

# THE PLATINUM PRESS

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Chaparral High School

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## Beloved Principal Nicole Dayus to Leave Chaparral After Twelve Years

Alexa Neal '22  
Copy Editor

After twelve years of working at Chaparral High School, three of which were spent as principal, Mrs. Nicole Dayus

has received a new opportunity at the district office. She will become the new Director of Secondary Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment with Education Support Services at the Temecula Valley Unified School District. Next fall, Mrs. Tina Miller, who is the current principal at Bella Vista Middle School, will be taking her place.

From the age of five, Dayus knew that she wanted to grow up to become a teacher. After graduating from the University of California at Santa Barbara, she began teaching English at La Costa Canyon High School for a few years, and then went on to teach at Temecula Valley High School. She took a three year break from teaching so she could take care of her children, before coming to work as an English teacher here at Chaparral High School. Dayus taught English for another six years before she took on a new position as assistant principal. Three years later, she became principal and is completing her third year leading the Pumas this year.

Under her leadership, the school was recognized as a California Gold Ribbon School and she spearheaded the implementation of the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone program, which made Chaparral High School the first school in the valley to have this program. Now, Dayus will move on to work at the district and plans to make an even larger impact with more students and teachers in the district. As part of her new job, Dayus will work with teachers throughout the district to help develop new curriculum and focus on improving instruction in the classroom. She will also help schools with new standards set in place by the state and with the adoption of new textbooks.

Dayus' departure is not without mixed emotions, "I was not in the position of looking for a change because Chaparral High School has been my home for twelve years and I feel like we still have a lot of work to do," explained Dayus. "But the position opened up and it was something that I have looked at as my passion besides Chaparral High School and being a Puma is curriculum and instruction. Like, I love the teaching piece. . . So, to go back into something that influences the classroom directly, it speaks to what my passion is." Since Dayus has been a part of the Puma culture for many years, she feels a "bittersweet" sentiment about leaving and feels that this will be an "emotional goodbye." She said, "It's been, like I said, my home and place of my career

for the last twelve years. . . probably about half my career in education has been at Chaparral High School. . . I feel like I'm in an excited place to start a new adventure but I'm sad and reluctant to leave."

In her twelve years on campus, Dayus has managed to leave marks on the lives of many people. "She would always have a listening ear, like, no matter how crazy her day was or how many plates she was spinning. . . no matter who would approach her, she'd always stop and drop [everything] and look at you in the eyes and be able to make you feel like you're bringing something important to her that she would want to listen to," reminisced Mrs. Susan Gonzales, who serves as Dayus' secretary. Along with Gonzales, Mr. Joe Ruzzamenti, director of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, also enjoyed her personality and leadership skills. He mentioned how he would miss her "friendship and her leadership."

Even though she is enthusiastic about moving on to further her passion, Dayus is finding it difficult to leave because of "the relationships and the student interaction and the energy" that is found on campus. She explained that out of all her achievements on campus, she is most proud of the students. Dayus continued to say, "You guys [the students] are amazing. I have never not wanted to come to work. Everyday I'm driving to work, I feel excited to watch how great our students are and be a part of that. . . I'm a better person, I'm a better educator, and I'm a better leader because of Chaparral High School."

Clearly, Dayus will be missed by everyone who had the chance to get to know her over her time here. Senior Jerrico Boadilla stated, "The impact that Mrs. Dayus has given the past three years has been truly amazing. She's a hardworking, caring principal, and she makes sure she goes around everywhere and checks up on everybody." Pumas are going to miss the friendly smiles, encouragement and impact Dayus had on campus, but they are also excited for Dayus and the new opportunities that await her.



*Credit: Benjamin Garner*  
Principal Nicole Dayus standing with the puma at the entrance to the Chaparral stadium

## Seniors Attend College Signing Day at UCLA

Louise Kim '19  
Editor-in-Chief

May 1 marked a day of celebration for high school seniors all across the nation. Students partook in National College Signing Day, sharing their post-high school plans, whether it be attending a four-year university, joining the military, or preparing for a career. Former First Lady Michelle Obama celebrated the achievements and plans of seniors through her Reach Higher Initiative College Signing Day event held at the University of California, Los Angeles' (UCLA's) Pauley Pavilion stadium. Chaparral seniors who ranked in the top twenty-five of their class attended the event, along with some teachers, staff members, and administration.

Obama's College Signing Day event is a product of Better Make Room, a student-facing campaign that originated from the Reach Higher Initiative. The event's purpose is to celebrate the life-changing step many seniors take by choosing to commit to a college. Obama created the event back in 2014 with the hopes of

also encouraging students across the nation to pursue higher education, career training, or military service, to essentially believe in more for themselves.

Beginning the field trip with a three-hour bus ride, Chaparral seniors arrived at UCLA and filed into Pauley Pavilion along with thousands of other students to participate in the event. Signing Day consisted of various celebrities congratulating this year's graduating class of seniors for taking a major step towards their future. "It actually surprised me a lot because I was only told that Michelle Obama was going to be there and at the same time all of these celebrities, actors, and athletes came out, and it was very, very cool," said Senior Edgar Diaz. Special guests, such as famous singer John Legend and actor Don Cheadle, elaborated on the importance of pursuing a higher education and the valuable knowledge to be gained in the classroom and the experiences to be encountered on a college campus. Throughout the event, musicians, such as pop artist Blea "Bebe" Rexha and acapella group Pentatonix, performed for the crowd of nearly ten thousand

students, teachers, and staff who came from various high schools in California to celebrate National College Signing Day.

As the event progressed, students waited in anticipation for the influential first lady to make her appearance. Finally, American television host Conan O'Brien introduced Obama to the stage, causing Pauley Pavilion to erupt with ecstatic screams and cheers for the woman who has inspired several to pursue a higher education and believe in themselves. "Oh, I

didn't think she was real for a minute," Senior Victoria Winn recalled, "I was like 'Whoa, she just walked out just like a normal human being?' I was expecting like the stage to cut open, and she'd be rising to the top." Obama sported a Compton College shirt, a nod to the students who are choosing to attend a community college this fall, and proceeded to give an inspirational, heartfelt speech. "No matter what school you're going to or where you're from, there's a future available," said

Diaz. At this event, students were commended for taking a step towards their futures and reminded to never give up on the goals they have set for their lives.

The students, teachers, and staff that attended left UCLA's basketball stadium with renewed enthusiasm and motivation. To them, Signing Day was a memorable event, where the words of Obama and all of the other guests on stage will continue to resound in the hearts of these students as they go forth in pursuit of a successful future.



*Credit: Christina Gandy*  
The seniors ranked in the top twenty-five of their class were invited to attend College Signing Day at UCLA

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Junior Charlene Miciano - 2019-2020 ASB President



Junior Maggie Strehorn - 2019-2020 ASB Vice President



Junior Alex Nechay - 2019-2020 ASB Treasurer



Junior Olivia Fernandez - 2019-2020 ASB Secretary



Junior Morgan Stebens - First Place in Photography at RCHS Art Show



Junior Tina Liu - First Place in Southern California Chemistry Olympiad

# What to Anticipate for Graduation

By Joyce Kim '22  
Copy Editor

As the end of the year draws near, seniors can expect fun-filled events as well as the long-awaited graduation ceremony. There are a few things seniors should keep in mind in order to finish their last few days on a positive note. Knowing these pieces of information is significant for the school year and for graduation to take place without any difficulties.

Before graduation day arrives, seniors can pick up their Senior Check-Out Card on Wednesday, May 29 in Room 262, so they are permitted to enter the gym on Senior Check Out, which is Monday, June 3 beginning at 1PM. On this day, future graduates will get their cap and gown, which they will need for the graduation ceremony. However in order for one to receive a Senior Check-Out Card, students must complete the Senior Survey—which will be assisted by the counseling staff—clear all library fines, return any books that were checked out, and settle payments or fines at the bookkeeper. By completing these steps, seniors are ensured to be one step closer to finishing their high school career.

In addition, graduation practice will be held on Wednesday, June 5, and seniors are to meet at the gym at 4PM. From there, the practice ceremony is planned to end at around 6:45PM in the stadium area. During the rehearsal, caps and gowns should not be worn, and it is important for seniors to attend because it is mandatory for graduation. If one is late or the rehearsal does not go as planned, the rehearsal will be repeated the next day. The following day, Thursday, June 6, Graduation

Day, is one of the seniors' most memorable days of high school, which begins in the gym. Seniors should check in at 4:30PM and will be searched before the ceremony begins. Bringing a prohibited item to graduation will consequently lead to not being able to participate in the graduation ceremony. For example, food, drinks, balloons, bags, noisemakers, and beach balls are inappropriate items not allowed prior to the graduation ceremony. "Anything that is not school-given or approved cannot be part of the ceremony, so afterwards family members [and friends] can give them [seniors] that [item]," explained Senior Counselor Mrs. Tina Mey. In order to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for seniors, families, and friends, these policies must be followed.

This year, Assistant Principal Mrs. Ingrid Taylor is in charge of the graduation ceremony, and compared to previous years audience members can expect changes in the setup. "It used to be that we just had one great, big stage and one person at a time was called [up]. . . [and this time] there is one center stage, but there is also [going to be] three side stages," said Mey. Seniors can inform their families where to sit ahead of time, so they can see their graduate walk across one of the three stages.

Overall, administration and support staff hope seniors can have a positive graduation and walk out of campus with good memories. Accompanying the rules mentioned above, students should know that they will not receive their diploma on graduation day, but they will pick it up the following day from 7AM to 12PM. For more information, seniors can look at the Senior Assembly Presentation located on the school website under Activities.

# Academic Awards Night Honors Pumas

By Emily Pham '21  
Distribution Manager

On April 29, students were recognized and honored for their academic achievements at the annual awards night ceremony which was held at the gym from 6PM to 9PM. Students who were nominated for Emerald Puma were announced for their extensive record of Advanced Placement (AP) courses and extracurricular involvement, as well as their performance in standard subjects. The event had a total of three categories: Outstanding Excellence in Academic Success, Outstanding Achievements in Campus Organizations, and Outstanding Individual Achievement.

With the event being three hours long, much was accomplished during the ceremony. Principal Mrs. Nicole Dayus explained, "It [Academic Awards Night] has been something that has evolved into a wonderful ceremony. . . [and] it is special to me because we [administrators] do not have enough time or enough opportunity to thank the students for being amazing and for awarding our students and recognizing the students' incredible achievements." Before the ceremony started, families, friends, and staff had the opportunity to gather around and welcome one another as they attended the memorable event. The event began with a welcoming presentation to thoroughly explain the layout for the ceremony by Dayus including an announcement of the Emerald Puma nominees: Senior Karen Almaraz-Sanchez, Senior Ethan Johnstone, Senior Orlando Ornelas, Senior Allison Selway, and Senior Maverick Villon. These outstanding students whom were chosen by staff and administrators proceeded to the finals. Dayus mentioned, "Emerald Puma recognizes students throughout their high school year for their contributions and successes academically, but also in a way where they [students] represent their



Senior Karen Almaraz displays her Emerald Puma Award with sister Junior Alondra Almaraz

talents and . . . their emulation of Puma Pride." Following this, department awards were handed out to selected students from all classes including mathematics, English, science, social science, world language, and visual and performing arts.

The second portion of the night began with awards for the AP Capstone students who have taken AP Seminar, AP Research, and four other AP classes throughout their high school year. Once those were handed out, students who made honor roll, obtaining a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.0 or higher, were individually called up and received the Platinum Circle award for their academic accomplishments. Senior Chad Lindow stated, "I got the Platinum Circle award and it was cool to get recognized after four years of hard work." Following this, awards for students' outstanding achievement in campus organizations were handed out to those who have partaken in outside clubs and extracurricular activities.

The third portion of the night began

with Summa Cum Laude awards which were presented to those who made it to the top two percent of their class overall. On top of this incredible feat, Senior Nate Tinh unexpectedly was surprised and presented with a generous \$200,000 scholarship from the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) in recognition of his accomplishments throughout his high school year which will go towards his college expenses. As in previous years, the event has announced the senior valedictorian who is none other than Senior Michelle Gunawan.

The night ended with the final announcement of the Emerald Puma winner, who was Almaraz-Sanchez for her demonstration of high levels of academic achievement throughout her entire high school career. The award ceremony gave students of all grade levels the opportunity to gather and be honored in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements. As the years go on, Dayus encourages students to continue their thriving academic effort as a Puma.

# Daisy Walk Held in Support of Veterans



Students in the community, along with Mrs. Dianne Cox, volunteered at the Daisy Walk event in order to raise awareness on veteran suicide

By Madison Vanesler '22  
Staff Writer

For the past two years, there has been an annual Veteran's Daisy Walk, where people gather and walk together to raise money for the Veterans Supplemental Support Network (VSSN) in order to raise awareness on veteran suicide. This year, those participating began walking at 9:30AM from 15750 Meridian Parkway and stopped at approximately 11:30AM on April 27. The walk was open to students, staff or anyone else in the community that wanted to participate.

The event helps to show support for veteran or military families that are dealing with mental illnesses related to the services they performed while in the military. Mrs. Dianne Cox a teacher on campus who

participated in the walk, stated, "My husband is a retired marine so therefore, military families are near and dear to my heart, so anything that I can do to bring awareness to a cause like this, a worthy cause, I am happy to do that." The participants walked to the Riverside National Cemetery and to the Medal of Honor Wall, carrying daisies to represent why they were walking. Each colored daisy stood for something different. For example, red daisies represented someone who had lost a family member or friend to suicide. Furthermore, people also carried gold daisies, which represented a person who had supported a friend or family member that has suicidal thoughts. In addition to the red and gold daisies, people also walked with blue daisies, which represented a person who understands the serious impact suicide has and wants to raise awareness of its impact.

As well as showing support for veteran and military families that have a suicidal family member or friend, the walk also raises money for outreach services for the people dealing with suicidal thoughts or other mental illnesses caused by the job. These outreach programs could potentially help many veterans that are dealing with service caused mental illnesses. In fact, on average, twenty veterans a day take their own lives from service-related mental illnesses, which was stated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Also, there are many different veteran outreach services that try to show veterans their support and show them honor and respect in many different ways, such as by helping them with any service caused mental illnesses or leading them to programs that can help them find a place to live or get food

if they are unable to work. Over many years there, have been several veterans that have become suicidal which is caused by being a part of the military or have committed suicide. Helping to bring awareness to this issue could assist many military or veteran families in knowing and understanding what to look for so they can get the affected veterans help. This walk was enlightening for people who did not know how common it is for veterans to get a mental illness caused by their experiences in the military that could potentially make them suicidal. Knowing and understanding the signs of someone who is suicidal can save many veterans' lives and prevent many deaths. If a person or someone they know is dealing with suicidal thoughts, they are urged to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

# Graduation Info

May 29 — Receive Senior Check-Out Card the ASB Room 262

\*Return library books & pay fines

\*Settle bookkeeping payments

\*Complete the Senior Survey

June 3 — Senior Checkout in GYM starting @ 1:00pm — GET YOUR CAP & GOWN

June 5 — Graduation Practice, Meet @ Gym @ 4:00pm

June 6 — Graduation, Meet @ Gym @ 4:30pm

\*No PHONES, food, drinks, balloons, beach balls, bags, noisemakers

June 7 — Diploma Pickup, 7:00am — 12:00pm

For more information, visit the Senior Assembly Presentation on the Senior Activities Website

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Principal Nicole Dayus



Pumas,

Congratulations on an amazing year! It has been an honor to observe and support your growth and achievements this year. I am continually impressed with your focus, spirit, and participation in our school community. My letter this issue serves two purposes. First, I want to wish each of you a happy and safe summer. Don't stop learning! Start a passion project, read, and have the kinds of conversations that teach you something about the ways that others see the world you share. Second, I want to thank all of you for teaching and inspiring me throughout my twelve years at Chaparral. It has been an adventure - and every experience and interaction has left me a better person, educator, and leader. Please continue to strive to be the best versions of yourselves. Also, know that CHS is great because of the students and staff that make it that way. It has always been my goal and vision to support an incredible environment at CHS that promotes acceptance, mutual accountability, positive energy, and learning opportunities for all students. I want CHS to be a place that sets an example for others and a training ground for our students, so that they know how to achieve and inspire these same things in their world outside of high school. I know that I am taking the lessons I learned at Chap with me into my new position at the district office. Thank you for traveling this journey with me at Chaparral, it has been an awesome ride!

I will always be proud to be a Puma,  
Nicole Dayus  
Principal

# Lomayesva Gives Speech at Capital Hill

By Tara Parsick '19  
Staff Writer

For most students in high school, Capitol Hill is only something they have heard or learned about during a lesson in their government classes. However, for Sophomore Temyal Lomayesva, Capitol Hill is a place where she was given a once-in-a-lifetime chance to bravely deliver a speech about the juvenile justice system and how the government can help Native Americans who go through this system. Lomayesva is from the Santa Ysabel Reservation in San Diego. "Culture comes first for me through everything. It's

something I definitely hold on to, even if I were to make it out big in life. It's not something I believe in, it's more something I learn through life," stated Lomayesva. Her culture motivates her to keep going and to push through any obstacles life throws her way. The topic up for discussion at Capitol Hill was the Youth Reinvestment Grant. This grant was worth \$100 million dollars and was intended to help lower class minors who were involved in the juvenile justice system. Minors with low offenses would be sent to a diversion program where they could get the help they needed. Lomayesva's mother had been asked to speak specifically for the young Native

Americans affected by this system because of previous hardships her family has gone through. She testified alongside assemblyman James Ramos, an active advocate for rights of minorities. According to Lomayesva, they asked her to speak as well because they wanted real world examples of what the youth faced. During her speech, Lomayesva shared experiences of trauma faced on reservations and how it has affected her throughout her life. "A lot of my family and friends have gone through the juvenile justice system, so I wanted to make sure that they could get set on the right track," stated Lomayesva. She was very nervous during her speech because

of how many professional people were watching her but nonetheless, she succeeded in delivering her powerful message. Lomayesva described, "A lot of people came up to me to say they were proud to see the youth was taking a stand." Furthermore, she hopes that she got a chance to impact some of the people there with her words. Lomayesva and her mother were specifically advocating for a separate portion of the grant worth ten million dollars for the Tribal Youth Diversion Program. The reason they asked for a separate amount is because Native Americans can be overlooked in society. They have the highest percentages in suicide rates, high-school dropouts, and drug/alcohol addictions. The downside with the juvenile justice system is that there is no record of Native Americans. This is a problem when it comes to large issues because Native Americans can be easily brushed aside by the government when there is no record. While Lomayesva was delivering her speech, people were holding signs that read, "Educate, Not Incarcerate." She believes the government needs to look into this issue, and correct their mistakes. For now, Lomayesva and her mother are focusing this grant on California, a more liberal state that is more likely to support it. Overall, Lomayesva had a great time meeting all of the different assemblyman. During her time at Capitol Hill, she learned that there is a long process in getting grants, and it takes a great deal of persuasion and motivation to get anything passed. Her experience there has made her confident that this is something she will want to do in her future.



Sophomore Temyal Lomayesva delivers a speech on problems involving Native Americans in the juvenile system  
Credit: James Ramos

# Tinh Awarded \$200,000 Scholarship to University of San Diego

By Emily Pham '21  
Distribution Manager

With an extensive record of Advanced Placement (AP) courses and extracurricular activity involvement, ambitious Senior Nate Tinh is currently anticipating what the future holds for him. Tinh has demonstrated high levels of academic achievement throughout his entire high school years which have molded him into a very well-rounded individual on the road to success. He continues to reach for his goals after being awarded a \$200,000 scholarship by Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). Tinh has a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 4.02 with a schedule that has been filled with a handful of AP courses; some being AP Calculus, AP Computer Science Principles, AP

Government, AP Physics, and many more. Outside of his regular academic agenda, Tinh has also been a member of National Honor Society (NHS), California Scholarship Federation (CSF), Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society, and Key Club; he has also been a part of the Varsity Soccer Team for almost two years. With a schedule as busy as his, stress is inevitable; he recalled his sophomore and junior year when he barely had any free time. Fortunately, during these tough times, Tinh had strong support and motivation from his parents and friends. Tinh mentioned, "My parents really pushed me to do well in school and study in order to get into a good college. They are my main motivation and without them, I do not know where I would be right now." Although he constantly worked hard to achieve his goals, he still enjoyed watching movies, cooking, going to the park, and playing soccer with friends in the free time that he got.

When Tinh was awarded the Naval ROTC scholarship and the Platinum Circle award for his outstanding achievements and accomplishments, he was very proud. He explained, "I got this [Naval ROTC] scholarship because I knew [that] I wanted to serve in the Armed Forces after I had graduated from college and that I would have a guaranteed and rewarding job." In the fall, Tinh will be attending the University of California San Diego (UCSD), majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Currently, he is considering either to apply for medical school or the Navy Postgraduate school in Monterey after college in order to pursue his passion

in engineering. Tinh will not stop there, though. "My goal as of right now is to prepare for whatever that comes next in and after college. I plan to graduate with a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering after my four years of college and serve my required five years in the Navy," he stated. He has already visited the campus located in San Diego, California, and cannot wait until fall. "Every single student will eventually end up with their dream career if they work hard towards that one dream. Just try your hardest now and it will sooner or later pay off in the long run," Tinh added. As he pursues in his career, he would also like to make an impact on

others by giving inspirational messages. Tinh continues to thrive and work towards his career in engineering and has put in much effort to earn this honorable Naval ROTC scholarship as well as the Platinum Circle award. This is only the beginning of Tinh's career, and he will relentlessly use all of his abilities and knowledge to accomplish his goals in graduating college with a degree in order to pursue in his future career. He has a bright and successful future ahead of him and is sure to take his bright way of thinking, imagination, and determination with him as he transitions from high school to a reputable university in Southern California.



Credit: Nathaniel Tinh  
Senior Nathaniel Tinh holding a check worth \$200,000 to University of San Diego



Mrs. Elyce Mandich  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

## MANDICH'S MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

### Coping | Self-Care

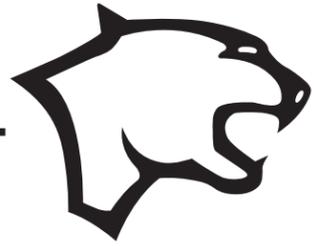
Let's be real... A lot of you are probably super stressed right now. It's the end of the year and that tends to come with some pressure and a long to-do list. Though a little bit of stress can be beneficial (this is called eustress) which can lead to productivity and feelings of fulfillment, too much stress can be extremely negative to our mental and physical health. So, what do we do about it? How do we manage it? Coping skills! Coping skills are things we consciously and unconsciously do to help us manage stressful situations and difficult emotions. They are how we take care of ourselves. Think about a time that you were feeling overwhelmed. How did you handle it? Sometimes when we experience difficulties, we turn to unhealthy coping skills (substances, over-eating/under-eating, self-harm, etc.). The problem with unhealthy coping skills is that they often feel good in the moment, but have long-term

negative effects. Healthy coping skills on the other hand may not provide that instant gratification, but often have long-term benefits and lead to long-lasting beneficial outcomes. Think about it, if you only go to the gym once are you going to be strong? Or does it take consistency? Hint, it's the latter. It's the same thing with coping skills. The more you work them out, the stronger they will be. What I have learned is that when you ask somebody how they cope with things, they do not give themselves enough credit for how many coping skills they utilize. Do you do any of the following: Journal, talk to somebody, draw, color, dance, play a sport, exercise, deep breathing, watch funny videos, cry, clean, listen to music, create, make playlists of songs you like, play video games, guided imagery (like imagining yourself at a calm place), etc. These are coping skills! I encourage you to all make sure you are taking care of yourselves - not just when things are

stressful, but even when you are feeling great. If you practice taking care of yourself regularly, then remembering those tools when you are in a moment of stress or panic will be much easier. One of my favorite ways to manage stress is BREATHING. Yeah, breathing- you know the thing that we have to do anyways. The awesome thing is that our breath is literally always with us. Try the 4, 7, 8 breathing technique. Exhale your breath completely, then close your mouth and inhale through your nose for 4 seconds. Next, hold your breath for 7 seconds. Lastly, completely exhale your breath through your mouth for 8 seconds. Repeat this cycle about 3-4 times to start. The more you do it, the better the effects. Keep in mind, the goal is not to relieve yourself of all stresses, but really to gain and utilize skills that help you to manage it. I wish you all the best over the next few weeks and hope that you all have an awesome, relaxing, fun-filled, safe summer!



# Retiring Teachers Bid Pumas Farewell



Articles and Photos  
By Elizabeth Clavin '20  
Staff Writer

## Mrs. Carol Brooks



After thirty-five years of teaching, twenty-one of which were spent at Chaparral High School, Mrs. Carol Brooks has decided to settle down and retire. During her time on campus, she has taught all grade levels of physical education (PE), beginner dance, intermediate dance, and advanced dance. All throughout her life, Brooks' dream was to become a dance teacher. She quickly pursued that as she attended Long Beach State University and earned her four-year degree in Physical Education and Dance, and shortly after, earned her second degree in the same field. She then stayed one more year and earned her teaching credential, which allowed her to become a dance teacher. She then became a student teacher in Mira Costa for a year and immediately grew a stronger passion for the

sport. After this, she became a dance teacher at her former high school, West High School, for thirteen years. She then moved and became the official dance teacher on campus and has occupied this job since. Brooks stated, "Working as the dance teacher at Chaparral has been the biggest blessing. I have lived my childhood dream and love all of my students. I'm so proud of how far they've all come and hope they continue to be amazing." Clearly, Brooks is excited to retire, yet loves her students and job dearly. In order to keep herself occupied, she plans on spending a large portion of time water-skiing, scuba diving, surfing, and overall, just traveling the world and settling down. Furthermore, her feelings of retiring are those of excitement and sadness. She vocalized, "I am so grateful to have been able to fulfill my dream at CHS [Chaparral High School] for the past twenty-one years. I will be forever grateful for the experiences and opportunities I have been provided during my time teaching, and I am excited for what the future may bring." Her students have grown a love for her over the years, and Brooks continuously inspired them during her time here.

## Mrs. Maria Thiveos



Mrs. Maria Thiveos is retiring this school year after teaching for over thirty years. Of these thirty years, Thiveos has taught for almost twenty years at Chaparral High School. During her time on campus, she has taught all grade levels of Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3, Spanish Speakers, Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish, and French 1 and French 2. Thiveos has worked since she was sixteen years old, occupying jobs ranging from a taco shop to a clothing store. When she graduated from college, she became an administrative assistant at University of California, San Diego (UCSD). However, her passion for teaching a language rooted from her being a teacher's aide in a bilingual class for a year during her early teaching years. After this, she furthered her education and earned her credentials to

become a high school teacher. Her first teaching job was at Fallbrook High School, where she taught for ten years. She later became a teacher at Chaparral High School and has occupied this role since. She stated that she has mixed feelings about retiring due to her love for teaching and her enjoyment with helping people learn new languages. She explained, "My favorite experience at Chaparral has been being in the classroom, designing lessons to help kids learn, and then teaching them all the wonderful things about the language. My first plan when I retire is to go on a trip to Greece and spend a few weeks there, and after that, more traveling. I'll also be settling down and doing simple work around the house." Thus, she is anxious yet hesitant to retire due to her love for her profession and her students. All in all, Mrs. Maria Thiveos has been a great addition on campus and has inspired so many of her students with her teachings. She has feelings of nostalgia as she retires this school year, yet she is excited to settle down and enjoy time to travel and relax. She will continue to teach and inspire others, whether she is in a classroom or not.

## Mrs. Thea Titzer



As Mrs. Thea Titzer has spent twenty-one years teaching at Chaparral High School and thirty years teaching overall, the Advanced Placement (AP) Psychology teacher is entering a time of relaxation and has chosen to retire. After teaching all over the country, she has expressed that working at Chaparral High School has been her best experience yet, and she will miss it dearly. To become a teacher, Titzer attended a wide variety of colleges all across the country. First, she received her bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Indiana, then obtained her second bachelor's degree from San Diego State University (SDSU), in which she later taught numerous graduate classes at the University of Guam. Shortly after, she taught in Pennsylvania, California, and Indiana. She later decided to go back to school and attended Southeastern Louisiana University, where she received

her third bachelor's degree, and lastly, she received her master's degree from Chapman University, in which she later took on a teaching job on campus. Initially, she was hired to teach English but quickly became the Speech and Debate teacher. After teaching other subjects, she took on her first AP Psychology class, which started with only fourteen students. Since then, it has grown profusely and she has developed a strong love for the subject and her students. As Titzer has worked on campus for many years, she was able to learn about herself as well as the environment around her. She stated, "I have not only taught my students, but they have also taught me. Without them, I don't know what I would do, and I feel so lucky." Titzer explained how she will be settling down and enjoying time with her family. With her numerous homes throughout the country, either permanent or vacation, she will always have a nice, comfortable vacation spot. As she retires, she plans to move out of California and alternate from Colorado to Kentucky. She said, "I'll be near my family, I'll be enjoying the laid-back lifestyle, and overall, I'll be relaxing and surrounded by fields of grass." Clearly, she is excited and anxious to see what the future has in store for her.

# Aspiring Software Engineer, Gunawan, Becomes Valedictorian

By Emily Pham '21  
Distribution Manager

With an extensive record of Advanced Placement (AP) courses and extracurricular involvement, Senior Michelle Gunawan has been chosen to be represented as the Class of 2019's valedictorian at the commencement ceremony. Gunawan has demonstrated high levels of academic achievement throughout her entire high school years

which have entirely prepared her for an exciting and successful journey to college. Gunawan has a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 4.7, with a schedule that has been filled with a total of seventeen AP courses throughout her high school years. Outside of her regular academic agenda, Gunawan has been a part of National Honor Society (NHS), Solar Cup, and Science Olympiad. She recalled her junior and senior year when she had to study for six AP exams, along with the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Gunawan

elaborated, "The SAT was scary at first [but] I got used to it after constantly taking it which was kind of difficult to balance on top of my AP classes." During these stressful times, Gunawan was mostly encouraged and motivated by her parents, counselors, and teachers, especially Mrs. Karen Walker, who teaches AP Computer Science Principles and introduced her to a complex world of coding and computer science. Gunawan mentioned that she had struggles in maintaining her rank in her class that resulted in many sleepless nights



Credit: Michelle Gunawan

Senior Michelle Gunawan has worked extensively to become this year's valedictorian and barely any free time. She added, "Well, back then, I had a lot of motivation and a hard drive and managed to get through all those times and I would never had any time to sleep or even a nap." Although she is the top ranked student in her class and constantly worked hard to achieve her goals, she manages to have some free time on the weekends by enjoying eating and hanging out with her friends and family. On top of this incredible feat, Gunawan started her very own club, the CodeHERS, which is designed to introduce elementary school girls to computer science, programming, and engineering. Gunawan explained, "I teach this [CodeHERS] to students at Ysabel Barnett Elementary School which encourages girls to [engage in] coding abilities." She would meet up with the students at the elementary school every Tuesday and Thursday in order to collaborate with them to complete a project using coding and programming skills. The start of this club has given Gunawan the opportunity to explore the world of computer science and the capabilities to use these skills in the future. In the fall, Gunawan will be attending one of the nation's top universities, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Although she was accepted into multiple colleges, including University of Berkeley and Johns Hopkins University, she decided to choose her top choice, UCLA. Currently, Gunawan is planning to major in Software Engineering and Computer Science in order to receive a Master's Degree in engineering. As of right now, she would like to conquer "senioritis" and finish high school strong, adding that she would most likely like to pursue a career in coding and engineering. Gunawan has already visited the campus located in Los Angeles, California, and cannot wait to start her first semester of college. Gunawan is currently going over her speech that she will be delivering on June 7 to hundreds of seniors at the graduation ceremony, which she hopes will make an impact on their lives as they move on. With all of her hard work throughout high school, she has rightfully earned the honorable title of valedictorian and is sure to continue her hard work and effort as she transitions from high school to one of the country's top universities.

# Kang Named 2018-2019 Salutatorian

By Elizabeth Clavin '20  
Staff Writer

The 2018-2019 school year salutatorian, Senior Minsung Kang, is excited to announce he has received this award

and is eager as he takes on his pathway to his future. The salutatorian is chosen from the graduating class and is decided based on who acquired the second highest GPA in the graduating class. Although GPA is the determining factor, the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), the American College Test (ACT), and the amount of

Advanced Placement (AP) tests the student has taken are highly considered. Throughout Kang's high school years, he has taken a total of twenty-one AP classes, including AP Calculus, Calculus D, and AP English Literature. In fact, he currently has a 4.666 GPA, which was the determining factor of him earning the salutatorian award. Kang has expressed his happy feelings towards receiving this award. He stated, "It means a lot to me because it is the final results of my efforts over the last four years of high school. It's a recognition of my accomplishments. My favorite experience had to be whenever I received an A in AP Biology, that was the hardest class I've ever taken, and I was so happy." In addition, he has participated in numerous extracurricular activities. He has been in Varsity Golf, Band, the Key Club, California Scholarship Federation (CSF), National Honor Society (NHS), Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society, and Peer Leaders. Evidently, all of these contributions to the school have a large impact in his earning of this award, and his investment in the school has made him stand out to

numerous colleges. "I did what every great student does, I studied a ton and made sure all of my homework was done on time. If a student is planning on taking an AP class, they need to understand the rigor that comes with it. I have invested so much time into my schoolwork, and I encourage everyone else to, it truly pays off," he said. He stated his favorite and most helpful class was AP Computer Science. This class assisted him in learning what he wants to pursue in college. After getting into the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), he has chosen to major in Computer Science, and is very excited to pursue this field of work. "AP Computer Science has been the best class I've taken in high school and I'm so grateful that it has impacted my decision to get into this career." Clearly, taking many AP classes may be difficult, yet it pays off in the end, and can even help inspire a student into getting into a certain profession. Becoming salutatorian is not an easy task. Kang is thrilled to have been given this honor, and after getting into a rewarding college he could not be happier.



Credit: Graham Block

Senior Minsung Kang awarded Salutatorian at an awards night

## Newsies Brings Home Three Awards Series Finale Airs for Game of Thrones



Credit: Isabella Lucy

Cast members involved in the musical production proudly show off the awards they received at the annual Lucie Arnaz Awards

By Madison Brown '19  
Staff Writer

Towards the end of a fantastic year of productions, this past weekend on Sunday, May 19, 2019, the Chaparral Actors Troupe (CAT) took part in its second year of attending the Lucie Arnaz Awards. The cast, crew, and directors of Newsies found success in three of the ensemble awards while taking home an additional award for a single standout student for their show.

In the process of award nomination, a representative from the judges of the awards attended between twenty-six and thirty school productions and within two weeks, informed the selected schools the nominations they had received. Some of the

categories of awards included Outstanding Musical Production, Outstanding Ensemble, and Outstanding Choreography, which the school took home the trophy for. The Lucie Arnaz Awards invited the school into the competition for the first time last year with a more individual style of judging in which only the male and female leads were showcased from a select number of schools throughout California. Following this experience of exposure for two members of the ensemble last year, Drama Teacher Mr. Chris Irvin was more than excited to get the opportunity to display his entire cast with an invitation for all to join the awards this year. He shared, "[This year] was a lot better because it involved everybody. It was difficult

last year for the two students who participated because they were on their own and even though it involved the show, it still did not really involve everybody." It was clear to the judges that this campus had brought a new kind of energy to the stage this year and unbeknownst to everyone else, while the judges had watched each school's productions, they had been instructed to find students who stood out from the rest of the pack to which the school's own Senior Chester Olaes was awarded Outstanding Ensemble Member. However, for Irvin, the purpose of the rehearsals is to make each show even better than the last and is not rooted in the desire to take home trophies or to be nominated for awards but instead, "the

number one thing is that when [they] do a production here, that the production is professional level. And that is always [his] goal," and that receiving awards such as the ones mentioned above are "added benefits of being recognized." Events such as these are an opportunity for the drama department to showcase their talents beyond campus and to be recognized for their hard work.

Moving forward from the victories of this season, the drama department is working towards continuing to grow their abilities in working together to achieve the best production possible in the years to come. As seen in the results of the awards, the cast, crew, and directors of Newsies were able to express the talents and skills that went into the show.

By Summer Folger '19  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Winter is coming, or ending since the popular series *Game of Thrones* released the series finale on Sunday, May 19. The series now has eight seasons in total with hour-long episodes that depict nine noble houses feuding to claim the iron throne while also having to deal with outside forces. For most of the seasons, the show has gotten high ratings on movie platforms such as *Rotten Tomatoes* and *Internet Movie Database* (IMDb), as well as having a total of 505 award nominations, including 314 of those nominations, including a Golden Globe.

When diving into the world of *Game of Thrones*, the story is complex with intricate details and numerous characters the audience has to keep track of. Not only that, but the show is known for having character deaths, sex scenes, and violence,

all of which take place in the fictional world called Westeros. The creation for the series started with the book series titled *A Song of Fire and Ice* by Author George R. R. Martin. Currently, there are five books that have been released but there are two that are still in the works, titled *The Winds of Winter* and *A Dream of Spring*. Advanced Placement (AP) English Literature and AP Seminar teacher Mr. Larry Wells talked about his own experience with the books, saying, "It's unique in the sense that the writing style is broken down by perspective. So, we see things that are happening to character. All the chapters are titled by character names so it's whoever is going through a trail." From the way the books are structured and the amount of details they hold, the different points of view allow students to have multiple pathways to experience the series. Currently, season eight has received

some backlash for the way that it has been written, in which some viewers believe that the writing was rushed and tried to quickly wrap up the show rather than taking time to let things play out. It has gotten to the point that there is a petition to remake the season on *change.org* with about 1,700,000 signatures and counting. However, even though there are mixed reviews, many students still want to immerse themselves into this fantasy world. Junior Avani Hughes explained how she got into the show from seeing how the series was nearing its end and how she wanted to catch up on the seasons from there. Additionally, she talked about how she feels about the show now ending, stating, "I think it's pretty sad. I feel like it's been around for so many years and it's weird to think that all those actors kind of grew up on the show." But from what she has seen so far of the series, Huges talked about how "[her] favorite character is Daenerys. She's like the dragon queen. . . there have been tons [of scenes] where she is set on fire and she still comes out alive."

Wells also explained that the characters are the main driving force on why the series is so popular, saying, "But I just think that there is a lot of emotional depth to a lot of characters. . . even within the different houses, you have different dynamics, they're not all the same which I think is key to, you know, life. We all have families, we're all similar in ways but we're all different." These ideas show how through the characters, students and staff alike are able to bond over the popular series.

Even though the show has come to an end, it will still live on in the hearts of fans across the campus, including other ways to still continue to enjoy the series such as a prequel that is in the middle of production, allowing students to experience a previous winter full of history and new characters.

**"IT'S UNIQUE IN THE SENSE THAT THE WRITING STYLE IS BROKEN DOWN BY PERSPECTIVE."  
- MR. LARRY WELLS**

## Bittersweet Night for Seniors as Choir Season Comes to Close



Credit: Robert Hoda

The Choir Cabernet was a sentimental moment for many of the students and their families as this was the final choir concert of the school year

By Jillian Flack '22  
Staff Writer

On May 16 and 17, the choirs on campus were able to successfully perform at the Choir Cabaret Concert, their final performance of the year. Overall, the audiences were quite pleased with the talent and dedication students have shown for choir this school year, but sadly, the year must come to an end. For many of the seniors in choir, it is difficult to move on from choir to the next thing in their lives, but they found that being a part

of choir was a great experience. Altogether, the final choir concert was a beneficial way for students to close out the year and they are quite happy with how it went. Prior to the show, Junior Lilah Vener, a member of Platinum FX, shared, "I think it's going to go really well. This set is so fun. We're doing *Hairspray* and I think it's really just upbeat and exciting and everybody loves the musical." With the exciting themes the choirs had, *Hairspray*, *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Mamma Mia!*, students were able to enjoy themselves through the catchy songs they sang. The audience enjoyed the themes that

were used in the concert since songs from some of their favorite movies were sung beautifully by the students involved in choir, showing the high levels of talent the choirs have this year. To successfully perform these songs, choir students had to work hard, which ended up making the show both entertaining and melodic. Vener explained, "We [prepared] for this show for about a little over a month, but. . . we [had also been] working on our competition sets and all that, like, throughout the whole year." As shown in their exciting shows, they did a great job through all of the hard work that came with rehearsals in order to be as talented as

they currently are. This shows that the students in choir are dedicated to their music and are willing to work hard in order to see results in their singing.

As the Choir Cabernet was the final show for the seniors, many of them are finding it difficult to move on from choir, as for many of them, it was a large part of their lives. Senior Johanna Dagnasol, a member of Chamber Choir, remarked, "Honestly, I mean, I'm going to miss the people. . . that I worked hard with, you know, and it's kind of okay with me that it is ending. I'm really happy that I get to experience this with them." Being a part of choir was a beneficial way for students to



Credit: Jillian Flack

Freshman Joshua Pierce and Senior Johanna Dagnasol as Eric and Ariel

meet others that share common interests and form relationships that last a lifetime. While the school year is ending, an abundance of these relationships will continue to stay in one's life through both good and bad times. Even though moving on can be difficult for many seniors, the next step in their lives is likely to be exciting and worthwhile. The Choir Cabaret was a great way for the choir students

to end the school year strong, as it was highly successful and well received. This concert portrayed the strong talent of the students involved in choir through the catchy songs they sang, showing how much they have grown in their singing talent throughout the school year. All in all, the audiences were very impressed with what they saw and are looking forward to the choir performances next year.

# Congratulations

## Air Force Academy

Andres Barerra

## Albany State University

Alara Lewis Moody

## AMDA

Samantha Selaya

## Arizona State University

Caiden Booth-Drenk, Taylor Busher (Army),  
Isabella Clark, Samuel Ebersole, Kasey Ehmke,  
Julia Hernandez, Carson Petric, John Tran, Tyler

Todd, Jordan Weiss

## Army

Jerrico Boadilla

## Azusa Pacific University

Kelly Hyle

## Bellus Academy

Alyssa Villado

## Brigham Young University

Kylie Ankeny, Morgan Johnson, Devin Sheldon

## Boise State University

Hannah Franklin

## Cal Baptist University

Levi Luzader, Cynthia Martin, Monica Scott,  
Marco Serrato, Jenna Strommen, Presley Torres

## Cal Lutheran University

Jordan Buck, Kathryn Taylor

## Cal Poly Pomona

Lynzzie Carmichael, O'Neill McIntosh

## Chapman University

Audrey Harrington

## Chico State

David Estrada, Leah Stephens

## CSU San Marcos

Dolores Aguilus, Melanie Amaya, Hanan  
Ashkanani, Remecia Barabin, Conner Bunten,  
Brittney Cardenas, Vanessa Corroero, Miguel Cruz,  
Drew D'Aries, Madison Dayus, Daniel Escobar,  
Jayna Everett, Kaytlin Farwell, Galileo Fernandez,  
Madlyn Francis, Suzette Fuentes, Jonathan Galan,  
Alexander Garcia, Yazmin Garcia Salinas, Donna  
Gutierrez, Grace Handler, Sylar Journey, Louis  
Le, Tanya Maldonado, Maria Martinez, Aimee  
Mriamontes, Laura Monarrez, Alyssa Mosqueda,  
Matthew Ochoa, Jae Anne Ramos, Angel Ramirez,  
Itzel Ruiz, Jules Salazar, Samantha Sanchez,  
Aaron Tenorio, Kurt Thomas, Miriam Toukhi,  
Vivian Urena, John Vieyra, Elena Villareal,  
Hannah Whitener, Zaraih Zurita

## CSU Fullerton

Anna Kate Gibson, Sam Krueger, Isabelle Medina,  
Zayn Nofal, Julia Schauwecker

## CSU Channel Islands

Kayla Castillo

## CSU Dominguez Hills

Noemi Rojas Castillo

## CSU Monterey

Alex Millan

## CSU Long Beach

Antonio Amador (Army), Meghan Edwards, Luke  
Pajari

CSU Stanislaus

Sierra Gholar

## Colorado State University

Dylan McKay

## Dallas Baptist University

Hayden Johns

## Embry-Riddle Aeronautical

## University

Brandon Sandefer, Ishmael Vizcarra

## Grand Canyon University

Taylor Gilbert, Seneca Joseph, Kayla Lesovsky,  
Skylar Price

## Harvard University

Ethan Johnstone

## Hiram College

Amaya Butler

## Humboldt State University

Sophia Aulbach, Angel Cumbo, Hunter Young

## International Fashion Academy

Madison A. Brown

## John Paul Catholic University

Alyssa Helsel

## Marines

Todd Buchholz, Elijah Illas, Ethan Squillace

## Mt. San Jacinto College

Jonah McKendry, Shana Vicente

## Mt. San Antonio College

Gisel Muro

## Montana State University

Vaughn Wichert

## Northern Arizona University

Vianna Allen, Malyea Schafer, Kaitlyn Weiss,  
Marilyn Winslow

# Class of 2019

## Navy

Ezra Boyd

## Neumont College of Comp. Sci.

Dallin Anderson

## Oregon State

Madeline Majel

## Ottawa University

Mya Chatelin, Ashley Santillan

## Palomar College

Sydney Knight, Gabriella Lopez Jaramillo, Dima Talaat Hassan

## Point Loma Nazarene

Emily Chlebek, Amanda Olivares, Megan Sapida

## Portland State University

Julia Haynie

## RCC

Abigail Heffernan

## Reinhardt University

Allison Selway

## Sacramento State University

Walter Ragsdale

## San Diego State University

Elias Enguancho, Reina Hastings, Jaden Ly, Maverick Villon

## San Francisco State University

Anastasia Chaudry, Anthony Conner, Ethan Juarez, Evelyn Lopez, Setu Migao, Jazmyn Page, Jazmine Pilapil, Erika Rodriguez, Jenna Taylor, Spencer Taylor, Hayden Turner

## San Jose State University

Sean Gibson

## Seattle University

Brooke Larson

## Sonoma State University

Lucas Tomkins

## Southern Utah University

Amelia Hill, Breck Morrissey, Destiny Morrissey

## UC Berkeley

Patricia Alvarado, Alyssa Mae Legaspi

## UC Davis

Antonio Alcala, Lance Barit, Andy Talavera Espinoza, Oscar Velez

## UC Irvine

Robert Agnew, Kyle Cayanan, Jelica Falaminiano

## UCLA

Ethan Cook, Justin Delara, Louise Kim  
Michelle Gunawan, Anjali Sivanandan

## UC Merced

Josh Kantin, Jay Knox

## UC Riverside

Nova Gillette, Phoenix Gulgulian, Monique Montoya, Faith Retonel, Melanie Reynolds, Giovanni Talavera Espinoza

## UC Santa Barbara

Carlie Dew, Jade Ingram, Claudia Qi, Sophia Wang

## UC Santa Cruz

Allie Cocking, Benjamin Garner, Arien Hernandez, Isaiah Lara, Alek Martinez, Kayla Ritchie, Jaedyn Wells, Tiffany Wong

## UC San Diego

Joshua Billie, Caila Contreras, Gabrielle Graak, Tara Parsick, Daniel Sabater (Army), Daryan Tariqi

## University of Arizona

Natalia Catena, Lorena Herrera, Katheryne Porres Forkel, Ashlyn Watkins

## University of Hawaii

Anastasia Nicks, Ahsley Pineda, Nasrin Shaaban

## University of Houston

Raul Chapa

## University of Las Vegas

Linda Terry Salazar

## University of Northern Colorado

Alyssa Wenzel

## University of Redlands

Joseph Lewis, Kalei MacDonald, Marina Wesel

## University of San Diego

Nathaniel Tinh (Navy)

## University of San Francisco

Katherine Chapman, Skye Hastings

## University of St. Thomas

Jessi Trombly

## USC

Anahi Chavarria

## Vanguard University

Payton Siurek

## Washington State

Brianna Herfferman

## Westminster College

Katie Proffitt

## Westmont College

Nicole Bond

## Police Violence, a Black and White Issue



Four officers seen apprehending a protestor at a rally exercising excessive force Madison Brown '19 Staff Writer

Despite the despicable actions that had just taken place, the suspect of the Poway Synagogue shooting that took place on April 24, nineteen-year-old John Earnest, was apprehended and taken without difficulty to the local jail while having over fifty unused bullets as well as the AR-15 that he had used in possession. Whereas many may take this positively, just weeks prior, a fifteen-year-

old African American boy, only referred to as "Lucca" by the media, had his head bashed against the pavement while simultaneously taking several kicks to the side and stomach by law enforcement for picking up his friend's cell phone off of the ground. The clear imbalance in treatment between a man that had just attempted to commit mass murder and a boy who had picked up a cell phone is only one example of many that illustrate how damaging police perception based on race can be.

Because many African Americans have been portrayed throughout history as dark and evil beings designed to

eliminate anyone and anything in their path, it comes as no surprise that white law enforcement, who were once in charge of keeping colored people separated from the whites, would have lasting resentment today. Just over a year ago in Parkland, Florida, nineteen-year-old Nikolas Cruz, who is caucasian, entered his former high school that he had been kicked out of due to violent behavior and opened fire, killing seventeen. Evidence released regarding the circumstances of the shooting as well as Cruz's arrest reveal the same trend of compassion and patience displayed by law enforcement with only one officer detaining him while others stand around with no sense of alarm despite the shooting only having taken place hours before. The fate of Cruz has been argued time and time again as he has evaded receiving the death penalty thus far in exchange for a life sentence. On the contrary, rapper YNW Melly, an African American who reached fame with his 2018 track "Murder on My Mind," is expected to receive the death penalty for the killing of two individuals earlier in the year without any real chances of receiving a life sentence instead. While both of these crimes deserve adequate punishment, the idea of Cruz getting to use the death of his parents as reason to avoid the death penalty is an insensitive and weak plea that is often taken with white young males. The inherent racism that begins with students such as Lucca being stopped and harassed for no reason does not stop on the surface level arrests and follows many of these kids throughout their search for justice through the bias of the justice system.

However, one of the reasons that these disparities are still talked about is because while they do occur, they are a small margin of interactions with police that go wrong. Police training is largely dedicated and constantly being updated to change with societal changes in service of making sure there is equal protection for all citizens. Despite these efforts, it is still the job of the community to speak out when these instances occur and act as whistleblowers to injustice. Unwarranted police aggression targeted towards black people has consistently been given media attention and has opened avenues for conversation after each time it happens, but does little to solve or prevent these instances from happening again. No change will ever come to those that are silent and so rather than sitting behind a computer or phone using social media to complain about mistreatments, there is no better time than now to stand up and take advantage of city council meetings to get the message of equality heard.



Students protest over the treatment of African Americans in law enforcement custody Credit: Sal Lopez

## Florida Arming Teachers

Megan Irwin '21  
Editorials Editor

On February 14, 2018, students arrived at Stoneman Douglas High School with the only fear in their minds being passing their pre-calculus exam or if their crush will ask them out, not the screams of terror from fellow classmates, not the blood, not the ear deafening shots from an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle. It has been over a year since the traumatic Parkland shooting that took seventeen students victim; and as of early May 2019, Florida legislation has declared to let "teacher volunteers" carry a gun under their guardian program. Teachers would have to go through police-like training with a sheriff's office and undergo a psychiatric evaluation along with a background check in order to qualify for carrying a weapon on campus; the arming of any teachers or staff of a school regardless of the calamity that may have occurred is no logical response to the tragedy brought on by gun violence. Arming teachers in one state would lead to others following suit and soon, the United States would become a country of ill-handled weapons, the very thing this Floridian law aimed to prevent.

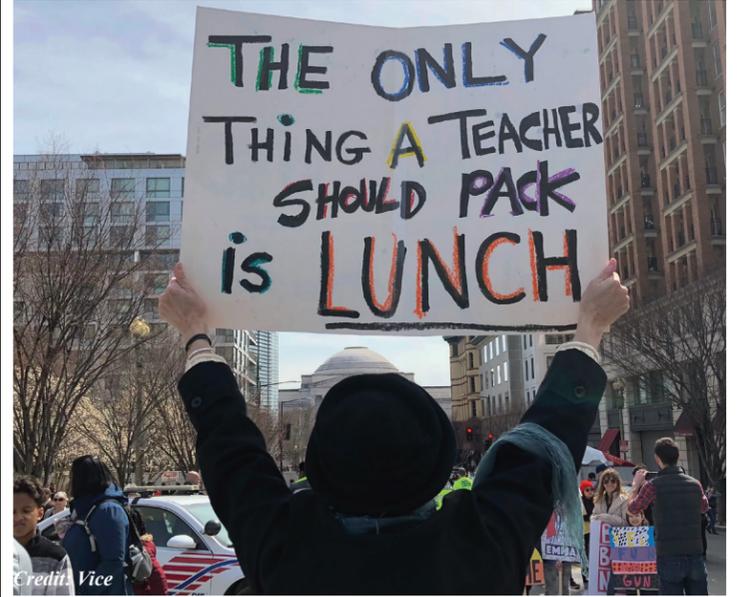
Guns act as an impediment in relationships with students. Teachers are guides, mentors, discussion leaders and lecturers; so giving teachers guns would act as a direct barrier in the connection

to students. It says "stand back" instead of "stand up," creating such a division in the learning place all due to the possibility of teachers turning the guns against those they promised to protect.

Guns simply have no place in the classroom. Teachers are in constant close proximity to students; with hundreds of students in a single classroom daily, the chance for an accidental discharge is guaranteed. Second, teachers are not trained to make instantaneous life-or-death decisions in a school environment with thousands of innocent children as possible collateral damage to the ill mannered use of a firearm. Even trained police officers have trouble reacting to school shootings and properly executing the use of deadly force with thousands of students at risk.

No amount of "good teachers" or those who want to take stand against a school shooter can account for the reckless delegation of Florida legislation. Who in passing this bill endangered more students than a school shooter would. A good teacher with a gun can still make a careless mistake, resulting in the death of a student who forgot to say 'I love you' to their parent that morning, who wanted to pass that final and graduate, to move on in life to better things; all cut down by a single bullet fired by their teacher.

Anti-arming teachers protestor pictured with a sign reading "The Only Thing A Teacher Should Pack is Lunch"



Credit: Vice

## Notre Dame: Let Go of the Past, Pay Attention to Here and Now

Gabriella Gatchalian '20  
Staff Writer

The burning of the church of Notre Dame was a tragedy for both history and the Catholic religion. Its sophisticated and grand architecture brought various people together, regardless of religion, personal belief, or nationality. The church has stood through various events of major adversity, specifically tragedies in history, which has made it a symbol of strength and a visual of what peace can create within France. The historical and religious value of the church adds to the great contrition that people felt towards the burning of the church, however, the tragedy led to the start of an exorbitant promise by France's most wealthiest citizens and various others. This promise is to rebuild the burned church, to bring back its original glory for the sake of what is supposedly history. In just the first week since the fire occurred, the church raised almost one billion dollars for its renovation. The fact that the latter sentence included 'church,' 'raised,' 'one billion dollars,' 'renovation,' is not only a symbol of the corruption that occurs within the Catholic Church, but it is a remarkable example of how the priority of the church is no longer to help people, rather the church is demonstrating its care for architecture and gaining more funds, instead of helping those in need around them.

The Catholic Church has been known to protect itself from facing its own tyrannies. Being a dominating religion should not justify the cruel acts that the church has done towards

others of different beliefs and their own followers. The rebuilding of the Notre Dame church is not only an example of how some history is prioritized over other history, but it is also an example of how the creation of extravagant churches, as well as the guarantee that the church will not go hungry, are the main purposes of the supposed divine religion. There are millions of Catholics all over the world that are being mistreated by their own church. The church receives its money from donations, often given by their own followers that justify donating by reasoning that the money is "for the church." The church a mere religious institution that no longer stands with its followers. Rather it stands on the backs of blind devotees, corrupting them of the ability to see the truth..

It is time to let go of the past. The church was and still remains a powerful piece of architecture. Indeed, it is a church that bares a unique beauty that is capable of bringing various beliefs together in awe. But to proclaim that its rebuilding is necessary is a lie, as the Catholic Church already has a large number of churches, each bearing at least one unique architectural detail. There are more issues going on with humanity that need further attention. Yes, the destruction of a church that has stood through the depths of history is a tragedy, but it should not be prioritized over actual problems.

The great fire blazed through the ancient architecture of the church (pictured to the right), burning away the pure beauty it has held throughout the years. Some aspects of the internal beauty of the church remained, but several of the classic artworks it held was destroyed.



Credit: Wired



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

If readers desire to respond to an editorial, *The Platinum Press* 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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The American Scholastic Press Association has awarded *The Platinum Press* first place recognition in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 For all inquiries, pictures, contributions, and letters to the editor, visit us in *The Platinum Press* Newsroom, room 413, or email us at: rleonhardi@tvusd.k12.ca.us

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# United States Tariffs and Trade War With China



*The United States is heavily dependent on China's technological and household imports, many US companies produce goods in China*

By Editorial Team

From microwaves to mini fridges, most essential quotidian products are often imported from China, a mass manufacture in global trade. In order to export and import products from other countries, taxes referred to as tariffs must be implemented to counter the capital loss from not using domestic suppliers. The purpose of the United States tariffs on Chinese goods is to encourage United States consumers purchase more "Made in the USA" items, since they become less expensive compared to foreign imports. With the intent to enhance United States domestic businesses, as well as support the economy of the country, tariffs on Chinese goods seem beneficial to United State citizens in their promise of domestication of the trans-Pacific trade system. In reality, however, tariffs drastically increase prices for customers everywhere and reduce profit

margins for the firms that depend on Chinese imports. The United States and China exchanged blows in the latest escalation of their tariff war as of early and mid may, both nations, took steps to raise new trade barriers. Just days earlier, both nations had anticipated sealing a comprehensive commercial deal to decrease tariff taxation in preservation of both economies. Instead, in Beijing, the Chinese government announced plans to impose tariffs on \$60 billion worth of American products in retaliation for U.S. tariffs that President Trump increased on May tenth. Trump, meanwhile, began the process of expanding U.S. tariffs to cover all \$540 billion in Chinese imports, a potential seismic jolt to the global economy. This trade war, fueled by the egos of the political leaders, has recklessly endangered the livelihood of the middle and lower class who are dependent on imported goods like technology, household necessities, and clothing. The economic effectiveness and availability provided

by imported products has will all see a price spike in the near future. This price class the means to survive, but the middle and lower class, a trade war has been waged against the middle class. Stores like Target, Costco, Home Depot, and Walmart,



*Both the United States and China, economic superpowers, have disregarded the middle class in the war of trade*

adults with barely any income to spare, let alone on items that have been upcharged. Many college students are forced to live in cramped apartments, with two other roommates in order to meet the months rent. So with the increase in tariffs on essential goods, students seemingly have no way to survive on their own, turning to rationing ramen and thousands of dollars of debt, as the war is waged of tariffs is waged.

The use of tariffs is detrimental to the middle class in particular because it will lead to the annihilation of a median in the economic pay scale leaving the United States split between those who can afford to pay well above a considerable price for goods and those who will fall below the poverty line. Time that has been spent on both sides of the tariff war has been inadequately used to prove economic superiority at the expense of the middle classes.

## Letter to The Editor and Response

By Alistair Fernandez

*The following is a letter to the editor submitted on May 9, 2019 regarding the article "The Crisis That is Swept Under The Rug...and Into The Ocean" by Gisel Flores, in the previous April 19, 2019 issue. It has been published as received.*

My name is Alistair Fernandez and I wrote this letter to respond to "The Crisis That is Swept Under The Rug...and Into The Ocean" by Gisel Flores. After reading the article, it gives a liberal viewpoint that the United States is causing all of the trash into the ocean even though other populated countries, such as China are polluting the ocean worse than the United States.

The reason why I wanted to respond to this particular issue of the Platinum Press is because we as young people in high school are naive to real truth of trash and waste going into the environment. Since the Media these days are creating many biased information about the United States and the Environment, it's time that we all know the truth as young people about what is really going on. Also, we should also be aware that there are also other factors of the huge amount of waste thrown away. To make my first point, I wanted to counter the article's view

Lipton, Alden Manchester, and Victor Oliveira from the Economic Research Service, USDA point out that food waste also occurs from the beginning of food production chain. After planting crops which can be used as food, such as corn, these crops are exposed to pest infestations and also serve weather which cause the loss of harvesting these crop which then leads into waste. Also, severe weather is a factor towards crop loss due to the unpredictable weather changes.

Before I give my opinion on the article, I wanted to say that the Platinum press and its staff had did a great job for making and producing their newspapers and articles as always for each different issues. All of your newspaper issues and articles are well written, professional, and informative to all the Puma students, teachers, and staff here at Chaparral High School. Without it, we as Pumas wouldn't be informed well enough about school events, current events, and activities here at Chap. Also, me as a person who reads all of your issues from my Freshmen year to my Senior Year, the Platinum Press always does a great job at making their professional newspapers and articles to inform Pumas like me at Chaparral High School.

By Benjamin Garner '19  
Editor-in-Chief

Dear Alistair, firstly I would like to thank you for your letter of respectful disagreement with the article written by Gisel Flores. She was personally not interested in writing a rebuttal but acknowledged the points you made. As such is the case, I will be responding to your concerns and addressing the counterpoints you have brought up.

I would first like to immediately refute the idea that students at Chaparral, and especially my editorial journalists are naive. You are absolutely correct that the countries you listed, "China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines", are major contributors to waste pollution. There is absolutely no doubt in this, and I do not believe that Flores made any attempt to rebuke this. However, Chaparral High School is located within Temecula, California. Our paper strives to focus on issues which are applicable to the student body. Our editorials many times, shed light onto issues which students can contribute to improving. Essentially, if the focus of an article, for instance, is waste, we are going to focus on the impact the United States has on the topic, and how students can improve this.

The article also focuses on food waste as you point out. While it is correct that food waste does occur at the beginning of the production chain, and the planting of high yield sustainable crops can improve this, that was not the focus of the article. Again, the purpose of the article is to inspire change. There

are countless concerns throughout the food production and distribution chain, and in general the United States has plenty of problems with food in general, from waste to obesity. But the article Flores wrote made a connection between the food insecurity/food waste problem, and general waste pollution. It simply would not have made sense to talk about the waste created by China, and the food lost in production, although valid problems, when this was not the focus of the editorial.

I would like to thank you once again for your submission, and your recognition of our papers success.

Thank you,  
Benjamin Garner  
Editor-in-Chief

*The Platinum Press* welcomes letters to the editor. In the event that you have a disagreement, concern, or comment, positive or negative, feel free to submit a letter via email to rleonhardi@tvusd.k12.ca.us and provide a typed hard-copy to room 413. Submission must received no later than 2 weeks from the publication of the article you are responding to in order to be included in the following issue with a response from a relevant party.

# New and Improved Training Room Offers New Opportunity



Credit: John Rentar

Panoramic shot of the new athletic training room where CTE sports medicine students are given the opportunity to be able to assist even more Chaparral athletes with injuries and recoveries

Aishlyn Bruce '20  
Staff Writer

After a whole school year, the addition of the new athletic training facility is complete, offering sports medicine students numerous opportunities to further their skills and education in athletic training. The grand opening of the new room, which is six times larger than the setup they had in the previous one, was November 5, 2018. Sports medicine students go through

the Career Technical Education (CTE) program in order to prepare for their futures in the medical field. CTE pathways teach specific career skills to students in high school, and they are split into six career clusters that apply to different high-demand careers: health science, business, science, technology, engineering, and math. "It provides a pathway for a specific field that a person's interested in and to better prepare them for college," said Junior Ruby Ruiz, the head Sports Medicine

student. The new training room allows the sports medicine students to improve their work with the additional space and increased benefits. "The old training room was too small for the amount of athletes we have and did not have enough space for equipment," stated Ruiz. The newly-gained larger space is an obvious bonus because the sports medicine students have more room for equipment and supplies that they did not have in the previous training room. "We can fit a lot more people in

the new room, so we can treat them faster and more of them are able to use the equipment," said Ruiz. Allowing more modern equipment for cleaning, treatment, and therapy is helpful for the athletes because the trainers use the larger space to its full potential as the different sports get into league season. Using this equipment also allows the sports medicine students to get the full experience in the CTE program and increases the amount of athletes coming to receive medical help.

There are many improvements and new equipment that help the athletes even more compared to the previous training room. "A few things we have are a whirlpool and a sink, which helps us clean faster; a second room for hydrotherapy, which is used for iced baths, more treatment tables, which helps us get more athletes into the room and treated faster, and there is an area outside with our stationary bikes that move them out of the way so injured athletes can

work on their rehabilitation," explained Ruiz. A number of therapy treatments draw upon the healing properties of water for pain relief, making use of the body's reaction to hot and cold treatment. All of these devices in the new athletic training room help the school's athletes tremendously when they need it, and also help the trainers in the future when they pursue their desired career path. The upgraded training facility is just the beginning of an improved educational pathway.

## Spring Sports MVPs

Dolores Aguilus '19 & Christina Avina '20  
Sports Editor Staff Writer

### Sam Woodland '20



With impactful work ethic throughout the whole season, Junior Sam Woodland was designated as Varsity Boys Lacrosse Most Valuable Player (MVP). As a first-year goalie, he quickly had to adapt to the new position that held great responsibility. Impressively, he adapted well to the new position and his skills had kept the team in a majority of the games and single

handedly earned them a win or two. Head Coach Mr. Lance Hale described Woodland as an "unselfish teammate who decided to switch positions at the beginning of the year to help [our] team. He is smart, dedicated, crafty and a great inspiration to his teammates." Over the three years that Coach Hale has coached Woodland, he has been proud to witness the great sportsmanship that he attains and has awarded him MVP for that reason.

### Orlando Ornelas '19



In honor of his ability to guide his team and work earnestly on the track, Senior Orlando Ornelas was named Most Valuable Player (MVP) of Varsity Boys Track. Ornelas has been part of the track team for the past two years, and since he joined, he has been a strong asset to the team. Ornelas is an athlete with natural talent and leadership from the start. He always put forth

the effort to work hard and improve not only himself, but his teammates, too. Being named MVP this year was very special to Ornelas because it was result of the hard work he displayed. It was a rewarding moment for him. In the past two years, Head Coach Mr. Martin Dinsbacher saw the kind of athlete Ornelas was and knew he deserved this award. He describes Ornelas as "team-oriented" and "hard-working" athlete.

### Ethan Johnstone '19



Senior Ethan Johnstone was named Most Valuable Player (MVP) by Head Coach Mr. John Gonzalez for this year's Varsity Boys Tennis season. Through his incredible work ethic and passion for the sport over the past four years, Johnstone has always been strong-willed and dedicated athlete. Despite the fact he was not a captain, he always led

by example for his teammates. "They way he carries himself, a communicator, a leader, very sportsmanship minded. He is just a class act kid and a great player to be around," said Gonzalez. In addition to his athletic talents, Johnstone strives in school, too. He juggled education and sports all while maintaining a positive attitude everyday, which is why Johnstone earned MVP of the season.

### Alyssa Wenzell '19



This year's Varsity Softball's Most Valuable Player(s) (MVPs) Award was given to not just one, but two, talented athletes. Senior Alyssa Wenzel was named as one of the MVPs by Head Coach Mr. Jerry Delamater. Both athletes contributed assets to the team whether it be in strength, power or speed, they were equals on the field. "In every offensive category, one was first and one was second. We couldn't decide who to give it to, so we gave it to both of them," said Delamater. Although they shared similar athletic abilities, they were both special individuals in their own ways. As a captain, Wenzel showed leadership on the field by guiding her team. Regardless, both MVPs have bright futures ahead of them.

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### Jaelynn Lambert '21



This year's Varsity Softball's Most Valuable Player(s) (MVPs) Award was given to not just one, but two, talented athletes. Sophomore Jaelynn Lambert was titled MVP by Head Coach Mr. Jerry Delamater. She was an asset to the team whether it be in strength, power or speed, she was similar to Wenzel on the field. "In every offensive category, one was first and one was second. We couldn't decide who to give it to, so we gave it to both of them," said Delamater. Although she shared similar athletic abilities, they were both special individuals in their own ways. Although, Lambert was a quieter athlete, she worked extremely hard in everything she did. Regardless, to sharing th MVP title, they have bright futures ahead of them.

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### Analise Wilson '20



As a three-year starter on Varsity Girls Lacrosse, Junior Analise Wilson has always displayed a leadership position amongst her peers. In reward for her hardwork and dedication, Wilson received Most Valuable Player (MVP) from Head Coach Mr. Pat Mawhinney. To be named MVP was an honoring feeling to Wilson considering that she is a junior. "Receiving the MVP award means the world to me because I have worked very hard to get to where I am today," said Wilson. Coach Mawhinney has been training Wilson since she made the varsity team her freshman year. "She gives me one hundred percent of what she has all the time," claimed Mawhinney. With athletic abilities pushed aside, Wilson is a player full of heart.

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### Jack Sunderland '19



As a three-year captain and three-year Most Valuable Player (MVP), Senior Jack Sunderland has ended his last golf season with tremendous achievements. Through the years, he has grown as a leader as well as a golfer and Head Coach Mr. Jonathan Mitchell was honored to be alongside him on his journey. With an approachable personality, Sunderland was always willing to assist his teammates with anything. Along with this, he also had strong work ethic. Over the four years that Coach Mitchell has coached Sunderland, he was proud to be able to have coached an athlete like him. Although Coach Mitchell would have chosen him as an MVP, it was the team who made the decision to award Sunderland with this achievement. Sunderland is leaving his high school career with a strong legacy that the team will always carry.

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### Grace Handler '19



For the past four years, Senior Grace Handler has been an exceptional addition to the Varsity Girls Track team. Due to her admirable persona and diligent work ethics, Handler was named Most Valuable Player (MVP) by Head Coach Mr. Martin Dinsbacher. Her freshman year was when Handler first became interested in running, and now she will further her athletic career in college. According to Dinsbacher, Handler was a very determined athlete who never gave up. "We could put her in different events and she was always willing to do them," said Dinsbacher. Handler's commitment to track has allowed her to grow as an athlete over time. In addition to her talented abilities, Handler was a natural born leader to her fellow track teammates.

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### Sean Katzmann '20



One of three swimmers have proven to be great swimmers, but also great teammates, one of those swimmers is Junior Sean Katzmann. He was named as one of Varsity Swim's Most Valuable Player(s) (MVPs) and also one of the few swimmers who scored the most points for the whole team and have contributed to the wins. Through the years of coaching him, Head Coach Mr. Josh Stone along with the whole swim team, has been able to watch him grow as a swimmer and as person. As one of the MVPs, Katzmann was proud that he ended this season well. With the swim season over, Katzmann was one the people to be leading by example and greatly impacted the swim team continually.

Head Coach Mr. Josh Stone along with the whole swim team, has been able to watch him grow as a swimmer and as person. As one of the MVPs, Katzmann was proud that he ended this season well. With the swim season over, Katzmann was one the people to be leading by example and greatly impacted the swim team continually.

### Luke Draeger '19



Although swim is more of an individual sport, one of three swimmers have proven to be great swimmers, but also great teammates. At the end of the season, Senior Luke Draeger was titled as one of Varsity Swim's Most Valuable Player(s) (MVPs) and also one of the few swimmers who scored the most points for the whole team and have contributed to the wins. Over the course of four years, Head Coach Mr. Josh Stone along with the whole swim team, has been able to watch him grow as a swimmer and as person. As one of the MVPs, Draeger was proud that he ended his last high school season on a good note. With the swim season over, Draeger was one the people to be leading by example and greatly impacted the swim team.

Over the course of four years, Head Coach Mr. Josh Stone along with the whole swim team, has been able to watch him grow as a swimmer and as person. As one of the MVPs, Draeger was proud that he ended his last high school season on a good note. With the swim season over, Draeger was one the people to be leading by example and greatly impacted the swim team.

### Kylie Ankeny '19



As a fourth year swimmer, Senior Kylie Ankeny was named as one of three Most Valuable Player(s) (MVPs) on the Varsity Swim team. Swim helped Ankeny realize that if she pushed herself hard enough she can just do most anything. Throughout the season, Head Coach Mr. Josh Stone witnessed her grow as a swimmer and as a teammate, which was one of the reasons she was rewarded with MVP. Although swim is score based, Ankeny's character in and out of the pool inspired those around her, regardless of the score. As her last season, she is proud that she was able to achieve MVP and show her teammates that anything is possible.

her grow as a swimmer and as a teammate, which was one of the reasons she was rewarded with MVP. Although swim is score based, Ankeny's character in and out of the pool inspired those around her, regardless of the score. As her last season, she is proud that she was able to achieve MVP and show her teammates that anything is possible.

*Boys Volleyball and Boys Baseball did not select MVPs as of May 24*

## Varsity Boys Track 4x100 Team Qualifies for CIF Finals

Tara Parsick '19  
Staff Writer

The Varsity Boys Track 4x100 team consists of Juniors Koby Holland, DeShaun Houston, Elijah Richards, and Senior Orlando Ornelas, and this hardworking team has exceeded expectations by qualifying for California Scholastic Federation (CIF) this season. Advancing to CIF gives the players and coaching staff the validation they deserve after all of the hard work they have put in this season.

Although CIF may seem like a very big deal, it is nothing new for the Varsity Head Coach Mr. Martin Dinsbacher. He has had multiple teams that have qualified for CIF in previous years. "It's mainly about being well prepared because it is very high pressure. There is no room for error," stated Coach Dinsbacher when reflecting on what he has learned about CIF. He wants his team to remember to

stay relaxed, and focus on what they need to do correctly. Coach Dinsbacher plans on keeping the same routine during practices for the days leading up to CIF. Meanwhile, the sprinting coach is especially focused on making their handoffs perfect.

The boys are very excited to be in CIF as a team for the first time. All of the players, except Ornelas, are new to the pressures that come along with CIF. "It's exciting because at the beginning of the season, we never thought we would have made it this far," stated Holland. The team's times have dramatically improved from the beginning of the season to where they are now. It is only their first year being on a team together, which may be the reason for their shaky start. In regards to whether the team rightfully deserves their spot in CIF, Holland firmly stated, "We deserve a spot because we all just work hard in practice and we have been improving every week in our track meets."

Backing up his claim, Houston confidently said, "We are all fast enough." With this,

for a relay team, being fast is not the only factor to winning the race. The handoffs are key to a good time because even one slip in the handoff can lead to them losing a race.

The boys have had to overcome some major obstacles in order to guarantee their spot in CIF. "I had back problems throughout the season, but I've been running through it, and just trying to get through the season," stated Holland. Some players would quit when they encounter an obstacle like this, but Holland pushed through the pain to help his team get to CIF. Coach Dinsbacher addressed other issues, stating, "We had some issues with the athletes' grades, and a couple of injuries that we had to ease them through in order to make sure they could still run fast and strong." Dinsbacher made it his priority to let his players heal from their injuries, never letting it get worse from where it began.

So far, the boys have qualified to be in CIF finals, which was a difficult task. The boys worked hard to achieve one of the

open nine spots out of four divisions across multiple high schools. Unfortunately, their season ended there and they did not advance past finals. Although they did not qualify to go to state, they made their mark by breaking the track team's records from last year.



Credit: Willie Shippen  
The Varsity Boys Track Team, qualified for CIF Finals out of nine spots of four divisions

## Varsity Boys Swim Dives into CIF



Credit: Erin Lancaster

Junior Sean Katzmam swam the butterfly for this year's CIF round

Aishlyn Bruce '20  
Staff Writer

Many teams worked hard during the season to have a successful year, but the Varsity Boys Swim team was one of the few teams that made it the furthest in their season. The swim team made it to California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section, and the tournament was held at the Riverside City College. Swimmers like Senior Luke Draeger, who went for the individual race and the two hundred medley relay, as well as Juniors Sean Katzmam, Bryce Coatney, Samuel Gunawan, and

Sophomore Nathaniel Marble, who also made up the relay teams, worked hard throughout the season to get to that point.

Draeger went to CIF for the two hundred medley relay, the fifty free individual, and the two hundred free relay. The first category consists of a race in which swimmers compete in all four strokes: butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle. The fifty free individual is a race of one athlete from each school against others, swimming fifty meters with any style they prefer. The two hundred medley relay was a relay event in which each of four swimmers on a team swims a 50-yard freestyle leg in sequence. Draeger

swam all four years of his high school experience and has led his team as a role model, being the only senior, and making it to CIF his final year. "I was super excited and grateful to be announced going to CIF for swim," said Draeger. Earning a spot at these meets is a big deal and is applauded by students and staff for these accomplishments. However, Draeger faced an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury that hindered his swim career for awhile. "My strengths consisted of having a strong support system and determination," according to the swimmer. Nonetheless, Draeger had a strong support system and determination to rely on and in the end, he still managed to accomplish his goal of going to CIF.

Coatney has been swimming for three years in his high school career. "We had practice for two hours after school every day, so it took a lot of dedication to get to this point," stated Coatney. The relay team placed eleventh overall out of roughly thirty-five schools. The relay team trained together to prepare for this since January, and dedicated their time every day after school to earn their place in CIF. "The next step is to win CIF next year, because the overall season was great and we can accomplish it," explained Coatney. The Boys Varsity Swim team overall had a great season and accomplished the most for themselves by making it to CIF and receiving a great standing.

The season has ended, and new teams will eventually be formed for the upcoming school year. Despite not placing in CIF, the journey to CIF finals were a great memory of placing eleventh for all of the boys that dedicated their time to this team, and they will likely accomplish much more to come as the years go on.

## Another Win for Powder Puff

Aishlyn Bruce '20  
Staff Writer

The Sugar Bowl is the final competition in the powder puff league in which the top teams in the district face off for the championship title. This powderpuff season was the first time that all grade levels will be allowed to participate. Coaches Mr. Tate Hess and Mr. Andrew Ramer led the team to another successful season and to a prosperous Sugar Bowl win for the fifth time in a row.

The final teams that played May 17 were Chaparral, Great Oak, and Temecula Valley High School. The winner of the first game, Temecula Valley, played

Chaparral. The Puma girls won the Sugar Bowl game 33-6. The season record for Puma athletes was 3-0, becoming undefeated in the district. The coaches dedicated a great deal of their time to provide another successful year to the girls Powder Puff games. "Our coaches would treat us how they would treat boys because they care about us and want us to invest in this program. They joke around with us, are competitive, want us to win, but most importantly want us to have fun," Senior Allison Selway explained. Although the female athletes have done this for several years now, they still manage to make a great time out of their high school memories dedicated towards these games. These girls faced weaknesses

on their journey to victory. Selway stated, "We did not start as strong as we needed to, as the game was tied 6-6." These athletes pushed through with all the continuous hard work and responded with turning the game over in their favor to shut down Temecula Valley. Coaches and athletes worked extremely hard to make this happen again, as they plan to do the same for the following years to come.

The annual event is one many look forward to and is a great opportunity for female athletes of all classes to represent the school in an intense football playoff. The intensity of these athlete's final high school game filled the Pumas with pride as they won the Sugar Bowl for the fifth time in a row.



Credit: Sydney Moreno

The powder puff team's hard work and coordination brought home the win for another straight year

## Varsity Boys Golf Fighting Through CIF Tournaments



Credit: Jonathan Mitchell

The Varsity Boys Golf team who tied with Great Oak but won the league finals to be ranked higher in CIF

Julia Hernandez '19  
Copy Editor

Riding their wave of success from early on in the season, the Varsity Boys Golf team tied for first in the Southwestern League, becoming first seed in the league for the Southern Section region after the League Finals. The varsity lineup, Senior Jack Sunderland, Juniors Chance Mitchell, Michael

Peebles and Owen Mulbakken, Sophomore Junrui Chen, and Freshman Alvaro Fonseca, qualified for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Eastern Team Divisional on May 13, along with other athletes qualifying for the CIF Central Individual Regionals. After a long season of practicing and mental preparation, the team is well-equipped to handle the success, and stress, that may come their way. The team tied for first in league

with Great Oak High School but won league finals to earn the higher seed for future CIF tournaments. Playing well enough to exceed expectations, Sunderland, Mulbakken, Mitchell, and Fonseca all advanced to CIF Central Individual Regionals on May 6. There, over 100 athletes from the region compete against each other in attempt to earn a spot in the top twenty golfers who are fortunate enough to go further in the competition. Mulbakken, who tied

for fourteenth place in CIF Central Individual Regionals, was the only player from this school able to continue in the Southern California Golf Association (SCGA) Individual and Team Qualifiers and beyond, regardless of how his team performed in the CIF Eastern Team Divisional. Playing well in CIF will give new opportunities to Mulbakken to play the sport even past high school. "[The team] wanted to win league, that was big, and we accomplished that," Mulbakken explained. His personal goal was to "average below eighty," which he even beat when playing his CIF rounds. Unfortunately, Mulbakken did not make the cut after playing in the SCGA Individual and Team Qualifiers. After earning the Most Valuable Player award for the third year in a row, Sunderland reflected on his past seasons. "I'm a little sad. I had a solid four years, but I know the program is in good hands with Chance and Coach Mitchell. They're going to do great next year," Sunderland described. He is disappointed that he did not achieve his goal of going to the State Championship, but he is nonetheless proud of his team for doing as well as they did this season.

The Eastern Team Divisional consisted of 588 teams of all divisions,

and only two teams per division advance to the SCGA Individual and Team qualifiers on May 16, as well as the top sixty individuals not a part of a qualifying team. The Pumas placed seventh out of eighteen in the region, unfortunately not performing well enough to advance to yesterday's tournament. Already planning out new strategies to test out with next season's team, Head Coach Jonathan Mitchell is ready to use this year's mistakes and hardships as lessons for the future. "The idea is this: We are going to meet at my house, at least the top six to eight golfers, and eat dinner, and then we'll do some team building stuff from there," Coach Mitchell outlined. As the only team to win a league title this year, he is proud of his team's accomplishments and cannot wait to see them succeed next season.

The SCGA qualifiers determine the four total teams and the twenty-eight individuals that will advance to the SCGA finals, and then onto the CIF State Championship, which takes place on May 29 at Poppy Hills Golf Course in Pebble Beach. Regardless of how the Pumas played, the returning players will be ready to step up their game in the off season to be able to put everything they have into playing even better next year.

### ATHLETES IN THE NEWS



Morgan Johnson '19 - Female Athlete of the Year



Orlando Ornelas '19 - Male Athlete of the Year



Jennifer Howes '19 cheer team, Cali S4 team, placed first at the cheer Summit competition



Dalton Davis '20 - Varsity Boys Lacrosse All League and Offensive Most Valuable Player

# SCHOOL YEAR RECAP



<< “My favorite class memory is when my friend and I decided to start our very own Podcast.”  
— Isaiah Cabanas ‘21



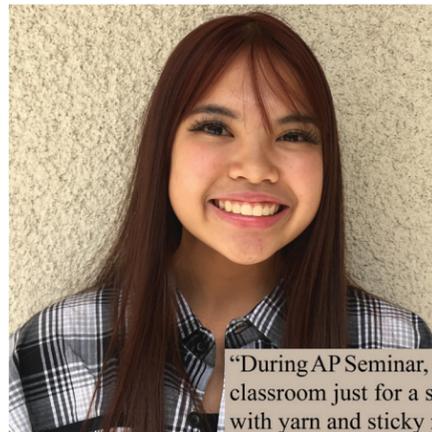
>> “In sociology, we did nothing as a social experiment. We just stood out there in the hallway.”  
— Maia Rodriguez ‘20



“My favorite part of the school year was prom because I got to walk around Balboa Park.” — Donna Gutierrez ‘19



<< “One time my friends and I played ‘Dos’ in history and everybody broke out laughing out of nowhere. People stared.”  
— Danielle Nguyen ‘21



“During AP Seminar, right before the IMP, we dedicated a wall in the classroom just for a source analysis where we connected our ideas with yarn and sticky notes.”  
— Francis Alvares ‘20

>> “My favorite memory was in AP Lit when Kyle was doing the hierarchy project and he presented his Minecraft blocks.”  
— Kaylean Huynh ‘20

<< “I was busy with homework and sports this year, but the sports part made my year good.”  
— Samuel Benedict ‘21



“My favorite event was the Senior vs Staff basketball game because it was super intense.”  
— Annalise Puccini-Romero ‘21



>> “My favorite memory was when my friends and I played ‘Uno’ and almost beat each other up.”  
— Naz Tahir ‘19



“My favorite part was being able to go to Hawaii with such talented choir friends.”  
— Salma Paredes ‘20



>> “I had fun dissecting the cat in Anatomy this year.”  
— Ashlyn Watkins ‘19



“Prom. Yeah, prom was cool, you know? I like aviation and there was like a little plane.”  
— Troy Flores ‘19

