

ORACLE

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COOKIN' UP A STORM!

Warrior chefs combine their passion for cooking and community service by assembling peanut butter jelly sandwiches for local meal donations.

Compiled by Diya Patel, NEWS EDITOR, article by Jamie Lee, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Pearl Yoon, CARTOON EDITOR

From buttery pancakes to baked ziti smothered in cheese, Cooking for a Cause club teaches Warriors how to cook egg-squisite dishes. Providing Warriors with the opportunity for culinary education, Cooking for a Cause club teaches their members the basics of cooking for various cuisines every other Tuesday during the lunch period. During meetings, students learn how to cook various cuisines. A student chef teaches a recipe and the members follow the instructor step-by-step. The board divides the students into two groups which allows one group to gain hands-on experience while the other members study the recipe. The club cooks one dish and serves four portions at each meeting. Established this school year, Cooking for a Cause club hopes to expose students to culinary arts. Since the district curriculum does not include widespread cu-

linary classes, the club aims to bring a new form of education in the arts to the campus. Through cooking sessions, the members hope to learn crucial life skills that are not covered in the academic curriculum, Senior Abhinav Venigalla said. "Everyone should know how to cook, whether it's as simple as pasta or a steak," Venigalla said. "Everyone eats and having a skill like cooking is always beneficial." In order to prepare for the meetings, the board brings the tools and ingredients needed to prepare the dishes. The students have access to fresh ingredients and various kitchen tools such as griddles and toaster ovens. Outside of the Warrior community, the club helps people in need through meal donations to local homeless shelters. The students donate the food items after lunch on the day of the meeting in order to preserve freshness of the meals. According to Co-president Celeste Garcia, the

club made peanut butter jelly sandwiches and sent their first donation to a nearby shelter. "We hope to provide those in need with healthy meals," Garcia said. "Meetins are beneficial to students since they gain culinary knowledge while also helping the community" In future meetings, board members plan to invite professionals in the industry to broaden the scope of culinary knowledge to students. Since students with different cultural backgrounds lead the sessions, the meetings expose Warriors to unique dishes. As the club learns recipes from around the globe, the board hopes to leave students with memorable experiences, Garcia said. "The students learn how to cooperate through the process of producing a meal together," Garcia said. "Since students with different ethnic and cultural backgrounds instruct the club, members are exposed to new types of cuisines from all around the world. This can expand the student's knowledge and appreciation of cultural dishes."



Warrior Environmental Club donates to online initiative #TeamSeas

In support of the project by Youtubers Mr. Beast and Mark Rober, club members raised awareness about marine pollution.

By Neya Jakan
STAFF WRITER

The Warrior Environmental Club participated in the #TeamSeas project to help raise funds from Oct. 29 to Dec. 31. Founded by YouTubers Mr. Beast and Mark Rober, #TeamSeas is an online initiative created to collect donations from people around the world in order to help remove garbage from oceans. Mr. Beast and Rober pledge to remove one pound of trash for every dollar donated to the foundation in hopes of accomplishing their goal. Throughout the month of November, club members collected donations and entered their funds directly through the #TeamSeas website. In hopes to contribute towards the cause, the club donated a total of \$147 to the #TeamSeas project. With the use of presentation slides, the board educates club members to protect natural habitats and provides volunteer opportunities to clean the outdoor

classroom located on campus, as well as to write articles that are published on the uElucidate website regarding environmental issues. According to Club President Langdan Zhu, the collaboration allows members to make a tangible impact towards cleaner ocean environments. The club hopes to raise awareness about the detrimental effects marine trash poses on ocean animals, Zhu said. “By cleaning up trash from the ocean, ocean animals are safer and the risk of entanglement or death by choking or consumption is mitigated,” Zhu said. “With more awareness spread to the people around us, more change can be done and that’s something that [our club] wants.” Through the #TeamTrees project in 2019, Mr. Beast and Rober raised over \$20 million towards the creation of forests.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF #TEAMSEAS WEBSITE

Inspired by the success of previous initiatives, club members hope to contribute to #TeamSeas and help the YouTubers reach their goal, Zhu said. “This collaboration gives the chance for people to help clean the environment even if they don’t have time to do so since it can be hard to take the time

and help physically,” Zhu said. “This way, we can help virtually with a contribution of money in whatever area they need.” With worldwide access to the #TeamSeas platform, Warriors strive to collect donations in order to be among the millions of contributors who support marine environments,

OC nonprofit organization hosts Christmas together event for families

Organized as a drive-thru event, Christmas Together 2021 gathered underprivileged children for a gift and toy giveaway.

By Brianna Vu
STAFF WRITER

Families Together of Orange County will host a Christmas Together 2021 event for underprivileged children in the community at Columbus Tustin Park Dec. 18. Supported by various local organizations, the annual Christmas Together event is a toy giveaway during which OC residents receive gifts and celebrate the holiday together with a variety of activities. With free admission into the event, families can experience the Christmas spirit through games, rides, performances and pictures with Santa Claus. Families will need to register for a free ticket online and provide an OC address at the time of registration and the day of the pick-up to receive a toy. As a member of the Coalition of Orange County Community Health Centers and the California Primary Care Association, FTOC is a nonprofit community-based

health care provider committed to improve the quality of life for all OC families. Founded in 2003, FTOC provides access to quality healthcare services, behavioral health services and community resources regardless of families’ financial status. As an annual tradition, Christmas Together aims to provide quality services for family’s needs through their donations and toy drives. For this year’s goal, the board aims to distribute 20,000 toys, which is 13,000 more toys compared to their previous year’s objective. FTOC will also provide COVID-19 tests, vaccinations and a variety of holiday meals in addition to the toys provided. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the board of directors cancelled Christmas Together event in 2020 due to social distancing complications. In an effort to distribute more gifts to children, the executive team decided to continue the event as a contactless drive-through in a parking lot, Chief Executive Officer Alexander Rossel said. “Because we decided to do a contactless drive-through event last year, over 6,000 kids registered in just 5 days that we had to close the registration a



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF FAMILIES TOGETHER

couple days later,” Rossel said. “It is very rewarding to see how we can put a little bit of hope into these kids once again. Being able to bring joy to those who need it the most is something Families Together is very proud of.”

Through donor and volunteer efforts, Christmas Together 2021 utilized donations such as toys, entertainment and monetary donations for the event. The organization serves thousands of families each holiday season

and fosters holiday cheer with each gift donated. Organizers of the event hope to create a memorable experience for all members of the community and to spread holiday joys to all underprivileged children.

Children 5 to 11 to receive vaccine under new protocols

Health care agencies hope to further reduce cases as children become approved for COVID-19 vaccines.

By Kaelyn Kwon
STAFF WRITER

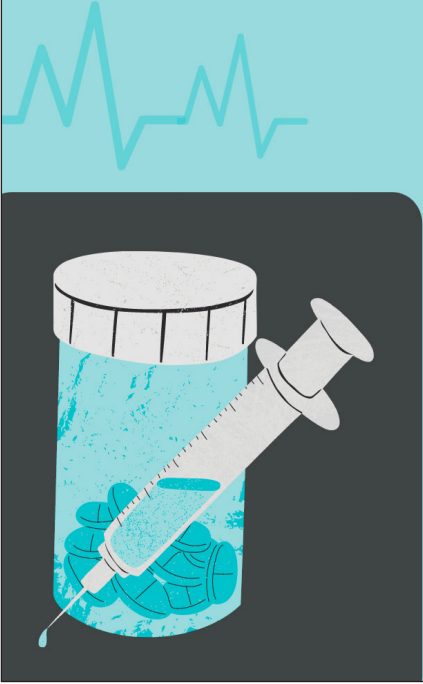
Under the updated COVID-19 vaccine eligibility guidelines, children ages 5 to 11 can be fully vaccinated before the winter holidays. Administered in two dosages at least three weeks apart, the Pfizer vaccine is 90 percent effective at preventing COVID-19 in younger children. Compared to the current adult and adolescent formulation, the future pediatric vaccine uses a smaller dose and is more diluted. In order to receive the vaccine, individuals can schedule an appointment at their local pharmacy, hospital or clinic. Similar to the adult vaccine, expected side effects include sore arm, fatigue, headache, chills, fever and nausea. Prior to the vaccine eligibility update, the Food and Drug Administration examined 3,000 vaccinated children to determine the vaccine’s safety. Inoculation can help reduce disruptions to students’ in-person learning and help minimize community transmission of COVID-19, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Rochelle Walensky said. “Together, with science leading the charge, we have taken another important step forward in our nation’s fight

against the virus that causes COVID-19,” Walensky said. “We know millions of parents are eager to get their children vaccinated and with this decision, we now have recommended that about 28 million children receive a COVID-19 vaccine.” In an effort to advance patient safety and care, the company reports that its antiviral pill is highly effective in treating COVID-19. After the FDA approves the pill, the drug will reduce the risk of hospitalization or death by 89 percent when received three

days after the start of symptoms. Pfizer’s pill is the second antiviral pill to demonstrate efficacy against COVID-19 and has greater efficacy than a similar drug from the company Merck. Merck’s pills are about 50 percent effective when given within five days of the onset of symptoms. However, both medications are intended for high-risk patients, such as individuals above the age of 60 or with compromised immune systems. According to the National Institutes of Health, vaccines will remain as the primary

protection against infection. In the future, the creation of drug discovery groups will potentially target other viruses, NIH Director Francis Collins said. “The rapid development of vaccines has shown how agile scientific discovery can be when we combine the resources of public agencies, private entities, and our nation’s creative minds,” Collins said. “[The institution] will construct a platform for the development of effective antivirals that will help us better prepare us for potential future viral pathogens.”

COVID-19 VACCINE AND PILLS



- CHILDREN 5-11 CAN BE FULLY VACCINATED
- PFIZER 90 PERCENT EFFECTIVE IN CHILDREN
- THE PILL WILL REDUCE THE RISK OF HOSPITALIZATION OR DEATH BY 89 PERCENT

SOURCE: WWW.CDC.GOV/VACCINES/COVID-19/PLAN_NING/CHILDREN.HTML

GRAPHIC BY DAVID LEE

Warrior cybersecurity team attends national conference

The three-day conference allowed Warriors to share their student perspective on cybersecurity education.

By Erin Jang
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to pique interests in the cybersecurity community, four members of Troy Cyber assisted in the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education K-12 Conference Dec. 5-7. Hosted annually in different states, the NICE Cybersecurity Education Conference gathers students, educators and non-profit organizations across the country to promote the importance of network safety. The NICE program conducted the conference virtually through the Whova site, a novel platform that offers video replay and digital booths. Over the three-day period, attendees participated in panel Q&A sessions and discussions about educational procedures

and careers in cybersecurity. The conference featured top technology industries such as CompTIA, Mastercard, Cyber.org and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Invited to two student panels, the Warrior participants included seniors Ashmita Kumar and Talha Ahmed, junior Coco Gong and sophomore Anusha Garg. For an audience of middle school teachers, Ahmed, Gong and Garg presented information on how to teach cybersecurity to younger students during the Sunday workshop. Kumar spoke to adult educators at a session on Tuesday to provide a student perspective in cybersecurity education. As one of the six Troy Tech pathways, the Cyber Defense course encourages Warriors to attend weekly after school practices to learn fundamental skills needed for competitions. Along with a team of students

from ninth to twelfth grade, the conference functioned as an opportunity for Warriors to share their interests, Cyber Defense Coach Allen Stubblefield said. “Through the student panel, these individuals are able to show their passion and true interest in

“Students have the opportunity to present what they have learned, what pushed them to get involved and what kept their attention in cybersecurity.”

Allen Stubblefield
cyber defense coach

cyber,” Stubblefield said. “In front of the teachers, [students] have the opportunity to present what they have learned, what pushed them to get involved and what kept their attention in cybersecurity.” As one of the first five schools in the nation to create a four-year cybersecurity program, the Troy

Cyber team initially began as a smaller group with 45 students. There are currently 290 students involved who practice weekly with peers for extra hours and engage in national competitions. With continual increase in size, Troy Cyber earned the ability to attend educational conferences and nationwide competitions. According to Stubblefield, the Warrior cybersecurity program is one of the largest groups nationally and continues to welcome an unlimited number of students. With conferences, Warriors constantly search for ways to help other teams expand, Stubblefield said. “We want our [Warriors] to love helping schools that have limited training materials,” Stubblefield said. “The NICE conference we attended is a start in the process of sharing our knowledge and branching out our student-led program.”

CLUB CORNER

Creatives for Social Change

As a recent student initiative, Creatives for Social Change invites students to connect individual creativity to activism. Under CSC, the Daily Daisy Project raised over \$5000 to donate to COVID-19 relief and social movements. With meetings every Tuesday during lunch in room 326, the club encourages members to create different crafts such as jewelry-making and knitting. Club members plan passion projects and fundraising events and discuss local and worldwide current events and social activism.

Ronald McDonald Volunteer Group

As a certified nonprofit organization, the Ronald McDonald Volunteer Group serves families of chronically-ill patients. RMVG offers various volunteer opportunities such as making holiday cards. The club holds meals-of-love events at the local Ronald McDonald House, during which club members provide food and entertainment for the residents. Members attend bi-weekly meetings on Thursdays in room 328.

Warrior Make-A-Wish Club


Founded in 1980, Make-A-Wish Foundation raises money in order to help grant the wishes of critically-ill children. The Warrior Make-A-Wish club partners with the foundation for fundraisers and campaigns. In addition, club members also have an opportunity to participate in volunteer events. With the support of branches across the nation, the foundation is able to grant more than 15,600 wishes each year. The club holds bi-weekly meetings on Wednesdays in room 415.

Inspire National Organization for Women

The Inspire National Organization for Women Club aims to foster global feminism. Every Thursday in room 416, the Warrior NOW Club advocates for equal pay, affordable feminine products and elimination of sexism through fundraisers and volunteer opportunities. The international nonprofit organization offers Feminist Public Square, a book club to discuss books with ideas on reproductive rights and justice, LGBTQIA+ rights and constitutional equality.

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google classroom code:
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DEADLINE FEB. 7

informational meeting:
JANUARY 4-5

mandatory to attend at least
one meeting

troy

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LIT MAG 2021

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- SHORT FICTION -
PHOTOGRAPHY - ART

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
JANUARY 7

GC CODE: Y7EMFTW

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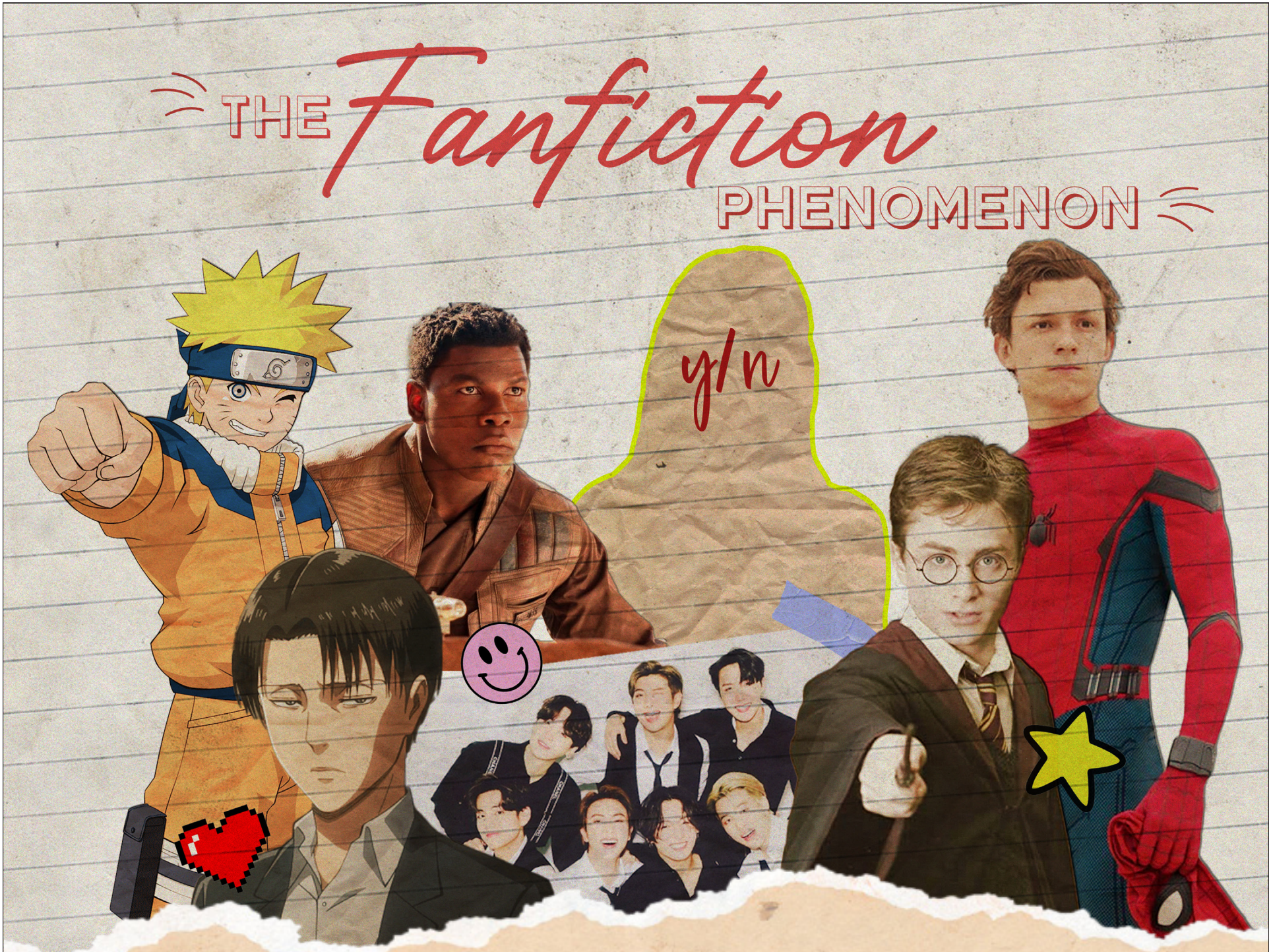
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We all wish to play a more active role in all of our favorite fandoms, and fanfiction is a great way of doing so. Read further to learn about fanfiction and all of the controversies surrounding it.

Compiled by Sean Warren, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Jessica Chin, STAFF WRITER, and photos courtesy of Google

From Diagon Alley to even the far away lands of Narnia, endless possibilities reside within the powers of fanfiction. By diving into these fictional worlds, reader insert fanfiction allows fans to immerse a version of themselves into the addictive adventures and excitements of their favorite literature. Yet, despite the support and enthusiasm surrounding fan fiction, the form of expression is far too often subject to unwarranted mocking and scrutiny from critics.

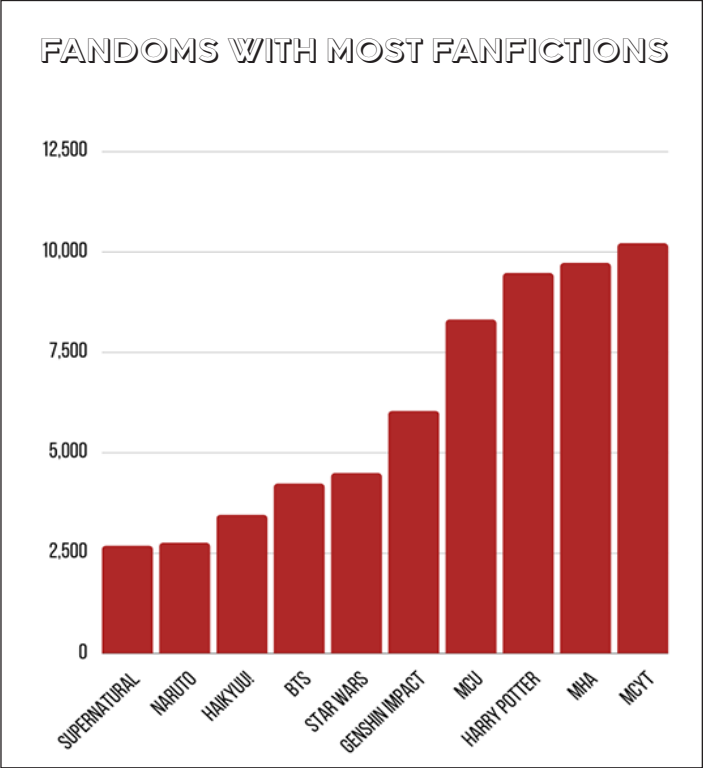
It is impossible to ignore the impact of fanfiction in literature, as some of the most popular novels or book series are forms of fanfiction. As J.R.R Tolkien constantly pulled characters from Norse mythology and Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” to create his best selling series, it is undeniable that fanfiction has been used to create bestsellers that have shaped the literary world. Even so, a stigma continues to surround fanfiction as many resent it for being unprofessional and cringey. But, those descriptions stem from misunderstanding, as fanfiction is creative self expression that is not limited to literature, existing in fantasy sports as well. The intense scrutiny over fanfiction is unfair when considering that it stems from the deep appreciation that fans have for the topics they love.

While fanfiction writers explore the wondrous and established worlds of fiction, it is not without its faults. Because fanfiction is written using characters and destinations created by other authors, the issue of copyright and stealing artistic work is troubling. Books written by authors are the accumulation of specially crafted storylines along with intense character development, creating compelling characters and atmospheres.

When fans use established characters or locations and change the narrative, they are unrightfully stealing written work that is an author’s livelihood. However, authors like J.K. Rowling have expressed understanding to fans that write fanfiction—as long as the works are not sold commercially, they are not in violation of copyright laws and can be created with no consequences.

Aside from legal issues, fanfiction struggles to maintain its fundamental goal: including all readers in the narrative. There is a clear lack of representation for disabled and neurodivergent readers, and the stories that do include characters of these types often depict them in offensive ways. Furthermore, characters are frequently written with caucasian stereotypes, callously excluding many fans with different features who are unable to visualize themselves within the stories. But, as more fanfiction is being written, writers are beginning to actively try including realistic portrayals for underrepresented readers. Reader inserts give fans the ability to see themselves and their experiences in scenarios that are all too often overlooked, serving as a creative outlet for both readers and authors to imagine themselves in their favorite fantasies.

As fanfiction continues to be frowned upon, the connections it builds with readers remain far more important. Fandoms exist for almost all pieces of literature, because along the way readers connected to the characters and wondrous worlds of friendship, adventure and acceptance. The world of fanfiction allows readers to explore identities beyond the scope of mainstream fiction, opening the door for all individuals to freely express their unique identities.



WINTER WEAR FASHION

What to wear when walking through a winter wonderland? Take a few tips from these Warrior stylists. Read more to find out how to dress for the winter season.

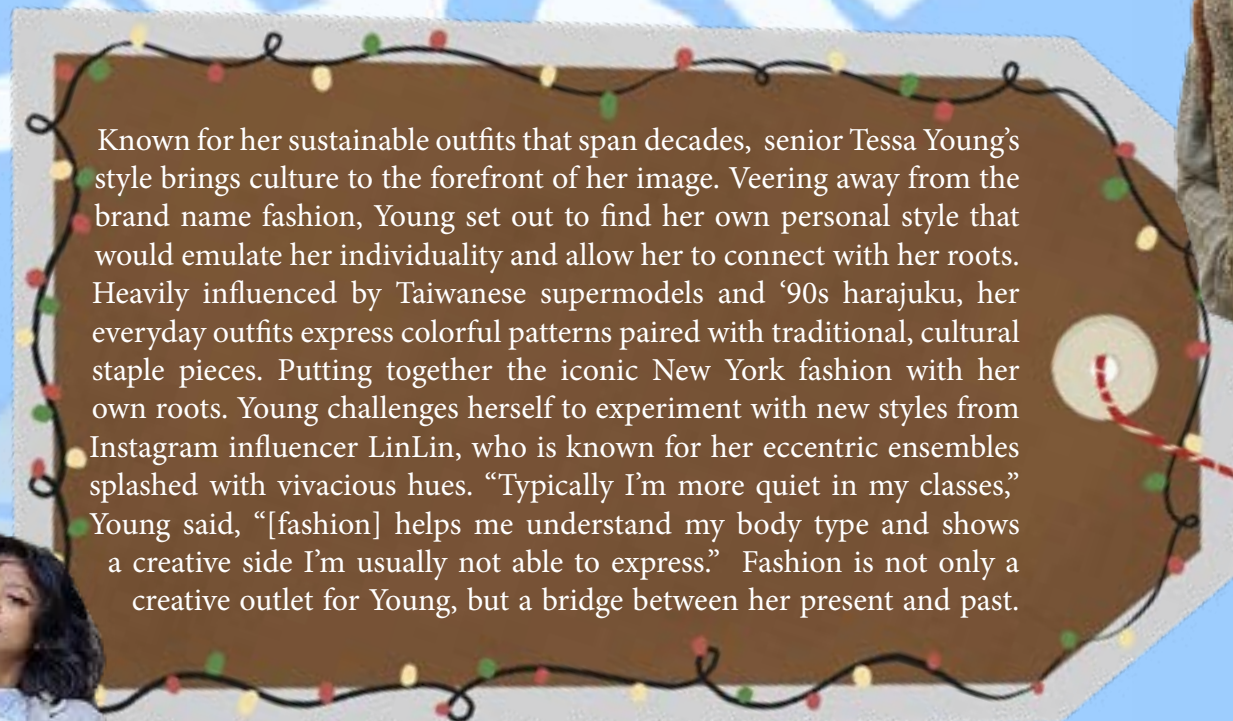
Compiled by Isabelle Liang, ENTERTAINMENT AND LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Kira Chen, STAFF WRITER, cartoons by Kirsten Dingson, CARTOON, and photos by Isaiah Pro, PHOTO EDITOR, and Tiffany Vo, PHOTO



K-fashion is in vogue right now, and junior Ethan Park fearlessly rocks the avant-garde streetwear style. With a love of blazers and bomber jackers, as well as a fondness for contemporary neutrals, Park creates a new mix of academia and street style. For the casual everyday look, Park often opts for oversized hoodies and logo tees to score comfort points and fashion credit simultaneously. His recognizable color palette is a mix of darker hues and the classic black and white di-chromatic look. Honing in on his patterning, Park's clean cut style is inspired by Instagram model Tim Dessaint, who serves as a main influence in teaching him how to dress his body type better. Park also swears by the benefits of layering as a way to stay warm this winter season. "Combining thinner [bases] like a shirt and a second layer is warmer than a single hoodie," Park said.



Adorned with a plethora of fairy-core fabrics like satin and tulle, senior Jerrie Arada's wardrobe seems to be pulled straight out of a New York museum. Arada's incorporation of satin corsets, billowing dresses with puff sleeves and empire waists place a contemporary spin on Victorian fashion. Her meticulous layering shows each piece has been carefully planned to perfection. Emulating the romantic aesthetic of impressionistic paintings, Arada grounds her style with academia based pieces and making statements with her period pieces. Her neutral toned blazers and fitted turtlenecks elevate winter wear staples and present a more muted sophistication to her wardrobe. Though looking good is always on her priority list, Arada reminds students that fashion should never be sacrificed for warmth. "Long coats are a must because it feels fashionable and gives you the [heat] from its heaviness," Arada said.



Known for her sustainable outfits that span decades, senior Tessa Young's style brings culture to the forefront of her image. Veering away from the brand name fashion, Young set out to find her own personal style that would emulate her individuality and allow her to connect with her roots. Heavily influenced by Taiwanese supermodels and '90s harajuku, her everyday outfits express colorful patterns paired with traditional, cultural staple pieces. Putting together the iconic New York fashion with her own roots, Young challenges herself to experiment with new styles from Instagram influencer LinLin, who is known for her eccentric ensembles splashed with vivacious hues. "Typically I'm more quiet in my classes," Young said, "[fashion] helps me understand my body type and shows a creative side I'm usually not able to express." Fashion is not only a creative outlet for Young, but a bridge between her present and past.



Surrounded by endless racks of clothing, the rhythmic clinking of clashing hangers became music to senior Cage Hawley's ears. His regular visits to a neighboring thrift store when he younger allowed his love for grunge fashion to blossom at an early age. The timeless aesthetic of the '80s and '90s centered on oversized silhouettes makes all outfits of Hawley a statement. Completed only with multiple straps and zippers on his usual dark aesthetic outfit, Hawley brings a different dynamic of fashion to the table. Each piece, from the black graphic tee to the striking combat boots peels back another layer about what Hawley is currently interested in. "[Fashion] communicates the music I'm into, the type of pop culture and media I enjoy," Hawley said. While some people may see winter as a barrier in remaining fashionable, Hawley sees it as an opportunity to look past the California heat and expand his horizons. Besides the usual vintage sweater and fluffy socks, Hawley finds the best way to combat the cold is through wearing dark colors that can absorb and retain the most heat.



For freshman Gianni Lomeli, fashion is less about mainstream trends and more about sending a message of who you are. Inspired by Tyler the Creator's trendy yet upscale skatewear, Lomeli's outfits showcase his ability to mix bold pieces with elegantly tailored components like his corduroy pants and trademark ushanka hat. Taking a level of social advocacy when sporting his "recycling" tee, T-shirts are more than the go-to apparel—they are also effective mediums of voicing one's opinion. Always adding a dash of personal flair, Lomeli styles his pieces to mirror his colorful persona by encouraging students to never shy away from vivid hues and eccentric accessories. "The color should match with something you have on, like your hat or a material that makes your outfit pop," Lomeli said. Fashion is constantly changing, and Lomeli admires that growth, "[fashion] can not only show who I am right now but who I want to be," Lomeli said.

Like an artist coming into their new style, senior Chloe Lim took quarantine as a chance to start on a blank canvas and paint a picture more representative of her. Lim's fashion sense is mainly based on the classic art-student look on Pinterest, defined by a canvas satchel bag, knit leg warmers and hefty platform boots. Having a chameleon-like fashion range, Lim has no bounds to what types of styles or aesthetics she would like to incorporate or mirror in her outfits. With fashion as her preferred medium, Lim is not only able to make each piece work cohesively but also a statement. According to Lim, two important aspects when styling are color and texture, one can have basic pieces but instantly elevate an outfit by coordinating these two aspects. Not tucking her skirts away for the winter time, Lim uses tights to maintain warmth. While Lim occasionally bases her looks off of supermodels, her main inspiration comes from a fashionista much closer to home. "All my clothes are from my mom's closet, so I kind of feel like my mom and I share a bond through fashion," Lim said. If she has trouble finding clothes that pair well together, she does not simply put them off to the side. Like works of art, Lim skillfully alters dresses into long skirts, believing that every ensemble has untapped potential worth transforming.



New California math bill adds up: subtract racial inequities to end educational divisions

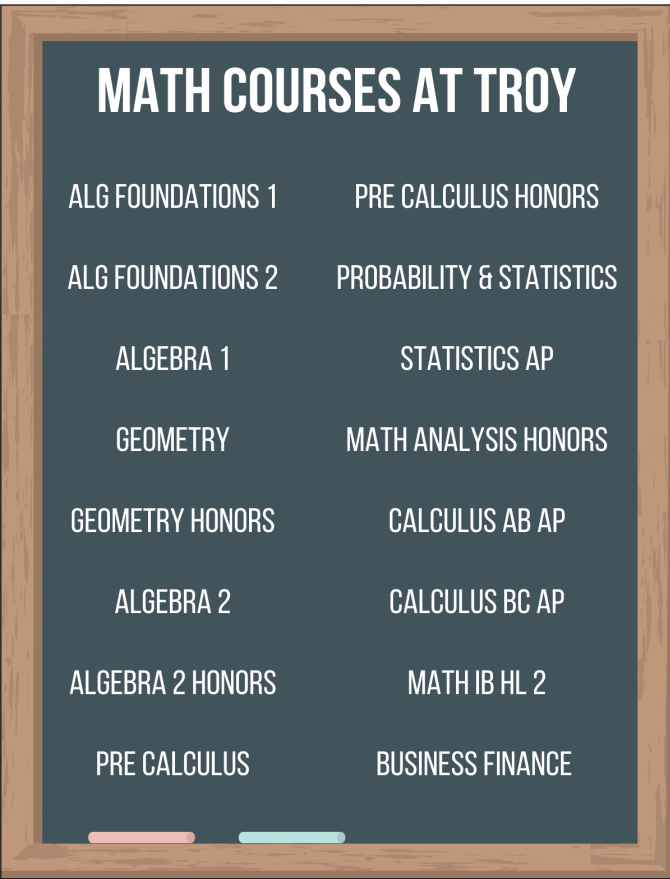
By Manal Ahmed
STAFF WRITER



As our generation adapts to our changing world, our education system should catch up too. The California government proposed new math guidelines for 6th to 12th graders on Feb. 8, sparking debate among Californians. This bill will bridge racial and economic divisions by offering data science courses, further emphasizing statistics and incorporating ideas such as detracking. This, unlike the typical method of splitting students into different skill levels, will mandate all students to remain in similar math classes. These recent changes to California’s math system present new opportunities to support disadvantaged groups and promote greater racial and socioeconomic equality. Keeping students in similar math classes until junior high would be an improvement to our current math system as it will deepen understanding of key concepts while promoting collaboration. Many high school honors students advance from basic algebra to calculus, and although taking the class demonstrates strong understanding of math, data sciences like statistics are growing in importance. To keep up with growing demands for analysis and data sciences, high school statistics must be given more importance. As current systemic divisions limit opportunities for underprivileged students,

this new educational policy is a necessary step towards equity. Students who grow up in impoverished districts have neither the resources nor the time to devote to proper learning. For example, in the Los Angeles Unified School District, the population of Black students taking calculus classes was underrepresented by 8% during the 2015-16 school year. Detracking would enable students to work with more privileged peers and gain advantages through collaboration. The new California math bill will give students more time to explore and develop their mathematical interests and abilities, and by allowing students to collaborate with fellow peers for longer periods of time, racial and economic inequalities can be alleviated. Jobs are growing at an exponential rate in tech, and as potential grows in the STEM sector, our mathematical priorities should change as well. Statistics and data analysis are becoming gradually more relevant to keep up with the increasing jobs in STEM that require analytical skills. It would be more useful for students to familiarize themselves with statistics and data science, as these skills are more commonly used in the real world. Understanding of statistics is higher in demand, and for three ways in a row, Glassdoor has ranked jobs in data sciences in the country in terms of availability, salary, and fulfillment. California’s new bill will better equip students with more applicable math skills for their future careers. Despite the several benefits, critics of

the new bill argue that it destroys the traditional pathway of honors math that many high school students wish to take. It’s time to consider deviating from traditional methods and pathways in our current high school math pathways. Calculus doesn’t necessarily show college preparedness, but rather student wealth. A 2018 study from the Journal for Research in Mathematics Education shows that of all American high school students who take calculus, more than half have parents whose income is over \$100,000. Students from higher income families are more monetarily supported with tutors and academic help, providing more opportunities to prepare for higher level classes than lower-income students. Even though wealthy students usually have more advantages than fortunate students, detracking would give all students equitable opportunities for success. Although the new math model is



GRAPHIC BY DAVID LEE

changing drastically, it is long overdue. A system that changes with the needs of STEM jobs and minority students’ struggles will allow greater interest in math overall. The new California bill offers hope for the future of educational equity and a greater understanding of core math concepts.

Ban fraternities and sororities to protect our students from campus assault

By Mai Omoto
STAFF WRITER



Behind the facade of wild parties and raves, fraternities and sororities hide a more frightening reality. Eighteen reports of sexual assault and nine reports of drugging have been filed since Oct. 22 at the University of Southern California, the majority of which stem from fraternities and sorori-

ties. And because media has romanticized these organizations as symbols of popularity, for many students, these groups represent the pinnacle of college life. While these depictions hold some truth, there is a darker side to Greek life than what is publicized. Because these groups contribute to many sexual assault and drugging incidents on college campuses, fraternities and sororities should be banned. These organizations foster an atmosphere that trivializes sexual assault

and abuse. According to a 2013 study at Oklahoma State University, women in sororities are 74% more likely to be raped than other college women. Although fraternities and sororities may offer a social environment for college students, the increased risk of sexual assault is simply not worth it. Despite the alarming amount of sexual violence on college campuses, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, only 310 out of every 1,000 sexual assaults get reported to the police. Historically, it has been difficult to prove a rape or sexual assault occurred, so it is not shocking that law enforcement does not prioritize these cases; however, colleges should be held to a different standard. Families send their children to these esteemed institutions to receive a higher level education. Parents should not have to worry about their children’s physical safety while they are on campus, and student safety should never be threatened with potential assault. After an assault, victims must also endure the physical and mental stress that result. These students may have to see their rapists on campus, which can be very traumatizing for victims, and they may not know how to seek proper resources to recover. Students should not have to endure such traumatic

experiences—experiences that Greek life seems to condone. The safety of students should be prioritized, but with the consistent reports from Greek organizations, it is clear that these groups jeopardize the well-being of students. A confidential reporting service at USC recently received five disclosures of drugging and sexual assault. However, administration failed to report students of these events until four days after receiving a second report. This delay is not only disrespectful to the victims—it is unacceptable. Unfortunately, USC is not alone; colleges across the nation receive student reports of sexual assault that are ignored or never brought to justice. College administration must look past the monetary benefits of fraternities and sororities and consider the negative implications of supporting these organizations. Colleges should be alarmed by the damage that fraternities and sororities cause and must take firm action against them. Schools must focus on what is best for their students. With the increase in sexual assault reports, it is clear that fraternities and sororities host hostile environments that promote assault. Although Greek organizations cultivate bonds between students and raise revenue for the school, it should not become a reason to overlook assault cases on campus. We must eradicate the prevalent rape culture and prioritize student safety, the first step being the renunciation of fraternities and sororities.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KTLA

We must be equally representative of all religious holidays, not just Christmas

By Brian Woo
STAFF WRITER



There is more to the holidays than just Christmas. The holiday season is right around the corner; festive decorations that adorn homes and Mariah Carey’s overplayed Christmas song is once again on the radio. For many, this season is overwhelming with joy and happiness. However, to other groups, including Muslims and Buddhists, the winter season indicates a lack of religious

representation. The popularization of Christmas movies, cookies, and cards is a reflection of the overwhelming presence of Christmas during the holiday season. More representation of other religions during the winter holidays is necessary, so that people of all religions and beliefs can enjoy their holiday season. In the United States, Christmas

has become more than just a religious holiday—it is ingrained as a staple of American culture. Christmas being the only federally recognized religious holiday further proves its importance. The winter season focuses on Christmas due to the cultural implications it delivers each holiday season. In the United States especially, Christmas is a staple of our culture, but more representation for other religions is much needed.

More can be done to recognize other religions during the holiday season. An inclusive way to recognize people of different cultures would be to equally represent various winter holidays in the United States. For example, corporations and other facilities can recognize holidays such as Diwali, Kwanzaa and Yule, which are some of the winter and fall holidays that are underrepresented in the media. Workplaces and schools could also be more mindful of holiday decorations they put up and even spread holiday cards that represent other religious holidays. The media could also play a part in this—in addition to the regular Christmas house decorations, news stations could also cover other traditional religious festivities such as lighting the kinara for Kwaanza. Increasing awareness of different religions during the holiday season would allow for more representation and inclusivity this holiday season. The winter holiday season should not be a time of marginalization; other religious celebrations should be represented, in addition to Christmas. The holiday season should be enjoyable to everyone and should be representative of all religions. This holiday season, take a moment to learn about the numerous other winter religious holidays and help make this season a time of happiness and joy for everyone.







CARTOON BY KAILA PERLAS

2021 First Semester Grade Report

From communication to school spirit, Oracle evalutates some key aspects of the Warrior’s first full semester back on campus.

Compiled by Vivian Lee, **OPINION EDITOR**, articles by Manal Ahmed, Audrey Na, Mai Omoto, and Brian Woo, **STAFF WRITERS**, and graphics by Daniela Kristen Herrera, **GRAPHICS**

PERIOD	COURSE	GRADE	CITIZENSHIP	COMMENTS
I	SCHEDULES 	A	S	Many students appreciate that the Troy administration extended the deadline to drop or change a class this semester. Additionally, students were grateful that the deadline was widely publicized by both teachers and the morning announcements. Although there are always difficulties with students’ schedules, Troy counselors tackled these problems with little to no trouble.
2	SCHOOL SPIRIT 	B-	S	With the return of rallies and games, ASB has seen increased levels of school participation. However, school spirit is still subpar compared to previous years. Troy still has a long way to go to achieve the school spirit that it once had, but considering that students are just emerging from the online era, Troy is doing a great job at regaining its school spirit.
3	STAFF COMMUNICATION 	B+	S	As Troy students are returning to campus, the school is regularly updating students and families through weekly emails and newsletters. And although we no longer have designated times for student support, teachers are willingly help in their own time and recommend tutors. All in all, teachers and staff are doing a decent job in communication.
4	HEALTH/SAFETY 	A-	S	Since returning to in-person classes, Troy has prioritized the health and safety of students. Warriors must fill out a survey that clears their entrance onto campus and must wear their masks at all times in classes. To support students’ mental health, administration issued a student screening survey to help those in need. Let’s keep up the great work, Warriors!

Negative emotions should be expressed rather than invalidated in safe spaces

By Audrey Na
STAFFWRITER

Individuals need to address their feelings, not suppress them. As the holiday season approaches, people may feel the urge to indulge in traditional holiday festivities: listening to cheery music, drinking hot chocolate and hanging colorful lights. And although a positive mindset creates a festive atmosphere for the majority, it may also create pressure for people to feign happiness even in the face of extreme hardship. This mindset, called toxic positivity, is prevalent among students and their peers to combat stress. Toxic positivity is damaging to mental health and should

“Although a positive mindset creates a festive atmosphere for the majority, it may also create pressure for people to feign happiness even in the face of extreme hardship.”

not become a societal obligation, even during the holiday season. On the surface, turning a blind eye to negative feelings in order to maintain a positive holiday atmosphere may seem beneficial, but this is not always the case. A 2011 study from the University of Texas found that ignoring emotions makes them stronger, suggesting that disregarding negative emotions can make individuals feel worse. Outside factors may influence individuals to bury their emotions, but this can lead to lashing out and feelings of isolation—making one feel more miserable. For instance, stress is a factor that can cause students to turn to toxic

positivity as a coping mechanism; however, this is an unhealthy response that suppresses emotions. For students, December is a scramble to raise grades while balancing time between schoolwork and extracurriculars. High school seniors in particular must juggle both academics and college applications. Due to these conditions, students may begin to suppress their emotions rather than express them in a healthy manner. According to The Greater Good Science Center at Berkeley, suppressing emotions can lead to anxiety, depression, and stress-related illness. These potential consequences are especially worrying for students who put lots of pressure on themselves, a common mindset among Troy students. Additionally, suppressing emo-

tions affects the physical well-being of students. A 2013 Harvard study indicated that people who bottle up their emotions increase their chances of early death by over 30%. If people continue to disregard how they feel, it could lead to fatal consequences. Furthermore, it is imperative to listen to peers and validate their emotions, regardless of how uncomfortable they are to discuss. Though students may believe t h a t

DON'T

VS.

DO

TOXIC POSITIVITY PHRASES VS. BETTER THINGS TO SAY WHEN TALKING TO SOMEONE

 <p>You need to calm down.</p>	 <p>How can I help?</p>
 <p>Don't give up!</p>	 <p>Keep going, you got this.</p>
 <p>Stop crying.</p>	 <p>I can see this is hard for you.</p>

GRAPHIC BY DANIELA KRISTEN HERRERA

being overly positive can help cheer up their peers, toxic positivity comes off as dismissive and inconsiderate. Phrases like “Cheer up!” or “It’ll get better eventually” may seem helpful, but they are in fact demoralizing and make others feel unheard. The first step to changing the approach to negative emotions is to actively listen and sympathize with peers, even if it is difficult to understand what they are feeling. To combat toxic positivity, schools should reinforce existing safe spaces where students can truly express how they feel. Although some schools already offer mental health resources such as pamphlets and mental health awareness clubs, these can be expanded upon. Schools could provide trained therapists, set aside time for men-

tal reflection or support the mental wellbeing of students by creating relaxing spaces on campus. If schools can improve upon safe spaces for students, it will promote healthy emotional expression, which would allow students to feel more connected to others and their school. As students, it may be difficult to find time and energy to address emotions while handling academic responsibilities. However, toxic positivity is never the answer and should not be normalized. Addressing mental health does not mean overlooking negative feelings to please others; it means acknowledging difficult emotions and being comfortable with them. During this holiday season, additional effort should be put into facing all emotions—even the ones we may not feel ready to face.



CARTOON BY PEARLY YOON

The Final Battle! by Pearl Yoon

Warrior boys soccer team cedes to the Yorba Linda Mustangs

The boys soccer team gains vauable insight in their preseason scrimmage against the Mustangs.

By William Song
STAFF WRITER

Developing a game plan for the season, the Warrior boys soccer team lost their first scrimmage game of the preseason 0-1 against the Yorba Linda Mustangs at the Shapell Stadium Nov. 17. Central to the Warrior’s strong starting defense, senior goalkeeper Marco Lomeli exhibited great composure and reflexes, easily batting away a goal attempt from a Mustangs forward. On offense, senior Aidan Villanueva used a burst of speed to bypass the Mustangs’ defense, creating an opening for him to deliver the first goal of the game. However, the goal was called offside by the referee and the game resumed 0-0. Active movement and communication between centre-backs senior Brandon Leitner and senior Leo Jiang helped fend off a Mustang run in what could have been a dangerous offensive play. Demonstrating



PHOTO BY TIFFANY VO

QUICK TAKE: *Co-captain Brandon Leitner jogs up to take possession of the ball, calculating a strategy against the Mustangs’ defense.*

great positional awareness, junior Aydan Corrales found a great scoring chance in front of the goal, but was denied by the Mustangs goalkeeper. Despite the many chances created by the Warriors, the first half ended with both sides tied at 0-0. Several changes in the lineup were made in the second half to give new members a taste of playing at the varsity level. The two teams

continued to battle for an edge until the Mustangs began gaining momentum. Taking advantage of their position, they broke through the Warrior line and scored, just slipping the ball through the gloves of junior goalkeeper Samuel Miller. Despite several attempts to even the game, including a free kick from the penalty arc, the team was not able to capitalize on opportunities

and ended with a final score of 0-1. With all the team members receiving playing time to showcase their abilities, the match was a great opportunity for the coaching staff to monitor the players and see overall team dynamics head coach Lester Maldonado said. “We were trying people in different positions,” Maldonado said. “It really was a game for us to see

the players in different places.” The match also allowed the team to identify areas of improvement. It gave the team insight into figuring out their strengths and weaknesses in a real varsity game setting, Maldonado said. “Building chemistry together [is something we need to work on]. I think that early on, we weren’t on the same page so our communication can also definitely improve,” Maldonado said. “However, it was something that got better even as the game progressed.” Villanueva agrees that the team has much to work on before the season, including bonding and improving chemistry on the pitch. He believes that the squad has serious potential and looks forward to competing in league as well as CIF. “I think our team can learn that we are capable of being a solid squad once we figure out some bits and pieces,” Villanueva said. “Things like communication, intensity, and trusting each other could really take this squad to the next level.” The Warrior boys varsity team will host the 2021 Warrior Invitational Tournament Dec. 6-10 where they will play South Hills Dec. 6.

Making Her Mark

Read about Jenna McBratney’s quest for success in the JROTC marksmanship team!

Compiled by Jacqueline Liu, SPORTS EDITOR, article by Jacob Ballon, STAFF WRITER

Exhales break the heavy silence. All senior Jenna McBratney can hear is her own heartbeat. She loads and chambers the rifle, waiting for a perfect window to shoot. With calculated precision, McBratney pulls the trigger, and in a blink of the eye, her bullet pierces the target: bullseye! McBratney, co-captain of the Troy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps marksmanship team, was not always the stellar shooter she is today. Entering her freshman year, McBratney had no clue what JROTC team she should join. That is, until her older siblings, all of whom were in JROTC at Troy, told her about marksmanship. The precision of the shots, shine of the rifles, and whizzing of the bullets allured McBratney, so she decided to give it a shot. After passing her safety test, McBratney attended try-outs but did not make the team. Undeterred, she continued to attend practices. She eventually earned a spot on the team, a testament to her tenacity and love of marksmanship. “Out of all of the teams that [my siblings] told me about, marksmanship was the only one that sounded interesting to me,” McBratney said. “I didn’t make the team at first, but I just kept going to practice. When somebody dropped out, I got the spot.” At first, McBratney struggled in com-

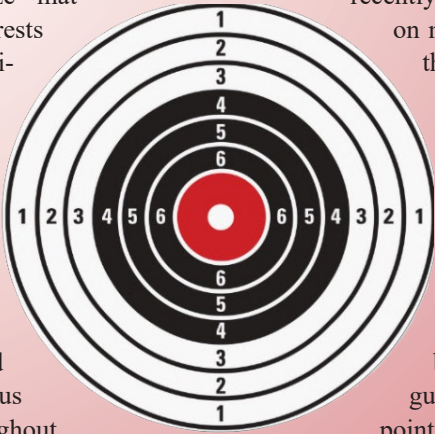


PHOTO BY ISAIAH PRO

petitions. In competitions, points are earned from shooting close to the center of targets from either sitting, prone or standing positions. In her sophomore year, she earned just 440 points. Now, McBratney consistently shoots close to 500. Through her refusal to quit, McBratney went from hardly earning a spot on the team to becoming co-captain. “Seeing my scores increase over time is really rewarding,” McBratney said. “Even though at first you may not see results right away, if you work hard, you do get there eventually.” Marksmanship is a unique sport.

Unlike football or basketball—standard high school sports where natural athleticism and size matter most—success rests mostly in the individual’s mentality. McBratney must regulate her breathing patterns, involuntary twitches and heartbeat while setting up shots. Precision is achieved through absolute focus and patience. Throughout

her high school career, McBratney has cultivated these skills to become not only a better shooter, but also a more motivated student. Whether it be in the classroom or shooting range, she is determined to improve. “Marksmanship isn’t like other sports because you just focus on yourself and compete only with yourself,” McBratney said. “It’s ironic to say this because shooting a rifle on the surface doesn’t seem to have many transferable skills, but it’s really taught me patience and focus.” McBratney challenges the stereotype that the only people interested in marksmanship are gun-nuts, drill sergeants and second amendment extremists. Instead, she finds it a great release, and simply put, exhilarating. “I had an interview with someone recently who commented on me being a part of the Red Cross and ROTC. They noted the contradiction was like peace and war,” McBratney said. “We’re not training for combat. We shoot guns just to score points and have fun.”



Im-peck-able Investigator

Stepping quietly into the tranquil forest, junior Bella Liu soon finds herself surrounded by a soft symphony of chirps and tweets. What eggs-citing creatures will she find on this trip? Read more about her birdwatching to find out!

Compiled by Coco Gong, **FEATURE EDITOR**, article by Mary Kim, **STAFF WRITER**, cartoon by Kaila Perlas, **CARTOON**, and photos courtesy of Bella Liu



The flutter of wings are the only noises to be heard above the murmuring wind as quail-ified junior Bella Liu snaps a shot of the secretive Virginia Rail, a species of waterbird. Merging discovery and passion in her love for ornithology, the study of birds, she analytically collects data and organizes birdwalks, method-ically uncovering veiled patterns. Liu’s natural curiosity to explore takes her to nearby wild-life sanctuaries, where birds abound. Here, hours pass peacefully as earth and humanity come together to observe nature’s harmony, quiet and content. To Liu, birdwatching is both a refuge for weary minds and an outlet for adventurous exploration, sprouting seeds of joy.

An avid bird-watcher, Liu re-counts

the inspiration for her vibrant love passion: an ornithology bird walk planned by the Science Olympiad coach, Mr. Kurt Wahl. Since then, Liu has flown head-first into participating in multitudes of events, such as the Los Angeles Birders, the Great Backyard Bird Count and more. In the upcoming Christmas Bird Count, organized birders will count their feathered friends and send their results to national coordinators, where the information becomes a valuable aid to researchers on their quest for knowledge. Where an ordinary person can contribute, no matter their credentials, she describes ornithology’s reliance on citizen science, where collaboration sprouts to help researchers around the world. For Liu, birdwatching’s hidden beauty in part is found in its simplicity, a way to firsthand experience the way nature operates.

“Even the behaviors [that] we don’t find very charismatic in birds are still beautiful,” Liu said. “It’s just lovely to see all the biodiversity, even in a small park that you sit and drink your coffee in every day.”

There is more to nature than meets the eye. Underneath the seemingly mundane outdoors is a world of beauty, and further beyond this exterior are the forces of life and evolution. Striving to learn new things from every experience, Liu always takes time to sate natural curiosi-

ties about the environment with keen observations. She describes that although most facts are strictly categorized as black or white, nature’s cycles are never bound in binary. In the wilderness, evolution has awarded every species with advantageous behaviors, such as the brown-headed cowbirds’ ability to lay eggs in other birds’ nests, all for the common goal of survival. Although the invasion of other nests and the abandonment of their young appears morbid, Liu explains that this is an organic work of life, a demonstration of “survival of the fittest.” Her focus lies in being a witness and archivist of nature’s brilliant miracles, never a judge of the surface-level visible.

“It’s an acceptance, things aren’t always good or bad,” Liu said. “They’re just the way they are.”

In the future, Liu hopes to turn ornithology into a career, her main focus being ecology. This genuine, infectious interest of the surrounding world of movement and color is a glimpse into Liu’s inquisitive mind. In a world of constant noise and distractions, Liu shares a message to cultivate genuine, joyful curiosity, engaging in present moments. Whether in communities or in Mother Nature, armed with a passion for discovery, she encourages us to seek everyday phenomena too often missed.

“Just notice the little wonders in life,” Liu said. “Sometimes you see things you really don’t expect.”



AVIAN ARTIST: Junior Bella Liu recreates her birding trips with vibrant colors (right).