

THE PLATINUM PRESS



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Incoming Freshmen Shadow Student Leaders on Campus

BY ALISIA COOKE '18



Photo: Kent Gerow

The middle school shadows along with the student leaders in the gym concluding their day on campus.



Photo: Jay Wilson

Freshman Erin Lancaster showed her shadow, Natalie Jones, what a typical day is like for her in Yearbook.

On Monday, January 29, several students were seen accompanied by, or rather, “shadowed” by eighth grade students from middle schools Margarita, Bella Vista, and James L. Day. This event gave incoming freshmen the chance to experience a full day in a high school setting and taste firsthand what they have to look forward to this upcoming school year.

Freshmen and sophomores in leadership programs such as Yearbook, Peer Leaders, Associated Student Body (ASB), Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), and *The Platinum Press*,

were matched with middle schoolers during first period in the gym. A welcoming presentation was given to thoroughly explain the schedule for the day ahead and allow time for the students to get acquainted and introduce themselves to their partner for the day. Eighth graders then followed their partner to second, third, and fourth period, sitting in during lessons, walking through passing periods, socializing at break, and of course, meeting the new people that they will be attending school with very soon. Mrs. Jackie Schmidt emphasized, “I just think today is really important [to let] the

incoming Pumas see what a day in the life of a Chaparral student is about. . . We give our students the opportunity to actually ‘shadow’ and be in the academic setting.”

Being with individuals from leadership was also a great way to introduce these rewarding programs and activities to eighth graders who might be interested in joining this upcoming year. Freshman Madison Corey recalled being influenced to join Yearbook after being a shadow herself last year. She added that it was, “reassuring to see what high school is like.” This year, she was able to lead Melissa Herrmann, an eighth

grader from James L. Day Middle School, around campus. Herrmann stated that prior to this opportunity, she expected the high school life to be “rough,” but after spending a few hours with Corey, she added, “[It is] a little less intimidating, and the campus seems smaller than I actually thought. . . I didn’t get lost, and I have a good partner.”

After fourth period, students and their shadows filed into the Performing Arts Center (PAC) for lunch and an entertaining show put on by Improv’s A-Squad. After, students walked their shadows to the gym where they exchanged friendly

words of thanks and encouragement. Those underclassmen returned to class while the eighth graders received wise words from Principal Mrs. Nicole Dayus, Counselor Mrs. Carissa Teachout, as well as leadership officers. The Fab Five led a final spellout to conclude the day for these potential students.

Overall, the day was beneficial for those who are uneasy about entering the world of high school but also for those excitedly counting down the final weeks of middle school. This invaluable experience was an ideal way for middle schoolers to envision their upcoming four years.

Grad Nite Location and Dance Themes Determined by Vote

BY DEJA PENDLETON '18

Dances and special events are some of the many things one can enjoy with friends during the tumultuous four years of high school. Most of the time, themes are chosen within the Associated Student Body (ASB), with little student involvement outside of this group. This is changing for the class of 2019 and onward. Starting next year, students will be able to use the 5-Star Students application to vote on the theme they deem the most pleasing. This voting procedure will incorporate all of the student body’s opinions, making the decisions on themes of upcoming dances more inclusive to the tastes of the students and not just that of ASB.

The 5-Star app has been used for many events and for

voting on campus such as ASB elections. Although it is usually used for elections, ASB plans to utilize this app even more by adding student input on the themes for dances. Incorporating the student body’s voice has always been the goal of ASB, Senior ASB President Danah Tommalieh said, “The idea of having more student involvement has been a major idea floating around this year. Our prom committee helped bring that reality to life. By including students on these kinds of major decisions on campus, their high school experience will become much more personalized and enjoyable.” This year for seniors, 5-Star will be used to narrow down the Prom Court candidates. On the day of prom, another system will be

used to vote for one of the top four boys and girls. Tommalieh said, “With a whole new set up [of leadership this school year], new ideas and traditions

are able to breakthrough. This year we really focused on giving students more control and a voice and this is one of the steps we are

taking to achieve that goal.”

This app may also be used to decide on the new location for Grad Nite, since the main two attractions (California Screamin’ and the Ferris wheel) will be closed. Seniors that have prepaid for Grad Nite may be (depending on bussing) able to vote on the 5-Star app to determine whether Grad Nite should be hosted at Disneyland or Universal Studios. If at Universal Studios, Grad Nite will be moved to May 18 versus the June date for Disneyland. 5-Star works best if one has the app, Mrs. Kristy Baron said, “We have been trying to push to get students to get the app on their phone because instead of having to get to the link, click on the link, and register, it will show

up directly in your app whether there is surveys or polls and things for you to vote on.” Any grade can use the app, where the survey starting on the open date can be found. Baron said, “We are opening the app up to more fun and exciting things. . . I think it is going to be a good piece to get that student input because we are putting this on for you guys.”

ASB spends a considerable amount of time and money creating fun events for the students on campus. If students took the time to vote, then ASB can make their desires become a reality, and not ideas made solely off of the wants of the ASB members. Starting on February 8, voting for dances and other events on the Five Star App will begin for all grades.



Photo: Jay Wilson

Mrs. Kristy Baron using the Five Star app where students can vote.

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NJROTC Victorious at Inter-Service Regional Competition

BY MAKAYLA RENNER '18

When competing against schools of a higher caliber, it is easy to crack under the pressure. However, the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) cadets took on every challenge thrown at them leading up to their last competition and used their resilience to become even more determined. On January 20, the teams traveled out to Desert Hot Springs to compete against twelve other JROTC other units. The unarmed and armed teams were evaluated in exhibition

(a creative routine the cadets create together), regulation (a series of marching movements the commander gives to their people), and inspection (where the cadets are judged on knowledge and personal appearance). The color guard had three different teams, two male and one female. They executed a series of commands to move through a designated drill pad while presenting the national insignia. The unit placed second overall and won thirteen trophies, with each team placing third or

higher in each of the events they were evaluated for. The cadets maintained positivity and kept their heads high going into the competition with leaders like Junior Villon Maverick helping the younger cadets gain the confidence they needed to succeed. He said, "The most important thing was helping everyone be optimistic even when they messed up or struggled with what we were practicing." Even as their covers flew off their heads while marching, the teams maintained bearing and intensity. They reverted

to their training even when the slippery drill pads and bitter cold weather made things harder. Freshman Sanaia Woods won first place in pull-ups and the run and second in sit-ups. She explained that the event, "was a lot of fun and the people we competed against were very nice." Extra time was put into practicing leading up to the meet. This work ethic provided a huge morale boost to the unit and made all of the challenges they faced worthwhile. They went up against some incredibly

competitive JROTC schools and had many obstacles to maneuver around. However, this competition proved how much they could accomplish by having faith in one another and doing what they set out to do. With more drill meets fast approaching, the teams are practicing with the same passion they had before, ready to exceed the standards they set for themselves with this past victory. This dedication earned the program thirteen trophies: Two first places and one third place as well as overall best team for

unarmed, two first places and second place for armed, a first and second for the soloists, a second place for the female color guard, a commander's cup trophy for the "A" team male color guard, and various medals with an overall first place trophy for the physical fitness portion of the meet. On the same weekend, the air rifle team competed in the Area eleven championships for the first time in the unit's history and finished fourteenth overall. These results provide the cadets with a sense of pride and ownership in the program.



Photo: Denisse Pulvera

The exhibition team performs their original routine, a sequence of various complex drill movements.



Photo: Denisse Pulvera

The cadets brought home thirteen trophies ranging from first place exhibition to first place overall drill.



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The Best Thing Since Sliced Bread

BY DEJA PENDLETON '18

If one is tired of the Moons Over My Hammy or four stack buttermilk pancakes, there is a new breakfast spot in town ready to shake up the most important meal of the day. Whether those crave breakfast items or lunch entrees, Toast has it covered. Open seven days a week 6 AM to 3 PM, Toast specializes in foods made from scratch including coffees, teas, and craft beers for the parents.

Toast's menu has something for everyone and has many satisfying breakfast options. Toast offers french toast that comes with tiramisu, sangria, and creme brulee, pancakes that come in lemon ricotta, guava, and gluten-free, and creps that come in peach, cocoa almond butter, and gluten-free. For breakfast, there is also the option of Eggs Benedicts, including the Reuben Benedict, a dish with house cured corned beef, poached eggs, swiss cheese, Russian hollandaise, sauerkraut, and an English muffin. The Smoked Veggie Benedict for all the vegetarians out there includes, potato cake, poached eggs, smoked red bell pepper, asparagus,

snap peas, alfalfa sprouts, and classic hollandaise. Finally for the seafood lovers out there, there is a crab cake Benedict with house-made crab and shrimp cakes, poached eggs, capers, classic hollandaise, and baguettes. All of the



Photo: Tati Madriaga
French toast is one of the delicious breakfast options that Toast offers.

Benedicts come with a side of choice. Senior Tati Madriaga said, "I ordered the Veggie Eggs Benedict and creme brulee french toast. It was so good. I am never able to get eggs Benedict, so I was excited. It was an eight out of ten experience." Under a category called "Other Stuff" includes dishes such as chilaquiles verde, shrimp and grits, "Mind Your own

Biscuits and Gravy", "Eggs Your Way," and more.

If one arrives to Toast in the mood for lunch, the restaurant offers an extensive variety of soups, salads, and sandwiches. For soups, Toast offers a Soup of the Day and for salads

broccoli, carrots, black sesame seeds, wonton strips and miso vinaigrette and lastly the Farmhouse Spinach including spinach, roasted baby carrots, avocado, dried cranberries, red onion, swiss, cheese, candied pecans, boiled eggs, and spicy mustard dressing. There are eight sandwiches on the menu, including the "Vegan B.L.T", a sandwich with roasted vegan carrot bacon, red leaf lettuce, avocado, tomato and house-made vegan spread. The smoke toasted grilled cheese with gruyere gouda, smoked cheddar, bacon, roasted tomato, parmesan and butter on sourdough and the toast burger with special blend patty, smoked cheddar avocado, bacon, fried red onion, red leaf lettuce, tomato, bourbon maple bacon altoi served open faced with brioche.

For those trying to expand upon their culinary horizons, Toast is sure to exceed expectations based on what they have brought to the table so far, even though they have only been open for such a short period of time. It is exciting to see what is to come for Toast as 2018 progresses.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Principal Nicole Dayas

Pumas, I hope that your second semester is living up to your expectations and goals. If you are like me, you can feel the momentum picking up as we move forward in our winter sports season, in our academic assessments, in our extra-curricular opportunities, and in all the fun activities that are happening in between. This month I want to focus on the "I" in our Puma PRIDE ... INTEGRITY. I have always described integrity as doing what is right, even when noone is looking. Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible...." I would further this quote by adding that integrity is an imperative characteristic if we want to realize success in our academics, relationships, and all pursuits that speak to our personal interests and talents.

Students with integrity don't just choose the easier road, they choose the road that is good and true. They do their own work, take responsibility for their actions, speak the truth, and understand and accept one another's differences. Challenge yourselves to be true to your word, to live up to your strengths, to stay true to your values, and to be the best version of you. Our Puma family has a strong bond and I believe that this is due in large part to the strength of character that our individual students possess. Thank you for exercising integrity throughout your high school journey!

Small Bites from all Over the World

BY EMILY PHAM '21

Tapas Time serves a variety of savory Spanish-style dishes with delicious flavors from different locations and cultures around the world. The restaurant is located in the Tower Plaza Center near the heart of Temecula. It opened in early December of last year, and business has been thriving ever since. It is an incredible hangout for people in the community to get together and try some unique cuisine.

Manager Daniel Thompson shared that the founder of the restaurant, Ninik Koerniawati, had a vision to serve global cuisines and other original items in a uniquely Spanish-style bar. "The originator wanted to do a Spanish tapas-style bar by bringing in other tapas all around the world,"

he said. Koerniawati decided to name the restaurant "Tapas Time" because the word "tapas" means small bites, and the restaurant offers a variety of small dishes.

The menu offers an extensive and unique selection of foods for customers to choose from. During breakfast hours, they serve decadent crepes, plates of french toast, and pancakes with the choice of syrup or a topping. During lunch, there are salads, sliders, and pizzas called flatbreads to indulge in. There are also over a dozen healthy drinks available, such as freshly squeezed juices and blended smoothies. All of the dishes on the menu are made from scratch and include local ingredients. Freshman Mohammad Sadegi said, "I really enjoy all the bites here.

I recommend for the customers to try the Eggplant Casserole." The Eggplant Casserole contains eggplant and zucchini baked in homemade marinara sauce topped with parmesan cheese and served with garlic baguette. It is one of the highly suggested menu items that is extremely popular. Thompson's personal favorite is the Chorizo Stuffed Mushroom. This dish is baked with mushrooms stuffed with chorizo, parmesan cheese, parsley, and garlic. For those aged twenty-one and older, the restaurant also serves beer and wine. The restaurant is in the process of creating vegetarian dishes and plans to add even more choices to the menu, as well as a dinner entree section. Two seasoned chefs are collaborating on a spectacular menu creation

by blending all of their ideas while focusing on one specific goal: customer satisfaction.

Tapas Time can be an enjoyable place to hang out and relax at with friends and family. This dining establishment has live entertainment on the weekends for all of its customers to enjoy. Here, customers are greeted with friendly smiles and food that proves to create an enjoyable and unique dining experience in a distinctive yet casual setting. This restaurant is a very convenient place to enjoy delicious cuisine with very delightful employees who enhance the overall experience of such a fine ethnic experience. Tapas Time serves from breakfast to dinner every day during the week from 8 AM to 9 PM.



The essential bucket list for those looking to try out some new eateries.

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No, Oprah Should not Run for President

BY BENJAMIN GARNER '19

The 2018 Golden Globes were a fairly regular award show, the host (Seth Meyers) made plenty of relevant jokes, the movie stars were dolled out their respective awards, the show was incredibly normal. Then, she rose, the great Oprah Winfrey with her powerful presence. She has once again stolen the show, the lifelong television personality, philanthropist, and media connoisseur gives an impassioned bold speech, one so great in fact that many have begun considering if Winfrey should be the next President of The United States.

These notions are ridiculous, childish, and a complete disgrace to the American system of government. Winfrey's speech was great, undoubtedly, but it was nothing more than platitudes, cliches, and anecdotes, it is void of any policy statements, and contains nothing that can be regarded as an ideologically driven point. It gives absolutely no view into how she would govern, and what her governing practices would be. To assert this vapid flowery speech as a reason for her fitness for office is ludicrous. It is time the populace of the United States respects their country and elects politicians based on actual belief in their ideas, and based off of specific policy goals set by candidates, rather than voting based on feeling, identity, or personality.

In the 2016 election voters made this exact mistake, they were forced to choose between

two candidates that it is nearly impossible to support via the basis of policy beliefs given the fact that one cannot objectively concern what those beliefs are. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have been on nearly every side of every issue. Sec. Clinton flip-flopped on trade, social policy, wages, healthcare, and immigration, many times during the primaries when she

'idiocy to the highest degree,' argue both sides of an issue simultaneously throughout the campaign. The point is, no one in the 2016 election who supported Trump or Clinton outright, did so on the basis of policy. Policy was not commonly present in their campaigns, and when it was, it was contradictory or vague. Support for these candidates came in the form of personality, and

support social reform.

The 2016 election was the year of identity politics run amok, which is exactly what needs to be avoided in 2020. The country does not need another television billionaire, it does not need another celebrity, another identity, it does not need another ego. The US needs someone who can inspire change, and knows how to use the bully pulpit of the



Hollywood jumped to support Oprah for the presidency, contradicting previous anti-Trump arguments.

was forced to the—objectively more popular position—left by Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, her primary challenger—although she never hesitated to jump back over to the centre-right if she felt the room would like that. Trump, a television billionaire with no governmental experience also had his share of flip flops during the campaign—assuming he understood what he was talking about to begin with—sometimes within the same speech, unlike Clinton, Trump would, by an act that can only be described as

identity preferences. Americans liked how Trump made them feel when he spoke and berated his opponents, while ignoring the fact that he was never able to conjure a coherent stance on an issue. Some portion of Americans also liked the way Sec. Clinton made them feel when she spoke, and got so wrapped up in the idea of electing who was a woman, that they appear to have forgotten to examine the record of that women which reveals her true colours; centre-right economics, warhawk foreign policy, and disingenuous

presidency to twist arms and get it done. Whether that be Sen. Elizabeth Warren, or Sen. Sanders, or another strong progressive reformer. The country needs an all around policy-wonk and experienced legislator, not a personality.

The urge is understandable, in such tumultuous times, especially with Twitter troll Trump at the helm actively attempting to steer the country off a cliff, to want to elect someone familiar, and stable. Someone that everyone knows.

Where there is no doubt Winfrey would be a less disastrous leader, evident in her much more collected demeanor, that does not make her a suitable option. This narrative of electing billionaire celebrities is pushed all throughout the media because it is an easy win, support for a popular person without making any implications of support for a specific policy which keeps their donors good and happy. The American people ought to stop lying to themselves by participating in this falsehood, and restore a democratic process based on policy over personality.

Outrage Over Pay Disparity in Hollywood

BY PAIGE CRAWFORD '21

Over the last decade, women have greatly affected the nation's economy, becoming nearly half the workforce, yet are continually overlooked as they make, on average, only eighty cents to every dollar the average man makes. Former E! Reporter, Catt Sadler, along with "All the Money in the World" actress Michelle Williams, faced these issues, when they were paid much less than their co-stars, who were doing almost the same exact job as their male coworkers. If problems like these keep being overlooked, they will not only continue, but large businesses will go on thinking it is okay to give less recognition and pay to women.

Sadler, long time co-host of E! News,

left the network in December due to the massive pay gap between her and her male co-host, Jason Kennedy. Her co-anchor was making almost double the amount she was, while they were doing nearly the same job. When Sadler found out, she repeatedly asked for her salary to be increased to match her co-host. E! refused to negotiate her salary, which forced her to resign from the position. The company, who has a history of these allegations, denies that any part of her pay has to do with gender, and that pay is determined by their role on the show. Rose McGowan, who has a documentary show on the network, admitted that E! was wrong to some extent, but explained that many other organizations do it because it is "legal

to discriminate that way," said McGowan. She is correct to say that most large companies do this, but that does not justify discrimination. Corporations saying that this is 'technically' legal, do not fix the problem, but find a way around it, which only prolongs the unfair treatment.

On a similar note, Oscar nominee, Michelle Williams, was being paid less than one percent of what her co-star, Mark Wahlberg, made to reshoot scenes for the movie, "All the Money in the World". Wahlberg was given 1.5 million dollars to reshoot, while she was given merely eighty dollars a day, totalling in less than 1,000 dollars overall. This shocking disparity in pay has created a lot of controversy about gender equality in

Hollywood. Williams was not made known of this pay gap, even though she and Wahlberg were being represented by the same agency. After Williams pay was made public, Wahlberg donated the 1.5 million dollars to the Time's Up Legal Defense Fund in Williams' name. Williams spoke out about this issue, saying that many women stood

by her and taught her to use her voice to tell her story to the public. She also thanked Wahlberg for standing up for her and his donation. It is necessary for men and women, especially celebrities, to start acting on issues because they genuinely care about them, instead of just to make themselves look good.

More and more women have started to

speak up about being treated as less than men, and although many like to disagree with this statement, there is proof almost everywhere. Even female celebrities are getting paid less than the men they are working alongside. One can only hope that in 2018 society can improve upon these discriminative issues so women can finally be treated as truly equal.



Sadler still considers Jason Kennedy, former co-host, a very close friend.



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 or polarizing said topic may be. This is the intent of an editorial, not only to provide journalists with a medium to express an opinion, but to allow the editorial to be a catalyst for further discussion of a given topic.

All letters must be signed and submitted to Mr. Leonhardi in room 413 or left in his mailbox. They will also be accepted via email: rleonhardi@tvusd.k12.ca.us

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Four Hundred Dollars for a Single Slave in the Year 2018

BY PAIGE ADAME '18



Photo: Muss Appel



Photo: Fortune



Photo: DW

The African slave trade in Libya, where men are being sold as slaves for around four hundred US dollars, has been going on for many years, but has just recently been discovered by investigators from CNN.

As migrants take a chance and leave their home countries for a better life in Europe, hundreds of them travelling from West Africa are often taken by smugglers to be sold as slaves. Cable News Network (CNN), investigated the situation in Libya starting in October 2017. During their investigation, they found that migrants coming mainly from West Africa were being auctioned off as laborers for a profit. With video as evidence, CNN alerted authorities in Libya which led them to open an investigation of their own. Several countries are working together to come up with a plan to evacuate these migrants out of Libyan detention centers where they are being treated as less than human. The works of a

Libyan slave trade has not been in enough headlines around the world, yet this is a crisis that should be fought internationally. As migrants lose their lives and become property, the world takes an enormous step back into history where slavery was widely accepted. There is no time for the world to sit back and let this unravel because in this modern society, something as despicable as slavery cannot be tolerated.

The number of migrants trapped in detention centers range from 400,000 to one million. These people are leaving their home countries with the hopes that they can rebuild their lives in Europe, however their journeys are cut short when their boats are capsized, turned back by the Libyan Coast Guard, or caught

by the smugglers which are selling innocent lives into slavery. There are also reports that inhabitants of these detention centers are subject to forced labor, exploitation, and inhumane conditions (including abuse, rape, and murder). During CNN's investigation, they discovered that there were nine separate auction locations, but there are believed to be more. Since Libya has been without a unified federal government since 2011, things like illegal detention centers, gangs, and slave auctions are happening without there being any consequences. However, a running slave trade should not have been made headlines in the first place as it is incredibly outrageous.

Several investigations are underway since CNN released their

findings, but there has been little update on how the perpetrators will be dealt with. Several countries have banned together to ensure that evacuations will take place to remove migrants from these illegal detention centers and sent back to their home countries. Despite talks of evacuations, very little has been done. More countries should be getting involved and taking action to put an end to this disturbing practice. These slave auctions which sell people as laborers are only one form of slavery that was discovered. There are several other forms of slavery around the world including sex trafficking and mining. People's lives are lost as they are no longer looked at as people, but as bodies that follow demands of their owner.

On January 24, twenty one Ethiopian migrants were evacuated from Libya and brought back to Ethiopia, whose government has been working with the International Organization for Immigration (IOM) to rescue their people. Another procedure is underway to rescue an additional forty-five Ethiopian migrants. Little progress is better than none, but there is a long road ahead if the plan is to rescue all the migrants that are at risk. Actions should be taken to put an end to slavery in Libya or else the number of slaves being sold in auctions will go nowhere but up. It is crucial for more countries to join the fight against the abhorrent situation in Libya and liberate those innocent men and women who just wanted a second chance.

Families in Danger After Trump Releases Immigration Plan

BY PAIGE CRAWFORD '21

The government has been battling both sides of immigration for years, and has still been unable to come to a complete agreement. Thousands of young undocumented people are on the verge of getting deported due to President Trump trying to take away DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). Pulling the plug on DACA will cause an overturn in former President, Barack Obama's immigration

policies, and ruin the lives of more than 800,000 people.

DACA is the roof that protects all young immigrants who lived in the country for most of, if not all of their life. The programs shields people who were brought into the United States as children from deportation, and has been issued to around 800,000 people. Participants do not get full citizenship but get benefits such as the ability to obtain work permits, a driver's

license and access to in-state wishing and state funded grants and loans. Immigrants and their US-born children make up twenty-seven percent of our nation's population, which can seem frightening to republicans like Donald Trump. The laws and security surrounding immigrants has been a debate for decades, and with Trump as president, these outrageous orders have started to take shape. 1,100 people will lose DACA in March, and

get almost all of their rights and abilities taken, forcing them to either leave the US or find a way to quickly gain full citizenship. Since even getting citizenship is getting to be much more difficult and accessible, those people will not be able to put themselves in a stable environment. This deadline s h o v e s many out of America, even those that have lived here for the majority of their life, and into their 'home' countries which are completely foreign to them.

In recent demands released from the White House, one can see that Trump and his team have built an "Immigration Plan", which is made as a result of Trump telling Congress that he was going to shut down DACA. The plan includes obtaining more funding, twenty-five

billion dollars, for a border wall between Mexico and the US, and restrict immigration by eliminating the Visa lottery program as well as limiting family-based migration. These family migration laws state that one can bring over their immediate family, spouse and children, but no others, such as grandparents or cousins. The policies for family immigration, which makes up sixty-five percent of all immigrants, will tear families apart. Adults will be forced to

leave their parents if they want a better life for their children. These drastic cuts are going to set back the system to how it was in the 1920s-1960s, when immigration was essentially based off of racist views. Although it is not ideal, this system does give many Dreamers a pathway to citizenship. The process is not yet a suitable option, and it will put many families in danger, but with persistence and perseverance change is expected to come.



Photo: Common Dreams

Dreamers protested the stringent obligation set up by The White House and Trump with these new plans.



Photo: Quartz

Many protested the new laws that are against bringing family into the United States.

On-Campus Photographers Capture Timeless Moments

BY RHYS WEAVER '20

Photography today is a profession that has blossomed into a phenomenon that everyone has the ability to take part in. As today's world of social media and smartphones rises in popularity, more people are inclined to take pictures and be their own photographer. However, some students on campus have dedicated themselves to this art for taking photos and capturing those unique moments for others to experience for themselves. Photographers on campus have a lot to share and a lot to show for their love of photography. The art of photography can

be seen as a mix between art and vulnerability. It allows the observer to look through the photographer's eyes and attempt to see what they see. Photographs can be looked at through many different perspectives which essentially leaves room for open interpretation and ponderment. The style and subject for a photo varies as well as it all depends on the artist behind the camera. Wide-ranging photos of landscapes and beautiful scenery can transport a viewer to a snowy mountaintop or raging waterfalls with just the blink of an eye. Photographs

of wildlife or the outdoors can connect people with the nature around them. "I want people to feel like they are there," said Senior Jared Furubotten, who started taking professional photos during the summer. "Over break, I went to Tahquitz Peak which is like 8,800 feet in the air, and not many people can get to the top of that, so I can take a picture of it and they can see what it looks like from up there."

Portraits are another way for photographers to capture expressions in people and convey emotions of what the person was feeling in the moment that the picture was

taken. Portraits of a person or a group of people can also be enriched with culture, history, and diversity, helping the viewer understand character with nothing but a picture. "I like taking pictures to capture my subjects' character and personality," said Senior Cesar Vaca, "[Photography] is important because culture today is so diverse. . . and it is a great way to capture it for future generations to see how things were today." Photographers who dedicate themselves to taking portraits of people do not only do it for others to critique and analyze but to also bring that person's image to life. It gives viewers the opportunity to connect with another's emotions and interpret an image for themselves.

High-paying jobs can sometimes be scarce for beginning photographers, but opportunities on campus and among other students are close at hand. There is of course the digital photography class and Photography Club here on campus, but many different creative outlets are available for those who hope to pursue the art of photography as well. Senior Joe Alidio, an aspiring photographer since middle school, takes senior photos and makes money doing it. "I've taken most of my



Photo: Joe Alidio

Senior Joe Alidio captures emotion with his timeless portraits.

friends' [senior photos] and more, like sixteen I think," Alidio said, "I kind of see it as a job. If it's my friends, then I know them, and I won't ask for anything. I've only charged like one or two people that have just come to me because someone mentioned it, and I don't charge more than fifteen dollars to take the photo, edit it, and send it."

There are many opportunities on and off campus for students to participate in to get started in pursuing photography and capturing those moments people love to cherish and enjoy. With just the click of a camera, the experiences of today can become timeless memories for the future generations to come.



Photo: Jared Furubotten

Senior Jared Furubotten captured this picturesque image of a peaceful floating duck at Harveston Lake.

D.Robb Debuts *Skinny Boy*

BY LOUISE KIM '19

Many students on campus are passionate about the talents they possess and are determined to make themselves known through various platforms. Senior Dylan Robb, also known as D.Robb, recently debuted with his Extended Play (EP), *Skinny Boy*, on December 21. After months of writing and recording with the help of Senior Dean Reynolds, Robb was able to take his love for rap music and express his voice.

Robb has been a fan of rap music since elementary school, but it was not until Reynolds' encouragement to become a rapper that he decided to create some music of his own. His EP, *Skinny Boy*, features four tracks. Some of which include "Left Brain", and "Skinny Boy (Freestyle)", all of which have received positive reviews

since the EP's release in late December. Lyrically in *Skinny Boy*, Robb explored and voiced his thoughts on society and a variety of other topics. "Thematically overall, there is a fair amount of societal sort of commentary in there, so there definitely is a theme," he said, "It's more from my perspective, so I can't speak on how it [Skinny Boy] sort of relates to everyone, but it is sort of how I feel about various topics about how you view skinny guys, about religion, stuff like that, sexuality." *Skinny Boy* took a significant amount of time and effort to produce, but Robb enjoyed the making of it and was excited for the opportunity to express himself through a genre of music he loves. Reynolds was also ecstatic about how the EP turned out and promoted it

on Twitter. "It's [*Skinny Boy's*] critical," he said, "It talks about romance. It talks about love and certain things, but it's also curious and happy in the sense that there's a yearning for more, and there is a positivity from it even though there's also some skepticism. . ." Although it has only been a month since the EP's release, Robb is already in the midst of creating his first album with Reynolds. Reynolds played a key role in Robb's growth because he offered Robb guidance and support as he worked on his first release. "I worked on some tracks. I sent him some mixes, and pretty much I'd send him something and he'd start writing and then that's how it naturally started," he said. In addition, Reynolds acted as the producer and management of D.Robb and even provided his label, Loud House Records, for *Skinny Boy*. Reynolds will continue to work with D.Robb and possibly produce for others as well. "At some point, I might start opening up my services to be paid for it. I'm not quite sure," said Reynolds, "I'm trying to focus a lot on Delilah right now as well as D.Robb and my personal music and school. . ." Although this can be quite a bit to balance, Reynolds is excited for where Robb is heading in his musical endeavors. *Skinny Boy* is just the beginning for D.Robb. *Skinny Boy* can be streamed on Spotify, Apple Music, Soundcloud, YouTube and other streaming services.



Photo: Dean Reynolds

D.Robb's first EP, *Skinny Boy*, was released in December of 2017.

Abordo's Art of Music

BY KATIE FLACK '20

Freshman Ariana Abordo may seem like just an average, everyday student, but she has an incredible talent for music. Abordo not only sings but also has a skill for playing the guitar, the violin and the piano.

Abordo's music career began when she was only in elementary school. She joined choir and found that she enjoyed making and performing music. Soon after joining choir, Abordo began trying out other forms of music. She said, "I went into playing clarinet for a while, and I didn't really like that. Then [in] middle school, I started playing the violin and then got more into like guitar and piano, and then it's just been going on since then." Throughout the years of creating and performing music, Abordo has cherished her passions. She has participated in many choir shows and band concerts that have given her chances to perform in front of an audience. Abordo has also had the opportunity to sing and play her instruments for guests when her parents host parties. These experiences have helped her to improve her skills, and she has thoroughly enjoyed doing so.

Abordo's love for music has been important to her ever since she discovered it because of the power she finds in the music and how



Photo: Ariana Abordo

Abordo practicing on her acoustic uitar during her free time.

it can convey what cannot be said aloud. Abordo said, "What inspires me to make music is the fact that I can like reach out to people through emotions and how music is just so much more than just music because it expresses what we can't say and so I think that's a really good inspiration." The audience that Abordo targets when she makes her music is often her generation. Abordo writes most of her music, and her music is the way that she conveys the emotions she feels. She said, "[I find that what is special and important about music is] that it is able to evoke emotion and say things that we aren't able to say out loud and that it just connects people in a really big way. .

I'm not really sure [what I hope to see in the future of my music]. I'm just trying to see where it goes and just keep going from there." Abordo has practiced for years to get her music to the level it is currently at, and her work has paid off with the talent she has.

Abordo's music career has only just begun, yet she has many performances expected to occur in the near future. The music she creates makes a big impact on Abordo, as she uses it as an outlet to express her emotions, of her work, but also because of the way it awakens and provokes the audience's emotions of her. Abordo's music can be found under @_ari.mei_ on Instagram.

Audience went ‘Bananas’ for *The House of Blue Leaves*

BY KATIE FLACK '20



Photo: Katie Flack
Junior's Isabella Lynch, Gavin Powell, and Leah Barlage act out a scene in the play.

The House of Blue Leaves was many hours of work for the drama department and the end result was a success. Many students and their relatives came to see the showings of The House of Blue Leaves, and many were pleased

with the production. The play was directed by Senior Kristen Brodeur and featured Junior Gavin Powell as Artie, Junior Isabella Lynch as Bananas, Junior Leah Barlage as Bunny, Freshman Kai Shaffer as Ronnie, Senior Sean Eagle as

Billy, Senior Camryn Halfpenny as Corinna, Sophomore Karla Leon as the Little Nun, Freshman Mia To as the Second Nun, Junior Victoria Winn as the Head Nun and Freshman Sabre Slattery as the Woman in White.

The House of Blue Leaves focuses on Artie Shaughnessy, a zookeeper and failed singer-songwriter living in Queens, New York in 1965. He and his girlfriend, Bunny, long to go to Hollywood and gain a life of fame with the help of Artie's friend, Billy, who is a famous director. But first, Artie has to take his wife, Bananas, who has a mental illness that causes her to believe she is different animals, to an institution with trees with blue leaves. However, the family's predicament only gets more complicated when Artie and Bananas' son, Ronnie, illegally returns home from the army with hopes to assassinate the pope, who is currently visiting New York.

The cast of The House of Blue Leaves had a pleasant experience working on the play. "I don't even know if I could pick [a favorite part of working on the play], the whole thing was just great," said Lynch, "I'd say the little banter that went on between Bananas and Bunny where I get to like throw cereal at her and just kind of like scare her, that was really fun for me." Another one of Lynch's favorite scenes was the final scene with Powell. To her, it was a genuine, real moment between the husband and wife, and it provided an emotional conclusion to the story. Some of the audience also found this same scene to be their favorite as they felt the emotions of the performance connect to them. The cast's enthusiasm for their work showed in their performances of The House of Blue Leaves as many were able to easily relate to and appreciate the characters. Others who worked on

the play felt just as happy with it as Lynch. "It was really one of the best experiences I've had in drama. It was really stressful," said Brodeur, "It was definitely a lot more than I thought it would be, just workwise. . . But it was the end product [that made the work worthwhile]. . ." Brodeur was also grateful for Mr. Chris Irvin's support, stage manager Senior Dylan Robb's assistance, and everyone that saw the production. The cast and crew of the play had a good time working on it and made a successful end product.

The House of Blue Leaves was enjoyable for its cast to perform and for its audience to watch. Preparing for the play required many hours of work for the cast, but it paid off in the end with The House of Blue Leaves being a success. After this play's well-received run, many theatergoers anxiously anticipate the future productions the drama department has to offer.

Travis Ayres: Capturing the World Through Animation

BY CHRISTIAN TIFFANY '18

Freshman Travis Ayres is one of the up and coming artists here on campus. Travis has the talent of capturing everyday life through his drawings. With a passion for animated art and realism, Travis has spent years working to better his artistic ability and further his creativity.

Ayres has always had a passion for art. From the early years of elementary school, he has been, "filling up a multitude of sketchbooks. With each being better than the last." Ayres said that he is, "always striving to improve". Ayres is self-taught, taking his inspiration from the vast world around him, and

through trial and error using what he has learned and capturing it in the pages of his art. His current focus is on people, drawing those he sees, adding his unique artistic flair to them and capturing them through the tips of his pencils. Ayres mentioned, "it's important to take inspiration from what's around you whether it's architecture, people, or plants anything can spark the mind". Most of his art consists of anime pieces that displays his ability to shade and create emotional depth with colored pencils. Ayres' inspiration to begin drawing came from none other than himself and the acknowledgment of his talent

by his peer. His talent drove him to continue drawing with the desire to share his work with others. His best work, in his opinion, is a drawing of a knight in shining armor. To him, this symbolizes inevitable war but a hope for peace to come. Though not all of his pieces are symbolic, Ayres tries to relate his work back to real life and capture the emotion behind issues.

Ayres knows that the most important thing for a new upcoming artist is, "to get your work out there for people to see and to be welcome to feedback". He plans to create an Instagram account to share his art on social media called @treestars. His goal for the future is to begin creating a webcomic on Deviantart, an art sharing platform and an eventual animated series about a group of people who discover powers that can be used to fight demons and other monsters and repair the rift between Heaven and Hell. Ayres said he wants to, "create a realistic world that demonstrates the idea of coexistence and how it is possible". Though only a Freshman, Ayres hopes to continue pursuing art beyond his high school years. He plans to continue his artistic career in the field of three dimensional animation, hoping to eventually create



Photo: Travis Ayres
Ayres proudly displays one of his detailed animation drawings which features a girl.

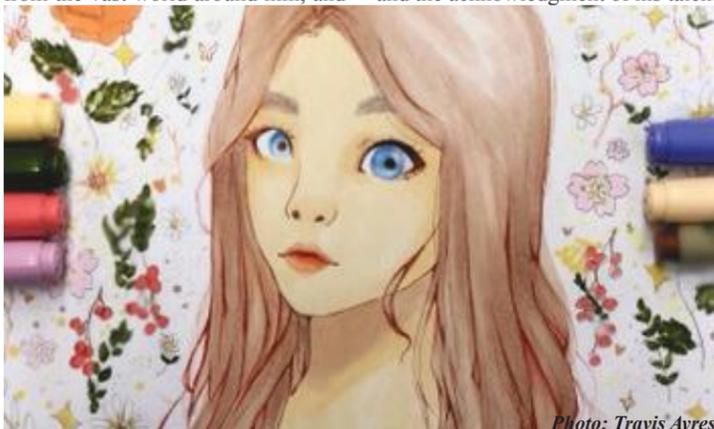


Photo: Travis Ayres
Ayres' skilled work showcases both nature and a blue-eyed girl in this masterpiece.

his own animated television series.

Ayres continues to grow as an artist, practicing to perfect his skills and always looking for input from his peers. He enjoys the feedback he receives and takes it into account each time he creates something new. Ayres is a hard worker and will stop at nothing to create new

and engaging pieces to share with others. He loves to create new things and is rarely ever seen without a notebook and pencil sketching how he observes the world around him. It is clear that Ayres is very passionate about his wonderful artwork, and drawing is sure to continue to be a part of his life for years to come.

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Valentine's Day Date Ideas for You and Your Sweetheart

BY NATALIE WITT '18



Photo: Katrina Galan

Senior Nangfah Buonyavong and Junior Jonathan Galan enjoying a day at Moonlight Beach.

As love fills the air this February, many couples are desperate to find ways to make the most out of Valentine's Day. Lucky for them, Temecula and some other surrounding cities have some hidden gems to take advantage of; perfect for a memorable outing with a loved one.

Perhaps spend the afternoon painting wonderful ceramic pieces at Painted Earth, located in the Town Center Plaza. One can dedicate masterpieces to their significant other to make the experience even more special. From plates to animals, there is something for every personality. Also, one should remember to write their significant other's name on the bottom of the piece along with the date to commemorate the day.

Try out the newly opened restaurants that were discussed

on page three. Adding to that list, Intazza is a must. Start Valentine's Day off right with a Fruity Pebbles iced coffee or Golden Monkey tea. If hungry, try out the Bananutterflutter on flatbread. No matter how difficult it is to pronounce, it is definitely a customer-must and an all-around favorite. Imagine a flatbread topped with nutella, bananas, and peanut butter. That is the Bananutterflutter.

On a budget? Visit local pet stores and pet all of the cute bunnies, kittens, puppies- and even turtles and pigs! Roam around town playing with all of the furry friends that are in need of love and attention.

If one is searching for more of an adventure, consider driving ten minutes up to Rainbow to pick some freshly grown strawberries at Kenny's Strawberry Farm. The farm is very picturesque and will be open on Valentine's Day from

10 o'clock in the morning to 6 o'clock in the evening. Consider adding those sweet strawberries to a picnic basket that can be enjoyed at a park - or even better - Lake Harveston, where one can eat them while riding on a pontoon boat with their loved one. Add some stale bread to the picnic basket as well to feed the ducks. Then, a trail of ducks will surround the boat and add to the romantic effect.

If looking to completely escape from the Temecula area, then opt to take a spontaneous beach trip. Try out an English tea room and spend an hour or so bonding over hot tea and freshly made pastries. Sometimes the best kind of date is one that is not priorly planned. No matter what one ends up doing, just remember that fun times can be found everywhere - it just depends on how willing one is to make it worthwhile.

Cooking Up Love in the Kitchen this Valentine's Day

BY CHRISTIAN TIFFANY '18

As the shift from winter to spring takes effect, it is time to put down the peppermint and gingerbread goodies and instead pick up the strawberries and chocolate. Cooking has always been a romantic activity because it allows couples to take the time to create something special together. Even if the finished product does not turn out good, baking together ensures tons of laughter and creativity.

Many are looking for something special to do with their significant other on Valentine's Day and cooking can be a meaningful pastime and bonding experience. With a multitude of recipes available in cookbooks and online, one is sure to find a dish that seems appetizing to them. From signature desserts such as pink frosted cookies and chocolate-dipped strawberries to pasta entrees, there is a recipe out there for everyone. Senior Aaron Villanueva said, "while everyone knows the traditional desserts, I like to do something different. Instead of just cold chocolate on strawberries I do a type of fondue with different fruits." This, he said, "makes the experience

unique." In this day in age, people are always looking for ways to stand apart from the crowd, and while it may be easier to go to the store and buy chocolate-covered strawberries, the experience and the authenticity one receives from making food at home is uniquely special.

When one thinks of cooking, they envision numerous piles of dishes that come with making a meal, seeing cooking as more of a hassle than as a date option. With Valentine's Day coming up and everyone searching for easy cooking there are a number of ways one can avoid the dishes and cook an amazing meal. One-dish meals are one way to avoid the hassle of dishes. This means that the cooking and preparation of the meal happens within one pot. An example of a one pot dish is pasta, from spaghetti to tortellini, they only require one pot to make. Pasta is not the only thing one can make. From roasted chicken and potatoes to chow mein, there are numerous options that are ideal for everyone. Sometimes, keeping it simple and whipping up some classic comfort food is the perfect way to go.

Valentine's Day is about showing love and one easy way to do that is adding heart shaped designs to their traditional food. With many heart-themed ideas for food, one can incorporate their own unique flare to an otherwise traditional dish. One example is taking a piece of bacon, forming it into the shape of a heart and cooking an egg on the inside. It is the little things, like making the food look like hearts, that helps turn a normal food dish into a special holiday treat. Junior Michaela Stockdall said, "my favorite thing to cook during Valentine's is making heart shaped pancakes and fruit . . . it's just something simple that I can whip up really quickly and can make different each time by doing different designs with the batter." Breakfast dishes such as eggs and bacon, pancakes, and many others can be shaped and decorated to fit the holiday theme. "It's just great to take a normal dish and then make it themed with different dyes or designs," said Stockdall, an avid cook who loves looking up and trying new recipes.

Whether it is a dinner dish or a



Photo: Driscolls

Chocolate dipped strawberries ordained with sprinkles to show Valentine's Day spirit. signature dessert, there are many ways one can have fun with a Valentine's inspired baking date. Taking something basic and adding a creative spin is what cooking is all about, so it is time to make the most out of the season of love and make some delicious treats.

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Rossi's Message of the Month

BY TONY ROSSI, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

A request for dating tip from Rossi. . .How desperate are you? Yes, this was actually a request. I'll do my best but I am somewhat reluctant in this task. First of all, who labeled me as an expert in this area? Who says I have all the answers? I don't, but I'll give it a go! I should start by saying that I met my wife when I was thirty-three. So, when I look back at my many years of dating, I could refer to them as research to figure out what kind of person with whom I would like to spend the rest of my life. About a month after I started dating my future wife, I literally said out loud to myself, "I'm going to marry that girl." After so many years of dating, I knew what I was looking for; and I was lucky that I was also what SHE was looking for! Please don't expect to find the secrets of love in this article. Those are out there for you to discover on your own. What I did worked for me, but I'll try to give you a kick in the right direction.

- Guys - Be gentleman!
- Ladies - Be classy !
- Be yourself. If you're not, at some point the facade will crumble and you will be exposed.
- Take "No" for an answer. Be graceful in defeat.
- Resist the urge to post something about someone who either broke up with you or turned you down. Do you realize that you look like a giant jerk when you do this?
- If you need to "take a break" in a relationship, just break up. Breaks just put off the inevitable!
- Never EVER send intimate pictures of yourself. If you do, expect that EVERYONE will see them.
- Break up. If you grow apart, lose interest, or are being treated poorly, end the relationship.
- Ask a person out. . .IN PERSON!
- Break up with a person. . .IN PERSON!
- Don't play games. Be upfront and honest.

- Expect a time - maybe many - when your heart will be broken.
 - Expect a time when YOU will have to break someone's heart. Don't let the fear of doing this stop you from breaking up if the relationship is not right for you!
 - Be picky. Never settle.
 - Don't let guilt be a reason to date someone.
 - What's the rush? If you're not ready, don't date!
 - Be a strong, independent person. Having a boyfriend or girlfriend does not make you whole!
- To help you fully understand the last bullet, I would like you to read, *The Missing Piece Meets the Big O* by Shel Silverstein. (Don't worry. It is short and has pictures and you can find it on Youtube!)
- Good luck, and remember as a certain business driven holiday quickly approaches; love is not measured by the amount of crap you buy for someone on Valentine's Day!

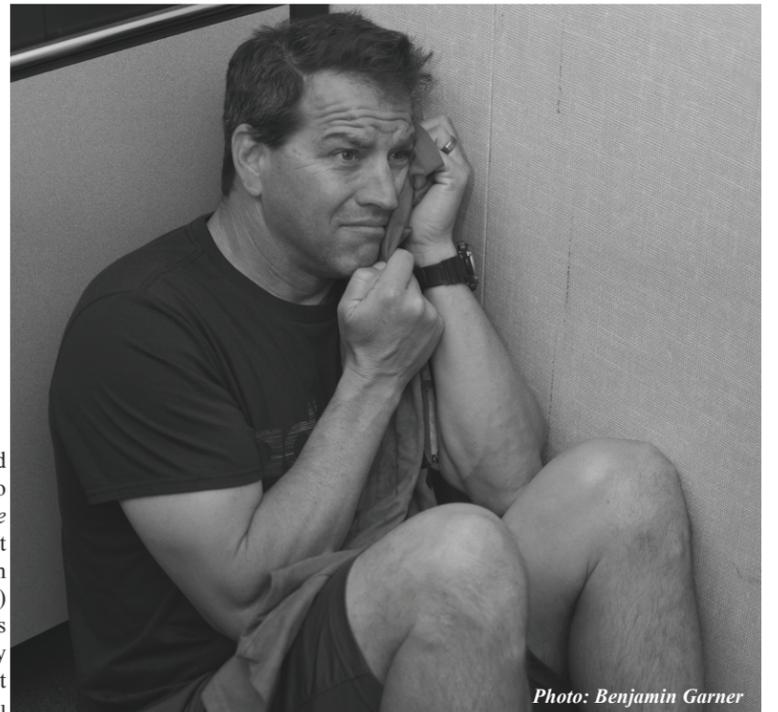


Photo: Benjamin Garner

Even Mr. Rossi has experienced the excruciating heartache associated with young love.

Learn a New Language While Discovering a New Culture

BY LOUISE KIM '19

Traveling the world and exploring new cultures has become a trend among many young people. Although students may not always have the time or money to travel outside of the United States, there are alternative ways to expose oneself to a different country and its culture. Learning a language is one way to do so, and luckily for students it is something one can do right at home.

The first step in learning a new language is deciding which one a person wants to be fluent in. If a student wishes to be able to speak Spanish, French or German or learn American Sign Language (ASL), the school offers a variety of courses from the basic first-year classes to Advanced Placement (AP) ones. However if a student is interested in another language, they can easily find websites that will instruct and help them practice right at home. For instance, a free, popular website many people use when learning a new language is Duolingo. Duolingo offers a variety of languages from Korean to Italian and even High

Valyrian. Not only does the website provide lessons and practice activities, but it also includes point and level systems and games to make learning a new language all the more fun. Another free website students can turn to is pronunciator. This language learning program includes self-directed lessons; live, face-to-face conversations with teachers; movies; music and more for eighty different languages. All one needs is a library card from the Riverside County Library System to get started.

Becoming fluent in a whole new dialect or language may seem daunting, but consistent practice and dedication can go a long way. "My

advice for people learning a new language is to keep on reading and writing the language," said Junior Duy Nguyen, a student learning French, "Listen to the music in that language

of the courses offered here by adding one of the language classes to their schedule for next year or practice through websites at their own leisure.

Practicing a new language can simply be a fun hobby or educational experience, but it also reaps many benefits. "The benefits of learning another language include learning another culture and seeing how other people perceive things and being able to communicate with different kinds of people," said Senior Kaylee Luc, a student fluent in Spanish. While learning new words and phrases from different countries, one is exposed to different aspects of their culture, including

food, clothes and traditions unique to that area. Additionally if a student loves traveling or wishes to travel a lot in the future, being fluent in the languages of the places they visit can make for a less stressful trip as they do not need to worry about language barriers with native speakers. In addition, fluency in a second language has been found to increase cognitive abilities. Multilingual people are known to be proficient multitaskers as their ability to switch between dialects allows them to easily switch between different tasks as well. Additionally by memorizing words and grammatical rules, one can improve their overall memory.

Learning a language takes a considerable amount of effort, and the length of time required to master one depends on the person. "Just stick with it [learning a language], and don't get discouraged if it's too hard because you'll eventually get it," said Luc. With a variety of resources at school and online, students can begin their language learning journey at their leisure and discover a whole new culture for free.



Photo: Graphics Buzz

While learning the words and phrases from a language, one is also exposed to culture.

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Spring Sports Train Diligently to Prepare for the Season

BY REGAN VON RICHTER '18

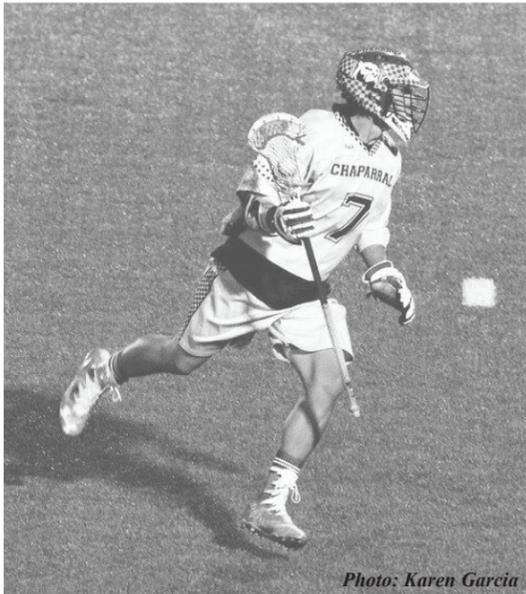


Photo: Karen Garcia



Photo: Codi Bressler



Photo: Jay Wilson

Senior Gabriel Garduno sprints down the field to score a goal.

Determined, Senior Tyler Bishop flies over the track hurdles with victory in sight.

Senior Aylin Naranjo aims at perfecting her throw at practice.

Heading into a new season of exciting sports, the spring teams are preparing with hopes for greater success this season. With many new players, as well as returning athletes, the coaches and teams are determined to do well. Track and field, baseball, softball, girls lacrosse, and boys lacrosse have all begun their preparation for the season with weight training and early practices almost every day after school. These sports have proven their determination to strive for excellence this spring season with pride.

As one of the biggest sports on campus, track has done its part to prepare for the high level of competition in the upcoming season. Starting early and encouraging extra practice for the athletes has created a buzz of excitement and energy within the program. Head Coach Mr. Martin Dinsbacher is looking at the year

as a "rebuilding season" in light of the many seniors who graduated last year. In hopes of showcasing new talent and acquiring new recruits, Dinsbacher is excited to see what this season will bring for his athletes. With high expectations for the upperclassmen in track, the pressure is on to encourage a fierce drive to work hard. While some are just starting to think about college, others have had their talent recognized by college scouts and have already been offered athletic scholarships. Head Baseball Coach Mr. Brian Brown is working to showcase his talented juniors and seniors undergoing the college process within the upcoming season as multiple athletes find themselves receiving offers from highly accredited programs. Their current focus is on the very competitive Southern Section. Fresh off their third place win in their fall

tournament, the baseball players are excited and determined to make the playoffs and the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) postseason. Senior Trevor Walters is confident in his team because of the "better coaching and, all around, a better fundamental program," and is aiming high to win league. With some fresh new talent, the Varsity Baseball team is ready to meet the challenges of the spring season.

Probably the most prepared of all, the Girls Lacrosse team are more ready than ever to dominate this season and set a new name for girls lacrosse. Starting at the beginning of the school year, the Puma Lacrosse girls have been training hard in the weight room and on the field to grow as a team and improve their skills. Senior Sarah Tellez said, "This season is all about teamwork. We always try to improve one another and we want

to leave our next generation being better than the last." With new talent and a new energy, these girls are ready make this season one to remember.

The Varsity Softball team has high expectations for their upcoming season as they aim to be better than they have ever been. The team's three preseason tournaments begin February 24 and they are working on overdrive to win their matches and gain some confidence going into season. Two-time Defensive Player of the Year, Jordan DiGiacinto said, "I'm one of the captains. I've been helping my coach prepare workout routines to get the team and myself ready." Conditioning on the field twice a week and on their personal time, the girls are working for a victorious season.

With more chemistry than ever this year, the Varsity Lacrosse Boys are ready to take the field as a force

to be reckoned with. From basic stick skills to running hills, these boys are dedicated to making themselves stronger and more prepared for the tough competition in the Southern League. Senior Gabriel Garduno is confident in his team this season as he said, "The team chemistry is a lot different this year. Knowing that we can trust someone else to get the job done really helps the team not only win, but just to be a team," he said. With each other by their sides, the varsity lacrosse boys are excited to start the new season together.

As spring sports near, the teams are all buzzing with excitement. With dreams of going to CIF Finals and everyone's sights set on beating statistics from last year, these teams are all working hard to make a statement this season. With the dedication and passion in these athletes, this spring season is set to be full of excitement.

Athlete Spotlights

BY JULIANA VASQUEZ-UK '18



CHELISIE MARTINEZ '18
VARSITY SOCCER

As a long-time soccer player, Senior Chelsie Martinez shares her passion for soccer with her teammates and works hard to keep improving. Martinez has been playing soccer since she was eight years old, she explained that her interests began with her father, who played throughout high school and wanted his daughters to experience the same things that he did. Throughout the years, Martinez has grown a deep love for the sport and dedicates a lot of time to it. As well as playing for the Girls Varsity Soccer team, Martinez participates in a soccer club outside of school, at Arsenal FC South. At this club, she is able to better her soccer skills as the team's center-back, as well as compete against other teams. The main goal of the center-back is to prevent the opposing team from scoring once the ball has gone through or past most of the players. While holding this important position, the stakes are high during games and practices, but Martinez does not let that get in her way. One thing that sets Martinez aside from others is having the ability to effectively communicate to her teammates without hesitation. Martinez explained that having efficient communication skills is an essential part of bringing home wins, and her teammates appreciate this, knowing the ultimate benefit.



TREVON WRIGHT '18
VARSITY BASKETBALL

With a deep-rooted love and passion for basketball, Senior Trevon Wright's main focus as a player on the Boys Varsity Basketball team is collaboration, improvement, and being able to work in unison with all of his teammates to take home a victory. Wright explained that his strengths lie with being able to be a positive and supportive team player, as well as a person of motivation during the team's rough times. Whether it be with tension as a whole team, or a struggle to take home a win against an opponent, Wright's efforts to spread positivity and words of wisdom never fail. Wright expressed that even though the team has had some trouble during the season, he will not take that as a sign to give up, but as a motivational push to strive and do better in the future. To improve, Wright explained that he has been working extremely hard at practices to perfect his skills on the court and be fully prepared for the team's upcoming games. When it comes to game day, staying focused and driven is key, Wright expressed. In addition to that, giving his teammates a boost of confidence during games, when it is needed the most, is extremely important to him. His sportsmanship, drive, and leadership abilities are shown throughout his time on the team and it does not go unrecognized by his teammates and coach.



MAHLIA MEDINA '18
VARSITY WATER POLO

As one of the team captains for the Girls Varsity Water Polo team, Senior Mahlia Medina sets a good example for the rest of the team by showcasing impressive leadership ideals, as well as being a very skilled player. Medina expressed that after four years of playing water polo, she was named Captain because of her strong ball handling and passing skills, as well as her consistent defensive capabilities. In addition to that, Medina explained that being a leader and role model for her teammates is essential for success. She explained that she always does what she can to be a positive and motivational player for all of the girls so they have someone to look up to. She expressed that because the team works so well together and focuses on the goal at hand, succeeding is almost never a question, as the team looks ahead for the California Scholarship Federation (CIF) postseason. While water polo takes up a lot of her time, as well as softball, it is very difficult for Medina to find the time outside of school to do homework and focus on her school studies, so she makes sure to prioritize her school schedule and get the most done at school. She explained that it is a big challenge, but ultimately she knows that working hard and pushing herself will pay off and be beneficial for her future endeavors and success.

Girls Varsity Basketball Team Exceeds League Expectations

BY ROMY LADERO '18

The Girls Varsity Basketball team has been training year round in order to compete at a high level against the teams in the league. With a current standing of 12-10, gathered from league games as well as the additional ones played in fall tournaments, the team is looking at the season with hopes of standing above the other five schools in the section. The roster is built of new players as key additions replaced last year's seniors.

Changes in the offseason created a team that was able to overcome constant years of adversity in the program. Second-year head coach, Mr. Ricardo Gomez, took over the team and built a year-round program consisting of tournaments in the spring, summer, and fall seasons to prepare the players for winter league. "We're making it beyond fundamentals and we are trying to build a team that works together routinely," Gomez said

in regards to his short-term goals for the girls. He explained that his current expectations of the team do not exceed the expectations of his program of the other teams in the league. Schools around the section believe that the team is a contender and understand the competition that Gomez's team brings. According to Gomez, the powerhouse teams of Vista Murrieta, Great Oak, and Murrieta Valley high schools believe that the team is a ranking contender. The expectations do not just stem from the program, but also around the valley and the conference.

Currently ranking at sixteen in their division, the girls find themselves on the other end of the league's increased confidence, meaning that their practices and offseason work are multiplied to live up to the expectations. The girls participated in a couple offseason tournaments, going undefeated in the Betty Smith

Classic at Hemet High and winning the championship trophy. "There has to be consistency and the players have to be able to work beyond the winter schedule to succeed," said Coach Gomez. He believes that success comes from working off and on the court, as well as during and out of the season. Beyond rigorous practices and demanding tournaments, the team works on their chemistry, as well. "My expectations for the season is that the team continues to develop together and that as each game goes by, we push each other and ourselves more," said Sophomore Point Guard Zia Rapada. The group has a standing principle in always bettering their bond because it is a significant element of the game. Junior Center Johnna Tomkins stated, "our ball improvement has improved and overall team chemistry has been better and will help in the playoffs." Her view into the near-



Photo: Jay Wilson

Sophomore Zia Rapada taking the lead in the offense against Santa Rosa Academy. The future of the league coincides with establishing his current agenda to cater to the team's qualification to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) postseason and, eventually, the league championship.

Rentar to the Athletes' Rescue Jumping into New CIF Sport

BY JULIANA VASQUEZ-UK '18

When it comes to sports, seeing recurrent injuries is no surprise, which is why having a certified athletic trainer to head a team of students practicing sports medicine is a privilege. Head Athletic Trainer of twenty-five years, and twenty-one here on campus, Mr. John Rentar, has seen it all when it comes to injuries, whether it was as simple as a sprained ankle, or as gut-wrenching as dislocated bones.

As the school's Head Athletic Trainer, Rentar is the main healthcare provider for all of the athletes here on campus who participate in any sport and find themselves with an injury. Depending on the severity of the injury, Rentar will look at it, assess and evaluate it, and refer the athlete to another medical professional if he cannot treat them right on the spot. His main priority is making sure that these athletes are safe and back in shape to continue on with their sport. In addition, Rentar's obligations are to stay after school for practices, be present at all home football games, away Varsity Football games, and home wrestling matches. These are all mandatory because, "the types of injuries athletes experience at these events are more severe than other sports, so I [Rentar] am required to be at all of these specific games and matches." And although it is nearly impossible to be present at every sporting event, Rentar tries his best to be since he is the only certified athletic trainer the school has.

When he first started out in college at San Diego State University (SDSU), Rentar's initial

he wanted to become a doctor, however, he switched majors because of a simple suggestion to become an athletic trainer. He explained, "After my friend on the volleyball team at SDSU suggested that I look into the possibility of studying athletic training, I took a few classes and I absolutely loved it." He was very lucky to find what he was truly passionate about before he graduated college.

During his time here as the Head Athletic Trainer, Rentar has seen some bizarre injuries, such as a fractured femur, a ruptured patellar tendon, dislocated phalanges (fingers and toes), compound dislocations, where the bone abnormally sticks out, and many more. Rentar stated, "Seeing these injuries were gross, and I felt horrible for the athlete, of course, but at the same time it was pretty exciting." As well as bizarre injuries, Rentar has had the opportunity to treat and tape some big names in the world of sports, such as Michael Jordan, Marshall Faulk, Spud Webb, Reggie Miller, and John McEnroe to name a few. While this job gives him tons of opportunity, Rentar explained that for him personally, his joy comes from seeing that his sports medicine students go on to become doctors, nurses, or anything in the medical field. He said, "It gives my job more meaning."

Having a Certified Athletic Trainer here on campus means that Puma athletes will be taken care of, whether it is by his team of students in sports medicine, or Rentar himself, athletes can let out a sigh of relief knowing that they will be seen and treated.

BY REGAN VON RICHTER '18



Photo: Joseph Alidio

The STUNT team during practice perfecting the end of their routine to land them the winning point.

Flipping and jumping right into California Scholastic Federation (CIF), the newest sport of STUNT, made by the USA Cheer, is emerging as an intense spin-off from the average cheerleading team. It was currently incorporated into the spring athletic leagues, a sport that requires great strength and agility. Described as the more athletic version of the traditional high school cheerleading club, it is a high intensity sport of tumbling, jumps, tosses, and stunts without the dancing and sparkly bows in sideline cheerleading. Competing with routines and sequences, the STUNT team takes the floor ready to win it all with extreme precision.

Practicing twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays, the STUNT team is working hard to perfect their skills for their upcoming season of competitions and matches. The athletes consistently train to compete around six different stunt, tumbling, and pyramid routines. Similar to memorizing plays and positions, the girls memorize their lifts and jumps and

compete in different positions to adhere to different strengths. Head Coach Ms. Brittany Walker expects great things from the team this year and since there are a lot of returning members on the team, she hopes that the juniors and seniors will make college contact and gain scholarship opportunities. These girls have state championships in their sights and they are putting in an abundance of time and effort to climb their way to the top. Co-captain Tiffany Serna said, "We're really hoping to qualify to the Southern Sectional Championships this year. We need to win at least six matches this season to qualify and it would be a great end to this season." With the sport being so new, there is a lot of pressure on these girls to become the pioneers of STUNT. Co-captain Jenna Taylor said, "We are one of the only teams in this district or area that actually has this sport." In hopes of attracting new members and branching out to other schools, a championship win would give these girls the

boost they need to publicize the sport of STUNT.

With state championships within their reach, these girls have been working non-stop to make it to state championships. Senior Ashley Pidgeon said, "We have a really great team this year and we're really close so I think we have a solid chance at championships." Working together and supporting each other on the team are what have gotten them to this point and the excitement shows as they are ready to take on this season together.

With all the pressure of the sports early years on their shoulders, the Puma STUNT team is hard at work to impress everyone and to show off their athletic talent. Not only has it become a good opportunity for athletes to play a sport in high school, but it also has introduced athletes into the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) sport of Acrobatics and Tumbling. With a promising future in STUNT, the girls are enjoying their time together flipping, throwing girls in the air, and defying gravity.



Photo: Tonya Wake

Mr. John Rentar alongside some of his talented athletic trainers at a home Varsity Football game.



THE SEASON OF LOVE



How do you plan on celebrating Valentine's Day this year?

What is your sweetest Valentine's Day memory?

What was your funniest date experience?

What would your ideal date be?



"I plan on celebrating Valentine's Day by taking my dog and boyfriend on a hike."
Payton Siurek '19



"When my children were two and four, [they] made a bunch of heart cards and wrote all over them and surprised me in the morning."
Mrs. Tiana Fox



"One time I was going on this date and it was going good and then I found out it was my cousin."
Mr. Aaron Slojkowski



"A hike to the top of any hill or mountain top with a nice view. We would lay down with a blanket, listen to music, eat some food, and talk about life and the future."
Carson Rangel '18



"I plan on celebrating. . . with my family this year. We will be eating a special meal for dinner prepared by my mom, but the important thing about that special day is spending time with loved ones."
Mohommad Sadegi '21



"My sweetest Valentine's Day memory was when my husband left notes hidden all around the house, each one leading to the next, it was a walk down memory lane."
Mrs. Gayle Trout



"My funniest date experience would be when I went to the movies with this guy and during the middle of the movie he got up, threw up, and disappeared."
Dr. July Hill-Wilkinson



"My ideal date is going to the pier and enjoying different rides, games, food, and watch the beautiful sunset as it fades away. Later, I would take a walk down the beach."
Aliyah Garcia '21



"This year we are going to the UCLA versus Oregon basketball game and then to dinner."
Mrs. Barbara Mueller



"When my girlfriend was out of town on Valentine's Day last year and came up and surprised me and took me out to dinner."
Kyle Damschen '18



"When I was in college, all my roommates and I did that typical no boys allowed Valentine's Day where we rented cheesy movies and ate chocolate cake on the couch in our pajamas."
Mrs. Carissa Teachout



"I would love to surprise my significant other with a trip to Paris to eat at a nice restaurant. I mean, what's more romantic than the city of love?"
Mr. Christopher Klair



"Play a guitar song, and cry about being single."
Jerrico Boadilla '19



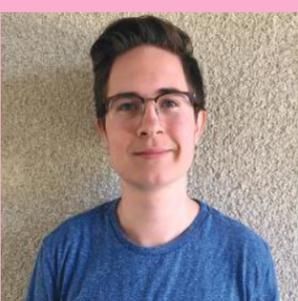
"My sweetest Valentine's was when we visited the place we got married twenty years later for a dinner that overlooks the city lights."
Mrs. Candida Canizales



"We were at my house and my mom was pooping and he opened the door on her."
Jasline Dimapilis '17



"Watching a movie on a projector outside on blankets with lots of snacks and then stargazing afterwards."
Ethan Rolph-Jones '18



"I plan on celebrating by having a nice FaceTime conversation with my long distance girlfriend."
Thomas Henningson '18



"I had to lead a group of foreign exchange students. . . and on their last day they pitched in and bought me a big box of heart-shaped chocolates."
Skylar Han '21

Mr. Joe Ruzzamenti's Funniest Date Experience

"I played a practical joke on my girlfriend, I told her let's go watch the submarine races and it was immediately apparent she did not know what that was so I drove her to the lake, which was Lake Matthews and I told her we were watching experimental subs in the lake. We sat there watching the lines made by the wind on the lake and she totally believed we

were watching submarine races, then we went back to her house and her mom said what did you guys do and she said without any hesitation we went to dinner and saw the submarine races. Submarine races is 1950's slang for making out and she obviously did not know that and her parents just glared at me and I busted out laughing and told them the story."

