

THE PLATINUM PRESS

Volume 9 - Issue 5

Chaparral High School

Temecula, CA 92591

April 22, 2022

The PLATINUM PREVIEW

SCHOOL NEWS



Cadets Advance During Competitions
Page 2

EDITORIALS



Russia-Ukraine Conflict Stirs Up Racial Biases
Page 5

A&E



Successful Celebration for Ke Aloha
Page 8

SPORTS



Varsity Boys Lacrosse Strengthens Bond at Las Vegas Games
Page 11

The Marvelous Show: A Trip Into Neverland

Nerissa Moore '23
Sports Editor

Changing the game once again, the *Marvelous Show* has a history of shining a light on a group of students who are constantly redefining what it means to have special needs. Previously known as the *Miss Marvelous Pageant*, the *Marvelous Show* opened its stage to male participants in order to expand the opportunity to any student who wished to participate in the show. This year, on April 13, at Great Oak High School (GOHS), students with intellectual disabilities from both the school and GOHS took the stage to showcase their best talents, hobbies, and passions.

Filling rows with friends, family, and supporters, the



Credit: Kristy Baron

At the end of the show, the contestants were each given an honorary title on their sash to highlight their attributes displayed during the show.

GOHS auditorium was overflowing with excitement for the show, and with events like hula hooping, singing, and dancing to come, it was sure to be a great night. With a total of twelve participants, the show was led by a night

into Neverland. The theme was made under the presence of Peter Pan so the announcers were dressed up in similar attire to Peter Pan, Tinkerbell, and the scurvy Captain Hook. Leading the show with an introduction of the twelve amazing participants, each contestant was presented alongside their escorts. The show featured nine pumas, including Samantha Martinez, Christopher Webb, Natalie Evans, Naudia Evans, Nathaniel Evans, Areeba Siddiqi, Andre Desjardins, Jade Williams, and Isabelle Werner. Being an event unlike many others, the show was not limited to one talent. Showcasing talents like that of singing, the Evans sisters sang *A Million Dreams* seen in the movie, *The Greatest Showman*, while Desjardins presented a slideshow of his happiest memories.

As this event has proven in the past, the *Marvelous*

Show is one not to forget. Desjardins extends that belief further. "This *Marvelous Show* means a lot to me. . . even once I'm done with high school, I will come to this show every year," Desjardins commented. The twelve participants continuously dazzled the crowd with their performances; each talent was followed by an impressed audience and a lasting standing ovation. Even after the last talent, the show was yet to be over. Being joined by their escorts, the participants performed a ballroom dance, further showing their talent. To reach the participants on a deeper level, pre-filmed interviews were presented to give the audience the final "Get To Know Me." After an intermission, the show was almost finished, but not before awards were given. With growing anticipation all night long, the crowd

was filled with excitement for the awaited honors. Receiving a sash stating their title, and a crown, each participant was overwhelmed with excitement for their achievements.

Organized by Associated Student Body (ASB) students and directors from the school and GOHS, leads of the event expressed the continuous joy of the night. "The night went perfectly. . . I love working with the Bridge students and giving them a night they deserve," ASB Student Lead Giselle Shupe shared.

Finishing the night off with a standing ovation and a group picture, the *Marvelous Show* was called to an end. "I get to work a lot of events for ASB, this one is special and I am excited to see it for next year," Shupe stated. Given its ongoing success, friends, family, participants, and fans are awaiting the next *Marvelous Show* to come.



Credit: Kristy Baron

Jade Williams escorted by Alexia Gonzales and Zoey Davidson-Nash.

Something Rotten! to Take Stage Next Week

Jillian Flack '22
Editor-in-Chief

Something Rotten!—a musical depicting the ongoing struggles of a theater company as its members attempt to shine above William Shakespeare, an extremely popular playwright at the time. With its satirical elements and relatable characters, the drama department on campus is thrilled for the opportunity to portray this captivating tale on April 28, 29 and 30 and May 5, 6 and 7.

In this production, Senior Brady Hill will be portraying the main protagonist, Nick, a man that manages a struggling theater troupe with his brother Nigel, depicted by Senior Angelo Cabugas. In the beginning of this performance, the character of Shakespeare, played by Senior Nathan Fraitag, is on the top of the theater world. His beloved plays and musings are bold new ideas, insinuated by the Renaissance. Because of him, the protagonist must spend excessive time attempting to create his own masterpiece with little success. As one can see, this musical is a stark contrast to many others

that the drama department has put on since, according to Hill, "Most of our last musicals took themselves seriously, but this one's just goofy. The time period's also interesting; Renaissance Europe isn't something I've seen done before." Despite the differences within this show compared to those of the past, the drama department is determined to emulate the strong skills they possess within the theater by going outside of their comfort zone. Furthermore, acting alongside Hill, Senior Alyssa Kurt will be embodying the tenacious character Bea, who is Nick's wife, as she attempts to help improve their meager lifestyle. Kurt expressed, "There's a lot of really cool references in this show that can be recognized by all audiences. . . If you're more of a person who likes the modern theater, there are a lot of . . . references, but even those who really like Shakespeare, there's so many . . . references obviously in this show."

The drama department has been working every day after school and on weekends in order to bring this musical to life. On top of learning lines, those involved have been consistently practicing vocals and

rehearsing intricate dances so they can internalize their characters. Hill explained, "Just running it [the musical] is great. I love working with everyone on the show and I have made some very close friends." Though it was a challenge at times to spend so much time practicing, the drama department has gained a unique experience and has built up their strong reputation within the evergrowing theater community. As Kurt shared, one of the most difficult parts about the experience was that the cast was "always

keeping things new when you're doing the same lines every single day. I think that might be a hard part, but it's still really a lot of fun."

Even for students who are not fans of traditional plays, *Something Rotten!* is certain to show them a new take on the comedic side of the theater. If students are interested in buying tickets, they can purchase them online, with prices ranging from \$15 for general admission, \$11 for students with Associated Student Body (ASB) cards and \$12 for students without ASB cards.



Credit: Joshua Flack

Seniors Brady Hill, Alyssa Kurt and Angelo Cabugas rehearse for one of their scenes.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Principal Tina Miller



Dear Pumas,

Spring brings renewal and refreshment, and it is also a busy time of growth. Our seniors are preparing for the next phase of their lives. Our freshman, sophomores, and juniors will soon be moving forward into their next school year and their next Puma adventure.

As we look forward to our end of the year activities and graduation, we have so much to celebrate. This year our students have finally been able to get back into the activities, sports, and performances that they are passionate about. It has been a privilege to watch students blossom throughout this busy year. Enjoy the rest of the school year!

GO PUMAS!

Puma Aides Refugees

Reagan Delahunty '25
Copy Editor

As the strife between Ukraine and Russia continues, many people are finding ways to help refugees with food, clothing, shelter, and transportation in any way possible. World History teacher Mr. Bartosz Krawczynski shared his experience with helping refugees in Poland over spring break.

Krawczynski explained his first-hand experience stating he and other volunteers were "able to spend a couple of days helping out at a location supplying refugees with basic necessities such as clothing, food, hygiene products, diapers, etcetera." For struggling families, these products make a big difference. Volunteers helped serve food in smaller locations throughout the cities. Refugees were also given help with housing, jobs, childcare, and legal assistance. One of the biggest contributing factors was the food shipments handed out to those who need it. Krawczynski stated that "up to 250 families daily" were served by the volunteers. He also commented on the way people were motivated to continue their work. He also said, "When people help out and see that it makes them feel good about themselves, they seek other opportunities." The volunteers worked on "taking refugees into their homes, driving to pick up and transport families from the border to all parts of Poland," as well as continuing to supply families with donations.

In helping the volunteers distribute necessities to refugees, Krawczynski met many people who encouraged others to help

those in need. He stated that the couple who ran one of the refugee centers "quit their jobs and dedicated a majority of their time to helping out." Being a financially stable family, they were inspiring in the way they helped because they wanted to, not because they had to. Krawczynski stated that "just knowing that they [wouldn't] just stand by and not do anything was admirable." There were many younger volunteers who were recognized for their hard work while helping the refugees. High school students, "without being told to and without 'extra credit', organized and found ways to make a difference." The people helping were hard-working and inspiring as they continued to help make an impact in the refugee community. Krawczynski stated that "[t]o see the empathy and humanity in people so young is very encouraging."

Krawczynski shared his motivation for helping the refugee community in Poland. He said, "I saw how Poland and its people reacted to what was happening in Ukraine and wanted to do my small part." He stated that working with the people was both amazing and inspirational, and are all recognized as heroes for their helping those who need it. He also commented that it "was all heartbreaking," but everyone who helped has the privilege of knowing that they were able to make a difference in the unfortunate situation.

Krawczynski and all the volunteers made an impact on the lives of refugees, and are proud of all their work. No matter how much time one can help, any help is seen as an accomplishment for contributing to the lives of those in need.

Cadets Advance During Competitions

Svetlana Hohol '25
School News Editor

During the past two months, Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training (NJROTC) has made many advancements in their plans to proceed to next-level competitions. Examples include attending national competitions, winning various color guard competitions, and having the chance to compete at the international SeaPerch competition in June, where students will get to build their own remote-operated vehicle (ROV). As more opportunities open up, NJROTC is taking the time to prepare for greater achievements.

A couple of months back, NJROTC qualified for the first time for the national orienteering competition. NJROTC attended the competition at San Jose Joseph D. Grant county park through the dates of March 13-15. Orienteering captain Junior Egor Lebedev shared his experience with the navigational sport. He said, "It has been really exciting, [but at the] same time very stressful because you don't know if you will find the points."

NJROTC's freshman team placed eleventh in the nation and some of their Varsity team completed the race but were unable to place. Following along with NJROTC's color guard team, they have been placing in competitions in which they attend. At the Ramona High School competition, NJROTC's Varsity A color guard team and Varsity B color guard team placed first and second,

while their freshman team placed first in the junior varsity division. They continued to attend competitions through the months of March and April. They have already attended competitions at the Santa Ana field meet, Troy High School field meet, and Murrieta Mesa High School field meet. During these competitions, the teams perform a series of drill sequences and Marine judges score the routines.



Senior Emma Wright was granted a \$180,000 scholarship for college from the Marine Corp.

Sophomore Abigail Lauper shared her feelings towards the competitions. She said, "I would say it's super fun, and it is just like a fun stress and I would recommend [it] to anyone."

The recent success and accomplishments with NJROTC's past events and sports have shown success through their engineering skills as they have been attending SeaPerch competitions. SeaPerch competitions are where a student will control the ROV they built and guide it through different obstacles in the water to try to finish the course first.

In preparation for these competitions, cadets would construct their own ROV with supplies such as PVC pipe, home made motors, electrical tape, and different types of wiring to create their own vehicles. Before entering the competition they will then test the effectiveness of their creations in swimming pools. NJROTC has attended competitions in Santa Ana where they have placed third place, but their latest competition they attended was at Troy High School on February 29. This competition had a theme, which was space exploration, helping to depict how ROV helps astronauts in space. At this competition they did not place; however, they did qualify for SeaPerch Nationals in

June. Until then NJROTC will not be attending SeaPerch competitions. SeaPerch Commander Senior Jade Pamatz shared her thoughts on her goal for these competitions. She said, "I like working with my hands and since I am the commander I want to bring the passion to everyone else."

As achievements soar among the group, so do the NJROTC cadets. Senior Emma Wright was awarded a \$180,000 scholarship from the United States Marine Corp. This scholarship was awarded to her under the conditions that she can choose any college of her choice, but it must have an NJROTC program and must serve in the United States Marine Corps for four years after college. This scholarship will cover her tuition, housing, and books. Wright is looking to major in business or Arabic culture studies and is still looking for the college of her choice. Wright shared, "It is literally weird how you are working towards something and it is your dream and it just happened."

Another cadet who was awarded a scholarship through the NJROTC program was Senior Damien Escobedo, who received a preparatory scholarship that pays for his tuition for five years and his housing for one year. The first year is funded by the college of his choice that must have an NJROTC program and the other four years are paid for by the United States Navy. Just like Wright, he must serve a certain amount of years in the Navy depending on his job. Escobedo said, "It was pretty exciting [to be] the first person in my family going to college. I am really blessed."

NJROTC strives to greater lengths with national competitions, accomplishments, and cadets being awarded full-ride scholarships. Not only will they grow with successful titles but will still continue to grow skillfully and build a stronger team dynamic.



ROTC navigates their ROV through the water.



The NJROTC SeaPerch team placed third at the Santa Ana competition, with their next SeaPerch competition taking place this June.

Cultural Festival Promotes Diversity



Senior Christo Chavira, Junior Kaiya Hooper, and Senior Kaycee Rara will be representing their cultural groups today during lunch. Svetlana Hohol '25 School News Editor

As the campus continues to grow with more students, so does the growth of diversity of different cultures and communities. Each community has its own customs and traditions that can be shared with many. On Friday April 22 during lunch, the culture fair is giving an opportunity for students to learn more about the diverse groups on campus and give more insight into traditions around the world. Not only will students be able to learn about different cultures, but also can learn about mental health and intersectionality. This event will bring more acceptance among students.

Today being the day of the event, groups such as Latinos Unidos, Black Student Union, Asian Pacific Islander Club, Mental Health Awareness Club, Diversify Your Narrative, and Middle Eastern Club will display educational booths that teach students about their different communities. In addition to understanding the beauty of each group, Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) will also have collaborations with some booths to talk about LGBTQ+ role models in different

cultural groups and emphasize the topic of intersectionality. There will also be Diverse Your Narrative who will share literary pieces of different cultural groups and give out story recommendations that teach students about the cultures. Other booths will have the chance to share cultural foods and items that show importance to their group. There will also be traditional performances that display cultural importance from He Ohana Nani and Haka Club and Latinos Unidos. These performances will teach students about the intention and background of each club. Students are able to try various cultural foods, see traditional performances, and understand the historical background of other cultures. This gives a chance for students to celebrate their culture and to be educated on their peer's traditions. Senior Sofia Boenzi, a head organizer for the event, said, "For this event to hopefully inform people of these things. . .we want students to expand what information they know about other cultures while simultaneously celebrating their own."

As the event will soon begin, each of the clubs' dedication to presenting their culture to students

has helped build this event. Along with the support of the Associated Student Body's (ASB) mental health committee, after weeks of preparation, excitement lingers in the air. Junior Chelsea Ross, the president of the Black Student Union said, "I really like to embrace our culture, especially the fact that you don't have to be black to be in our club. . .I can't wait for the culture festival we plan on showing our background for everyone to see who was involved in the past and how it is changing [the future]." This is important for the groups as they get to share their customs with others. As some groups will be focusing on specific topics, others will be teaching about general inclusivity and appreciation. There are many different groups that face hateful actions, so having the opportunity to have their culture celebrated and praised carries a great amount of significance.

While students get to be informed about various different cultures, this event gives a chance for students to be more united and give a more positive, accepting feel around campus. This fair will give many diverse groups an opportunity to embrace and share their community.

NEWS BRIEFS



Christine Lau '22
March Student of the Month



Hunter Roddy '22
April Student of the Month



Kendall Hong '23
New NJROTC Commander for 22-23 School Year



Mr. Clause, Social Science Teacher
Ran the 26.2 mile Boston Marathon in three hours and thirty-four minutes



Mrs. Olszewski, Counselor
Ran the 26.2 mile Boston Marathon in under five and a half hours



Signing Day

On Friday, April 8, twelve senior athletes signed to further their athletic career in college. Congratulations to Saige Rivera (University of Texas at Tyler), Jenna Salyer (Austin Peay University), Hunter Simon (Vanguard University), Rokhaya Cisse (Palomar College), Maryjane Smith (MSJC), Lewis Singleterry IV (Westcliff University), Maur Tablada (St. Katherine's University), Tyler Brown (University of La Verne), Riley Finch (Concordia University), Mary Handler (CSUSM), Angie Mendoza (Friends University), and Kameron Brodeur (University of Pikesville).

Tireless Teacher Award

Beginning this semester, a teacher has been rewarded for their hard work and dedication. Mrs. McNulty won the award in January, Mr. Rentar won it in February, and Ms. Guy received it in March.

Baron and Schmidt step down

Current ASB Director Mrs. Kristy Baron and Assistant ASB Director Mrs. Jacquelyn Schmidt have stepped down from their positions and will be returning to the classroom in the fall.

Super Smash Bros. Club Members Place at Multiple Competitions

Madelyn Swearingen '25 Staff Writer

Clubs allow people with similar interests to come together and interact. The *Super Smash Bros.*

club is a perfect example of this. *Super Smash Bros.* is a crossover battle video game series with seventy-four playable characters from Nintendo. The objective of the game is to "knock out" opponents by either inflicting enough

damage or knocking them off the platform. The goal is quite unique when compared to other games.

Geometry and Precalculus teacher Mrs. Kristan Morales is the club's advisor. The club was first formed in the 2017-2018 school year, with Morales only bringing an HDMI cord and an extra TV. Students brought in their own Nintendo Switches and equipment, taking care of everything they might need. Morales expressed, "We did this [with] zero money. . .the club has just been like that, like, we just do everything ourselves. . .it's totally student-led." During the pandemic, many clubs had to stop, whereas the *Super Smash Bros.* club could still continue with their activities. Students set up a Discord server to be able to communicate with each other and still play games. They could connect with others despite not physically being on campus. "It was kind of lonely during the pandemic, for sure, and you know,

just go into the club every day. [It was]. . .just really nice, really chill," club Vice President and Sophomore Jack Suemnick said.

The club also has tournaments regularly, with the former winner deciding the setup, such as one versus one, two versus two, three versus three, or another mode in the game. People compete, come to spectate, or bring in their own devices and have mini-games. People can cheer their friends on, meet new people, play video games, and have a good time. When the club started, there were no county-wide electronics sports (Esports) for people from different schools to interact. "Other high schools had Esports clubs or *Super Smash Bros.* clubs, but we didn't have a connected way to meet and then compete against other high schools," Morales explained. Morales speaks at conferences and the club caught the attention of some Riverside county administrators, who then came to see the club.

They were inspired and created a Riverside County Esports club. The Riverside club also organizes tournaments and club members from Chaparral have won two of those tournaments, taking home trophies.

Eventually, the members of the club wanted to give back to the community. They had learned that they were one of the only high schools with a functioning club, most others being shut down. The officers went out to the Temecula Valley Library and reserved one of the multipurpose rooms to use for a tournament. They sent out invitations to everyone in high school or middle school to come and play. The library sponsored snacks and multiple students brought in extra TVs from home. Most of the equipment was provided by the students and about sixty people showed up to play *Super Smash Bros.* Schools became more interested in setting up a *Super Smash Bros.* club and it connected a multitude of students and clubs.



Junior Kori Walker, Senior Kinan Morales, and Suemnick with the club's trophies.

Chaparral High School - The Platinum Press - April 22, 2022

Science Olympiad Team Places Sixth

Dallin Grey '24
Copy Editor

The Science Olympiad team returned to in-person competitions this school year after the coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) pandemic forced tournaments online during the 2020-2021 school year. Even through the complications posed by the pandemic, the team placed well in last year's regional competition, finishing in eleventh



Science Olympiad prepares their design for the Ping-Pong Parachute competition.

place overall as a team. The team was able to take their skills to new heights this year, placing higher at the regional level than last year alongside higher individual scores.

Science Olympiad is an international nonprofit organization that is devoted to increasing student interest in the fields of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) through clubs and contests for students of all grade levels. Teams compete against other California teams in their division in twenty-three different scientific events.

Some events require taking tests, whereas others involve building and bringing devices to tournaments or performing hands-on experiments. Participants pour immense amounts of time and effort into their events; "our members basically study really hard the whole year to make sure that they [are] prepared for their events and...that their designs for their build [perform] well," Science Olympiad team member and Junior Leah Baluyot stated. The team started meeting early

first semester, prior to Club Rush, allowing themselves ample time to prepare. The team met on-campus after school and at the homes of some of their teammates, devoting large amounts of their free time to the team. "It's organized but it's also self-driven," said team member and Junior Benjamin Sullivan-Douglass, noting the motivation the team entails. "You have to work hard so you don't let down the team and you also have to do good for yourself. The more you study, the better you're going to do." Teamwork plays an important

role in Science Olympiad, with teammates partnering up to work together in their events. "Teamwork is really important because there's a lot of problem-solving and routes that you can take when building and also testing," Baluyot noted. "There's a lot of working together to...problem-solve the best route to take on building devices and testing so you can get the highest score." Being able to work well with others is crucial to the success of the team; partners who have good cohesion and work habits are able to work quickly and efficiently. Sullivan-Douglass has seen the importance of teamwork during competitions. He stated, "One of [my] partners, who I think has been partners with me for like six years now, is [Senior] E Wheldon. We have been friends for so long and we're so collaborative that we're able to almost do tests without talking. To be a partner with someone so talented and also be so in-sync with them...definitely changes the game."

The dedication and hard work of the team paid off earlier this spring, bringing home medals with a sixth-place finish at the regional competition and high individual scores across the board. "Most importantly, I think it's just learning the material and spending time with people you care about and having fun working together to do something really cool," Sullivan-Douglass commented. "I feel like our team did that and we've all grown a lot closer while succeeding, and that's what's most important." Having succeeded in performing better this year than last, Science Olympiad looks forward to the next season of competition with aspirations to go even further than this year.

Online Classes for Students

Madelyn Swearingen '25
Staff Writer

Students at the beginning of the school year were given a new option on how they may take certain classes. University of California (UC) Scout is a UC Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships (SAPEP) program that provides online classes and curriculum that satisfy the A-G requirements for students to attend a UC or California State University (CSU) campus. The program can provide many benefits to students with a busy schedule, the biggest one being flexibility. A student's online class will take the place of one of their on-campus classes. If an online course is selected, students will have either a late start or an early release schedule. With this option, it could also be added as a seventh class.

The courses that the school offers are English grades ten, eleven, and twelve, US History, Government, Economics, Geometry, Fitness Walking, Spanish two, German three and four, Three-dimensional Design Art (3D Design Art), Advanced Placement (AP) Art History, Peer Leaders, and AP Microeconomics. For students who choose to take a UC Scout class alongside six on-campus classes, it will count as the seventh period. The courses are independent work; however, depending on the teacher, students may have to do a live check-in, or an online one during the week to check their progress. 3D Design Art and Art 1 teacher Mr. Cristos Thiveos and current UC Scout teacher, said, "The students work at their own pace." The website design for UC Scout is almost identical to that of Canvas and teachers can open up all the modules, allowing for students to work ahead. Some teachers may have certain deadlines for assignments but students may work whenever they like on the classwork.

UC Scout already has a preset curriculum for the courses offered. To teach new subjects, teachers provide detailed videos to explain and go over the topic. Afterward, students move on to the assignments listed in the modules. There is typically vocabulary and another assignment focused on the subject being taught. At the end of the unit, there is a quiz to test how much the students have learned from the material. The main idea surrounding taking an online course is that it provides flexibility for those with demanding schedules. "Sometimes they need different kinds of flexibility...they're very busy, so some of those students can kind of just put the work off for a week and then get back into it," Thiveos explained. Students can complete all the assignments in one day, or they can spread them out over a series of days, and do what works best for them.

As UC Scout is an online course, students are not supervised by teachers constantly and must have the self-discipline to complete their work on time. The workload given is a smaller amount compared to an on-campus class. The curriculum given is different because UC Scout is known for providing flexibility. Thiveos commented, "I think flexibility is the main part...it's such a good reason to do it that it can affect people in an impactful way." Pacing guides are provided to help students keep a general pace but depending on the teacher, missing assignments will only be marked missing and if turned in, students can still gain full points.

UC Scout can provide many benefits for students. It allows for flexibility in their schedules, to work at their own pace, and be very independent. If a student has a busy schedule or would like the experience, UC Scout is an option for those looking for an alternate path. Those interested in taking a UC Scout class should talk to their counselor.

Freshman Jonathan Bradshaw Finds Passion in Mountain Biking

Madelyn Swearingen '25
Staff Writer

Mountain biking is an off-road bicycle racing sport set on terrains such as mountains, deserts, rocks, and generally rough surfaces. Freshman Jonathan Bradshaw took an interest in this sport a few months before the coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) had the world quarantined. Bradshaw first heard about mountain biking through one of his teachers in middle school, and quickly gained a passion for it.

Bradshaw joined his middle school's mountain biking club in seventh grade after he was introduced to it. After middle school, he joined the high school's Mountain Biking Club. When he first started biking he was on a team sponsored by Competitive Metals, a metal distribution company. He now races under the school's name in his competitions, typically placing second or third. "The races are individual, so you're kind of like competing by yourself...but [you] race, like, under a team name," Bradshaw said. He

races around thirteen times a year, mainly in the spring, summer, and fall seasons. Competitions are usually in surrounding areas such as Escondido, Temecula, and more. He fully committed to biking in January 2021, when there was not much to do with the effects of the pandemic. During COVID-19, Bradshaw started to train and had something to look forward to. "Since it was, like, outdoor, [biking clubs] were able to do it during COVID[-19]," Bradshaw mentioned. Bradshaw continued to bike even after everything calmed down.

To further improve, Bradshaw set up a training schedule for himself. Mondays he takes a light ride for at least an hour. Tuesdays involve biking up hills at a fast pace multiple times, also called hill repeats. Wednesday and Friday are both active recovery, "just kind of like spinning the pedals a little bit...or a rest day," Bradshaw explained. Thursdays include intervals, going as fast as one can for a short time, and then active recovery, repeating for a certain amount of time. Saturdays are focused on endurance, which includes a two-hour ride at

the least. Each day benefits him as his riding improves. Bradshaw is currently sponsored by ODI Grips, a company that has products for an array of outdoor activities, including mountain biking, bicycle motocross (BMX), all-terrain vehicles (ATV), watercraft, and more. They sell bike grips, accessories, apparel, and a variety of other products.

"In the sponsorship, I promote their product as I get product from them...eventually they might have me test products," Bradshaw explained. Bradshaw also has a platform on Instagram where he tags ODI Grips in his posts and uses hashtags, gaining more attention for the company. As he promotes their company, he gains more help

with his riding, creating a beneficial relationship between the two parties.

In all of Bradshaw's races, he has placed within the top five, almost always in the top three. In his two years riding, he has only ever improved upon the skills that he possesses in the sport. He continues to train, compete, and enjoy mountain biking.



Bradshaw bikes his way through the rocky and jagged environment of the mountains where he pushes himself to new limits.



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

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

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

The Platinum Press Staff

Editors-in-Chief

Jillian Flack
Alexa Neal

Faculty Advisor

Ryan Leonhardi

Principal

Tina Miller

Printed by

Golding
Publications

Copy Editors

Reagan Delahunty
Niyara Gray
Dallin Grey

School News Editor

Svetlana Hohol

Sports Editor

Nerissa Moore

Editorials Editor

Alex Tupala Horwood

Video Manager

Joshua Flack

A&E/Lifestyles Editor

Sky Roman

Assistant Video Manager

Milyn Francis

Newsroom Manager

Hailey Mera

Journalists

Nathan Ayala
Athena Ebuon
Amanda Espinal
Jackson Gamero
Maddie Hudson
Julian Stanfield
Josiah Lee
Bella Martinez
Madelyn Swearingen
Catie Mitchell
Isobel Sierleja

chsplatinumpress.com



The Platinum Press



@ChaparralPress



@ThePlatinumPress

Russia-Ukraine Conflict Stirs Up Racial Biases

Alex Tupala Horwood '22
Editorials Editor

As Russia continues their assault on the citizens of Ukraine, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake, it is obvious that a global outcry is warranted. Luckily for Ukraine, the world was quick to respond with sanctions, protests, sending aid, raising funds, and an outpour of support flooding in for the victims of Russia's invasion. The amount of support is necessary and an example of the power of global protest, however, it begs the question of where this support was for decades of past conflicts that affected even greater numbers of people. The victims of conflicts in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan continue to receive indifference from the world on the basis of race.

Media about the Russia-Ukraine conflict has plastered the front pages of nearly every news source, with journalists working hard to inform the public about the latest events and garner more support for the cause. This in and of itself is a positive step and should be how nearly every conflict of this nature is treated. However, in past years and even now, when nearly identical conflicts have taken place in majority world countries, they are put on the backburner. They receive little to no coverage and when it is



African students looking for refuge are being turned away at the border while their white counterparts are accepted with open arms.

spoken of; it is often a debate of if the political climate warrants this suffering, glossing over the lives of the people affected. One example of this is the Palestinians living under military occupation. When there are cases of brutality, destruction, or losses, rather than extending sympathy and support for the victims, it is immediately a political debate over Israel versus Palestine. The violation of human rights should not be politicized and civilians affected should be aided regardless of the political circumstances. For decades, tragedies in majority world countries have received little coverage or support as the media has largely normalized these places as ones of suffering.

The manner in which countries have welcomed Ukrainian refugees is vastly different than how they have treated refugees from predominately non-white countries. In response to the flood of refugees escaping the war zones in Ukraine, countries across the globe welcomed them with open arms. They expedited immigration processes, opened borders, and compensated citizens for housing refugees. One example of this double standard is that President Biden promptly pledged to take in 100,000 Ukrainian refugees, whereas refugees escaping Haiti were met with brutality and deportation. This support is a far cry from the persecution those fleeing

from conflicts in the middle east, Africa, and the Caribbean received as they are met with strict border enforcement and deportation. Even People of Color (POC) fleeing Ukraine receive vastly different treatment, as many Black Ukrainians have reported neglect, racism, and even violence as they seek safe passage. Many students in Ukraine, hailing from Africa, the Middle East, and India, remained trapped in war zones as they were unable to cross the border like their white counterparts. Instead of benefiting from the resources and support that most Ukrainians are using to flee to safety, they had to organize their escape efforts themselves.

The sheer outrage at Russia's violations is truly inspiring, however, it was bittersweet for those with neglected conflicts. Some are quick to excuse this imbalance of support with sentiments such as "they are from a civilized country" or "they look like us", which are shallow and racist excuses for their lack of empathy for refugees of color. It is hypocritical to condemn the same actions in a European country that one was indifferent towards or even supportive of when it took place in the global south. If one is to protest the military occupation, imperialism, and human rights violations in Ukraine, they must be against every single instance of it occurring.

Historical Moments Ignored at the 2022 Oscars

Bella Martinez '22
Staff Writer

The 2022 Academy Awards Ceremony was one to remember, there were many monumental moments throughout the duration of the night. One event from that night though has been standing out more than the rest. The now infamous slap that comedian Chris Rock received from actor Will Smith is circulating the internet quicker than a smack in the face. Though the slap was one for the books, it took much deserved attention away from many other things that happened at the Oscars that same night. The tension from the fallout between these two famous men is taking up

space on social media that should belong to the historical events that are lacking social media coverage.

On the night of the 2022 Oscars award show, there were many incredible milestones that made history. Breaking the mold, were Academy Award winners who were deaf, openly queer, and women of color. These three groups specifically, are usually left out and forgotten when it comes to notable and high end events such as the Academy Awards. Due to history of harsh discrimination amongst these groups, it is extremely moving and inspiring to see them have the opportunity to grasp what they were not allowed to for so much time. At this event, there



The female hosts of the Oscars were able highlight various issues in the world.

were three hosts, all of which were female, these hosts being Reginal Hall, Amy Schumer and Wanda Sykes. Throughout the show these three were able to address the pay gap and other issues. This alone is a win for women, not to mention that Ariana DeBose was the second Latina woman to win an academy award and the first openly queer woman of color to win an acting award at the Oscars.

With the world becoming more and more progressive, it is important that we acknowledge the progress made, but distractions such as the drama between Smith and Rock take away from the great strides society has made. So many people in society hyperfocus on petty things such as drama among famous people that it leaves those who are deserving of the attention in the dust. Without paying attention to the great milestones society

reaches, it is not hard to miss them. Seeing these hard working minority groups break through the roof of societal standards is moving and truly inspiring to all. Whether one is part of the minority group or not, it is not hard to feel a sense of pride when seeing people succeed and prove stereotypes wrong.

Sadly though, people in society tend to become too distracted with shallow things that they find important, all while overlooking the things that really do matter to the progression of the human race. Groups that have been oppressed and have had the odds stacked against them are finally starting to prevail after years of being held down by standards and stereotypes. Many people cannot take the time to appreciate others' hard work and dedication because they are too focused on surface level things that will not matter in the near future.



Ariana DeBose was the first openly queer Latina woman to win an acting award.

Chaparral High School - The Platinum Press - April 22, 2022

Masks: A Burden to Campus

Hailey Mera '25
Newsroom Manager

While individuals have grown accustomed to incorporating masks into their daily lives and routines, as of recently, many mask mandates are being lifted; Specifically, at school. Although this decision is now an option, the fact still remains; People have already been loosely wearing their masks since before this requirement ceased to exist. With that being said, it seems only reasonable that these mandates, as of now, are finally gone.

It is understandable that infecting others occurs more rapidly inside, rather than outside, but nonetheless everyone, no matter the environment, is exposed and at a risk. To support this, one of the school policies is that one can choose to wear a mask when they are outside, but as soon as one

steps into a closed room, such as a classroom, office, or building, they must wear facial coverings. Which is contradicting considering the majority of students take off their masks once they are outside, and during their breaks and passing periods, they spend that time closely interacting with their peers.

When this virus made its initial appearance, everyone around the world was strictly mandated to wear their masks in attempts to delay the spread of germs. However, overtime, people have grown to rely on masks as though they are the sole answers to preventing this issue. Now, this does not go to say that one should look not care for their health and well-being as well as those around them, but, in several classrooms, there are students whose teachers do not show much interest in whether or not everyone is sufficiently covering their nose and mouths. As well

as this, many individuals subconsciously leave their mask to where it is only covering their mouth due to comfortability.

Unfortunately, this pandemic has resulted in many deaths and compromised immune systems. However, wearing a thin layer of cotton in attempts to avoid spreading this virus should not necessarily be seen as a go-to option. So many close-contact sports, clubs, and after school extracurriculars were taking place before the mandates were lifted, and during this period, many students also caught the virus despite wearing masks. It began with having to practice social distance, and now, it is fine to be within close proximity as someone else as long as both individuals are wearing masks. Whether or not one decides to wear a mask, germs can spread just as easily in any environment.

Masks Are a Small Price to Pay

Alex Tupala Horwood '22
Editorials Editor

With excitement among students arising after the school mask mandate being lifted, it is important to consider the inevitable downsides of this decision. While, yes, it is refreshing to see the faces of students and teachers, aside from that there is no real upside that outweighs the risks being taken. As the issue of whether or not to wear a mask has become a political statement rather than a general consideration of public health, the lifting of mask mandates does not always coincide with an actual reduced risk of contracting COVID-19. Although the mandate is being lifted now, the haphazard manner in which it was enforced in the first place allowed for the massive spike in cases in January and caused mass devastation. The "inconvenience" of wearing a mask does not justify gambling the health and wellbeing of others.

The function of a mask mainly protects others surrounding the wearer from any respiratory diseases the wearer might have, not the wearer itself from exposure. This is why the argument of, "If you don't want COVID-19, just wear a mask yourself" invalid. Wearing a mask is a courtesy to others and it communicates that you care about their health. In response to the success of the COVID-19 vaccine against infection, the initial mask mandate was lifted state-wide in June of 2021. However, after new variants arose that began to infect even the vaccinated in



Complications caused by COVID-19 outweigh the inconveniences of masks.

large numbers, even people who wore their masks initially were reluctant to put them back on. This caused mass devastation with COVID numbers reaching an all time high in early 2022 without a proper response.

Another consideration that must be made is that in California, minors can not receive the COVID-19 vaccine without their parent's consent. This creates issues for minors, especially those with pre-existing medical conditions, whose parents have misguidedly refused to let them be vaccinated. This puts them in danger of developing a serious infection and potentially can cause long-term health defects for them. Scientists are struggling to understand the lasting consequences of "Long COVID-19" on otherwise healthy individuals, meaning that no matter one's health,

the full impact of the disease remains unpredictable for its countless victims. Seeing as minors do not have enough bodily autonomy to consent to a life-saving vaccine and that they are legally required to attend school, it is unfair to force them into these situations where they face such a high risk of exposure.

The lifting of the mask mandate is not entirely poorly timed, however it does not take into consideration the vital needs of certain groups. It would perhaps be ethical if students that were concerned about their own health or the health of loved ones were able to opt out for online school or even if all minors were able to be vaccinated to prevent serious infection without the consent of parents. Until these changes are made, it is irresponsible to prioritize comfort over their lives.



Multitudes of students, staff and teachers have been advocating for the lifting of the mask mandate.

"Phone Jail" and Other Confiscation Methods Are Not "Cute"

Sophie Hall-Schorn '22
Copy Editor

The topic of public school teachers and their ability to take away student property or at least hold it for a given period of time has been a hot button issue concerning the rights of the student body for some time now. Recently, the idea of a "cell phone jail", or a place where students' phones are "detained" in order to prevent them from using it during class time, has become trendy across social media platforms such as TikTok for its supposedly quirky and funny nature; however, possession of student property by instructors or teachers is not cute or something to be entertained by. It is a violation of student rights as well as student privacy even if the phone is locked. Students should not have to fear their own possessions being taken away from them whenever they go to school. The idea that students leave their rights to their own things at the school gates is a ridiculous notion that only perpetuates the falsehood that students do not have autonomy over their personal property and themselves as a whole.

The very concept that students abandon most of their rights at school is a strange and disturbing premise which has been perpetuated and approved by even the likes of the federal government. Oftentimes the allowance granted to schools which permit them to infringe upon their students is taken to an extent that

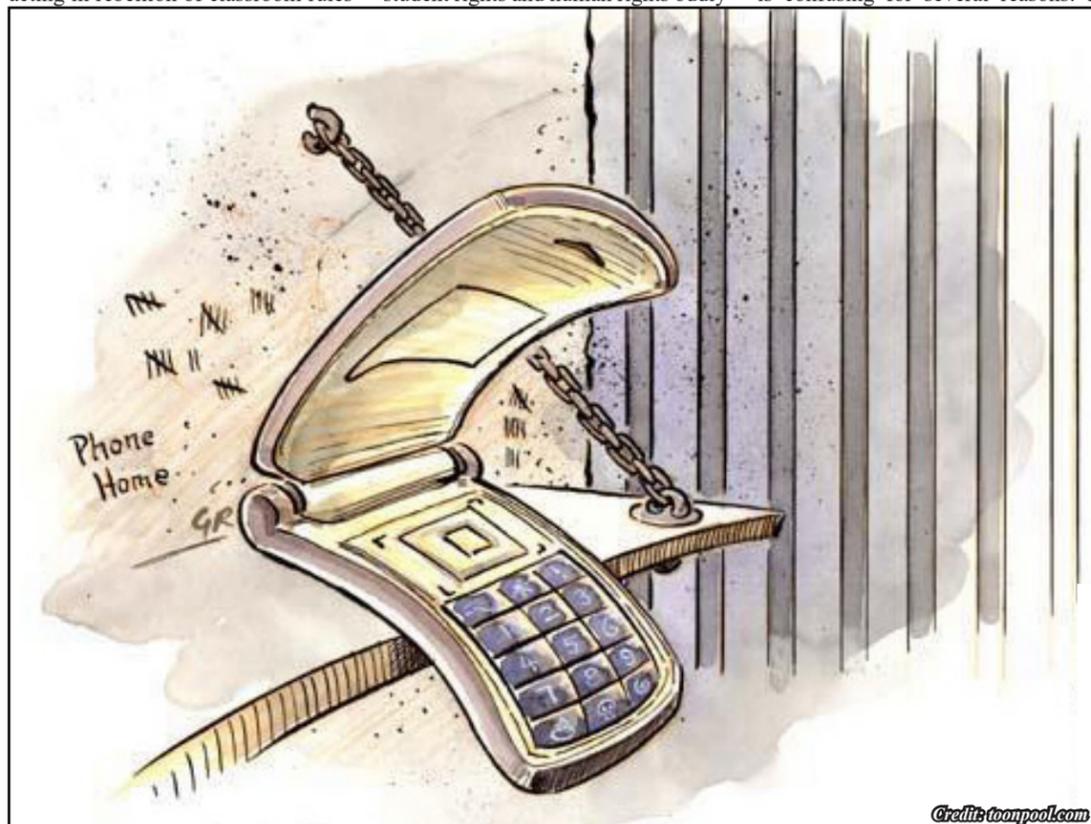
is at the very least unsavory; at the most it is a quintessential example of the abuse of power within the public school system. The new and trendy "phone jail", as seen on social media platforms such as TikTok, showcases just how trivialized the invasion of privacy and student rights has become. Even if a student is using their phones in class, thus acting in rebellion of classroom rules

if such rules apply, that does not in any way give their instructor or teacher the permission to confiscate their property. Practices such as these only embolden the idea that students do not have autonomy over themselves or their own things within schools, a dangerous system which has the potential to become even more restrictive as the line between student rights and human rights oddly

becomes blurred. Many proponents of the notion that students abandon some rights at school point to the fact that public educational institutions are there for students to learn, and thus students do not necessarily have the right to act in any way they want to or do anything they want while in a public school meant specifically for educational purposes. This point is confusing for several reasons: if

the main intent of the U.S. federal government is to protect the "natural rights" of people, why then does this idea suddenly go out the window in a governmental facility or institution? Schools are meant for learning, of course, but it should not be insisted that students give up their own autonomy due to their surroundings or whether they are in school or not. That is not to say that students who choose not to partake in lessons are doing the "right" thing, but they should be allowed to do it and not face having their property taken away. If someone is unwilling to learn or resents their school or their lessons, taking away their property does not exactly aid matters. If anything it only increases student resentment and leaves the student feeling perhaps more angry or annoyed towards school or even specific teachers who take their things away.

If the confiscation of property for no clear reason other than such a possession is against "teacher's rules" and such practices are not meant with dissent from school boards, this then perpetuates the message that it is okay to infringe upon student rights and privacy. This idea needs to be abolished. Some instructors or teachers may think it is funny to make a "phone jail" and take away student property but sometimes the simple answer is the best one: it is not their property, and it is not being used for violent or vulgar purposes; therefore teachers or instructors do not have the right to take it even within a public school.



Teachers using the confiscation of personal property as a punishment violates students' rights and boundaries within a campus

Chaparral High School - The Platinum Press - April 22, 2022

Diaz: An Uprising Cartoon Artist

Joshua Flack '24
Video Manager

Talents can be given or created through practice. These skills can span across passions in arts, science, and technology. Skilled individuals make great contributions to these fields of artistic outlets. Altogether, the importance of these talents are how they are used. On campus, there are many talented people including Junior Nathan Diaz. He is a talented artist who creates anime-inspired art.

Diaz constructs artistic pieces because he is passionate about the process. Mediums used for his pieces include markers, colored pencils, pens, and paint. It typically takes him around four to five hours to finish a piece. In addition, his affixation on the anime style is because of his love for anime in general. He expressed, "I love watching shows—I love reading a lot of manga and stuff like that." Furthermore, Diaz started to become interested in drawing in sixth grade. He stated, "I drew a good amount [of art] through eighth grade, then I took a very long break, through high school. Once I started high school, I didn't draw until... probably quarantine and then I started drawing again and I just [have] been trying to get back into it since then." Most artists come from humble beginnings, and there is always room for growth. Diaz has grown as an

artist from when he first started and will continue to improve. Diaz enjoys drawing as one of his main interests and is creating pieces that he is passionate about. He enjoys art, but is only doing it for fun; Diaz views art as more of a hobby and less as a foreseeable career, explaining, "It's something I really enjoy and it's a hobby of mine. I don't take it too serious[ly]. It's fun for me to do." Even if he does not see drawing as a career

truly enjoys and he creates in order to divulge in his artistry. He enjoys art creation simply for the process, he expresses that "It helps me get anything off my mind if I'm stressed about something, say school or just life, anything like that. Drawing always helps me; I could sit there and draw for hours. . . I could do it all day." Art allows Diaz to feel serenity in his creations after being stressed for periods of time. Diaz's future is still uncertain,



Diaz makes art of anime characters, including Sukuna from Jujutsu Kaisen. Credit: Nathan Diaz

path, it is still a form of self expression that Diaz can use as an outlet. Throughout all his hobbies, Diaz uses art as a tool to express his inner personality. He remarked that, "being able to express yourself in an artistic medium... It's so cool when I think about it. Having a way to express yourself is fun." Art is a hobby that Diaz

but that does not mean he is giving up on art. Diaz hopes to be able to use his talent in whatever career path he decides to take in the future. He will keep working to better his skills, as new artistic ideas and inspirations come to him. Along with honing his skills, Diaz also has an Instagram account, @oaoartist, where he showcases his pieces.

Doctor Strange's Comeback

Niyara Gray '22
Copy Editor

Six years have passed since Benedict Cumberbatch, who plays Doctor Stephen Strange in the *Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU)*, has been in a film of his own. Although frequently seen in separate works and series as a cameo, the wait for a new movie catered to him has finally come to a close. Thursday, May 5 will strike premiere night for the new and much-anticipated movie *Doctor Strange In The Multiverse Of Madness*. He is said to showcase once and for all why he holds the title of Sorcerer Supreme in the *MCU*.

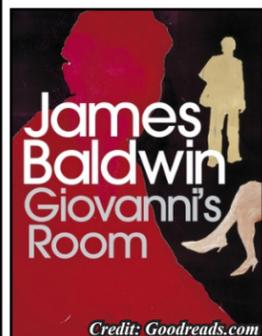
Doctor Strange In The Multiverse Of Madness is said to pick up right when the recent *Marvel* series *Moon Knight* ends. Enthusiasts may enjoy watching *Moon Knight*, a binge-worthy show that is streamable now. Senior Sarah Stevers revealed that "the mystery of the show and *Moon Knight*'s identities could definitely be a draw-in for those waiting to binge the series once they're all out" as the mystique of *Moon Knight* is what makes the show difficult to stop watching.

The duality of Cumberbatch's character has been previously unveiled within the *Marvel What If...?* series that aired on *Disney+*. Here, audiences are able to see Strange as he loses his integrity in order to harbor the love he lost. Within the *MCU*, Doctor Strange is portrayed as an individual with a strong sense of morals and a stifling ego that appears difficult to escape. Outstanding actress and co-star to Cumberbatch, Elizabeth Olsen has revealed that this will be *Marvel*'s first foray into horror, with her explaining, "It's a very scary movie, they're trying to create the scariest *Marvel* movie." This is thrilling news for many long-time fans such as Stevers, as it is clear that the studio has never attempted an ominous act. Stevers also



Fans are "marveling" over Strange's new film. Credit: forbes.com

mentioned that students and *Marvel* lovers have much to look forward to in this film. She described how "the Scarlet Witch, in every trailer, she seems so scary and heartbroken. After *WandaVision*, she is for sure turning into a terrifying villain for the film." Further clarifying the idea of *Marvel*'s intention to go a bit darker with the new movie. This production has been anticipated considering that it "is rumored to have a million different cameos, ranging from specific *X-Men* to alternate castings of already established characters. Considering this movie is dealing with the *Marvel* multiverse, the possibilities for fight matchups and cameos are endless. It's exciting," Stevers highlighted. Portrayed in the trailer, audiences are most likely going to be seeing an appearance from an alternate universe Doctor Strange, an evil Doctor Strange. Fans have been speculating that this portion of the trailer correlates to the *Disney+* episode mentioned earlier. With only two weeks remaining until cinemas are crowded with fans ecstatic to see their favorite characters, tickets are still available and the multiverse of madness is waiting to be discovered.



Sophie Hall-Schorn '22
Copy Editor

James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room* is a beautiful yet tragic encapsulation of the fragility of human connection and the societal pressures we place upon ourselves in order to halt our own happiness. *Giovanni's Room* is a desire just out of reach, a goal just slightly missed, a person you miss deeply but know you can never be close to again. There is an intense state of yearning and misery within the novel, and these intense feelings intertwine at various points as the protagonist, David, remains both steadily hopeless about his inability to explore the connections he truly wants to and his continuance to take actions that showcase his willingness to participate in what society deems as immoral.

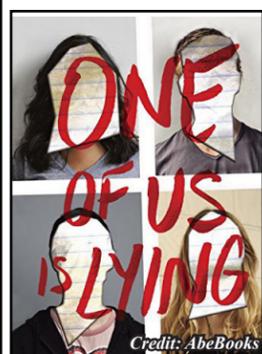
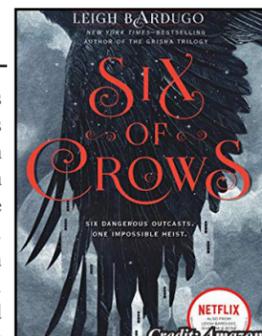
The heart truly aches as the novel continues; it is such a sad portrait of a man caught between two loyalties: one to his personal being and his soul, and one to the society and structures he must conform to. David wobbles between his two loyalties, and his potential betrayal of his desires and being as a whole heightens the tension of David's actions and calls his own loyalty towards himself and what he truly desires out of life into question. *Giovanni's Room* itself is cramped and does not exactly amount to much, displaying the claustrophobic qualities of David's life as well as such qualities that present themselves within their strained, passionate, and yet terrible relationship. Human connections can shake us and make us question our own senses of the world: Baldwin does a gorgeous job of portraying this struggle between intense desire and the trivial structures we have taught ourselves in order to conform to those around us.

Alexa Neal '22
Editor-in-Chief

Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo follows the story of six dangerous outcasts as they struggle to survive in the bustling yet treacherous city of Ketterdam. The world seems to be against them at every turn until the leader, Kaz Brekker, brings the six together to pull off an impossible heist. More money they could ever dream of is the ultimate prize as they will finally be able to live the lives they always wanted.

This book is easily a five-star read, no question. It has an incredibly unique plot, unlike anything I have ever read before. Published in 2015, this was a time where the Chosen One and secret power tropes were extremely popular, so having *Six of Crows* join the mix was a breath of fresh air. The characters themselves are the best part of the book as their clashing personalities lead to intriguing interactions and their backstories are unparalleled. Additionally, the pace of the book always kept me wanting to read more, which made it impossible to put down. Reading it felt like I was in the middle of a *Mission Impossible* movie—just when I thought that characters had no way out of their sticky situation, I was surprised by yet another complicated plan to save themselves. Overall, everything from the plot to the characters to the writing style contributes to a beautiful masterpiece of a story.

Although the book is the second series of a larger universe (coined the Grishaverse by fans), following the setting and historical context is not too complicated. Readers will not be disappointed if they decide to add *Six of Crows* to their bookshelves.



Reagan Delahunty '25
Copy Editor

One of Us Is Lying, Karen M. McManus' New York Times best-selling novel, follows the story of four very different high school students and an unexplained death that causes havoc between the students, friends, family, and school life. The novel switches point of view between Bronwyn, the rule-follower focusing on school, Addy, the picture-perfect high school princess, Nate, the bad boy on probation, Cooper, the all-star athlete, and Simon, the outcast gossip, and creator of Bayviews anonymous gossip app who is mysteriously murdered, leaving the four students pointing fingers. After all five students received detention for false reasoning, Simon suddenly dies and all four remaining students become suspects. Each student has their own secret to hide, and tension rises as the students become suspicious of each other. The growing intensity and mystery of the novel continue as students frame each other in order to keep suspicious off of them and the cops become involved. The mystery takes sharp turns throughout the story, creating lovable suspense readers can divulge in. The story becomes addicting as the true murder continues to escape exposure, and tensions rise when the gossip app spills the secrets of suspected students, creating new fears for those who thought they were in the clear.

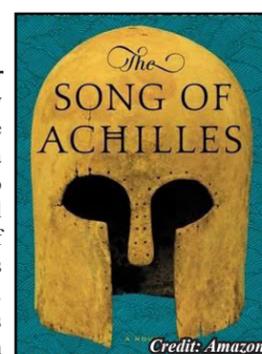
I recommend this book to students who love a good mystery field with suspense and causal romance. The book kept me on the edge of my seat the entire time, begging for me to continue reading. Not only do you get to read the stories of the four students but you also can attempt to figure out the murder yourself. The four students are entirely relatable as you get to see the problems behind perfect faces and the ending was extremely surprising when the true murderer is revealed.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Niyara Gray '22
Copy Editor

The Song of Achilles, penned by outstanding American-writer Madeline Miller and published in 2011, is a genuinely comfortable book for those who prefer a little romance within a mythological retelling. This novel does an incredible job of instilling such emotional weight in each character's personality and relationships, especially the protagonist.

This novel is an expansion of the epic poem *The Iliad* as it is set during the Greek Heroic Age and follows the two main characters' love story. *The Song of Achilles* is recounted from the point of view of Patroclus, Achilles' lifelong companion and presumed lover throughout the tale, which creates a romantic atmosphere in terms of narrative. This book is so appealing to read because it masterfully packs every feeling ever felt into the human experience, making it impossible to put down. The story's primary protagonists are literary opposites, which not only creates sizzling conflict, but also educates readers to appreciate their differences from those around them. Patroclus is such a warm and sensitive social pariah, while Achilles is a prodigal demigod who unexpectedly falls into a wholesome and magnetic connection with Patroclus. The major battle intensifies as the two fight against predictions that prevent them from remaining together, in a sense battling to steal more time for one another. This novel is a must-read not just because it is sentimental and historical, but also because it gives such poignant commentary on how tough it is to live in a time where LGBTQ+ relationships are largely ostracized and abused to the point that fighting for love has become ubiquitous.



Meet Lumine: The Newest On-Campus Alternative-Pop Band

Sky Roman '24
A&E/Lifestyles Editor

Music is often considered an art form, one that can be expressed in many different ways, either vocally or through the use of instruments. Infusing these elements together can be an exhilarating experience, one that the band composed of a few students on campus, *Lumine*, have created for themselves. Experimenting with different genres of music and incorporating a variety of instruments, *Lumine* is determined to make a name for themselves in the music industry.

Lumine is composed of six members, Freshmen Kai Lewis, Carter Khounborin, Ian Vu (his stage name being Kevin Universe), and Rinoa Trescot, as well as Sophomores Azél Colorado (whose stage name is AZ3L) and Eleanor Chon. The band was formed when Lewis, the guitarist, as well as Colorado gathered a few people from their class, all of them with the same passion for music. Trescot,



The members of Lumine are eager to become more well known in the music world. Credit: Rinoa/Trescot

one of the two drummers, stated that she has been "playing drums since elementary school" and that because of her passion and hardwork, "they let me into the band." Altogether, each of their individual talents shine through while they are up on stage performing. Although they perform a lot of music in the Indie and Pop

genres, they like to venture and try different styles of music, not limiting themselves to just one. They mostly focus on performing covers of songs in those genres, though Lewis stated, "We are also working on personal music." He believes that *Lumine* chooses to perform and create in the way they feel is best

in the moment, rather than forcing themselves to stick to a certain way, allowing them to grow and change as their band becomes more known.

Although the experience has been a positive one, there is always bound to be some setbacks, especially when just starting out. "There are so many things that we all want to do. . . and issues like getting the right equipment [is a challenge]." Trescot shared, giving a look into some of the struggles the group have dealt with while trying to kickstart the band. However, they have found that there are ways around these setbacks, using them as a way to grow even stronger as a band. Lewis stated, "It can be hard to communicate but we all have to agree." Regardless of any disagreements, they believe that communication is one of the most important factors in order to ensure that everyone stays on the same page and to minimize any conflict.

As they venture to get more recognition for their band, they have gotten many opportunities to perform for many on live stages. One opportunity that stuck out to

group was "after the concert, when a ton of people came up to us and this one dude, he came up to us and was like, 'hey, I am in a band, so we can collab or I can get gigs for you' and I thought that was really cool," Trescot recalled. They plan to continue organizing other events in which they can perform. Lewis stated, "We might end up performing for the choir concert, and next year we are going to perform a lot." Their efforts only strengthen as they continuously strive to put themselves out there and gain the experience they need in order to find success.

Although they are still figuring out what they plan for their future, they are taking steps one at a time and focusing on what they can do now, rather than later. Some plan to attend a music school or university, while others plan for something completely different. Regardless, *Lumine* takes the time now to strengthen their band, and create long lasting memories, both for themselves and those watching them. For more information, the band can be contacted at @lumineband on Instagram.

Ke Aloha Moku's Successful Return

Athena Ebuon '24
Staff Writer

After two years of isolation, the school's He Ohana Nani club of Polynesian dancers hosted the *Ke Aloha Moku* show, a yearly event that occurs within the Temecula Valley School District as well as other districts such as Murrieta and Perris Union High. This event was for student Polynesian dancers to showcase their skills and the cultural spirit they have acquired over time and practiced. Students from Great Oaks High School (GOHS) and Temecula Valley High School (TVHS) and an outside group called Ekahi Ikaika Ohana participated in this event, showcasing their hard work and dedication in preparing for the event.

Back in early February, the captain of the He Ohana Nani club began preparations for the exhibition. The Ekahi Ikaika Ohana group chose the theme of the show to be "Flow of Life." He Ohana Nani organized four sets representing

elements suitable for the event, three for the female dancers and one for the male dancers. The female dancers performed to *Hō'roa* by Sefadrums to represent the water element and a combination of two songs called *Fa'aora* by Sefadrums and *Uma* by Te Vaka to illustrate the fire element. They also danced to a hula song called *Dream Girl* by Kolohe Kai along with the male members as it was about love on the island and represented the water element as well. For the men's team, members performed a haka combination of the *Red Raiders* and *Kamate*. Senior Kaycee Rara, a captain, expressed, "It [was] pretty exciting because after a year and a half of being away from everything it's the first year back. We're trying to get everything together for the first time in a while." After finalizing the preliminary details of the performance and choreography, the team had been practicing every day, starting after school in March, in preparation for the performance. According to Rara, the choreography

was not the difficult part of the preparation as she was helped by another captain of the team, Junior Isabel Abriam. "[We were] like, 'we need to get this done. We need to hurry up and get it done' so we have enough time to clean the [routine]." Teaching the basic moves is simple, however, taking that and creating more complex moves to fit with the rhythm is challenging. With them practicing every day, they managed to pull through all of the stress and ensured that the Polynesian dancers were performing comfortably and gracefully throughout the routine. Polynesian dance was established to tell stories about their islands, Gods, to convey a message, and many other themes. These dancers do not wave their arms or move their hips in unison to match the beat of the song. Instead, they tell their emotions through specific movements to tell the story. "[Looking at] the Homecoming Rally, we started slow. Then, when we turned around, it goes fast. It's like climbing to the climax of [the story]. When we reach the climax

of the choreography, that's when it grabs their eye," she explained. The beautiful choreography and well-thought-out moves made it difficult for the audience to take their eyes off these talented dancers. That is one of the beauties of Polynesian dance. Senior Marcus Aguilus, a captain, shared, "The family we've made in this group helped me to perform for the better of my team and have good performances to [be] able to spread the beautiful [culture] to other people." The He Ohana Nani dancers did not only spread the culture to the students that night, but also learned from others like GOHS, TVHS, and Ekahi Ikaika Ohana. The He Ohana Nani club spent their time and energy choreographing these stories for students to listen to and enjoy. These Polynesian dancers were able to spread the beauty of the culture further to other students and parents through their interesting stories and they learned from their student dancers about their differing experiences with Polynesian culture.



He Ohana Nani's female dancers showed their Tahitian skills by performing to Uma by Te Vaka at the thirteenth annual Ke Aloha. Credit: Athena Ebuon

ADVICE FROM MR. ROSSI

PROM TIPS

Early in the year of 1987, we sat around the table in the ASB room, arguing about the theme for the upcoming prom. Prom themes, in my day, were inspired by the name of a song. My suggestion was ideal: "How 'bout Us" by Champaign. It had come out a few years earlier, but it was the SLOW JAM! The first beat, right at the beginning of the song, grabbed you and didn't let go! You felt it deep down in your soul, (look it up on your phone right now, but be sure to have your headphones ready! Don't miss that first beat!) I had a big crush on a girl that year, and with this Prom theme, all my hopes and dreams would fall into place! "Some people are made for each other. Some people can love one another for liiiiiife. . . How 'bout us?" MAN! How romantic iaTHAT? I would ask her, "How 'bout us, Alicia? How 'bout us?" Then came the vote. Mrs. Knott cleared her throat and announced, "Holding Back the Years" by Simply Red. WHAT? It had to be a joke! Sadly, it was not. I will not torture you with all the lyrics of the song, but this sums it up, "And nothing had the chance to be good. Nothing ever could, yeah." Obviously, my fellow classmates knew nothing of love.

Somehow, I found the nerve to ask Alicia to the prom anyway, and decided to have a good time despite the lack of vision and soul shown by my fellow ASBers! As for the 2022 ChaparralProm, please remember this:

- Some of you are going to feel pressured to do things you don't want to do.
- Some of you are going to have a great time!
- Some of you will do things on prom night that you would not normally do.
- Some of you will get hurt, either physically or emotionally.
- Some of you will be bored.
- Some of you will dance the whole night.
- Some of you will sit at your table and watch other people dance.
- Some of you will be part of a group that will make your prom perfect.
- Some of you will be part of a group that will make your prom stink.
- Some of you will regret decisions you make on prom night.
- Some of you might end up drinking and driving.
- Some of you are going to make all the right Choices in order to be sure you get home safe.
- Some of you will be weak, and give in.
- Some of you will be strong enough to be able to say, "NO!"

It is your choice. Choose wisely. Please be smart, be safe, have a great prom, and be sure to home SAFE!

Chaparral High School - The Platinum Press - April 22, 2022

Tips on Having a Magical Night at Prom

Isobel Sierleja '25
Staff Writer

As prom season rolls around, many students are preparing for the fun and excitement this milestone event brings. Whether it be having fun with friends or searching for the perfect attire, there are various memorable moments that one can anticipate from the evening. Seeing as the purchase of suits and dresses are a more delicate and expensive matter, setting a budget can help one to not go overboard.

The way to start searching for an affordable outfit would be outlining all the stores that match one's price point. If none are available or in reach, students can find old clothes, borrowed clothes, or cheap outfits from good will to their use. Some budget friendly ideas for recycling unwanted clothes include buying or finding a plain black shirt and skirt. Once those items are collected one can sew them to form a sleek dress. When that is completed, the revisions can be added such as cutting the skirt or adding a belt. After this is finished they can add their desired jewelry,



Credit: Grace Bowman
Senior Grace Bowman showing off her prom dress from last school year.

shoes, and accessories with their new attire. This simple DIY is one of many that students can find from searching on the web.

Those that wish to plan their color scheme and styled outfit more in depth may find the internet to be a helpful place.

Senior Roxy Johnson shared the many different apps that can be used for ideas. She said, "You can always get inspiration from *Pinterest*, *Depop*, *Instagram*, or *Etsy* to see what others have done. *YouTube* videos and tutorials are also helpful if you

are doing your own makeup." Using these apps can be a beneficial visual to grasp one's goal aesthetic, but using the internet for inspiration can be overwhelming at times. However in the long run, it can lead one to find what color or hairpiece makes them look and feel their prettiest or most like royalty.

Another way for students to make their night more enjoyable includes hanging out with friends before or after prom. Johnson expressed how an after party with friends helps extend the exciting night. Johnson says "After prom my friends and I got ice cream in San Diego and went on a boat ride." Johnson explained how this fun time spent together with her friends after the dance made the event a memorable experience because it makes the day end with a unique event. She added it was "very much a core memory," and an overall special night.

One may gather fond and long lasting memories of their crazy night. This night may also help hard working students to loosen up and release all the stress that tests and homework may have brought on.

Mandich's Message

The Power of AND



Elyce Mandich
MSW, LCSW, PPSC

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

"I feel really grateful, BUT I am really sad", "I am disappointed in what you did, BUT I can forgive you" - these are just two examples of something you have maybe said or heard before. Do you see how when we use the word "but", it only allows for either or to exist? Now, switch out the word "BUT" for the word "AND." "I feel really grateful, AND I am really sad", "I am disappointed in what you did, AND I can forgive you." When we use "AND", it allows for both statements to be true at the same time, rather than thinking we have to essentially choose one or the other. It's an important shift in how we understand ourselves and the world around us- things rarely exist in black and white, rather they are all interconnected. In fact, two seemingly opposite things can be true at the same time. It's a seemingly simple shift, AND it can make a huge impact.

The Exam Season: Setting Up for Success

Sky Roman '24
A&E/Lifestyles Editor

Spring marks the start of exam season, and now is the time to start preparing for exams such as the Advanced Placement (AP) tests. It is not uncommon for people to start feeling overwhelmed about taking such a big exam; however, there are steps that can be taken to alleviate this stress. The less anxiety a student has surrounding the exam, the better they will most likely do when the time comes to take the test.

It is important that students start studying the material now in order to avoid

cramping the information at the last minute. Finding the study method that is most effective for oneself can be a good way to prepare, since each individual person has their own way of memorizing necessary information. Senior Charley Garcia, who is currently taking three AP classes, effectively studies by going back through "old notes or projects and [making] a comprehensive review for myself of all the units." Another well-known study method known as "spaced repetition" is shown to be super effective, as it boosts information retention. First, students review or learn any new information they want to

memorize. Creating flashcards or quizzes can help with this. After a day, students should recall the information without using any notes. Then, they can continue to remember the information every twenty-four hours. This works because in order for someone to remember knowledge, the brain should be refreshed periodically. Another way to study material without feeling burned out is to make studying more entertaining. Engaging in group study sessions specifically for AP exams, creating study games or watching educational videos on the information can make it more enjoyable when studying. For Junior

Esabel Abriam, who takes two AP classes, creating her own study guides and "writing them so that they were more appealing to look at" helped her, as it sparked motivation to study repeatedly. It is up to the individual to best utilize their materials in order to feel fully prepared for the exams.

As the date for exams creeps closer, it is important to remain level headed and focused. Specifically, the night before the exams, Garcia recommended "eating a balanced meal and getting as much sleep as possible" to ensure that students are well prepared to take on the exams. Especially for those who may be taking their first

AP exam, the idea of it can sound stressful and daunting, however, with much time dedicated to studying and good time management skills, worries can be kept at bay. For new-exam takers, Abriam recommended "not spending too much time on any given question. . . and just try to apply your skills" while taking the exam. It is normal to be anxious before any test, but just continuously affirming oneself can help to navigate this stress.

Students still have plenty of time to get started on preparing for the exams, however, utilizing all of the time and resources one is provided with is highly recommended for optimal success. Now is the time for students to put forth all of the skills and knowledge they have acquired throughout the school year. It may seem tedious at first, however, the effort to study can be worth it for many in the long run.

Digital Therapy Creates More Time to Care for Mental Health

Niyara Gray '22
Copy Editor

For so long, therapists and psychiatrists have only been available in person, for in-person meetings and consults. Though in recent events, it is evident that not everyone has the ability to physically be in the same space as other individuals. Through online therapy, healthcare professionals are able to accommodate for those who have busy lifestyles that are typically on the go, and provide a safe haven for those who are new to therapy or have concerns about it all. Living in this age where life can be fast moving and digitally based means that individuals must adapt, and digital therapy can help people do just that.

Mental health is just as important as physical health, and for those who have really packed schedules such as students, Senior Kyla Berroteran expressed that "it can be difficult to find time to physically drive to therapists and psychiatric offices, especially [when] I've already had a

full day of classes," further expanding on how finding time to meet with therapists might be difficult for some. More importantly, for people who are just beginning therapy, it can be uncomfortable having to be vulnerable in an unfamiliar setting with someone unknown. Berroteran mentioned, "An in-person experience can be a bit awkward if you haven't done therapy before, so being at home for the first appointment relieves a lot of stress." Having the access to a certified professional, is truly a privilege that could blossom the lives of many if taken advantage of. Apps such as *Ginger* and *BetterHelp* allow individuals to connect their insurance companies with the app so that it is less expensive than traveling to an actual facility, hence aid in more accessibility for all.

In today's era, having someone to talk to through psychologically tough times has showcased its importance. Junior Esabel Abriam shared, "Online therapy gives people the options. . .to live their lives in whatever way they wish; it helps people better understand one another



Credit: Kyla Berroteran
As a person who uses Ginger, Senior Kyla Berroteran advocates for mental wellness.

and accept them as well," further clarifying that therapy in general is a space where one could come as they are and feel supported, even more so when it is done in a place of their choice. Sometimes situations arise and immediate attention is needed. A mere flaw of therapeutic and psychiatric offices is that they are not open 24/7. This is sensible, as even healthcare personnel have lives to live. Online therapy services like *Ginger*, on the other hand, have a plethora of specialists that are eager to book meetings, and are even accessible for round-the-clock assistance to help their patients. All it takes is a quick download on a smartphone.

Being able to chat with someone for mental assistance at any time of day can be a very effective approach for people to encourage emotional serenity. It is not always simple to ask for help, but being in a comfortable setting might help many calm those nerves. Anyone could benefit from having a dedicated, qualified therapist, but perhaps most notably, the accessibility is just within students' pockets.

Sports Med Pumas at Crypto

Alexa Neal '22
Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday March 29, Mr. John Rentar took students from his Kinesiology and Advanced Kinesiology classes, as well as students from Dr. Milangela Corona's classes, to a sports medicine conference at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles. These students spent part of their spring break learning about many different products and exercises pertaining to the sports medicine field.

Throughout the conference, students visited a variety of stations to learn about products and exercises that can be used while executing sports medicine practices. These stations included taping procedures and advertisements for different tape products, an Anatomage Table that allowed students to work with a virtual cadaver, learning different resistance bands, balance, core and back, and ladder exercises, and a massage station. Junior Ashley Donaldson shared, "[my favorite part was] a thermometer, and it compresses cold air or cold, like, ice water onto your legs and I

just enjoyed that a lot." Attending this conference allowed students to experience many ways for a person to be treated as well as possible exercises they can apply in their studies.

At the end of the conference, students listened to a guest speaker who brought awareness to the lack of credentials in the athletic training field. Donaldson said, "I learned that trainers are able to do what they do without being certified which makes it a lot less safe for, like, athletes and students because they're not able to have an actual certified athletic trainer as their athletic trainer." In other words, an individual could claim to be an athletic trainer and they could be hired without needing any credentials. For Donaldson, hearing about the need for more athletic trainers with the proper credentials was her biggest takeaway from the conference.

Ending the trip with a Clippers basketball game in the Crypto.com Arena, the trip helped open their eyes to the necessity of having trained officials working on students. The students who attended the conference left with a greater understanding and appreciation of the athletic training field after the enlightening experience.



Credit: Chris Gandy

Students attended both a medical conference and Clippers basketball game over spring break.

Sullivan-Douglass Makes a Splash

Nerissa Moore '23
Sports Editor

Competing in a sport many do for the basis of entertainment, Junior Benjamin Sullivan-Douglass has taken swimming and made it his own. Being thrown into the pool at the age of three, Sullivan-Douglass found his love for swimming early on. "I started swimming just to know how to swim, and soon it became an everyday part of my life. . .As time went on swimming just became a part of who I am," Sullivan-Douglass commented. Not only participating in swimming, but Sullivan-Douglass also insists on building a well-rounded understanding of many skills, taking part in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), Science Olympiad, construction, piano, basketball, as well as drone building/racing. Sullivan-Douglass shared how swimming advances all of his hobbies, "[It gives] me a sense of drive that has transferred over to my school work and other aspects of my life."

Being one of the Varsity Boys Swim team captains, Sullivan-Douglass sees the pool as a second home, and it reflects in his abilities. Specializing in the 400 Individual



Credit: Nerissa Moore

Sullivan-Douglass practices his backstroke start so he can improve his times during meets.

Medley (IM), 200 IM, as well as long-distance and open-ocean events, Sullivan-Douglass finds his motivation to swim in himself. "A big motivation to me is the desire to improve myself beyond what others can do. . .[in swimming] you can not doubt, you can not stop, you just have to keep going," Sullivan-Douglass stated. Drawing from his motivation to swim is what Sullivan-Douglass takes away from the sport. He shared, "Swimming has motivated me and changed me as a person," inspiring him to be the best swimmer he can be. Following graduation,

Sullivan-Douglass does not intend on bringing his swimming abilities to the collegiate level. Sullivan-Douglass stated, "My plans after high school are definitely not swim-oriented. . .However, I plan to use it to cultivate my own mental and physical health as I have been these last few years." Driving not only by his belief in self-improvement, Sullivan-Douglass also has many plans for the ploy of the swim season. "As captain, I am really looking forward to the competition with our league teams this year. . .My goal for this season is to bring our

team to the top three in league this year. . .we have a great group of swimmers who work really well together so I can not wait to see how we get closer together as a team," Sullivan-Douglass added. As he approaches his thirteenth year of swimming and his third year with the Varsity Boys Swim team, it is clear Sullivan-Douglass is a swimmer to be remembered. Considering himself as an "all-around swimmer," Sullivan-Douglass' swimming career is sure to go far. His motivation and drive will continue to build the strong swimmer he already is.



Athlete Spotlights



Photos and Spotlights by
Julian Stanfield '24
Staff Writer

Cody Motluck '25

Varsity Boys Volleyball



Entering his first year of high school and playing volleyball, Freshman Cody Motluck steps onto the Varsity Boys Volleyball team with lots of motivation and potential by his side. Motluck has only been playing volleyball for a couple of months and was introduced to competitive volleyball through the high school team. He decided volleyball was his sport of choice because his dad coached the sport for thirty-three years. Motluck does

well at passing the ball and he hopes to refine his skills as a player throughout the season. The older players on the team have given him support and helped him to improve with advice and encouragement. "They've. . .taught me quite a bit about volleyball [and they have] been great teachers [to me]," Motluck expressed. Unfortunately, his height gives him a disadvantage since he is the shortest player on the team. This makes it harder for him as the ball could be too high for him to hit at times. Despite his height and lack of experience when it comes to volleyball, Motluck has still been able to shine on the court and be a key player. In the future, Motluck desires to go to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) or the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) with a scholarship if possible and wants to get a job that requires computer science skills.

Jylian Potter '23

Varsity Girls Lacrosse

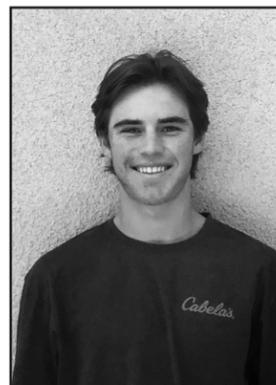


Junior Jylian Potter stands out from the rest as a leader on the Varsity Girls Lacrosse team with an outgoing and talkative personality. Potter was introduced to lacrosse by one of her friends who played field hockey and she originally joined the lacrosse program her freshman year. Unfortunately, the pandemic canceled the season before the team could start playing. During her sophomore year, she became part of the varsity team as a midfielder and

became proficient at cradling the ball. Potter stated that lacrosse has "impacted me by. . .[teaching me] leadership roles and really like, making me have a passion and giving me a hobby. . .it's also. . .given me a family in a sense." Her team has helped her to move on from past mistakes and keep her spirits up while the coaches have pushed her to keep going and become better. Potter is working on her communication and player mentality while also making sure that her teammates are enjoying their season together. She used to play volleyball alongside lacrosse but due to her breaking her foot at the beginning of this year, Potter decided to focus more on lacrosse for her junior and senior years. She hopes to continue her lacrosse career with a scholarship in colleges such as Pepperdine University and the University of California Santa Cruz.

Cooper Rasmussen '23

Varsity Boys Baseball



Star baseball player and Junior Cooper Rasmussen always comes on the scene with a glove in one hand and a passion to play in the other. He was on the freshmen team his first year of playing for high school and made it onto the Varsity team his sophomore year. Baseball appears to run in his family as his dad played baseball in college and his mother played softball. Following this trend, Rasmussen has been playing baseball for ten years. His

parents have played a big role in Rasmussen's growth as he stated, "I've always been able to hit with [my dad], do some extra work with him. He has always been there to help me get better. . . [and my mom] has always been there for me emotionally." His personal goal this season is to stay consistent skillswise and he claims that hitting is his strong point. Rasmussen mainly plays the shortstop position between second and third base and he is currently working on making it to the all-league team. He also explained, "[Baseball has] helped me make relationships in my life like friendships and. . .I feel like baseball has taught me life lessons. . .it taught me to be patient and keep working hard." Rasmussen plans on going to college on a scholarship after high school and as of now, he does not have any specific colleges in mind.

Varsity Boys Lacrosse Strengthens Team Bond at Las Vegas Games

Nerissa Moore '23
Sports Editor

Heading further into their season, the Varsity Boys Lacrosse team takes their playing off the home fields and onto the Las Vegas Strip. Over the dates of April 27 and April 30, the Varsity Boys Lacrosse team took a team trip to Las Vegas, Nevada to not only build experience within the sport but with each other.

Playing against two separate teams while in Las Vegas, as well as touring the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), the Pumas fought hard against Bishop Gorman High School and Centennial High School. Being a trip far from uneventful, the

boys found fun even while suited up. With an unexpected crisis causing the stadium lights to turn off during the third quarter of the game against Centennial High School, the boys made the best of an experience full of surprises. Head Coach Mr. Simon Bernaldo shared, "It was raining and cold, and the Centennial team turned on their Boombox and started blasting music and dancing. Our team ran to where they were and started dancing and having a great time with them." From dancing in the rain to collaborating for a group photo, the boys even found themselves linking arms with the Bishop Gorman High School's Varsity Boys Lacrosse team after a great game. "It was so cool to see our two teams taking pictures



Credit: @chspumaboyslacrosse



Credit: @chspumaboyslacrosse

The team supports each other during a game against Bishop Gorman High School.

Although they lost both of their games, the athletes gained a stronger team bond and chemistry throughout their time in Las Vegas. together with arms around each other's shoulders as if we were all friends," Bernaldo commented. Demonstrating the truth of what lacrosse means to the players, Bernaldo relayed how the experience shined him, he stated, "Friendships were formed and it made us all realize that despite the intense competition and the rough nature of the game of lacrosse... [lacrosse] heals the spirit. . .we were at peace with one another for fifteen minutes." Teaching the team not only about the characteristics of lacrosse, but the team also learned a new aspect of themselves; family. With Bernaldo describing the experience of traveling together to be brand new, the boys found themselves embracing a new reality of team bonding. "It helped us learn more about who we are as a team, and we were humbled," Bernaldo expressed. Looking back on what the season has presented so far, the boys are currently at a standing of 5-6,

finding that there is always room for improvement. Bernaldo shared that they will never fail to play hard. He stated, "We play to the last whistle. . .These Pumas will outwork you and [you] will remember these kids as the guys that gave everything they got and left it all out on the field." Inviting all to come and experience the sport, the boys play Great Oak High School in the Wolves Stadium on Monday, April 25, the boys hope to see the stands continue to fill up.

Sensational Seniors

Information gathered by
Nerissa Moore '23
Sports Editor

F
A
I
T
H



B
E
C
K
L
E
Y

After finding a love for sideline cheer, Senior Faith Beckley soon found a love for its competitive sister, stunt cheer. Joining the Varsity Stunt Cheer team her freshman year, Beckley joined the team for its competitive edge. "I loved the competitive aspect of it and since it was a CIF (California Interscholarship Federation) sport," Beckley shared. Pushing her drive, Beckley shouts out to her parents for being by her side throughout her daily life as well as cheer and stunt. After high school, Beckley plans on attending college where she will study to be a cosmetic nurse.

V
A
U
G
H
N



W
I
L
M
E
R

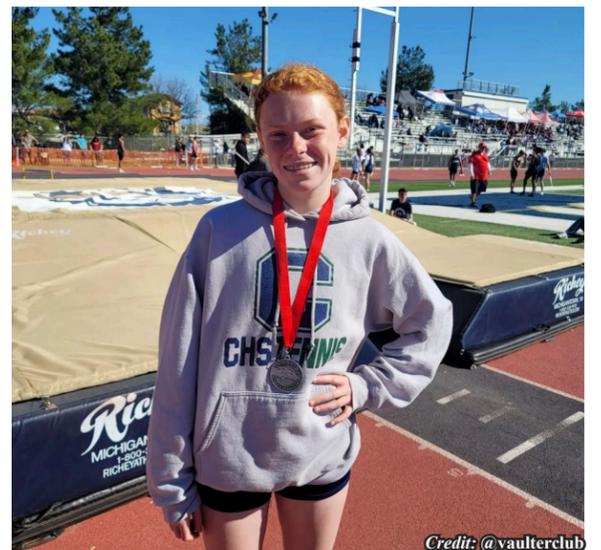
Joining the Varsity Boys Tennis team after previously running track, Senior Vaughn Wilmer found himself getting back into tennis after playing when he was little. With Wilmer's proven success, he brings his achievements back to support from friends. "They mean the world to me," Wilmer stated. Finding the joy in tennis to be its teaching aspect, Wilmer enjoys extending his knowledge of the sport to others. "Helping someone improve their serve or game in general and hearing their awe at their own skill," he added. After graduation, Wilmer will continue to reflect on his high school career by focusing on "the man in the mirror."

Freshman Kate Suemnick Vaults to Victory

Milyn Francis '25
Assistant Video Manager

Part of track and field is a field event called pole vaulting. When athletes pole vault, they must be able to jump over an elevated crossbar with a flexible stick. An important aspect of the sport is core strength as the act of inverting one's body up in the air to get over the bar requires much effort and strength. Individuals may think pole vaulting is challenging or only watch the pole vault at the Summer Olympics, but Freshman Kate Suemnick, a pole vaulter for the Varsity Track and Field team, has worked hard to where she is now, earning fourth place in the state for all freshman pole vaulters.

Suemnick started pole vaulting in July 2021. Before her pole vaulting journey, she had practiced gymnastics for eight years and switched to pole vaulting because she knew many people who had tried it and saw that pole vaulting and gymnastics have similar movements. Suemnick goes to practice for the school's team every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3-4:30 in the afternoon. She has been practicing her skills at the Vaulter Club in Menifee since July 2021. She earned the title of captain of the school's Girls Pole Vault team from the beginning of pole vaulting practice. She enjoys the work of captain as the role gives her the responsibility of helping others feel comfortable and have fun during practice.



Credit: @vaulterclub

Freshman Kate Suemnick placed second at a recent club competition. Additionally, she believes her coaches play a big role in attributes to her success in life. Her father and coach Mr. Justin Suemnick loves and wants to see his athletes succeed, be happy, and push through to reach their goals. Suemnick believes her club coaches, Mr. Doug and Derek Douma, are fun to work with and always make practice worth the time and effort.

Pole vault means a lot to Suemnick. It keeps her active and has made many friendships. Suemnick thinks having a fast, solid run is a needed skill because the run gives the momentum to complete the vault. In this season, Suemnick thinks she has handled the losses well. She has goals for each meet and when she reaches her goals, she feels proud of herself. Another skill that plays a big role in pole vault is a positive mindset. Suemnick stated, "If you think positively before your vault, you will feel comfortable and confident in your vault,

while if you doubt yourself, you are doubting your vault." Suemnick explained how some athletes balk, or become hesitant, during their vault. She continued, "If you balk at the last second, you are going to get hurt no matter what. So, at the end of the runway, it is important to have a positive mindset to believe in yourself." Along with her positive attitude and mindset, Suemnick also believes teamwork brings a role of responsibility. Suemnick continued, "When the athlete is vaulting, teammates have to check for their 'catch step.'" She explained it as watching where the vaulters' last step is, having someone check the last step can help a vault immensely.

Overall, Suemnick has reached her goals this season. After high school, she wants to continue her pole vaulting dreams in college. She believes that playing a sport in college inspires her future of always trying and keeps her going throughout it all.



Credit: Kate Suemnick

Suemnick pole vaults eight feet and seven inches at a home track meet.



Emerald Puma Nominees



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



Jaden Dew

“Jaden has been a part of ASB for the past 4 years, finishing off his time at CHS as ASB President. He puts the ideas of others ahead of his own, thoughtful in the work he creates doing his best to make others feel included. He has fun in what he does, never shying away from a new challenge! Once a month Jaden speaks at the school board to

spotlight the great things happening at CHS. With CHS always going first, he is able to brag about how our programs and athletics keep achieving new awards plus speaking to how we also collaborate with the other two schools on events. This is not a role he has taken on for the title. He is genuine in his love for CHS and never complains when I ask him to take on another activity or to find ways to implement new programs to the campus.”

P

Passion

R

Respect

Romyn Johnson

“Romyn has spent the last four years being involved around campus in many ways. Varsity athletics, clubs, and programs that support the school and the community have all benefited from his dedication. Despite his busy schedule, Ro prioritizes his academics, and is determined to learn the material, do his best, and

push himself to focus even when those around him are distracted. My favorite thing about Romyn is that he is able to find balance in all that he does - he is outstanding, but also humble; hardworking, but also knows how to relax; and he is willing to participate, but also knows when to step back and let others shine. Romyn Johnson is an asset to Chaparral High School, and will be an asset to whichever college he attends.”



Roxalana Johnson

“Roxy has been in both my classes and each time she was the student who displayed the highest level of PRIDE! She has also created a group where the students meet each week and discuss various topics concerning mental health and high school in general. She participates in a variety of extra-curricular activities including drama

and mock trial. She has a high GPA, Fab 5 leadership award, and Homecoming Queen. I also chose her for a Rotary Club award in her Sophomore year.” “Roxy always has a smile on her face and is very involved on campus. She takes AP classes, does mock trial, debate team, Peer Leaders, Advanced Drama and more. She has an infectious energy that makes others around her want to get involved. She is passionate about learning and about being a Puma.”

I

Integrity

D

Determination

Hunter Roddy

“Hunter has been a role model for other student athletes to follow. Off the field he is a very humble individual who is ALWAYS respectful towards others. On the field I have seen that he is very coachable and seems to always put forth a positive attitude and effort

regardless the situation. He doesn't need the accolades even if he deserves it because Hunter lives his life with integrity. He could be a very cocky person on campus and has every reason to act this way, BUT he conducts himself with humility and respect. He is one student on campus that will authentically use the phrase, ‘Yes sir, no sir’ and ‘Yes ma’am, no ma’am.’”



Arturo Villavicencio

“Art has demonstrated all aspects of PRIDE since he started here Freshman year. He has made it a point to connect with staff and students. His positivity flows consistently and it is definitely contagious! He is a leader, tutor, mentor, and good friend. His actions to help others will be remembered by not only

his class, but the classes remaining. His intrinsic motivation to help others has made a lasting impression here and will continue when he is a part of the Marine Corp. To Art, everyone is important and everyone has a purpose. He really did his best to guide his peers to see their full potential. If I had to pick just one it would be Excellence, because it embodies all the other letters as well- just like Art!”

E

Excellence