in this year's Rewind are countless, and it is currently the second most disliked video on the platform with 9.42 million dislikes.

Firstly, the creators featured were either wholly irrelevant or from other platforms who do not play a significant role in the YouTube community, but rather, Rewind 2018 featured so-called 'family-friendly' or 'advertiser-friendly' creators, in place of the people who actually had an influence on the platform—this coming after the platform was maligned for its 'Ad-pocalypse' where many creators lost ad

revenue as YouTube massively revamped their monetization and suggestion algorithms. Furthermore, the exclusion of the platform's top creator Felix Kjellberg, otherwise known as PewDiePie, whose feud with the rapidly expanding Bollywood channel, T-Series was a substantial part of 2018 YouTube culture, signifies the disconnect between YouTube management and the community.

The Rewind this year was ironically themed as viewers having control over Rewind, while simultaneously disregarding the entire community as a whole by excluding the trends, content creators, and viewers who made the platform what it is.



Credit: YouTube

YouTube Rewind 2018, included no relevant creators, and is wildly disliked



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If readers desire to respond to an editorial, *The Platinum Press* value 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 or polarizing said 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 email: rleonhardi@tvusd.k12.ca.us

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American Border Agents Fire Tear Gas at Asylum-Seekers



Credit: Kim Kyung-Hoon

Migrant mother, with her children, frantically running from the American-Mexican border as tear gas is fired

By Emily Lusung '20
Staff Writer

In what seemed to be a simple march at the Tijuana border turned to an abominable tear gas tragedy, initiated by United States Customs and Border Protection agency on November 25; migrants from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador marched to the border in an attempt to be accepted for political asylum to escape gang violence, poverty, and domestic abuse. Families now wait at the border, taking shelter, hoping their lives would

change. Such a calamity would have probably never occurred had President Donald Trump sent caseworkers and non-military personnel, rather than sending more than 5,000 troops to the Southern border to accommodate peaceful asylum applicants. This entire crisis solely adds to the fact that the border policy is completely dysfunctional and proves Pres. Trump's haughty will is fixated on blocking migration from Latin America. Migrants have to wait in uncertainty while only about 100 asylum applications are processed everyday by the government. With a new policy

being enforced by Pres. Trump, this might be the first, rather than the last, mistreatment of immigrants seeking asylum acceptance from the United States. Pres. Trump has gotten the support of Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, only after forcing him to accept the new policy of keeping the Central American applicants out of the United States while their asylum cases are being processed. Everard Meade, director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego, told United Press International that "the system is broken when you have to wait five years to get a substantive hearing



Credit: Kim Kyung-Hoon

American Customs and Border Protection Agents fire tear gas at migrant caravan seeking asylum at the border

in an asylum case, even when you have all kinds of data that you will face torture or murder if you return to your home country." Up to this point, the fate of migrants lives' are at the hands of the President and his imminent decisions are crucial. With a President who has a past of cruelly tearing apart children from their parents, the harsh United States response with the migrant caravan was nearly inevitable. This only hints at a future for migrants to suffer additional discourteous burdens being laid by Pres. Trump himself. With the addition of excessive military personnel at the border,

the area between Tijuana and San Diego is practically sealed. One of the most prominent problems that has risen from the border crisis is the declared humanitarian crisis in Tijuana. Families with young children are living in harsh conditions, hoping to be lucky enough for acceptance of asylum. This problem will not be solved with more walls or troops, but it will only increase the crucial desire of families being separated and awaiting their impending fate that tantalizes a future in America that may be a future of torment. Not only was this event solely based on migrants trying to apply

for asylum, but on how Pres. Trump has led the nation into a complete opposite direction of an effective immigration reform. Anti-immigration forces disregard sensible and grounded reforms, which a majority of America really wants, a stronger border enforcement and an effective path toward legalization for undocumented immigrants. Perhaps, America would not have the image of a nation who has fired tear gas at children and their parents if the immigration system was not set up for failure and allowed more cooperation with all countries in Central America.

Everyone is a Winner: The Effect of Participation Trophies

By Brooke Larson '19
Staff Writer

The idea that everyone's a winner has been promoted from parents, schools, and coaches. From participation awards for every little thing that a kid does, to parents shielding their kids from their failures, today's kids are forced to live in a fantasy world where success is a given. For example, parents call teachers to discuss how their child can raise their grade, when in reality, the responsibility should fall on the children to go in and talk to their teacher themselves. Parents and schools have gotten so concerned with raising a kid's self esteem, that they do not realize the consequences of never allowing any opportunities to let the kids fail. This leads a new generation growing up with a sense of entitlement and inability to handle failure, which can possibly lead to more negative outcomes. The fact is, raising every kid to believe that they are a winner is creating a reality for them that is mentally, physically, and emotionally unfeasible.

Both Millennials and Generation Z have been characterized to have more anxiety and depression compared to previous generations. Within the last six years alone, counseling centers have experienced a twenty-eight percent increase in both walk-in and crisis appointments. In a 2017 survey by the American College Health Association, sixty-one percent of students reported feelings anxiety, and forty percent said they had feelings of depression. Perhaps this is happening because parents and schools have raised these generations in a shielded bubble where they are always winners. When it

is time for these children to grow up and go out into the real world, there are high expectations being demanded of these generations as they are the next leaders of the world. This combination of high expectations for the next few generations to fix all the problems in the world, and raising them to believe that everyone's a winner, partly explains why there is a raise in both depression and anxiety. Anxiety is being built up in these generations because they were raised on the philosophy that they were all winners. Now, as they get older, they

are being told that they are failing to live up to their potential by the previous generations. However, that potential has been severely diminished because these younger generations were shielded from failure, instead of learning how to maturely handle it naturally on their own. The intent behind promoting the idea of everybody being a winner to kids is not bad. It is good to give positive affirmation to kids, however, the topic is not being taught in the best way. It should be expressed more as everyone has the possibility to be a winner at something, which would promote kids to work hard and try their best in any sport, extracurricular, and class they take. Schools started following this idea due to parents complaining that their kids were not receiving awards when other students were. Then, parents started intervening by calling in on behalf of their kid to the school about their failing grade or bad test score. Which usually resulted in the parent blaming the teacher for the failing mark, or asking for extra credit on behalf of their kid. Parents should have let their handle the situation on their own, or learn the consequences of not working. Instead, most parents chose to shield their kids from failure, and either fix the situation for

them, or blame it on others. This prevents kids from having a chance of growth, and keeps them reliant on their parents to handle their failures again in the future. Both parents and schools need to realize there is a middle ground to be reached on this issue that does not completely discourage kids, nor does it overly encourage them without them doing any hard work. The philosophy should be to let kids figure out life's consequences for themselves and to provide help along the way when they need it. Instead, older generations are reluctant to trust the youth of today and do not believe they can foster any good change for the world. Generation Z and the

young adults of the Millennial generation have been scrutinized the most by previous generations on social media and other forms of media. This distrust between generations has done more harm than good, and will cause more damage to the future of the world than what these younger generations could have done on their own. These younger generations are new to handling failure, and mistakes will be made, but there is still time for them to learn, and come up with their own solutions. Just as previous generations had their opportunity to have successes and failures, it is time for Millennials and Generation Z to have their own, and learn for themselves.

young adults of the Millennial generation have been scrutinized the most by previous generations on social media and other forms of media. This distrust between generations has done more harm than good, and will cause more damage to the future of the world than what these younger generations could have done on their own. These younger generations are new to handling failure, and mistakes will be made, but there is still time for them to learn, and come up with their own solutions. Just as previous generations had their opportunity to have successes and failures, it is time for Millennials and Generation Z to have their own, and learn for themselves.



Credit: Shutterstock

Receiving participation trophies and awards regardless of achievement does not prepare students to fail

The Twenty-First Century: The Era of Technological Progress

By Gabriella Gatchalian '20
Staff Writer

Advancements in society happen for the sake of benefiting the lives of people; the greatest example of this idea is the creation of technology. Technology, both old and new, was created for the sake of providing an easier life for people. This ultimate goal, looking at the current situation of the modern-day society, was greatly achieved. However, as life became easier for humanity, as technology made life easier, humanity soon became dependent, no longer able to live without the looming presence of technology. When advancements in technology began, every newly created machinery made life easier for humanity, in such a way that it became difficult to envision a world that did not propagate such advancements. The modern-day society has various events that

carry extraordinary advancements, from the invention of phones to the creation of social media, each are extravagant creations that led to numerous revelations in regards to creating easier ways for people to express themselves, communicate, and advertise. However, even though these technological creations has created an 'easier way' for humanity to live, it also enabled the creation of distractions, and due to its goal of easy communication, the advancements in society, specifically the dependence on technology created relations that bares little to no quality.

The very idea of social media, or the internet, was once foreign, however, this vision has been greatly altered that a world without the internet in the modern-day seems unimaginable. The once peculiar idea is now essential to every living person in this planet. The utmost purpose of the internet was to connect people, to guarantee that people from two different locations

can easily communicate with each other within a click of a button. This very purpose however, led to various opportunities for brands to create apps, or websites, that enforces the idea of communication, with a twist. Social media incorporates this idea, the idea of communication with the mix of entertainment, advertisement, etc. This unique invention, a blending of the different human interests into one application is what causes many citizens to become ever-so addicted to these forms of social media. Indeed, these applications has brought people closer to each other, however, it has brought a great decline in meaningful relationships. Social media provided the ability to converse through an app, hiding true emotions, masking true intentions with a perfected profile, that at times bares little to no resemblance to the true human being behind the screen, creates superficial relationships that mean almost nothing in real life. The creation of an idealized

profile and advertising to every follower that facade is who that person is, creates an idealized person that people will blindly follow, but also, forces people to continue to live in a lie, to live in a virtual profile that fuels their satisfaction, a fantasy that masks reality; are the very aspect of the internet, or social media that differentiates it from the past forms of communication.

The advancement in technology is bittersweet. There are negatives and positives within the increasing dependence on technology, specifically social media. The establishment of a person's facade, a factitious self that removes the truth, the 'flaws' that causes people to live in a lie, will forever disrupt the true meaning of a person's characteristics, their very roots, or purity. As much as advancements has brought benefits to the human life, the idea that "Man have become the tools of their tools" that was once proclaimed by Henry David Thoreau is now ever so evident in

the modern society. This technological dependence has ploughed the idea of human independence, the idea of advancements in society rose through the idea of providing better resources, or better ways for people to live, however, this idea was defiled through creations that causes the misuse of time and mind. Human beings differ from all living things because of their mind, humans survived through the different eras of history through discoveries, through knowledge; the only reason why people prospered throughout the several decades/eras, is through the continuous desire for knowledge. Technology, has altered such desire, specifically the way in which the majority is using it. The continuous need for temporary validation from strangers through a virtual facade, the need to communicate in a hogwash way that leaves no benefit for both the sender and receiver of the message, are slowly leading to the deterioration of both the human independence and knowledge.

Senior Athletes Commit

Senior Johnathan Combs | Baseball | CSU San Marcos

By Julia Hernandez '19
Copy Editor

After realizing his potential as a baseball player at the end of middle school, Senior Jonathan Combs worked hard to receive the offers and scholarships he did. Although he got an offer from San Diego State University, Combs received his ideal offer from California State University San Marcos (CSUSM). "I chose San Marcos because it's close. I really like the environment of the campus. I actually got to work with the team, and seeing them play and hearing about how they work, fits to where I would want to go," Combs explained. The opportunity to meet his future team helped him with his final decision. Even though he will mainly be focused on playing baseball, Combs will be majoring in

Kinesiology. He was thrilled when he received his offer from CSUSM because he was doubtful that he would receive an offer. "It felt like it came easy, but I know that I worked



hard for it. But still, getting any offer is pretty exciting," Combs reflected. He has been playing baseball since he was four or five years old. His dad signed him up for the sport as a kid, hoping that Combs would become a

good athlete. Since then, he has been practicing almost every day, whenever he can. During the off season, Combs works out often in order to stay in shape, and maintain the skills that will be vital in the upcoming season. One thing Combs has learned and will take away from playing a high school sport is that sports shape athletes into the person they are. There is a lot to be learned from teammates and coaches especially, but knowledge gained from winning and losing can teach athletes skills that will apply to them even after they graduate. "Being around teammates and coaches, and experiencing wins and losses, shapes you," Combs described. High school sports teach athletes many life lessons that may help them as they grow into adults. Whether athletes continue to play past high school or not, the person they are today would not be the same if they had not played sports.

Senior Julia Haynie | Volleyball | Portland State University

By Dolores Aguilus '19
Sports Editor

For the past eight years, Senior Julia Haynie has dedicated her time and effort into the one thing she is very passionate about: volleyball. As the school's Varsity Girls Volleyball team's middle blocker, Haynie has shown that her high school athletic career will come to an end as her athletic career at Portland State University (PSU) is only beginning. Although many other colleges around the nation offered her similar opportunities, on the 14 of November, Haynie officially committed to PSU with a full ride scholarship for all four years. Not only will she further her education into the medical field, but she will continue playing volleyball at a Division I (DI) level. The process of deciding which school she wanted to go to was described as "exciting, yet

stressful" because there were many opportunities and options she had to consider. In the end, it was the matter of choosing one that best suited her. The volleyball community also helped Haynie receive offers because the



volleyball director, who introduced volleyball into her life, had connections that contributed to Haynie's decision. "I chose Portland State because of the coaches, the environment, the school, and the fact I can pursue a medical

career there. After my visit to Portland, that's when I knew I really wanted to go," she stated. At a very young age, Haynie knew she always wanted to pursue a medical career, but did not believe it would ever be possible to do it while playing volleyball. When she realized it that it was possible, Haynie motivated herself even more to become a better player in order to achieve the goal of going to college for both volleyball and medicine. Attending a DI school can be rigorous, but Haynie is "actually really excited for my education at a DI school because the school has advanced tutors for the athletes which is very encouraging for my major in Pre-Med." Throughout the years Haynie has come across obstacles that made her stronger and what led her to this decision. Volleyball has played an important role in her life and she is more than ready to see what the college athlete opportunities present.

Senior Hayden Johns | Baseball | Dallas Baptist University

By Aishlyn Bruce '20
Staff Writer

Ever since he could remember, Senior Hayden Johns has grown up loving baseball. He has dedicated all his time and effort in order to be in the position he is currently in now, and that is being committed to Dallas Baptist University (DBU). Johns received this offer in January of his junior year. He was thrilled to receive this opportunity, as it was his first and only offer, and he accepted the offer to continue his education in business administration and pursue his baseball career at the same time. Johns had always planned to attend college to play baseball, and he has finally achieved his goal to be accepted into a Division I (DI) college for

baseball. "My travel ball coach helped me through the experience and lead me to the pitching coach at Dallas Baptist and that is how it all started," stated Johns, "I was



thrilled and super pumped when I first received this offer and the achievements that I have reached." Johns chose this college because he felt at home on the campus. He liked the environment around

him, and the community was very welcoming. The baseball team had welcomed him with open arms. It can be difficult when one is deciding the different factors and features of a college that attract a person and their preferences. Getting an offer from a college is difficult and takes hard work, especially to play at a DI college. Johns has shown this through his work ethic at school and on the field. "Baseball has taught me that there is going to be ups and downs and failures in your life and you are not always going to succeed, but when you do [succeed], you have to treat it as if it is a gift and you have to follow through with your passions," explained Johns. Baseball has been a key element in Johns' life as he will continue to succeed and fulfill his dreams and passions after high school.

Senior Andrew Mosiello | Baseball | University of Oregon

By Emily Pham '21
Staff Writer

With sharpened skills and outstanding potential, Senior Andrew Mosiello is currently anticipating what the future holds for him as he continues to pursue his passion: playing baseball. Mosiello began his baseball career at the age of four, inspired by his parents. Since then, Mosiello has been practicing every day possible. His potential has allowed him to commit early into the University of Oregon on a full-ride scholarship to play baseball. Although he got other offers from twelve other schools and some from the Pacific-Twelve Conference (Pac-12), a successful conference with numerous achievements that is made up of twelve prestigious universities, Mosiello believed his most ideal offer was from the

University of Oregon. Mosiello explained, "I chose the University of Oregon because I like the inside and outside of the campus and believe it is the right school for me." He



was surprised when he received the offer from the University of Oregon because he did not expect himself to qualify for this offer. Mosiello stated, "I did not expect such outcomes and it feels great to receive this [offer] and scholarship." He continues

to venture deeper into the world of baseball and has taken part in numerous practices with his friends and teammates. Mosiello has learned that partaking in a sport in high school gave him the ability to learn what is right and wrong, and sports helped him prepare for the bigger world of baseball. He understands that all players will maintain some knowledge gained from the coaches and players when the season comes to an end. When the team wins or loses, the knowledge and skills obtained in each practice and game can be used in the future of their careers. After being a part of the team for a number of successful seasons, Mosiello has also learned to balance baseball and school work since he is determined to not let anything stop him from succeeding in his dream career. Mosiello has high hopes to earn his desired degree and pursue a career playing baseball in the future.

Senior Grace Handler | Cross Country | CSU San Marcos

By Julia Hernandez '19
Copy Editor

As an well-rounded athlete from the start, Senior Grace Handler has committed early to California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) as a Cross Country and Track runner. Handler has been running since freshman year, and has picked up five other sports throughout her high school years. In addition to cross country and track, Handler does swim, water polo, field hockey, lacrosse, and flag football. Handler's inspiration to get started with sports is her mom. "She told me in my Freshman year, 'I want you to have friends when you go into school, so that's why you're going to run.' [I keep playing because] I was doing good and I thought I could get somewhere with the sport," Handler explained.

She deals with her season overlaps by prioritizing running over all else. She will go to a running practice first, unless there is a game for another sport. Even then, she will run extra



after other games. She has always wanted to be a collegiate athlete and "wants to go to the bigs for running." Handler had received a handful of other offers and full-ride scholarships to a variety of schools, but chose

CSUSM because she believed "it is a better full-package school compared to a lot of [other] schools." She got the offer by a phone call, followed by emails that stated precisely what she would be getting with her offer. She was offered more money if she could run in the 17:00s, which she did in her last cross country race. CSUSM is also a good fit for Handler as she prepares for her career. "I want to be a physical therapist in the end, but I also want to be an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter," she expressed. After having overlapping seasons, and practices lasting two to three hours for five or six days a week, the one major takeaway Handler has of playing high school sports is the importance of time management and team comradery. Sports will be more difficult to play unless there is a good team that is there supporting each other no matter what.

Senior Trevor Hinkel | Baseball | Pepperdine University

By Madison Vanesler '22
Staff Writer

Senior Trevor Hinkel received a scholarship to Pepperdine University to play baseball. Pepperdine was Hinkel's first official offer.

His scholarship covers eighty percent of tuition and fees. Hinkel said he was excited when he received the offer. Although, Pepperdine University was not the only institution that gave Hinkel an offer, he also received an offer from the Air Force Academy, Hinkel said that he chose Pepperdine was because he had formed relationships with the coaches and he liked the way they coached. He also indicated the location of the campus influenced his decision.

Along with continuing to play baseball throughout college, Hinkel said that he would like to major in business, a program which Pepperdine is well known for, while also minoring in



economics. Hinkel received his scholarship to Pepperdine during the fall of his junior year. He is excited and grateful that he has been offered the scholarship.

On campus, after school with his team, Hinkel practices baseball for about two hours, five days a week. Outside of school, he practices for an additional five to six hours throughout the week in order to stay in shape. Hinkel said that during the off seasons he limits his arm throwing and does heavy workouts to build strength in preparation for the upcoming season. The workout regime he maintains is indicative of his plans to further his career.

Hinkel has plans to attend college and play college baseball for a long time. His drive to play is rooted in his childhood, he has been playing baseball since he was little, and said that his dad had introduced him to baseball. Hinkel said, "It's a blessing" and that he hopes to make a career out of baseball.

Senior Morgan Johnson | Volleyball | Brigham Young University

By Aaliyah Eade '22
Staff Writer

Throughout the past nine years, Senior Morgan Johnson put her time and effort into the sport she loves most: volleyball. Johnson's talent and dedication has worked in favor of her athletic early admission to her dream college, Brigham Young University (BYU). Johnson first received this offer last November. "I tore my ASL when I was being recruited by them, so I had to wait almost a year. Then I came back and they offered me last November," she explained. Johnson was ecstatic when she was offered the chance to play at her dream school. Johnson stated, "When I was playing in a tournament, they emailed me and sent me a letter. That was without any connections, and they did not know who my mom was when they were

recruiting me. They then found out and started looking closer at me." No matter what, Johnson's goal was to play for BYU. Johnson explained, "My mom played there when she



played in college, and I have always wanted to be like her." With the fact that Johnson's mom used to play at BYU, she instantly knew that was the college she wanted to attend, and she would work her hardest

to make it there. Although she got the offer from BYU, Johnson also began receiving offers from other schools. Johnson states, "University of California Santa Barbara asked me, but I always knew BYU is where I want to be." When Johnson began playing club volleyball at the age of eleven, she always knew she wanted to play volleyball in college, especially at BYU. Johnson explains, "Since I started playing volleyball, it was always a goal of mine to be able to play at BYU". Now she will be able to pursue her dream as she plays in her college years. Although Johnson has her future planned out, she has not determined if she will continue her volleyball passion after college. Johnson has not decided on what she would like to major in, but with her pure talent and dedication she will be able to do great things athletically and academically at BYU.

Senior Cynthia Martin | Cross Country | California Baptist University

By Elizabeth Clavin '20
Staff Writer

After receiving a scholarship from California Baptist University (CBU) early, Senior Cynthia Martin is ecstatic about her commitment to the college and beyond grateful for this opportunity and the journey that lies ahead. Her passion and drive for Cross Country made her desirable to an assortment of colleges. She has not received any other scholarships, but nonetheless, numerous colleges have sent out emails and letters stating that they would like her to attend their school. For example, one of the colleges that contacted her and stood out amongst others was Whittier College. Evidently, she had chosen to commit to CBU due to the scholarship they provided her. Martin was given this offering approximately two months ago after visiting the campus.

The provided scholarship to CBU is partial, meaning that the college will pay half of the yearly costs; however, if she raises her cumulative GPA, then the college is willing to pay the rest



of her tuition. "I have always planned on going to college. Cal Baptist was not my dream college at first, but whenever I found out it was actually a school that most of my family went to, I was like, 'okay, yeah. This feels pretty awesome,'" Martin remarked.

During her college years, she hopes to study sports medicine which in a major aspiration of hers. She hopes that her love and determination for cross country grows even more, and she plans to continue running and training after college. "I have been in cross country legitimately for four years, but overall seven years," Martin stated. Meaning that she had practiced herself or with some friends for three years, then joined an equitable team four years ago. She received First Team all league twice, making it to California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) preliminaries and finals, enduring state CIF, and being awarded as team captain. CBU has offered Martin more than just a scholarship, in addition, it is a Christian based college along with being a Division I school, which will allow her to join a strong team. Overall, this is an exciting opportunity for Martin, and she is eager to see what is in store for her.

STUNT Team to Continue Head-to-Head Games Early 2019

Aishlyn Bruce '20
Staff Writer

Many people tend to assume that STUNT is not a sport without knowing exactly what it is, and how much effort is dedicated to this sport. STUNT is currently the fastest growing female sport in the country, as it combines the athletic components of cheer while including pyramids, tumbling and stunts. The athletes focus on technical aspects of the sport rather than crowd-leading elements. In contrast, it is different than sideline cheer because sideline cheerleaders attend and cheer at other sport events, such as football, volleyball, wrestling and basketball games. On the other hand, STUNT executes short routines through a head-to-head performance on the floor at the same time. The games are split into four quarters. The first quarter is partner stunts, the second quarter is jumps and tumbling, the third quarter is pyramids, and the fourth quarter is a combination of all three quarters into one routine. As the sport becomes more popular, people will learn how much

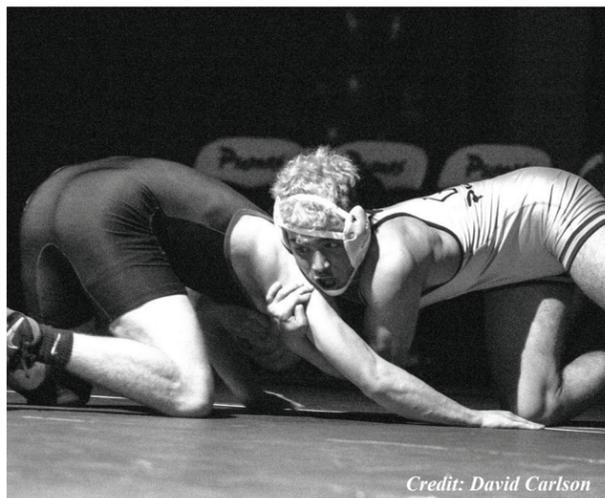
hard work truly put forward by the athletes. Head coach of the STUNT team, Brittany Clark, has been a coach for Chaparral Cheer for the past three years and started the STUNT program last year. Last year's season was the inaugural year, as it was a brand new sport to the school. "Overall, the Chaparral STUNT team was successful in winning majority of our league and non-league games. We were blessed to have such hard working athletes that were motivated to learn the sport just as the coaches were," explained Clark. STUNT had a very successful season and learned to thrive throughout the year. Practices are held two times a week and two hours a day. Jenna Taylor, a STUNT athlete, explains what the daily expectations of a practice looks like. "The team practices their standing tumbling, partner stunts, jumps and pyramids. Then, for the last thirty minutes or so, we condition," described Taylor. It takes these athletes months to learn a variety of routines, for a total of twenty-four routines to execute. Improving and perfecting the technique on these routines takes hours of practice, and the athletes need to adjust to fast-paced

learning and picking up the routines quickly. The STUNT team competes against many other high school teams in the area such as Elsinore High School, Temecula Valley High School, Murrieta Mesa High School. This year, the STUNT season has improved tremendously. "This year, our program has more than doubled the amount of athletes on the STUNT team which is an advantage to learning the routines at a faster rate and dividing up individual talent to meet the necessary components of each routine," explained Clark. As more talent is revealed to the team, the program progresses more and more as they prepare for games to start. Taylor explains her expectations for the upcoming season and what she pictures for herself. "This season, I plan on working more on my strength and endurance so that my overall performance can improve," she said. The athletes and coaches are excited to start the new season. The STUNT games will begin at the end of February and continue through the month of April. Even though it is still early on in the season, the team is determined to finish strongly to the end.



Credit: Aishlyn Bruce
The 2017-2018 STUNT team performing a pyramid section during a game in the gym

The Wrestling Team Back on the Mats and on the road to CIF



Credit: David Carlson

By Aaliyah Eade '22
Staff Writer

As the winter sports season begins, the wrestlers are back on the mat for the new year. Last year, the team had a three-way tie for second place in the Southwestern League, and were also in the running for California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) duals. The team tied the school record with eleven individual CIF qualifiers. The wrestling team performed great last year, and it will be hard to beat if they carry that same momentum. They are all coming in to the season with a positive mindset and set on working hard to further develop their techniques.

Training occurs after school every day for approximately three hours, and consists of cardio

endurance and technique training. Wrestling Head Coach Mr. Heath Branham went into detail on what a regular day of training consists of. "[There is] work and sweat, and a lot of it. We start practice with running and athletic stretching. Next, we drill fundamentals at a high intensity. The middle of practice is spent learning new techniques and moves. Practice closes with live drills of the new moves and live wrestling into heavy conditioning. Six minutes of one live match is the most exhausting activity that a student athlete will do in high school. Practice is tailored to excel through those six minutes, not just surviving," Branham explained. A lot of effort goes into training while being on the wrestling team, but keeping a positive mindset and attitude is just as effective. Branham explained the team's

strength, which is attitude. "There is a certain amount of ego that it takes to be good, too much and you are just cocky, too little and you can look timid to your opponent. This year's team, from the day one freshman, to the seniors, all seem to have that grit. They have that look in their eye and attitude on the mat that says, 'I am the baddest wrestler on this mat!' That is going to be fun to coach this year." With the team having the positive attitude they have had so far, they are entering the upcoming season determined. Due to the fact of the team having committed wrestlers, they will be very determined for this new season. Branham also went into detail on the fact that wrestlers have to train their technique and body each day. "Wrestlers know there are no true off days." Even when the coaches

take a day off from practice, the wrestlers are expected to do some sort of work at home," explained Branham. Senior Calvin Green, who has been on the wrestling team for the past four years, explained his outside training. "[I do] weight lifting three days a week and running on weekends," Green describes. He also believes a steady diet is needed while being a wrestler. "When in wrestling season you have to eat a healthy diet so you can replace all the calories you burned," said Green. Due to the intense training, you lose hundreds of calories that you then have to make up to keep a constant weight and stay healthy. As long as the individuals on the team are able to keep a steady diet, do consistent training and perform well, this should be a season to look forward to for the wrestling team.

Varsity Boys Soccer Unites in Preparation for the New Season

By Christina Avina '20
Staff Writer

Despite the unfortunate record last season, the Varsity Boys Soccer team will be making a comeback to remember. Working towards their goal of a successful season, the team has been practicing everyday after school in order to come together as one and improve their skills. With a new head coach and many new players, the Pumas are ready to take on a new season.

Team captain Senior Andres Barrera has high expectations for the team and himself for this upcoming season. Last year, the Pumas were constructing a new team, resulting in a stronger bond built off the difficulties they faced. Barrera claimed, "Last year we were building a completely new team with only some core returners. We were getting use to each other, so our

games did not go as planned." Throughout the season they worked hard in hopes of unifying the team, but Barrera thought "something was missing." In new efforts to push the team towards victory, Barrera plans to be a better leader and communicate with the team throughout games and training sessions. From five to seven in the evening, the Puma boys will be on the field, training hard and practicing various drills to improve technical abilities. Other sessions involve practicing realistic game scenarios to help the players in game-like situations. During these sessions the players are able to build more trust within each other, creating a more positive environment. "My team is what motivates me to play," said Barrera, "The feeling of winning and the unity of the team keeps me going." Barrera was initially inspired to play soccer by his dad, who also played soccer. Barrera's father signed him up at a young age, and he has played ever

since. Barrera continues to stay motivated because of his bond with the team. Co-Captain Junior Brandon Selway has been part of the varsity team since he was a freshman. Due to an abundance of outside experience playing soccer, Selway has shown he has been a great addition to the team and their achievements. Selway has been part of a competitive club team since the age of ten. Overtime he has developed as an athlete, which has certainly shown on the field. Throughout preseason, the team will continue to become unstoppable.

The new Varsity Head Coach, Mr. AJ Covorrubias, is preparing the boys for a successful season. As practices go by he hopes to unite the boys to come together and create a stronger bond. "Our motto is 'Unity' and I plan on continuing to foster a culture within our program that is based on that," stated Coach Covorrubias, "I believe once we embrace that we are one it will set us up for success." Some obstacles the Pumas may face this year is the fact that they are involved in a very competitive league. Although this may challenge the team, it will only motivate them to stay focused and determined. Coach Covorrubias claimed, "We will need



Credit: Shannon Terriquez

Senior Andres Barrera, Varsity Boys Soccer co-captain prior to striking the ball to be consistent and improve every week. We benefit from having such eager and capable players." He has expectations for the team to build on their skills and become more competitive as the season goes on. In time, the Varsity Boys Soccer team will continue to prosper and develop as a whole. With Covorrubias as the new coach, there will be a lot of change and improvement. Co-Captains Barrera and Selway are determined to create a stronger team and lead them to victory.



Credit: Shannon Terriquez

Varsity Boys Soccer Co-Captain Junior Brandon Selway dribbles the ball away from his opponent

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Senior Alyssa Wenzel | Softball | University of Northern Colorado

By Christina Avina '20
Staff Writer

Since the beginning of high school, Senior Alyssa Wenzel had been receiving offers from multiple colleges to further her softball career. A variety of colleges, such as San Diego State University, California State University, Northridge, and California State University Fullerton, had their eyes on her. She had first received her scholarship as a freshman, but later announced her commitment to the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) as a junior. Wenzel found her love and passion for softball at a fairly young age, Wenzel stated, "I started when I was six and I never stopped." Wenzel had always dreamt of playing softball in college, and now she will be playing for a Division I (DI) school. With nearly a full-ride scholarship to UNC, Wenzel will also be majoring in

broadcasting. She found the decision in choosing which school was best for herself not difficult. Wenzel had always known she wanted to expand and gain more experiences outside of California, therefore

Wenzel plans to stay busy throughout her journey in college. "Obviously, education is first," said Wenzel, "While I'm not playing softball, I'll be working out. And when I'm not working out, I'll be doing my major." Although she has known about her commitment to UNC for some time now, Wenzel is still excited to pursue her dream. Even though she has always dreamed of playing softball in college she would like her career to end there. After her four years she wants to settle down. Wenzel stated, "I want to do my four years and then get a job, a career, and start a family. All that good stuff." Softball has opened many doors and many opportunities for Wenzel. For over ten years, Wenzel has dedicated her time to reach a goal that she has finally met. As the end of high school draws near, Wenzel is ready for a big change and new experiences. These next few months will be leading up to the moment she has waited her whole life for.



choosing UNC was no trouble. Wenzel claimed, "I did not want to stay here in California." Despite playing softball,

ATHLETES IN THE NEWS

Senior Cynthia Martin qualified for CIF and went on to State for Varsity Cross Country and placed 26th.

Sophomore Hailey McNabb competed at World competition for cheerleading, and placed third.

Junior Jacob Schmidt is the leading scorer of the Varsity Boys Basketball.

Senior William Hawthorne is currently undefeated for Varsity Boys Wrestling with a current record of 5-0.

Sophomore Jacob Bustamante went to California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) for Varsity Cross Country and ranked 7th.

Girls Hoops Shooting for CIF

By Dolores Aguilus '19
Sports Editor

After a mediocre season last year, the Varsity Girls Basketball team plans to make this upcoming season one of the best seasons they have ever had. The team is aiming for a stronger record and are actively preparing for the season. Although it is still early in the season, the team believes that they can achieve their goal of surpassing last year's record and make it to the California Interscholastic Federation competition (CIF).

Throughout the week, they practice for two hours a day working on their skills. These drills consist of working on their shooting and ball handling. To prepare them for the season, they have played games during the

offseason to work on their individual skills and to their teamwork. This experience played a big factor on how they played on courts over. Junior Cordelia Watkins described that as a team, they plan to "work harder with new plays, bring energy everyday and show more leadership." This season, there is a bigger influx of freshmen than they had in previous years, and they have proven want to strive for a stronger team bond, which shows on the courts.

With a record 13-14 last season, the new varsity Head Coach Mr. Jerry Blanco, expects to

that the beginning of the game to the very last second of it they finish strong. Although Blanco finds confidence as a strong factor to a successful season, and he also wants the team to show their commitment in everything they do on and off the courts. "Multiple girls last year would skip practices and when game time came around, they would be lost unbalancing our flow of the game," said Senior Julia Schauwecker. Despite the fact that there were a few struggles last year, they still managed to make the CIF playoffs for the first time in a decade.

Even though the team is still developing as a whole, they are managing to use their speed to their advantage in the season. "Our strength is our speed. We are short and fast, our game plan is to press and trap from the tip off to the final horn. Our goal is to not allow any team we play to run their offenses," Blanco explained. They use their speed to get their opponents off balanced or trap them to use it to their advantage. Blanco wants to meet his expectations of winning more games this year and redeeming themselves from the winnable losing games from last season by using their speed to their advantage.

While it is still early in the season, the girls still have time to learn from last season's mistakes. With a current overall record of 5-3, Blanco knows that they are definitely making it to playoffs and want to win at least twenty games. He is so excited how the season has started off so far that he believes that they can win league. This season, they are going to build their confidence within themselves and aspire to make history and break records for this school.

improve that record this year. Coming from two championship winning programs prior to arriving at this school, Blanco stated, "I realized that we needed to change the culture of the program by speeding things up, given our lack of size." Coach Blanco did exactly that, the younger Lady Pumas are pushing to improve and have "bought into the system." In comparison to last year, the girls are excited for each game this season and it shows from the previous games



Junior, Cordelia Watkins

Credit: Yearbook

Boys Basketball Starts Strong

Aishlyn Bruce '20
Staff Writer

Although the Boys Varsity Basketball team has not been so hot in the years past, this year will be the year where that changes. With a record of 14-2 over this past summer's preseason, the team as a whole is ready to rebuild their success. Out of the seven games they have played in the season, it has been an experience of ups and downs as they are a young team striving for their goals.

As the Varsity Boys Basketball team holds an outstanding record of 14-2 in preseason, they faced some challenges in years before. The head coach of the boys team, Head Coach Askia Geigle, has coached at Chaparral for six years. Askia stated, "The challenge last year was seeing the students and program disconnected." A team will only work well together if there is 100 percent dedication put forth on the court, which takes communication, teamwork, and hard work. There have been three different head coaches within three years.

Askia being the third. This would contribute to the lack of unity as a program, considering there has not been a set coach for more than a year. In order to improve from the challenges faced the previous season, Askia prepares to execute his plans for the season. "If a student is disciplined to meet the expectations in the class; they become disciplined with the hard work required for competitive basketball," Askia explained. He described how he requires his athletes to put school work before basketball in order to be successful on and off the court. The goal for the season is to go over the .500 in league and make playoffs. The basketball team will achieve their goals as long as they work as a team to execute the plan.

The athletes put in countless hours and days of hard work to prepare for their season. The boys practice roughly two hours a day for five days a week. Practice includes improving their skills and going over concepts. Varsity Boys

Basketball players Seniors Jonathan Galan and Nathan Martin explained the dedication the team puts forth during practices. "We start off with layups, jump shots and three pointers as a warm up. Then, we transition into defensive drills and go over plays as a team," Galan stated. Being able to practice five days a week while exceeding in school work, should be recognized. "Although the challenges last year were internal, I believe this year we all love playing together and it will show on the court," stated Martin. The expectations for this season will be achieved in many ways that Askia explained. "The expectations for this season is to develop and teach our athletes how to win and lose gracefully, while putting Chaparral Basketball on the map." Askia is determined to put all his efforts to achieve greatness for this season.

Askia is motivated to help the team recover from the years past as he enters his second year of a rebuilding program. With a current record of 3-4, he sees the attitude and culture change tremendously, he will not allow mediocre work put forth by the athletes. He wants them to "taste success" as he plans to bring that back to the program. The season this year will be depicted as a game changer in the eight years since the last big success. Coaches and athletes are working hard to make their goals achieved.



Senior, Johnathan Galan

Credit: Yearbook



Athlete Spotlights

By Christina Avina '20
Staff Writer



Esly Morales '20 Varsity Girls Soccer



She felt it was a big change to adjust her schedule and learning to manage her time. "Right after school I had to go to practice, then when I got home it would be late," said Morales, "And I still had to do my chores and homework. It was pretty hard to get used to." Although Morales felt she has not changed much as a player since freshman year, she set more goals to accomplish this upcoming season. Despite playing soccer most of her life, Morales does not have serious goals to continue playing. She likes to just play and live in the moment. Morales stated, "I'll let the future decide, I haven't thought about that too much. I'm just focusing on what's going on now." In previous years, the girls soccer team has had unfortunate seasons. Morales believes this year can potentially be a better year, considering the relationships and bonds between each other are much stronger than before. This upcoming season, Morales plans to enter with a clean slate and have no expectations based off last season. Her main goal is to receive more playing time, that way she can contribute even more to the team's success. In spite of past records, Morales will continue to strive and settle for nothing but the very best.

Starting her high school sports career on the Varsity Girls Soccer team was an accomplishing moment for Junior Esly Morales. At seven years old, Morales began playing soccer, her parents wanted her to play. It was not until later on that she began to enjoy playing the sport. Throughout her soccer career, Morales has also participated on club teams, providing her with the experience in an atmosphere with higher levels of competitiveness. Morales was also part of her middle school soccer team. Entering high school Morales became one of the few freshman that made the team, and she felt she accomplished in one of her goals as an athlete. Taking part in a varsity team came with a lot of responsibility for Morales.

Alex Perez '20 Varsity Boys Wrestling



Junior Alex Perez had began his wrestling career at a young age in the most unexpected way. Prior to joining wrestling, Perez participated in Jiu Jitsu at a gym with a group of friends. As a result his father took Perez to a youth group where he began his wrestling career. Since the age of eight years old, Perez has been practicing and working hard to become a better and stronger athlete. Upon the wrestling season, Perez had "wrestle offs" with other athletes in the same weight class in preparation for tryouts. After making the varsity team, Perez described it as an "intense feeling." He claimed, "It was a big moment for me because it meant everything I was working for and wanted to get done was being accomplished."

Transitioning into high school, Perez felt that being part of the varsity team was slightly different than previous teams. With the requirements to meet a certain academic level, he found that the overall workload was more. However, the transition was not bad, considering he had experience with juggling school work and sports. After being part of the varsity team for the past three years, Perez has found it brought many advantages and helped him improve as a wrestler. Although his freshman year was not his best season, he still gained an unforgettable experience. "Starting my freshman year as a varsity wrestler, I didn't have a winning record," said Perez, "It was my first year competitively wrestling for a high school. Going straight into varsity was rough, but it was a great experience and I've done nothing but improve." With each new season at hand, Perez hopes to continue to better himself and prepare for state competitions. Despite wrestling being a serious hobby for himself, Perez does not have plans to continue his career after high school. Although, if the opportunity to become a coach or run a youth group arises, Perez would be open to that position.

Patricia Alvarado '19 Varsity Water Polo



Captain of both the Varsity Girls Water Polo and Varsity Girls Swim teams, Senior Patricia Alvarado landed a spot on both varsity teams her freshman year. After a few years of swimming, Alvarado became intrigued with water polo and decided to give it a try. During her eighth grade year, Alvarado started her water polo career, and attended club practices in order to prepare for high school tryouts. In the beginning of her high school athletic career, Alvarado was a bit intimidated to be participating on a team with older girls. Nevertheless, now that her senior year has arrived and she is the team captain, Alvarado can set an example and be a role model to the younger girls on the team. In the past three years of being on varsity for two

sports, Alvarado has learned a lot about managing school work and sports. During freshman year, Alvarado was unexpectedly hit with the commitment of two teams and her academics. "It was difficult because I started taking AP (Advanced Placement) classes as a freshman too, so the workload was definitely hard," said Alvarado, "I definitely went nights without sleeping, then had to play sports the next morning." Over time, Alvarado has grown to become passionate about both water polo and swim. In contrast to becoming captain to both varsity teams, Alvarado feels water polo is just a hobby and does not see herself playing later in life. But if the opportunity to play in college approaches, she is not opposed to it. In spite of the fact that Alvarado has participated in swim for many years, she feels that within the past seasons of water polo, she has grown to become a more powerful player. Alvarado claims, "Everyone gets better with experience, and especially when you are playing with such high level athletes." With season drawing near, Alvarado has high hopes for the team to have a great year and potentially make California Interscholastic Federation (CIF).



HOLIDAY INTERVIEWS



Do you have a family tradition? What is it?



“Every night on Christmas eve we have a Star Wars marathon”

- *Sophia Solorzano '19*



“For our family tradition, me and my parents always go over to my cousins house for Christmas to have a party and we always surprise each other with secret Santa gifts”

- *Christa Kramer '22*



“We do like a Christmas sweater contest. . . Everybody like gets their materials and like you build it in a day in a half and then whoever's the best wins a prize.”

- *Omar Gonzales '19*



“Every year my family gathers up at my house and we all have a big feast and then we play poker.”

- *Victoria Bernal '22*

Favorite thing about the holiday season?



“Making cookies and watching a specific movie, the Christmas Story”

- *Alyssa Chavez '22*



“I love making home made ice cream as our family tradition”

- *Anesia Lowe '22*



“My favorite thing about the holidays is spending times with my friends and family and making tamales”

- *Elias Lopez '20*



“My favorite thing is getting to see and hang out with my whole family for a week because we do not see each other very often.”

- *Olivia Fernandez '20*

What is your funniest holiday story?



“My family was visiting Texas for Christmas and New Year's. We got stuck in a snow storm and we had to sleep on blow up mattresses in a high school gym”

- *Valeria Parra-Santoro '22*



“A few years back, my dad recieved three rolls of Chocolate and gave me one. . .Neither of us had realized it was a alcohol-filled chocolate.”

- *Logan Chellman '21*



“I made friends with a rat living in my Christmas tree.”

- *Daniel Cooper '20*



“One Christmas we couldn't find one of our cats and after hours of looking for her, we heard meowing near the Christmas tree. As it turns out, she somehow got herself stuck almost all the way up the tree.”

- *Hannah Brodeur '19*

Best gift given/received?



When I was little I gave my grandma an ornament with pictures of us inside and she started crying

- *Monet Espinoea '21*



“The best gift was my dogs”

- *Aieme Apilado '22*



“The best gift I've ever recieved is a longboard.”

- *Christian Pollington '22*



“The best gift that I've ever recieved would be my barbie dream house when I was three.”

- *Sofia Velasco '22*