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Senior Signal

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Valedictorian Class of 2020 - Tigran Saakyan

By Alyssa LeBarron
Editor-In-Chief

Senior Tigran Saakyan was named JBHS's Valedictorian for the Class of 2020, and although he is not able to graduate traditionally, he remains proud.

Saakyan has worked tirelessly over the past four years, and feels validated by this esteemed honor.

"Being Valedictorian mostly gives me pride in myself because all of my diligent work, including endless nights of AP study have paid off in such a satisfying achievement," Saakyan comments.

In his free time, Saakyan enjoys practicing the violin, which he has been playing for ten years.

Additionally, he enjoys keeping up with the latest developments of smartphones and other "commercial technology."

Saakyan also enjoys reading nonfiction science books. His favorite writers are Carl Sagan, an astrophysicist and astrobiologist, and Richard Dawkins, an evolutionary biologist and ethologist.

His favorite classes at JBHS have been AP Biology, AP Physics, AP Calculus AB and BC, AP Statistics, and "all of [his] Spanish classes through the past four years.

His favorite teachers have been Mrs. Balian, Sr. Reyes, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Madooglu, Mrs. Hollingshed, Mr. Peebles, and "many, many more."

Although he cannot graduate and celebrate traditionally, Saakyan remains positive and proud of his accomplishment.

"Although I won't be graduating on stage with a traditional ceremony, I know my family is proud and that is all that matters to me," Saakyan commented.

Saakyan will be graduating alongside his twin brother Vahagn, who remains incredibly proud of him.

"He is one of the most dedicated people I have ever met. You want the job done, you ask Tigran," Vahagn commented, praising his brother for his accomplisment.

Tigran Saakyan plans to attend UCLA and major in biology, and is considering working towards a PhD in the future.

Valedictorian Class of 2020 - Donovan Sylla

By Katrina Bey
Feature Editor

Donovan James Sylla is one of the two valedictorians for the Senior class of 2020.
His birthday is January 26, 2002, and he is eighteen years old.

He is currently dating fellow senior, Erin Collins. They had their first date on January 25th at Swing Night.

While at school, Donovan has been a part of the Engineering Academy since his Sophomore year, when it first began.

He was also a part of clubs like the Engineering Club, Skills USA, CSF, Habitats for Humanity, and World of Money.

His favorite club is Skills USA because he was able to meet a bunch of new people.

Throughout his four years at JBHS, Donovan took every AP class offered except for Music Theory. His favorite class is Physics C because, in his words, "It was such a flex."

When asked about his favorite teacher, Donovan refused to give a name because he appreciates every one he has had and he didn't feel comfortable comparing such good teachers.

Outside of school, his hobbies include drawing masterful pieces of art in his notebooks and participating in MMA.

For college, Donovan is still uncertain about where he feels he belongs. As for now, he is taking the time for himself to fully decide where he would like to attend. No matter where he goes, his plan is to major in mechanical engineering because it is one of his favorite activities at school.

Part of his future plans after high school is to disappear and leave people to wonder where he went. In his words, the reasoning is because "That's what everyone does anyway. I might as well do it on purpose."

Joseph Ballesteros, one of Donovan's closest friends, said "He is one of the coolest people I know and one of the bestest friends I've ever made."

Another one of his friends, Olivia Bresee, states "He is unbelievably smart and so much fun to be around! Every day since I've met him has been either hilarious or absolute chaos and it is always a surprise."

His twin brother, Jack, notes that "Donovan is among the most humble yet impressive people I have ever met and I look forward to seeing where his potential will take him."

Congratulations to Donovan Sylla for achieving the title of valedictorian!

Salutatorian Class 2020 - Orla Giffen

By Arya Desai
Feature Editor

As is tradition each year, JBHS selects three of its most academically esteemed students: the salutatorian and valedictorians.

This year, the salutatorian is Orla Giffen. Like many of her peers, Orla is a well-rounded student.

Not only is she a dedicated AP student, but she also participates in the JBHS Instrumental Music Association, and is a Captain on the JBHS Varsity Girls Soccer team.

Giffen claims, "Girls' soccer allowed me to find friends who were passionate about sports, and I was able to challenge myself physically."

In JBHS IMA, Orla Giffen played the oboe all four years. In her Freshman year, Orla participated in marching band.

Giffen played in the Symphonic Band Freshman and Sophomore year, and Wind Ensemble for Junior and Senior year.

When it comes to her experience in JBHS IMA, Orla graciously states, "participating in Band was a way for me to explore arts through music and hang out with other artistic students."

Outside of her extracurriculars, Orla is the current President of CSF for Senior year, and was Club Treasurer her Junior year.

Giffen is also a member of National Honors Society, Habitat 4 Humanity club, and Do Something club.

This year, Orla dedicated her AE time to be a tutorial mentor--yet again proving her great contribution to the JBHS community.

Although she achieved great successes during her high school years, these did not come without challenge.

For Giffen, some of her hardest moments came in ways she never expected.

"The biggest challenge for me was working to balance while challenging coursework while also participating in many extracurriculars like soccer, band, National Charity League, CSF, and other activities," admits Orla.

"It is challenging to try and get things done right away and not procrastinate," commented Giffen.

As she reflects back on her academic experience at JBHS, Giffen is filled with fond memories.

"I really appreciated my Spanish classes because they allowed me to learn about and explore cultures that were unique from the one I grew up in," she commented.

"I also really enjoyed being able to learn a new language because it was different from what I was learning in my other classes, and learning Spanish gave me an opportunity to connect with more of the world," she explains.

Although she will not have a traditional graduation ceremony this year due to COVID-19 closures, our salutatorian and our valedictorians should receive the acknowledgment they deserve.

Like many other Seniors, she is discouraged by the disappointing news of the temporary school closure and cancellation of Senior events and celebrations.

However, she is proud of the achievements she accomplished whilst a member of the JBHS student body, and knows that the future holds much promise for both her, her classmates, and the school.

Letter To The Graduating Class Of 2020

Each year, we (the JBHS family) strive to send a senior class off to college with diverse perspectives, strengths and ambitions to create a community of students who will challenge and support each other along their common journey through education. This senior class, the CLASS OF 2020 has certainly accomplished this goal. Although we are excited for your new and exciting life beyond JBHS, you will be missed by the Faculty, Staff and Administration.

– Kenny Knoop, Assistant Principal of Guidance and Alumnus of JBHS Class of 1995

Letter To The Graduating Class Of 2020

Dear Class of 2020:

In a typical year, I would begin this letter with "Congratulations!" but we all know that this is not a typical year. Our lives, especially yours, have been flipped upside down, especially yours. You have worked hard for 13 years to reach this point. This should be a time of celebration and reflection, but many of your senior year activities that you were counting on have been stripped away. While it is nobody's fault that this pandemic has happened, I want to say I hear you and I feel your pain. So what do we do in times of crisis? We grieve. We each go through various stages of grief. It is not linear. It is not predictable. It is not the same for everyone. So no matter where you are in that process, please know we will get through this together. For those of you who are not ready to celebrate, I understand. Please reach out to those who you can count on and they will help you during this difficult time. For those of you who are ready to celebrate, I say Congratulations!

So what is next? There will be opportunities, failures, and successes. You have your whole lives ahead of you. Learn from the past, enjoy today, and plan for your future has always been advice that I try to follow, but I, like the rest of us, do not always follow that advice. Instead, this crisis reminds me not to take for granted what I have today.

Class of 2020, you have endured significant challenges, but you will be stronger because of them. I am confident the Class of 2020 is the class that will lead us to a brighter future!

Sincerely,
Matt Hill, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Aircraft/Small Engines

William Nicholson-Penn

Rafael Radillo

William Nicholson-Penn and Rafael Radillo have both done an amazing job this year in the Aircraft/Small Engines Class. They have demonstrated many admiral qualities such as leadership skills, being dedicated to doing the job correctly, studying hard and above all, their willingness to help others. It is my belief that these two amazing students will go out into the world and do great things. In closing, it is my pleasure to give the Senior Awards in Aircraft/Small Engines to these fine young gentleman. Congratulations!

Art

Olivia Bresee

I have had the pleasure of having Olivia as a sculpture student this year. She made my mornings so joyful and inspired! Olivia is an exceptional student with an eye for the arts, every project was an opportunity for her to learn, grow, and challenge herself, which is what every art teacher wants to see in their students. In addition to being an incredible painter, illustrator, sculptor and seamstress, Olivia is kind, inclusive, hard-working and always looks to the positive side of things. I can't wait to see what the future holds for Olivia, and I will always feel so lucky that I was able to have her as a student! -Ms. Masters

Nina Bussard

Over the years, Nina Bussard has worked very hard, put in the extra time and effort to develop her skills (countless lunchtime work sessions), she has challenged herself to take her work to the next level, and in the process has created fabulous art. All my best to Nina and all of the artists venturing out to make the world more creative and beautiful!

Ruby Gara

Ruby has been a student in my Advanced Placement Studio Art course for the past two years and is an incredibly gifted artist. Her mastery of watercolor in creating portraits is among the best I have seen. She won Best Junior Artwork and Best Senior Artwork in the Youth Art Expo in 2019 and 2020 respectively. In addition, she won a Gold Award for the Scholastic Arts & Awards Region-at-Large program making her eligible for National judging of her artwork in New York City by renowned creative professionals. In addition, Ruby has been invaluable to me as a classroom tutor in my beginning art class as well as with her AP Studio Art classmates. She participated in Portraits of Kindness creating beautiful portraits of children living in orphanages around the world as well as for children in refugee camps. I could write endlessly about why I choose Ruby Gara for the Senior Art Award, but perhaps what stands out most for me is her kindness and helpfulness to others in the art classroom. Ruby has endless compliments for others and enjoys helping others succeed in art. Lastly, Ruby has taught art weekly to children after school, sharing her love of art. It is for these reasons Ruby Gara has earned the John Burroughs High School Art Award.

Digital Media/Broadcast Journalism

Caleb Black

Caleb Black has won in the category of Digital Media and Broadcast Journalism for being an inspirational editor and cinematographer. Over the last four years Caleb has pushed himself to become better in his craft and to share his expertise. He has used his talent to infuse films with special effects that blew people's minds away; it might be a superhero making a dramatic landing from flight, to teleportation, to virtual balloons, to fine tuning and syncing of audio with a variety of clips, Caleb could always make the highly complex look seamless and simplistic. Whenever I needed to make sure something was going to be filmed correctly, Caleb was my man. He worked with a local studio, he filmed for the superintendent, and he filmed for the community. He was a strong asset with a good eye and a strong understanding of the working of a camera. Caleb would have easily won this award based solely on his talent and hard work, but this year he spent countless hours helping others master their craft. Caleb came to me early in the year and let me know he wanted to take on the challenge of helping others. He would come in at lunch, during the AE period, or sacrifice his class time to help train others. He did it with laughter and a smile. Caleb Black is an inspirational man that knows cameras, knows editing, and knows how to give to the community.

Robert McGraham

Robert McGraham has won in the category of Digital Media and Broadcast Journalism for creating consistently great films all four years of his stay at JBHS. He has been an actor, director, camera man, and has worked lights. But his strength and what sets him apart from others is script writing. The films created from his scripts always have great depth and seem to be written by a professional and not someone in high school. They make people think about heavy topics in ways that aren't at all trite or cliche. His latest film dealt with drug use and how it impacts friendships. When it was over the class sat in silence for a bit and I heard kids talking about it several days later in an intellectual way. He made them actually think about consequences. He ended his Senior year by writing his pièce de résistance, a 44 page script dealing with pain, loss, responsibility, honesty, and unintended deception. In our two hour discussion of this script, I told him the script was so masterfully written that I only encouraged the removal of one word. It was that tightly written. Then I paid him the ultimate compliment. I told him I had to put the script down twice because I was shocked and needed to process what I'd just read. Robert's writing makes people think, is perfectly crafted for the visual medium of film, and inspires others to live a thoughtful life.

Ryan Thomas

Ryan Thomas has won in the category of Digital Media and Broadcast Journalism for being one of the fastest learners, kindest helpers, and most talented people with which I've ever worked. After finishing some project his Junior year, he asked for a challenge so I offered him the opportunity to work on the multicaster (A piece of equipment that typically takes three months to learn and has made about a good many of my students cry) and he happily accepted the challenge. I teamed him with a member from my Broadcast Journalism class and three days later he had mastered it. His technical acumen teamed with his desire to help quickly made me realize he would be an excellent head director for our daily news show Good Morning John Burroughs. His Senior year I was lucky enough to work with Ryan three periods of the day. He was in Digital Media Directors Cut, Broadcast Journalism and my teacher assistant. As the head of GMJB he found a style that fits his personality well. He made sure everyone knew what to do, would help frequently but strongly believed in trusting people and his staff. He trusted and respected them and they trusted and respected him. His style allowed everyone to have their own voice and showcase their own talent. Ryan led with expertise, wisdom, patience, and most importantly kindness.

Cabinet Tech

Theodore Burckart

I gave Teddy this senior award because he has worked hard in my classroom for three years doing many different types of projects. He is a polite and respectful young man, always willing to do whatever I need to be completed. He thinks on his own, works well with his hands and I believe he will be successful in anything he tries to do. I will truly miss him in my class and I wish him good luck in the future. - Mr. Benne

Esmeralda Iniguez

I had the pleasure of having Esmy in my advanced class and as a TA. She is a polite and helpful young lady, willing to do whatever I requested. She was always helpful to many students struggling with their projects. She has been a great student for me and I believe she will be successful in whatever she decides to do. I will miss her and I wish her all the luck in the future. - Mr. Benne

Culinary Arts

Stephanie Miles

As an Advanced Culinary student, Stephanie Miles was voted President of the class' Epicurean Society. She was dedicated to the success of every activity and that every member involved enjoyed the process of these activities as well as shared in that success. In the second semester she became an Academic Mentor for the Culinary Arts Science class, sharing her knowledge and experience with students in need. Her generous heart was also shown through her leadership in her choir group as well as her participation as a Link Crew member.

Kimberly Robles

Kimberly Robles was voted Treasurer of the Epicurean Society for the Advance Culinary class. An important position, she was trusted with the responsibility of handling any money raised by the club's activities. She was a TA first semester for the Culinary Arts Science class, but was forced to give that position up because she obtained a job related to her subject of future study that would help her put money away for school, as she will be attending the Culinary Institute of America, Napa, California. Her hard work and dedication to the culinary field culminated in her winning the gold medal in the regional Commercial Baking Competition for SkillsUSA, a national Career and Technical Student Organization.

Dance Production

Gretchen Calder

Gretchen has grown incredibly fast in many styles of dance over the last four years. She accepts challenge and constructive criticism while being responsible and professional. Gretchen has been a leader of Dance Production her Junior and beginning of Senior year. Choreography, scheduling, directing and assisting in the training process has been her role. It has been a pleasure to watch Gretchen grow not only as a dancer and a leader, but as a young adult. Thank you for all of your help, experience and laughter. Gretchen, you will achieve anything you put your mind to! You will be missed greatly!

Brenda De Dios

Brenda is such a joy to have in Dance Production over the last two years. She is beyond humble and her personality is contagious. Brenda's work ethic, growth and talent earned her way into Dance Production her Junior year. She serves as a great mentor to "newbies" by encouraging and motivating them to success. Her choreography has improved and she has been a delight to watch on stage. Brenda, it will be extremely sad not seeing your face light up a room anymore. You will be greatly missed!

Micah Nilooban

This was Micah's first year in Dance Production, but her third in the Dance Department. Micah helped behind the scenes with dance performances this year, which earned her a leadership role as Dance Production Director during second semester. She is responsible and dedicated in addition to her significant work ethic and passion for dance. It has been a joy to see Micah grow as a dancer throughout her three years in the Dance Program. She has advanced her way into Dance Production which is one of my favorite things to experience as a teacher/director. Congratulations, Micah! I'll miss my ASB buddy.

Vivian Reyes-Cruz

Vivian has been a roller coaster of wonderful experiences over the last three years. Vivi has been one of the most improved dancers I have seen within the Dance Program over the last five years. She has worked so hard to get to where she is today. This is Vivi's first year as a Dance Production Director. Vivi takes initiative, she is direct and humble. I will miss the laughs and cries that we have shared together over the years. She has been a great help during the training process by teaching multiple classes and choreographing performances. I am excited to see what the future has in store for this one. Vivi, there is no one like you and I don't think there ever will be anyone like you. Always be yourself and I wish you the best! You will be missed!

Dance Team

Jayce Cicchino

Jayce Cicchino is always there for anyone that needs her and is ready to help with any task at hand. She is honest and true to herself, never wavering from her values. She has been a leader on Dance Team for the past two seasons and has been a strong role model for her peers. Jayce balances school, dance, social and family life with ease, demonstrating her mastery of time management. There is no doubt she will tackle all of life's challenges in her consistent poised nature. Congrats Jayce!

Maliya Coquia

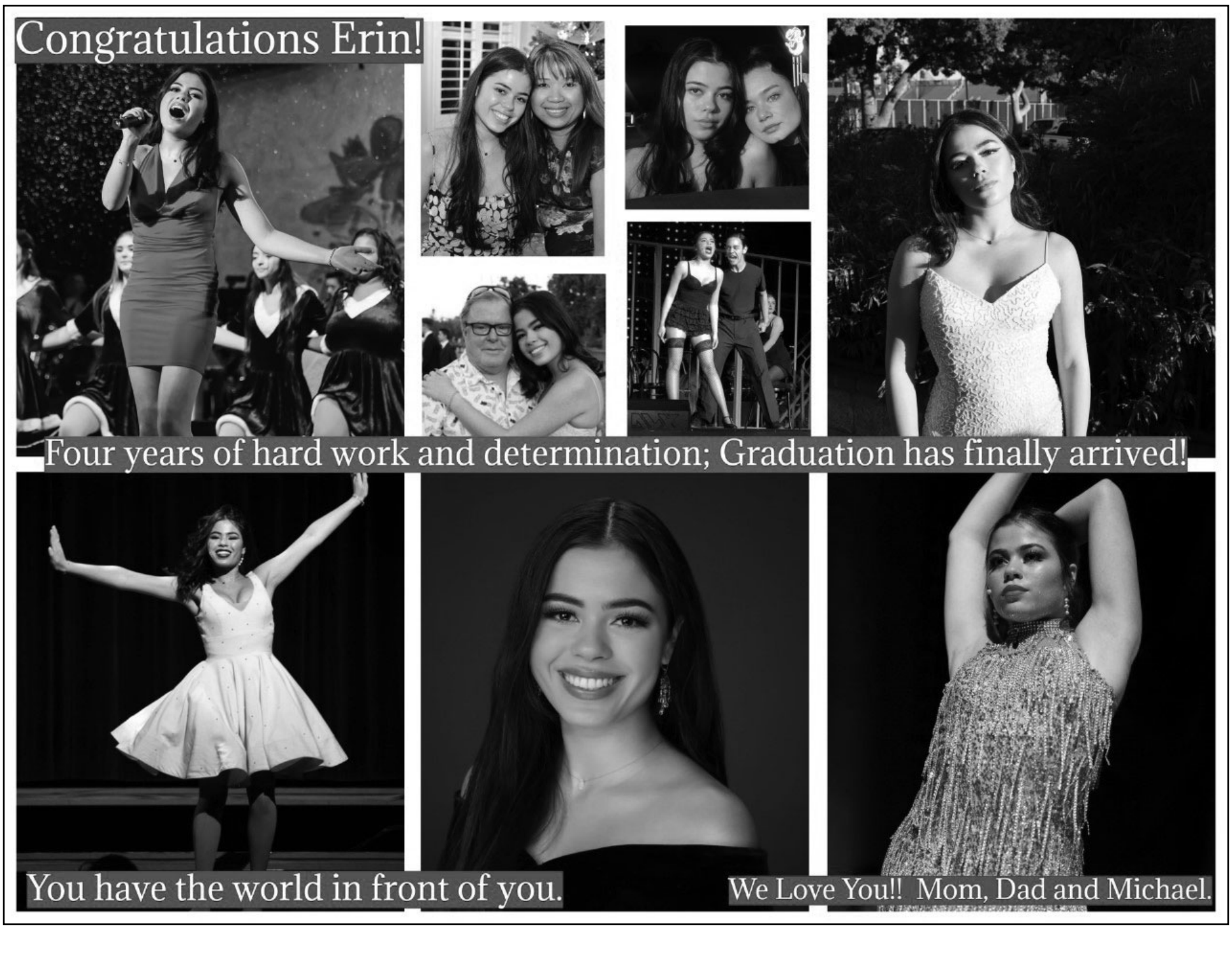
Maliya Coquia always considers others needs before her own. She is selfless, genuine, and incredibly hard working. Maliya was an amazing Dance Team captain this past season and put countless hours into assuring her teammates were well taken care of. She is an exceptional role model as a captain, skilled dancer, and student. Maliya is one of those people that is a natural leader, just by her example of action and character. She is sure to find success in any endeavour and will always give 110% effort to all that she does. Congrats Maliya!

Fiona Crenshaw

Fiona Crenshaw is always there to listen and guide others with fair consideration. She is a wise, mature, and has a strong caring heart. Fiona is a hard working individual and fully commits to her passions. As a Dance Team Co-Captain this past season, she was able to share her exceptional athletic abilities and encouraged her teammates to push themselves. Fiona is going off to do great things and have a bright future wherever she goes. Congrats Fiona!

Joseph Ian Galera

Joseph Galera is one of the best leaders the All Male Dance Team has ever known. He is caring, fair, and extremely hard working. Joe has the ability to authentically inspires other that comes from a place of being confident in each of his teammates unique capabilities. His dedication to both developing himself as a dancer and leading his squad to be mentally and physically strong is unparalleled. The program was truly lucky to have his talents for all 4 years of his high school career at JBHS. Although he will be greatly missed, Joe is off to greatness and has definitely left a positive mark on John Burroughs All Male. Congrats Joe!



Senior Awards

Drama

Ariana Kretz

During her four years in the Drama department, Ariana Kretz has been an exceptional actress, winning awards for her talents, while at the same time acting as a student producer on many of our shows! Her dedication and professionalism know no bounds! She is a true leader, who communicates with kindness and passion, encouraging everyone to get involved!

Eli Staub

Eli Staub has participated in more productions than any other student in JBHS Drama history, with a whopping 13 shows under his belt due to the fact that he was in one of our productions when he was in 8th grade. He is also one of our current Improv Club presidents! Eli has won numerous awards for his acting and filmmaking, including Best Actor as Christopher in "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" and Best Film this year from the California Educational Theatre Association! You will be seeing his movies someday on the silver screen!

Wyatt Wheeler

Wyatt's subtly nuanced performances and full investment in his characters won him a Best Actor trophy as Ed in "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" from the California Educational Theatre Association. He has also been a dedicated student producer for our mainstage musicals, making him an indispensable part of the JBHS Drama program. As one of our Improv Club presidents, Wyatt's talent and kindness are what our class is all about.

Musical Theatre

Janina Colucci

Janina's undeniable talent and stage presence was a joy to work with during her time here at JBHS. No matter what role she played, you couldn't take your eyes off of her. From her standout performance as Cha-Cha in "Grease" to her emotional turn as Anita in "West Side Story" to her Senior starring role as Velma Kelly in "Chicago," Janina has dazzled us over the years, and she will undoubtedly dazzle us in the future!

Arya Desai

Four glorious years of performances, and a beautiful soprano voice, Arya has been a triple threat throughout her years at JBHS. Starring as Maria in "West Side Story," she brought vulnerability and heart to a difficult role, and then this year showed her comedic musical theatre talents as Little Mary Sunshine in "Chicago." One of the hardest workers in our program, Arya has shown drive and enthusiasm and commitment and inspired so many of our students with her hard work.

Jordyn Holt

Jordyn has been in every single drama production during her four years at JBHS, and this year is also one of our Improv Club presidents. Her journey with us has been chock full of incredible performances, from Scout in "To Kill a Mockingbird" when she was a Freshman to her recent stellar starring role as Roxie Hart in "Chicago." Managing to balance it all, Jordyn is a true triple threat! Able to play the perky cheerleader Patty Simcox in "Grease" or the tomboy Anybody's in "West Side Story," Jordyn shows charisma every time she walked onto our stage.

English

Yoni Fogelman, Ariana Kretz, Jacob Levine, Dylan Mahoney, and Wyatt Wheeler

On behalf of the English Department, it is an honor to remark on each of the incredibly deserving recipients of this year's Award for Excellence in English: Dylan Mahoney, Yoni Fogelman, Jacob Levine, Ariana Kretz, and Wyatt Wheeler. These five scholars are among the most outstanding students I have had the pleasure to encounter in my career.

With an unequaled level of cheerfulness and benevolence, Dylan Mahoney has delighted me with his passion for literature all year long. Consistently enjoying the process and the magic of discovery, Dylan is one of most enthusiastic readers around. Together with his unwavering positive attitude, Dylan's hard work and intellect have helped him maintain his status as one of the highest-achieving students in AP Lit.

A steadfast scholar whose intellectual gifts, hard work, and intrinsic sense of academic integrity augment his genuine interest, Yoni Fogelman explores the genres of prose and poetry with depth. Filtering his insights through the lens of his background in musical composition, Yoni has brought unique angles, ideas, and interpretations to the table. His unassuming brilliance inspires and motivates classmates, astounding me from day one.

Engaging insightfully in class discussion, Jacob Levine has a truly amazing knack for cutting through to the core of any given work of literature. This mastery, integrated into his gift for intellectually, clearly, and concisely articulating his findings, opens up new avenues of creative analysis in those around him. In myriad ways and with generosity of heart, Jacob not only rises to but easily surpasses the level of my high expectations.

Combined with her ability for infusing her work with passion and curiosity, the enthusiasm with which Ariana Kretz greets the material is palpable. Emailing a midnight missive contemplating her realizations about a character's community as connected to the theme of the novel Beloved is just one example of how Ari channels her spirited zeal for the art of literature. Her kindness and compassion for others and respect for the structure of the course are boundless.

One of the most conscientious students around, Wyatt Wheeler feels remiss when appearing with "only" two pages of Reading Response Notebook annotations when a good three or four had become his daily norm. The extent of his deep dives into critical thought and analysis is staggering. A true orator, Wyatt's sincere, earnest, and delighted observations of the craft of literary giants facilitates a synergy in the room among us all.

Ultimately, these five students make my day--daily--and really could teach AP Literature themselves. Dylan, Yoni, Jacob, Ari, Wyatt--heartfelt congratulations and deepest admiration for you all.

Sincerely,

Ms. Permenter

Exceptional Learner

Charles Macchia

Three cheers for Charles Stephen Macchia for winning the Senior Award. Charlie has been an asset to every class he has attended, sharing his unique perspective on all sorts of topics. His kindness, strong work ethic, and dedication to learning has been constant through out all four years here at JBHS and we are going to be sorry to see him go. The students in sixth period Social Learning Class would like to send a special shout out to him to let them know how proud they are to know him!! Good luck Charlie, we know you will be successful in all you endeavor.

Shalini Seimon

It is our pleasure to recognize Shalini Chelsea Seimon for her extraordinary achievements during her time at John Burroughs High School. She has been a valuable TA this year and delivers all sorts of notes and packages to the staff all across campus. She does these tasks with a never-ending smile. While in class and out on campus, she is quick to smile, ask about your day, well-being, and offer a joke each time she sees you. She is pleasant and well-meaning soul. Shalini has learned to find and manipulate materials and will take these valuable skills with her after high school. Outside of school, she is an active participant in Sri Lankan cultural activities. She is very proud of her heritage and shares her love of her culture with everyone.

To our Olivia,

Congratulations! All of your hard work really paid off. We know that this was not what you expected for your senior year. We are so proud of you and as usual, you handled this with grace. SLO, here you come!

Waaaatchhh out!

Love,

Mom, Dad and Evelyn



Foreign Language

Eliza Balian

Eliza Balian is not only an accomplished student, she is also kind to her classmates and always radiates with a smile. In just a few years, she has been able to learn French and share with her class her passion for culture and refinement. She truly cares about the world and will be able to use her linguistic skills to be an ambassador of our school and the values of scholarship and integrity it stands for throughout the world. She represents the best of our school and will shine in whatever endeavor she dedicates herself to.

Tanya Cantrell

The senior award for World Language- ASL goes to Tanya Cantrell. In her three years in my ASL classes, she has been an exemplary ASL student. Not only has she been eager to learn the language, but she is also not afraid to make mistakes or ask for help. Tanya has also been involved with the Deaf community. She used her knowledge to assist underclassmen who were taking ASL 1 as an academic mentor. I am very proud of Tanya and all she has accomplished. I know she will do amazing things in her future. To Tanya and the rest of the class of 2020, congratulations!

Marilyn Leiva

Throughout the years, Marilyn has committed herself to perfect her Spanish skills in order to use them to unite, educate and inspire others. She communicates with passion and compassion about immigrant rights, the importance of the census, and legislation that concerns the Hispanic community. She is also a founding member of Amigos Sin Fronteras, a club that focuses on uniting students from different cultural backgrounds in the quest for social justice and global awareness. She exemplifies the qualities of the leaders we need in the complex times we live. She is the recipient of the Senior Award 2020 for the Spanish Speakers class. ¡Felicitaciones y adelante!

Tigran Saakyan

In addition to having superb linguistic intuition, Tigran Saakyan has been a curious language student for the past four years, applying himself with an authentic desire to learn Spanish and apply it various ways. His writing and speaking have been accurate, appropriate for the setting, and often playful and funny. In every sense he has contributed to a positive classroom environment through his great academic and communication skills, and also through his personal kindness. We are proud of him and honored that we could contribute to his ability, in turn, to contribute to the various cultural and linguistic communities where he will work and reside in the future. Congratulations, Tigran!

Instrumental Music

Luis Gomez

Luis played percussion for Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, tenor drums in Marching Band and in Winter Percussion since he was a freshman, one of our only students who has been in Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble for all four years. He has been the drummer for bands in the Talent Show, and is known for his solo at the end of Swing Night in "Sing, Sing, Sing!" As one of this year's Band Presidents, he organized a District Articulations concert where the middle schoolers came and we helped them with their music. He also was in Choir Combo last year where he traveled to Boston and played with our award-winning Powerhouse for nationals where they earned first place, and played in the musical Chicago earlier this year. He also organized a solo ensemble concert where students played in a brass quintet, woodwind quintet, saxophone quartet, clarinet choir, or flute choir and were challenged with the responsibility of weekly rehearsals outside of class. Finally, Luis was the head of organizing the Band's concert at Burroughs this year. Everybody in band loves Luis for his calm and collected leadership style and his work hard attitude. He is always ready to lend a hand and always gets the job done, and is able to make everyone laugh in the process. Everyone, from the seniors to the freshman agree that he's just easy to get along with and is fun to be around. Luis Gomez is a such great leader and friend that he is completely adored by the JBHS IMA community. Everyone could count on him to make the IMA the best it could be and to make sure everything went smoothly.

Journalism

Alyssa LeBarron

Alyssa LeBarron is a quintuple threat, an amazing athlete, actor, comedian, writer, and leader that the newspaper could not live without. Her hard work in Journalism, and dedication to the school in general will be greatly missed. But nothing will be more missed than her enthusiasm for the written word, and her love for the rules of writing, which are so seldom cared for in our present day. We wish her luck in her future at Dartmouth, and can't wait to see what she becomes!

Congratulations
Colin Morgan Lee
You have done it
I am so proud of the person you are
Go enjoy the adventure of life. Know I am with you 100%.
And remember ..... eat ice cream!
Love You Most
Mima



Math

Orla Giffen

ORLA GIFFEN is happy to share this with Luke Boag, Troy Outwater, Camille Gengania, Samantha Cruz, Wyatt Wheeler, Hamlet Murazyan, Joshua Ramoy, Rawan Makarem, Milana Abrahamian, and Shania Garrison.

Neha Ramakrishnan

NEHA RAMAKRISHNAN is happy to share this with Caitlin Daroya, Nicole Reardon, Alyssa LeBarron, David Garza, Tobey Ho, Erin Collins, Emery Goulet, Suzy Kim, Martina Hemstreet, and Yoni Fogelman.

Tigran Saakyan

TIGRAN SAAKYAN is happy to share this with Colin Lee, Ariana Kretz, Dylan Mesina, Maggie Kusumonegoro, Adriana Villavicencio, Jocelyn Kim, Isabella Kam, Eliza Balian, Sebastian Muga, and Dylan Mahoney.

Donovan Sylla

DONOVAN SYLLA is happy to share this with Robert McGraham, Alexander Chen, Arthur Eldridge, Alice Weber, Elijah DuMonde, Kate Outwater, Kristina Belangue, Marieile Babol, Ellen Tahmasyan, and Jacob Levine.

Photo

Alannah Akers

Alannah Akers excels at creating images that make you think, maybe feel a little afraid and definitely showcasing her love for the abstract! I have also had the pleasure of teaching Alannah in Photography for 2 years. Alannah will always cheer you up and help you out anyway that she can. Her love of cemeteries. baby dolls and teletubbies will always keep her images interesting! Congratulations Alannah and I am so proud of you!

Paige Good

Paige Good is also a second year photography student and has a natural eye for creating amazing portraits. Paige is a natural creative who impresses me with every assignment she creates! She is an out of the box thinker, a kind creative and a big-hearted genuine person. I know that she will continue to do amazing things in her future. I am so proud of you Paige!

Madison MacNeil

I have had the pleasure of teaching Madison MacNeil for two years and I am so proud of her accomplishments! Madison is a skilled photographer who excels at portraits and is superb at customer service! In class I love watching her work with fellow students to troubleshoot issues or to watch her lead a portrait session, she is the queen of posing! Madison I am so very proud of you and all of your accomplishments!

Science

Eliza Balian

Eliza Balian is an exemplary science student. From courses such as Anatomy to AP Chemistry, she has excelled due to a combination of motivation and hard work. A part of the Medical Academy, she is interested in pursuing medicine and continuing her studies in science after graduation. The Science Department wishes her the best in her future endeavors.

Caden Cardenaz

The way you live your life speaks more about who you are than any other benchmark. By this logic alone, Caden Cardenaz is one of the most tenacious seniors we have this year at John Burroughs High School. No challenge is too big for him, no class is too tough for him, and because Caden is willing to make mistakes and learn from them, he now understands how to educate himself independently. Caden is a scholar, athlete and student leader. The Science Department is proud to recognize him as one of our outstanding seniors, and we wish him the best as he continues his education as a Biology Major at the University of Southern California. Fight on Caden!

Shania Garrison

Shania Garrison truly enjoys the process of learning. She has a natural aptitude for science while also working hard to be able to apply her talents. We were so fortunate to have Shania in our Medical Academy where she demonstrated strong leadership. Congratulations Shania Garrison, I cannot wait to see you pursue your goals. I am confident you will find success and enjoy the journey!

Jacob Levine

We all know each person has his or her strengths, and we all rely on those strengths when we work together. One of Jacob's great strengths is his ability to focus his thoughts on a subject, until he makes sure he thoroughly understands it. Combined with his love for science, this has made Jacob a truly great student in science. Jacob has always been a mainstay of class discussions and, classmate and teacher, we all have come to rely on him in our own way. This teacher wants to thank Jacob for being a pillar in his physics classes for two years, and in particular, for catching the teacher's mistakes (not that there were many). Thank you Jacob Levine, congratulations and good luck!

Social Studies

Arya Desai

Arya always had a drive, passion, and determination to do well in everything. I appreciated her willingness to share insightful and meaningful thoughts that greatly contributed to furthering the class. As she and our fourth period class knew, I admired her parents for giving her such an awesome name. Similar to the "Game of Thrones" character, Arya Stark, I think she coincidentally possesses a similar fighting spirit which, I am certain, she will utilize to make this world a better place. She is also very talented on the drama stage and I believe she has made a great and positive impact on the drama program.

Emery Goulet

Emery Goulet is a star on the court, stage, and the Social Studies classrooms. He impressed his teachers with his intellect, curiosity, but also with the wonderful attitude he brought to the classroom each day. When he wasn't sinking a three, or stealing the show, he was anhilating a DBQ! Thankfully, he is a humble star who is happy to shine within the wonderful constellation that is the class of 2020. Good luck Emery!

Ariana Kretz

Ariana Kretz is leadershilp and compassion personified - a true woman of action! She enlightened and enlivened her Social Studies classes with informed viewpoints and was always open to debate. She is that rare person for whom the realization of a problem and the effort to solve it appear part of the same action. We expect big things from you...Ariana Krtez, Esquire?... Justice Kretz?... President Kretz? Good luck Ari!

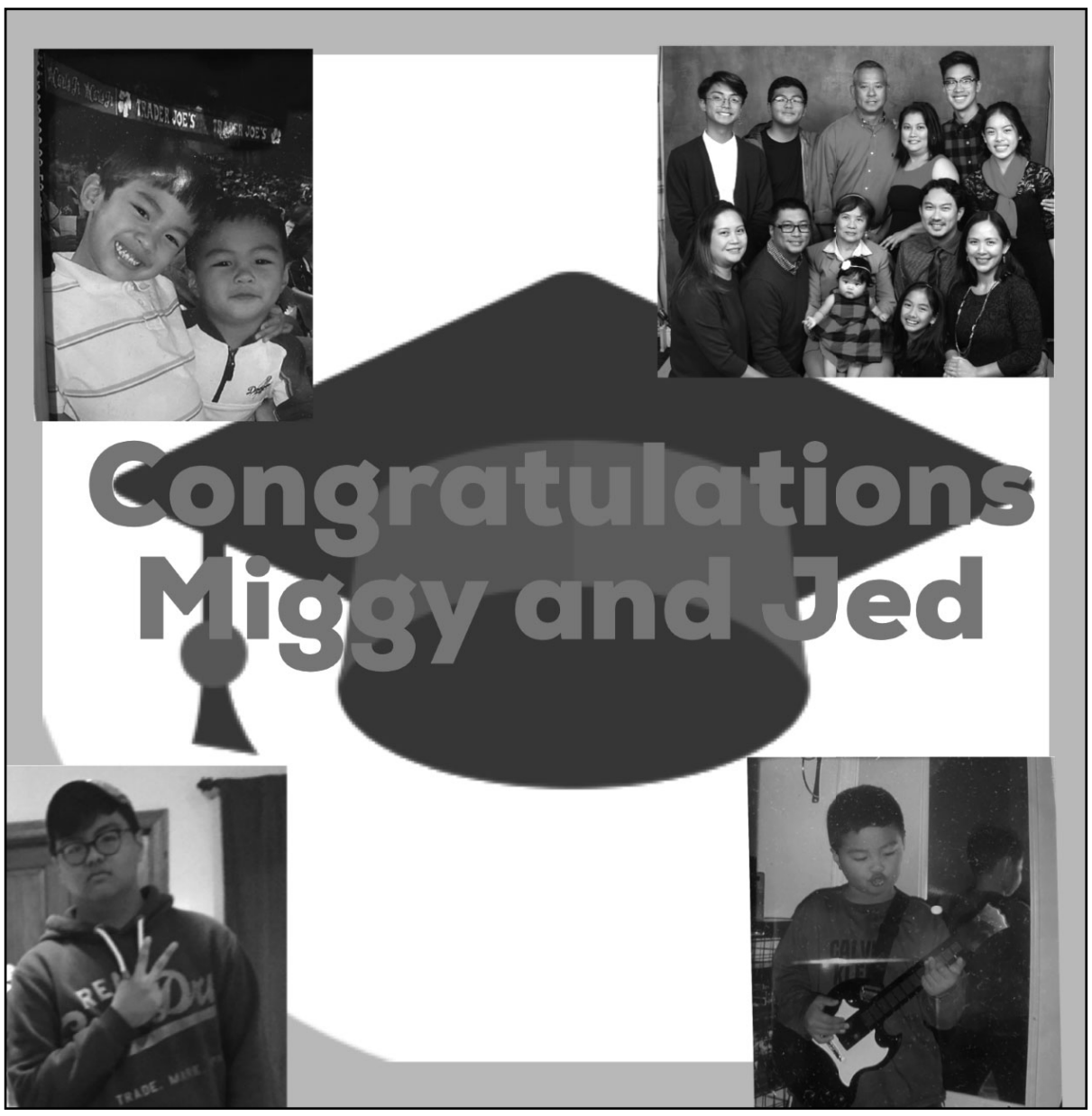
Dylan Mahoney

From the very beginning, Dylan was clearly a natural in understanding and processing the complexities of history. I always enjoyed his enthusiasm and joy he brought to my class. There were so many memorable moments when he would impress me with his quick and in-depth responses in assignments and discussions. Outside of class, he has been involved in great causes ranging from co-founding a club for kind acts to fundraising for the Make-A-Wish foundation. All of this should not come as a surprise if you know Dylan well, and I believe it speaks to his caring nature to help others in need. Overall, Dylan is a wonderful and talented person who will use his God-given abilities to further mankind

Video Production

Nicolas Skrabak

This year's recipient of the department award for Video Production is Mr. Nicolas Skrabak. I have had the honor and the privilege of having Nic as a student for the past four years. It has been a pleasure to watch him grow not only as a filmmaker, but also and more importantly as a human being. He entered as a wide-eyed freshman, who quietly sat in class hoping to remain anonymous in a room filled with upperclassmen. However, Nic's work would not allow him to fly under the radar of his classmates and teacher. His video projects were of an extraordinarily high standard, demonstrating not only technical skill, but also a sensitivity and emotional understanding unheard of in a thirteen-year-old. Nic's video montage from that year remains an example for my classes today. As a sophomore, Nic was the little brother to a room full of seniors in advanced video production. That year, Nic's kind and humble nature endeared him to his older peers, allowing him to create and maintain strong relationships based on mutual respect. Having taken both courses of video production, Nic served as a teaching assistant for my sixth period video production course during his junior year. To the benefit of the students of that class, Nic shared willingly his knowledge and passion for filmmaking. And that brings us to Nic's senior year. He decided to take advanced video production for a second time, and used the opportunity to hone his screenwriting, cinematography and editing skills to produce his original short feature film Bubble Boy -- the story of a teenage boy struggling to make his way through adolescence. It doesn't surprise me that Nic was accepted to USC's School of Cinematic Arts. I am certain he will continue to grow as a filmmaker, and some day we will be enjoying his work in a theater near you.



Vocal Music

Janina Colucci

Janina is a total star. She was the winner of the Jerry Herman Award for Best Actress in a Musical (all of Los Angeles) and also won the Best Soloist Award for her work this year in the Powerhouse competition set. I'm never surprised at Janina's success. As a Sophomore she was part of a select group from Powerhouse that was performing for a back to school TV special. In a show that featured Jennifer Hudson, Andra Day, Justin Timberlake, and Kelly Clarkson, Janina was chosen out of the group as a soloist in the opening number of the show. Janina could have left school completely to pursue her career, but instead she has dedicated herself fully to the team. We could not ask for a better representative of John Burroughs High School.

Jordyn Holt

Jordyn is a leader, a singer, an actress, and one of the kindest people I've ever met. It is not surprising that Jordyn has reached the highest levels in the performing arts. In addition to being a lead singer and performer in my program, I have watched Jordyn develop as an actress and comedian performing in four years of plays, musicals, and improv nights. She has been focused from the very beginning and while she does much to give back to her community, including copious service and peer mentoring responsibilities, she has never stopped pursuing her own craft passionately. I can't wait to follow her career through college and beyond.

Eli Staub

Eli is a thoughtful and brilliant artist. For the past four years, he has been selected for featured roles and solos based on his intelligent understanding of character and dramatic intention. Eli is an observer and a thinker, yet has the unique ability to externalize this into thrilling performances. His breakout role for me was in his portrayal of the manic and eventually homicidal Burrs from The Wild Party. His intense performance was exciting and frightening at the same time. This year he was the President of the Vocal Music Association, Quasimodo in JBHS On Broadway, Billy Flynn in Chicago, and Pierrot the Sad Clown in Powerhouse's competition show. I'm so proud of Eli and all of his accomplishments.





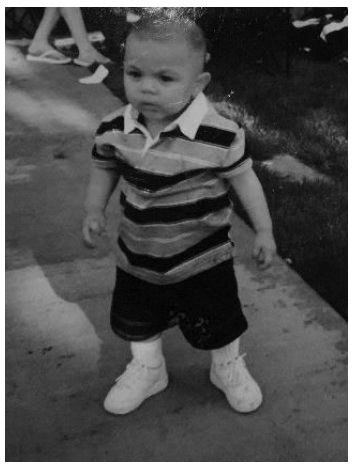




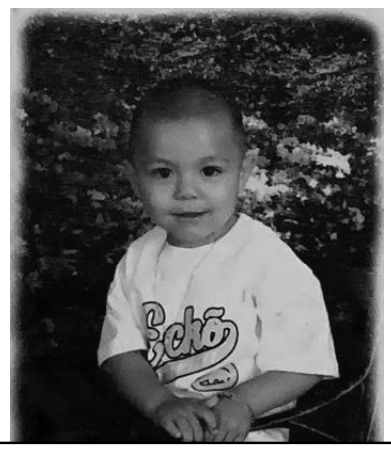


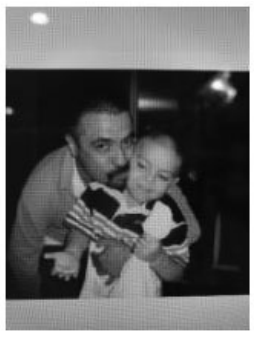












Congratulations Javier!!
You did it Son!!! We're so proud of you. On September 20, 2002 we were blessed to have you. You have forever changed our lives. Keep doing what you think is right. Remember the good choices you make today will reward you later.
You will forever be our Bundle of Joy!!!

Love, Mom, Dad & Sisters

Congrats Vianney!!!
We are so proud of you baby sister!!!! Don't forget you can do anything you set your mind to do.
Love you always gorgeous!!! Mom and Sisters

Adelina Hernandez Wins Best Speaker Award for JSA

By Jules Talley
Staff Writer

Adelina Hernandez is a Sophomore at JBHS with a fiery passion for debate; having won her fifth consecutive best speaker award at Winter Congress, she's sure to continue to make history for JSA.

Hernandez began debating with JSA the summer before her Freshman year, where her passion began.

"I like how everyone is appreciated. You get to hear from so many different people and hear so many different opinions; from socialist to conservative, and other opposite positions. You really get to embrace everyone's individuality," said Hernandez on her love for JSA.

Hernandez has won five JSA awards, of which four of them were achieved at this year's Winter Congress, which is a convention where members of the JSA cabinet can announce their campain to be elected to official positions.

Throughout the weekend in which Winter Congress takes place, there are various debates and caucuses about a multitude of subjects, which is also when people who want to run for cabinet positions announce their campaign.

Hernandez won these awards by submitting bills, which in that case the debater speaks pro, or con if they select a bill.

Hernandez spoke pro on two bills that her and her friends submitted, those of which both passed House and Senate caucuses. From there, the bills went to Full House and Full Senate.

Adelina spoke during the Full House review of her bill, which she says, "Helped [her] win four best speaker awards that day." What an achievement!

Senior Genessis Campos who attended Winter Congress and watched Adelina speak says, "I watched her in one of the first bills she spoke on, and she is one of the most influential speakers

I've ever listened to during a debate. I've been to Winter Congress every year of High School, and she was by far one of the best speakers I've ever watched… the audience is just captivated by her words."

Similarly, Senior Alexandria Watson says, "I was shocked that she was a Sophomore and spoke so confidently about the subjects during the debates and discussions. Even during JSA meetings, she speaks so well that you can't help but be swayed by either position she speaks from."

It looks like Adelina Hernandez will keep making history for JSA and throughout her high school career, and will keep continuing to win awards and make everyone here at JBHS proud. If you see her around, make sure to wish her a congratulations on these outstanding awards she's achieved!

Kimberly Robles And Ellie Frazier Take The Bake

By Ava Kramer
Sports Editor

Congratulations to Kimberly Robles and Ellie Frazier. The two placed high in the SkillsUSA Commercial Baking Competition. Kimberly Robles won first place gold and Ellie Frazier won silver in their region!

SkillsUSA is a national organization that helps students from middle school to college gain experience and learn about careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations. They want to help provide students with high level teaching and to help cultivate them into skilled career driven individuals.

Kimberly Robles, first place winner, is a Senior at John Burroughs High School and is currently taking Advanced Culinary Arts. She plans on attending the Culinary Institute of America, Napa Valley, this fall, to continue her studies.

Robles said, "I was very shocked and excited when they said I won. I never win anything so it was really incredible."

Robles has been cooking since she was very young, "It's always been a part of my life. I love to cook and being part of a competition like this is really cool."

Ellie Frazier, silver medalist, is a Junior and will be taking Advanced Culinary Arts next year.

"This was a great opportunity for me, and to compete among so many amazing bakers and cooks is really humbling. I was super surprised when I got second."

Kimberly Robles made Sugar Cookies. The recipe is up on the SkillsUSA website.

"I love making cookies," Kimberly said, "so I decided to stick to what I was good at and add a little something creative to it."

Ellie Frazier made a Pie Crust. Frazier's recipe is also up on the SkillsUSA website. Go check it out!

Seniors Win Congressional App Challenge

By Katrina Bey
News Editor

On January 15, 2020, four students from John Burroughs High School were called by Congressman Adam Schiff to be informed that they won second place in the Congressional App Challenge of Schiff's district.

Schiff spoke with Arthur Eldridge, Richard Martini, Vatche Balian, and Eduard Makhshikyan on a conference call in Ms. Madrigal's office.

The students created an app called Financier, which allows users to input a monthly goal and track their income and expenses. The app works with financial stability, self-management, and budgeting.

Vatche Balian is a Senior at JBHS and is known for being a smart, kind, and caring person with a great sense of humor. He has amassed over one hundred service hours, is a part of the Engineering Academy, and successfully completed an engineering portfolio.

Balian stated that he was shocked that he and his team were called by Schiff. "It was a real honor to talk to him and I greatly appreciate that he took the time out of his day to talk to us and congratulate us," he noted.

In the future, Balian would like to major in Computer Science, become a programmer, and hopes to work for Google.

Arthur Eldridge is also a Senior at JBHS and is proud of his achievements, which include being a Captain of the Varsity Swim and Water Polo Teams and maintaining a 4.8 GPA for all of Junior year.

Eldridge's plans for the future include going to college at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Economics-Mathematics.

Eldridge was delighted to receive the call and noted that "it is always exciting to talk to any member of Congress."

According to Eldridge, one of the most exciting things about talking to Schiff was that he was interested in them for something they created. He wanted to get to know them and their plans for the future.

Richard "Richie" Martini, a Senior at JBHS, takes pride in having built an entire PC on his own, which he considers his greatest achievement.

Building a PC is what got him interested in the technological field and led him to realize his desire to obtain a career in technology.

Martini was absolutely flabbergasted when he got the call, stating, "I felt great. It is pretty cool getting called by a Congressman. Especially one that is so 'famous' given his appearance with the impeachment."

The call changed Martini's view of government, knowing that a busy politician would take the time to call a few high school kids to congratulate them on an accomplishment.

After high school, Martini plans to go to college immediately and has applied to several UC's and Cal State's, majoring in Computer Science.

Eduard Makhshikyan, also a Senior, believes that his biggest accomplishment is creating the app that won him and his team second place. The call made him feel very accomplished and proud of himself that he made it so high in the challenge. Makhshikyan plans to go to Glendale Community College.

He did not expect to be in the top three out of the whole district. For him, it is an experience he will not forget because he was able to talk to a major public figure. "It was a pretty cool moment."

Makhshikyan attributes the win to the creativity and effort his team displayed in creating the app.

Congratulations again to Vatche Balian, Arthur Eldridge, Richard Martini, and Eduard Makhshikyan for winning second place and receiving a call from Congressman Schiff!

To All The Missed Award Winners

This was a challenging year for all of us at JBHS, and it is so disappointing to know that so many students who should be recognized for their accomplishments this year are being left out of our end of the year paper.

What is usually a sixty page special magazine filled with all of our Senior's memories, plans for the future, recognition of all their accomplishments, Prom pictures, articles on all the Prom Court winners, and Grad Nite photos are all missing in this issue. Even our "Most Likely To" list is not here.

But what is saddest for us at the Journalism staff is this page's unrecognized award winners and scholarship recipients. While we were able to learn about the winners on this page, and thank the Faculty who put in time writing up the paragraphs on the preceding pages, we know there are so many students being left out.

Not only that, but we all feel the loss of the many articles that should have been written about students who never even had the opportunity to win, in Spring sporting events, end of the year competitions, and just to list the colleges they were accepted to.

We wish everyone who won anything we were unable to write about our sincerest congratulations, and condolences to all of you who were unable to compete in the first place.

Sincerely,
Cindy Avila, Katrina Bey, Kaitlyn Baum, Brooklin Bosco, Molly Boyke, Dylan Callahan, Kaitlyn Cisneros, Marty Coha, Amare Cooke, Scarlette Curiel, Arya Desai, Lindsey Garcia, Daniella Gray, Georgie Hallbach, Ellie Harris, Destiny Helligar, David Karagezyan, Ava Kramer, Alyssa LeBarron, Lucia McFarland, Olivia Ronstadt, Sophia Rosas, Kaylan Silva, Elizabeth Surratt, Jules Talley, Hayk Torosyan, Trinity Vournas, Alexandria White

Reflections Winners

By Marty Coha
Opinion Editor

Senior Madison MacNeil won third place in the Reflections contest in the Photography category; she is planning on majoring in Photography at a four year university.

Madison enjoys "online shopping, reading, and hanging with friends." MacNeil also adores figure skating, and takes classes at Pickwick.

Something Madison is known for is having a great fashion sense. Anyone who knows Maddie can't deny that she has a way with color palettes and knows how to piece together fabrics.

One of her goals this year is to "be satisfied with her accomplishments." The quote she lives by is, "It's okay to fail once in a while."

Aaron Durazo is seventeen-year-old in 11th grade this year.

His goal this year is to "invest in myself, focus on bettering my craft in art and return, spread it to the community and eventually the world."

Durazo hopes to go to a college that strengthens his passions in photography, videography and fashion. "With these I'd love to become a director of photography for a movie, take photos for a big magazine name, such as GQ and i-D," he commented

With his future fashion capabilities he hopes to direct a runway show within the next ten years.

Since his future has so much involvement in photography it's no wonder his favorite classes are Digital Media, Photo, and English.

Besides his PTS Reflection award he has also received another award for photography.

His role model in life is Kendrick Lamar and lives by "You're going to die. Do something about it," by Gary Vee.

Alannah Akers is an upbeat seventeen year old who also won at PTSA Reflections this year. Alanah won for her skills in photography and she's been in Photography for three years.

Photo 2 is her favorite class on campus because it's the only class she takes at John Burroughs High School.

Her goal for this year is to develop a career in the arts. When asked for her future goals Alanah states "Though I do appreciate education, I see my future revolving strictly around art, may it be graphic, musical, or photography."

The quote she lives by is "Being famous is like being in high school, but I'm not interested in being the cheerleader," by Courtney Love. Courtney Love also is Alannah's role model in life.

This Senior is a singer who also plays guitar. She is a part of her own band called Funeral Parking Only. Alannah says her other activities include being "a full time mom friend."

In conclusion, make sure to congratulate these winners for their amazing creative capabilities!

Coach Collins Says Goodbye

By Kaylan Silva
Staff Writer

Coach Collins is a teacher here at JBHS, and also the Cheer Coach; Unfortunately, she will be leaving the JBHS staff after eight years of wonderful service.

It was very sad to hear she was no longer going to be working with us.

When asked how she felt about leaving she said "My heart, however, is breaking for the lost memories and the lost time with my beautiful team. I was not ready to say goodbye so quickly."

Coach Collins was always known for her strict discipline, yet she had a close relationship with all of the girls on the team.

She didn't want to leave without a final thank you/goodbye note so she released this statement:

"I want to thank the girls for pouring everything they had into this entire year, for the late nights, the games, the community service, and the other school opportunities that were missed out due to being here for cheer."

She continued. "They are a very hardworking group of girls and have always given me 100%. Seeing them this season was so amazing and their work ethic was bar none."

"JBHS Cheer, You are my everything," she said." I am so sad that I won't be coaching for cheer again. I'm so thankful for the bonds I've created and the memories that I'll carry with me forever. Thank you for shaping me into the person I am today. Thank you for providing a family for me and showing me all that this life has to offer. I'm going to miss everything about this. The Cheer program here. The people. Everything.

She mentioned "My family FOREVER and ALWAYS!" "This isn't a goodbye… it's a see you soon." Coach Collins looks forward to seeing how much we can grow and she knows that whatever we do we will always make her proud!

She will be dearly missed as a coach and teacher here at JBHS but we will always take what we learned from her and carry that with us and continue to grow and improve!

Thank you Coach Collins for all of the hard work that you have put into your classes and your team.

JBHS' New Registar

By Sophia Rosas
Staff Writer

The John Burroughs High School office staff has just gained a new member: Myra Leyva is JBHS' brand new Registar.

The main responsibility of the registrar is to handle student records and to make sure the information is correct and in the right place. Most of the job consists of interacting with administrators and the staff in the front office.

Ms. Leyva originally started her career in the educational field as educator in the Philippines ten years ago and when she came to the US she worked different types of jobs at different schools and different positions.

Ms. Leyva first worked at a private school where she was first the receptionist for a year and was then promoted to an admissions coordinator where she would help out with the admissions and paperwork.

Ms. Leyva enjoyed the job because she was able to still be in the educational setting even if it was behind the scenes. She then found an opening for assistant registrar at Concorde College which is a school for health care education.

Ms. Leyva worked there for nine years and was promoted to main registrar and then to a student records manager and this experience paved the way for her to become a registrar here.

While working all of these positions in different settings Ms. Leyva realized she loved details and the interactions with the instructors and managements.

At JBHS, Ms. Leyva manages new enrollments, people leaving the school and checking the progress of students who have taken online classes seeing if the passed and if they get the credit for that class.

Ms. Leyva's just started working here on February 20, 2020 after the previous registrar had retired. Ms. Leyva says she is still learning the ropes of John Burroughs High School.

Ms. Leyva came to the United States in 2005. Ms. Leyva went to a private all-girls school in college where her favorite subject was science. In her early years, she thought she wanted to be a doctor but she changed her plans when she dissected a frog and realized it was not for her.

She also loves reading, hiking and on her own time she does photography. She also enjoys trying out new foods with her friends. Ms. Leyva's goals for this year are to be the best she can be.

Ms. Leyva's interesting talents are her photography skills. She considers it more a pastime when she is bored or wants to have fun outdoors.

Ms. Leyva said she doesn't have a favorite food but she loves to eat. She also said "I'm okay with trying different types of food as long as it's within my taste range and there are no bugs!" Whenever she goes traveling she asks her friends what is a great food to eat that is linked to that region.

She also said she doesn't have a favorite book but some of her favorite genres are comedy, young adult and adventure. She loves reading so much she read the entire collection of *Lord of the Rings* in two weeks! She says "I love to see how the books end so I was able to read it in two weeks."

Her favorite movie is the *Fantastic Beasts and where to Find Them* and she loves movies that will make her think and use her brain.

Ms. Leyva's inspiration are her parents because they taught her how to be a loving person. She also learned from them how to be a hardworking person.

She is also very blessed that she was able to get her education without the restraints on student debts or not having the money for college. She says her parents goal was to give her a good quality education.

Her most recent favorite memory was when she went to Germany to spend Christmas and New Year's with her sister and family two years ago.

Ms. Leyva is a great addition to the John Burroughs High School staff so if you see her giver her a big warm welcome.

Mrs. Mullin Retires

By Cindy Avila
Staff Writer

Winona Mullin, former JBHS Registrar, officially retired on February 28, 2020 after working for BUSD for twenty years. She plans to spend her retirement with her husband, and focus on giving back to the community.

As Registrar, Mrs. Mullin handled records, diplomas, and report cards of current students and alumni.

Mrs. Mullin recalls her years at JBHS as "awesome, wonderful, and unforgettable." Her favorite thing about working for the school was undoubtedly the students.

Mrs. Mullin grew up in Sylmar, California, and graduated from Sylmar High School, where she was a member of their choir and played basketball. English was her favorite subject in school and her favorite teacher was her English teacher, Mr. Anderson.

She enjoys spending time with her family, gardening, traveling, and improving her aerobics abilities. Additionally, she thoroughly enjoys listening to country music. Her favorite restaurant is La Bamba and her favorite food is "anything fattening." *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen is her favorite book and her favorite movie is *The Gladiator.*

Though Mrs. Mullin enjoyed her time at JBHS, she is looking forward to a relaxing and well-deserved retirement. "When I leave, my husband and I will be giving back to the community, and I'll get to spend more time with my family," she stated.

Known for her welcoming and helpful attitude, Mrs. Mullin was an adored presence in JBHS, and will be missed by both the students and the staff that she worked with, including Ms. Madrigal, who said that "Mrs. Mullin was a hard worker, very detailed, very orientated and was good at her job. We'll miss her very much." JBHS hopes that Mrs. Mullin will enjoy a happy and fulfilling retirement after her fifteen years of service to the school and the impact she has made on thousands of students.

A Message to All the Faculty and Staff Who Are Leaving This Year

Hello!

Normally this page would be filled with articles on all the retiring faculty and staff leaving John Burroughs in the Spring of 2020.

Sadly, as with everything during this time, it is not a normal year and this is not a normal issue.

So to all the faculty and staff that we missed this year, the Journalism Class of 2020 would like to say "Thank you for all the hard work you put in, maybe a lifetime's worth, and we sincerely wish we could have written you an article, a letter, or just acknowledged you with a loving sendoff, but we were unable to and we are so sorry."

Sincerely,
Journalism Class of 2020

Cindy Avila, Katrina Bey, Kaitlyn Baum, Brooklin Bosco, Molly Boyke, Dylan Callahan, Kaitlyn Cisneros, Marty Coha, Amare Cooke, Scarlette Curiel, Arya Desai, Lindsey Garcia, Daniella Gray, Georgie Hallbach, Ellie Harris, Destiny Helligar, David Karagezyan, Ava Kramer, Alyssa LeBarron, Lucia McFarland, Olivia Ronstadt, Sophia Rosas, Kaylan Silva, Elizabeth Surratt, Jules Talley, Hayk Torosyan, Trinity Vournas, Alexandria White

Students' Opinions on Distance Learning

By Cindy Avila
Staff Writer

March 13, 2020 was the last day students were on campus due to the COVID-19 outbreak, forcing JBHS to convert to an online distance-learning model, which has been met with some mixed student, staff, and parent feedback.

On April 6, 2020, the Burbank Unified School District moved to distant learning, meaning students would complete schoolwork online, at home, while practicing social distancing.

While some students may feel comfortable with distant learning, others find it hard to do work from home without having their teachers' support.

Freshman Shaniya Becton says, "Distant learning is somewhat difficult for me because I don't get to interact with students and teachers anymore while learning new information."

Some students feel like teachers are assigning more work online than they normally would.

Freshman Kellyan Ruiz said, "I don't really like... distance learning. I think that the teachers give us more work than they do at school."

Since students have started completing school work at home, they have easier access to online resources they normally wouldn't have at school, and are primarily reviewing topics already discussed in class.

Freshman Kenzie Khoury adds, "I'm literally not learning anything and I'm pretty sure everyone's looking up the answers online."

Some other students may feel overwhelmed with the work being assigned online due to how fast everyone switched to learning online and have a hard time dealing with not ending the school year as planned.

Senior Shaylin Becton says, "Distant learning can be hard because it's a new process for a lot of students, and it happened so fast. For me, as a Senior, it's happening in the most crucial part of my Senior year. I've been keeping up with my work, but at the same time, it's hard to stay motivated to finish the work with Senioritis and the fact I can't walk across the stage or attend a normal Prom."

Additionally, the district has moved to a credit/no-credit model for the entire semester, which has been met with mixed feedback. While some students are thrilled that the district has taken this step to ensure that those affected by the virus are not penalized at school, other students are outraged, and feel that this step has demeaned their first ten weeks of work.

In fact, a parent group has started a petition for the district to allow students to request grades instead of a credit/no-credit mark on their report card, citing colleges who cannot guarantee that students will not be penalized for admission and scholarships for having a credit/no-credit mark during this time.

Overall, most students are not happy with the new distant learning, but appreciate the steps that the district has taken to help them during this time.

When Will Schools Be Open?

By Katrina Bey
News Editor

Amidst this crisis, whether colleges will be welcoming students in the fall semester remains unknown, causing financial and emotional turmoil to the graduating Seniors who plan to attend college in the fall, and to underclassmen who are worried about returning to JBHS.

With Senior events like Prom, Grad Nite, and in-person Graduation being canceled due to the pandemic, students have wondered whether or not they will be able to go to their college of choice. Some may fear that college will be performed online for the rest of the calendar year.

This spring semester has concluded its in-person activities; while March 13th was the last day of real school at JBHS, some schools outside of California have been in quarantine for longer.

It was speculated that students would be able to go back to school on April 30th or May 5th by Matt Hill, the superintendent for Burbank. However, the government's stay-at-home policy is likely going to remain in place for much longer.

According to Governor Gavin Newsom, there is no official date for when schools in California will reopen.

He states, "[Students could] come in cohorts in the morning and some in the afternoon. We have to work of course with our union and others in management to figure something like that out" as a solution, which indicates that students will continue social distancing while at school, whenever it does reopen.

The solution is faulty, but his other suggestion is to just wait until the pandemic ends.

Although it is not ideal for current college students and the Seniors hoping to attend university in the fall, many colleges are not planning to reopen till 2021.

This means that incoming college Freshmen would attend the college in the Spring semester for the first time, completely unaware of campus life.

In addition to that, students are paying tuition to attend in-person college, not online school. Many colleges and universities are planning on collecting the same tuition as they would if school was in-person.

For the colleges in less populated areas, they are more likely to reopen.

For example, the University of Maine is planning to open for the incoming Freshmen students, but San Francisco University is planning to go forward with online classes.

It seems unlikely that college will welcome students this upcoming Fall.

But, if we keep social distancing and stay sanitary, then colleges may open sooner this year rather than Spring of 2021.

College Students in Quarantine

By Brooklin Bosco
Staff Writer

As with everyone in the world right now, students' lives have changed a lot since the Coronavirus hit causing a global pandemic.

Most students have had to completely adapt to new ways of learning while we have been placed under quarantine.

For college students, adapting to the new way of learning has had some challenges.

Not only is learning the material a challenge but the loss of jobs and money is a big hardship faced during the pandemic for college students.

For college student Faye Bosco, the quarantine has been a partially stressful experience.

"Some aspects of quarantine are amazing. The relaxing, waking up when you want to, and being home to cook meals are awesome. However, it is hard to learn when your professors do not know how to adapt to the online environment. The majority of my professors have done a good job adapting and making it easy to learn. Others are disadvantaged due to the fact that they do not understand how to work technology as well as other professors do. This leaves students struggling to learn the material."

Not only could students be struggling due to hardships on the end of the professor, but, distractions at home can lead to major procrastination and a big lack of motivation.

Faye Bosco said, "Your home is where you go to sleep and relax. It is not a learning environment. Distractions are everywhere due to your home being the place you go after the work is done. So now having to keep focus and learn new subjects in an environment like that is a struggle. The struggle to find the motivation to the important things done."

Unemployment has also been a huge struggle for many Americans, as well as students, during this pandemic.

Faye Bosco continued to say, "I had four jobs before the pandemic caused us to quarantine and social distance. Only one of those were able to adapt to an online environment. However, even with the adaptation, my hours were cut. I got lucky with being able to have that one job along with my school having the CSUN Cares Grant. I am not sure what I would have done if I was moved out of my house and had to pay bills."

Staying at home has also had a large effect on students' mental health.

Even before the pandemic, in an article on calbudgetsenter.org called, "California College Students Are Increasingly Experiencing Mental Health Issues and Need Improved Support," they reported, "The 2018 National College Health Assesment reports that in the past year, 63% of college students surveyed felt overwhelming anxiety, 42% felt so depressed that it was difficult to function, 62% felt very lonely, and 12% seriously considered suicide."

With students being under quarantine and many distractions being around the house due to the home not being a good learning environment, students could potentially struggle even more than usual with their mental health issues.

Faye Bosco stated, "It was always my reward to see my friends after completing my school work. Quarantine has now taken that away so finding the motivation is harder which makes me fall behind on work in some classes. Then the stress from struggling increases and I feel like a failure and lack even more motivation. It is a vicious cycle."

Being in quarantine is hard for everyone for their own reasons. All we can do is be positive and use this time to focus on self care.

Prom 2020

By Kaitlyn Cisneros
Staff Writer

Prom is the most special mark of a Senior's high school experience, and unfortunately, a final decision has been released, ensuring that the Seniors at John Burroughs High School will not be given that moment.

The circumstances are devastating, but the safety of the students lives meant more than anything at this moment to the administration and district.

The decision from the district and school has been met with mixed feedback.

Senior Sabrina Englebrecht said, "I feel sad and mad because I've been looking forward to this ever since the start of High School. Prom was supposed to be an eventful night, now it's an imagination."

A lot of the Seniors share almost the same feelings about this situation.

"It's a moment I've been waiting for since my Freshman year and it really makes me upset that we aren't going to get what we've been waiting for. I know a lot of people who have also bought outfits and invested money to make their experience better" says Senior Levon Litmanovich.

The excitement of picking out the perfect prom dress, and trying on the perfect tuxedo is a moment many of these Seniors wanted to have.

Additionally, all of the Prominees will never know if they have been nominated, or be able to wear a crown, hold flowers, or take their pictures with the court.

COVID-19 has taken a toll on the entire world, but has really affected the Seniors profoundly.

Many Seniors are heartbroken that they did not have that special night with that special someone, spending the last few moments of their high school days together as a whole.

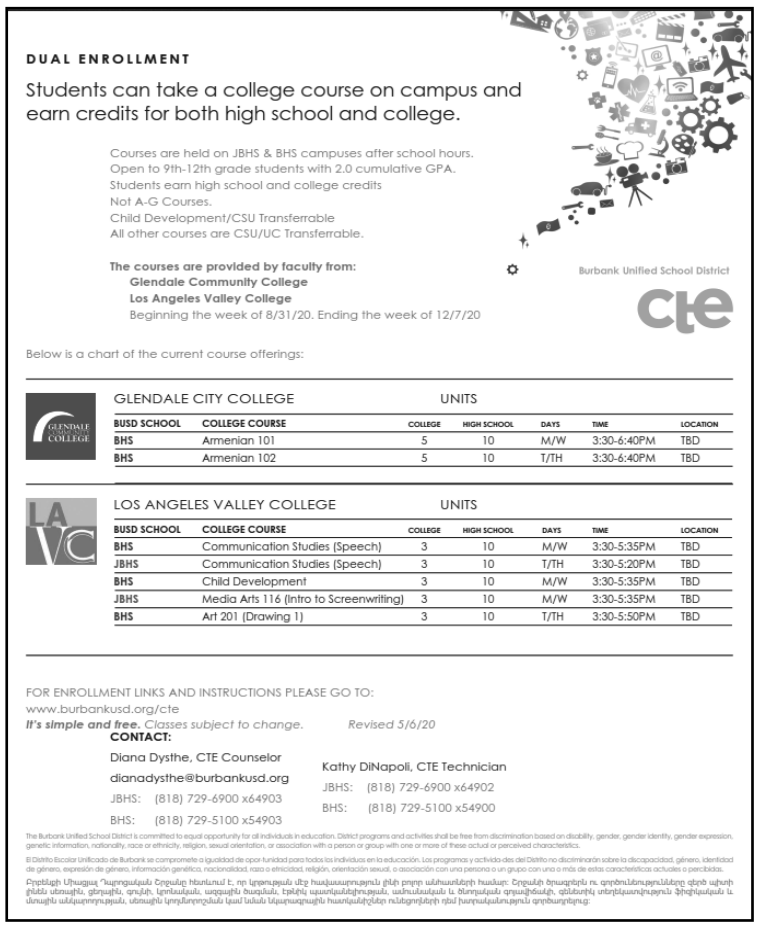
Another JBHS Senior, Adrian Leon, says that "It sucks… it is one of the events that's supposed to make your Senior year unforgettable and we can't have that. We cherish moments like those so we can always tell a story from our past, to our future kids and grandkids."

Everyone around the world has deep empathy for this year's Senior class, especially with everything that has been taken away from them.

Adrian Leon adds that the "Class of 2020, in my opinion, is the strongest class ever. How can you prepare people for tragic moments like this… you can't because it seems unreal."

Times like these are very difficult for everyone affected-- the families, students, and even staff members.

No one imagined the world to be in such a strenuous time and still it is unbelievable.



DUAL ENROLLMENT

Students can take a college course on campus and earn credits for both high school and college.

Courses are held on JBHS & BHS campuses after school hours.
Open to 9th-12th grade students with 2.0 cumulative GPA.
Students earn high school and college credits
Not A-G Courses.
Child Development/CSU Transferrable
All other courses are CSU/UC Transferrable.

The courses are provided by faculty from:
Glendale Community College
Los Angeles Valley College
Beginning the week of 8/31/20. Ending the week of 12/7/20

Burbank Unified School District

cte

Below is a chart of the current course offerings:

GLENDALE CITY COLLEGE — UNITS

BUSD SCHOOL	COLLEGE COURSE	COLLEGE	HIGH SCHOOL	DAYS	TIME	LOCATION
BHS	Armenian 101	5	10	M/W	3:30-6:40PM	TBD
BHS	Armenian 102	5	10	T/TH	3:30-6:40PM	TBD

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE — UNITS

BUSD SCHOOL	COLLEGE COURSE	COLLEGE	HIGH SCHOOL	DAYS	TIME	LOCATION
BHS	Communication Studies (Speech)	3	10	M/W	3:30-5:35PM	TBD
JBHS	Communication Studies (Speech)	3	10	T/TH	3:30-5:20PM	TBD
BHS	Child Development	3	10	M/W	3:30-5:35PM	TBD
JBHS	Media Arts 116 (Intro to Screenwriting)	3	10	M/W	3:30-5:35PM	TBD
BHS	Art 201 (Drawing 1)	3	10	T/TH	3:30-5:50PM	TBD

FOR ENROLLMENT LINKS AND INSTRUCTIONS PLEASE GO TO:
www.burbankusd.org/cte
It's simple and free. Classes subject to change. *Revised 5/6/20*

CONTACT:
Diana Dysthe, CTE Counselor
dianadysthe@burbankusd.org
JBHS: (818) 729-6900 x64903
BHS: (818) 729-5100 x54903

Kathy DiNapoli, CTE Technician
JBHS: (818) 729-6900 x64902
BHS: (818) 729-5100 x54900

The Burbank Unified School District is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education. District programs and activities shall be free from discrimination based on disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Burbank se compromete a igualdad de opor-tunidad para todos los individuos en la educación. Los programas y actividades del Distrito no discriminarán sobre la discapacidad, género, identidad de género, expresión de género, información genética, nacionalidad, raza o etnicidad, religión, orientación sexual, o asociación con una persona o un grupo con una o más de estas características actuales o percibidas.

Բոլոր կրթության Միացյալ Դպրոցական Շրջանի հնարավոր չէ, որ կրթության մեջ հավասարություն լինի բոլոր անհատների համար: Շրջանի ծրագրերն ու գործունեությունները պետք պիտի լինեն մեղքից, ցեղային, գույնի, կրոնականա, սոցիալին ծագման, էթնիկ պատկանելիության, ամուսնական և ծնողական գոյաժամանի, զեներալ տեղեկատվություն ֆիզիկական և մտային անկարողության, սեռային կողմնորոշման կամ նման նկարագրային հատկանիշների ունեցողների դեմ խորականություն գործադրելուց:

Plans After COVID

By Lucia McFraland
Staff Writer

Since a social distancing policy has been put into place, people have thinking of interesting ways to occupy their time at home, but of course, people are still making plans for after quarantine is over.

It is necessary to say that even when quarantine is lifted life might not continue as it had before quarantine.

Still, what are some people's plans after quarantine?

What people miss most about normal daily life is seeing people and going out in public.

Most people just want to see friends and go out to eat.

Freshman Maria Stefani says "My plans are just to see a couple friends… just to get out and see people. Also I wanna go get boba."

However, people have bigger plans.

These large get togethers might not be immediately possible, but many people are still dreaming of going to theme parks, concerts, and sports games.

Another John Burroughs High School student, Sydney Kovacs says that her plans are to "go to some of the concerts I missed out on. I might go and see a movie."

She also says "I just really miss going to big events."

Something else factoring into people's post-quarantine plans is missing school.

Most students dislike online learning and want to go back to in-person school.

People's main complaints with online learning are that it is harder to process information.

Students also want to go back to school for the sake of a routine.

This whole situation has really made a lot of students rethink how much their school, and education, and teachers all mean to thme.

It is important that people continue to social distance until medical professionals tell us that is okay to continue life as normal.

No matter how much you want to go back to school or see friends, it is important to respect quarantine and keep the vulnerable people in our population safe.

Make sure to stay home and find other fun ways to occupy your time, like reading The Senior Signal.

Positives of Quarantine

By Marty Coha
Opinion Editor

The pandemic has caused the majority of the human population to be forced indoors and now practice social distancing, peaking many families' anxieties; however, there have been positives that have stemmed from mandated quarantine.

On a global scale, pollution has gone down and air quality has improved greatly. For example, China has experienced 21.5% better air quality in the days since quarantine began.

In Venice, Italy, fish and other marine life are able to be spotted in the picture perfect canals, since they aren't packed with gondolas and motorized boats.

Additionally, people are taking a step back and appreciating what they used to take for granted. Seeing friends and eating out were such underappreciated activities until now.

The majority of people are praising social media and online streaming sources to help ease the boredom of social distancing.

Also, people finally have more time for themselves. Because of the modern age of technology, with the constant pressure to be working, people have no time to do tasks they have interest in--but no longer.

Now that school is out and some adults are able to work from home, people are starting to take up hobbies and work on themselves.

Many have taken up baking, and are exploring delicious recipes; there has been such a high demand for flour that some local grocery stores are only allowing the purchase of one bag at a time. While some are testing out their culinary skills, others have been learning a new foreign language. According to Michaela Kron, Senior public relations manager at Duolingo, there has been a spike of new accounts from March 9 to March 30, with a 148% increase of new users in the United States alone.

Quarantine is also the perfect setting for overdue self care. It's the perfect time to take a bath, put on a face mask, and practice deep breathing.

This is a great time to work on finding and building the best at home care routine, whether that be a twelve step Korean skin care treatment or just simply drinking daily tea.

However, don't forget that self care also includes mental health. Doing what makes you happy can make quarantine a lot more peaceful. Many individuals have taken up meditation and are reading fruitful self-help books.

Another silver lining to the outbreak of COVID-19-- communities are growing stronger. People are bonding and sympathizing. Communities have begun cheering for doctors/nurses, grocery store employees, and all other professionals who can't stay at home.

Sophomore Hyla Etame states that she is relieved that there is "Time to sleep and time to work on my novel."

Sophomore Charlotte Hopkins also shared how quarantine has benefitted her, commenting that she has "discovered Roblox and [many] fun new games."

Take this time for yourself and learn new things. It's very easy to get wrapped up on the news, and become overwhelmed with finding a routine. However, do not be afraid to reach out. There are many resources that the Burbank Unified School District is offering during this time to support students.

So, connect to friends, call your loved ones, and remember that we are all in this together.

AP Testing

By Alexandria White
Staff Writer

Announced on March 25th, for the first time ever, the College Board will allow students to take AP tests online from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. AP students will still get the opportunity to get the credit they've worked so hard for using the Board's online resources, such as live lectures and an option of three online test dates.

The tests themeselves were given last week, from May 11-15th, online.

The unprecedented chaos of the past two months is halting much of the world, and it has heavily affected education. Schools across the nation have closed, some for the year, and all have transferred to online instruction. With their more rigorous curriculum and preparation for the AP tests, advanced placement classes have even more challenging obstacles to overcome.

"Students remain eager to take AP Exams and to have a chance to earn credit and placement. We surveyed 18,000 AP students and 91% indicated they want to complete this important step, urging us not to cancel this opportunity they have been working toward," the Board says on their website.

Thus, the College Board has implemented free online learning resources to help students study for their upcoming tests. These resources mostly include live, online classes starting on March 25th, taught by AP teachers from around the world. The lessons are mostly review, and are on-demand to be accessed at any time, even after the classes have finished.

The College Board recognizes the heavy time restraints on the education community. The solutions they've created are designed to be simple and light-weight for both students and teachers. Face-to-face test administrations are not going to take place, instead replaced by an online free-response exam. The exam is 45 minutes, and there are two separate test dates for those who want to take the exam.

There was also an option to cancel at no charge whenever a student desires.

The College Board assures students they'll continue to support them in any way they can. "And while we encourage students to wait until closer to the test date to decide, any student already registered for an exam can choose to cancel at no charge," they say.

With all the havoc the past two months has been, it's difficult for everyone to figure out what exactly is going on with the future of the school year.

However, the College Board is doing the best they possibly can to help the students who have worked so hard to earn the credit they deserve.

Even More Quarantine Positives

By Destiny Helligar
Staff Writer

Even though we have been struggling with the quarantine that was brought on by COVID-19, there have been some positive effects on the world around us.

There has been a decline in nitrogen dioxide emissions. The lower nitrogen dioxide emissions can be accredited to the slowed and halted factory productions, less planes in the sky, and fewer cars on the road. The lowered emissions have saved the lives of many young children and elderly citizens in China.

In northern Italy, canals have been the clearest they have been in a long time. Since there was little to no foot traffic in those areas, the sediment in the water began to settle allowing fish to return.

Over the years America has lost respect for serious experts like Professors and Scientist. Due to the current circumstances America has begun to put more faith in these serious experts than they have in years past.

People are also beginning to reduce the amount of money they spend on non-essential items. Since there is a high demand for essential items people have begun to spend less money on items that are not essential to their survival. Since there aren't many places we can go people have been showing more appreciation for things that they once took for granted. People seem to have more appreciation for schools, parks, places of work, and nature than they did before.

Caring for personal property, taking up new hobbies, caring for yourself, improving talents, and improving other aspects of one's life have become increasingly popular amongst people who are in quarantine. This has also contributed to people showing more appreciation for things that were taken for granted before.

Since people cannot travel long distances to see their friends and family, saying hello and conversing with neighbors from a safe distance has also been occuring more often than it normally would. These newfound acquaintanceships have been adding to a friendly community vibe in certain areas.

Even though we are going through a troublesome time there are ways to stay positive. Continue to stay safe and social distance.

Desperate Times, Digital Measures

By Alexandria White
Staff Writer

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, many things are changing, including end-of-year activities like prom and Senior trips. We're losing opportunities and experiences that we assumed were always guaranteed to us. One of these luxuries we're doing without this year is prom.

However, digital solutions are slowly being put into effect across the nation and here in Burbank. Senior year is very important to many of America's youth, especially the second semester. Senior prom is regaled in tales all throughout adult life. Funny stories, sad stories; it doesn't matter. It's a very formative night for all involved. So how do Seniors feel about losing such an important night? And what is the school district doing to make it up to them?

One of the more worldwide solutions to this comes in the form of SGN Prom, a virtual prom hosted by John Krasinski, on his newly-formed "Some Good News" YouTube series. He invited on stars like Billie Eilish, Chance, and the Jonas Brothers to perform for the night. Any high school Juniors or Seniors could attend as long as they dressed up. It was a delightful night, and excited thanks from attendees continue to pour in on social media to "The Office" actor.

More than 214,000 people attended, and many Seniors managed to truly have a night they won't forget.

Now, what about Burbank? What if you couldn't or didn't attend SGN Prom? What is our school district doing personally to make up for this loss? Well, because of the uncertainty of how long quarantine will last, or how long after it we'll need to social distance, Matt Hill, superintendent, and the board of education in Burbank aren't sure. Governor Newsom said on April 14th, "The prospect of mass gatherings is negligible at best until we get to herd immunity and get to a vaccine. So large-scale events that bring in hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands of strangers… is not in the cards for June, July, and August."

It seems like with this order, a prom and other end-of-year activities won't be possible this year. Superintendent Matt Hill sent out an email on April 16th with this information, and gave a statement saying, "While we still want to have in-person end of year events, we will need to wait and see when we are allowed to have those events and what the restrictions will be for our students and families. In the meantime, school sites are working on creating virtual end of year events to celebrate the accomplishments of our students." He states that principals will be communicating the information regarding this and specific schools in the coming weeks.

Hill linked an article from Thrive Global written by a grief therapist about the loss of high school experiences. Jill A. Johnson-Young explains how she understands the grief and hardship Seniors are going through at this time in not receiving their graduation or prom. They've gotten their high school experiences cut unexpectedly short. It truly is a loss, and there truly will be grieving involved.

However, there's hope for the future. We're lucky we live in today's times, where things like virtual prom are possible.

And after this is all over and done with, perhaps the class of 2020 will get a chance to make up for what they've lost.

Hold on, Seniors! There are greener pastures ahead.

Zoom Meetings

By Scarlette Curiel
Staff Writer

Due to the Coronavirus, the lives of students across the world have drastically changed.

Students are no longer able to attend school and are forced to do online schooling.

The way teachers are able to assign work to their students is by posting them on Google Classroom. But nothing is going to change the fact that online schooling is way more difficult than physically going to school.

There are so many advantages to actually going to school and there are many disadvantages to having online school. For example, if you are working in class and have a question, you are able to raise your hand and have a conversation with your teacher about your question, but what are you supposed to do now if you have a question while working on your homework from home?

That is when Zoom comes in and saves the day. Zoom was created about nine years ago and it is progressively getting more popular because of the Coronavirus.

Zoom is a video chat website where you can have a live meeting with as many people as you want. Basically, Zoom is a great way for teachers to connect with their students. Teachers can post when the meeting will be held on google classroom, and also post the zoom code as well.

Zoom meetings are the best way to talk to your teacher about any homework questions you have. It is also great if your teacher is offering help while you do homework.

Although some may find zoom meetings useful, others might think otherwise.

Tanya Castillo is a Junior at JBHS. She has done Zoom meetings for her English class with Ms. Permenter, for Pre-Calculus with Mrs. Balian, for AP Spanish with Señor Reyes, and for Anatomy with Mrs. Knoop.

"I don't like it for the most part because I feel awkward but it honestly helps with any questions we have about what we're learning," Castillo commented.

Senior at JBHS and she has done Zoom meetings with her AP Spanish class with Señor Reyes, as well with her AP Econ class with Ms. Hacker, and for her AP Literature class with Ms. Permenter. Suzy stated "I think it's a proactive way for teachers to connect with their students. But I don't think students are any more motivated to do work."

Mickey Dighero a Freshman at JBHS has only done one Zoom meeting and it was with the Freshman on the JBHS Volleyball team. "We all enjoyed the Zoom meeting. It was full of laughs and I was pretty fun to be in."

Zoom meetings have been met with mixed feedback amongst the students at JBHS,

Althoough they cannot replace in-person help with homework or questions, zoom meetings allow for interpersonal communication with classmates, class discussion, social interaction, and the ability to recieve help from teachers.

Whether a fan of zoom or not, all can agree it is a useful resouce.

Ways To Help

By Elizabeth Surratt
Staff Writer

During this pandemic it can be very easy to stay at home and relax, but it is just as easy to go out and help your community in a safe way, not just by social distancing, but also by donating.

Many people have been rushing to local grocery stores to buy as much as they can, but sometimes it is hard to find everything that you need. The best alternative to that is shopping at local family owned shops and small businesses.

Not only are there better choices in food selections and toiletries but it helps out the owners in their mission to keep their businesses open during this pandemic.

Also this can help the controlled amount of people in an area by creating capacity limits.

Another great way to not only help out your community but reach outside of it is donating to blood drives.

Since the pandemic began people have stopped donating because of the fear of contracting the virus, which has stopped people in hospitals in need of blood from receiving it.

The option of donating is still at a huge demand and places like Children's Hospital, American Red Cross, YMCA of Burbank California, and the American Cancer Society are available to make appointments online to schedule dates for donating.

The hospitals have created safe and controlled environments so people can give blood safely by having scheduled appointments.

A good way to help and not have to leave the couch would be to order food ! It's that simple. Ordering food on popular delivery services like, Doordash, Uber Eats, Postmates and Grubhub can help out your communities in more ways than one.

When you order from restaurants it helps out the business you buy the food from as well as giving the deliverer their next paycheck. Some food services even give offers and deals to make food more affordable to their customers.

A kind and more direct way to help out your community can be as simple as picking up groceries for other neighbors on the next trip to the grocery store. Especially neighbors over the age of sixty-five, who are more likely to catch the virus. Doing this is a great way to lessen the masses of people who travel to the stores daily.

One of the biggest impacts that one can do is to donate money to service workers and the non profit organizations. Places like the YMCA use the money donated to them for good causes like providing food for unfortunate families and other people in need.

The biggest thing to remember is that we are all in this together and only when we help each other out can we stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Social Distance Learning

By Olivia Ronstadt
Staff Writer

Sadly Seniors have experienced their last day of high school without even knowing it was, as Prom, Graduation, and Grad Nite have been canceled.

However, classes still remain mandatory and students will be receiving a pass/fail grade at the end of the semester depending on their completion of the assignments.

Most teachers follow a normal routine by assigning all the work on Monday and having it be due on Friday.

Most assignments have been a lot less vigorous than normal, however there is an obvious lack of motivation due to the circumstances.

Senior Emma Grill says "I don't have motivation to do the work at all even though there is nothing better to do."

Teachers have gotten more creative in the ways of online learning by assigning assignments they normally wouldn't.

However, many teachers are new to the online classroom world and are still adjusting to the new teaching.

The online classes are not only easier than regular school, but are also a lot less time consuming. The students can complete all the assignments in one day.

Senior Paige Good states "The teachers have been getting more creative with their assignments and the workload has been a lot less stressful." Teachers have been assigning any new interesting things from blackout poetry to listening to podcasts.

Although online learning is a blessing in some ways, many AP students are worried about upcoming AP tests with online classes.

Senior Emma Grill states "I'm nervous about the new AP tests because there are only one to two questions on it so it increases the stress."

Junior Emily Rohan states "Our AP tests are being moved to online testing, and it's very interesting because the length of the test is shorter, but the questions' difficulty is going to be a lot harder."

AP students are also worried about the effect the new online learning will have on their scores since they can no longer have study groups or conversations with their teachers. In addition to this, students don't have access to the same resources that they did at school so it will be interesting to see how the AP tests pan out.

Although online classes are easier, many students are still upset about not being able to go to school.

Senior Paige Good says "I am very upset that my Senior year was cut short, these last few months were when Senior year was supposed to be getting fun and we would have the opportunity to celebrate our achievements of the last twelve years. I genuinely enjoyed attending school this year because of my classes and teachers and this entire situation is very disappointing."

Overall, distance learning has been bittersweet as it is a lot less stressful however students would rather have their Senior year back more than anything.

Tiger Breeding: Good or Bad?

By Trinity Vournas
Staff Writer

Since its release date on March 20, 2020, *Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness* has been one of the most acknowledged, yet controversial documentaries aired on Netflix.

Within only 10 days of its initial release, *Tiger King* has attracted 34 million viewers, which is still growing to this day.

A bonus episode with new interviews was even aired on April 12, 2020.

The first two weeks the series became available on Netflix, it landed the number one hot spot for most popular shows and it was trending on all platforms. As memes were made and songs were created, everyone was watching *Tiger King*.

With the current pandemic going on and the closing of schools people have found themselves watching more series and movies than usual. If students aren't doing homework, they will most likely be on their phones or television watching what's trending.

Take Seniors Brian Garcia and Matthew Ziegler for example. They both binged watched the series within two days because of the new downtime in quarantine.

While Matthew Ziegler noted that, "it was an amazing watch, and every episode left [him] wanting more," Brian Garcia says that "he now wants to pursue a career in tiger training." This show has impacted lives!

The crime-docu series follows Joe Exotic, a former zoo owner and convicted felon as he not only runs for both the President of the United States, but the Governor of Oklahoma. He also hires a hitman to kill his nemesis Carole Baskin, all while running his zoo, Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park. There are so many plot twists, and interesting characters in this series, it's quite difficult to stop watching.

With all of the insanity going on in the show, viewers lose touch of one of the most important aspects, the tigers. A huge debate has surfaced on whether tiger breeding is good or bad.

Intention is where that decision can be made. An argument that tiger-breeders make, to justify their actions, is that they are saving the species. Because tigers are endangered in the wild, they need to keep breeding more in captivity. The problem with this is that these tigers that they are breeding do not have it in their genes to actually survive in the wild where they actually belong. These tigers are bred so people can take pictures with the cubs and bring in an immense amount of profit.

Unfortunately, a lot of these Tiger Farms are breeding tigers for the profit only, rather than conserving the species. This isn't just an issue in the United States either, farms like this have escalated rapidly throughout East and Southeast Asia.

Hopefully when people watch Tiger King, they can look more at the tigers and gain some empathy to how they are treated in these zoos.

The B.U.S.D Food Distribution

By Sophia Rosas
Staff Writer

Recently, the United States and many other countries have gone into a self-quarantine and have closed things down left and right due to Covid-19.

Schools have been closed for the rest of the year, restaurants are only available for takeout, movie theaters are closed and many more business are shut down, and some are going out of business for good.

The only places that remain open are essential businesses like supermarkets and hospitals.

Covid-19 has caused millions of people to file for unemployment because their business couldn't afford to pay them or they weren't essential workers. The virus has left people who live check to check feeling defenseless wondering how they're going to pay their rent, bills or how they are going to feed their families.

For the families in need, the Burbank Unified School District Food and Nutrition Services has set up a food distribution system.

The food services will contain a 5-days worth supply of breakfast and lunch items.

On Wednesday March 18th, all of the students on the Free & Reduced Meal Program became eligible to get their food. The students did not have to be with their parents if they wanted to get the meal packages.

The times and locations for the food distribution program are Luther Burbank Middle School from 9:00 a.m to 11:00 a.m and 4:30 p.m to 5:30 p.m, Jordan Middle School is from 11:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m, and lastly Burbank High School is from 2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m. The last day families will be eligible to get the food package is May 20, 2020.

Since Burbank is a smaller city having different food distribution areas makes sure there aren't people waiting in lines for hours on end with thousands of people waiting for the same thing and at the end of the day not being able to get it.

Many people hope coronavirus ends soon so that they can go back to work and support their families because this is a scary time financially and for health.

Burbank doesn't have immediate plans for next semester, but will probably have a similar set up if quarantine continues into the fall of 2020. Keep updated at www.burbankusd.org

How the Atmosphere has improved during Quarantine

By Lindsey Garcia
Staff Writer

The coronavirus epidemic is first and foremost an issue of human health and safety, but as people have changed their everyday behaviors and patterns to contain or avoid the virus, there have been some subtle effects on the environment.

In February, air quality researches from NASA reported that there was a dramatic drop in nitrogen dioxide emissions coming from China, especially from Hubei province — the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic.

China isn't alone. Photos from Venice, Italy show that the water clarity has drastically improved as thousands of boats stay docked amid the country's drastic quarantine measures. Even in America, there has been a decrease in areas with moderate air pollution in recent months.

"This isn't that surprising because we know vehicles are one of the main sources of our atmosphere problems, so when the source is 'turned off,' the atmosphere will get better," commented Miguel Cruz Vargas, Freshman at John Burroughs about the atmospheric improvements.

Airplane flights have also decreased by 70% since the beginning of the social distancing. Although airplanes only contribute to 4% of the carbon emission problem, the change is still an improvement for the atmosphere.

It will take time for scientists to sort out how much of the variations in NO2 levels in 2020 are from corona-virus-related changes in human activities, such as reduced driving, compared to changes in weather patterns. However, data NASA has released suggests that the human Senior Signal during this pandemic is significant.

However these changes could easily be wiped out by efforts to quickly ramp up economies, including governments around the world that may be more willing to relax regulations to jump-start companies. There has also been quite a good amount of people that have been protesting the social distancing as well.

Although the atmosphere has been improving greatly because of the start of social distancing, the improvements will most likely come to a quick end with people in a rush to get back to their normal lives.

UC and CSU Schools Removes Testing Requirements

By Georgie Hallbach
Staff Writer

Due to the novel Coronavirus, all UC and CSU schools have removed their SAT/ACT requirements for current Juniors applying to enter in Fall 2021.

This news comes to the relief of many John Burroughs students who were struggling to complete their requirements. The College Board cancelled tests for May 2, 2020 and June 6, 2020. The April ACT was cancelled as well.

These cancellations were worrying to current Juniors who would have little time to complete applications and test in time to submit applications to colleges this fall. Many Juniors had not even scheduled their SAT or ACT when the Coronavirus interrupted testing.

The College Board has said that, if possible and safe, they will, "provide weekend SAT administrations every month through the end of the calendar year, beginning in August."

The University of California school system announced on April 1, 2020 that they would be removing the requirements for Juniors applying for Fall 2021, or Spring 2022.

The news was calming to many Californiah high schoolers; the UC system is a flagship for students here, over 180,000 first year students apply to " at least one UC school", according to University of California.

Indeed, the number of high schoolers applying to UC schools is increasing every year. The schools provide exemplary education and offer reduced in-state tuition; they are a top choice for many students at John Burroughs.

California State Universities followed UC schools on April 20, saying that they will waive testing requirements. Chancellor of CSU schools, Timothy White, said the announcement "should provide some measure of relief to prospective students and their families."

Some JBHS Juniors were relieved when they heard the news. Tiffany Rodriguez, a Junior, said, "I was wondering when I would take my SAT before school closed because I hadn't signed up for one yet. But after this news came out I was so relieved because it is going to make applying so much easier for me."

But she also feels bad for her Senior friends, who didn't have optional testing: "it put this graduating class at a disadvantage."

Not all were as relieved as Tiffany, Roberto Romero a Junior said he "wasn't even planning on taking the SAT."

Not all JBHS Juniors had decided to take the SAT but for the ones who did and now don't have to, they regard this news with gratitude.

It's not just UC and CSU schools that decided to waive testing this year. Loyola Marymount University, located on the coast of SoCal, will not require test scores, neither will Tulane in New Orleans, Virginia Tech, or University of Oregon.

Some institutions have decided to waive the SAT/ACT not just for those applying in Fall 2020, but for future applicants as well. Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania has called off test requirements for two years.

Making College Decisions For The Fall of 2020

By Ava Kramer
Sports Editor

Everyone's scrambling to get their lives, jobs and other responsibilities in order right now as this global pandemic continues to sweep the nation. The coronavirus fell as a heavy burden on most people these past couple months and, unfortunately, came at a rather inopportune time for both college admissions teams and students alike.

On top of all the canceled events and Senior goodbye's the class of 2020 will be missing, now some of those same Seniors don't know what to do about college. The epidemic struck the U.S. at around the same time college admission letters were coming out.

However, now that all gatherings are shut down, students aren't able to visit the college's they've developed an interest in. Instead admission's teams are frantically developing online tours and outlets for these students to get information and testimony from alumni and staff. But, is it enough?

Many Seniors are struggling to come up with a definitive decision on which college they'll attend in the fall because many schools have yet to come out with any definitive schedule. That is, are college's even going to start school online, or are we all going to be paying thousands of dollars to talk to our professors over Zoom. The definitive answer is, it depends.

The truth is we don't know what's going to happen in the next few months and these circumstances will be different for each school. Boston University for example, was the first school to announce they will be starting their fall semester later than usual. But, a lot of other colleges have yet to make a definitive announcement.

From personal experience, I know it's hard. I know many students who have worked for years to get into the college of their dreams who now don't know if they'll be able to attend in the fall. I got into my top choice school, but now I'm completely on the fence about going because I don't think I can take on the financial burden of putting myself through college to just work online. Not to mention the sacrifice's I'll have to make to pay knowing I won't be able to get a job to compensate anytime soon and I know so many people in this same position.

"It feels like it was all for nothing. All those nights were a waste, all the AP classes," Niamh Heatherington, a Senior at JBHS said when asked about the college situation.

However, I think that many college's know this and are probably coming up with plans and financial statements to really get this situation under control. That being said, it is still infuriating.

But, there's a bright side to all this that I encourage whoever's reading this to pursue. Yes, we may not know what the future holds in terms of schooling, yes, we aren't being guaranteed the schooling we worked so hard for and that sucks. However, that doesn't mean that you have to give up on your dreams. I know it's corny, but it's true.

College is a stepping stone, not the other side of the stream; it isn't the goal. If you want to be a filmmaker, make a short film, if you want to be a writer, write a book, video game designer, design a game, race car driver, I mean there's no one on the road right now.

We have all the time in the world.

Seniors Unable to say Farewell

By Jules Talley
Staff Writer

For most people, the last few months of their Senior year is what made it the best year of their lives. Not so much for the class of 2020. The class of nearly 700 students have been filled with the disappointment of having their Grad Nite, Prom, and Graduation taken away, leaving them unable to say goodbye to their best friends.

Aside from regular FaceTime calls or group House Party sleepovers, no one really knows when the class of 2020 will be able to see their friends in person. Some of the students will be leaving for college in the fall and, depending on when quarantine ends, won't be able to see them again in person until their winter break.

Brenda DeDios, a reflecting Senior, says, "It's sad that we had to end on such a bad note. Not being able to spend the last few high school moments with my friends before we all part is truly devastating. I hope this is over soon and that everyone is doing their part, no matter how small."

Along with best friends, classmates are also concerned with not being able to see their class friends; the ones that made every day of class bearable. The class friends are usually the friends that know everything that's going on in your life, yet you don't really see each other during the day other than the class you share.

Catherine Garcia, a Senior says, "I'm really sad not to be able to say goodbye to my class friends, because even though we did not really hang out after school, they still made my day and made my classes more fun. I know we'll probably lose touch over the years, but I'll always have the memories in my heart."

Almost all Seniors did not say goodbye to their peers when they were told not to come back to school on March 13th, and most of them figured we'd come back to school in no time. Now, the only time they'd see these peers is in passing at a grocery store in a few years when they're home from college, or maybe even at the ten year reunion. As sad as it is, it's a reality that the class of 2020 will have to face.

Genesis Campos says, "Knowing that I can't give a final goodbye to the hallways that I walked for four years and the teachers and friends I had acquired during that time, really and genuinely bums me out. There is no second chance at it, and that's going to take time for that to set in."

Asha Hickman, a Senior at Blair high school says, "At my school we had early votes for Prom Queen and King, and I was in first place by twenty votes. I was literally going to be Prom Queen and that got taken away from me. It really just… sucks. That's the only word for it. It sucks."

Hopefully things begin to look up for our Seniors soon. Even if they do not get the opportunity to experience the end of their high school career normally, they surely will go down in history as being the only Senior class to graduate through a pandemic.

Stay Strong Seniors!

Online Graduation

By Daniella Gray
Staff Writer

March 13 started off as any other day but little did we know it would be our last time at John Burroughs High School, as a student anyway.

The best four years of our lives have ended and we never got the chance to say goodbye.

The class of 2020 has worked the last twelve years of their lives for a graduation. It is beyond belief that a pandemic that is sweeping the world ,and will change the rest of our lives, has caught us at one of the most important times of a teenager's life.

Due to Covid-19 class of 2020 will not be getting their right of passage to honor them. Instead they will be getting a virtual graduation ceremony.

Each student in the senior class was asked to submit a 10 second video thanking their parents and teachers.

There is also going to be an unofficial car parade around the school, that many students are planning to particpate in, where their parents will drive one last time around the campus with them. Teachers are planning to hold signs, safely distanced apart, on the sidewalks.

While this is a missed milestone, it is understood that this is the best form of commencement due to the circumstances.

Girls Varsity Basketball player Hana Savola mentions "I feel we got robbed of something that we have been working so hard for, for the last twelve years. We had gotten to watch the classes before us graduate and it left me to imagine that when the time came the class of 2020 was going to have a special and memorable experience. But now we will have no memory of it all."

History has caught the class of 2020. We will never have the same privilege as every other class that has graduated before us. The faculty and administration has done their best to make the seniors feel remembered.

Carlie Peltier, Varsity Cheerleader, states "I appreciate the effort that all the staff and teachers are putting in to help make us feel appreciated."

In this unforsaken time it is best that we try to move on from this and help shine a light into the world.

To the generation that was born during 9/11 and is graduating during a pandemic, congrats to the class of 2020!

Chicago was a Showstopper

By Arya Desai
Feature Editor

On February 7th, 8th, and 9th, the JBHS Drama program, along with help from the JBHS VMA and IMA, put on its version of the smash hit, *Chicago*, in the JBHS auditorium; although the program puts on successful musicals each year, this left audiences with a little something extra---jazz!

The story of *Chicago* follows the shenanigans of the ambitious and star-crazed Roxie Hart, played by Senior Jordyn Holt, as she navigates her way to the top amongst a world of liquor and jazz in 1920's Chicago. Ms. Hart commits murder one night, amidst an altercation with her lover, Fred Casely, and finds herself in prison.

All the while, fellow murderess, cabaret diva, and rival to Roxie Hart, Velma Kelly, played by Senior Janina Colucci, shows off her moves in the songs like, "All That Jazz," "I Can't Do It Alone," and "When Velma Takes the Stand."

Along the way, Roxie also meets the merry murderesses, Mama Morton, and backhanded lawyer, Billy Flynn.

In the end, through a series of tricks and hilarious public stunts, the two women are freed and dance into their bedazzled sunset with, "Hot Honey Rag."

Coupled with the phenomenal performances from the entire cast, the combo band's presence on stage, flashy outfits, and advanced dance execution only added to the "Razzle Dazzle" of it all!

Senior Janina Colucci comments on her rewarding experience becoming character Velma Kelly (who was always a dream role for her).

"Being able to slip into Velma was a dream come true," Ms. Colucci exclaims,"I've always loved expressing my true self on stage and with Velma I could do that… She's fiery, feisty, and fun, allowing me to... give it my all"!

However, with such a difficult role comes challenge. "The hardest part was making my performance authentic...I really needed to focus on how I came across to the audience," Janina Colucci explains. After watching the play, the extraordinary amount of effort gone into her performance shows. Senior Jordyn Holt, who plays lead, Roxie Hart, praises her co-star: "[Janina] is not only incredibly talented, but such a blast to work with".

In the same vein, Ms. Holt recognizes those who worked hard on the behind-the-scenes of the production, "It was so awesome to uncover the different layers of the vaudevillian star with the help of Mr. Myers and our awesome student producers, Amanda Sanchez and Ariana Kretz."

Ms. Holt herself is worthy of praise, her comedic execution and endearing portrayal of Roxie Hart captured the hearts of the audience each night!

For some, the moment is bittersweet. As Senior Eli Staub (a.k.a. Billy Flynn) puts it, "doing my final musical with a lot of my closest friends has been a lot of fun."

As to his character, Mr. Staub is grateful. "I've never played a character this cruel, but also so entertaining---and iconic."

With record-breaking box office sales, Chicago will go down in JBHS history as yet another masterful display of both the talented students at the school, and well-structured arts program.

Burbank's Chandler Bikeway to be Extended Soon

By Lindsey Garcia
Staff Writer

The Burbank City Council approved on Tuesday the twenty-fifth of February to extend the Chandler Bikeway by about half a mile to reach the downtown Burbank Metrolink station and the Burbank Channel Bikeway, which is under construction.

The Chandler Bikeway runs between lanes of traffic on Chandler Boulevard, as the path goes through Burbank, the view shows neighboring shops, homes, and plants.

Currently Chandler Bikeway is two miles, running from Mariposa Street to the City border at Clybourn Avenue.

The Burbank City Council voted 4-0 on Tuesday to approve a roughly half-mile extension of the Chandler Bikeway that will connect to the downtown Burbank Metrolink station.

The project is estimated to cost about $3.3 million and will be funded by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Although it is a rather short extension of the Chandler Bikeway, the construction of the project is expected to take about at least four and a half years, possibly more.

The bikeway extension will begin on Chandler Boulevard and will be divided into several segments. The separate segments can also be very beneficial to kids who ride their bike to school or walk to school, making their trip safer.

The first segment will stretch along Chandler from Mariposa to Lomita streets, at which point the existing bikeway will be extended toward Lomita.

From there, the bike path will turn onto Victory Boulevard toward Cypress Avenue, where the city will build a bikeway that will protect bicyclists.

The extension will then travel along Cypress toward the Burbank-Western Flood Control Channel and will connect to the Burbank Channel Bikeway, which is currently under construction. This segment is currently scheduled to be completed this year in July.

These new extensions can make the Chandler Bikeway a more accessible place for dog walks, jogs, and various other activities!

Armenian Genocide

By David Karagezyan
Sports Editor

The Armenian Genocide occcurred on April 24, 1915, and was a systematic execution of 1.5 million ethnic Armenians living in Turkey and the surrounding regions.

It is clear that the Armenian Genocide was a result of the Ottoman Empire's disdain for the Russians in the first World War, which they then used the Armenians as a scape goat for their hatred. They believed the Armenians were at fault for something they did not do.

The Turkish government as of today still refuses to acknowledge that it was a genocide, and until recently, went as far denying it ever even happened. As time progresses though, Turkey is being called upon to finally recognize their past actions.

Approximately thirty-two countries have recognized this as genocide, including most recently the United States by a bill sponsored by Congressman Adam Schiff, as well as countries as different as Russia, and Germany.

Running Presidential candidate Joe Biden has even vowed to recognize the Armenian Genocide once elected.

As a descendant of survivors of the Armenian Genocide, it is shocking to think that my people were on the brink of extinction. Not only were Armenian lives lost, but also their culture and heritage.

They would not have even made a recovery had they not joined the Soviet Union after being pushed out of their original homes. With an endangered population at the time, it is no surprise that the Armenian population today is only 2 million.

Every year on April 24th, Armenians and many other ethnic groups join together to commemorate all the lives lost the days of the genocide. Whether it be through a grim memorial, an emotional parade in the streets, or a celebration of life, the Armenians will never forget.

We came out stronger than ever and proved that resilience resides within us all.

Armenians worldwide will share their stories and will pass it down for generations.

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The Senior Signal
1920 W. Clark Ave
Burbank CA 91506
kylefitzgerald@burbankusd.org

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CTE Day

By Ellie Harris
Staff Writer

John Burroughs High School hosted the annual CTE day on February 20, 2020 in the big gym. The yearly event offers students the opportunity to check out possible college and job options once they graduate from John Burroughs.

Colleges such as California State University Northridge (CSUN) and Los Angeles Mission College provided students with information and brochures about their campuses. Cinema Make-Up School highlighted the various careers as makeup artists for film, television and fashion. Southwest Airlines introduced students to the numerous jobs available, from flying their planes to maintaining them.

However, it wasn't all business and academics. ETR, an organization whose goal is to promote health to both youth and adults, handed out "Relationship Surveys" so students could determine if their relationships are healthy or toxic. In addition, they handed out pamphlets promoting contraception.

Stough Canyon Nature Center and Burbank Animal Shelter advertised their volunteer programs, which if completed, increases a person's chance to be hired.

The U.S Armed Forces advertised the various jobs available for students interested in joining the military.

Assistant Principal Steven Hubbell chimed in saying, "It's great for you to get an idea of the real world and making a connection between what we learn and how to use it."

Junior, Olivia Salisbury commented, "I like CTE day. It gives me a chance to find colleges and careers I might not have otherwise considered."

Student, Avery Mochrie, a Junior noted, "I enjoy attending CTE day every year. It gives me a chance to seek out scholarships for Softball."

For many students, CTE is a great opportunity to see what the real world has to offer once they leave John Burroughs.

Dance

By Brooklin Bosco
Staff Writer

The JBHS Dance and All Male dance teams went into their third competition with passion and excitement, but didn't achieve all that they wanted.

Katie Morreale, head coach of both Dance Team and All Male, prepared both teams well for their third competition of the season. Assistant coaches Jordan Murray and Marc Miranda were also eager to see how the dances were going to do.

Head Captains Mailiya Coquia and Jayce Cicchino, and Co-Captains Fiona Crenshaw and Brooklin Bosco hope to keep the team motivated this season while adjusting to the new coach.

Senior Fiona Crenshaw said, "It is always hard having a new coach... However, I believe Coach Morreale has done a great job making the transition easy."

The All Male Head Captain is Joseph Galera, assisted by Co-Captains Sebastian Keane and Anton Juan.

Keane said that "This competition season has been going great so far… It is really amazing what we have accomplished this year."

The dance team's competition took place at Arlington High School on February 22nd. The day started with solos from Chris Palacio, Brooklin Bosco, Lucinda Kelman, Fiona Crenshaw, and Emily Hoffman. The JBHS Dance Team competed in three group dances: Small Hip Hop, then Small Contemporary, and lastly, Large Hip Hop.

All Male competed in two group numbers: Small All Male and Large All Male.

Once the dances were done both teams nervously awaited awards. Junior Lucinda Kelamansaid that waiting for "awards always make[s] the team nervous. You practice for hours and hours, and it all comes down to two minutes on the floor in front of the judges. Winning is not everything but it is rewarding when we do place."

Overall, both teams placed well. Dance Team's Small Contemporary received third place and their Large Hip Hop came in second place.

All Male won first place with their Large All Male as well as their Small All Male groups, which also took home first place! Their Large All Male group remains undefeated.

Lexi Seale, a Junior and three-year member of JBHS Dance Team said that "Not placing how we want it is always disappointing. We work so hard and it really a make it or break it moment when you step out on the floor. However, things like this just fuel the fire and motivate the team to work harder."

Both All Male and the JBHS Dance Team are striving to Disco their way to a Grand Champs title.