Student Newspaper of John Burroughs High School

The Paw Print

Friday, December 10, 2021 - Issue 4 Volume LXXII

IMA Gets Groovy In The Quad During Funk Night

By Molly Boyke
Editor-in-Chief


Photographer: Maria Stefani

The JBHS Jazz Band brought the groove with their first concert of the season, Funk Night! Funk Night, a hybrid concert-dance event dedicated to the music of the 70s, is an annual tradition for band and non-band students alike.

The band first played renditions of Earth, Wind & Fire Dance Mix, "I Want You Back/ABC" by the Jackson 5, "Feels So Good" by Chuck Mangione, "In The Stone" by Earth, Wind, & Fire, and "Sir Duke" by Stevie Wonder.

After a short break, the band continued to play "Pick Up The Pieces" by Average White Band, "Make Me Smile" by Chicago, "After The Love Has Gone" by Earth, Wind & Fire, "Cold Sweat" by James Brown, finishing off with "Soul Intro/The Chicken" by Jaco Pastorius.

JBHS' Band director, Mr. Arakelian, said, "I thought the Jazz Band sounded awesome, and I know they were very excited for this first concert of the year. It was really tough during COVID, as there is no substitute for a live performance. They've bounced back this year, almost as if COVID didn't happen."

The quad was impressively decorated with fun lighting, silhouettes of musicians, vinyl albums with the names of all the performers, disco balls, light-up balloons, and a photo booth, featuring decorated tables and place settings for attendees to sit at as they enjoyed the music.

The decoration efforts were a result of the student-led decorating committee, which met multiple times prior to the concert in order to make this year's Funk Night more bedazzled than ever.

Every decoration was hand-made by student volunteers, some of them purchasing supplies with their own money.

Maddie Svab, leader of the decorating committee, organized meet-ups and materials with the help of Judith Marando, Maren Alff, Lili Walker, Grace Loeffelholz, and Helen Carpenter, along with countless other volunteers.

Maddie commented of the event and its volunteers, "Funk Night was a huge effort, but thanks to the IMA and all of the wonderful students on the planning committee it was a success!

"The Jazz Band sounded fantastic and I'm so proud of them. Getting to see everyone come together to enjoy good music and friends with some super funky retro outfits was awesome. I'm absolutely jazzed for our next event, Swing Night, and I hope everyone can make it!" said Svab.

Maren Alff, a Senior taking a whopping four periods of band this year playing trombone, tuba, euphonium, and piano, said, "This was my first time ever performing in Funk Night, because the pandemic prevented any shows last year. I was very nervous, but we sounded alright and I had a lot of fun. I'm very glad I was able to participate before graduating!"

Julie Amezcua, a Junior in various bands, whose been playing trumpet and euphonium for seven years, said, "Funk Night was really fun. The people dancing [were] cool and the questions Mr. A. asked were a cool way to get to know some of us!"

Spencer Bond, a Junior in the JBHS Band for three years playing drum set, commented, "Funk Night was a super fun experience for the musicians and audience. It was really cool to watch everyone come out and dance to our music. We put so much time and effort into the music that night so it was great to watch our hard work make peoples' night."

Link Kayser, a Junior in the JBHS Band for two years playing trumpet, flute, drums, and xylophone, joked, "That was pretty funky, am I right? If you'd stayed a little longer you would have witnessed Mr. Arakelian bust a move."

Helen Carpenter, a Junior in the JBHS Band for three years playing trumpet, said, "It was amazing being back in person for this after so long of not being able to perform. It was also a bit weird, since Freshman year I was in the B Band (JV Jazz Band) and here we are, two years later, and everyone who was in B band is now playing A Band (Varsity Jazz Band) music! [It's] a lot of fun and I hope I [play] music that people enjoy."

Sam Fisher, a Junior in the percussion section playing guitar, stated, "Maaaan, it was dope."

Adam Reda, a Junior in the JBHS Band for two years playing alto, tenor, and baritone saxophone as well as drums, exclaimed, "Funk Night was really fun and the music was just as fun to play!"

Alek Sanchez-Tellez, a Junior in the JBHS band for three years playing saxophone, said, "Funk Night was so much fun! The dance couldn't have been better, the music sounded great, and the audience was also energetic!"

Funk Night enjoyed a great turnout with enthusiastic students, groovy music, and fabulous decorations. The JBHS Jazz Band did a great job with their performance, and we can't wait to see them back Spring Semester for their highly anticipated concert-dance event, Swing Night!

"Puffs" A Success


Photographer: Remi Nalbantian

By Laurelei Johnson
Staff Writer

On November 19th, 20th, and 21st, students, parents, and friends gathered in the Quad to see the Drama Program's fall comedy, "Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic." The play follows a group of students at a particular school of magic who are not destined to save the world, and its fast-paced plot, lovable main characters, and numerous jokes are sure to make anyone laugh.

The cast, in order of appearance, was Kaylor Toronto as the Narrator; Will Sousa as A Very Tall Man, the Fat Friar, Real Mr. Moody, and a Deathbuddy; Luke Duguay as the Headmaster; Lucas Holt as Harry and Hermeoone #3; Max Purdy as Uncle Dave, the Snake, Mr. Bagman, and Bippy; Ronan Park as Wayne Hopkins; Kelly Matlock as Professor McG and a Deathbuddy; Colin O'Briant as Seamus, Ghost History Teacher, Mr. Nick, and a Deathbuddy; Jacob Bowers as Anthony, Professor Turban, and Colin; Jordan Reed as Goyle, Scorpy, and Ensemble; Mia Brumbaugh as Hermeoone #1, Rowena, Ginny, and Ensemble; Peta Jolly as Leanne; Josh Levine as J. Finch; Sorsha Khitikian as Susie Bones; Julie Persaud as Sally Perks; Dorian Farr as Ernie Mac; Mae Roth as Hannah; Chris Conkle as Oliver Rivers; Sonya Dadekian as Megan Jones; Lincoln Melcher as Cedric and Mr. Voldy; Liam Ross as A Certain Potions Teacher, the Dragon, and Zach Smith; Bea Park as Professor Sprouty and Ensemble; Max Meserve as Blondo Malfoy, Sal, Deathbuddy, and Ensemble; Hope Towne as Xavia Jones and Ensemble; Nigel Pope as Professor Locky, Ric Gryff, Victor, and a Deathbuddy; Luvin Lalwani as Clumsy Longbottom and Ensemble; Laurelei Johnson as Professor Lanny, a Deathbuddy, and Ensemble; Amethyst Vazquez as Runes Teach and Ensemble; Claire Dore as Ms. Babble and Ensemble; Sophie Pollono as Hermeoone #3, a Deathbuddy, and Ensemble; Julia Cronin as Helga, Myrtle, and Ensemble; Scarlet Acevedo as Frenchy and Ensemble; and Micaela Bowers as Rita Scooter and Ensemble.

Due to COVID-19 precautions, the show was performed outside in the amphitheater, which was transformed into a magnificent set by volunteers and Tech Crew members. Though performing outside was a challenge, the whole cast came together to put on a great show! Audience members were advised to bring blankets and bundle up to stay warm, as it got fairly chilly as the show went on.

Kaylor Toronto, a Junior who played the Narrator, said he thought the show went well, and "being that close to the audience was such a fun experience because we could really interact and feed off their energy," adding, "It was so nice getting to practice and perform again and it was a pleasure to get to do such a unique show through an incredibly unique medium!"

"Puffs" was directed by Mr. Myers, and it couldn't have been a reality with the help of Student Producers Mia Brumbaugh and Sydney Bax, Technical Director Ms. Villareal, music provided by Andrew Orbison and Austin Farmer, Costume Design by Joanie Coyote, and all the members of Tech Crew and parent volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the production the best it could be!

This production also posed a unique difficulty for Tech Crew, who had to take down nearly all of their equipment every night and set it up again the next day, but they rose to the challenge magnificently to help put on a great show. Congratulations to everyone who was in "Puffs," and to everyone who worked hard to make it a show like no other!

Epic Hip Hop Explosion

By Maya Merino
Copy Editor

On November 4th and 5th, the Dance Department took the stage and put on an amazing performance produced by Ms. Morreale, the Dance Team Coach, and Ms. Pierce, the Dance Production Coach.

Anyone that came to watch the show would easily say they were on the edge of their seats all night.

The Dance Department has always been known for putting together great performances but after dancing in front of a screen for over a year this performance was a lot more meaningful for them all.

The performance consisted of two separate acts and an intermission in between where people could go buy flowers for dancers or snacks for themselves.

The Burbank Dance Team and Glendale Dance Team also made a special appearance during the show and they absolutely killed it.

Each act consisted of solos and specialized group dances that fellow dancers choreographed. Dance 2, Dance Production and Dance Team all danced at Hip Hop Explosion.

Everything was great at the Friday show. Each performance was so enthusiastic and all the dancers looked so happy to be performing. There were amazing solos from Ethan Consignado and Ryan Bucu, who are two of the Dance Team Captains, and amazing all girl dances that really got people dancing as well.

Some of the audience shared what they thought of the show and had nothing but positive things to say. Christopher Kirk said, "I was up in the balcony most of the night with people dancing and the energy in the room was amazing and everyone was cheering each other on. All of the dances were so entertaining, there will most definitely be a full house next year."

Another viewer, Samantha Valencia stated, "I loved the show so much it was actually really fun watching it all and the music choices made it so much better. Seeing my friends dance was awesome and all of them killed it."

Some of the performers also shared how they thought the show went and how they were feeling and their comments are so proud of what they accomplished after being away for so long.

Ethan Consignado, a Dance Team Captain, said, "I think the team did so well and I'm very proud of how much they've grown and learned from this experience. We all had a lot of fun even though the show was only for two days. We made so many sweet little memories that I will never forget. I am so proud to be their captain."

Maggie Villard shared how she thought they did and said, "I think the team did really well during Hip Hop Explosion. We had a rough two weeks beforehand where we ere scrambling things together and literally learning choreography the night before, but everyone pulled it together and we had a great show."

The whole Dance Department put in a great deal of effort and work, and it paid off because the audience soaked up all of it and enjoyed every last minute.

The Dance Team closed the show with a group performance, for some their last performance ever, so they took their final bow and gave individual speeches thanking everyone involved.

It was a bittersweet moment for the seniors, some of whom were tearing up at the end of the show. Despite the sadness of their last show, they put on their best performance and were glad to have finished with such a great recital.

Upcoming Dates

December 11-12	Holiday Spectacular
December 14	Online Special Holiday Paw Print!
December 14-16	Finals - Early Release
December 17	Pupil Free Day
December 20-31	Winter Break
January 3	First Day of Second Semester
January 17	MLK Holiday, School Closed

Link Crew Holds Fun 9th Grade 'Friendsgiving'

By Betsy Lepley
Staff Writer

On November 28, Link Crew hosted a Friendsgiving on the baseball field for all of the hardworking John Burroughs High School Freshmen, and it was fantastic.

The event took place on a bright, sunny day with the sun radiating happiness to all the students in attendance. Luckily, temperatures did not rise to an unbearably hot degree, and the weather was just right to enjoy some wonderful food outside on the grass.

The Friendsgiving activities began during lunch and there were drinks, chips, and cookies provided for all Link Crew groups and teachers to enjoy.

Apart from the snacks and drinks provided by Link Crew, many students chose to bring their own food to share with others and enjoy. Two Link Crew leaders, Jurnee Fuentes-Bumpus and Alexis Lopez, decided to bring Ritz Crackers for their group. Other leaders brought pizza and donuts for their groups as well.

Students relaxed, and talked amongst their friends, sharing food with them, and passing candy around.

It was a wonderful way to set the mood for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, and put everyone in the holiday spirit. One group even got goodie bags that their Link Crew leader had made for them.

Freshman Lana Dadekian had brought a large bag full of candy to share with everyone who went, and by the time the event was over, her bag was bone dry. In true Thanksgiving fashion, goods brought by students were shared with all fellow Link Crew members, and a wonderful feast of a large variety of snacks and drinks was enjoyed by all.

While attendees sat on blankets that had been brought by the leaders and teachers, there was also dancing for those who preferred to be up, burning off the extra calories attained after consuming such an amazing assortment of food. Link Crew leaders had brought out a large speaker to play music with, and a lot of the teachers were encouraging the students to get up and dance with them.

Each group was assigned a certain place to sit using the grid system, similar to the system used during school fire drills. The event didn't take up the entire baseball field, and there was still a lot of space between each group.

Many leaders had also combined their groups together to create larger groups to get to know each other better.

A variety of fun games were also played during the event, including a game where students guessed how many Jolly Ranchers were in a jar. Congratulations to Andrew Vizcaino for correctly guessing how many Jolly Ranchers were in the jar!

Matthew Lopez, a Senior Link Crew Leader and the person in charge of music said, ``It was a really fun experience to see all the Freshmen and it seemed everyone had a great time."

All of the Freshmen who attended this wonderful event hosted by the outstanding Link Crew Leaders had an amazing experience, and would like to thank the teachers and Link Crew Leaders for putting together such a memorable event. All Freshmen are encouraged to attend future Link Crew events, and we hope everyone who went to this year's Friendsgiving had a wonderful time.


Photographer: Max Purdy

Zoo Lights Enchanted Families And Delighted Kids

By Montana Benz
Staff Writer

An experience packed with yummy treats, remarkable lights, and animal guest appearances was the LA Zoo's light show in a nutshell. It was a great experience packed with families and holiday joy from the start to finish. It really did bring the holiday spirit to life.

Upon entry, The LA Zoo had the event entry lines set up in rows depicted on your entry time, making sure to keep the lines spread out.

They had the system set up to where you had to get checked for proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test from a recent date. The LA Zoo took many safety precautions, ensuring that the guests touring the light show were as safe as possible.

Once you got past admission, the show really started. The entire entrance to the zoo was filled with magical lights from top to bottom. This experience brought you straight into the holiday spirit.

The start of the light show was beautiful, to say the least. It was complete with a light structure to represent a fountain of lights. Around this "fountain" were all the traditional animals placed around, all lit up in a circle. All the trees were laced with lights from the trunks to the branches. It made it seem as though you were walking in a winter wonderland.

Past the entryway was a stunning walkway. The entire walkway was filled with green lights that reflected little orbs, making it a great stop for a photo opportunity. There was a small lake running under the walkway that was filled with blue lights to make the stream appear as if it was glowing.

The Zoo made sure to carry the magic from the walkway straight toward Reggie's enclosure, the alligator housed at the LA Zoo. His enclosure was lined with green twinkling lights that really made his habitat stand out. Headed toward the middle of the light show was right where the zoo was blasting the holiday music. As one walked through the center, one could see light structures of gorillas and lions, making all the young kids glance up and stare. There was a section dedicated to gingerbread houses with tall Christmas trees filled with ornaments from top to bottom.

The LA Zoo did not disappoint when it came to the holiday treats. Walking through the light show, it was filled with all the smells of holiday goods. There were booths of snacks like churros, glazed almonds, and popcorn. There were also booths for hot chocolate for kids, and coffee for the adults. Walking through the zoo could make anyone's mouth water.

Through the main section was another "forest" filled with lights. All of the trees were wrapped with different twinkling lights, as well as sparkling butterflies and shining disco balls.

The disco balls would reflect all different kinds of light fixtures, making it feel as if you were walking through the snow. All eyes were glued to the branches at the trees, making sure you didn't miss all the different light animals placed around the park.

After this is where all the magic started. They had full walkways filled with enchanting lights leading into a winter wonderland. Holiday music was blasting through the zoo. It was extraordinary, the passageways' lights would change colors, and the magic became more spectacular. It was fantasizing to see all of the lights move and dance.

Walking through different parts of the zoo exploring the lights, there were closed sections that attendees could walk through, though they had to stay quiet because of the sleeping animals. The zookeepers made sure that none of the loud music or harsh lights would affect the animals, because it was their resting hours. So although there were many lights, not many animals were spotted. Still, Reggie had to make his appearance during his showcase.

Concluding the experience was another light walkway, but as one made their way back through the zoo, the path would wrap around the parts they had previously explored.

With all of the amazing food, magical lights, and special surprises the LA Zoo Lights was a great experience. They really did bring in all of the holiday magic we missed out on during the past COVID infested year.

Fall Food Festival

By Hope Towne and
Judi Browngardt
Staff Writers

On Friday, November 19, 2021, JBHS had its annual Fall Food Festival. It was an opportunity for all students to eat delicious food, learn about all the various clubs at this school, and fund them at the same time! Students could walk around and purchase snacks from any club table that struck their fancy while discovering new clubs.

It was a lot of fun getting to know all of the clubs and their purposes. Whether it was celebrating a shared interest, making an impact in the community, or preparing future scholars for college and adult life, each club had something useful and interesting to bring to their table.

Bea Park, Co-founder of the Eco Club, started her club in her Freshman year, which was the year we spent doing distance learning. Her goal for the club this year is to make a difference in the community: "This year we're trying to start a garden." The Eco Club wants to spread information and appreciation of the environment, and with the funds collected at the festival, they tread closer and closer to this goal.

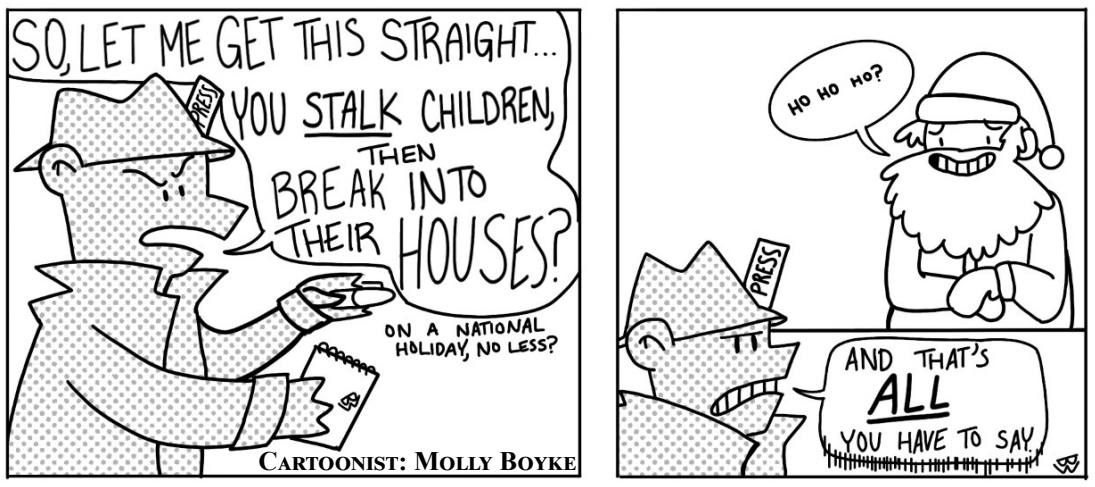
Having clubs gives the school an opportunity to develop even more of a student-led community within the walls of our campus. Even if a student doesn't actively participate in every club meeting or event, they still feel like they have a group of people they can lean on for support. Friendships are made, relationships grow, and the school's environment and culture is enriched with every club created and run on this campus.

Paris Tesfu, the president of Beach Clean Up Club, expressed her enthusiasm for the event, "I am so happy to have had the opportunity to fundraise for our amazing club. Events like these help us so much and I see a bright future for Beach Clean Up Club, @jbhs.beachcleanupclub on Instagram." The club's purpose is "To really get people more involved with helping clean the beaches because they're getting more and more polluted, and people aren't talking about it enough."

The Eco Club and the Beach Clean Up Club are two very important examples of how beneficial it is to have school clubs, and are a shining example of what good comes from students and their own brilliant minds and hearts. Club leaders put their hearts and souls into their club meetings, and we can't help but feel proud of what this school has nurtured into creation.

This being said, there's also benefits even if a club doesn't have an environmental or advocacy focus. Even the just-for-fun clubs create a safe space for students to socialize, have fun, and create a unique sense of community that can't be found anywhere else.

This year's Fall Food Festival was a resounding success, and we can't wait to see more from all the clubs on campus!



Cartoonist: Molly Boyke

Holiday Horoscopes

The month of December is about to bring many changes with the upcoming eclipse in Sagittarius. This has been long changing eclipse between Sagittarius and Gemini, reflecting the worldly changes that have gone on during the past two years. As well, all of the zodiac are about to experience their own unique individual changes.

Sagittarius: Get ready to let go of an era and enter a new chapter of your life. The last month of this year will be a great start to show the upcoming changes that will come within the next year.

Scorpio: Expect a increase in money and opportunities in dumb luck.

Libra: You're about to see a new side of your routine and day to day life. Expect change as life is about to shift.

Virgo: Your independence is about to meet new heights. Take time for yourself as you're about to understand yourself on a deeper level.

Leo: Watch your mind expand as your creativity grows. You're about to see a new way to look at life as a whole.

Cancer: This month is going to show u the great endeavors in the simple life. The little things are about to show how beautiful they truly are.

Gemini: Love is in the eye of the beholder and someone is wishing to hold you. Expect this month to be the start of a new chapter in your love life.

Taurus: Prepare for a rough few weeks. Make sure to keep your head on your shoulders and make time for yourself.

Aries: This month will follow with great opportunities to learn. Watch your dream school land on your doorstep. The changes within your education will flourish.

Pisces: You're finally going to get a grasp about what you're doing with yourself. The perfect career is about to finally show itself to give you a new profound purpose.

Aquarius: Friends and dreams are changing. The way you see what is closest is about to show its true colors.

Capricorn: Know there is a higher power guiding you to a new, open mindset. You're about to see a new change in how you think.

-Jae Meline, Staff Astrologer

Melissa Capelle, New Teacher

By James Reid
Sports Editor

This year, Burroughs has bid farewell to many beloved staff members, but also welcomed so many new ones. One of the new teachers this year is Ms. Melissa Capelle, an 11th grade US History teacher. Although this is only her first year teaching, she has gotten off to an amazing start!

Before becoming a teacher, Ms. Capelle was a behavioral aide for BUSD. "I worked one year in an elementary school, and then I was asked to come to Burroughs to work in their autism program," she said.

"I worked at Burroughs as a DTT in their autism program for five years, and then I saw that there was a teaching position open." After receiving her teaching credential, she worked with Burroughs and BUSD to get into a classroom as soon as possible.

She was even more excited when she saw the opportunity to teach social studies. "History has just always been my favorite subject, so when I saw an opportunity to take over a US History class, I jumped at it," she said. It is evident how passionate she is about history, and how excited she was to pass on her knowledge to the next generation.

Although a native of Central California, she originally started her teaching journey on the other side of the country. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Thomas Edison University in Trenton, New Jersey, and is currently finishing her Master's Degree through Grand Canyon University, which is located in Phoenix, Arizona. "I enjoy education, I love history, I love anything to do with learning and expanding people's minds," she said.

Now that she has achieved her goal of becoming a teacher, she couldn't be happier. She understands the importance of her career, and the impact she is making on her students' lives. "I think the best thing about being a teacher is having the opportunity to really make an impression on kids, and really help steer them and guide them in the right way," she said. Her amazing mentality demonstrates her true care for her students not just as learners, but as individuals as well.

With this semester coming to an end, she is already looking forward to what's next. Since this is her first year teaching, she understands that she has to take things slowly, and not rush anything.

This year, she intends to primarily focus on supporting her students and getting comfortable in the classroom, but after that, she has big plans. "I always can be a better teacher," she said. "I constantly, every year, want to get better, and I want to be able to reach more students, and I want to be able to help them succeed the best they can." She truly believes that there is always room for improvement, and wants to work to be the best teacher she can be for her students.

Having been a teenager herself, she understands the difficulties of high school, and what it's like to be right in the middle of it. "[Her students] just really need to focus on their mindset, and know that all things are possible," she said.

She understands that different circumstances can affect different aspects of life, especially school, but wants her students to know that no matter where they came from or where they are, they all have the capacity to do amazing things.

Ms. Capelle is an amazing teacher, and we are so lucky to have her.


Photographer: Sammy Solomons

Although she's only at the beginning of her teaching career, we all know that she is going to do great things here at JBHS. We are all so thankful to have such a caring and driven individual become a part of the Burroughs family, and we can't wait to be a part of her journey in teaching. Congratulations Ms. Capelle! Go Bears!

Karen Nakashima, New Teacher

By Arianna Hart
Staff Writer

Mrs. Karen Nakashima is one of our newest teachers working in the Art Department at Burroughs.

Passing on success and inspiration towards her students, Mrs. Nakashima teaches Art 1, and was involved in teaching art clubs and other extracurricular activities in previous schools she had taught. "I have taught Art Club and was the Co-Robotics Coach at my previous school."

Mrs. Nakashima has also stated she would be pleased to be involved in starting up art-related extracurricular activities here at Burroughs, where people will be able to have fun and have an unforgettable experience working with their passions and hobbies.

"I previously taught at a South LA inner city school for ten years and three years beforehand at another inner city school in Watts. As much as I loved my previous schools, I saw an amazing opportunity to teach at Burroughs and I'm so grateful to be here!"

Ever since the beginning of her life, she had always found a passion for art. This had inspired her to take her hobby of art as a serious career. "I've always loved art and my best memories were taking art classes in high school. Art really defined who I am and what I wanted to do in my future." She was Project Manager for over ten years at an art consulting company, later on teaching her niece about the life of art.

Beforehand, Mrs. Nakashima earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree at Art Center College of Art and Design, as well as earning her Master of Fine Arts Degree at Otis College of Art and Design. She even earned her teaching credentials at CSULA!

Mrs. Nakashima has also earned some outstanding awards for when she was coach at her Robotics team from her previous school.

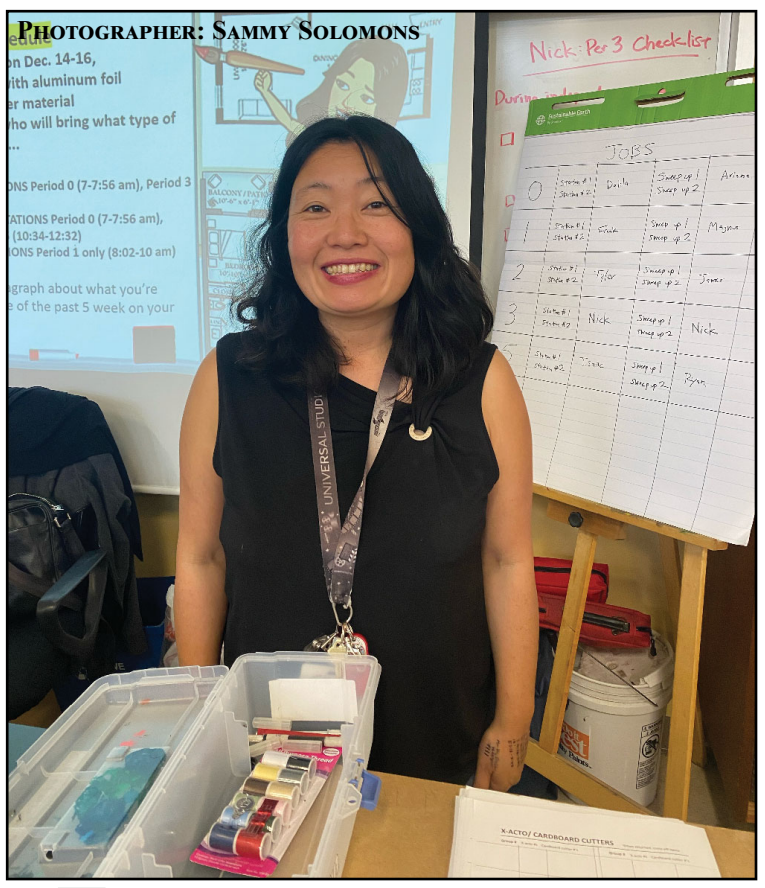
"I was selected as a finalist for the KIPP Teacher of the Year last year, and my Robotics team earned 1st place in the KIPP Champion's Award, Robot Design and Robot Performance in 2019," Mrs. Nakashima stated.

A special talent of hers that she likes to share is her years of experience in Roller Derby. Mrs. Nakashima was in the L.A. Roller Derby team, "Tough Cookies," which also correlates to her hobby, roller skating!

Mrs. Nakashima looks up to her parents as inspirations and huge role models in her life. "My mom is one of the strongest women I know and overcame struggles of not speaking English when she came here from Japan. Both of my parents have worked so hard from very little which has inspired me to always be empathetic and just try my best at anything I do."

Mrs. Nakashima is a bright light of inspiration and encouragement for her students, wanting them to always follow their dreams and to never give up. "Being a teacher is incredibly rewarding with making an impact. Learning is a lifelong process and I'm constantly learning from my students too."

Mrs.Nakashima is a great addition to the Burroughs staff, and we are very lucky to have her here!



Photographer: Sammy Solomons

Marylou Munoz, New Teacher

By Arianna Hart
Staff Writer

Special Education English teacher, Marylou Munoz, is one of our newest teaching staff at Burroughs. Passing on light towards her students, she gives them full potential to work at their best and try their hardest.

Before becoming an official teacher, Ms. Munoz worked as a substitute for Burbank Unified. "I decided to be a Special Education teacher after working as a Special Education Aid for three years… I was working as a substitute teacher for Burbank Unified, then I was called to interview for a job here at Burroughs High School," Ms. Munoz states.

Previously, Ms. Munoz has attended Oxnard Community College, and has discussed one of her highlights from there. "My favorite teacher was my Chicano Studies teacher in Oxnard, California. She challenged me to express myself by having many lively academic discussions in her class."

Ms. Munoz has also attended Lane Community College where she got her Associates Degree, University of Phoenix for her Bachelor's Degree, and California State University Northridge where she earned her teaching credentials.

Now working at Burroughs, Ms. Munoz passes on the encouragement to her students to express themselves through their work and wisdom. "My goal this year is to inspire and encourage as many students as I can… never give up and don't be afraid to ask for help."

Ms. Munoz also has goals for herself that are outside of school as well, such as finding and exploring hiking trails, maintaining her workout schedule, and trying to stay as healthy as possible.

"I enjoy guiding a student in realizing their full potential… I would hope that I am known for making my students feel safe to express their feelings, and that they find my classroom a warm and welcoming learning environment for all students."

JBHS is very lucky to have Ms. Munoz as a part of our teaching staff!


Photographer: Sammy Solomons

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Erica Barragan, New School Nurse

By Genesis Martinez
Staff Writer

We have a new staff member here at John Burroughs High School and it is the school nurse Erica Barragán! She gave many details into her personal and work life so students can get to know her better.

Nurse Barragán is forty-five years old and was born on August 28.

She is a registered nurse and is not currently involved in any extracurricular activities at school.

She was originally a respiratory therapist and was working in a hospital. When COVID hit, it really saddened her to see what was going on, so she decided it would be better to work at a school.

She attended East LA Community College and got her A.S.D. in Respiratory Therapy, she later went to West Coast University and got her B.S.N.

Something that really inspires her is reading. Her favorite quote is "To thine own self be true."

Erica said that the best thing about being a nurse is getting to help people in need and meeting people. The worst part about being a nurse, though, she said, would have to be being the last person that people see before they die.

Although seeing this is heartbreaking, Erica said that it is also good knowing that you helped them in their last moments, so it is a never ending cycle.

In her free time she loves spending time with her three-year-old daughter and going to Disneyland.

She also likes spending quality time with her fiance and family. Traveling is something she loves to do as well. Her fiance is Armando Castro, and they just got engaged recently, so this is a very exciting time for her.

Something that she would like to say about her family is that her three year old keeps her very busy but she loves her to death and would do anything for her.

She stated that after having a kid, it helped her interact with other children which is something she struggled with before becoming a mom. She lives in the city of San Fernando, which is about fourteen minutes away from Burbank.

When asked if she would like to pass on any wisdom or advice to students, she said to not take life so seriously, laugh at yourself, enjoy the moments and do what makes you happy because in the end that is all that matters.

One trend that Erica does not understand at all is why students don't eat, this is something that is very common amongst high school students.

Her goals for this year is that she would like to start her workout routine again, plan a wedding, and pick a date. Her goals for the future are deciding whether or not to go back to school to be a nurse practitioner or a nurse CRNA. These are both things she would like to pursue.

In high school Erica said that she was a lost kid and didn't know what she wanted to do in life. She didn't have many friends, wasn't popular and just survived. This is what has made her able to relate to a lot of the students here. She was always the kid with the dark clothes and nail polish.

When asked if she has any hidden talents she said that she played the piano and violin. She also picked up the guitar for a little bit so she has tried many different instruments. She also loves to paint.

She has done three Spartan races and the longest one she did was thirteen miles with obstacle courses.



Photographer: Lincoln Melcher

Her favorite trip that she ever went on was Peru, which was her first ever solo trip. Her favorite place to hang out is Disneyland, she doesn't have a favorite restaurant but she says that she loves to try new foods. If she had to pick a dish that she loves the most it would be chiles rellenos.

Erica is very clumsy and says that if anything embarrassing happens to her it either has to do with her falling or hitting walls.

The most embarrassing story that she has is when she went to Germany and fell in front of everyone at her hotel.

Getting to know our staff here at JBHS is very important because it helps us relate more to the people guiding us this school year. It has been a privilege interviewing nurse Erica Barragan and seeing how much of a great person she is.

Shannon Marando, College And Career Technician

By Molly Boyke
Editor in Chief

Ms. Shannon Marando is one of our newest staff members at JBHS, and we are so excited to welcome her to our school! With six years of experience with all age groups in schools around Burbank, Ms. Marando has experience in many areas and is highly qualified for the job! As a staff member at the College and Career Center, Ms. Marando splits her time between Burroughs and Burbank High. She will be available at the College and Career Center from 12:15 to 4:00PM Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and from 7:30 to 11:30AM Tuesday and Thursday.

Ms. Marando began her participation in Burbank schools by being an active PTA member and a stay-at-home mom for fourteen years. She then explored working at the school as a staff member rather than a volunteer, working as an Office Substitute for BUSD. This job took her to many different schools in Burbank, ultimately leading her to the job she has today.

Of her experience, she said, "I have worked with all age groups, from the JK program at Stevenson Elementary to an ELD Office Specialist at BHS. Last year I started working at BHS as a Long Term Sub covering for their Career Tech, who was out on a leave. My main responsibility was working with Service Hours and Work Permits. As the year went on, I was given more responsibility, including promoting the scholarship availability and setting up a Virtual College Fair. I enjoy being able to work with students helping them navigate their time in high school, as well as focusing on life after high school." She saw working at Burroughs as an opportunity to work with both high schools and help get necessary information to all students.

Ms. Marando also has a Bachelor's in Marketing from the University of Alabama, which she says helps her communicate with parents and students about College and Careers-related topics. She also remarked that the best thing about working at the Center is "connecting with the students. Helping them understand what's needed for graduation, work permits, scholarships and so much more."

She hopes to provide advice and information about college and beyond to JBHS students, "My goal for work is to support the student to the best of my ability by offering as much help and guidance in regards to College and Career Advice. I'm eager to work with students, helping to troubleshoot the high school and pre-college life outside of the classroom."

Her advice to students is to "Dream big, reach for the stars! Don't be afraid to ask questions. Asking questions is the best way to find answers to your questions! Anything is possible when you put in a little effort."

Outside of work, Ms. Marando enjoys playing golf, reading for fun, gardening, and spending time with her family. Something students would be surprised to know is that she once scored a hole-in-one: "I'm one of few people who have scored a hole-in-one playing golf. My husband hasn't even done that yet. I was at a golf course down in Newport beach, it was the most amazing thing. At the time, I was actually working for a golf company, and we were testing out some new golf equipment. And, lo and behold, all my coworkers saw, it was amazing, there were about four to six of us there and we were able to radio the other ones."

She also later noted that her grandfather was a California Supreme Court Judge. Of her family, she said, "I'm married to a wonderful husband who is an IT Director for an Architecture Firm, and we have two amazing kids." Both of Ms. Marando's children went to or are currently attending Burbank schools.

She described her high school experience as an adventure, "I went to three different high schools in three different states: Arizona, Kentucky, and Alabama. Arizona was probably my favorite. I was on my high school golf teams, which gave me a great opportunity to play many different courses that I might not have played otherwise. I am actually a native Californian, but grew up in Arizona for the most part."

Ms. Marando also commented on the teachers and subjects that inspired her most in high school, "My Senior year English teacher is always on my mind because of how she taught us to write, and think about papers, and those sorts of things. I have memories of other teachers, their crazy personalities... living in three different states for high school, you see such a wide difference of teachers and personalities and teaching styles. Math and science are [the subjects] I tend to go for first, but my Senior year English teacher is the one who inspired me most."

As a person, Ms. Marando is very bright and upbeat, always laughing and joking. Her kids tease her that she's a "rule-follower," but she prefers to think of it as "doing things by the book." As a positive thinker, she's able to laugh at herself, "The other thing I joke about is being short. I'm the shortest one in my family, I'm not getting any taller, those are the things that tend to make people laugh."

Ms. Marando is happy to help students out with any college or career related topics, from graduation requirements to service hours and everything in between! With her years of experience in the community, she plans to offer helpful guidance and advice to any student who pops in. She's sure to contribute to the positive attitude and fun atmosphere at JBHS! Again, she will be available at the College and Career Center from 12:15 to 4:00PM Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and from 7:30 to 11:30AM Tuesday and Thursday, so don't hesitate to come in and say hello!



Photographer: Molly Boyke

COLCOA French Film Festival Field Trip Tres Bon

By Vivian Morse
Staff Writer

On November 5, 2021, the JBHS students in the French program attended the annual trip to the COLCOA French Film Festival in Hollywood. Due to Covid-19, last year they were not able to attend, so thankfully this year they were able to keep the trip alive.

The schedule of the trip was fairly organized and successfully executed. Students were to meet outside of the school near the flag poles at 8:30AM and were to have boarded the buses by 8:45.

There was a successful turnout of students, with three buses to be filled, there were only a few empty seats in the buses. The buses left right on schedule and after a very short ride, the students arrived at The Directors Guild of America on Sunset Boulevard.

Upon entering the building, Burroughs students were greeted by workers and asked to wait in a line before being admitted into the theatre. While waiting, a few other students from different schools also began to flood in.

Once allowed into the theatre, the students were welcomed by a sea of red seats and an enormous movie screen. Once students were seated an announcement was made welcoming everyone to the film.

Before *Les Heritieres* began, there was a short film involving students on a train. There was a young boy with a crush on a girl who happened to also be on the train, along with two older girls he was close with. The dialogue was all French, but there were subtitles located near the bottom of the screen which allowed students who weren't as well versed in French to read and understand what was happening.

It seemed to be a pretty short film because right after the applause died down, *Les Heritieres* (The Owners), the film began to play. It told the story of a young girl named Sanou in Paris who came from a lower income family. She was accepted into a very prestigious school where she dreamed of becoming an engineer.

On top of the rigorous courses that she was taking, she had to take the train to school; but due to her academic skill, she was offered the job of a tutor for a girl that she used to go to school with. The film shows Sanou balancing her life as a student and finding herself.

Once the film was over, the students were fortunate enough to have a Q & A with the director of the film, Nolwenn Lemesle, and the main actress Tracy Gotoas. People questioned them in both English and French; questions such as, "What was the hardest scene to film?" another being "How did Covid-19 affect the production of the film?"

Once the questioning was completed, pictures were taken outside with Lemesle and Gotoas and the teachers as well. There was a background and props to take photos with along with free drinks from the venue.

Students were allowed to go off and have around an hour and a half lunch to themselves. Some students went to restaurants such as Veggie Grill or Wokcano, others ventured down Sunset Boulevard with their friends.

All seemed to work out when students arrived back at their buses at 2PM to board and head back to John Burroughs. Roll was taken and students reboarded their buses.

On the ride back to the school, students seemed very content with their trip, or perhaps it was all the caffeine from the nearby Starbucks. The buses ended up arriving back around 2:30 completing the trip.

In the end, the Burroughs students would like to thank COLCOA for allowing Burroughs students to experience French culture and for being so kind. They would also like to thank their French teachers for organizing this amazing trip.

Hyla Etame, Yearbook Editor In Chief

By Georgie Hallbach
News Editor

Meet Hyla Etame, John Burroughs Senior, poet, writer, and creative heading for England in the fall to study Literature and Creative Writing.

She was born April 8, 2004, making her an Aries, and she knows her full chart! She is the Editor-in-Chief of the Burroughs' Yearbook and a Burbank Pa Kua Martial Arts Student.

Joining first in her Sophomore year to "be a part of an organization at our school and bring my creativity as a fiction/poetry writer," Hyla now runs the Yearbook. She "[likes] mentoring people and [being] one to contribute not just writing ideas, but photo ideas as well."

Catch Hyla walking the halls with her signature hats and she'll give you a quick smile and a wave, never afraid to let you know she is happy to see you. Her friendly aura makes its way into her leadership position in the yearbook, she often helps teams "come up with ideas for spreads when they're stuck" and she is uber proud of the "friendly, family-like atmosphere" her yearbook team has created this year.

When asked what she does in her free time the answer is immediate and fierce, "Write! Write! Write! I like writing poems, essays, stories and songs." She plans to publish her first novel, "about a teenager living in a fictional communist society that has no currency and is eco-conscious" before she goes to college. No doubt she has been hard at work these past months editing her work.

Her passion for eco-conscious living reveals itself the more she talks, with her plans of living in an earthship house somewhere (made out of rammed earth or cob) that [she] would design and build [herself].

She also plans to spend time at Eco-Caminhos, "an eco-friendly permaculture farm in Brazil," where she would engage in "bioconstruction and agroforestry sessions… go on hikes, horseback [ride], and learn Portuguese."

Hyla applied to five schools in England for her undergraduate studies; she chose to go across the pond because "Bachelor's degrees are only three years long there, class sizes are smaller, and students don't have to complete general education courses and can dive right into their field of study."

She sent in her application in September and has been offered a spot at four out of five of her choices and is still waiting to hear back from the fifth school. She will make her decision in the springtime and then by Fall she's off to England!

In college she hopes to join a "school choir or join a band" because "Since [she] started writing songs in May, she's been singing a lot and even trying to make up melodies for songs [she] has."

Choirs particularly interest her because her "favortie female singers (FKA Twigs, Bjork, and Dolores O'Riordan) all grew up singing in them."

The future is shining for Hyla, beckoning her into greatness; when asked what she would like to see for herself in ten years she says, "In ten years I'll be twenty-seven…. I wouldn't limit myself to one profession, I'm too creative to do that. I'd be a published author, poet, screenwriter, musical artist, DJ… and maybe I wouldn't be 'settled down' yet at [that] point."

No need to settle down if she'll be doing all that! All of her friends at the JBHS Paw Print wish her the most beautiful success!

Daniella Olshansky, Team Bully Buster Boxer

By Stephanie Hernandez
Feature Editor

Daniella Olshansky, an involved Junior at JBHS, is not only an active student on campus, but an up-and-coming boxer.

As a member of Team Bully Buster in Studio City, she started boxing because, "I wanted to be a lot stronger as a person and have confidence in myself. I wanted to do a new sport that I have never done before which is fighting and something I knew I would not be comfortable with. I wanted a new challenge to teach me new lessons."

Beginning boxing by looking to learn self-defense, she also added that she wanted to be able to defend herself in dangerous situations while also exploring new and different things.

"I wanted to do a sport that I know I would never imagine myself doing. For a while, I wanted to do something new and get out of my comfort zone and I thought boxing was a perfect choice."

Though she has only recently started, she already has aspirations to compete professionally, mentioning that her favorite part of boxing is sparring with other people and trying out what she learned in her class with someone else.

Overall, Daniella enjoys the layout of a regular class, mentioning that, "I first stretch and make sure that I stretch my legs and arms. Then we usually do jump rope for around ten minutes for a warm-up, but sometimes we do other warmups like squats or running. Then we do shadow boxing, which is basically boxing against your shadow so moving around and trying your moves."

After the warm-up, she starts on the lesson for the day, practicing padwork with her classmates and coach, while also working on the punching bags using different combinations.

"We usually finish the class by going really hard on the bags with all our power and skill and that's how we end the class!"

With practicing, shadow boxing, and warmups being the majority of the class, some boxing tips she mentioned that it's important to have great stamina and to always warm up.

She also mentioned that it's always important to have fun, adding, "There are times where I get too serious because I want to do it perfectly, but having fun and letting loose helps you to do better. I also think never giving up and being strong is super important, even if times are tough it's good to keep going and have a positive mindset!"

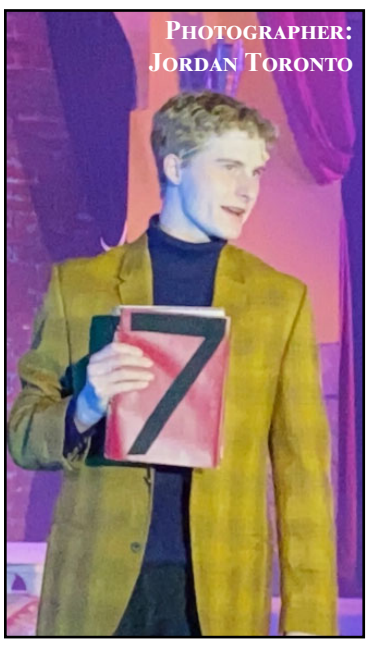
In addition to boxing, Daniella is also in ASB as the community liaison, co-founder, and co-president of the Buzzfeed Unsolved club, a CSF member, and involved in Muay Thai.

Along with her extracurricular activities, Daniella also excels academically, with one of her goals being to achieve straight A's and get into UCLA and figure out her career path. With her active schedule, she wanted to thank her role models for continuing to inspire her to achieve greater things.

"My role models would be my mom and dad and my sister. They all work so hard and are so passionate about what they do they inspire me to work hard every day and do my best in school so I can get the items in the future they always wanted!"

Overall, Daniella Olshansky is a standout student here at JBHS, from CSF to boxing to ASB, Daniella is destined for great things, whether that be a boxing champion or a future UCLA student. Thank you Daniella for being such a great student!

Kaylor Toronto, Actor And 'Creative Kid'


Photographer: Jordan Toronto

By Laurelei Johnson
Staff Writer

John Burroughs High School is a place that emphasizes creativity, dedication, and hard work. One student who embodies all of these values is Kaylor Toronto, a Junior here at JBHS.

Toronto is involved with many programs on and off campus, including participating in JBHS Link Crew and volunteering at the Burbank Public Library for the Creative Kids program. He is an active member of the Environmental Cleanup Club and the Student Mental Health Board, which he described as great places to "try to help really make a difference in our community."

On top of participating in clubs, volunteering at the library, and participating in Link Crew, Kaylor is also very involved with the JBHS performing arts programs. He is a member of the Men at Work and Powerhouse show choirs, and is also in Play Production, the most advanced Drama class here at Burroughs.

Earlier this year, he played the role of Anatole in Powerhouse's performance of *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812* at Burroughs on Broadway.

In addition to performing in the show choirs, Kaylor played the role of the narrator in the fall comedy "Puffs," a story all about the side characters at a certain school of magic. Yes, that school of magic. In the spring production of "Into the Woods," Toronto will also be performing as Jack, a boy who is forced to sell his cow, and ends up trading her for some… questionable beans.

Toronto is also taking AP Calculus BC, AP Biology, AP US History, and AP Language and Composition. He loves to learn, and he's "not sure if [he] can pick a favorite class because [he] think[s] each one is really interesting in its own way."

Toronto has been participating in show choir since he was in seventh grade, and with all those AP classes stacked on top, he has to be careful to balance everything.

Kaylor says, "never sacrifice too much sleep, because it is the best way to feel in control and prepared for anything that comes your way."

Another tip he offered was to always know schedules beforehand to be able to plan around them. Kaylor also recommends a little exercise to keep your energy up after a long day.

In his free time, Toronto enjoys spending time with his family, playing with his younger siblings, and doing activities such as hiking, volleyball, ping-pong, and basketball. He also says he got his positive mindset from his parents, who are his "biggest motivation.

Looking forward, Kaylor isn't sure what he wants to study in college, describing how he is interested in sciences like astrophysics, biology, or environmental science, but he also is interested in studying the arts and going into theatre or music.

Whatever he does, Kaylor is sure to blow us all away, and he says that, even though [he's] not sure yet, " I've got time and I'm excited to find out." We can't wait to see what Kaylor does next, whether it be in performing, academics, acting, or beyond!

Lan Mai, "Creative Kids" Founder

By Alexis Lopez
Staff Writer

John Burroughs High School is filled with talented students, doing good not only for the school, but for their community as well. Case in point: Lan Mai, a seventeen-year-old Senior here at JBHS, has started a program at the Buena Vista Library known as "Creative Kids," made to help bring together the teens and kids of Burbank through themed crafts and activities led by the older students.

First, a bit more on Lan. Born on March 16, 2004 (making her a Pisces!), Lan went to Walt Disney Elementary and Dolores Huerta Middle School before attending JBHS. Her favorite subjects are AP Calculus BC and ERWC, with her favorite teacher through all her years in high school being Miss McMahon.

In her upcoming years, Lan plans to get into a nursing program from a four year university's and eventually get her Master's. Her dream job is becoming a pediatric nurse practitioner.

Funnily enough, one of Lan's favorite shows is *Grey's Anatomy*, as well as *Dancing With The Star*s and *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series.* Her favorite movies include *Titanic* and *Crazy Rich Asians,* and Lan's favorite books consist of the *Harry Potter* series.

Moving on to the program she created, Lan first got the idea for such a project during her time volunteering at the local elementary schools in Burbank. "During my time volunteering, I noticed that there were few high school students helping out, which I thought was a missed opportunity that could be improved," Lan says.

With COVID coming in full swing and the lockdown keeping everyone inside, Lan's idea only grew and grew, eventually turning into a steady plan, and promptly coming to life on Thursday, August 5th, 2021, with the first "Creative Kids" day taking place. After a successful launch, the program is still going strong to this day, falling on the first Thursday of every month, with the most recent event occurring on the fourth of November.

On these days, a large room in the library is cleared out to contain four square tables in each corner of the room, with two to three volunteers stationed at each table. The kids who attend are given a mini-checklist to wear in order to keep track of each activity they visit, marking them off one by one after completing a task.

At each table, the high school volunteers lead the children through a variety of engaging exercises, all falling under the "theme" of that event, such as "Arts & Crafts" or "STEM."

The program is overseen by Teen Librarian Lyndsey Silveria, who Lan works closely with to make sure everything goes according to plan on the event days.

When asked about her thoughts on the program, Lyndsey says, "Creative Kids has been a hit with the kids and parents so far. The teen volunteers do a great job planning, preparing, and executing the program, we're very lucky to have them."

In just the last three months the program has grown remarkably, becoming the library's current most popular children's event, so far reaching a maximum of 56 kids in attendance. Additionally, more volunteers have been recruited as well, with 12 JBHS students on the team.

One of these students, Kayleigh Pejoro, a Senior who is one of Lan's close friends, has expressed her pride in Lan's achievements with the project. "I'm honored to be a part of this program," says Kayleigh, "Lan has been doing an amazing job organizing each event and making sure everything runs smoothly!"

Lan is incredibly hardworking, dedicating almost all of her time to her studies and the "Creative Kids" program, content to endlessly give back to the people around her. JBHS is insanely lucky to have her! Thank you for all you have done for the community, Lan!


Photographer: Mr Fitz

Girls Soccer

By Ainsley Ghaman
Staff Writer

With fall coming to a close and our JBHS fall sports finishing up their seasons, it's the time of year to turn our support toward all the talented athletes who will be representing Burroughs during the coming winter season. One of the teams that will be representing JBHS this season is the Girls Soccer team.

As the upcoming season inches closer, players, coaches, and fans alike are becoming increasingly excited for the highly anticipated kick-off. With an outstanding set of coaches, a remarkably talented roster, and captains who can do it all, this should be a very prominent season for the JBHS Girls Soccer program.

"We have a combined total of several decades of coaching experience," stated Varsity assistant coach Lara Black Sage "and even though it's my first year coaching, it's clear there's a lot of talent working to coach and improve the program."

Varsity head coach Brady Riggs has been coaching at JBHS for several seasons, and has always dedicated himself to the betterment of the program and the success of his players. Coach Riggs is proud of the team's efforts, and will continue working hard to make sure players at Varsity level are the best they can be.

The JV team has also been working extremely hard this season. "My top priority is preparing as many players as possible for the Varsity program" said JV head coach Robert Sanchez, who has had a huge impact on the program during his four year career as coach at Burroughs.

Before taking on the role of JV head coach, Sanchez had been coaching his daughters recreationally for many years "My wife registered my oldest daughter, Charlotte, for AYSO in 2010. That was the beginning of my coaching career, and it has been non-stop since then," he stated.

JV and Varsity Assistant Coach Lara Black Sage, an excellent addition to the program's coaching staff this year and first female coach in the program, stressed the importance of finally introducing a female coach to help the girls thrive. "I think it's important for the players to see more women in leadership roles, especially when it comes to sports" she stated. "I'd like to see a lot of progress from the team this season, and I hope that having a female coach involved in the program will help provide some new insight and opportunity." Coach Lara, along with coaches Riggs and Sanchez, will continue working hard to get the team prepared for the season. With the help of such a capable and talented coaching staff, the players have improved tremendously throughout the training season, and are ready to take on anything.

Outstanding coaches aside, the captains contribute immensely to the success and support of all the players and ensure everyone is given a voice on the team. Varsity Captain Charlotte Sanchez, a Senior at JBHS who has been in the program for four years, stated "our goal for the season is to continue improving, and get better as a team."

Other Varsity players added that they hoped to "represent JBHS" and "bring home more than a couple wins" throughout the season.

Varsity Captain Samantha Valencia (Senior) has been in the program for four years and has been a huge contributor to the success of the program since she became a part of it. "She sets an excellent example by always playing like she is in a championship match, even in the smallest of small side games," Coach Riggs added.

The closer the season gets, the more excited players get to take the field, especially after the season was cut short due to the pandemic last year. Deciding which players will comprise the starting lineup is never easy with so much talent in the program, but the process is always fair and everyone is given an equal opportunity to prove their skill. "During the summer, we spoke about each of the returning players, and where we see each of them in the developmental spectrum, how that would apply to their participation in the program, and what we would be looking for each of them to improve in their game," the coaches stated in regard to determining rosters for the season.

Even with so many talented players, returning from a pandemic and taking the field again can be a challenge. Coaches Sanchez and Riggs have been working hard to "approach the effects of the lockdown on the players' motivation, and their shifting of priorities." But as many of us have realized, "It's a complicated issue, as everyone seems to develop a distinct coping dynamic."

The players have been working hard to get back into the swing of things, and the coaches are happy with the progress. Through their struggles, the team is brought closer together and improves tremendously, and as Coach Sanchez perfectly outlined "embracing the process of improvement is key to reaching one's full potential."

Their first home game of the season took place on Tuesday, December 7, at 3:30 PM at Memorial Field. The Girls beat Glendale 3-0!

This will be a fun and memorable season for everyone involved in the program, and all students and faculty are encouraged to come out and support the team. "To the friends and family of the players on the team, I would like to stress that it really does mean something to a player when they see you in the bleachers," Coach Sanchez said, "I would encourage anyone to come out and watch. When the sport is played properly, it truly is 'The Beautiful Game'." Sadly the next chance to watch them at home isn't until January 4th. Until then, good luck in the next four away games!

Boys Basketball

By Brooke Bailey
Staff Writer

The John Burroughs Bears Boys Varsity Basketball team and season is looking to be one for the books. . Here are some thoughts from the Head Coach, Allan Ellis, Assistant and JV/Frosh coach, Steven Brodie, along with some special featured players, Desean Robinson, and Ti-Juan Lumpkin Jr. also known as TJ.

Assistant Coach Brodie began, "We are hosting a Varsity tournament that is starting November 29, 2021. Our first two games are against Waverly and Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences."

To get ready for this season, Coach Brodie explained their daily workouts and weight room training. "During this pre-season we had a weight room and track program designed to help our players be physically ready for the upcoming season. We also have been on the court consistently working on skill work, shooting, and defense. I believe that running was our players favorite pre-season workout."

There may be some sarcasm there from Coach, but nonetheless he couldn't be more excited for the season to begin and oversee his goals for this team. "This season can be very good for us. We have a lot of talent on this team. If everybody buys in and plays together, they will have a chance to win a lot of games. Our goal is to compete in League and hope to have a chance to win the League title. We would also like to win the majority of our games this year. The team is looking good. We are working on getting better everyday."

The determination just from one of the coaches displays how much commitment and dedication this team has.

To really share their perseverance is Senior and new transfer, Desean Robinson. Desean is a guard/forward (G/F) who transferred here from Providence High School this year. Desean is a very hardworking athlete and it shows, "I got ready by working out and putting in a lot of work for this upcoming season. Practicing a lot and going 110% everyday with my teammates. I can see us having a good season, potentially winning League and making a good run in the playoffs."

Even though he has only been here for a couple months, great changes are happening with Desean being here. "I think the team is looking good and I think we're strong. We have new players including me and we also have a lot of returning players that have helped us get accustomed to playing the way Coach wants us to play and how we play the Burroughs way. I personally like Burroughs and the school. I also like how the people treat me and everybody is nice and are excited to see how we do."

And that is just one of our new players on the team. Great things are to come for and from the team.

Another amazing teammate to give their insight on their thoughts of the team is TiJuan Lumpkin Jr. He is a Junior on the team and was more than happy to put his thoughts on paper.

To get ready for this upcoming season he goes on to say, "I workout everyday working on my game. Also I work on team chemistry by bonding with the team. I can see the season going really well. I honestly think we will struggle in the beginning because not everyone is playing, but I think we will persevere through it."

TJ is a very optimistic player and will make a great addition to the team. He plays small forward (the three spot) on the court. He strives for the best to say the least, "I want to win state and possibly get CIF Player of the Year."

The Boy Varsity team definitely has a season in store for us. So far they have a winning record of 3-2, beating their first three opponents, North Hollywood, Moorpark, and Hoover 83-46, 70-64, and 76-51, respectively, and losing to Heritage Christian 87-45 and coming with-ing one shot of Glendale this past Wednesday, December 8th, with a score of 51-49.

Make sure to come out to their game against Crescenta Valley tonight, December 10, 2021 at 7:00PM at Home at the Burroughs Gym.

A lot more games in store just keep these two upcoming ones in mind. Go Bears!

Girls Water Polo

By Betsy Lepley
Staff Writer

The Boys Water Polo season has ended, and now it's time for the ladies of water polo to take the spotlight. After a year with no water polo, they are understandably raring to go!

Jake Cook and Martin Ortega-Jennison, who are the two coaches for both Boys and Girls Water Polo, have been prepping the girls nonstop, and soon, all of their hard work will pay off. They've been having long practices in both the mornings and evenings, and are ready to go for their first game.

Martin and Jake had initially met here at Burroughs and later both went on to Valley College where they would play Water Polo together. After that, Jake would head onto CSUN and Martin would remain at Valley College.

"[My goals] for Water Polo are just to develop the program, you know we had to take a year off last year because Covid and we didn't get to play at all. We didn't get to really develop our girls last year. So developing the program is a big goal," said Coach Jake when talking about what his goals for this year are.

Two players of Girls Water Polo include Nancy Baylor and Clarissa Robles. They both have played Club Water Polo and are both very committed to the sport and are very passionate about it.

When asked about how they're getting ready for the upcoming season Jake said, "We're doing two and a half hour practices every day and we're making sure they're getting a lot of conditioning and ball handling. Most of these girls are brand new to the sport, so it's just teaching them as much as we can about strategy and technique… We're making sure they're getting enough practice every week so that they're ready by the time the games start." After going to one of their practices, they seem super excited and ready to go up against other strong teams.

Although the competition will be tough, our girls are ready. Gigi Janczewski, a player on the Girls Water Polo team, said, "These past few weeks we have been working really hard and learning new skills that will really help us at our first game against Monrovia. We have a great team and we are all super excited for our season to start."

Ava Tomlinson also added, "We are all working really hard and getting ready for our first game coming up. Being part of the team is so much fun and we are ready to start our games!

"Water Polo is one of my favorite sports. This is my first year and I will never turn back. The coaches and team are so supportive and the program is really awesome. We are all like one big family, it's the best. I couldn't imagine doing any other sport with any other team."

Varsity player Kelly Volpe adds, "Being a part of the John Burroughs High School Girls Water Polo team has opened me up for a lot of great learning opportunities. Our team isn't just about winning, our team is about coming together as one and working together as one and working together to achieve the goals we have accomplished. Our coaches Martin Ortega-Jennison and Jacob Cook are always preaching to us how important it is to work together and play like a team. I'm very grateful to get to play for such a great organization and with such amazing girls."

This year is going to be a great one for Girl's Water Polo.

These women have been putting in 100% effort into the sport and all of that hard work will pay off soon.

"Our girls are ready," said Coach Jake.

Their first game of the season was on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 against Monrovia. They won in a blowout, 30-2! Their second game on November 30th was much closer, but also a victory, against La Canada, 19-14. Both games were at home.

Come see their third match tonight at 8:00PM versus El Dorado!

Girls Basketball

By Katie Baum
Staff Writer

The Varsity Girls Basketball team is already looking spectacular. Led by Coach Oganyan and the starting five of Noor Fahs, Izzy Roderick, Ivana Razov, Rachel Little, and Ashley Martin, the Bears are off to a hot start and currently hold an impressive record of 6-2!

Noor Fahs, the Girls Varsity Basketball Team Captain who has been playing for the JBHS Varsity Basketball team mainly as small guard and point guard for all four years of high school noted that, "Last year over the pandemic, it was difficult because there was no one on the team really stepping up and so I stepped up, and I heard all of the team's complaints, emotions or what they were going through and communicated that to the coaches and sort of served as the bridge between the team and the coach and I think that's what really led me to becoming Captain this year."

In terms of how the Team Captain got ready for the season on her own, Noor said, "I practiced a lot in the fall and focused on my weaknesses so that I could strengthen those and just worked on being an overall good player. It was a lot of mental preparation, too, just making sure that I remain confident and not feeling overwhelmed to the point where I won't perform well in the game."

And with all of the preparation and the season being already in motion, the Captain predicts that "If we really pull together, I think we'll make it in the top four" and that "it really comes down to the attitude of the team and how well we're going to work together because I think all the necessary components are there, it's just that we need to make sure that it all works out in the end."

Similarly, Hailey Dowthwaite, Senior and starting shooting guard reports that "we're rebuilding due to the seven Seniors we lost last season, but I think the talent that we have on all grade levels will compensate."

The players on Girls Varsity Basketball have become like family to one another with Hailey saying that "honestly, I still don't think I'm ready for this season and it's already started, but because of my teammates, who are now good friends, I have the support I need to be prepared for the next few stressful months."

Noor also reports that "The team is looking good. We have pretty good team chemistry on the court, we all play together, and we work together to score and defend."

Overall, the team is feeling confident after starting off the season with a win against Glendale, Hailey says "I'm optimistic about the rest of our games moving forward and can't wait to watch our team continue to grow. With Noor Fahs, Ivana Razov, and Izzy Roderick leading our team in almost every aspect, I know we're in good hands for the remainder of this season."

We wish the JBHS Girls Varsity Basketball team good luck throughout the season! Come support them this afternoon at 4:30PM against CV.

Cross Country

By James Reid
Sports Editor

With autumn coming to an end, so does the season for our Burroughs fall teams. One of these teams was the Cross Country team, who fought hard until the very end. Their season concluded on Saturday, November 13th, but there was so much hard work put in before that.

They were once again led by the amazing Coach Peebles. As the only coach on staff for the Cross Country team, Peebles works extremely hard in order to help our cross country athletes reach their maximum potential. One way he does this is by creating opportunities for both individual and team accomplishments. "We don't have any Captains," he said. "I believe anyone can lead."

Coming out of online learning and social distancing was obviously a tough adjustment for all of the sports here at Burroughs. Coach Peebles knew that the team would need plenty of practice before competing, so he started conditioning his athletes as soon as possible. "We started training in the summer, and once again it was an adjustment because some people hadn't done much...the idea this year was because people didn't do that much last year was kind of just, really keep an eye on what we were doing to try to hopefully not overdo," he said.

Their first meet of the season was the Rosemead Invitational at Rosemead High School. This initial event took place on Saturday, September 11th, and saw Zoe Askerneese placing eighth and Savannah Hernandez placing ninth for Senior girls, along with Leon Rubarts placing second and Jalen Leighton placing third for Senior boys. One of the other highlights from this event was Vivi Cannon placing sixth for Junior girls.

Their second event of the season was the Santa Clarita Valley Invitational at Central Park. This event was held on Saturday, October 9th, 2021, and was the first event based on team selection (SF, JV, Varsity) as opposed to grade level. For Girls Varsity, Vivi Cannon led the charge, placing thirteenth with her time of 18:39. Other notable times for this team were Savannah Hernandez, who placed twentieth with her time of 19:25, and Zoe Askerneese, who placed thirty-fifth with her time of 20:04.

As for Boys Varsity, Jalen Leighton had the fastest time 15:26, which put him in eleventh place. He was followed closely by Robert Church, who placed eighteenth with his time of 15:57. This combined with the Girls Varsity scores placed our entire varsity team in ninth place out of twenty-one teams overall.

The team's next event was Pacific League Meet #1, in CV Park. Girls Varsity placed second overall at this event, with Vivi Cannon placing third and scoring a time of 20:18, and Zoe Askerneese placing tenth with a time of 21:14. Other high scores for the girl's Varsity team were Savannah Hernandez placing eleventh with a time of 21:24 and Sophia Navarro placing eighteenth with a time of 22:34.

Boys Varsity placed third overall, with Jalen Leighton placing ninth and scoring a time of 16:42, and Leon Rubarts placing twelfth with a time of 16:46. Other top times were Robert Church with a time of 17:21 and Chase Eldridge placing twenty-first with a time of 17:55. Both teams made a great showing of themselves at their first Pacific League meet.

The team's penultimate event this season was the Pacific League Finals. The Girls Varsity team placed third at this event, and tied for second in the overall season. In the finals, the top three athletes for Girls Varsity were Vivi Cannon, who placed second with a time of 20:07, Savannah Hernandez, who placed ninth with a time of 20:53, and Zoe Askerneese, who placed thirteenth with a time of 21:34.

As for Boys Varsity, the top three athletes Leon Rubarts, who placed tenth with a time of 16:25, Jalen Leighton, who placed thirteenth with a time of 16:34, and Robert Church, who placed sixteenth with a time of 17:04. This allowed the Boys Varsity team to place fourth both at this event, and in the overall season.

The team's final event of the season was the CIF Southern Section Division 1 Prelims at Mt. SAC. "We were back at Mt. SAC for CIF Prelims, which is a tough course, but the kids faced the challenge, they went out and they competed," said Coach Peebles. Albeit a tough course, our athletes made a great showing for JBHS.

For the Girls Varsity team, the top three athletes were Vivi Cannon, who placed fourteenth with a time of 20:12, Zoe Askerneese, who placed forty-first with a time of 22:01, and Isabella Galustians, who placed forty-fourth with a time 22:13. This allowed the Girls Varsity team to place seventh in the Heat overall.

As for the Boys Varsity team, the sole athlete at this event was Leon Rubarts. He placed twenty-sixth with a score of 16:37, and represented the Boys Varsity team well.

All in all, our athletes represented Burroughs stunningly this season, and we can't wait to see how they perform going forward. Although they were just getting back on their feet following the lockdown, that didn't stop them from dominating the Pacific League. As always, GO BEARS!

Boys Soccer

By Lincoln Melcher
Staff Writer

The CIF Southern Section's Boys Soccer Advisory named Burroughs Boys Soccer a "team to watch" going into the 2021-22 season, which begins later this month.

Crosstown rival Burbank High School, which also competes in Division 6, did not make the CIF's watch list. In its final game of last year's shortened season, the Bulldogs upset the Bears with a surprise 2-0 win. It was Burbank's first win against Burroughs since 2016.

Both teams were led by new coaches last season. Burroughs Coach Mike Solano, a JBHS graduate, was an assistant coach at Harvard-Westlake before being tapped to replace Coach Mike Kodama in 2020. The legendary coach, who began his coaching career at Burroughs in 1987, and is a member of the Burroughs High Athletics Hall of Fame, netted eleven league titles before health issues forced his retirement.

Junior Matthew Rosas, speaks optimistically of the upcoming season. "We are practicing everyday to prepare for our match days one by one. We are focused and ready for whatever our next opponent has in store for us, and overall confident for what this team has to bring for us as a whole."

So far this season the team is 2-1, beating Notre Dame at home on November 22nd, and Hoover at home on December 3rd. Sadly, they lost their most recent game against Glendale.

Make sure to come out today at 3:30PM to see them play CV !

Football

By Katie Baum
Staff Writer

On October 29th, Burbank High School and John Burroughs High School faced off at Memorial Field for the long-anticipated and exhilarating homecoming game. On this thrilling night where the atmosphere in the stands was electrifying, Burroughs prevailed over Burbank 30-20, with scores from Nate Chhina, Aiden Berryman, two by Elijah Aldana-pere, once on defense and once on offense, and a field goal by Brodie Kemp.

Coach Craven mentioned the star players of the game, Jonathan English, Nate Chhina, Jose Oliveros, and Elijah Aldana-Pere, but credited the win to a "collective effort of great players." Coach Craven said he was impressed by "just overall how the team played throughout the whole game offensively, defensively, and special teams."

When asked about what it means to play Burroughs' rival, Coach Craven added, "I think there's definitely a heightened level of energy when we play Burbank. The game means a lot to a lot of people, not just players, but the whole community, and you see that with the crowd we had for both sides; so it was a really meaningful game for both teams."

The win capped off a strong regular season as Burroughs secured a spot in the playoffs, though ultimately lost in the first round.

Congratulations to the John Burroughs Varsity Football Team for a great season!

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Read More Online Tuesday, December 14th!

A special supplement to The Paw Print will be released online Tuesday, December 14th! It will include coverage of the Holiday Spectacular! Also included, our staff writer's opinions on best (and worst) holiday movies, songs, foods, and fashions! Use the QR code to the right, or go to https://www.burbankusd.org/domain/825

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Holiday Spectacular

By Molly Boyke
Editor-In-Chief
Joe Stull
Creative Director



With holiday spirit flooding the halls of John Burroughs High School, the VMA, IMA and Dance program's Holiday Spectacular, which premiered on December 11th & 12th, has been highly anticipated by Burroughs students and the Burbank community alike (and for good reason!). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the show has undergone lots of changes this year.

Following the trend of this year's Burroughs on Broadway show, the entire format of the show had to be rethought, leading to a new structure of Holiday Spectacular that prioritized their younger audience with a more interactive setting that immersed children viewers who may not have been able to sit still in a dark theater.

This year, more students in the school could participate in the show than ever, with the VMA, IMA, Dance Production, Improv Club, and of course, Tech Crew all in collaboration together.

Mr. Jennings, Director of the VMA, describes the new format: "It's called a progressive show. It is kind of like a… sight seeing tour, like a zoo lights experience crossed with like a haunted house, but kind of on a larger, holiday scale. So the audience moves around and the performance stay and the audience walks around through the story." This year featured three separate, rotating casts of soloists as the "conductor" and "child" in the story of the Polar Express. In total, each choir had to perform the show a total of eighteen times. While this new style of show was exciting to perform, it is currently undetermined as to whether this is change is permanent or a one-time experimentation.

The show order started with "Man with a Bag" featuring Soundwaves Choir, then "Winter Song," "All Aboard," featuring both Decibelles and Sound Sensations Choir, the Polar Express classic, "Hot Chocolate," "Shining Time Station," "Christmas Festival" and "Polar Express Suite," performed by the Combined Band, "When You Believe" and "Go Tell it on the Mountain" with Powerhouse Choir, and for the VIP Tour, the Holiday Spectacular classic, "Silent Night" with Ellie Mohlar as soloist.

Chris Conkle and Ronan Park, two of the three train conductors who alternated leading tours throughout the show, are both Powerhouse and Play Production legends as well as Improv Club's Senior co-presidents. The role of the train conductor tour guide was an arduous one, involving leading the audience through the attractions as well as participating in acts, but Chris, Ronan, and the ever-illustrious Joshua Levine were up to the challenge. From their freshman year, they've all shown themselves to be skilled and enthusiastic thespians and singers, performing in leading roles and concerts alike.

Ronan Park, who played the lead role of Wayne in the fall play "Puffs," found his role and the new format to be refreshing, "It's been a really interesting experience to put on such a different show this year, I really enjoyed the challenge, and I'm a train conductor, wow!" Ronan is an incredibly gifted and charismatic actor whose talent shows through in everything he does, whether it be last year's online Youtube series "Flunk'd" or JBHS' 2020 production of *Avenue Q*.

Chris Conkle, who played a leading role in "Puffs" as Oliver alongside Ronan, felt that his interactions with the younger audience was what really made the show special, "The show is really fun, mainly because for the first time in a while, the VMA gets to interact with their younger audience. All the little kids in the audience being able to go around and [being able to] interact with them and see their joyful reactions is so fun, and when they join in it makes me so happy. That's what really gets my smile going, sometimes it's hard to keep the smile and the energy up, but when the little kids start getting into it it's really easy. [It's really fun to see how the audience] reacts to the whole story, because obviously I have a planned show and an idea of how I think they should react, and sometimes they [react differently] and it surprises me and allows for new experiences." Chris, known to his friends as "The Conk," also starred in "Flunk'd" and *Avenue Q*.



Mr. Jennings himself also enjoyed the more interactive experience, "There was a moment in the improv section where they were doing like holiday trivia, and [the performers] asked a question and everyone had been raising their hands, and it was like the last question, and an excited little child voice just- as soon as they said the question -there was like a little boy, who was maybe three years old, shouted out the answer, and the audience was just like 'AWWW.' It was so adorable- And there was so many kids looking around and loving [it], and that was my favorite part."

Elena Spickler, a Junior in Madrigals and Muses, agreed that the little ones watching made the show special, "There was this one little girl who was on her way out - she just started to wave to us - she was so adorable! I love watching the little kids react to the show. I love dancing with my friends and laughing along and having a great time."

Maria Stefani, a Junior in Sound Sensations currently training to be in Powerhouse, stated, "Although I inhaled fake snow multiple times, this was very fun to be a part of; my favorite part was the lack of hot chocolate."

Sorsha Khititian, a Junior in Powerhouse who played Sally in "Puffs," said, "I think my favorite part about the show is just the fact that we're all able to share a bond because we're doing the show eighteen times." Of the band members performing alongside her, she said, "Molly's really cool."

Chloe Barthelemy, a Junior in Powerhouse who played Natasha in the second act of BOB and is one of choir's most prominent soloists, agreed that audience interactions were key, "It's a really exhausting experience, but it's really fun to be able to interact with the audience."

Mycah Castero, a Freshman in Soundwaves, said, "The show was really fun, it all runs really smoothly. The crowd is very receptive, like everyone just really enjoys it, it's really fun to just mess around."

Mr. Arakelian, JBHS' Band Director, said of the event, "All the IMA students brought a lot of holiday cheer to the audience. They sounded great and have really improved a lot in these past five months." The Band students, much like their Choir and Dance counterparts, had been diligently rehearsing twice a week and during class to make the show happen.



Judith Marando, a Senior clarinet player in Wind Ensemble and Marching Band who served as Drum Major during 2021's Marching Band season, stated, "I am so proud of everyone in the band for working hard to make the show incredible. We were all apprehensive about how the show would go considering it was the first one we have done since online learning, and I think we all did an incredible job taking the limitations of the year in stride."

Maren Alff, a Senior playing euphonium in the show, participating in every period (four) of Band this year, said, "It's not what I expected for my Senior year, but my friends in band have made it fun and memorable."

Natalie Merill, a Senior playing timpani in the show and graduating after this semester, declared, "I'm leaving in five days, never to be seen again. My final message to the band: keep on keepin' on."

Those in the Dance program also enjoyed seeing the reactions of children attending the show. Elle Trinidad, a Sophomore in her second year of dancing at Burroughs, said, "Overall, the show was spectacular! Seeing the kids' faces light up with joy when they saw the Polar Express was my favorite part! It was super tiring, but honestly, it was worth it in the end."

Some of them, however, found the show to be exhausting, especially because they had to perform their routine almost twenty times over the course of two days. Sabrina Beckett, a Freshman dancer, said, "It was amazing, honestly, but the turns always got me, my knees gave out a couple times, but I played it off."

Meghan Cavanaugh, a Junior in her third year of Dance at Burroughs, agreed, "It was fun getting to hang out with everyone in class, but afterwards I was in a lot of pain, so next year maybe it would be better if we only did twp or three shows instead of eighteen."

They still enjoyed the show overall, shown in the enthusiasm of Giselle Moran, a Sophomore in her second year of dancing at Burroughs, who declared, "This was my first holiday show and I gotta say it was pretty great! It was different and unique than last years and it was a great experience overall. I got to talk and bond more with my class!"

This year's Holiday Spectacular experimented with a new format that dazzled audiences and brought the concept of audience participation into a long-standing Burroughs tradition. Although it's likely that the format of a walking tour will not return, the element of participation as well as the inspiration that teachers and students got from this show and the bonds that they made during it will have effects for years to come. Bringing JBHS' three major performance electives together into one spectacular event is always a highlight of the year, and this event was no exception! We can't wait to see what next year's Holiday Spectacular will bring!

The Best of Christmas Movies

By Vivian Morse
Staff Writer

It's that time of the year, when it finally starts to cool down, the year is almost over, and it's time to sit back and relax to watch your favorite holiday films. Coming from all sorts of genres: romance, comedy, drama and more; they all put us in the Christmas spirit.

Upon asking a few friends what their favorite holiday film was, I noticed that there were consistent answers. The first one that many seemed to love was *Elf*. This film tells the story of an infant that was raised in the North Pole and raised by elves, who is played by Will Ferrell. As he grew up, he noticed that he was unlike the others, and eventually traveled to New York to search for his real family. His father, turning out to be a cynical businessman. The pair navigate Buddy through New York as he finds his place, falls in love, and goes on adventures inevitably saving Christmas.

This film is ranked 85% on Rotten Tomatoes and 7/10 on IMDb. It is no secret that this is a holiday favorite. It is funny, well made, and overall entertaining.

Another holiday favorite, is without a doubt, *Dr.Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, or more plainly, the Grinch movies in general. This tells the story of the Grinch, who lives up in a mountain with his dog Max and despises Christmas and the Who's who live below him. He decides to destroy Christmas for the Whoville residents. He descents his mountaintop and steals Christmas, but in the end, things turn out alright.

Nyah Broadway, an 11th grader, said her favorite Christmas move is, "*The Grinch* because I love Jim Carrey!"

It is clear that this movie has a superior rank in holiday films, even if Rotten Tomatoes ranked it a 49%. It has amazing actors, such as Jim Carrey, Christine Baranski, and narration by Anthony Hopkins which make the film even better. It also is a family and fantasy movie with outstanding humor.

However, not all holiday films have to be about the saving of Christmas, or American. *Love Actually* was another holiday film favorite mentioned.

This film tells not one, but nine intertwined stories that show the real spirit of Christmas and the connection of love. Some examples of this story deal with the prime minister, played by Hugh Grant, falling for a staff member. Meanwhile, the best friend of a newly married man, is in love with his new wife. Together all of them are tethered around Christmas and, obviously, love.

This film ranked 64% on Rotten Tomatoes and 7.6/10 on IMDb. This film surely does deserve recognition, even though it is an R-rated film. It still is, however, a favorite.

Home Alone, a story about an 8-year-old boy being left behind for the holidays by his parents, is a famously loved Christmas film. As he is left at home, young Kevin, played by Macaulay Culkin, has to overcome all kinds of struggles in his home.

It is no secret that this is one of the most popular films to watch for the Christmas season and there is reasoning for that. It is funny, entertaining, and widely loved. With a box office of $476.7 million, it is clear how much this film is adored.

The last consistent adored film that was mentioned was Tim Burton's *Nightmare Before Christmas.* This genius film tells the story of Jack Skellington, who is Halloweentown's pumpkin king, and after an accidental discovery of Christmastown, he makes it his mission to take Christmas under his control. There are also factors such as a girl named Sally who is in love with him, Mr.Sandman, and keeping the balance of both holidays in this musical.

This film is a work of art which deals with not only Christmas, but Halloween as well. It is truly one of Burton's most amazing masterpieces and has always been a holiday favorite.

In the end, there are so many amazing Christmas films that have been created over the years. The classics such as *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Charlie Brown's Christmas* along with other favorites such as *Gremlins, Scrooged, the Polar Express,* and more!

There are so many cinematic masterpieces that invoke this Christmas spirit, and now is the perfect time of the year to watch them. Get yourself a cup of hot chocolate, a candy cane, and a cozy blanket ready to snuggle up by the fireplace and Christmas tree to watch these holiday favorites.

Winter in LA: Trading Trench Coats for Tank Tops

By Sammy Solomons
Staff Writer

Living in Los Angeles during winter means nothing has changed: 80 degree days and not a single gust of wind in sight. For many people, the idea of dressing up for the holidays consists of large fur coats, winter boots, gloves, and countless numbers of layers. But that doesn't ring true for California residents, so what do holiday fashion lovers wear during winter in LA?

A large fashion trend has recently been layering light tights/pantyhose under skirts, dresses, etc. This trend is perfectly transferable for the winter season in order to create a cozy look without the added layers of warmth.

Additionally, layering large jackets and coats over a simple tank top is an easy way to create the illusion of winter fashion without swimming in pools of sweat. Unless of course, sweating is worth the fashion moment.

There are many great ways to create a winter-inspired look without the added layers. For example, a large winter trend this year, as well as many years, is a cardigan. Cardigans can be paired over any summer look in order to give it that cozy feel without being overbearing. Another way to elevate simple summer looks for the winter season is by adding darker colors to one's wardrobe. This can further create the feeling of a darker season without dressing for weather that just does not exist in LA.

A student at John Burroughs High School has given their opinions about Los Angles winter fashion as well as their go-to looks. Additionally, a former California resident explains the difference between dressing for the winter season and dressing for warmth.

Senior student, Diana Mankikyan declares, "I feel like winter in LA is a time to mix fashion with comfort! You can be cute and cozy! My go-to winter look consists of my Christmas pajamas and a knitted sweater."

On the other hand, a student who has moved from Los Angeles to Boston, Massachusetts, where winter is filled with snow, describes how he layers up for any and every outing. Aiden Solomons, a student at Berklee, explains, "Moving to Boston meant buying a large winter coat and not being able to leave my bed without layers of blankets. It's very different from living in LA, I used to be able to walk out of the house with shorts and a t-shirt - there was no need for multiple wardrobes. Now, during this time of the year, all of my summer clothes go into hibernation in order to make room for my winter coat, gloves, scarves, layers, etc. I love the weather here in Boston, but sometimes I miss the burdenless times of being able to walk outside without feeling like a marshmallow."

Some may say they prefer having a sunny winter in California, but that begs the question of whether or not we truly get the feel for winter and a cozy environment. Clothes can so quickly change the mood and feelings of the holiday season. How are you going to incorporate a feeling and sense of festivity into your winter wardrobe this year?

Christmas Delights You Should Be Enjoying

By Maya Merino
Copy Editor

As Christmas time creeps up on us and as we get ready for the amazing gifts and family gatherings, we must wonder what exactly we should enjoy on this amazing holiday. What food should we be devouring before we open gifts and sit under the Christmas tree?

Thanksgiving has its designated foods turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and yams but what specific foods does Christmas have. There's the basics like milk and cookies for Santa and hot chocolate that compliments the cold weather outside. But I personally believe that there are specific foods that should be served on Christmas.

Candy Yams is a must on this holiday. First and foremost candy yams are delicious and filled with marshmallows, sweet potatoes, pineapple, and your choice of nuts preferably pecans. But candy yams just fit perfectly with the theme. It's a sweet, tangy and fun food to eat. The marshmallows in it make it more of a reason to have it on Christmas. Because let's be honest when you think of marshmallows you think of Christmas. Not to add that candy yams go great with standard food like turkey and mashed potatoes as well.

Eggnog probably seems like a basic food to mention but it should definitely be on your list to try this Christmas. This is a milk and egg drink topped with cinnamon sticks or cinnamon powder in the drink. It is commonly served during the holidays for its rich and sweetened taste. This drink you can have at any time of the day when you are eating your meal or better yet when you are sitting under the Christmas tree opening gifts. It quenches your thirst and is labeled a holiday drink, so what are you doing not drinking eggnog during the holiday season.

While we are on the topic of sweets, sugar cookies and gingerbread are Christmas staples as well. Sugar cookies are extremely popular and easy to make and taste great with some eggnog or hot chocolate. As for gingerbread you will probably only eat it around this time anyways, but to make it more festive you can always make gingerbread as a family, it's a fun activity and each gingerbread can have their own cute designs. It's a way to make it feel more like Christmas and gets everyone involved while making flavorful treats for later.

Although not everyone eats certain types of foods and some foods are culture based, one thing that is absolutely mouthwatering is tamales. This is traditionally eaten by Hispanic people as a tradition they follow but can be eaten by everyone and should be. Not only are there certain types like cheese tamales or pork tamales but it can also be spicy or sweet. As a family you can also make these and they are not hard but are pretty time consuming so you can always blast some Christmas music while doing it. Out of all of the delicious foods I mentioned, tamales are by far one of the most important ones to taste on Christmas.

As the holidays come around the corner it is important to recognize and appreciate everything you do have and to give back as much as possible. Not everyone has the opportunity to enjoy big delicious meals, especially during Covid so be appreciative of what you do have. I hope the holidays are full of food comas and laughter!

The Phenomena of Christmas-Gift Puppies

By Hope Towne
Staff Writer

Anyone that has ever given children a puppy on Christmas can attest to the squeals of joy and delight, and even the tears that sometimes follow the overwhelming introduction. Puppies are the youngest, newest form of man's best friend, ready to make lifelong friends and play all day. Sure, dogs may be a big responsibility, but the kids can handle all of that, right?

As it turns out, sometimes they can't. After the cameras are turned off and the fun of Christmas has ended, a lot of Christmas-gift puppies will inevitably be brought back to a shelter to wait for a new forever home again.

On average, over 6 million animals are returned to shelters after the holidays each year. Sometimes it's because potty training got too difficult, or an expensive couch was ripped up, or an older pet couldn't get along with the new one. Regardless of the reasons, almost all pets are returned because of the unprecedentedly large responsibility that comes with them.

Unfortunately, the lockdown hasn't made things any better for these animals. If anything, it has worsened the situation.

Christmas aside, there has been a massive surge in animal adoptions since lockdowns all over the world have started. It's easy to understand why, since the pandemic has made people significantly more lonely, and more in need of companionship.

This being said, it doesn't excuse the millions of pets being abandoned every year, and hardly takes into account the likely increase in abandoned pets during Christmas this year.

Dogs, and any other animal for that matter, are a massive responsibility. Everyone is told that before getting a pet, but not enough people actually consider this, and on top of that don't consider the fact that the recipient of the "gift" might not completely understand this.

Dogs are not toys. They aren't disposable, they aren't party tricks, and they are not meant to be enjoyed like a nice meal, only to be thrown away after. They make connections, form relationships, and understand loss and grief like any human can. Love is what keeps the world going, and that also applies to the animal world.

What one should understand before getting themselves a new puppy or surprising someone else with one, is that both puppies and people are fragile. Puppies can turn a person's life upside down, in the best or worst way possible. They cause massive and permanent changes to someone's whole schedule, and that can be very stressful to both parties.

Alternatively, puppies aren't brainless. They learn like humans do, just in a different way. If a puppy is given to someone who doesn't have the time to care for them, they learn that they aren't important, whether or not that may actually be the case. They'll be more mischievous, break more things, eat more, and will do anything they can to get the attention that they so desperately need.

With all this in mind, just remember that this Christmas shouldn't be the only one that new puppies have a family to spend it with.

Holiday Toy and Food Drives

By Daniela Lopez
Staff Writer

With the holidays coming up, there are a good amount of food drives and toy drives planned for this December. The food and toy drives are a great way of helping families in need and an overall nice way of keeping spirits up. They're great places to donate to or to sign up to volunteer for, or a way to get whatever you and your family need.

The Hollywood Candy Cane Lane drive-thru toy giveaway will be on December 19 at the Church of Scientology of Los Angeles. It will be from 3pm-7pm at 4810 Sunset Blvd, Los Angeles.

There will be a Christmas brunch and toy giveaway December 25 at 601 San Pedro St, Los Angeles. It'll be from 4PM-10PM.

The Aaron Community Cultural Center is doing a heart of Christmas food, toy, and book donation drive on the 18 of December. It will be at 1010 W 108th St Unit B, Los Angeles from 9:30AM-1PM.

The Family Rescue Center will have a holiday toy distribution at 22103 Vanowen St, Canoga Park on December 16 to December 18 from 12PM-3PM.

The 13th annual Greetings with Gratitude Toy Drive will be on the 25 of December from 6pm-8pm on 24421 Walnut St, Santa Clarita.

These are all good places to donate food and toys to. For more information you can look any of these places up online and find what you need or anyone to contact. These are all good places to go to so you can have your needs met this holiday season.