

THE ROYAL COURIER

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EL CAMINO REAL CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023

AN ENCHANTED HOMECOMING



STUDENTS GATHERED AROUND THE FOOSBALL TABLE TO ENJOY A FUN GAME

Photo by Eliza Lotterstein

By **Victoria Matz** and **Kyleigh Zvara**

The Enchanted Garden-themed Homecoming Dance welcomed 1,580 students to sing, dance and party, in the presence of bright lights and loud music, Sept. 30.

“I definitely had a lot of fun,” freshman Emma Fishman said. “I will say my favorite part was probably dancing and hanging out with my friends.”

The dance floor was a popular spot all night for kids to mingle and have fun. Students were moshing, dancing, and singing along to their favorite songs in the decked-out quad.

“I loved the theme and the lights were really pretty,” sophomore Kate Hoke said. “The decorations were also pretty, so I think it was real-

ly executed nicely.”

Student council (StuCo) decided on the charming theme, putting up whimsical forest decorations to create a fantastical atmosphere for guests. Further than just decorations, StuCo set up interactive activities for kids who needed a break from partying.

“I thought all of the games were really fun,” junior Nora Vargas said. “They chose a good variety of games for this event and everyone seemed to enjoy them a lot.”

The dance had air hockey, pool tables, cornhole and two photo booths. Lots of things were changed from last year’s homecoming, with a buffet to serve students this year, and a new corner that had video games for people to play.

“I really liked how fast

and efficient we got in this time.” senior Audrey Ramin said. “I feel like I was waiting outside for so long last year.”

StuCo worked to make this homecoming more convenient and enjoyable for students so they could experience a night to remember.

“I’m really sad that this is my last homecoming because we didn’t get one freshman year,” Ramin said. “I feel like we missed out on the memories from freshman year because we were only able to go to three out of the four homecomings.”

The last homecoming for some was also the first for many.

“It was very memorable because...it was my first homecoming,” Fishman said. “It’s going to stand out to me [in the future] consid-

ering how fun it was.”

Another aspect of the successful dance this year was the miraculous homecoming football game victory against Chatsworth Charter High School.

“I think that winning our homecoming football game just elevated the experience and made it overall more fun and enjoyable,” sophomore Arwen Nagares said.

With a win secured, students came into the homecoming dance excited to make a night full of memories.

“Homecoming was actually so magical,” Vargas said. “The lights hanging around the quad were so adorable and seeing everyone all dressed up and complimenting each other was the cutest thing ever.”

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The Hamas and Israel conflict continues

By **Isabel Rose** and **Victoria Matz**

The Hamas terrorist group brutally attacked hundreds of Israelis from the city of Gaza, during the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah, which then led to an on-slaughter in Israel, beginning Oct. 7, 2023.

Hamas openly discussed the obliteration of Israel and wanted control of the city. Gaza is a narrow strip of land that is roughly twice as large as Washington D.C. It was sealed off in 2005, by Israel and Egypt, in hopes of preventing any attacks.

Hamas claimed that there had been a long build-up of anger over Israeli policy, which included Hamas’s opinions on how Palestinians were treated by Israelis and the general expansion of Israeli settlements into their territory. Both the United States and Israeli governments agree that there is no moral equivalency between the murderous attack on Israeli citizens and how Israel responds to defend their country.

Palestinians themselves are being harmed by Hamas attacks on Israel. Palestinian civilians are being used as human shields by Hamas and an immense amount of lives were lost in the midst

of these acts. Many Palestinians are also being harmed by the acts of defense carried out by Israel’s military. While some believe that all Palestinians support and are a part of Hamas, it is not true. Palestinians who do not stand with Hamas and do not support their actions are protesting to voice their opinions on this situation.

Hamas, who took control of Gaza in 2007, bombed, shot, and murdered over 1,400 people, including 222 soldiers nearly two weeks ago. The terrorist group has taken about 250 hostages captive, mainly native Israelis, but also including foreigners. Initially, Hamas claimed that they fired 5,000 rockets, however, the Israeli military said that only 2,500 were confirmed launched.

As the air strikes get worse, and the physical attacks increase, Israel continues to fight for their people. In an attempt to save the lives of more than 1 million Palestinians, Israel warned them to move to a safer part of the territory in southern Gaza or potentially get seriously harmed by their attempts to defend themselves from Hamas. Many attempted to flee to another country to avoid the violence but were met with a blocked-off border for Gazans. Egypt’s

government has implemented a blockade and refuses to allow anyone to enter. Meanwhile, in Gaza, there is an estimated number of about 400 Americans and countless citizens who are currently dealing with a severely diminished supply of running water and food, in a city cut from electricity. As time goes on, many worry that this situation is on the verge of transforming into a huge humanitarian crisis. Many people are calling for a ceasefire, exhausted and shaken from the constant violence.

As of right now, there is a gauged amount of about 250 hostages in Gaza. These people were taken by Hamas and ripped away from their loved ones. Natives, as well as visitors were said to be taken to a network of underground tunnels that can be used to travel undetected and move weapons without notice. In order to avoid attacks from the Israeli military, Hamas has been using Palestinian citizens as human shields. Children and babies were brutally assaulted and violently murdered while being filmed by Hamas soldiers and shared on social media. Many killings done by Hamas have been filmed by them to gain attention and

spread fear.

Despite these horrific acts, Hamas is continuing the assault on Gaza, recently attacking the defenseless and injured. On Tuesday, Oct. 17, the Palestinian Islamic group allied with Hamas, Jihad, allegedly launched rockets attacking a hospital, wounding and killing hundreds. It was one of the deadliest attacks in Gaza yet. Most of the victims were women and children, and the severity and amount of wounds exceeded the number of medical staff available, causing even more needless loss of life. Hamas placed the blame on Israel’s military, calling the bombing a horrific massacre. Israel denied the allegations, instead blaming Islamic Jihad, a military group that often works with Hamas. The Israeli military stated that a group of rockets had been set off near the hospital and multiple sources indicated it was the group’s (Islamic Jihad) fault.

The war in Israel has sparked conflict in Europe and America against Israelis along with Palestinians. In Illinois, a 6-year-old Palestinian-American boy was stabbed to death and his mother was critically wounded by their landlord

because they were Palestinian.

The situation in Israel has caused widespread conflict in the United States, affecting even the school. Oct. 18, a rumor of a school-approved Palestinian protest grew, causing Israeli students to attempt to combat the protest during nutrition. Israeli students attempted to leave, even running and jumping fences. They chanted “Israel” and “The people of Israel live” repeatedly to show their support as the crowd grew larger. Parents began to gather outside of the school, in an attempt to take their children home. No students were permitted to leave who didn’t have an early leave pass. Executive director David Hussey stated Wednesday that no protests were authorized by the school. After the attempted walkout, students dispersed, running through the halls with flags and in groups, and later heading back to their classes or home.

The violence in the Middle East has left millions of people, Israelis, and Palestinians alike, feeling helpless, as their friends and family fight to survive.

Kaiser staff protest for higher wages

By **Jenna Espinoza**

More than 75,000 health care workers have gone on a three-day strike at Kaiser Permanente Oct. 4, 2023.

The Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions, which represents almost 85,000 of the health systems employees, approved the strike to occur for three days in California, Colorado, Oregon and Washington. Workers in Virginia and Washington, District of Columbia (D.C.) went on a one day strike and returned to work the next day.

The massive strike has caused delays at hospitals and clinics that serve nearly 13 million people.

Thousands of temporary workers were brought in to fill the gaps of the workers who had participated in the strike.

Scabs, the workers that were brought in as replacements, were given approximately six hours to learn all

the equipment and chartings used at Kaiser. They were then given their assignments and sent to work, not knowing how to use the specific devices at the hospital.

Respiratory Therapists, Vocational Nurses, Nursing assistants, hospital Environmental Services, Radiology Technicians, and many more participated in the strike. Physicians, registered nurses and management, however, did not take part in the strike at any of the hospitals.

The vast majority of striking workers are in California, where they have formed picket lines outside of more than three dozen hospitals in the Sacramento area, San Francisco Bay area, as well as Central Valley and Southern California.

The workers have demands for increased pay raises and staffing as well as to protest unfair labor practices and unsafe staffing



Photo by Dania Maxwell/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images

levels at Kaiser hospitals and facilities, according to the Union.

Kaiser Unions asked for a four-year pact which increases the workers’ pay 7% during the first two years and 6.25% in the three or four years after. They also want the workers to earn a minimum performance bo-

nus of \$1,500.

Kaiser said in a statement that it proposes a minimum wage of \$25 per hour in California and \$23 per hour in other states by 2026. They have also completed hiring 10,000 more people, which adds to the 51,000 workers the system has brought on board since 2022.

According to an anonymous source, Kaiser and the Unions will go back into negotiations, however, if a new contract is not agreed upon, another strike will occur Nov. for 10 days.

Olivia Rodrigo releases sophomore album “Guts”

By **Victoria Matz** and **Kaley Samiian**

20-year-old pop-rock singer Olivia Rodrigo continues to stun fans with her early success after her second hit album, “GUTS,” released Sept. 8.

“GUTS” consists of 12 tracks, however, her vinyls contain an extra track, “Obsessed”, that is exclusively for the vinyls. While songs like “Vampire” and “Bad Idea Right?” are gaining more popularity by the day on radio and media platforms, the entire album is a hit amongst listeners. In less than a month, her album has accumulated a total of about 200 million listens.

Within the first week of its release, “GUTS” has sold 302,000 albums and was announced the fourth largest

opening week for any album in 2023. The entirety of Rodrigo’s album reached the top 40 of the HOT 100. So far, her first release from “GUTS,” “Vampire,” has reached a total of 24 million listens alone.

Rodrigo’s debut album, “SOUR,” was released May 21, 2021 and pinpointed a successful start to her career in the music industry. The fans’ admiration of this album resulted in their initial excitement and anticipation for the release of “GUTS.” The data between the amount of streams is astonishing as “SOUR” only had nearly 4.6 million in comparison to the 60 million for “GUTS.” Rodrigo’s growth in the music industry is evident and conveys the talent and determination she has for her career.

Fans have also witnessed

a significant change in music style in her second album. “SOUR” consisted of deep, and sort-of melancholy music unlike her upbeat, rock style of music in “GUTS,” showing the immense amount of growth she has gone through in the past two years.

The difference in style has left contradictory opinions about which album is favored. “SOUR” has a more nostalgic feeling as it introduced numerous fans to her music, but some argue that the new album is more invigorating and exciting. Nevertheless, both are extremely well-liked within Rodrigo’s fanbase.

In addition to a successful launch of her new album, Rodrigo announced that she is going on a world tour starting Feb. 23, 2024. Her tour dates consist of areas around the

United States, Europe, and Canada. This sparked excitement around the globe as fans rushed to purchase the scarce amount of tickets on “Ticketmaster.”

After presale methods became available, all tickets on the site were said to be sold, however generally, more tickets are put for sale at a later date. With Rodrigo being so young and new to the music industry, the instant selling out of her concert tickets remains incredibly fascinating and displays the potential for her career.

Rodrigo’s current success and accomplishments with her music has left many fans eagerly awaiting what her future has in store.

A string of divorces in Hollywood

By **Victoria Matz** and **Kyleigh Zvara**

Star-studded divorces have been a common trend this year with even the public’s favorite celebrity couples choosing to end their relationships.

Famous pairs like Joe Jonas and Sophie Turner, as well as, Hugh Jackman and Deborah-Lee Furness, have gone their separate ways resulting in a public shock.

Australian actor Jackman, known for his role as Wolverine in the X-Men franchise, and his wife, Furness, announced their divorce in Sept. after 27 years of marriage.

Both individuals claimed that their split was completely mutual and done for the best.

Both agreed that they wanted to pursue their individual growth and explore on their own.

While the Hollywood community and fans are surprised after a split between the two, who have been a symbol of lasting love for over two decades, most people agree that this split was very flawless and done gracefully.

Around the same time, talk of the status of Jonas and Turner’s relationship was circulating.

In late Aug., rumors had spread that the couple were splitting up. While this had not been confirmed, it was not a rash assumption to make. Jonas was on tour for the past year with his brothers, and

many noticed Turner in the celebrity box, cheering her husband on and dancing along to the songs, as a possible publicity stunt.

While this rumored stunt could’ve been a way to hide their problems from the public, others believe that the issues only started once Turner stopped attending the concerts.

The news that the couple are divorcing after four years of marriage was only confirmed Sept. 5 and the split was supposedly due to different lifestyles.

Pop singer Ariana Grande and real-estate agent Dalton Gomez were another pair struck by this string of lost love this year.

The two had gotten married

in May 2021 and it is said that they split earlier this year, but there is no official information to support this. Grande and Gomez never made a formal statement to announce their divorce, but it became publicly known in July, and now it seems Grande has moved on to a new lover.

These three now exes are not alone, famous couples such as Sofia Vergara and Joe Manganiello, Billy Porter and Adam Smith, Britney Spears and Sam Asghari and Ricky Martin and Jwan Yosef have also separated this year.

With two months left of 2023 it’s hard to say which of America’s favorite celebrity couples will last, and which will fall to the hands of time.

“My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3” Review

By **Kaley Samiian** and **Kyleigh Zvara**

The third installment of the “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” franchise released to theaters Sept. 8, continuing the life story of the Portokalos family for fans.

This film is set after the tragic loss of a fan-favorite character. The family embarks on a trip to Greece in order to discover their roots and fulfill the last wish of the recently deceased.

For the duration of the movie, viewers get to watch, connect and learn from the iconic household through their struggles with attempting to accomplish this goal, while also getting a glimpse of the family’s imperfections and the importance of overcoming conflicts.

“My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3” is part of a trilogy, containing two movies before it. The

main character of all three films is Toula Portokalos, played by Nia Vardalos, who depicts her journey finding love and being Greek. Culture and family is a huge aspect of every one of the movies.

Like many other movie franchises, the original film stands out as the best. This film is light-hearted, funny, and great to watch with the family, however, it does not carry its weight compared to the other movies—especially the first one.

Since this is a long-running franchise, with the first movie debuting in 2002, and the second one in 2016, they deal with a lot of the same motifs, jokes and plot lines, which makes it repetitive and often a bit boring.

Additionally, the absence of characters and separation of family members in the third film makes the movie less en-



Focus Features LLC

joyable and nostalgic in contrast to the other two.

There is also a large difference in the revenue between the three movies. The original earned nearly \$368 million which is substantially higher than the \$90 million profit of the second. Furthermore, the most recent movie is significantly lower than the others, standing at \$31 million a month after its release.

Even though the third movie is not out of theaters, it can be

expected that it will not gross over the other two as films typically receive the highest revenue within the first few weeks of their premiere.

There has yet to be talk of a fourth chapter to the Portokalos family line, but after the newest movie’s profit it does not seem likely. Regardless, fans of the franchise would surely love to see them extend for another generation to enjoy.

THE ROYAL COURIER FALL 2023

The Royal Courier is El Camino Real Charter High School’s student-run and student-led newspaper publication. The Royal Courier has been publishing news for the school community since 1970.

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Our main purpose is to (1) inform the students, faculty and community of school-related news; (2) broaden the range of thinking of staff members and readers; (3) provide a forum for readers; (4) train the students in the functions of the press in a democratic society; and (5) provide entertaining features of interest to the students. All editorials without a byline reflect at least two-thirds opinion of The Royal Courier staff but are not necessarily the opinion of the administration.

Letters to the Editor are welcomed and must be signed; however, names will be withheld for valid reasons. All contributions are subject for restrictions of libel, defamation, slander and obscenity. The Royal Courier staff reserves the right to edit letters without changing the meaning, and also reserves the right to reject letters for reasons of limited space, untimely material, or unbalanced coverage.

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Fall book recommendations



Illustration by Isabel Rose

By **Victoria Amar** and **Sophie Apolaya**

Fall is the perfect time to cozy up with a good book, whether one is seeking thrilling mysteries, heartwarming romances, or tear-jerking literature, here’s some fantastic fall book recommendations

Starting with a mystery book with a darker side, “The Secret History” by-

Donna Tartt follows a group of intelligent misfits at a prestigious New England university. They discover a different mindset and lifestyle from the mundane lives of their peers, under the guidance of their classics professor. However, as they deviate from the norms of morality, they gradually become consumed with self-absorption, corruption, and duplicity, leading them

to the brink of destruction.

A perfect fall contemporary romance is “November 9th” by Colleen Hoover. The novel follows a love story between a writer and his unexpected muse, Ben. Fallon and Ben’s paths cross just before Fallon’s big move. As they spend Fallon’s last day in Los Angeles together, their lives intertwine and inspire Ben’s novel. Year after

year, they reunite on the same date, but doubt arises when Fallon questions the authenticity of their relationship and the secrets that Ben may be keeping.

Another book that ties fantasy and the contemporary genre beautifully is “Before The Coffee Gets Cold” by Toshikazu Kawaguchi. This story takes place in a little cafe in Tokyo, Japan; however, it isn’t any ordinary cafe but one that has the ability to let its customers travel back in time. All that is required to do is follow the simple rules and return before the coffee gets cold. The story follows four different characters on their journey back in time and the message that is being given within the stories of each character.

Finally, a must is the book that has grasped the

young adult demographic for years, “Twilight” by Stephenie Meyer. The book starts off with a seventeen-year-old girl named Bella who moves to a small town in Washington, named Forks. She meets Edward, a vampire with superhuman abilities, and they fall deeply in love with each other, but their love is complicated since vampires and humans aren’t supposed to be together. Throughout the story, Bella and Edward face various obstacles and must navigate the ways of their relationship.

These stories can make fall feel much more enjoyable, guiding to a cozier autumn by welcoming the power of reading. All of these books are available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or Target to get started on a good seasonal read.

“The Exorcist: Believer” is a perfect halloween watch

By **Jenna Espinoza**

The latest resurrection of the demonic franchise, “The Exorcist: Believer” released Oct. 6, lures in horrors fans and takes control of box office with \$27.2 million during weekend opening.

The film stars Jennifer Nettles, Ann Dowd, Raphael Sbarge and Leslie Odom Jr.,

as well as the return of Burstyn, who had played Chris MacNeil in the original film.

The new film is the sixth installment in the franchise and plans to be a trilogy with “The Exorcist: Deceiver” to come out in 2025. The cost of the film was \$30 million, which is evident throughout the movie with the amazing directing

by David Gordon Green.

The film is set 50 years after the original 1973 film which was directed by William Friedkin and blew box office records at the time. The original film was based on the book by William Peter Blatty and starred Linda Blair and Ellen Burstyn.

The story picks up as two local girls, Angela Field-

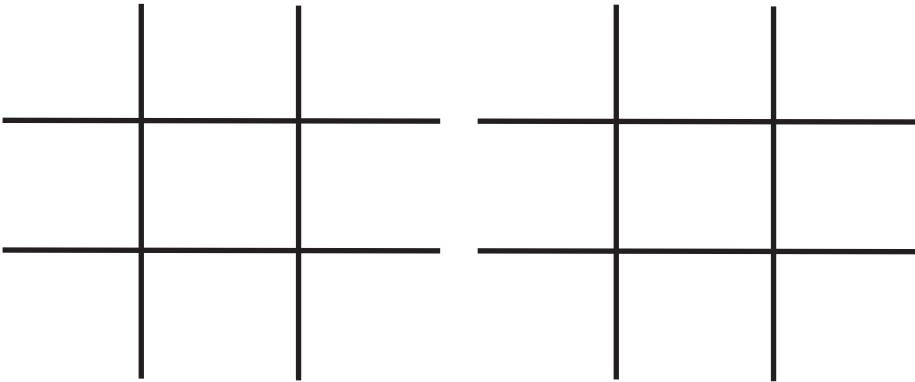
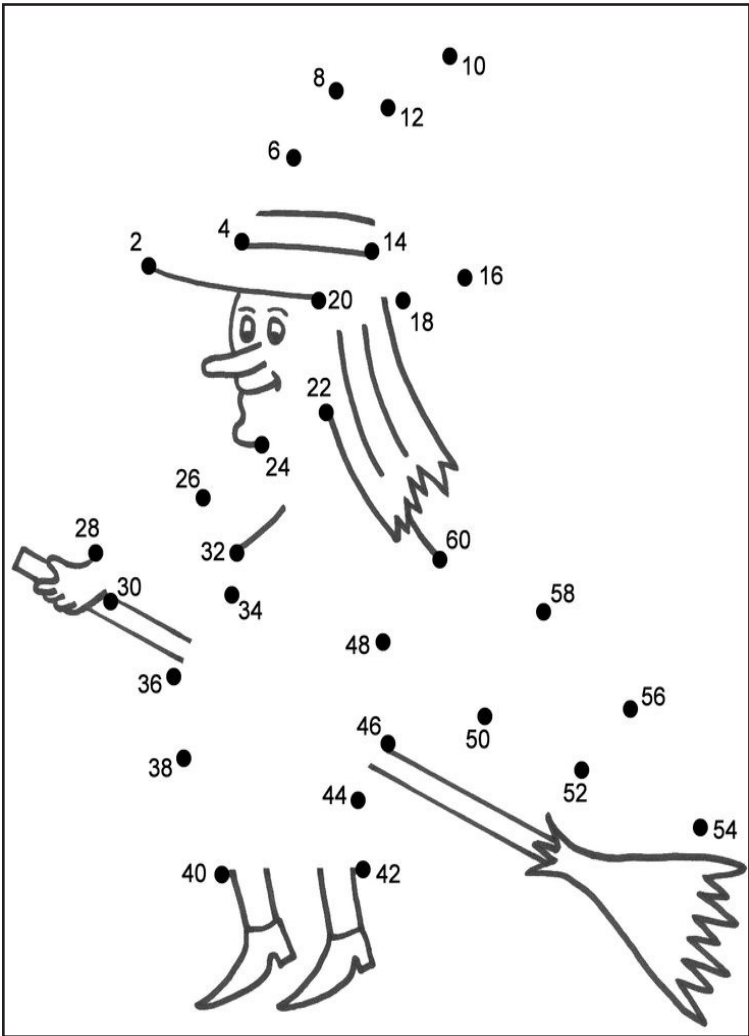
ing and her friend Katherine, who escape into the woods and don’t return until three days later with no memory of anything that happened to them.

A horrific chain of events then occurs, forcing Victor Fielding, the father of Angela, to seek out MacNeil for help, who is the only living person to wit-

ness anything like it before.

This one hour and 51 minutes horror film will have watchers on the edge of their seats throughout the entirety of the movie, scared of what will happen next.

The Royal Games



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NEWSPAPER
BEAR
HALLOWEEN
AUTUMN
HUSSEY
SPOOKY
ROYAL
ELCAMINO
BLUE
SCHOOL

We’ve got spirit, yes we do!

By Kasey Lee and Kyleigh Zvara

Leading up to the football game and dance, students participated in homecoming spirit week, Sept. 26-29, to build enthusiasm and school spirit.

“I feel like we had a lot of kids dressing up this year,” junior Rebecca Margolin said. “They were very spirited and everyone was eager to participate.”

The shortened week hosted four themed days; Adam Sandler day, On Wednesdays we wear pink, Twin day and Blue out. Many of these were very popular amongst students, with Twin Day being a fan favorite.

“My favorite day this week was twin day,” sophomore Taye Sangkhae said. “It was very fun being able to come up with ideas and match with your friends.”

The themed days where students followed the prompt by wearing color coordinated outfits were also popular because they were simple and easy to follow.

“I’ve seen a lot of peo-

ple, especially on the pink and blue days, dress up this year,” sophomore Saveena Joseph said.

The spirit week was organized by the Student Council (StuCo). They put in time and effort to come up with ideas for the days, with the activities held during lunch on the quad and the pep rally in the gym the Friday of the big game.

“Student council came up with spirit weeks by voting,” Sangkhae said. “We had meetings where we talked about ideas that we wanted to do. Then we voted and talked about what spirit day ideas we think would be best.”

When planning the days, StuCo sought to make them as convenient and fun as possible for students. They worked together to create a creative set of ideas that students could both enjoy and comfortably participate in.

“We wanted a lot of participation and we didn’t want to have some complex spirit days in which no one would participate because it’s hard to do,”

sophomore Arwen Rose Nagares said. “We chose it based on something easy.”

The spirit week days were very popular this year, with students of all grades taking part in it. On social media platforms, people posted pictures of themselves and their friends.

“I saw a lot of participation,” Nagares said. “I like how yearbook also posted a video on instagram showing participation and I think that made everything just so much better. I think the [spirit week] this year turned out pretty great.”

This homecoming spirit week was a huge hit with students, with more participation and building excitement for the events that followed.

“I think the participation was so much better [this year] than past semesters,” Sangkhae said. “I saw a lot of people dress up this week. Last semester we didn’t have a lot of participation during spirit week or days. This one in every class I saw at least one person that engaged by wearing a spirit day related outfit.”

Hispanic heritage month celebrations



Photo by Eliza Lotterstein

By Kasey Lee and Kaley Samiian

Students enjoyed performances by the Picane Latin Dance Group and Grupo Folklorico de West Los Angeles (GFWLA) on the

stage as a celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month, during lunch Oct. 12.

They performed traditional dances to represent hispanic culture, diversity, and history. The event was planned by Spanish teach-

er Jacqueline Mata, who sponsors the La Familia club. With assistance from the student council, the event was a success with many students gathering around the stage to enjoy and honor the occasion.

CLUB COLUMN

By Kasey Lee and Victoria Matz

Teens Leading Change - Tuesdays at nutrition in B115

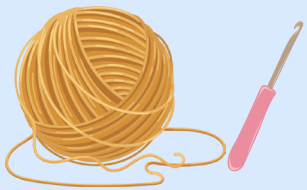


Teens Leading Change partners with local libraries to better the community with a focus on yearly projects regarding civil related topics.

While earning service hours, the members of this club are passionate about what they can do to help improve the lives of others.

“The main goal we are hoping to achieve is making our neighborhoods and societies more welcoming to all,” President junior Oliver Green said. “[We want to] promote not only general societal wellness and appreciation, but also to help libraries, as they are the backbone of our society for people of all ages.”

Crochet Club - Wednesdays at lunch in A209



Crochet club creates a space where students can connect with each other and express their creativity through crocheting.

“I was inspired to start [this] club because I've [gotten] into crochet over the summer,” President sophomore Saveena Joseph said. “My goal is to teach others how to crochet well enough for them to be able to do it alone.”

During meetings, those that know how to crochet are separated from those who are learning. Joseph teaches the basics to the beginners to share her passion for crochet.

Project Paper Bag - Thursdays at lunch in T-48



Project Paper Bag is a club that focuses on helping the unhoused and providing meals to those on skid row.

“Since I was very little, I’ve been helping the unhoused and I volunteered at Project Paper bag to assemble care packages with food and supplies that the unhoused may need.” President sophomore Aidan Lopez said. “The non-profit inspired me to bring that to El Camino and further help them.”

During meetings, they discuss what their club is about and what events are upcoming and happening.

International Student Club - Thursdays at lunch in Anderson Hall



The International Student club has a welcoming environment, where international students are encouraged to become more involved in school activities.

“[Being the] International Student Representative gave me the opportunity to realize that students from other countries might need help with information or with questions they might have,” President sophomore Ivanna Ronco said. “I think that knowing how a new student from a different country in a new school might feel, made me want to be involved with international students.”

Ronco shows her support towards these students by informing them about school events, answering their questions, introducing them to one another, and hosting fun activities for them to partake in.

Senior Picnic: A Fun Event for the Class of 2024

By Teagan Harkins

The Class of 2024 traveled to Vasa Park Sept. 22, for their successful Senior Picnic which included a wide variety of fun activities and delicious food. “[I] had a great experience,” senior Mia Gil said. “[I] thought it was very fun.” Many seniors agreed that the event was well put together and enjoyable. On the bus ride to Vasa Park, the students behaved, and followed the rules by riding in their assigned buses and adhering to the dress code, giving them plenty of time to enjoy the variety of activities. Event coordinator Kyra Smolik was tasked with creating a fun, memorable event, while also staying within budget. “[Planning] the event was a lot of hard work, but very rewarding,” Smolik said. She was given three weeks to choose the ven-

ue, go over regulations for the event, and arrange the different activities; a waterslide, a knock ‘em’ sock ‘em’, water balloons, a surf simulator, a foam machine, a volleyball court, a slip n slide, and a pool. “[Thanks to] a lot of hard work with Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Shano, we were able to get it done and execute it successfully,” Smolik said. Smolik worked hard to make the event enjoyable for everyone. She made many additions to the event this year. “A huge change this year was the ticket price. Last year, the cost was around \$50,” Smolik said. “This year, it was \$35 for the first two days, and then it was raised to \$50. I tried really hard to bring the ticket price down, because I know with Homecoming around the corner, people are going to have to pick and choose what event they want to go to.”

Smolik wants the Class of 2024 to experience as many events as possible, and she hopes that the drop in ticket price helped. She also added some new activities for students to participate in during the event, like the surf simulator and knock ‘em’ sock ‘em’. She thought ahead in her planning, making sure to add dry activities in addition to the water ones, which were essential for the picnic’s success. The unpredicted cool weather caused more students to gravitate toward the dry activities. Despite the gloomy weather, the Senior Class of 2024 enjoyed a fantastic Senior Picnic. “[Senior Picnic] set a nice expectation for upcoming senior events,” Smolik said. “I heard that people had a lot of fun, [and] that’s what I hope for.”

Remembering Cade Kitchen

By Sydney Keane

During this time we honor the memory of one of our own students, Cade Kitchen. Kitchen was a part of the class of 2023, involved with our baseball team and touched the lives of many. “My favorite memory about Cade Kitch. was when he used to dye his hair. One day he came to school with a bleached buzz cut,” senior Ethan Granillo said. “I looked at him and I was like ‘Slim shady?’ and then he started singing ‘Without Me’.” Cade was always in good spirits and had a good sense of humor. Some of the students have known Kitchen for years and their relationships stretch far back. “One of my best memories of being with Cade was when we were in middle school together and I just go to see him all the time, especially around P.E. We were both active kids and we were running around and having fun,” senior Braden Sellz said. “It just puts a smile on my face. Looking back at old pictures it’s kind of tough but it brings joyous memories when I think about it.” Kitchen meant a lot to everyone at the school but he had close, personal relationships with many of our baseball players. “I remember back to freshman year when Cade got called up to JV and he was happy to be there. He just brought such a good spirit to the team and per-

sonality,” Sellz said. “He’s a team oriented guy and he was fun to be around.” “I think Cade meant something positive but I think he also serves as a reminder to check up on your loved ones because you never really know what they’re going through,” senior Evan Malinis said. Many of the players pay tribute to Kitchen and commemorate his memory in many different ways. “Everytime I run out to the field I always draw a CK in the dirt before I play. Everytime I step into the box I write CK in the dirt just to dedicate my performance to him,” Granillo said. “Also, I put wrist tape on and write CK3 on my wrist tape.” “When the game starts and Ethan writes in the dirt I’ll always make sure I give it a little kiss and point up to the sky just because I’m thinking about him,” said Sellz. “The team also wears these bracelets commemorating him and pins on our backpacks, bags and hats,” said Malinis. Kitchen’s memory still lives on and people continue to honor him to this day. “The one year anniversary of Cade passing was recent and I was just thinking about him a lot. I think the world would be a better place with him in it,” Sellz said. “But we miss him and love him always. He was a good person and an even better friend.”

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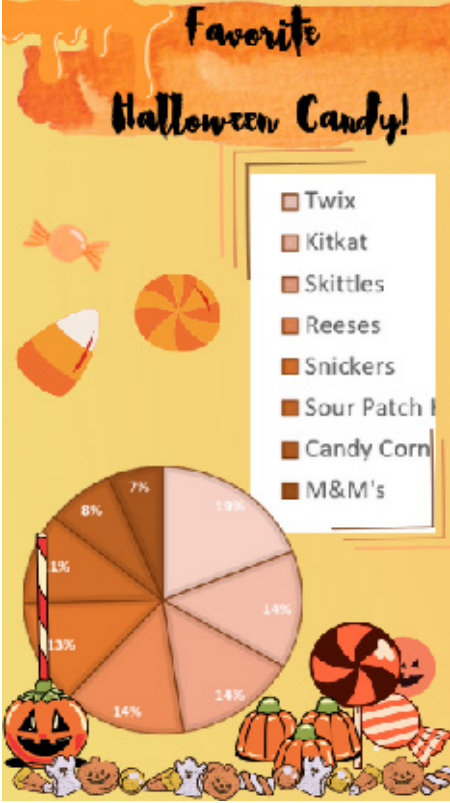
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Photo by Kaitlyn Conte

Should teens go trick-or-treating?

By Jenna Espinoza and Kasey Lee

As Halloween approaches, students face the question of whether teens should continue going trick or treating or not. “If you want to go [trick or treating] to just have fun there’s nothing stopping you,” sophomore Aarna Uppal said. “I would even say to [trick or treat] now because when you’re in high school it’s more fun.” Many students believe that teens should continue this tradition regardless of their age because of the amusement they find in it. “Teens should keep going trick or treating because there is no age restriction or rule saying they can’t,” sophomore Madelyn Rabaja said. “It’s appropriate to go at all ages, and of course I still go with my friends. Every year we have fun dressing up and knocking on doors to get candy, so I don’t think we need to stop.” While some students believe they shouldn’t ever stop the tradition, others think that there eventually is a limit. “I feel like when you [turn] 18 years old and you’re not trick or treating with [younger] children, it could be weird,” sophomore Hadley Preston said. “But before that I think it’s fine. [The] only thing teens [under 18] should do on Hal-

loween is go trick or treating.” Trick or treating can allow teens to feel like their younger selves until they grow out of the tradition. Many students believe that teens should not be judged for trick or treating since they are still children as well. “[Teens] should be free to embrace their inner child,” junior Nyah Marley said. Though it may be fun for many ages, dangerous things can occur to anyone while trick or treating. “I do not think that teens should go trick or treating at a time like this because the world is so unsafe,” sophomore Roman Mosavi said. “It’s full of bad people and I think candy could be dangerous. If you trick or treat, check your candy.” Regardless of the dangers, there are many other things that teens can do instead of trick or treating on Halloween night. “[Trick or treating] is enjoyable, and it lets people have fun,” sophomore Genadya Shanny said. Teens should go so they can still enjoy the celebration.”



Homecoming ticket prices: 2022 vs. 2023

By Sydney Keane

The school’s student council committee has significantly dropped the ticket prices for homecoming this year, which leaves many students shocked. Last year there were three different times in which the students had the opportunity to buy a Homecoming ticket. These tickets included access to a LED pool table, air hockey table, foosball, cornhole, airbrush tattoo artist, caricature artists, photo booth, food, drinks, and desserts. There

was also an amazing Disc Jockey (DJ) that played fun music for everyone to enjoy throughout the night. This year the Homecoming tickets cost about 30 dollars per ticket. Similar to last year, most activities were already present, like most of the games and interactive activities. There were only minor differences in the activities this year such as having a LED shuffleboard table rather than a caricature artist and a buffet instead of a food truck. All of the activities happened throughout the quad and

cafeteria with a DJ playing amazing music non-stop this year too. Previously, students were able to purchase their tickets from a link or QR code that were accessible on flyers around school and on the El Camino Real Associated Student Body (ecrasb) Instagram account. The tickets were available for purchase from Sept. 22 through the 26 of 2022 and cost 40 dollars. Then from Sept. 27 and 28 of 2022 tickets cost 45 dollars. The final prices for tickets were available from Sept. 29 through Oct. 2 of

2022 at 50 dollars. Students were given their permission slips during class and were able to turn them in the main offices. This year the sign ups to get a ticket were done entirely in person rather than it being online. Permission slips had to be picked up in the Assistant Principal’s office and were to be turned in when a student would buy a ticket. Students were able to buy their tickets throughout Sept. 13, 14, 15, 21 and 22 of 2023 in the Assistant Principal’s office, where they could pay in cash or

card. Most students waited till the 22 to buy a ticket so ticket sales were extended till the 26 so everyone had an opportunity to get a ticket without the price going up. Other than the buying process being more difficult this year, people were much happier with the prices of the tickets. Not only was it more affordable but there were little to no amenities nor activities lost in the process. Students were very happy with the outcome and had an amazing experience.

How the students feel about the cancelled Back to School Bash

“I know everyone was really excited for the NLE Choppa to come. I think that the fact that NLE Choppa didn’t come just brought out hopes down and it was kind of just a let down. I feel like there is no hype at this school right now and that could have helped.”
-Senior Dinna Hojati

I think that it sucks thatr they are making promise they can’t keep. I think they should try to make the bash happen to ensure students that they care about keeping their word
-Senior Sebastian Caldera

“It sucks [that it was cancelled] because I think a lot of people were excited about it and it was very hyped up. But it was very sudden and there [were] very little explanations as to why we couldn’t attend this concert.”
-Senior Rose Jensen

New bash dates have not been announced.

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 1 CORRECTIONS

Arts and Entertainment, Page 3
Will Ferrel leads in raunchy comedic movie ‘Strays’: The movie is not streaming on “Netflix” or “Hulu” but on Peacock, Youtube, Vudu and Prime.
Travis Scott returns with ‘Utopia’ after the Astroworld disaster: The opening track is not titled “HYAE” but it titled “HYAENA”.
Arts and Entertainment, Page 4
Taylor Swift makes history with the Eras Tour: The song “Getaway Car” is not on the “Folklore” album but is on the “reputation” album.



Varsity football homecoming game offensive lineup during second-half

Photo by Rebecca Margolin

Varsity football brings homecoming victory

By Jenna Espinoza and Kaley Samiian

The annual homecoming football game was a success for the school’s varsity football team as they won 28-27 against Chatsworth High School Sept. 29 on the Birmingham High School field.

“Going into the game, we knew we were confident in our abilities to win,” senior varsity player Arya Farkhondeh said. “Losing was not an option.”

Throughout the first-half of the game, the team was in ideal standings, holding a strong lead over Chatsworth. Because of this, they went into the second-half with a lack of focus, causing the opposing team to slowly catch-up on the scoreboard.

“I feel like if [the game] wasn’t that close, it wouldn’t have had the same energy,” senior varsity player Caden

Jong said. “That last score wouldn’t have felt as good.”

This stressful comeback greatly increased the anticipation of students watching the game, leading to a highly school-spirited student section.

“It was a massive roller-coaster of emotions considering we were going out really good at half time,” senior varsity player Jake Shirley said. “We kind of got a little complacent and towards the end of the second-half, emotions were pretty low, but the student section kept our spirits high and kept us in the game.”

With students dressed in all blue, their support for the team was highly evident and helped increase the team’s confidence while playing in the second-half, eventually leading to their win.

“[My favorite part was] singing songs with every-

one in the crowd while our team was winning and cheering with everyone,” senior Zachary Ilous said, “[The school spirit] was perfect. Everyone was hype and cheering, making it really fun.”

Students filled the stands with music and chants to show their support for the team.

“It means a lot that a lot of students came out to support us,” Shirley said. “[This game] meant probably the most to me all season.”

With this game marking the last homecoming game for all senior players, winning was a remarkable moment and outweighed the fact that they weren’t able to play home-games.

“[My last homecoming game] was definitely bitter sweet,” Jong said, “but [it] couldn’t have been written any better.”

Girl’s volleyball team sets for success

By Kasey Lee

The girl’s volleyball team had another successful season from Sept. to Oct, with more wins and improved team dynamics.

“[Volleyball] has been really fun,” sophomore Marielle Flores said. “I’ve gotten to meet so many new friends that I’ve gotten close with. We’ve been winning against Taft, Granada and Birmingham, so I think we’re really good.”

The team has devoted their time for practice over summer and after school everyday. They practice five times a week, for two hours each day. By putting in hard work during practice, they have been winning against many of their rival schools’ teams.

“Overall, I would say our volleyball team has been successful,” freshman Addison Choi said. “In the league, our team has a record of 6-1, and we hope to continue the good work for the rest of the season. [Our coach] pushes us to be the best team we can be.”

The girl’s volleyball coach, Alyssa Lee, has worked with the girls for a long time, improving their skills and boosting their team chemistry—even be-

tween the three different teams; frosh, junior varsity and varsity. The players show a lot of support for each other, reflecting their strong team dynamics.

“[Our team unity] is pretty good and some of us are really close,” sophomore Stephanie Terriquez said. “I love cheering for my team.”

By motivating one another, the team has formed a close knit community, where they have connected with each other on and off of the volleyball court.

“My favorite part about the sport is my encouraging teammates,” Choi said. “We all trust each other and have each other’s backs throughout the games. They make the game 10 times more fun, which makes the game so much more enjoyable.”

Their chemistry has led them to their success against other teams this season. The players’ shared love for the sport has connected them, some even saying their favorite part of the sport is the family they’ve formed.

“[My favorite thing about volleyball season this year is] the people.” Flores said. “I love the coaches and playing with [my team since they’re] fun to be around.”

NFL kicks off start of new season

By Kaley Samiian

Thursday Night Football in Kansas City kicked-off the 2023 National Football League (NFL) season Sept. 7, reviving the weekly tradition of gathering to watch the game for fans nationwide.

The defending-champion Kansas City Chiefs opposed the Detroit Lions in the new season’s debut game. With their success last year, many fans predicted that this game would be an easy win for the Chiefs. However, the Lions surprised many with their close defeat, beating them by one point. This displayed the unpredictability of the new season.

Before the start of the regular season, each NFL team played three presea-

son games Aug. 10-27. The returning players became re-acclimated with the weekly games, and rookies got to show their skills.

As the preseason led to the regular season, the Sunday, Monday, and Thursday games will be aired on several channels. Each team will play 17 regular-season games with one week off.

This will be followed by playoff games which are categorized into three rounds and separated by the National Football Conference (NFC) and the American Football Conference (AFC). The qualifying teams in each group will have a wild-card round that consists of three games, a divisional round with four games, and one conference

championship. This will qualify one team from each conference to play in the superbowl Feb. 11, 2024.

The upcoming 58th superbowl will be held at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, the first being hosted in Nevada. The cost of hosting the event is nearly \$2 billion but serves as an investment for the state, as the cost of travel and purchases for the game contributes to state revenue. Additionally, the iconic halftime show will be performed by rhythm and blues (R&B) and pop singer Usher who takes great pride in being given this opportunity. Fans are excited for the new NFL season.