

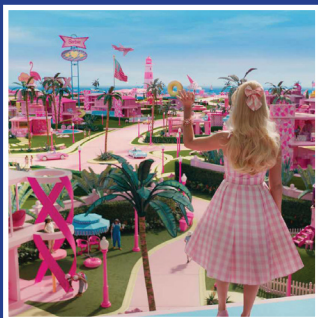
The PLATINUM PREVIEW

SCHOOL NEWS



**Spectacular FAB 5
Bleeds Blue Amid
New Puma Pit Debut**
Page 2

EDITORIALS



**The Barbie Movie is Not
an Attack on Masculinity**
Page 5

A&E



**Every Fan Wants One
Piece of the Hit Live
Action Remake**
page 7

SPORTS



**Football is in Farinas'
Blood**
Page 11

Puma Pit Roars into the National Spotlight

Jackson Gamero '24
Staff Writer

Ranked as the best student section in the U.S. for the week of August 21-25, according to studentsectionreport.org, the Puma Pit has had a successful debut as students have shown up and shown out for their peers. Coming up with different game themes such as the "camouflage football game" against Temecula Valley High School (TVHS) and the "white-out volleyball game" against Santiago High School, the school has been able to spark interest from students in the athletic programs on campus. Additionally, the school debuted the new student section color of dark blue. The introduction of the Puma Pit has not only helped to induce an improved school culture, but has also helped lead the school to victory on the field and court, respectively.

Led by Seniors Camryn Brown, Natalia De La Torre, Sara Garcia, Jack Hougland, and Mason Tarin, the Puma Pit has aimed to bring a new atmosphere to games that was once not present at the school. A part of this new atmosphere is due to the new student section color of dark blue. Associated Student Body



Credit: Jen DeLeon

The newly debuted Puma Pit makes its mark as the number one students section in the nation, shining at Varsity Football games.

(ASB) director Mrs. Jennifer DeLeon explained that dark blue was chosen to better represent school colors. On Friday, September 1, the Puma Pit was recognized as the nation's top student section from the past week, gaining a lot of credit for the action it created at the Varsity Football home opener on August 25 against Apple Valley High School (AVHS).



Credit: @chaparralpumapit on Instagram

The student section roars with pride and spirit as they cheer on the Football team.

"The Puma Pit is now battling for one of the top spots in the [Inland Empire] and [Southern California] after they have been showing up a lot more ... in the stands," the Student Section Report, who did the rankings, said. De La Torre, who represents the "D" for determination in the Fab Five, stated, "[The Puma Pit has been] a huge success for the volleyball and football games ... Games [are] so exciting and pumped, which is something I think Chaparral needed." The new culture on campus has been recognized by students, staff members, and outside parties.

Apart from impacting the campus in general, the improved student turnout at home and away games has helped some of the school's athletics teams to perform better. Varsity Football Head Coach Mr. Andrew Ramer explained, "[Having a large crowd] is a great factor in the game. I know that the players love it, they love the energy

the crowd brings to the games. The first home game against [AVHS] and the away game at [TVHS] were tremendous environments." The same idea has presented itself with home Varsity Girls Volleyball games, as students have gotten loud and involved in the game. Senior Madison Johnson described the Puma Pit as "energizing" and explained that it helps the team to perform better on the court.

The introduction of the Puma Pit has culminated in the large crowd turnouts that athletics programs have received so far this year. It is the result of a school-wide effort put forth by ASB and widespread student participation. It is something that has been a target for multiple years and is now reality. Coach Ramer said, "I have never seen our school spirit like this. It makes the hard work and sacrifice worthwhile at the end because we know we are making people proud to be a Puma."

Introduction of 5-Star Incentivizes School Spirit

Svetlana Hohol '25
Editor-in-Chief

Every new school year brings changes and innovations to work towards the goal of promoting an inspiring environment for students and staff. One of the programs set in place includes the well-known application known as 5-Star Students (5-Star). Created by the first Associated Student Body (ASB) director Greg Roach, this app has proven to be a significant tool used on campus as it contains many features ranging from hall passes to reward systems for all students on campus to utilize.

5-Star has prompted major shifts in the campus experiences for all students. One of these prominent changes is the use of the identification (I.D.) process. Pumas will not have a physical I.D. card this school year; instead, they will make use of the I.D. feature within the app. It is no different than a typical I.D. as students will continue to use this section of the app to check into activities, make purchases, get through lunch lines, security, and file for discounts. Senior Trent Paulsen said, "The app makes it much easier to scan for

lunch and security ... making the line go much faster." This is not the only commodity that will be implemented on the app. Hallway passes, CAT 30 slips, and other forms of getting around campus will soon be available as a feature of 5-Star. To access these passes, students must use the app's camera to scan the teacher's QR code.

There are bonus key features that accompany this significant change on campus. One of those features is the popularized point system. Students may earn these points when they get checked into any event on campus or participate in school spirit. Away games for sports tend to be of higher value than home games due to the necessary travel. The more points students accumulate will grant them access to prizes such as candy bars, Puma gear, and other special privileges. To redeem these points, students can do exchanges through the app and visit the Puma Pit Stop every Thursday and Friday during lunch or break.

If students reach a certain level of points, they can move up the tier system that is soon to be in place. With the addition of Puma Pride Points, many incentives are granted to those holding the most points and

displaying the most spirit. If students reach a certain level of points, they can move up the tier system. This system goes by the school's colors: green, blue, and platinum. With each tier comes a whole new set of privileges and awards to redeem that only get better with each advancement. A prominent example of this will be at the upcoming homecoming dance, where the top students from each grade level who obtained the greatest number of Pride Points will be granted special access to a lounge. This area will be filled with treats, food, and a relaxing atmosphere for Pumas and their dates. Various

incentives and special access passes will be awarded to Pumas who race to the top of the leaderboards. ASB director Jennifer DeLeon said, "It's fun because it puts a competitive edge ... you're in competition with yourself for the things you want to get."

The 5-Star app is shifting the experience and culture on campus. The primary goal of the app is to encourage students to support their fellow peers and promote school spirit. Pumas can download the app from their preferred app store. There is much to explore from this system and it will only advance further to work towards reshaping campus culture.



Credit: Svetlana Hohol

Senior Natalia Ferrette earns points for attending a football game via the 5-Star app.

Chaparral High School - The Platinum Press - September 22, 2023

Spectacular Fab 5 Bleeds Blue Amid New Puma Pit Debut

Kayla Wiley '24
Copy Editor

Every year, five spirited seniors are chosen to represent their school by leading the student section with enthusiastic cheers and chants throughout different sporting events. Officially known as the Fab 5, these students embody school spirit as they inspire a crowd of their fellow peers to get loud and support student players. The members of the 2023-2024 school year's Fab 5 include Seniors Camryn Brown, Mason Tarin, Sara Garcia, Natalia De La Torre, and Jack Hougland. Following the yearly tradition, each member reflects a letter of Puma P.R.I.D.E., making them all unique representatives of school values. Brown, Tarin, Garcia, De La Torre, and Hougland represent passion, respect, integrity, determination, and excellence, respectively. From football to volleyball and many other competitive sports, the Fab 5 are always at the front of the student section, creating an undeniable atmosphere of excitement for every participant.

The main role of the Fab 5 is to develop unity throughout students at various sporting events, encouraging each person to contribute to the growth of the school community. This is done as they shout iconic chants, dance to the different songs of the night, and yell out encouragement for those down in the field. While the crowd follows their lead, they create an energetic environment that allows for students to enjoy themselves and develop a



Credit: @chaparralpumapit on Instagram

The Fab 5 stay up on their feet at the front of the Puma Pit and keep the crowd alive through out the night with their spirited energy and enthusiastic cheers.

stronger sense of unity. As the first Fab 5 to lead the new Puma Pit, a main priority is to encourage every student to be more involved and proud of the school they attend. “[We want to] raise the standard of spirit in this school and break the stereotype of [school spirit] is embarrassing,” Brown stated. With these positions of

leadership, the Fab 5 have the ability to make a difference in the way that school spirit is perceived all throughout campus. “I want to see our ideas come into play, because we have big plans for the student section that are coming up, and we can’t wait to see it,” Tarin expressed.

To become a member of the Fab 5, students had to apply with both a video and in-person interview. While both steps are important to the process, the in-person interview is where many of the current members shined. Through this, they were given the chance to show how their personalities would strengthen their roles. Each member of the Fab 5 was specifically chosen to represent a letter of Puma P.R.I.D.E., and they embody these values both inside and outside of the Puma Pit. “[I represent integrity by] always doing the right thing when nobody’s watching,” stated Garcia. Their individual strengths allow them to lead by example, giving them the ability to make a difference in school culture as a whole. However, together as a united group, they have the greatest impact. “We all represent an individual letter,” Hougland explained, “but I feel like all of us show our pride inside

... and outside of school.” While each of these seniors are powerful representatives on their own, it is when they all work together that the Puma Pit truly comes alive.

For some members, being directly involved in the Fab 5 has been a dream since the beginning of their high school career. For others, it was a spontaneous decision that turned into a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make an impact. “I never saw Fab 5 in my future, and now that it’s here I realize that it’s perfect and ... the way I wanted to spend my senior year,” Hougland expressed. No matter the path each of them took to get this position, their efforts in raising school spirit and unity have been a success in the early school year. Together, they have grown more confident in leading their peers in the student section, and their dedication will only lead to more success as the year continues. Throughout the remaining games, there is no doubt that the influence and creativity of the Fab 5 will not only create unforgettable memories, but they will continue to keep the Puma Pit an energetic, lively, and desired place to be.



Credit: Sophia Tran

The Fab 5 brings the energy and spirit to the Puma Pit at the first ever home football game of the season.

Homecoming Dance Themed After Popular Classic Grease

Katherine Ivey '26
School News Editor

High school is filled with many experiences. One such experience is Homecoming. The week leading up to the Homecoming is filled with spirit days and a rally based on the 1978 blockbuster *Grease*, the theme for this year’s dance. Following the spirit-filled week is the Homecoming football game on Friday, October 6, against Vista Murrieta High School. Then, on Saturday, October 7, from 7PM. to 10PM, students will attend the Homecoming dance. Students must have a ticket and signed permission slip to participate in the Homecoming dance. Additionally, bags and heels are not permitted inside the dance.

To kick off the Homecoming celebration, students will participate in a series of spirit days. On Monday, October 2, students and staff will wear pajamas for “Frenchy’s Slumber Party.” Tuesday’s spirit day is “Summer Lovin,” so come dressed in beach and summer wear. Following “Summer Lovin” is Wednesday’s “Pink Lady” day, where students and staff will be decked out in all pink. Thursday is “Grease v. Greece.” Students and staff are to choose whether to dress for the sock hop or the Parthenon. For Friday, come decked out in all blue for “Hopelessly Devoted to Blue” day. These spirit days are essential to the celebration of Homecoming as it gears up students for the football game and dance. “I think it’s important [to participate in spirit days] because it’s good to show school spirit, especially with Homecoming, because it’s one of the biggest events at school,” Senior Myla Igoe, member of the Homecoming Rally and Spirit Week

Committee, noted, “I feel that it’s one of the most fun [events] ... Dressing up just really shows that you care about school and that you like to have fun.” Also happening during the school week is the Homecoming rally, which features performances by Synergy, Agi*lity, He Ohana Nani, Haka, PFX, Drumline, and Cheer. “There are going to be some really great performances and really great music,” Igoe stated. “The rally gives the dance more hype ... and it allows for groups to express themselves and show the school what they work hard for.”

Another significant aspect of Homecoming Week is the football game. In addition to the game, there will be a large halftime show with performances by Synergy, Agi*lity, He Ohana Nani, Haka, PFX, Cheer, and Drumline. “[We are] creating a show that everyone is able to enjoy,” said Senior Sheanna Cinco, a member of the Homecoming Halftime Show Committee, “All the families come. So [we] are trying to make a show that is ... friendly for all audiences that everyone can enjoy.” Furthermore, the Senior Homecoming Royalty will be announced at the halftime show.

Finally, after a week of spirit days and football games, is Homecoming. The event will take place from 7 PM to 10PM, but students can begin departing at 9:30 PM. Like the rest of the week, the dance will be themed around *Grease*. “We wanted to get the colors [of *Grease*] down, so a lot of pinks, blues, lots of fifties ... In the movie ... I know they do a lot of diner images ... so we want to incorporate that a little bit with lots of bright colors,” Senior Ashlyn Hill, a member of the Homecoming Dance Committee, remarked. In addition to the fifties decorations, students can expect many different entertainment avenues. “We are kinda

going a little bit bigger [than] last year,” Hill said. “[We are] definitely branching out and getting more vendors and more amusement rides ... I think it’s going to be something different than the one that we had last year.” Hill also commented how more students will be involved in this year’s Homecoming, citing the student band, which at the time of this article has not been decided, that will be performing.

With Homecoming just around the

corner, students and staff prepare for a week of excitement and school spirit. “I think [Homecoming] gives something for kids to look forward to,” Associated Student Body Director Jennifer DeLeon commented, “We want [Homecoming] to be for the whole school ... When more people are involved [in events] and have a part in [event] and feel like they’re included, then [the dance] will run better for them.”

HOCO SPIRIT DAYS

Monday 10/2	Tuesday 10/3	Wednesday 10/4	Thursday 10/5	Friday 10/6
PAJAMA DAY! “Frenchy’s Slumber Party” 	BEACH THEME “Summer Lovin’ + Tacky Tourist/ pool floats” 	WEAR PINK “Pink Lady Wednesdays” 	MOVIE GREASE VS. ROMAN GREECE “Grease vs. Greece” 	WEAR PUMA BLUE Hopelessly Devoted to “Blue”

Credit: ASB Spirit Committee

Pumas Welcome New Assistant Principals to Admin Team

Mr. Morel Takes Over A.P.

Loretta Topp ‘24
Newsroom Manager

Often seen walking around campus or on the morning announcements, Mr. Chris Morel is an active staff member who is doing his best to provide a welcoming environment for all students and staff members. His goal has always been “to help young people find and live a purpose,” which he wishes to achieve through his new position as Assistant Principal.

Morel has been a longtime member of the Temecula Valley family, having worked all over the district. Having been in education for eighteen years, Morel laid down his roots as a fifth grade teacher and slowly started making his way up, eventually being able to reach his goal of working at a high school. He worked at the district online school for a year before working as a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) for two years. Finally, he landed a teaching position on campus as a U.S. history teacher. This school year marks his tenth year as a puma, where he worked for eight years balancing his history and Advancement Via Independent Determination (AVID) classes before switching fully to teaching AVID. The past two years, Morel has worked in administration with his previous position dealing with Student Support over Behavior and now as an Assistant Principal. While he wasn’t seeking out a position in administration, Morel knew he needed a change. “Through the pandemic, when everything shut down, and we were all online it was just kind of like one of those moments when you realize you want to try something different,” he said.

The new job title also comes with a lot of new responsibilities. As Assistant Principal, Morel oversees freshman and sophomore behavior. He also manages the world language, English Language Development, and special education departments as well as campus security. Before getting promoted, Morel’s job consisted of dealing with the behavior and disciplinary actions of students. While it holds a negative connotation, Morel saw it differently. His position was an outlet for students to come and visit him whenever they needed help or just wanted to talk. It balanced what he loved about teaching as well as being able to work with students one on one. Speaking on teaching AVID and what he loved most about it he commented, “What I loved most about [teaching] avid was that I got to work with students more than just the curriculum. I got to work with them as a person, through their journey of life.” However, due to his recent position and working hard on admin, he is not involved in the student body

as much as he previously was. His primary goal this year is to better the puma community and the positive impact it has had on students in every way he can. Morel commented, “When you focus on this positive climate culture, and you do things that get students involved you tend to have less behavior.” Morel wants to take the new rebranding as a way to help students who struggle to fit in and find an outlet to immerse themselves in their school. He commented on the rebranding as a whole saying, “There’s a lot of potential. It’s like when you see potential in a student or an athlete you want to help them reach that potential. That’s kind of how we see Chap.” Morel has been a positive and present influence on campus and in the lives of many students. He has made his mark through his kindness and compassionate personality.

Sequeida Joins the Campus

Loretta Topp ‘24
Newsroom Manager

With the new school year, welcomes new students and staff on campus. The most recent addition to the front office is Dr. Anissa Sequeida, who has taken on the role and responsibility of Assistant Principal. Before she made the move, Sequeida worked in Santa Ana, California. Having worked in education for twenty-one years, eleven of those years working in administration, Sequeida came prepared for the responsibilities that come with working in the Temecula Valley district.

Over her extensive career, Sequeida has worked in seven schools total, four consisting of high schools. In her first ten years of her

was dedicated to observing teachers, their methods, and how they ran their class while also helping them create engaging lessons for the students. This experience is what began her love for the administration side of education. “Once I started doing it I realized I loved it just as much as I loved teaching,” she commented. Sequeida was also a middle school principal, and while she enjoyed it, she prefers being an assistant principal because of the interactions she has with students. Speaking on why she enjoys her position so much, she said, “One of my favorite things about being an assistant principal is that I still get to interact with students and staff. I’ve been a middle school principal and most of your interaction is with staff and parents, so I think assistant principal is a cool position because you get the best of both worlds.” Seeing this is a new district for her, Sequeida has big plans and goals for this school year. One of the main projects she oversees, in addition to the special education department and the social sciences and english departments, is the roll out of the 5-Star app. The app has been implemented into the culture and functionality of the school with it including hall passes, bathroom passes, student identification, as well as it having the ability to give students points based on participation. The latter being one of the main reasons as to why Sequeida wanted to implement the app in the first place. One of her main goals is to improve school spirit which she hopes to accomplish through the app. Having seen the push for the 5-Star app at two other schools, Sequeida has definitely seen an improvement in the participation of students; she said, “Students get a notice saying it’s spirit week and participate, but why? I think Five Star helps because it’s an incentive.” Speaking on the community aspect of the school, which has changed drastically over the last couple of years, Sequeida has not seen anything like it really from the time that she grew up to even from a couple of years ago. She said, “It’s much more student centered, students have more of a voice now. Earlier, and even when I was a teenager, only leadership students had a voice. It was a very select number of students and it wasn’t very equitable or fair. I like that [Chaparral] has opened that up. There is a lot more opportunity for students to get involved and share their opinions.” Though it is her first year on campus, Sequeida already has developed such love and care for the students, staff, and her job. Though her position of Assistant Principal does not allow her to necessarily interact with students as often as she would like. She expressed, “Come by and chat. Talk to me, get to know me ... I would encourage kids to stop by and say hi.”



Assistant principals Sequeida (left) and Morel (right) collaborate to organize upcoming activities for Pumas.

Library Media Technician and friend of Morel, Krsity Beasley is extremely proud of his new position in administration. Beasley commented, “Mr. Morel has a charisma and aura about him that makes people-students and staff alike feel safe, feel heard, and still holds them accountable.” Morel, in his ten years of being a positive influence on campus, is ready for his next challenge to make the school a welcoming environment for both students and staff to enjoy.

teaching career, she was a U.S. History teacher as well as an English teacher for grades eleven and twelve. Teaching high school was always a big aspiration of hers, “I always wanted to be a high school teacher, so to me [teaching] was the coolest thing ever.” It was not until her third year of teaching that she began to consider going into administration. Sequeida got her master’s degree two years later and began to work as an instructional coach while still teaching two periods. The rest of her time

Construction Continues on Multi-purpose Gymnasium

Meadow Rivera ‘27
Staff Writer

This year, Physical Education (PE) classes are taking attendance in the gym, a change from sitting outside on the basketball courts. The baseball field now flaunts a busy neighboring construction zone that is bringing major changes to the PE department. Beginning at the end of the 2022-2023 school year, the construction started with the demolishing of the old tennis courts.

With the construction comes new changes to campus. The PE department will be seeing a second, smaller gym, along with new basketball and tennis courts. The second gym will present many new opportunities, including another space to hold gym classes, a new yoga room, weight room, dance room, along with a sand court for volleyball. The estimated finishing date is December 2024, but it is speculated that the construction may take longer. When asked how the new establishments will affect students taking PE, Assistant Principal Mr. Tim Lucore stated, “PE will have multiple facilities to use, where now, they only have one gym, and then they have access to the fields.” The field, gym, and pool are the only areas available to students

taking PE for most of this year, as the rest of the usual facilities are under construction.

After being in development for over a year now, the new PE facilities will have much to offer after completion. These new resources mean more space for activities to be held, and more opportunities for existing clubs and teams. “We have always been a little on the short side for facilities at Chaparral, especially since the campus was designed for so many fewer students than we have,” Mr. Tony Rossi explained. The recent developments will

provide more space and better support for the growing number of students on campus next year. The new gymnasium will not be as big as the existing one, but it will be able to accommodate on days when activities can not be held outdoors. “It will help us on hot days or rainy days where we can still participate and many of our activities without it just being ... one gym just packed with multiple classes.” Rossi elaborated. Although gym classes will have to make do with a smaller range of facilities, it seems to be well worth the wait.



The addition of the second gym and dance room are expected to be completed in the year 2024.

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE



Principal Tina Miller

Pumas,

It is hard to believe that we have been in school for just over a month. The beginning of the school year is flying by so fast. The school spirit and participation in activities and events has been amazing and bigger than ever! The debut of the Puma Pit student section this year is getting rave reviews and is being recognized throughout our community. Let’s keep it up Pumas! Our first home girls volleyball game and Luau Dance was packed too! We still have a ton of activities and spirit days to get involved in this year so keep up the participation. We look forward to seeing our Pumas at all athletic, academic, and performance events. We love seeing all of our Pumas in the stands and in the audience supporting each other and demonstrating Puma PRIDE. Don’t forget to get your 5-Star points for attending!

We hope that you enjoyed Club Rush and found a club that sparked your interest or aligned to your passion. We had over 80 clubs represented at Club Rush. Getting involved in a club is just one more way to get connected in our school community. Don’t forget to wear your blue CHS gear on Fridays and get your 5 star points. Please also continue to check out other important school news and events on the Smore newsletters and the main CHS social media links (Instagram and Facebook). You can find these links on the Get Connected handout on the CHS website. I truly believe that CHS is the best, and we are going to have an awesome year!

Go Pumas!

NEWS BRIEFS



Aaron Matheson
September
Student of the Month

National Merit Scholarship:

Seniors Johnathan Grey and Nikhil Jadav are finalists for the National Merit Scholarship. To achieve this, both scored 1490 and 1510 on the PSAT, respectively. Because of these high scores, both qualify for awards and scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Federation.

PSAT Payments Due Today:

For those who wish to take advantage of the PSAT, the due date to pay is today, Friday, September 22. By taking the PSAT, students can better prepare themselves for the SAT, should they choose to take it during their senior year. Additionally, juniors who take the test and earn high scores may qualify for scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Federation.

College Vist Sign-Ups:

To advertise what their schools have to offer, a large selection of colleges will be coming to Chaparral throughout the school year. Here, students can speak with official representatives from their respective colleges and learn more about the campus. To sign up, scan the QR code.



Suicide Prevention Month Awareness

Kayla Wiley ‘24
Copy Editor

For many students, high school can be a challenging time full of never-ending changes and varying levels of stress. The desire to maintain a flawless academic record, navigate through seemingly endless piles of homework, and work through conflicts with friends can be difficult to balance. In this type of season, it is easy to feel alone amidst all of the struggles and forget the essential importance of prioritizing mental health. The month of September is recognized as National Suicide Prevention Month, and it serves as a reminder that there are always people who hold genuine empathy and concern for those who are facing adversity. This remains true in a school setting especially, where teachers and staff members alike provide support for their students.

School social workers Ms. Kimberly Jensen and Mrs. Aura Contreras are two staff members on campus who prioritize student well-being. They maintain the Wellness Center, Room 324, a safe place students can turn to whenever they are feeling overwhelmed or need somebody to talk to. The awareness that September provides is an emphasis on the efforts they make each day to be there for every single student who needs them. “[Suicide Prevention Month’s] importance is just to make people aware that it is something we shouldn’t be afraid to talk about,” Jensen explained, “to be able to be there for others if they’re going through a bad time.” With unfaltering compassion, Jensen and Contreras create an atmosphere of peace and stability in their classroom. This gives students the opportunity to focus on their mental health and address the problems that are causing them unease in a safe environment.

In the Wellness Center, Jensen and Contreras offer many groups that



Credit: Kayla Wiley

Contreras encourages any students who need support to stop inside the Wellness Center.

students can join to gain support from their peers throughout their mental health struggles. The focuses of these groups include anxiety, feeling overwhelmed with school work, and many others that explore the topic of mental health. Contreras and Jensen also offer one-on-one meetings with students who may feel more comfortable with this setting. “I try to meet [students] where they’re at and just let them know that I’m here if they want to talk,” Jensen stated. Those who are interested in reaching out for this help can do so by either speaking to their counselor or visiting the Wellness Center directly. Requests can also be made by students who may be concerned about others. “If another student knows that one of their peers is

struggling, they can do a referral to the Wellness Center,” Jensen described. “We will reach [out to] that individual, meet with them, and go from there.”

While National Suicide Prevention Month is an essential reminder to be aware of the harmful warning signs, it is still greatly important to check in with others beyond the month of September. For those who are struggling, it is strongly encouraged to get connected and explore the variety of resources that are available. Though it may seem intimidating at the start, the effects are potentially life-changing and worth navigating. “This is a safe place ... you are not alone and we’re here to help,” Jensen emphasized. “You’re worth it, we want you to be around forever.”

The Celebration of Hispanic Heritage

Senaya Holloway ‘27
Staff Writer

Every year from September 15 to October 15, is National Hispanic Heritage month. During this time, the cultures, traditions, and stories that come from Spaniard, Caribbean, and Latin American backgrounds are honored and celebrated. The starting date of this thirty day long holiday is significant due to it being the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries including El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Honduras. Just days later, on September 16 and 18, Chile and Mexico also celebrated their days of independence.

Although long past, this month holds significance to the many generations beyond this history. “In California we have a lot of people that are coming from different Spanish-speaking countries. A lot of people here are heritage students or Spanish speakers,” Spanish 1 teacher Profe Loran Ferragut stated. This month gives a voice

to the different Hispanic cultures, and without this yearly celebration, many people could feel isolated from their history. With the large mixture of different ethnicities in even the small area of Southern California, a lack of cultural

worth to share [sharing],” Ferragut expressed.

These features can be viewed from the Hispanic dance lessons that took place near the stage on September 15. The recently formed club of Baila Latino led students in different



Credit: Alva Ruiz

Latinos Unidos officers prepared the stage to teach the bachata.

awareness can pose an issue to individuals’ sense of self belonging and identity. “So it is so important because we are part of the world, and the Hispanic heritage is part of the world, and its rich in culture and food and colors, everything. It’s

traditional Spanish dances, spreading the traditions of the culture to Pumas across campus. “I know for a lot of individuals as well it has come from feeling like you can’t really express that culture or you don’t feel connected to it and

so I think celebrating this month is really important to kind of get the word out there that Hispanic people, they have a rich culture and they shouldn’t be ashamed of it.” Isabelle Arrieta, president of the Hispanic Heritage club, remarked. The mission of spreading positivity was not the only one in mind with this event. “I would say it brings the community together and the students just look like they’re having a fun time. They look like they’re really enjoying themselves,” Arrieta added. Spanish culture will continue to be a staple among society and the people who trace their roots back to it, but this year we celebrate the thirty day long holiday of 2023.

The importance of this month extends beyond, but is not limited to, the physicality of the celebrations that take place. Many people cook traditional dishes and watch firework displays. The unique diversity of Hispanic culture is colorful, loud, bright, and flavorful. These aspects create a memorable way to ring in another year of pride and independence.



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

Dallin Grey
Svetlana Hohol

Faculty Advisor

Ryan Leonhardi

Principal

Tina Miller

Printed by

Reed
Printing

Managing Editors

Lauren Padilla
Skylyn Roman

School News Editor

Katherine Ivey

Copy Editors

Melissa Chai
Sophie Santana
Kayla Wiley
Chloë Zuñiga

Editorials Editor

Hailey Mera

Newsroom Manager

A&E/Lifestyles Editor

Ava Torner

Video Manager

Alexia De Leon

Sports Editor

Julian Stanfield

Photo Manager

Navin Gopalan

Journalists

Alana Adams	Bethel Albe
Presley Azevedo	Athena Ebuén
Jackson Gamero	Senaya Holloway
Sparrow Magdirila	Emilio Medrano
Jessica Oler	Brielle Olson
Sophia Pacia	Miriya Platero
Sophia Preciado	Alyza Reclusado
Meadow Rivera	Isabel Serrano
Alice Signorello	

chsplatinumpress.com



The Platinum Press



@theplatinumpress



@ThePlatinumPress

The *Barbie* Movie is Not an Attack on Masculinity

Brielle Olson '26
Staff Writer

With the recent release of the *Barbie* movie, some debate has sparked on multiple fronts, the most prominent being the movie's message. Within *Barbie*, the screenwriter and director, Greta Gerwig, makes a point of bringing femininity into the limelight, while displaying the expectations and realities of how women interact with society. In the movie, *Barbie* is confronted with the challenge of exploring womanhood in the real world, and the comparison between her life in *Barbie Land* and the expectations of women in the real world.

In the past, society has been dominated by men and the patriarchal monarchy, which did not leave much room for advancement for women. As times changed, women have gained more rights and chances for a more



Credit: San Francisco Chronicle

In Greta Gerwig's hit movie, *Barbie* is stripped from a "perfect" feminist utopia and put to the test in the modern world.

prominent role in society. With this change in gender roles and women gaining more freedom in politics and the job market, society started to step in the right direction. However, they did not gain much freedom from the stereotypes and

roles of the past. As most women are expected to be the housekeepers in relationships, it adds burdens like cooking, cleaning, and doing the laundry onto the women in the relationship instead of having shared duties.

this struggle and emphasize some of the faults of society, doing this through the use of fictional characters and the characters' hardships.

There has also been some debate on whether or not the movie was being used to attack men and their masculinity. However, that is not the case; the movie not only highlights the adventures of *Barbie*, but also *Ken* as he also goes on a quest of self-discovery and learns what it means to be a man, not just an ornament meant to make *Barbie* look good. He also starts to learn that he is his own person and is allowed to have his own wants and needs as he becomes comfortable in his personal identity. The movie is meant to showcase what it means to

be a woman, how harmful the patriarchy is to not only women but to everyone, and the valuable role that men, like *Ken*, have in a non-patriarchal society.

Overall, *Barbie* was meant to point out society's faults and speak out about inequalities that both genders face, not to pit people and genders against each other. Rather than fuel existing tension and provoke arguments, the idea of this movie was to address some of the pressing issues that all of society faces while keeping it comedic and enjoyable to watch. The movie is inspiring and voices out for a change in social norms, while also showing that no one gender is better than the other.



Credit: Watertown Daily Times

Social conventions are unrealistic and promote expectations that are unattainable.

Youth Fight to Have Their Voices Included in Politics

Sophie Santana '24
Copy Editor

Historically, student involvement in school politics has been relatively low, but with the rising media prevalence of various school boards, this seems to no longer be the case. The increased awareness in regards to school politics that have resulted from such controversies has been an overwhelmingly positive change for students, with many taking the opportunity to develop their own informed opinions and educating themselves on real world issues. Due to this development of students taking such an informed interest in their own school district, their opinions should be the ones most important to take into account.

In recent months, attendance of school board meetings has been at an all-time high, with both parents and staff choosing to take the time out of their busy schedules to speak before the board. In fact, spots at the latest school board meetings have become so highly-coveted that a ticket distribution system had to

be implemented in order to manage the high number of attendees. However, staff and parents are not the only ones who have been making appearances at these meetings; students have

participate in regulating them, such as their own parents or other adult members of the community. The opinions of young people are often overlooked within the political arena,

the classroom and what campus culture is like.

The concerns of parents who believe they should have a right to know what their children are learning in the classroom

primary resources when it comes to what issues within the school district need to be addressed. Learning to participate and inform oneself about the ongoing within the political arena is a critical aspect to the educating of young adults, and there is no better place to first get involved than within one's own community. Young people need to learn to utilize their voices and form their own educated opinions on important matters, as shielding them from such matters will only leave them underprepared for entering adulthood. The young people speaking at these meetings are not only representative of the student body, but of the future voters who will be leading our country in the years to come. If the enthusiasm surrounding school-level political activism is any indication of the democratic participation of the younger generations as a whole, then one could only imagine how this level of involvement will continue into future years and set a precedent for the future generations to come.



Credit: Vecteezy

Rising concerns in today's world push students to become more politically vocal about their opinions.

been attending in record numbers as well, seeking an opportunity to make their own voices heard.

For students, school politics have a far more personal impact on them compared to others who

even if their own quality of life is the central topic of debate. The community often fails to acknowledge that it is the students, not their parents, who are most familiar with the inner workings of

are certainly not to be dismissed. However, one must admit that the students themselves are more likely to have a better grasp on the needs and situations of their own schools, and therefore should be the

Society Wrongly Attributes Homelessness to Self-Disregard

Hailey Mera ‘25
Editorials Editor

Homelessness is oftentimes viewed as failure, and while it differs drastically from those who are fortunate enough to have a home despite its size, it is not. Typically, homeless people live on the streets, and throughout every state, there are countless homeless individuals, even families, whether they are camped near a local establishment, underneath a tunnel, or even the generic sidewalk. Poverty is not an indication of one’s lack of effort, but rather an unfortunate outcome that one simply must live through. For some, due to poor decisions and the lack thereof, poverty is the result of one’s careless mistakes. However for many others, poverty and homelessness is an ongoing reality that is difficult to escape.

Within the nation, California is ranked number one for its high percentage of poverty rates, with 11.4 percent of the population being homeless. One of the leading causes of homelessness amongst families and individuals is low-income and minimum paying jobs. While it is understandable that each and every state cannot accommodate all those that are homeless due to the millions of people that find themselves in this predicament, they can at least make an effort to spread awareness of those on the streets. In regards to the causes of homelessness, there



Credit: Lisc.org

Due to the persisting stigma and stereotypes surrounding homelessness, many Americans are hesitant to assist those in need and instead continue to belittle them. Homelessness bring up the debate about whether or not the people that are homeless simply did not care to work hard enough than those that are not. However, what most fail to realize is those who have served the country and sacrificed so much can end up just as poor as those who are living on the street and it is not because they stopped caring or never tried, but because of the ongoing changes made in the economy that demand such high-paying fines. Aside from the financial demands that most families and individuals fail to meet, being homeless can be caused by much more than how much money is in one’s bank. Those who do not have support from their family and suffer from mental illnesses can find themselves in the same situation. The only difference is that not only are they poor, but they are not even themselves mentally and physically any more. Even though there are shelters and programs supporting people living on the streets, not everyone has the same advantages, and millions do not even have the resources to help aid their current situations. Driving by and making insulting comments on those that are homeless happens to be just as easy as stopping to think about those who are less fortunate.

Hawaiian Way of Life Threatened by Excessive Tourism

Lauren Padilla ‘24
Managing Editor

Tourism in Hawaii has always been a hotly debated topic due to the undeniable economic prosperity it has brought to the islands. However, this prosperity came at the expense of the local people as the island became overly reliant on tourists. Foreigners have continuously exerted their influence on the islands, notably beginning with the American annexation of Hawaii. Not only has the traditional culture of the Hawaiian people been consistently disregarded, but so has the concern for the destruction of their home—until the recent Maui wildfires.

As the United States shifted its economic interests to the islands,

not only did more businesses migrate, but also more people who became attracted to the tropical appeal. With the increase in tourism came the degradation of the sacred ecosystems and abundant species on the islands. As the construction of tourist attractions became prioritized, deforestation abounded and resources became scarce, contributing to the changing environment and climate. While the exact cause of the Maui wildfires is unknown, many experts believe these factors, alongside foreign invasive species, contributed to the deadly nature of these flames. With many natural water sources being drained, drought plagued the island and likely contributed to the loss of at least 114 people in the fires.

Still, these professional opinions are being overshadowed by rising conspiracy theories that attempt to shift the blame away from tourism in an effort to protect the industry. Rather than acknowledge the consequences of their actions, many are content to accept false and outlandish claims about the fires’ origin; some even claim that they were started by a government space laser. This is not an uncommon occurrence, as most people look to form other conclusions that allow them to deny any responsibility for their wrongdoings. While each individual may not directly contribute to the deterioration of the Hawaiian islands, by choosing to ignore the clear problems, they enable its continuance.



Credit: Raneen AlRammahi

The developments of tourist attractions have overrun the needs of Hawaiians. Following the extinguishing of the Maui fires, many were eager to resume their travel plans and make their way to the islands. Even after an absolute tragedy, tourists prioritize their own pleasure rather than consider the sacrifices made in order to create their dream vacation. Various cultural traditions have been reduced to tourist gimmicks and natives cannot indulge in their customs without judgment or appropriation by nonnatives. Countless locals have been displaced in favor of a tourist paradise—which they are told they should be thankful for. Vacationers often make the argument that the islands would not be able to survive and thrive without them, but the years before such an industry suggest otherwise. While proponents of this thinking insist that prioritizing tourism is the only solution to the devastating effects of the fires, in reality, it ignores the opportunity to prioritize local culture. Rather than cater to tourists, locals can focus on rebuilding their relationships with each other and the land surrounding them. This persisting ignorance only worsens the state of the islands as people continue to disregard the prevalent effects of climate change and refuse to change their daily habits. If tourists were to stop traveling to Hawaii, at least for the time being, then the local people could focus on rebuilding not only the environment but also their economy. They could slowly shift the economic dependency on tourism to native commerce. Additionally, the natural landscape would no longer need to be destroyed to create tourism opportunities, allowing native species to recover. Hawaiian locals would be able to rest assured knowing that their beloved home is on the way to restoration.

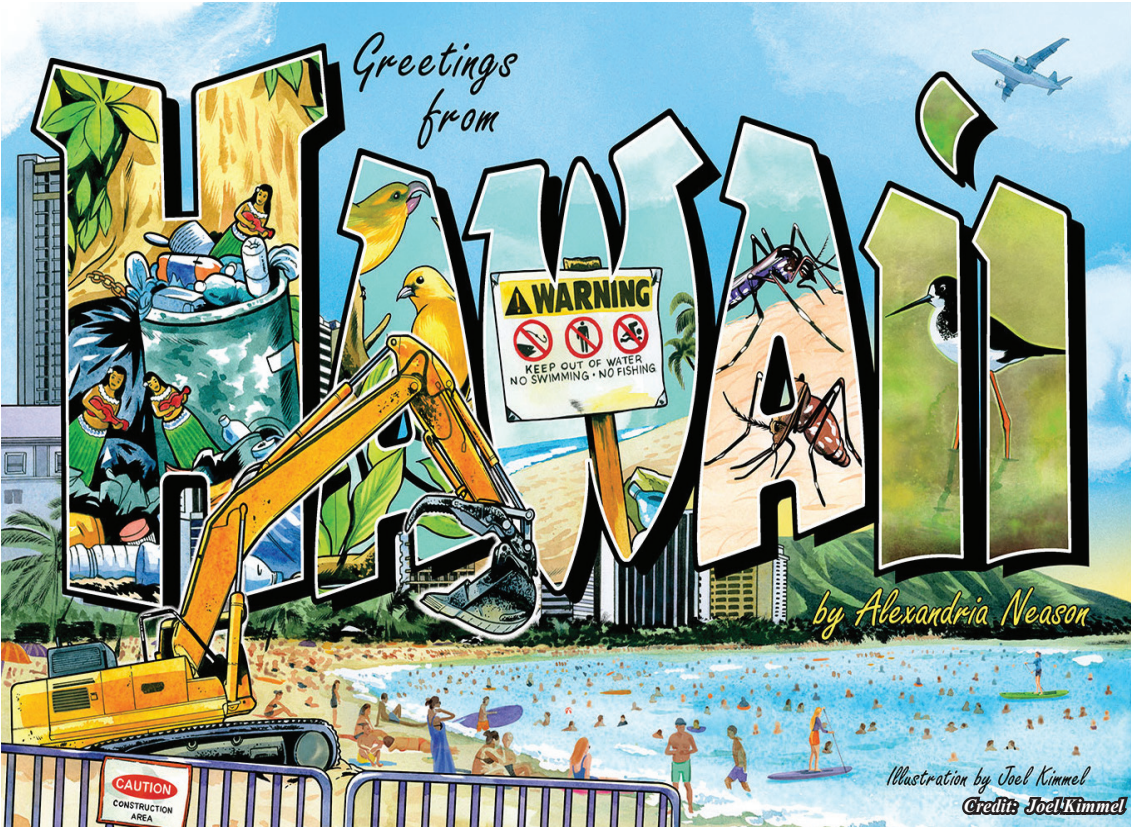


Illustration by Joel Kimmel

Credit: Joel Kimmel

The tourism industry has overtaken much of the natural beauty and traditions that were once abundant in the Hawaiian islands.

Every Fan Wants *One Piece* of the Hit Live Action Remake

Athena Ebuen '24
Staff Writer

After much deliberation on whether or not to collaborate with Netflix, the live-action adaptation series *One Piece* was released on August 31, 2023. Sailing from the East Blue Sea, Monkey D. Luffy and his crew hope to reach the Grand Line to find the *One Piece* that the King of the Pirates, named Gol D. Roger, left behind.

After many years of piracy spreading throughout the waters of the world, the Marines were finally able to capture the infamous Pirate King and conducted a public execution in his hometown, Loguetown. Before he was executed, Roger told his people to free themselves from the rules of the World Government and take to the seas as “[his] treasure is [theirs] to find.” As a result, a new era of piracy began, also known as the Great Pirate Era, where individuals inspired by Roger’s words took to the seas to find the One Piece. Although it has been decades since the adventure to find the treasure, it has not stopped Luffy to pursue his dream of becoming King of the Pirates. However, he is not the only one searching for the treasure. Other infamous pirates, like Captain Alvida and Buggy, take the chase to find the treasure as well. With the help of his fellow crew members, they hope to find the last island that



Luffy and his crew (the straw hat pirates) set into dangerous adventures to recover the grand treasure, called the *One Piece*.

contains Roger’s golden treasure.

Originally, Eiichiro Oda, the creator of *One Piece*, was hesitant about the idea of bringing his creation to live-action due to the failures of past anime adaptations and the lack of technology that could potentially fulfill Oda’s vision. However, he was able to reach an agreement with Netflix where he let them adapt his series into live-action

if they gave Oda quality control over the production. As an executive producer, Oda had the final say in all stages of production. This includes reshooting scenes until the actors portrayed their characters in a way that would satisfy both anime and non-anime fans, as well as ensure that *One Piece* was adapted properly. Junior Michael Guidi, an avid fan of the anime, expressed his amazement

of the live-action. He stated, “They captured each character almost perfectly. The combination of putting two different timelines together that were [about] fifteen episodes apart [was] amazing, way better than it should have been. Also, the CGI was great and the way everything was laid out was just perfect.” Another detail that shocked him and other fans was the fact that Oda had fit about forty-

five episodes of the original anime all into eight, one-hour episodes. The entirety of *One Piece* itself spreads over a thousand episodes in the anime, and with almost every other episode, Luffy and his crew are already moving to a new place. With countless directions that the episodes could go in and none of the storyline repeating itself, it was challenging for the scriptwriters and Oda to decide what parts of the story to keep and block. For those who have not watched the original anime, Guidi commented, “for the most part, you get a[n] [idea] of how everything works.” In other words, the writers of the live-action tried their best to keep it similar to the anime. Guidi added, “*One Piece* is the only one that is actually [trying] to replicate what happens in the series of events within the original anime itself.” Although creating an adaptation revolving around non-canonical events does give a quick ending to an anime, it destroys the original story of the anime and its characters.

Unlike other anime adaptations, the series stayed true to the original in terms of character personality and canonical events with a healthy budget to produce high quality computer-generated imagery (CGI). Two weeks after the series premiered on August 31, Netflix’s live-action *One Piece* will be setting sail once more for season two after the major success with the production of the first season.

Eras Tour Rewrites Music History

Miriya Platero '25
Staff Writer

With years of music experience in genres spanning from classic country to innovative indie-folk, American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift has made a name for herself within the music industry, quickly rising as one of the most famous artists of our time. The singer’s latest tour, the Eras Tour, began March 17, 2023, and is scheduled to end November 23, 2024. The tour has quickly become the highest-grossing tour of all time at an outstanding \$2.2 billion, dethroning Elton John’s famous Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour. As fans are fighting their way into

first week. The film will encapsulate the complexity of the production of the Eras Tour, setting Swift’s notable mark on the music industry. In April of 2020, Swift was meant to begin her tour for her album, *Lover* entitled Lover Fest. Unfortunately, the tour was then canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout COVID-19, Swift astonished fans by coming out with multiple albums and re-releases. In an interview on *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, Taylor Swift expresses her displeasure with the music industry not giving her rights to her music as she claims, “I was the one who made this music first, I can just make it again.” Upset with her lack of rights, Swift also began re-recording many of her old

songs from her more recent albums, such as *Midnights*, *Folklore* and *Evermore*. These eras reference every album Swift has come out with, with each one having its own unique sound and aesthetic. No two albums are the same, from the flashy 80s-inspired side of pop featured in 1989 to the mellow story-tellings of folklore. Sophomore Holly Tweedle expresses her interest in Swift when she stated, “I like how she always switches up the genre from going to country to pop and indie. I don’t have to stay on one genre.” Swift’s music captivated audiences with each era’s individuality, which will be captured directly through the production of the *Eras* film. Taylor has continued to impact audiences for years with her music.



The Eras Tour was the most attended concert by a female artist in the U.S., a record previously held by Madonna in 1987.

queues to get tickets for their local concert, many worldwide have been led to disappointment after not scoring tickets for their favorite artist. Despite this, fans’ sorrow is being relieved by the promise of the film *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour*, which is set o be released in North American theaters on October 13, 2023. The film is estimated to bring in \$100 million to the box office in its

albums. What stands out to fans is the original and fresh nature of the Eras Tour, which covers seventeen years of music. The concept of the tour meant Swift was able to perform and make up for all of the previous tours that were disrupted by COVID-19 but also pays homage to her original albums, such as *Fearless*, *Red*, and *Speak Now*. However, the tour also featured

Junior Eduardo Castillo claims, “her songs make me calm down.” Due to Swift’s large fanbase and high prices, many fans were unable to attend the beloved Eras Tour in person. The film *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour* gives those who were unable to get tickets a chance to immerse themselves in an experience of seeing their favorite performing artist live on stage.

Laufey’s Rapid Rising

Alyza Reclusado '24
Staff Writer

With her melodic tunes and charming voice, Icelandic-Chinese singer-songwriter Laufey has positively impacted the music industry since launching her debut single, “Street by Street”. Often credited for reviving the genres of classical and jazz music, fans adore her unique style and ability to capture relatable emotions. On September 8, she released her newest album, *Bewitched*, leaving many students moved by the messages lying within and losing themselves in the soothing tone of her singing.

Growing up, Laufey was surrounded by music. Her mother was a violinist, inspiring her to learn cello at eight, and her grandmother taught her piano at four. Her love for classical music comes from her grandmother who introduced her to Chopin, Rachmaninoff, and Schubert, all classical music legends. Her love for jazz comes from her father’s records of Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and Chet Baker, all of whom have inspired Laufey’s discography. Senior Elias Harris expressed his fondness towards Laufey’s unique sound in a pop-dominated industry. “What made her popular is being able to take a sound—jazzy bossy nova—that not many have been exposed to,” he said, “What got me interested is hearing a genre I really love that is new.” Now, at twenty-four years old, her musical inclination has helped her debut as an artist who quickly climbs the charts.

Her career started in 2020 with her single, “Street by Street”, which charted number one on Icelandic Radio. Continuing this crusade, she released her extended play, *Typical of Me*, which now has over ten million streams across streaming

platforms. She continued on with her first album, *Everything I Know About Love*, which has a light, hyper-romantic theme centered around Laufey’s personal past experiences. Her album debuted number one on Billboard’s Alternative New Artist Album chart and was soon followed by her second album, *Bewitched*, which has a darker, more mature theme. *Bewitched* is meant to be a continuation of her first album, reflecting her shift in maturity and her growth writing music.

The relatability of her songs is part of what keeps fans feeling a connection to her. “Street by Street,” for example, is about a painful breakup and the process of bouncing back afterwards. “Letter to my 13 Year Old Self” represents the idea of having the commitment to pursue one’s dreams. “Magnolia” is about the chain of admiration in society and how people see perfection in everyone. Junior Staci Vongphakdy shared her love for the artist and her songs. “I just love her vocals ... it is so calming and her beats make everything fit so well together,” she said, “I like how [fans] can relate to her lyrics and how her songs portray how we feel.”

As Laufey continues to grow, the love for classical and jazz music spreads further than ever before. Touching upon humans’ shared emotions, she is adored by those who come across her musical talent. As Junior Finn Perez summarized, what makes people stay is the respect she holds for her supporters. “She is so in touch with her fans and so social with them,” they said, “She actually notices [us] and puts effort into trying to get to know us.” Laufey’s career continues to progress at a rapid pace with The *Bewitched* Tour taking place next year, leaves many fans excited for what various possibilities is to come in the near future.

The Play That Goes Wrong Cast Prepares for Opening Night

Chaparral Actors' Troupe
Presents

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

October 12 & 13 @ 7pm
October 14 @ 2pm & 7pm

Buy your tickets at www.chaparralactorstroupe.com

\$12 \$10 \$9
General Students/Military/55+ w/ ASB

Chaparral High School Performing Arts Center, 27215 Nicolas Road, Temecula
For information call (951) 695-4200

Presented through special arrangement with Dramatist Play Service, 2023

Athena Ebuena '24
Staff Writer

The Play That Goes Wrong is a 2012 comedy play written by Henry Lewis, Henry Shields, and Jonathon Sayer. Members of the Chaparral Actors Troupe (CAT) have been preparing for a long time to deliver yet another enjoyable and entertaining production that will be taking place on October 12, 13, and 14 at 7 PM for all productions and one at 2PM on October 14. From sets collapsing due to poor setup to an actor that cannot play dead, the entire cast and crew face a crisis of so many issues that happen one after another.

The play within the play is called *The Murder at Haversham Manor*, where there has been an unfortunate death at a country manor. Everyone inside the manor becomes a suspect, and an inspector named Carter, is sent to investigate the sudden death of Charles to find who the culprit may be. The play takes place on the opening night of a theater production and everything goes terribly wrong, as the title implies. Suddenly, the sets fall apart, the actors disappear, the people start tripping over each other on the set, and everything starts to go downhill from there. In spite of the calamities that have taken place, the actors are striving to make the odds in their favor no matter how difficult the situation may seem.

Compared to other drama productions they have seen in the past, this one is a bit different. In the context of *The Play That Goes Wrong*, the sets are intentionally designed to fall apart, adding to the comedic effect as actors feign getting "hurt" during these planned mishaps. Furthermore, the actors, like Alexa Tmekei Peterson, who is a senior member of the show's cast, spoke about how each actor must play two characters during the show's run. "You

are playing a character who is an actor and they're not good at that. That's the only way we're able to actually portray what we're trying to portray. Instead of thinking, 'Oh, we're the character in that play that is going wrong,' it's more like we think we're the character who is trying to make this play not go wrong," Tmekei Peterson explained. To clarify, using her as an example, she is acting as an actor named Jonathon who is acting as Charles Haversham, the man who suddenly died in the manor. Her character is the one trying his best to act dead, however, Jonathon does not do a good job of naturally faking his death. This is considered to be a new thing since CAT have not had the experience of acting badly in the past without having to exaggerate the bad behavior in order to accomplish that.

As the first drama of the school year approaches, the cast and crew are extremely excited to perform their part. Tmekei Peterson expressed her excitement about the shock factors that the show has in store and shared how the fall play happens to be her favorite. Unlike musicals where having years of experience in singing or dancing is a recommended talent to have, fall plays are more focused on how an actor understands their character. "It's more of a testament of your quality of acting rather than your quality of other [talents] that have to be considered to make a good musical," Tmekei Peterson explained, prompting students outside of the drama department to audition for fall plays if singing or dancing is not their field of interest. CAT, the behind-the-scenes crew, and Mr. Christopher Irvin continue to devote their efforts in hopes of creating a humorous, fun play for students to enjoy. As opening night approaches, the team will continue to practice so that they may give their best when the day arrives.

Esther Chavarrias' Harmonic Gifts

Alana Adams '25
Staff Writer

In Greek culture, a Polymath is someone who has learned much. These people are multi-talented in many ways. Individuals who are deemed this title are also known as 'Jack of all trades'. They are able to express talents, whether academic, musical, or physical. One student on campus, Junior Esther Chavarria, is capable of playing five instruments, is captain of the Mock Trial team, and participates in tennis. She stated, "I play piano, guitar, ukulele, viola, I sing. Those are my main five."

Chavarria has been playing music for thirteen years. Her first introduction to music was through her father. Due to his immense love for it, he introduced her to piano and she soon followed with other instruments. Chavarria expressed, "I've been playing music since I was around three years old. My dad was really into it so I just started playing because he taught me when I was younger." Her interest in music piqued in church. Seeing her older sister and father play the piano inspired her musical goals. She conveyed, "[My father] and my older sister [inspired me because] they always played in church so I really got into [playing the piano]."

Alongside her multi-instrumental talents, Chavarria is also the captain of the Mock Trial team. She participates in court to understand how scenarios would actually happen. Chavarria has been on the Mock Trial team for three years and explained that she joined

to expand her knowledge of the court system. "I was always interested in how court[s] actually worked, and I was really excited to be able to go to a real courthouse and be able to fight a case," she noted. Chavarria expressed many favorite moments from her time participating in Mock Trial, but she says one that stood out to her was, "There was one time I was on the witness stand ... and one of the attorneys from the other team asked me a question that actually made, that broke down our case in a way, but I responded in a really weird way that should have been objected to, but they didn't object to, and we ended up winning the case."

Moreover, Chavarria also participates in school clubs. She expressed, "I am also president [of the] Women In STEM [Club] and then we also have the music club ... and then [I am] a junior [representative] for CSF and for Key Club." Chavarria proudly represents multiple clubs and readily participates. She intends to use her Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) knowledge in the future. "The one that I'm most into is Women In STEM [because] I plan on becoming an engineer," she said. She wishes to attend the California Institute of Technology or the University of Southern California. Chavarria's accomplishments are highly impressive, including musical talent, physical acceleration, and guiding school groups.



Credit: Ester Chavarrea
Junior Ester Chavarrea devotes time to practice one of her various musical talents.

Improv's Barbie World

Alice Signorello '25
Staff Writer

Following the beginning of this new school year, students from the Improvisation (Improv) team worked together to create a show that can be captivating and entertaining for students. On September 29 at 7 PM, improv will create a show with several games, such as Olympics, One in Five, Helping Hands and others that are yet to be revealed. The theme chosen for this show is "Barbie," following the release of the new movie. The Improv team is encouraging students to dress up as Barbie and Ken for the show.

The two squad captains, Senior Alexa Tmekei Peterson and Junior Maya Castañeda, have been working on the show since last summer. They have been practicing with other student actors for about three weeks, conducting practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays. However, the A-Squad had additional practices on Wednesdays because they had to prepare for three different games.

Before the show, Castañeda, the A-Squad captain, expressed her happiness to see the two teams more united with each other. "I'm super excited and I think everyone's a lot closer now because last year there was a lot of division between both squads and within squads ... and I think everyone's just really excited to just get started with it," she said. For many years the two Improv squads have been divided, where one squad was above the other.

But this year, the captains closed the division and made sure the two squads are on the same level with each other rather than separated. Castañeda commented about the news of the improvisation team, and noted "For the first time ever, we have two girl captains, who are captain-captain and not captain-assisted-captain. We also are going to try and have two B-squad games this year; we're really planning on it." In this way, B-Squad and A-Squad can make game choices and try new games that they have never tried before.

As for the goals that each captain has, Castañeda said, "We really want to make it a big thing that everyone is heard, which has been a problem in the past. We want everyone to be able to perform, no matter what. Every single B-Squad will be performing." Moving forward, if there are problems, they will be addressed and fixed.

For Freshman Mercedes Santiago, this is her first year on the improv team. She expressed her enthusiasm and stated, "I'm very excited for the improv show because I cannot wait to show Chaparral High School everything we've been working on and what we are working on in classes." She also said that as a first year improvisation team member, she feels very well and describes the team as a "safe place" where you can share the same interests with other people. The hope of the whole improvisation team is to entice people to try improvisation, learn how to publicly speak and not be embarrassed.

Cøllective Spreads Creative Influence

Sky Roman ‘24
Managing Editor

From ballet to hip hop, or any other style of dance in between, dance is a form of art that has the ability to captivate audiences in so many different ways. With the hopes of allowing more students the opportunity to utilize and display their talents to these audiences, the new project team on campus, Cøllective, has been established. Senior directors Alex Borja, Mariana Velasco, and Nicole Hale created this team and

personal lives, Velasco commented, “It’s been fun, because we’re all friends. We meet up, we brainstorm ... we’re excited.” The establishment of this new team is something that they had been thinking of for quite some time. They wanted it to be more casual for students to join, different from the varsity and junior varsity dance teams which are more structured. Their intention was to establish an environment that allowed more people to pursue their love for dance even if they were not able to make it on to those teams. Borja elaborated, “What we want to

do have plans on possibly venturing out into a more competitive scene once everything is set in place. While the details are still being planned out, there are several dance competitions that the directors are looking into for the team. As far as the style of dance that audiences can look forward to, the genres that the team plans to explore in their choreography are a mix of several different styles. Hale explained, “There’ll be some hip hop parts, and then it’ll be like a fusion to have maybe more modern contemporary [styles].” They are looking to simply experiment more with this team, exploring the different styles for the competitive scene. This is important to the members—the idea of expanding to incorporate bits and pieces of genres that they all like. Especially for Hale, who started dancing ballet, and still has passion for that style of dance. Although she has branched out with different genres too she expressed, “I still like to share my flowy, creative ideas that are different [from other styles of dance].” This flexibility with sharing different styles gives them the chance to collaborate and make the impact of this team more meaningful to each member.

Dance has been a big part of all of their lives, which is why they all want to use their experience to impact the lives of other students who like to dance. “It’s good to know that I can help others, and also grow on my own journey,” Velasco expressed, to which Borja agreed, “I want to help build a community for those people who vividly want to do something but just can’t do it due to their own mental restrictions.” Having a space for students on campus that can bring their passion for dancing regardless of their experience will create new opportunities for all to feel welcomed and comfortable as they hone their skills. They are aiming to create an impact on the dance community on campus, and hopefully garner support from all students while they make a name for themselves.



Pumas give it their all during an audition in order to be a part of the collective team.

welcomed all students to audition on September 15, offering an alternative outlet for students who want to express their creative side in the form of dance.

Cøllective was initiated by several members of the board, all with the mutual goal of bringing students together to collaborate on this project. All of them with the same shared passion for dancing have made the process of coming together quite smooth. Though a lot of thought had to be put into planning auditions, schedules, and managing their own

do is build a community of dancers. Because lately in our school, it’s been hard to find people who want to grow and develop as a dancer.” He hopes that Cøllective is able to initiate that spark in many students who want to develop their skills further, regardless of if they are a beginner or an advanced dancer. The team also aims to be more flexible with their schedule, so that people with multiple extracurriculars have the opportunity to participate too.

Despite the more casual environment they are creating, they

Puma Bakers Sprinkle Their Love Around the Community

Alyza Reclusado ‘24
Staff Writer

Whether it be a fluffy slice of cake or a gooey, chocolate chip cookie, everyone enjoys a sweet treat to brighten their day. Throughout campus, bakers have shared their goods, showcasing their skills and creativity through their delicious recipes. While some, like Senior Ava Blanding, have used their skills to open up businesses, others, like Sophomore Isabelle Marmeto, bake with the purpose of expressing their artistic side. As the providers for the sweet tooth community, they work hard to share the joys of baking with everyone and everyone.

From a young age, Blanding has taken interest in cooking up sweet treats for her friends and family, and recently expanded

to share her loved recipes with the broader community. “I have been baking my whole life,” said Blanding. “I decided I wanted to share [my recipes] with [everyone] because I just love making people happy.” With the knowledge she developed over the years, she opened Sustenance Cookies, a cookie business run from the comfort of her own kitchen. As a solo employee, Blanding goes the extra mile to meet the demands of her customers. “Usually I wake up really early in the morning to make all these orders ... the process of waking up at 5 A.M ... it can be really tiring,” she said. “[Though], it is really fun being able to [bake the cookies].” With a range of goods like chocolate chips, snickerdoodles, oatmeal, and red velvet available on her website, sustenanceeats.com, such variety reflects the dedication Blanding has to her craft.

Through Sustenance Cookies, Blanding hopes the experience helps prepare her for the future. “I want to go to culinary school for college ... and open up a restaurant,” she expressed. “The experience of opening up a business was really helpful for me.” However, what matters most to Blanding is being able to give back to her community. Every month, she brings cookies to a food pantry; with her most recent drop-off being at St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. When making her business, she ensured it was not just for profit, but a business that makes sweet treats accessible to all.

Sharing the same sentiments towards baking, Marmeto used this hobby to connect with those closest to her. “I like to [bake] because I use it as a way to connect to my friends and family,” she explained. “I like to do experiments with food ... and I like to share it with them.” Marmeto also shares her recipes on her Instagram account, @ixzy.daily, where she showcases recipes for beignets, churros, cakes,



Sophomore Isabelle Marmeto prepares tasty pastries to share with her family and Pumas across campus.

cookies, and more. While the outcome of these recipes is always appreciated by those around her, a lot of her passion comes from the process of baking itself. “I enjoy [baking] because it is satisfying and healing in a type of way,” she said. “When I make cakes I like to make certain styles ... which [helps me] show my artistic side.” On her account, Marmeto has drawn in supporters interested in her simple aesthetics and unique styles of her baked goods. While primarily drawing inspiration from TikTok and Pinterest recipes, she takes inspiration from others sources, as well. “Looks-wise, I [like making]

cakes [with] a vintage type of style,” Marmeto said. “[One of] my favorite [recipes] is cookies inspired by Gilmore Girls.” With the mental and creative benefits of baking, it is no surprise why so many are coming to love this craft. Though all bakers have different motives for baking, what unites them is their shared love for experimenting, prepping, decorating, and sharing their handmade creations with others. Alongside the detailed process of making their goods, knowing that they can make an impact on people’s days and the broader community is the cherry on top of it all.

Because Nice Matters Week

9/25 - 9/29

Monday: Dress like a Minion
A Minion ways to be kind on campus.
Wear yellow or purple with jeans





Tuesday: Dress as Your Younger Self
Be the person your younger self would
admire and dress like a kid

Wednesday: Disney Day
Make CHS the happiest place on
Earth, wear Disney





Thursday: Band Together and Be Kind
Dress like your favorite singer, band
or wear a concert t-shirt

Friday: Jersey Day
Team up against bullying - wear your favorite sports
jersey, t-shirt or Puma spirit shirts





Blanding finalizes her baked good and plates them.

Field Hockey Looks Forward to Early Success in League

Sophia Preciado '27
Staff Writer

As the new school year begins, so does the fall sports season, including the Varsity Field Hockey team. The field hockey team worked hard to be as prepared and ready as possible, from working with teams from other high schools to receiving feedback from coaches over the summer. Their preparation for the season has paid off; Varsity player Junior Amy Hindrawinata explained, "The

biggest difference is how much we have improved. It's still only pre-league, but our ranking and records are really good right now and [we] have improved so much compared to last season." The team's expectations for a successful season are high as they continue to practice and prepare. This is evident as the season continues, with scores such as 3-0 against Mission Hills High School, 1-0 against Vista Murrieta High School, and more. Starting the season off, improvement from this team has never been better. Despite occasional bumps in the road, the team continues to thrive and push, managing to maintain good outstanding wins against other schools. "The biggest challenge our team faces is keeping a positive attitude and mindset when we are down in a game," Senior Alexis Mills explained. Regardless, the team has been able to continue



Credit: Holly Handler

The Varsity Field Hockey team huddles together during their game. Their hard work has paid off with much success.

to overcome various challenges on the field and individually, the girls have maintained strong mentalities and focused mindsets along the way, leading to a promising season ahead. "The best thing about being on this team is the team itself. I have made so many friends from field hockey and all my teammates are amazing," Mills explained. "I also think our coach has been super supportive and great at pushing us to do our best." The field hockey team has proven to have an extremely positive environment. A family bond has taken hold within the team as each player pushes each other to be the best they can, all while keeping it fun. These beneficial relationships

definitely show on the field, as communication is a significant aspect of obtaining success in the sport. Creating that family bond and safe atmosphere, the girls are able to compete to their best abilities. The trust that each player builds in each other is extremely crucial, which helps to contribute to the reliability of their teammates during the game. "It is super important for the team to have a good bond because we have to communicate with each other on and off the field," Mills expressed. "We are also a family that needs to support and be there for each other." The expectations for this season are no different from the last: play hard and work even harder, all starting at

practice with this team. It is very clear that the field hockey team is charging into this season better than ever. The field hockey team continues to dominate the competition and the team looks forward to similar outcomes for the rest of the fall. A successful season is underway with the notable hard work the team is putting in. Excitement for the upcoming competition is heavy and the girls are ready to compete to their best abilities. With the California Interscholarship Federation (CIF) tournament in mind, the team will remain motivated and strive to be better athletes than ever before, leading to the success for the team this season.



Credit: Holly Handler

Junior Amy Hindrawinata starts off with the ball at midfield.

Rayford Makes Her Way to the Top of the Volleyball Court

Chloë Zuñiga '24
Copy Editor

Entering each game with a focused mindset and determination to give her all on the court, Senior Mauriana Rayford is a notable entity on the Varsity Girls Volleyball team. Playing mainly the attacking positions of outside hitter and middle blocker, Rayford proves her exceptional skill and role in aiding the team in their recent preseason and league victories with every powerful hit taken. Rayford began playing volleyball in the seventh grade when she started her journey practicing miscellaneous skills on her own. Soon after, she applied her found talent to Forza 1 Volleyball's middle school team for Bella Vista Middle School. After finding her passion for the sport through the lighthearted play of middle school league, Rayford continued her journey on club teams; she originally played for Forza 1, then later transferred to Viper Volleyball, and

finally to 951 Elite Volleyball Club, where she is currently on the 18-1s Elite team. Rayford has been a varsity-level volleyball player for all four years of her high school career. She attributed the sport to being a main source of inspiration for personal development, "I think I've grown a lot. I used to be very anti-social, and [though] I still kind of am, I feel like [volleyball has] just opened me up more." Rayford continued, "Through volleyball, I get to meet new people, and I also get to work on myself." As volleyball is a very mentally-competitive sport, typical practices focus on stressful situations, mental toughness, and team communication. Through the emphasis of these aspects of the game, Rayford has been able to stray from her previous timid demeanor on the court, consistently making attacking moves and going for every ball to assist her team on the path to success. Though she has made notable improvements throughout her completed three years on the Volleyball team, she continues

through her final high school volleyball season with more goals in mind, such as improving her skills in being a versatile player all around the court. "I'd like to get better at playing all positions ... but also to work on playing outside more because it's my first year playing the position." Rayford added, "I'd also like to grow stronger with my team, this is my last year, [so] I want to make memories." The scouting process and period of anticipation while awaiting offers is an experience every high school varsity athlete is familiar with, and Rayford is no exception. After continuous dedication to the sport throughout her high school years, in June 2023, she committed to play Division 1 college volleyball for Lamar University. Rayford shared, "I'm definitely going to play college volleyball because ... [volleyball] is like my escape. Whenever I play, I just feel like I can do anything." At Lamar University, Rayford hopes to explore the academic fields of either business or education.

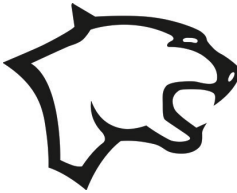


Credit: Madison Hudson

Rayford spikes the ball back at her opponents.



Athlete Spotlights



Photos and Spotlights by
Dallin Grey '24
Editor-in-Chief

Katelyn Puffer '24
Girls Tennis



Since her freshman year, Senior Katelyn Puffer has been a member of the Girls Tennis team and has risen to play at the Varsity level. She

first joined the team in search of an extracurricular activity and has "ended up really loving this sport." Puffer's consistent serves make her a very strong player on the court, and she looks to refine her ability to volley at the net. "The most rewarding part ... [would] definitely [be] taking what I've learned in practice and applying it in an actual game ... and seeing, like, the improvement," Puffer explained. While she does not plan to play in college, Puffer hopes to perform well with her team this season.

Jake Yendes '26
Boys Water Polo



Sophomore Jake Yendes has been a starting player for the Varsity Boys Water Polo team since his freshman year, starring as one of the

best defensive players in the league. Yendes began playing water polo about seven years ago because his family were fans of the sport; his father and uncle had played in college, and Yendes now plays on the team alongside his twin brother Jack. "I really like the aggressiveness of water polo and the fast-paced game play," Yendes stated. "I think that water polo players are well-rounded athletes." Yendes aspires to play in college and plans to keep an eye on Pepperdine University's reputable water polo program.

Lily Cavana '27
Girls Golf



Freshman Lily Cavana first picked up her golf clubs three years ago when her father introduced her to the sport and taught her how to play.

Since then, Cavana's talent for the sport has grown to the point that she started for the Varsity Girls Golf team in her first match this season. Her strongest skill in golf is her ability to get on the green using her wedge clubs and continues to improve her use of drivers and hybrids. Cavana finds joy in the peaceful outdoor aspect of golf. "I like going outside, just enjoying the nature and being able to play [golf] with people," she said. In the future, Cavana hopes to play golf for Arizona State University.

Varsity Cross Country Team Takes Off Into New Season

Jessica Oler '24
Staff Writer

With the 2023-24 school year, a new season arrives for the Varsity Cross Country (XC) team, which started off the year strongly with promising results from their recent invitationals. Having practiced tremendously throughout the summer, they proved practice makes perfect with ongoing successful runs. As a sport that requires speed and high endurance, XC demands a lot of time and dedication to achieve merit. Head Coach Mr. Martin Disenbacher shared, “We see many athletes that have improved individually; we also

have several new runners who we think will contribute to the team, so overall, the team seems to be in a good position.” Athletes, such as Senior Co-captain Isabella Arrieta, have been extremely outspoken and welcoming towards the improvements made with their new teammates. Arrieta stated, “We have some great talent that [has] recently joined, and I’ve been very proud.” She continued, “Our lineup of races are also a good mix of difficult and easy courses that we’ve had great experiences with in the past.” The Varsity XC team has put a lot of hard work into cross country. Getting to know your teammates is

an important aspect of the sport itself. To achieve optimal performance in any sport, it is essential to have a clear understanding of the individuals you’ll be growing with. “Last summer, we went to Mammoth where we spent a week running on trails together, taking hikes, going shopping, trying out new foods, and having team movie nights,” explained Arrieta, “Things like that really boost morale and you get to know your teammates really well.” Boosting morale is just as important as team bonding, as Arrieta acknowledged. It provides the spirit and strength for all runners, it is essential that when teammates are

down or in need of that extra push, someone is there to motivate and give them the energy to finish the run. Junior Quam Toukhi, another member of the Boys XC Team, stated, “We like to always cheer for each other throughout the course if we are not racing.” This allows them to work together in a strenuous time to achieve their goals as a team. Additionally, teammates strive to be compassionate towards each others’ issues. It is an influential aspect of cross country to have a supporting and welcoming environment. Coach Disenbacher confirmed this; he stated, “Generally, the athletes are sensitive if a teammate is struggling, and simply try to listen and be sympathetic if someone is having a tough day or struggling with an injury.” Having a positive relationship with your fellow athletes gives an additional incentive to complete the run and fully helps the team to complete their goal. The number one goal is for the team to “qualify for the postseason,” as Coach Disenbacher expressed. This postseason being California Interscholarship Federation (CIF), a governing body for all sports. With CIF being a huge milestone, Toukhi and Arrieta both acknowledged that it is their most important goal of the season. Feeling confident, Toukhi has put time and dedication into XC. He expressed his desire for him—and the rest of the team—to compete well, stating, “I cannot let myself underperform.” Arrieta also has confidence that the team will go far this year due to the talent



Credit: Joshua Agostini

Joshua Agostini leads the pack. exhibited from the team; her goal being to watch everyone improve. The team has had a promising start to the season and, more importantly, the drive to accomplish their goal of having a successful and team-orientated season. Promising results from recent invitationals confirm their dedication to the craft of XC. Whatever the cost, the Cross Country teams are sure to have a progressive season and take advantage of the many opportunities lie ahead of them.



Credit: Jayden Lord

The Varsity Boys and Girls Cross Country teams were the top performers at the Hemet Bulldog Invitational on September 9.

Ranshaw: Captain of the Wave Football is in Farinas’ Blood

Navin Gopalan '24
Photo Manager

The Varsity Boys Water Polo team is a powerful group, having tied for league championships last year. As they start their fall season, the team is led by Co-captain Senior Dylan Ranshaw, who is a force to be reckoned with in the swimming pool. Ranshaw initially joined water polo in his sophomore year because of his experience in the sport of swimming. “I swim competitively,” he remarked, “and just thought that I would be good at [water polo too].” He soon ascended the ranks, earning the Scholar Athlete and Most Improved Awards, as well as securing the Varsity team the co-champion title of last season’s league. In the past, Ranshaw played in the driver and wing positions, executing tactics to move the ball into goal-scoring positions and snatching rebounds from the other team. Now, he plays as the center forward position—a vital role, as it is his job to score goals. Moreover, Ranshaw stated his greatest strength is his speed. “I’m one of the top fastest swimmers on the team,” he said, “and I use my speed to my advantage in almost every play.” However, he continues to seek improvement in his athletic ability, striving for a faster and more accurate shot—an important

skill to master for his specific position. As a senior and co-captain on the Varsity team, Ranshaw is an inspiration to his fellow teammates. Senior David Toschak, a member of the Varsity team, stated his admiration for Ranshaw’s dedication to the sport. “He’s a natural leader and helps guide the team,” Toschak remarked. “[Ranshaw’s] friendly but dedicated demeanor makes him a great person to train with. He puts effort into whatever he’s doing—and that makes you want to put in effort too.” Alumnus Benjamin Sullivan-Douglass, who competed with Ranshaw last season, also stated his high regard for him. “[Ranshaw has] always been a calming presence on the team as he’s always been mature and kind to all his teammates,” he said. “His talent and work ethic helped us win many a race last year.” All performance aspects aside, Ranshaw stated that the best parts of being on the water polo team are the experiences he has had with his teammates, who have become close friends. “I have so many great memories being on the team,” he recalled. “Playing basketball and other games at pasta parties have always been fun.” As Ranshaw is a senior, this will be his last year playing water polo for the team. However, he plans on continuing the sport in college while also pursuing a software engineering degree to further his career.



Credit: Yufei Wang

Senior Dylan Ranshaw practices his technique for his shots on goal for the upcoming season.

Julian Stanfield '24
Sports Editor

The audience cannot believe what they are seeing. Down on the field, a lone player is sprinting past hordes of large, formidable opponents, and in no time, the single individual reaches the end zone while the crowd cheers for him. In most cases, that player is usually none other than Freshman Michael “Kiko” Farinas, who is a running back and wide receiver for the Varsity Football team. Farinas has been playing football for ten years and was inspired to commit to the sport by his father who also played. Farinas also participates in track and field, a sport that he started at the age of three. He competes in this sport alongside football to help build up his speed. According to Farinas, speed, possessing physical strength, and having a strong work ethic are all traits that help to make him shine on the football field. “I can help the team a lot by bringing speed to the table [and] focusing on [my perseverance, which is] a really big thing in my opinion,” he stated. “Not a lot of kids really want to work but I’m here to work and be the best that I can be.” Despite this year marking his first season on the Varsity team, Farinas has adjusted quickly to being a member and has established a healthy relationship with the rest of the players. Farinas said, “Playing with people who are older [like] seniors [and] juniors ... pushes me to be better.” When it comes to his development as an athlete, Farinas credits his father as an influential figure. “My dad’s a trainer and I work for him and work to be the best in the valley ... he does speed training and weight room [training for me],” Farinas



Credit: Michael Farinas

explained. “I’m pretty strong [for] my size, thanks to my dad.” His cousin, who plays in the National Football League (NFL) for the New Orleans Saints as a wide receiver, Christian Olave, has also been an important inspiration for him. Farinas has stated that he wants to play for a Division One college such as Ohio State University, the same college his cousin went to, and that he desires to play in the NFL too. During the game against San Clemente High School, Farinas fractured his shoulder but was able to push himself to keep playing up until the match against Apple Valley High School. Unfortunately, the injury he received has led to him being unable to properly play, and as a result, Farinas will be taking a break from football for two months. Farinas has confirmed that he plans to continue playing in later seasons and will be supporting his teammates throughout the rest of the current one. Although Farinas will be out for the rest of this year’s season, his actions have helped establish a precedent of success for future games to follow. Freshman Kiko Farinas has made countless impressive plays while playing as a wide receiver and running back for the Varsity Football team.

Welcoming New Puma Staff

“New Staff Survey” used to gather unique staff facts!



Jeff Anderson



US History/Special Education
“I played football against Junior Seau.”

Chris Benson



ERWC
“I have the best toe-point in the whole school.”

Aruna D'Souza



Chemistry/Biology
“I am a world traveler and have lived in ten different countries.”

Ashley French



Counselor (A-Cam)
“I just moved from Okinawa, Japan and lived there for three years.”

Ryan Garcia



Chemistry/Track & Field Head Coach
“I ran the LA Marathon twice a lifetime ago.”

Kathleen Maze



Psychologist
“Between college and graduate school I taught English in Chile and Argentina for a year.”

Hannah Moehrke



English 10
“My grandfather went to high school with Joe DiMaggio [New York Yankees Baseball Player].”

Jodi Nelson



BLOOM Academy
“I lived right by the school where The Breakfast Club was filmed, and one of my first jobs was working at Rolling Stones Music.”

Tony Ortiz



Special Education
“I love sports! Go Dodgers, Rams, Lakers!”

Inna Peart



Counselor (Can-E)
“I love the beach and snowboarding. I am a bit silly at times, and you can find me dancing around campus.”

Johnathan Ramirez



Band/Orchestra Director
“I think rap music can be good music and think people who judge it are wrong.”

Jordan Searby



History/Varsity Basketball Head Coach
“My wife and I have the same name.”

Brittney Smalley



English 10
“My soccer coach growing up taught well-known athletes such as Alex Morgan and Abby Wambach.”

Alison Sykes



Biology/Marine Biology
“I studied in Australia for seven months!”

Veronica Titus



American Sign Language
“I went to high school with Chase Stokes from Outer Banks.”

Nicole Wolff



Counselor (F-Hs)
“I love anything leopard, collecting stickers and pens, hanging out at the beach, listening to 90's hip hop, [and] going out for food.”