

# TILHLAN



### **Cinco de Mayo Fiesta**

### Learn How PR's Spanish Club Celebrates the Popular Mexican Holiday

#### **Staff Writers:** Izzy Banjak

Ella Barkley Andie Bowser Ella Davis Brooke Deegan Joseph Delie Elise Duckworth Tristan Farrar Francesca Guzzy Jack Hadley Calle Henne Madison Homer Anarella Pena Gonzalez Meredith Robinson Lilly Rembecki Marianna Zahorchak **Copy Editor:** Blake Fuchs **Design Editors:** Addison Barnes Anastasia Punosevac Skylar Warren **Teacher:** Mrs. Harshman The RAMPAGE is published every month. Be sure to look for new issues online every two weeks and in print. https://www.pinerichland.org /Page/5624

on

the

the 2nd,

Spanish

Club

an

Mayo

the Global

#### In This Issue:

- · Cinco De Mayo Spanish Party Recap
- Childhood Birthdays
- The Most Memorable **Birthdays**
- Disney Trip
- Serialized novel

#### **BROOKE DEEGAN STAFF WRITER**

26bdeegan66@prrams.org

Throughout the week of April 28th, the PR Spanish Club hosted two exceedingly entertaining and successful events in honor of the celebratory Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo. After school on Wednesday, May 1st, the annual arrival of the Vaya Food Truck saw a into the celebration. Students conversed with delicious array of meals and snacks sold to students in the bustling parking lot.

The following day, during Activity Period

delicacies. Grilled burritos, tender tacos, and plentiful nachos were among these delightful foods. The warm churros glazed with a rich chocolate sauce were perhaps one of the largest hits of the afternoon, selling out nearly an hour friends (some standing around the food truck and waiting for their orders to be taken, others sitting in circles upon the sidewalk as they consumed



their meals) as popular songs in the Spanish language such as Despacito and Gasolina roared in the background. There was noticeably a communal sense of joy and elation which characterized

Sophomores Elizabeth Liebe, Ella Yanni, Sanika Das, Brooke Deegan, Kaylee Koch, and Studies Evelyn Lawler at the Vaya Food Truck, photo provided by Brooke Deegan room.

Both events were quite the phenomenons within PR, allowing students to become informed on and celebrate such a beautiful culture as they enjoyed time with friends and indulged in delectable dishes as well.

#### Vaya Food Truck:

pavement in front of the school, students gathered around a vibrant purple and orange food truck to purchase some after-school

the beautiful day, and the Spanish Club succeeded in fundraising for more amazing events such as this one in the future.

"It was such a great time, and the churros were especially delicious," said sophomore Evelyn Lawler, who attended the event. "I think it is the As golden sunlight shone down on the beige best way to kick off the Cinco de Mayo festivities."







Spanish Club officer and sophomore, Ella Yanni, said, "It's a huge hit every year-- the food, people, and music are perfect for celebrating Cinco de Mayo! We talk about it and start planning it exuded the lively spirit of Cinco de Mayo, and was yet another at the beginning of every school year. So much work goes into the process, and it always pays off in the end. We really appreciate everyone who came out to support us!"

#### **Cinco de Mayo Celebration:**

The true Cinco de Mayo Celebration, which took place the morning after the food truck supplied students not only with fantastic food but also great cheer, was another incredible time for the people of PR. The Global Studies room was decorated with colorful banners and filled with many playfully informative activities to celebrate the victorious holiday. Students crafted adorable paper maracas, competed in pin-the-tail-on-the-llama in education and joy they bestowed upon the joyous attendees of pursuit of winning mini-sombreros,

and, of course, were served the ever-so popular churros as a perfect way to begin the day. The atmosphere undoubtedly miraculous success for the PR Spanish Club.

"The other officers and I had so much fun setting this event up for the school. We love being able to share Spanish culture, and this was a great way to do that. Personally, I think it was a great success, and we were extremely pleased with the turnout," said Spanish Club president and junior, Prisha Dargan.

It is celebratory events such as these which keep the PR community in touch with one another and differing cultures. The PR Spanish Club evidently worked incredibly hard in order to put together these little fiestas for Cinco de Mayo, and the each meeting is completely priceless.



### Sweet Sixteen: Is It So Sweet?



**IZZY BANJAK STAFF WRITER** 27ebanjak64@prrams.org

So, some of us are about to turn 16, which is super exciting but I feel like it's almost stressful. Do you throw a big party? Do you do a small getaway? What do you do? That's what I'm struggling with.

I feel like by the time we've had 15 birthdays we run out of ideas, even if they're important milestones. I mean, a big party would be great, but all the stress around planning it and having to worry about all those people..seems a little too much for me. I'll finally figure out what I wanna do and I'll But a small getaway...who do you pick to come with you? And be happy with it, but right now is not that where would you even go? I've always wanted to go to New York City, but now that I'm actually putting the thought into it, what would I even do there? I hate walking too much, and I'm not a big play person, so maybe that's not the best idea.

Then I thought maybe a pool party because my birthday is in the summer, but I have done that so many times. I want something new and exciting but I don't know what that could be. Maybe somewhere beachy? But again, who comes with me and where is beachy that isn't a far flight or drive? And while thinking about all this you have to study for your permit test. I'm sure whenever the day comes time; it's just another thing to stress over. I just don't get all the excitement around the big "Sweet Sixteen."

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS:** Attention juniors enrolled in next year's AP Literature & Composition for 12th grade, there will be an informational meeting after school on Wednesday, May 29th in Global Studies until 3:30. Please mark your calendars so that you can attend this mandatory meeting. A make-up meeting is scheduled for Thursday morning, May 30 in Global Studies from 7:10 to 7:40. You must attend one of these meetings. See Mrs. Fink in room 206 if you have questions.





### Birthdays Through the Years: Growing Up

JOEY DELIE STAFF WRITER



1st birthday. January 27th, 2007

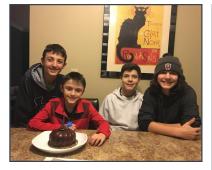


2009

My 5th birthday at Chuck E Cheese. January 27th 2011

My 6th birthday. January 27, 2012

*My* 9th birthday. January 27th, 2015



My 11th birthday with my bother James and my two step brothers Adam and Brendan. January 27th, 2017



27th, 2021







My 18th birthday. January 27th, 2024

#### Best Birthday Ever: My Favorite Celebrations with Buzz Lightyear "To infinity and beyond!" FRANCESCA GUZZY STAFF WRITER

This quote was what I'd yell every time I picked up my awesome and new Buzz Lightyear action figure. It's 2012 and I have cake icing all over my 4 year old face. I'm so eager to open years after that I took him my brand new gifts as family members surround me and my cousin, preparing to tear up this wrapping paper. "Ok go!" my mom says as my cousin and I race to our gifts, the first one being with my siblings; he ate at the of course, from my mom, I rip apart the wrapping paper



Freshman Francesca Guzzy and her dad, photo provided by Guzzy

revealing the best present I've ever year action figure; with the biggest smile me. on my face I race to my parents and give them the biggest hugs.

He was my all time favorite birthday present. For everywhere: he sat with me while I played video games

dinner table with me, and, most importantly, he was the



Freshman Francesca Guzzy age 4

greatest hero out of all my toys, and never left my side. Buzz received: a Buzz Light Lightyear was my idol and my favorite superhero. He inspired me as a kid to be the best that I can be and nice to everyone around

. Although I can't remember exactly what my birthday party theme was, or who was there, I can remember the adrenaline rush and excitement when I saw my new best friend.

I've loved all 15 of my birthday parties: the 4th takes the cake.





### **First Time Parasailing Experience**

A 17th Birthday Celebration Like No Other ELLA BARKLEY STAFF WRITER

the first time while I was on vacation in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. It's not everyday that you're able to go parasailing let alone go up unexpectedly like I did. While my dad's side of the family and I were down south, we happened to be there over my 17th birthday. Personally, I love having my birthday in the summer. I absolutely love the warm weather and not having to go to school is definitely a pro. So when I found out our trip was planned over the first week of August, I was ecstatic and knew I wanted to do something big. Never did I think that parasailing would be on the list. But when my aunt told me the night before that she had purchased tickets for my dad, my two older cousins and I to go parasailing the following day, I couldn't believe it.

The next morning, after eating some delicious cinnamon rolls for breakfast in the beach house, my entire family got ready to head out on the boat and experience parasailing all for the first time. Although only the four of us were going parasailing, the rest of the family came along for the boat ride. On our drive over, I was excited for what was to come, but I definitely had some nerves. When we arrived, we signed the waivers and there was no going back now. Looking back I am so glad that we followed through on such an incredible experience. So as we loaded the boat, full of sunglasses, sunscreen, water bottles and life jackets, we headed out on to the water. The vibe was immaculate. You had the sun shining down on your body with your hair flying in the wind and the country music of Zac Brown Band blasting over the loud sound of the boat. There were absolutely no clouds in sight and the temp had to be at least 90 degrees. Life couldn't be better. We were truly on vacation and I never wanted it to end. When our instructor told us that it was time to get hooked up to the canopy something wing, we were super excited and knew that we would remember so this moment forever. My older cousin Emily and I went up first and all I can remember was the instructor telling us to have fun, so that's what we did. Once we got to the highest point, it was amazing to look down at what was below us and see how high up we were. Seeing dolphins jump in the ocean below us was

This past summer, I had the opportunity to go parasailing for even cooler. What was so crazy was that it was practically silent up there. We couldn't hear a single thing. Honestly a very peaceful and relaxing experience to say the least. After about 10 minutes we slowly started to come back down and now it was my dad and my older cousin Andrew's turn to head on up. Seeing them so high up was crazy to think that we were that high at one point. After they had come down, we enjoyed the rest of the boat ride and finally made it back to the parasailing spot. To finally end our adventurous and exciting morning, we enjoyed popsicles from this cute little convenient store nearby.

> To say that my 17th birthday was one of the best birthdays I've ever had would be a very true statement. I love trying new

things and to experience this adventure on my birthday with my family was something else. So next time I go parasailing, I'll always remember my first ever time doing exhilarating all over my 17th birthday weekend.



Ella Barkley and her cousin parasailing, photo provided by Ella Barkley





### Childhood Birthdays: Please, Never Ever Grow Up

#### ELLA DAVIS STAFF WRITER

### The year was 2016.

My 7th birthday.

I hurried down the stairs as soon as I woke up to see the pink balloons and streamers that my family decorated the house with. I opened up my gifts. My very first American Girl Doll lay delicately in her box, wearing a flowery pink dress. I was ecstatic. The best thing in the world that I could possibly ever wish for was sitting right in front of me. It felt like the best day ever.



If I could go back in time, I would tell her to just enjoy it. Because someday that doll will sit in the attic and my favorite cupcake pajamas will no longer sit in my dresser drawers. Everyone is in such a hurry to grow up. A

photo provided by Ella Davis

birthday is the most exciting day. A year older and a year closer to adulthood.

As a kid you take everything for granted because you never think that the day will come where you'll be embarrassed to wear your light-up shoes to school or you'll never be interested in Barbies again. Or that when you blow your candles out, you won't be wishing to become a Disney princess. As a kid, you would do anything to be a teenager and do the "cool" activities that they do. But you never realize the responsibilities and pressure that comes with being a teenager or adult.

I wouldn't have the heart to tell her that being a teenager is not as cool as it seems. As a 15 year old, I would do anything to go back and have tea-parties in my bedroom and watch *My Little Pony* for the 20th time without a care in the world. I wish I would have realized how important the little memories were, because you can never get them back again.

Being a teenager is fun, but you still have daily stressors and responsibilities like school, homework, and competitive sports. Life has lost its innocence and that can be a hard thing to come to terms with as you grow up.



photo provided by Ella Davis

But with each birthday means a new year of life and a new year of learning new things that make you become your unique self. Deep down, we are still that young kid trying to grow up.

With each new day is a new beginning to try again. Just remember that your younger self wouldn't want you to be sad. They would want you to enjoy being a teenager. Time is going to go so fast, so it's time to cherish the moments now before it's too late.

So, when these next birthdays pass, I'm not going to hope to be older or want to be closer to adulthood. I'm going to live in the moment, because you can never get these memories back, not even if you try.



photo provided by Ella Davis





### Surprise of a Lifetime: The Birthday I will Never Forget

JACK HADLEY STAFF WRITER

The year was 2015. The day, July, 11th

I went to sleep the night before dreaming of all of the new presents I could get. Whether it was a new Beyblade, baseball bat, football or Pokemon cards I wanted them all. I knew no matter what I got, though, I was going to have a blast swimming with my friends and family. Like the previous few years I was planning to have it at my grandma's house which was always my favorite place to be during the summer.

Going out on the deck filled with snacks while lounging around the pool was the dream for 8 year old Jack. The only part of this birthday which wasn't going to be perfect was not being able to spend it with my dad since he was out on a trip for really the truth, or he wanted to give me a surprise the whole work and wouldn't be home until the following day.

Besides missing my father, I was having a thrill playing volleyball in the pool with my friends and spraying each other with water guns. Then came the time every kid is waiting for on their birthday: to blow out the candles and open presents.

I sat down on the wooden chair at the head of the table with everyone in front of me singing Happy Birthday. As the song came to an end, I took a deep breath, leaned down and officially became a 9 year old. As I sat back up in my seat, I felt a pair of big warm hands on my shoulders. I turned around to see my dad's smiling face wishing me a happy birthday.

Whether or not he was really getting back a day late was time, I'll never forget that warm summer day.

																1.0
	N	G	۷	כ	Z	S	Q	D	Х	F	Μ	۷	Y	Μ	U	
	0	J	Ι	Ι	К	Μ	Ε	Ρ	А	R	Т	Y	А	Т	Н	
Balloons	I	Р	Н	W	U	J	D	L	А	Ε	Ν	Ε	D	А	V	
Candles	Т	$\times$	L	Q	S	Т	Н	Z	D	$\times$	Е	V	Н	V	F	
Music	А	S	Ν	0	0	L	L	А	в	Ν	J	А	Т	Z	$\subset$	
Yearly	R	Р	Т	в	V	К	S	W	К	$\subset$	А	L	R	L	Q	
Birthday	в	0	R	М	Ν	н	$\subset$	$\subset$	Н	$\times$	I	$\subset$	I	М	0	
Celebration	Е	S	S	Е	в	Т	А	С	Z	Н	Z	S	в	Т	В	
Party	L	С	J	Р	S	К	U	G	Ν	М	Q	S	υ	I	Μ	
Cake Gifts	Е	А	C	V	Ε	Ε	н	I	V	н	G	L	F	Μ	0	
Presents	С	Q	L	F	Е	×	Ν	F	R	Ο	כ	z	С	М	×	
	W	н	C	D	U	L	U	т	Ε	н	н	Y	Q	W	Μ	
	U	Y	L	R	А	Е	Y	S	S	Ε	N	R	Y	М	Ι	
	G	D	S	М	×	Z	0	z	Е	Т	М	Н	А	Q	Р	
	н	в	R	L	К	G	S	R	Z	Н	S	S	К	E	0	





### The Most Nostalgic Memory I Have

#### Birthdays in the 2010s and Why They're So Special LILY REMBECKI STAFF WRITER

I am a firm believer that absolutely no birthday can top the ones kids our age had in the 2010s and I would give absolutely everything to experience one again.

Back then, I wanted absolutely nothing more than to turn 16, 8am instead of remembering how I spend 16th birthday alone in to be able to wear cute clothes, wear makeup and go out past sunset, while riding public transport alone at night (which I don't recommend). But now that I get to do all of these things, I'm scared of being able to experience more of this "adulthood" lifestyle and dread my birthday every single time it comes around. I am desperately hanging on to that little bit of

childhood I still have around me.

I never really noticed when my pink Disney-princess-paper plates filled with unicorn chocolate cake without the awareness of calories turned into a porcelain plate filled with a low-calorie dish and the tiniest bite of cake one could possibly have, when the birthday cakes that my mom spent hours on making turned into store bought multi-produced plain ones or when the colorful handwritten birthday cards



Lily Rembecki celebrating her birthday in 2010 surrounded by her family in Germnay, photo provided by Lily Rembecki

have saved it as much as I hoped it would.) My dad would've still not been there for it, which I can almost be thankful for because I fear he would've ruined it even more: most of my family being either too old to join me, or not able to get along with anyone else in my family.

> The realization of moving on from these memories and entering adulthood, where birthdays are just another day spent at an office, is unimaginably uncomfortable

added to the back to make them seem more genuine.

The thing that scares me the most about all of this is that all of my innocent, laughter-filled and saturated childhood

turned into quick text messages with a few meaningless emojis and I'm still trying to avoid it with all my might, even though I know that I can't escape it.

memories are slowly fading away because my brain needs room

for these depressing new ones. I wish I could still recall the

sound of my whole family singing a happy birthday to me at

a foreign country where I wasn't close enough to anyone to

actually celebrate with: my dad not being there for my birthday

for the 4th time in a row because of his job, my older brother

being back home and my mom being busy with my little brother, (although celebrating in my home country wouldn't

I just hope that I can someday make my children's birthdays just as special as mine were, without the magic ever leaving.

SENIOR DINNER DANCE: Attention Seniors. The Senior Dinner Dance will be held Friday May, 31st on the Gateway Clipper. Tickets sales are closed. Be sure to bring extra money to pay for parking in Station Square on May 31st. If anyone has questions they can contact Dr. Sipe or Mr. Pollock.





### A Night at the Museum

### Sophomore Shares Sixteenth Birthday Celebration

#### **BROOKE DEEGAN STAFF WRITER** @26bdeegan66@prrams.org

Historically, I have never been one to be interested in having second of this lovely a birthday party. I loathed the idea of being celebrated-- I found day, which is exactly the whole process to be awkward, forced, and uncomfortable. For years, I refused to treat my birthday as anything other than an ordinary, party-less day, filled with nothing but a few heartfelt phone calls from my grandparents and a handful of generous gifts from my parents and little brother. I was content that way. However, once my sixteenth birthday began to peek over the horizon of my life, I knew that I finally wanted to do something that I love with the people that I love to celebrate this are the primary wonderful age. And that is exactly what I did; exactly what I ended up adoring.

My sixteenth birthday party was, I believe, one of the most amusing nights of my life-- quite contrary to my prior notion of personal (as in parties for me, not for my friends) birthday celebrations being intolerable. Though my perception of entertainment may vary from that of others, I am immensely lucky to have such beautiful friends who came along with me on this euphoric evening regardless of whether or not they found it to be entirely enjoyable themselves. I know that, for me, it was simply incredible. My parents did a remarkable job of planning and setting everything up, and I am just beyond grateful for all of it.



Sophomore Brooke Deegan standing in front of an Andy Warhol painting, photo provided by Brooke Deegan

In my eyes, a perfect night involves two major events: an outing to a museum, and a delectable dinner. Back in November, my mother and I spent a day together which was one of my favorites I have ever experienced. Of course, it was a day of strolling through the Carnegie Museum of Art and History followed by an early dinner at Soba, an impeccable Pan-Asian restaurant in joy throughout every waking

why it inspired me to sort of relive it with my closest friends on a breezy night in March. For a birthday party

in which fifteen and sixteen-year-old-girls



Andy Warhol Museum from the outside, photo provided by Brooke Deegan

attendees, the Carnegie Museum would not be an adequate fit. Although I am completely enamored with it, I was aware that the energy would be too formal and serious for a celebration such as this. Instead, I decided that we should go to the Andy Warhol Museum, as it contains equally profound masterworks, just within a more laid-back atmosphere. I had not been to Soba since that fateful day in November, so we made reservations to dine there afterwards whilst sitting in front of a stunning waterfall wall. It was sure to be a night to remember.

The celebration itself was unbelievably amazing. Seven of my closest friends arrived at my decorated and intricately-themed house (there were rose-colored balloons nearly everywhere you turned, and my dad put on a special Lana Del Rey playlist with a vintage floral background on our television) after school on March 1st. Once everyone had spilled into my living room, we conversed for around half an hour until it was time for my parents to drive us down to the city.

The Andy Warhol Museum was full of the introspective and miraculously unique artwork of Warhol himself, as well as several informative paragraphs scattered throughout the vicinity which depict the stories of his own life, tales of those around him, and present insight into his brilliantly artistic mind. My friends and I made our way through each and every level of this bountiful museum, taking our time to fully immerse ourselves in and understand the thought process behind some of the most iconic artistic works in American pop culture. On the final floor, Shadyside. I was brimming with we spent a decent amount of time perusing the gift shop filled with eccentric knick-knacks. Afterwards, we started our journey





### **CONTINUED...**

to Soba, where we would finish off the night with a richly delicious meal.

At Soba, I graced myself with I believe three (maybe just two, though) bao buns-- we ordered Chicken Bao Buns and Short Rib Bao Buns, and I had at least one of each. My main course was the Drunken Noodles, which were filling, creamy, tender, and adequately spicy all at once. For dessert, I took home heart, and am so grateful that an order of Chocolate Maki, which I calmly and contentedly ate after saying goodbye to all of my lovely friends back at my house late that night.

Although birthdays once pressed immeasurable amounts of stress onto me, I can finally say that, this year, I was able to enjoy it to such a beautiful degree-- I love my friends and family with the entirety of my heart, and am so grateful that they put together this wonderful day for me. There is no way I would've rather spent my sixteenth birthday!

Although birthdays once pressed immeasurable amounts of

stress onto me, I can finally say that, this year, I was able to enjoy it to such a beautiful degree-- I love my friends and family with the entirety of my they put together this wonderful day for me. There is no way I would've rather spent my sixteenth birthday!

Sophomore Brooke Deegan standing in front of an Andy Warhol painting, photo provided by Brooke Deegan



### **Birthdays Through the Years**



## HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY, RAMPAGE!





### **Birthdays With Family and Friends**





ELISE DUCKWORTH STAFF WRITER





## **Birthday Memories**

My Best Birthdays Over the Years



ANDIE BOWSER STAFF WRITER 27abowser36@prrams.org















### **Celebrating My Special Day**

Flying Through the Years MADDY HOMER STAFF WRITER 27mhomer86@ptrams.org







5

Z S



Z 0 Ш 5 Ш G D 0 F м Ι E E ٦ 5 Q Г G S E Т Z ٦ F × Ō G Е 0 D 0 Q D Т S F Z D 5 C 5 Р L I 7 G ٦ 5 C C F 0 7 т 5 7 Т c7 v Z Z 11 v C D в G ٦ U 7 N w в т С U 7 n G Т Е 5 E 0 U т 5 B П К U Q N т F G 5 S F  $\leq$ Ш 11 G Ō C C П в C U F S CS Ō D 11 cП D Z Ш R × F 7 5 ٦ R Ζ м F R 5 т к C Ō Е Е R п C B P × Ι Ι

AGE CANDLES OLDER WISH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATE PARTY CAKE GIFTS PRESENTS



## DISNEY TRIP PG 12



### **A Taste of Magic**

Music Department Disney Trip in Photos



PR Dance Team at Cinderella's Castle in Magic Kingdom, photo provided by Tori Roccia

PR Dance Team on the way to Disney, photo provided by Tori Roccia

Sophomores Kate Rickard, Ava Guruacharya, Abby Fuller, Ariella Ruediger, Megan Thel and Cadence Foote, photo provided by Meghan Thel



Senior Autumn Pfaffle and freinds at Disney, photo provided by Autumn Pfaffle



Sophomore Abby Fuller at Hollywood Studios, photo provided by Abby Fuller



## DISNEY TRIP **PG 13**





Seniors Liam Francis, Yash Shah, Luke Ridgeway, Avyukta Nagrath, photo provided by Liam Francis

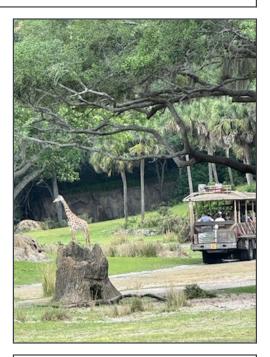


Freshmen Safran Cadenhead, Mackenzie Medjimorec, Eva Bloom, Caity Verba, and Lily Brauser, photo provided by Izzy Banjak



Water Buffalo at the Safari Park, photo provided by Morgan Radi





Giraffe at the Safari Park, photo provided by Morgan Radi

Giraffe blocking the road at the Safari Park, photo provided by Morgan Radi

Sophomores Cadence Foote and Abby Fuller (left), photo provided by Abby Fuller



Sophomores Ariella Ruediger, Ava Guruacharya, Megan Thel, Abby Fuller, Kate Rickard and Cadence Foote, photo provided by Abby Fuller



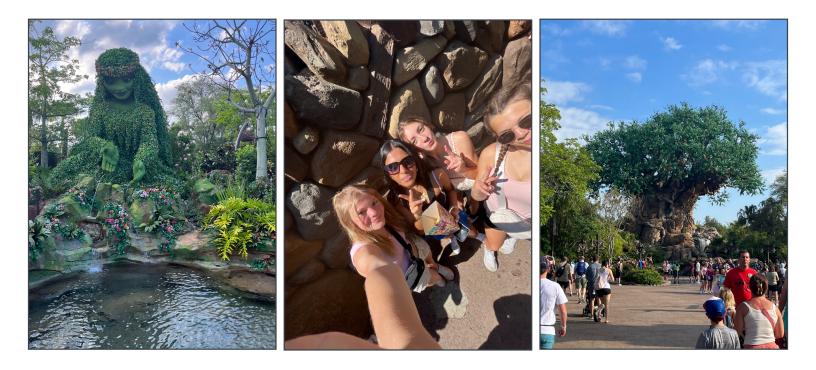
## DISNEY TRIP PG 14





Freshmen Safran Cadenhead, Eva Bloom, Mackenzie Medjimorec, Caitlin Verba, Lily Brauser, photo provided by Francesca Guzzy

At Epcot's International Flower and Garden Festival, photo provided by Ella Davis Sophomores Elise Duckworth and Niki Ebner, photo provided by Elise Duckworth

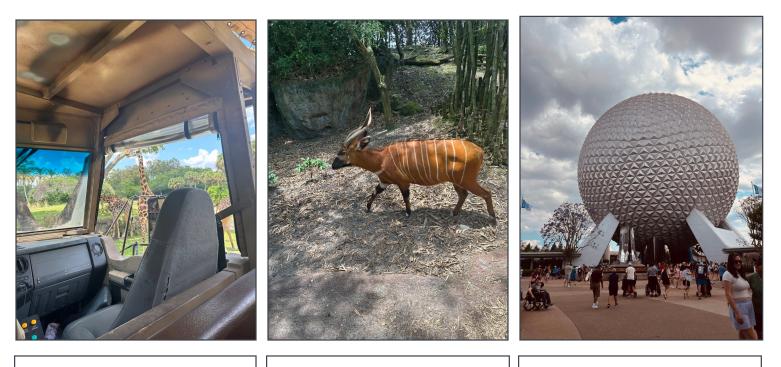


At Epcot's International Flower and Garden Festival, photo provided by Ella Davis Freshmen Ella Davis, Sarah Puthenpurayil, Annabelle Burk, and Anya Wickard, photo provided by Ella Davis

At Epcot's International Flower and Garden Festival, photo provided by Ella Davis







Disney's Safari Park, photo provided by Elise Duckworth

Disney's Safari Park, photo provided by Elise Duckworth

At Epcot, photo provided by Ella Davis



Photo provided by Samantha Augustine





Sophomores Abby Fuller, Megan Thel, and Ariella Ruediger, photo provided by Megan Thel At Epcot's International Flower and Garden Festival, photo provided by Ella Davis



## HAPTER 16 .



### **Divulgences**

Written By: Ella Davis, Emma Early, Madison Homer, Alexandra Tully

The group walked down the carpeted hallway towards them the premier suite so one floor only contained four total rooms. Tony and Hudson stopped at one door while Rory and Ivy walked further down the hallway.

"Room 401, 402, 403, this is us," Ivy muttered, looking down at the room number on the key. Bringing her hand up to the scanner, she opened the door and gasped.

"Nonna really went all out, huh?" She stepped further into the room with Rory trailing behind.

"Yeah, Russos don't try to hide their wealth. And Nona has always wanted the best for Tony." Rory said as she turned to the windows pulling back the blinds. She admired the view before her face went sour.

"I still can't believe this is our room...wait Rory? What's wrong?" Ivy asked, concerned.

"I-uh I didn't really have someone like Tony's Nonna growing up. When I first met her I was jealous, because ... " Rory paused, "because you know my mom died right? When I was young?" She turned to look her friend in the eyes as she spoke. Ivy nodded, remembering the grief her friend experienced at such a young age.

"Well... my dad never remarried and my family barely talked to my grandparents all that much. So my female role model position was absent, but when I saw Nonna and how much Tony and her loved each other I hated it." Rory took a deep breath and walked over to the bed sitting on the silk covers. Her legs almost gave out, and wobbled to keep standing.

"I hated that Tony had someone in his life who was motherly and cared for him so much. I hated that I didn't have that. That's all I ever wanted." Rory spoke, her voice shaking while running her hands nervously through her hair.

"Hey, but you are close to Nonna too, right? She's your grandma just as much as Tony's." Ivy said, putting her hand on her friend's back in an attempt to comfort her. "You may not have had someone growing up, but right now you have someone who is willing and able to take care of you." Rory nodded her head in agreement, but still felt the hollowness of not having a mom. The guitar she carried around everywhere tethered her to her mother's memory.

Hudson scanned the card against the scanner and opened the door, but before he could enter Tony pushed his way through into the room.

"Ah look at this place!" Tony exclaimed looking around the room before running and jumping onto one of the beds. A much calmer Hudson walked to the second bed and lowered his belongings gently onto the comforter.

"One moment you look at me like I'm scum, even say it, and now their rooms. Tony's grandmother went the extra mile and got you're happy?" Hudson grew further annoyed, Tony's opinion of him changed on a whim.

> "I'm happy that I am currently on this bed ready to take the longest nap known to man." Tony laid starfished and stared at the ceiling of the room.

Hudson fidgeted with his hands for a second before speaking in a strained voice, "Do you even like me man? I mean you act as if I don't exist sometimes and the next you treat me like crap." Tony shot up like a rocket looking towards where Hudson stood.

"What! No I don't!" Hudson looked at him in a doubtful manner. "I don't!" Tony argued, in his mind he treated all his companions in a friendly manner. No one got backlash in the way Hudson had described.

"Tony not even five minutes ago you called us pigs for not being as rich as you are." Hudson said with slight anger in his voice.

"I was joking Hudson! You know I don't actually hate you guys. I just have my one way of showing love!"

"But everyone doesn't know that! That's the same thing my parents say and you know how bad they are. I'm already under so much pressure as it is." Hudson grew increasingly frustrated with the way Tony acted. Tony seemed to grow up with a silver spoon in his mouth and he didn't care how he treated everyone else. How could he even consider Hudson's viewpoint? His family never disciplined him. He had parents who loved him and didn't really care what he decided to do at any given moment. Hudson on the other hand? His parents were down his back every second of every day, always having their noses in his business. Even when he simply sat in his room they would come up every 10 minutes on the dot making sure he had homework in front of him and he had his phone away. If he didn't have any homework to do, he had to work out or go to practice. They made sure that he did not have any free time or anything that he could call a hobby. Hudson's parents treated him like a doll for their own amusement. He did what they wished and Hudson felt miserable.

"Your parents never try to control your life, you could go on your merry way making your own choices. I can't do that! I'm not even my own person around them. Just a puppet." Tears were gathering in Hudson's eyes as he spoke. He hated his life.

"Hudson I-" Tony broke off not knowing what to say. He knew how Hudson's parents were sorta psycho but never really knew how Hudson felt about it. "I'm sorry."