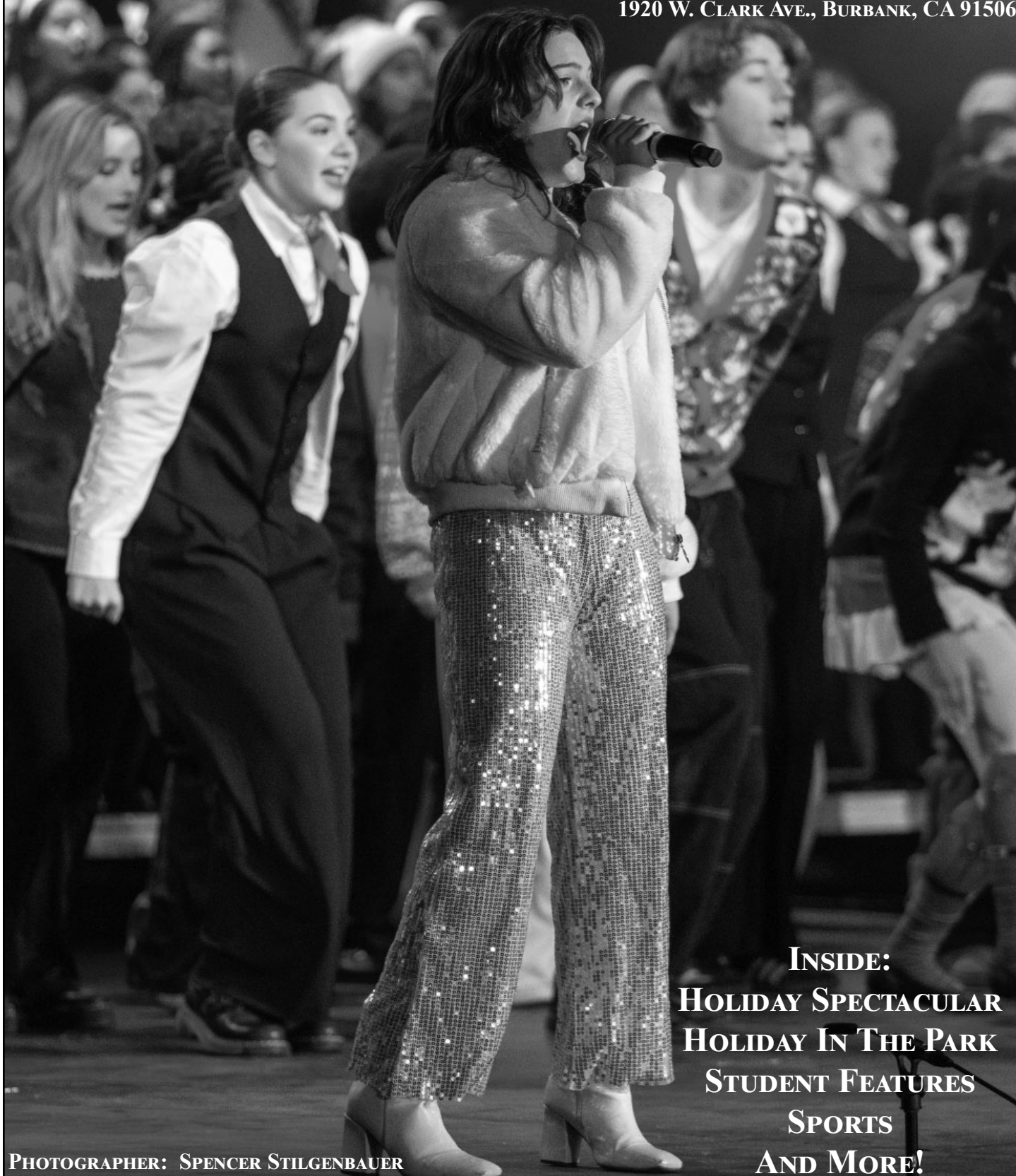


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STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF JOHN BURROUGHS HIGH SCHOOL
1920 W. CLARK AVE., BURBANK, CA 91506



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PHOTOGRAPHER: SPENCER STILGENBAUER

HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR 2024: AT THE MOVIES

BY JAYDA LARA TRAN
CUB REPORTER

On December 13, 2024, John Burroughs VMA held its annual Holiday Spectacular featuring all four choirs, Men@Work, IMA, Dance Pro, and Drama. This show is a little different since it includes all the performing arts compared to other shows where they are separate. This year's theme was movies. Many songs and scenes were included from Holiday movies like *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *The Miracle on 34th Street*, *The Polar Express*, and many others.

While this show was only a one-weekend offer unlike Burroughs on Broadway, all Burroughs students were given the chance to watch a few pieces from the show during school on the opening day. Many kids said they enjoyed being able to do this and saw this as a nice break from any upcoming finals. Being able to see your classmates and friends onstage and see all the hard work and dedication they put into performing is a memorable experience.

The show opened with a piece from band titled "The Christmas Festival" and during the second number, Dance Pro joined them on stage with remarkable performances and found a way to fit each song's theme perfectly. For the third number, choir made their first appearance in the show with Powerhouse and Sound Waves singing "The Chanukah Song (We are Light)." The combination of these two choirs highlighted the talent that all levels of choir carry. The first solo was in the fourth number performed by Powerhouse

Senior, Jhanessa Equila singing the classic, "Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas" leaving the audience in awe of her sweet-sounding voice. That was then followed by Decibelles performing "Cold December Flies Away" which showed the great amount of confidence they've made over time followed by the band doing a few selections from *Harry Potter*. We then got to see Sound Sensations' remarkable hard work as they performed "Vuelie" from the Disney movie *Frozen*. There was then a flawless transition into Men@Work join-



PHOTOGRAPHER: JAYDA LARA TRAN



PHOTOGRAPHER: SPENCER STILGENBAUER

selected from *A Charlie Brown Christmas* put on by Isabelle Ng and Mia Arias on a smaller stage in the audience which is another fun addition that allows the audience to be more immersed into the scenes.

After Powerhouse and Sound Sensations were back on stage accompanied by Dance Pro, performing "Song for a Winter's Night." For the last number of Act 1, Decibelles, Soundwaves, and Band joined Powerhouse and Sound Sensations to finish off the act with the song, "Believe."

Following Intermission, we were brought back into a festive state of mind with Soloists Silas Schulz, Evan Lanier, Sadie Beal, Maddie Grossnickle, Alani Machala, Rose Hemingway, Athena Pichardo, Evan Baker, and Barlow Krikorian, singing "Happy Holiday" with Dance Pro and Jazz Band.

Dressed in white and blue, Decis performed "A Winter Blast," also giving the combo band their time to shine. Then we were given a stage full of cheetah print with Dance Pro and the Muses ensemble performing "Cheetah-Licious Christmas" by the Cheetah Girls.

In the following number, we got a humorous scene from Drama by Lila Stobes and Isola Serena reenacting the leg lamp scene from the 1980s film, *A Christmas Story*.

Sound Waves opened their number with an impressive solo from Arin Ackerman, performing "All that Holiday Stuff," accompanied by the harmonies of Jazz band.

Drawn back to the smaller

ing them onstage singing "Frozen Heart" also from *Frozen*. This also marked Men@Work's first appearance in a show that semester. It was the number that gave us the switch from beautiful singing to choir's other element, dancing.

The Neochromatics ensemble then made a standout moment when they sang "White Christmas" which they also had the chance to perform on KTLA 5. Drama made its first appearance in the number after performing a short scene



PHOTOGRAPHER: SPENCER STILGENBAUER

HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR 2024: AT THE MOVIES

BY JAYDA LARA TRAN
CUB REPORTER

stage, Sienna Lay, Savana Lay, Ani Darbinian, James Cunha, Hratch Kitsinian, Tyson Osborne, Haylee Zilbert, and Jasper Jemison delivered “Holiday Road” while Dance Pro energized the audience on the main stage.

Next, the spotlight shifted to Rosalie Marmo giving a heartfelt solo to “Christmas Time Is Here,” delivering every note with emotion with a Saxophone solo from Jazz band’s Silas Hamernik.

We transitioned from choir to a dynamic performance of “Rudolph’s Mambo” by Dance Pro perfectly complemented by the Jazz Band.

Next, Sound Sensations took the stage with a lively performance of “The Trolley Song” from the musical *Meet Me in St. Louis* filling the audience with high energy.

Raquel Brogmus, Finn Robinson, Hratch Kitsinian, and Silas Schulz took a scene from “Miracle on 34th Street” to the main stage, showcasing their acting skills with a few Tech Crew members who also had their time in the spotlight, coming on stage to deliver some mailbags.

The amazing Powerhouse duo Eli Romsa and Cierra Arroyo

seamlessly made their way from the small stage to the main stage performing “Baby, It’s Cold Outside” with Dance Pro elevating the charm.

The rest of Powerhouse then joined Eli and Cierra onstage in their holiday sweaters to deliver a heartfelt performance of “SparkleJollyTwinkleJingle” from *Elf* with the Jazz Band.

Finally all the choirs came together on stage to sing and dance to “Joy to the World” showcasing the talent and unity of them all with soloists Lana Dadekian, Georgia



PHOTOGRAPHER: SPENCER STILGENBAUER

Dadekian, and Noel Mason.

Finishing off the show strong, Alumni were invited on stage to perform the annual “Silent Night.” Senior, Jasmine Dobie, had the honor to lead the song delivering a powerful performance and even leaving some people in tears. It filled the auditorium with their collective voices and created a memorable moment for all.

Once again we were blessed to be able to see amazing performances from all the performing arts programs at Burroughs that just went on to show how hard they all work. Everyone was able to leave the show with a sense of joy and holiday spirit.



PHOTOGRAPHER: SPENCER STILGENBAUER



PHOTOGRAPHER: SPENCER STILGENBAUER



PHOTOGRAPHER: SPENCER STILGENBAUER

COLLEGE PEER MENTOR FIELD TRIP

BY MELEyna MERINO
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

On November 23, John Burroughs High School College Peer Mentors had the privilege of visiting two colleges. One being a private institution Loyola Marymount University, located in Los Angeles, and UCLA located just thirty minutes away from LMU.

This was a great experience for the College Peer Mentors to be able to experience both colleges and give valuable advice and share their experiences to their mentees.

I am personally a College Peer Mentor and while attending both of these beautiful campuses I learned very valuable information. I am eager to share that information with my mentees.

At LMU, we were greeted with a student tour guide. LMU is a private Jesuit and Marymount research university. The campus is beautiful and they have their very own chapel on campus.

It is at a prime location, in the heart of Los Angeles, located near LAX. It also isn't a huge campus which might appeal more to students, as opposed to UCLA.

The class sizes are very small with many classes having about 8-10 students per class. Again, this could be really alluring to incoming freshmen who like to be more involved with the class.

With that being said, since they have smaller classes, students have the opportunity to have a close relationship with their professors. This can be great for students who want to work in the industry because they have an amazing arts program. They can provide actual work experience and maybe even provide you with internships and future jobs. LMU was a beautiful campus, and on the smaller side.

Now, shifting gears, let's talk about UCLA. UCLA is pretty opposite from LMU. For one, the campus being huge and its located

in the heart of Westwood.

Just right outside of campus the city life is bustling. There is so much to do and see just right outside of UCLA. It is definitely busier than LMU.

The campus is also huge with multiple dining areas. We got to experience the dining areas during lunch hours and it was pretty packed. There were also many food options right on campus from acai to sushi.

At UCLA everything seems pretty accessible and right at your fingertips. If students are more intrigued by the fast paced colleges and urban areas UCLA is definitely the place for them.

Not only does UCLA excel in their sports but also in academics as well. It is the number one public university in America! It is highly competitive with the acceptance rate being 8%.

Don't let that discourage you though. UCLA accepts a wide

range of students they feel they want to represent them.

STEM majors is something that is super prominent at UCLA. At UCLA there are a lot of people who aim to work in the medical field, but again not everything is about the major you choose.

Our tour guide gave us insight on people who don't really know what they want to do yet. She said about a third of people who were admitted to UCLA as incoming freshmen were undeclared.

So, again if you don't really know what you want to do yet, that is not a problem at UCLA, tons of kids get admitted and have not declared a major.

Both of these campuses have their strong suits. There were many differences amongst these two, and showcases the different types of campuses. If you have any questions, College Peer Mentors are always there to help you with all of your college needs.

CAL POLY POMONA ENGINEERING FIELD TRIP

BY CLOVER LEE
CUB REPORTER

One of the prominent engineering field trips recently was the visit to the California State Polytechnic University Pomona. On September 27, 2024, Engineering students from both John Burroughs and Burbank High went on a field trip to learn about engineering at the college.

Those attending were of every high school grade and the trip was free for those who signed up. Buses were provided for participants both ways. This trip consisted of visiting labs on the campus as well as touring the recreational center. They visited from 9AM to 3PM and were able to learn about the way the school works.

The students got to see some of the engineering college students at work in their labs during the tour. According to high school engineering students Reeve Bennett and Christopher Miguel, who went on the field trip, the best part was touring the liquid rocket fuel lab.

Those who went on the field trip have said that the trip to Cal

Poly Pomona was greatly helpful in understanding the advanced versions of engineering, specifically in higher education. Field trips like these can be a good way to familiarize students with future career options in careers and learning about things they enjoy.

Having the opportunity to tour schools in specialized fields is a great opportunity. For example, Cal Poly Pomona can encourage students interested in those topics to enroll and start their own journey as those scientists in the labs.

The trip was sponsored by the National Academy Foundation (NAF), which is involved in multiple programs here at school. They focus on cultivating curiosities in the form of a nonprofit organization. John Burroughs Engineering student Christopher Miguel has stated, "NAF has provided a lot of opportunities for students." These opportunities include sponsoring field trips for students in specific academic creative and scientific subjects.

This visit to Cal Poly Pomona was insightful for those visiting for

the first time and those who want to go into engineering in college. Trips like these ones will continue to enlighten young scientists and

innovators for years to come.

FRIENDSGIVING

BY ADANA TOROSSIAN
CUB REPORTER

On Friday, November 22nd, Link Crew held their annual Friendsgiving on the baseball diamond during lunch. Friendsgiving was a Freshman only event to spend time with your friends and Link Crew leaders, and it was a huge success.

Link Crew groups were assigned grid numbers, and each leader brought different foods and snacks. Foods and snacks that were available this year included pizza, pumpkin pie, all sorts of cookies and many more! Some leaders also brought drinks such as Capri-Suns, and Kool-Aid.

Students would show their student ID at the front gate of the baseball diamond, then were able to pick up some Thanksgiving themed headbands. Many people

attended.

Along with the food and friends, there were also many photo opportunities. One Link Crew leader was dressed in a blow up turkey costume that Freshmen could take pictures with. There was also a fall themed photo frame being passed around.

Students also had an opportunity to write down what they are thankful for on a turkey shaped post it note, and post it on a paper tree. Freshman Cristina Valdez says, "Friendsgiving was pretty fun. All the Link Crew leaders were passing out food, and the blow up turkey was cool."

Link Crew did an amazing job with Friendsgiving, and is doing a great job making the high school transition easier for the Freshmen. Awesome job Link Crew, we can't wait to see your next events.

BREAK-IN AT HOUSE OF SECRETS

By JACOB FELTS
CUB REPORTER

The House of Secrets was robbed! The local comic store on West Olive Ave. is one of the few brick-and-mortar comic book stores here in Burbank, California, and it was broken into recently on Wednesday, October 27.

"I just happened to be coming here," says Leland, the store's manager. "Early in the morning because I left my iPad. So I was coming back from the gym, stopped off, 7:50 is when the cops showed up. Apparently, from what we gather, is that some people walk their dog from around 6:00AM. There was no glass on the floor outside, and at 7:30 or 7:00 they found the glass, called the police, [and] I showed up at 7:50."

Leland was the first one of the store workers to find out about the situation. The robbery occurred in broad daylight, in the middle of the morning when church is usually in session. "No one paid attention, no one cared," he said. Because the glass door was broken, it was sealed with a wooden board for about 3 weeks, but just recently got a new glass door and sign up.

The shop's cameras unfortunately did not catch anything useful. Leland worried about the security of their insurance coverage

because the comics are essentially just paper. "The next time you come in this place is gonna look a little different," Leland joked about installing new security soon, "we're gonna get gates, and fences, and barbed wire, and whatever else we can get up."

A fair amount of books were taken, apparently more than \$20,000 worth, including a Mystery in Space #1 from 1951 that was in mint condition and was the most expensive item taken, and some key Fantastic Four issues, like the first appearance of the characters the Silver Surfer and Galactus. Most of the books taken were ones sealed in plastic, called slabs. All of the slabs were taken. No cash was taken, because there was none in the store for them to take at the time.

The store owners have been looking online for where their stolen goods could have gone, such as on eBay or swap meets. All of their information, they've turned over to the detective working with them. Any more help is appreciated.

When asked about why House of Secrets was targeted, Leland replied, "Who knows, easy picking? I mean, it sucks because we're a ma and pa store. You know, like if you're going to be a bad person, go rob someone who can afford it ...

Not that I want anyone to rob anybody, it's just that they can afford it and we can't."

The situation at this point has come to a calm, fortunately. House of Secrets was doing a GoFundMe for fundraising, and even though the store has thankfully met its goal, people are still able to donate. People can also support the store by, of course, buying books from

them. "The generosity of people in the community [is] going to help us build a stronger store ... because if we go out of business. We're the last store in the valley ... there's only a couple left." When asked about his favorite writers, Leland had to say "Tom Taylor's good. I like that guy."

SPANISH FIELD TRIP

By GILIANA MONTESDEOCA
CUB REPORTER

On November 19th, AP Spanish Literature and some Spanish speakers went on a field trip to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art! The field trip was led by tour guides there at the museum and by the Spanish teacher here at John Burroughs, Ms. Almanzar.

This field trip was free of charge for our students and was transported by bus. They left around 9:30AM and came back around 3:00PM. The ride there was 45 minutes long and they were there for a total of six hours. Around 11:00AM students were able to have free time and to have lunch while on their trip.

The meaning behind this field trip to the museum was to learn about the art that was made in 7000

BC and after. During the field trip students were able to fill out little notebooks that had sketches in them and to take notes of every art piece at the museum. Students got the opportunity to see the famous Urban Lights and take pictures.

Students found this field trip very interesting and helpful as it connects to what the students are learning in class and helps them understand and engage more with the subject.

Camila Key, Senior at John Burroughs High School, stated that "It was a lot of fun and helpful." She also stated that her favorite part was to see all the art pieces.

Overall this field trip helped students and found it very interesting and explored somewhere new and gained a new experience that will always last with them.

NATIONAL ACADEMY FOUNDATION FIELD TRIP

By GINGER SHORT
CUB REPORTER

Students of the National Academy Foundation (NAF) in the Medical Field took an on-campus field trip around the school and learned from college level medical students about pharmaceutical science.

The field trip took place from 2nd to 4th period, during which the students were in the library and Ms. Russon's, a health teacher here at Burroughs, room. Any student in the NAF Medical Field that was currently enrolled in the Medical Professions class was welcome to participate in the field trip.

The students were visited by a group of medical students specializing in pharmaceutical science from West Coast University. "This was unlike any field trip I've ever had," Medical NAF student Keria

Simon remarks, "instead of going to a destination, the presenters came to our school."

The presenters of West Coast University aimed to teach the NAF Medical students about life as a pharmacist and what responsibilities and skills they possess. Types of medication mixed through creams, tablets, and capsules were all covered along with the process of how certain medications are made.

The field trip consisted of mostly hands-on activities, including making mock medications from candy and hand lotion to emulate mixing compounds. Students went over how to mix a base, powder substance, leveling agent, and oil into a "medicated" cream that they even sealed and labeled like real medications.

Students also practiced measuring medications through the use of candy as a substitute for real pills, to which they counted and sorted into containers and sealed with a label. Keira Simon also recalls this activity as her favorite because, "[it] was satisfying, we also got to eat the candy if we wanted to."

Students ended the trip by taking each other's vitals with stethoscopes and blood pressure monitors, in order to practice with real medical equipment and terminology.

Field trips like these are vital for students who want to pursue a career in the medical field because they provide hands-on experience with daily tasks of future careers and expose students to the reality of how the medical world works.

The students also learned about

the different pathways they can take from high school into a pharmacist profession, including pre-med programs and trade schools. The presenters from West Coast University all came from different backgrounds and different starting points into their pharmacist careers.

Other common field trips for NAF students to learn about what types of careers they can go into based on their academy and interests include visiting Burbank Water and Power, local hospitals, and colleges.

At the end of the trip, the NAF Medical students said their good-byes to the West Coast University mentors and joined the rest of the school for lunch.

HOLIDAY IN THE PARK

BY AIDEN FRANCOEUR
CUB REPORTER

On Friday, November 22, from 5-9PM, Burbank hosted it's annual "Holiday in the Park," stretched across the beloved Magnolia Boulevard. Several small businesses such as Blast from the Past, Run Out Groove, Be Kind Video and more participated in the event, providing a memorable experience for all members of the Burbank community.

Like every year, the chunk of Magnolia Boulevard that stretches from North Buena Vista Street to North Hollywood Way was closed off by the Burbank Police Department, removing motor vehicle access which allowed for all visitors to not only walk along the sidewalk, but also the cleared out road. This newly "car-less" road had many exhibitors, advertising their contents through their booths and festive decorations.

Towering over the event, a large Ferris wheel sat parked in the UMe Credit Union's parking lot, open to any of those interested in a scenic look of Burbank. Towards the end of the night, the line for the attrac-



tion grew substantially, ultimately wrapping down around Fairview Street, seemingly going on, and on, and on. It is clear that the wheel will continue to be a favorite of the community, as it has been in the years prior.

As mentioned before, many locally owned businesses hosted special events or discounts to coincide with the festive occasion. One such business was Blast From The Past, a collectibles store located on 3117 Magnolia Blvd. For the event, they allowed each and every guest to spin a wheel, with the result of the spin designating a table in which guests could grab a free item. These items included posters, action figures, Funko Pops, t-shirts and more

collectibles that match the store's contents. Many visitors of Holiday in The Park lined up inside of the store hoping to score a good prize.

Any music lovers present were sure to have their hopes fulfilled, with a large selection of musical-related performances, stores and more. In terms of shopping possibilities, the local store "Run Out Groove Records" provided an uplifting atmosphere with their specially curated soundtrack, being played on exterior speakers. Like many businesses that night, Run Out Groove was packed full of interested customers, browsing the seemingly endless rows of records, searching for their perfect choice.

Regarding the other side of mu-

sic at Holiday in the Park, being live entertainment, a multitude of options was present for all visitors. A stage was set up near the end of the street next to Porto's, and several bands, artists and performing groups rotated throughout the night providing free entertainment to any of the many passing Burbank residents. A large crowd was maintained throughout the night, sure to have been filled with friends, family and any of those interested in the performances.

Last but not least, the John Burroughs High School community had a large presence in this annual Burbank event. Many of the previously mentioned bands and performing artists that were present at the event were JBHS students. Our fellow Bears also roamed the streets of the event, participating in activities, sales and more.

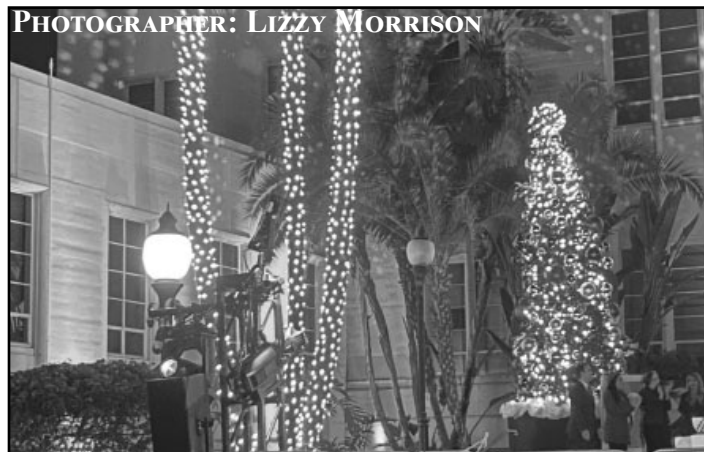
All in all, the annual "Holiday in The Park" event is one that has remained and will continue to be a staple in the social community of Burbank. The economic and social appeal that the yearly event brings is sure to further secure its place in the Burbank event calendar.

BURBANK TREE LIGHTING

BY LIZZY MORRISON
CUB REPORTER

The Burbank Holiday Tree Lighting event, held on the evening of December 7th, was a heartwarming celebration that brought the community together in a festive and joyful atmosphere. Families, friends, and neighbors gathered to witness the lighting of the dazzling holiday tree which stood as the radiant centerpiece for the event.

The two hosts of the event, Jonathan and Marry, introduced the guest appearances, Vice Mayor Perez and her family as well as multiple counsel members. The event was hosted by the Burbank organization Parks and Rec Department with the help of a Walt Disney sponsor and multiple volunteers. Other guests included, Congresswoman Laura Freeman and State Assembly elect Nick Shultz, who happened to be our previous mayor.



The lighting began with an adorable performance by the St. Robert Bellarmine Elementary school choir. They sang "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Winter Wonderland." Following them, the Fostering Dreams Project, a dance and education movement to youth in foster care, did a singing and dancing performance

to "Jingle Bell Rock" with fun flips and cartwheels added to the already dazzling performance.

Dolores Huerta Middle School also did a performance with some of the students in choir. They sang "The Carol of the Bells" and it was a lovely performance that had people applauding enthusiastically. The last performance was done by

Garri Dance Studio and it was a dance spectacular!

There was a shocking appearance of Santa Claus but sadly Mrs. Claus could not attend. He came in on a big, bright red firetruck decorated with Christmas lights and escorted by police motorcycles. The City Council offered Santa cookies and milk which he consumed with joy. He then stated, "Burbank is my favorite stop," which was very sweet of him.

The night would not be complete without the countdown to the wondrous tree that was lit up for all of Burbank to see. As the Dolores Huerta Choir sang in the background, the crowd began to count down and once they reached one, the tree and City Hall were lit up by dazzling lights. As the festivities came to a close, children and adults lined up to meet Santa and give him their Christmas wishes.

CHRISTMAS AT DISNEYLAND

BY HAILIE ALVAREZ
CUB REPORTER

Disneyland was definitely ready for the Holiday season and is one of the top parks to visit.

When walking into the Disney park you were greeted with the iconic 60 foot tree with many ornaments that have a special meaning to the park. There is garland and wreaths shaped as Mickey's head going from across the top of each building on Main Street. The castle was the real eye catcher with snow on top and lights all around including lights hanging to look like icicles. While the Castle looked good during the day, the magic came

alive at night when the Castle was at its fullest potential.

On Main Street at Candy Palace and Candy Kitchen for the Holidays they sold everything from different kinds of candy apples, peppermint bark and sugar cookies to their simple year round treats. The Candy Palace is famously known for their big candy cane measuring to around a foot tall. The candy cane is a soft candy cane made with a chalky type of consistency for guests to eat easier.

Another sweet treat that Disney is known for during the holiday season is the Mickey Gingerbread Cookie at Carnation Cafe. While

there were rumors that the cookie may have changed, the cookie was the same with a red bow in the middle to tie him together.

Later on into the day at 3:30PM, Disneyland hosted the Christmas Fantasy Parade with an assortment of Christmas songs to get everyone in the holiday spirit. The Parade included floats of Mickey and Minnie, *Toy Story*, *Frozen*, multiple Disney princesses and so much more. Also as the floats passed by there were dancers to fill in the space that was empty between floats.

To finish the night there were two shows back to back for people

to enjoy. The first show was Fantasmic! At 9:00PM with slight changes due to the burning of the Maleficent animatronic. The show was still able to wow the crowd and bring the magic to life. Then shortly followed by the fireworks at 9:30PM. The fireworks concluded with snow over Main Street and by Fantasmic! as well.

While many theme parks change their parks for Christmas time, Disneyland really wowed everyone with something for everyone to enjoy. Happy Holidays Bears!

BY AMBERLYN GRAJEDA
CUB REPORTER

This holiday season at Universal Studios Hollywood, park goers experienced Grinchmas, the perfect event to get them into the holiday spirit.

Grinchmas offered a wide variety of activities, including a tree lighting, story time with Cindy Lou Who, performances, opportunities to meet your favorite holiday characters, and other interactive experiences.

The Grinch, who is by far one of the most popular holiday characters, had the most visitors. Guests enjoyed being able to meet the Grinch and speak with him.

One park goer, Gemma Barlow, attended the event with her family. She explained, "I really enjoyed this Universal Studios Christmas event because it makes me look forward to the holidays. I enjoy spending time with my kids, and being able to meet the Grinch with them."

For some, this event brought back childhood memories of watching *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* with their families. Universal pass holder, Srehita Gandla, shared her opinion on the event. "I enjoyed the Grinch Christmas event at Universal Studios because it brings back memories from when I watched the movie with my family when I was younger."

The most memorable experi-



ence at this event was being able to meet Max, the Grinch's dog. You would expect Max to just be a person in a costume, but he was a real dog.

It was exciting for guests to have the opportunity to interact with Max and take a photo with him.

Marie Masson, a guest at Universal, said, "I found it so unique and cute that I got to meet Max, who was a real dog and not your average costume character."

Towards the end of the night, guests headed back to Whoville to watch the Wholiday Tree Lighting.

Christine Welling, a visitor at the park, describes the tree lighting as a unique experience. She explained, "I loved how the tree

UNIVERSAL GRINCHMAS

wasn't your typical Christmas tree. It reminded me a lot of Whoville with the curve at the top of the tree and the huge star at the top. It was a wonderful sight to see in person."

Overall, the Grinchmas event at Universal Studios Hollywood is something you don't want to miss. It's perfect for getting you and your family in the holiday spirit.

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URSA MAJOR HOROSCOPES

Aries (Mar.21- Apr.19): New opportunities will come your way this month, but balancing academics and social life will be key. Don't be afraid to take the lead in group projects as your energy will inspire others.

Taurus (Apr.20- May 20): January brings a focus on stability and routine, perfect for setting resolutions you'll actually keep. Lean into your practical side, but don't forget to treat yourself after a tough week.

Gemini (May 21- Jun.20): This month you'll find your curiosity pulling you in multiple directions. Embrace new hobbies or social events, but stay mindful of your responsibilities.

Cancer (Jun.21- Jul.22): You may feel more introspective this January, reflecting on personal goals and relationships. Use this time to recharge and build a strong emotional foundation for the new year.

Leo (Jul.23- Aug.22): Your confidence shines this month making it a fantastic time to share your ideas and take center stage. Just remember to listen as much as you share, collaboration will bring success.

Virgo (Aug.23- Sept.22): Mars is in Sagittarius motivating you to work hard on professional and personal goals, however it's important to mind balance. Organization is your element, and January offers the perfect chance to fine-tune your schedule. Stay grounded and avoid overcommitting, even when new opportunities arise.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct.22): Social connections are highlighted this month, bringing opportunities to make new friends and strengthen old ones. Keep balance though and don't be distracted from your priorities.

Scorpio (Oct.23- Nov.21): Passionate energy will fuel your goals this January, whether academic or personal. Channel your intensity wisely and don't be afraid to ask for help when needed.

Sagittarius (Nov.22- Dec.21): In January your adventurous spirit is calling but it is also time to keep focus on long-term goals. Keep dreaming big while staying grounded in your responsibilities.

Capricorn (Dec.22- Jan. 19): With the new year in your sign, this is your time to shine! Set ambitious goals and tackle them head on and your determination will pay off.

Aquarius (Jan.20- Feb.18): Creative ideas will flow this month making it a great time for brainstorming and collaboration. Don't hesitate to share your vision, it might lead to unexpected opportunities.

Pisces (Feb.19- Mar.20): You're feeling especially empathetic this month, which could strengthen the relationships around you. Just be sure to set boundaries to protect your energy while helping others.

- Julian Stevens, Cub Astrologer

CHRISTMAS AT DESCANSO GARDENS

BY FINCH MONROE
CUB REPORTER

Descanso Gardens, located at 1418 Descanso Dr., La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011, is a beautiful 150 acres of cultivated and wild land in the middle of a valley of mountains thousands of years in the making. There are many things to do at the gardens, as they host frequent holiday events, like Halloween events. But in December, they host the Enchanted Forest of Light event. An event where Christmas is the centerfold. This event is special to me and many others, having visited during the Christmas time growing up when we were younger, enjoying the light and the spirit all around. The event begins when the sun sets and the lights go up.

There are ten areas during the enchanted forest of light. With each of them being, Flower Power, Starlight Garden, Pixel Grove, Mulberry Pond, Symphony of Oaks, Fantasy Forest, Luminous Lawn, Ancient Forest, Special Sanctuary, and the Garden of Good fortune. Each of these areas hosts different



PHOTOGRAPHER: CLOVER LEE

themes and types of lights. It is also encouraged to dress warm when going to the event, as average temperatures in La Cañada during December after the sun sets are decently low. So it is encouraged by employees to dress in sweaters and to keep warm.

As well as enjoying the lights, there are plenty of places to enjoy drinks and food, with the first being the Enchanted Bar. The Enchanted Bar has standard drinks, wine, soda, water and my personal favorite, hot chocolate, but it also houses their own special drinks. Like the Frosted Juniper and the Midnight

Margarita. Not in the mood for any drinks? If you're more hungry then try the Grill Works. With dishes like the Grilled Cheese Burger Melt, an all beef patty with caramelized onions and American cheese on sourdough. As well as an impossible version of the sandwich with an Impossible Meat patty instead of real meat. Also with fries and tomato bisque. More of a sweet person? Then try Main Lawn Sweets, with delicious meals like apple cinnamon churros, and warm beignets. They also sell s'mores if you're feeling like campfire food. The main sweet is the Croffle, a

pressed warm croissant in a waffle iron with whipped cream, powdered sugar and a choice of Nutella, Chocolate sauce, caramel sauce or fruit compote.

The event ran every single night beginning at 5:30PM from December to January 5th, when the holiday season officially ended. As well as the lights, there are some works of art shown along the way as you make your way through the Enchanted Forest, such as the stained glass house. A small cabin made purely out of stained glass lit up from the inside as well as all the other spectacular lights around it. Photos at the event are also highly encouraged, even allowed to use tripods and selfie sticks, so if you're arriving with a group, photos will always be possible.

Descanso Gardens has been thousands of years in the making, and every event is worth visiting. But the Enchanted Forest of Light is an event cherished by all in the community of La Cañada. It's a place a lot of people have nostalgia for.

WILLOW CHAVEZ

BY JACK NOTHOMB
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The National Parent-Teacher Association Reflections Art Competition has come to an end for this year and one of the winner's is John Burroughs' own Willow Chavez. Her award came in the art competition in which she placed first for the amazing portrait.

The Reflections contest is yearly. It entails several different categories such as Film Production, Photography, Dance, Literature, Visual Arts, and Music. Each artist can submit each their of their own works for the category of their choosing.

The competition has been going on for five decades now and a wide variety of artists have entered and won.

According to the Burbank Council PTA the requirements for entry and the process of winning are as follows: "Artworks are submitted first to school-level PTAs, where they are first recognized, celebrated and judged by five grade-level divisions, while a non-judged Special Artists division celebrates student artists with special needs. School PTAs then choose a selection of entries to be judged by local PTA units, which are then sent on to councils and then districts for



consideration. The final artworks submitted to California State PTA by districts are then considered for Outstanding Interpretation, Awards of Excellence or Awards of Mer-

it. Outstanding Interpretation and Award of Excellence entries then go on to represent California in the final National PTA judging round."

Luckily for Burroughs one of our own, Willow Chavez, won. They entered in a self portrait in the art section and won first place for that.

When asked about their winnings Willow said, "My art teacher told me about the news, I felt really happy about it and I was really proud of myself for winning."

We here at the *Paw Print* congratulate Willow on their big win and can't wait to see more fantastic art in the feature.

HANNAH LEWIS

BY DAKOTA O'CONNELL
CUB REPORTER

Hannah Lewis, best known for her star leadership as Captain of the Girls Varsity Tennis team, is greatly underrated in her more artistic endeavors. She holds her talent high especially now after winning the PTA Visual Arts Award's display known as Reflections.

Lewis sent in her piece focused heavily on this year's theme "Accepting Imperfection." The seventeen year old explained that her initial draft was quite different from her final product.

"Originally I had wanted to put on a full make-up look then wipe



it away, to show the acceptance of a natural face or imperfections" Lewis explained. When asked about what she did instead, she went into detail about her careful use of lighting and "extended exposure" to create the piece.

The final product then ensnares its audience in a story of inner turmoil laced with a feeling of ca-

lamity all trapped in the bonds of the everyday that the rather calm silhouette holds over the most distressed phantom that haunts the picture's foreground.

When approached with a possible career in photography she took a moment or so to assess the idea. She implied that photography was more of a hobby than something she saw herself going into. As fun as the endeavor may be, her heart is set in a love for all things Marine Biology. Her heart is set in studying aquatic life, though she did remark that she was "open to doing underwater photography" in a possible compromise of her passions.

She thanks our Photography 2 Instructor Kara Clark, for pushing her to try this contest. Even if she didn't win Lewis is adamant that her teacher allowed her to achieve the recognition that came with entering the competition.

She later described her favorite photographer as Frédéric Chaubin, who she was first introduced to through the Photo 2 class.

Overall she describes receiving the award as "Shocked and surprised but ultimately grateful" giving a final thank you to her mother Angela Lewis in being a supportive pillar in all of Hannah's creative endeavors.

KEVIN GEORGELOS

BY NICO GAREDAKIS
CUB REPORTER

Among the winners of the PTA Reflections Art contest is Kevin Georgelos, who submitted his mosaic piece in the form of a stepping stone. Georgelos is a Senior at John Burroughs High School, and has been enrolled all four years. He is currently seventeen years old. Kevin is in Ms. Nakashima's Art class and has excelled in it so far.

He really enjoys Art class, especially because of Ms. Nakashima. His creative abilities and his passion for drawing and painting are what sets him apart from other students. It's also what makes Art easily his favorite subject. In terms



of Kevin's character, he is known as a very kind person with a talent

for being precise and a perfectionist especially when it comes to his work. He works well with others but also succeeds on his own.

Georgelos enjoys picking out his own colors and concepts for his art and he is most expressive when he has the freedom to do so. He likes making his own decisions about his art and thrives in an artistic environment.

While interviewing Kevin, it definitely seems like he has a positive attitude towards art and creating and enjoys anything involving being artistic. He has a lot of personality even while being soft spoken and was very enthusiastic when asked about Art class and

Ms. Nakashima.

He also likes other activities such as going to the beach and shopping at the mall. His favorite food is hot dogs which shows a certain level of bravery considering we don't know what kind of meat goes into the hot dog making process. He also likes spending his time watching movies, especially Christmas themed ones.

As for his plans for the future, his schooling is still undetermined. However, Kevin definitely wants to work at a pet shelter after high school. He has a love for animals and his sweet personality makes him suitable for this job.

MIMI BAYARJAVHLAN

BY ANIANA ADVINCULA
CUB REPORTER

This year, one of our very own John Burroughs High School students made a trip across the world. Naomi Bayarjavhlan (better known as “Mimi” by friends and family) is currently living in Tokyo, Japan as an exchange student for a school year abroad.

Bayarjavhlan, who is currently a Junior, first visited Japan in the Spring of 2023 as a Freshman to experience the culture and country beforehand. “There was a lot of preparation and planning before I went,” she reveals. “I’ve been working towards this since middle school” Bayarjavhlan answers when asked about the process of getting ready for Japan.

Prior to her departure, Bayarjavhlan had been taking dual enrollment Japanese language classes

to learn the language. “Of course it was difficult at first but overtime, I found myself understanding more and more of the language and tonalities.”

Bayarjavhlan left California in March 2024 for 10 months and is set to return in January 2025. Though she was initially scared about being in a new country with a different culture, she gradually got used to Japanese customs, participating in festivals, school life, and new extracurricular activities.

“One of the hardest challenges is the language barrier,” she admits. “Most of my classes were in Japanese and that made learning somewhat difficult, for example math; I knew what they were teaching but the language barrier was a bit of a challenge.”

Bayarjavhlan currently lives with a host family, to which she has

grown accustomed to. She has had two host families but it was already predetermined before she left that she would switch host families during the year.

She regularly participates in school activities, dance class, and exploring the different districts in Japan. One of her favorite pastimes is visiting Shibuya. “I really love being able to see the different types of fashion and clothing Shibuya has to offer,” Bayarjavhlan says. “I honestly don’t know how I’m going to take everything home,” she laughs.

While interviewing her, she expresses her gratitude for this opportunity. “I’m really lucky to have been able to experience and live in Tokyo for a portion of my life. I think It’s something that I’ll carry with me for a long time.”



DONATHAN AKINS

BY JULIAN STEVENS
CUB REPORTER

Congratulations to Donathan Akins for being the student Reflections winner for Music. Akins, a Sophomore here at Burroughs is a proficient trombone player, playing for many years as well as picking up guitar and learning piano. Donathan is an active member of our Sound Waves choir, performing as a baritone since his Freshman year.



Choir is not the only program Akins is in though, Donathan stays busy between the rigorous music practice and being a photographer for Yearbook. While he’s proficient in the musical field Akins holds a strong passion for photography and film. In his next years of high school he hopes to continue his Choir journey while staying in Yearbook as an extracurricular.

Donathan has experience in

front of the camera as well, according to him he has appeared in a variety of Disney shows as a child actor, he plans to continue his acting career.

Being an extremely active member of the community and striving to participate in multiple of our art programs it’s no wonder he was the winner of Reflections for Music this year. Congratulations Donathan!

KANTA UHEYAMA

BY CHRISTIAN GARAY-DANG-MENDEZ
CUB REPORTER

Kanta Ueyama is a Sophomore who is 16 and he was born on October 16, 2008. He does Judo, some of the awards he has are two Pan America Oceania Cadet Championship Silver Medalist (2023, 2024, which he won in Calgary Canada and Rio De Janeiro, Brazil), 2024 World Cadet Championship Qualifier in Lima, Peru, 2024 Varadero Cadet Panamerican Cup Gold Medalist in Varadero, Cuba, 2024 Montreal Cadet & Junior Panamanian Open getting 2nd place and 1st place in Montreal, Canada. He was also 2023 nationally ranked 1st place in 2023 and in

2024 he was nationally ranked first place for +90 KG. He’s a judoka.

He does the sport because his family also did it and it is very fun as it trains your mind and body. He started when he was six years old.

He works out at L.A. Tenri Judo Dojo.

He went to Dolores Huerta and his favorite class is World History with Mr. Hochberg. His favorite class of all time was Mr. Geronimo’s cooking class at Dolores Huerta because he’s entertaining and relatable.

He doesn’t have much free time but if he does he watches anime.

His favorite food is Yoshinoya and In-N-Out. His favorite travel



destination is Tokyo.

Some people who he looks up to is Joshiro Maruyama who is a Judo Practitioner, Joshiro won a gold medal in the 2019 World Judo Champions and Shohei Ono who won two gold Olympic medals and three world championships.

Some people he wants to thank are Jacob, Devin, The Aras, and Jaden Van Rufin. He wants to thank his parents for supporting him.

His goal is to represent the United States at the Olympics, He also has the goal of getting better grades. He wants to go to college to make his future better.

RAQUEL BROGMUS

BY ALAN RODRIGUEZ
CUB REPORTER

Introducing the talented Raquel Brogmus, our Reflections Literature award winner!

At just sixteen years old, Raquel has done a lot in her lifetime than most of us. Raquel was born on April 2nd of 2008, making her an Aries.

Raquel participates in Choir and Drama at school, and she loves anything to do with performance, singing, dancing, and acting; she's really good at all those things. Not just for Raquel but in general, Choir was not an easy feat, as Raquel auditioned for a week straight. It was well worth it as she did get an award for best performer in 2023. An award well deserved for someone on the path to that type of future, and all her hard work to get to this point.

Yet when not busy outside of school, Raquel has a challenging class schedule. She's taking AP Language, AP United States History, Choir, and Drama. She's doing very well in all her classes; but her

favorite is Choir because it allows her to be herself.

Raquel has gone to Emerson Elementary and John Muir Middle School.

She is a great student and loves her peers and teachers; over the years, she's had many of them as favorites. Currently, she likes Mr. Jennings this year, but he's not the only one, prior to him her favorite was Mr. Dekay.

She enjoys reading books outside of school and making Spotify playlists and listening to music.

Family is everything to Raquel and she's not afraid to share. "They support me in everything that I do," she explains when it comes to her family and their very helpful actions to her.

Recently, she has been working on new things as well, Raquel is part of The Crest Program and volunteering at the Burbank Animal Shelter; she really gives back to her community. Thus, it's clear she's got a very soft heart and is quite the humanitarian.

It's already started to be such



a great year for Raquel to accomplish her goals. Raquel says that she wants to create her own book, and her own original music. She's already experimenting with making her own playlists. What more could this creative soul do but build upon her already extensive portfolio of creative projects? She has a world of potential in her future.

She wants a creative, purposeful, successful life. But in ten years, she's going to be at her high school reunion, too. She's going to

be there in the present, relishing all she's going to have achieved by then and her career and professional endeavors. She's going to have the school mileage, too. She's going to go to the University of London, which is ranked 1st in London for research power, and on top of it, The University of London is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the United Kingdom. She's going to have multicultural experiences; she's planning on going to Japan in the summer of 2025. A great place and country to visit, for most people.

Musically, she enjoys music a lot. What are Raquel's two favorite bands of all time? The Beatles and the Beach Boys. She knows their songs very well.

In a ten year reunion, Raquel hopes to be enjoying her future, and to be able to continue to be creative and to discover her paths to life a little bit more.

For the final message, Raquel shows her appreciation to teachers, friends and loved one's, as they support her in everything she does.

ALBA BORRELLI

BY KAYLA CABRAL
CUB REPORTER

There are many students at Burroughs who do tons of extra curricular activities like sports or clubs but no one ever talks about the students who do outside activities. Well here is one special student who should be mentioned. Her name is Alba Borrelli. She is seventeen years old and is a Junior here at John Burroughs High School. Alba plays an outside sport called Kendo that is not really talked about here at Burroughs but is an amazing sport that others should learn about. The way Kendo works is it's a type of martial arts using a bamboo sword to "fight" another opponent. Her position in the sport is Kendo 2 Pan which is level 2 Don. There were no try outs for Kendo, one day she joined in 3rd grade and she did so because she had always wanted to try out Kendo and when she did she fell in love with it instantly.

She has received two awards

while playing which was 2 Don certificate and she got 2nd in National Individuals Tournament. Kendo has been a massive part of her life ever since she started. She has had so much experience and struggle that has taught her to grow and strive as a person.

She never talks about Kendo because her life is completely different outside of school so only her friends know she plays. She has always wished she did a sport in school because she feels left out at school but she quit dance so she could be even better at Kendo.

Although Kendo is a really fun sport for Alba, last year was very tough for her because she was trying to balance school life while training for Junior Nationals. She never got to hang out with friends or anybody at all because of this. She went to Japanese school on Saturdays and she went to Kendo practice on Sundays. On top of that she would have to go train at her dojo which was two hours away



after school Monday through Fridays and she had to quickly do her homework before her practice which was at five. It was a tough time for her but It taught her dedication and persistence at the end of it was worth it for her because she got 2nd in Nationals. Later through

the months she had to quit Kendo because it got stressful, but over summer she visited Italy to watch the Kendo World Championships and it made her realize what she was doing was wrong and she should go back to what she had been working hard for most of her life.

So she decided to join Kendo again when school started and she has been working very hard ever since. Her goal this year is to win another medal. Although it is still stressful for her to balance Kendo with school Alba continues to play because she says "That's what teaches me the most about myself so I hope to keep going." Kendo is the only outside activity she's ever done and she enjoys it very much. The sport isn't easy but she continues to play and she will as long as she can and doesn't plan to stop anytime soon. Her Sensei, Senpai, Mom, and friends are her biggest supporters with Kendo and she couldn't do it without them either.

SCARLETT SHAND

BY VALENTINA VICTORIA
CUB REPORTER

Burroughs Sophomore Scarlett Shand is 15 years old and was born on February 14, 2009.

She is involved in a lot of extra-curricular activities such as JBHS Cheer as a back spot and an anchor on our school news show Good Morning John Burroughs.

During her first year on GMJB Scarlett has already made such a big impact on our beloved show that she and another Sophomore Emma Hernandez recently both competed in the STN Awards together and they got 4th place overall out of over 450 high schools and middle schools.

This was a big accomplishment for them both, especially for Scarlett as she believes she has a very strong passion for broadcast Journalism and she hopes to continue it at a prestigious four year college in

her near future.

Scarlett has also just recently begun a JBHS podcast in collaboration with Good Morning John Burroughs. Scarlett began this podcast because she was inspired by her parents who both have very successful careers, both having podcasts themselves.

She says "My parents have always been a big inspiration to me they always are very supportive of me and let me bounce ideas off of them."

As of right now Scarlett is very busy in Cheer where she has been attending many competitions and her main focus is the STN awards and that will be taking place in Florida of this year where she hopes to place alongside her GMJB peers.

Before High School Scarlett attended John Muir Middle school and Roosevelt Elementary School.

Right now Scarlett's favorite



class is Honors English with Mr. Myers. She loves this class because she feels like she's able to express herself when doing projects and writing assignments, her favorite teacher is Mrs. Meschkat, who is the Broadcast Journalism and Film and TV Production

teacher, Scarlett likes her teaching because she's always open to her ideas and she gives good feedback.

A goal Scarlett has in the near future is to get good grades all throughout high school because that will eventually lead her to a good college and become a broadcast journalist.

Some of Scarlett's favorite things to do is be with her family. She has three younger siblings so there is never a dull moment in her house.

She also likes going to her favorite restaurant in Burbank, The Smoke House, she loves the vibe of the restaurant and think it's really beautiful in the nighttime.

A music artist she really likes is Phoebe Bridgers and she has listened to her for a long time now.

Once again we would like to give a big congratulations to Scarlett and wish her good luck on her upcoming competition in Florida.

JOSEPH CAAMAL

BY MARY ENGEL
CUB REPORTER

Joseph Caamal, 17-year-old Senior born on May 12, 2007, is a young fighter with a passion for Muay Thai, currently training at Defiant MMA. At his gym, he's part of a dedicated fight team, and while many of his teammates are fellow teenagers, the gym also welcomes fighters of all ages.

Joseph's progress in Muay Thai has been impressive; he has yet to be knocked down in his fights and boasts a record of 2 wins and 1 loss.

Joseph's journey into combat sports began after he left the basketball team at Burbank High School during his Freshman year, still wanting to stay active and challenge himself. His decision to join Defiant MMA marked the beginning of his martial arts career. He started by paying a gym membership fee and committed to consistent training for six months, which ultimately led him to ask his coach if he could compete. "He put me into an amateur competition, and I won," Joseph said.

Interestingly, Joseph's success in Muay Thai has even opened doors for other opportunities. He shared that one of his competitions led to an acting opportunity, which he found exciting.

In his combat sport, Joseph is recognized for being one of the younger fighters in the gym, but his skills have also made a strong impression. Despite his age, he has established himself as a determined competitor with a promising future in Muay Thai.

Outside his training, his favorite class is AP Macroeconomics with Ms. Hacker. He appreciates the guidance of several teachers, mentioning Ms. Hacker and Mr. Moore as his favorites. "Shout out Mr. Moore and Ms. Hacker," he said. He also mentioned his past teacher, Mr. Abich.

Outside of his academic and athletic activities, Joseph enjoys doing various things. He loves playing video games, going on runs, and of course, continuing his Muay Thai training. He also likes spending time with his girlfriend.

In terms of role models, Joseph looks up to UFC fighter Charles Oliveira, whose career inspires him both inside and outside of the ring. Joseph is grateful for his family, and for their support. He mentions his father, mother, brother, and grandfather as key figures in his life who encourage him in his sport.

His goals for the year reflect on his athletic and personal ambitions. "I want to get another fight in before

I graduate," Joseph says, having a target for his Muay Thai journey. Outside of fighting, he dreams of achieving financial success. "I want to make six figures, maybe seven," showing his goals. Looking ahead to his future, Joseph hopes to have traveled to Thailand for training and possibly competing in Muay Thai by his 10-year high school reunion. As for his college plans, he intends to attend Pasadena Community College to study Fire Studies, with the goal of becoming a firefighter. He is excited about a fulfilling career in firefighting while continuing to pursue his passion for Muay Thai.

When it comes to his personal preferences, Joseph has a love for Thai food, particularly Pad See Ew, a flavorful noodle dish. His favorite song right now is "Doses and Mimosas" by Cherub, while his favorite TV show is Peaky Blinders. Joseph is also a fan of dystopian novels, like *The Hunger Games* and *The Maze Runner*, which are among his all-time favorites.

Reflecting on his experiences, Joseph's favorite memory is his very first Muay Thai fight. "My favorite memory is my very first fight, it was very nerve-racking, if I'm being honest," he says. "It was so much different coming from basketball, the transition, and just get-

ting to the ring, warming up. I had finally heard my name being called on the speaker, and I remember my legs were shaking. You could see my legs shaking in the video, but I won that fight. It was a pretty good day." That victory, despite the nerves, helped his love for the sport strengthen and marked the beginning of his competitive journey.

Joseph's final thoughts in the interview highlight his dedication and excitement for the future. He is eager to continue growing as a Muay Thai fighter and is determined to pursue his goals both in and out of the ring. With a clear focus on his training, personal development, and career aspirations.



GIRLS SOCCER

BY AMELIA DIETER
CUB REPORTER

The Girls Soccer season has officially started! The team has been training for this for months, and are excited for the games to begin.

Their first scrimmage was against Marlborough High School, on November 20th. Unfortunately, Marlborough took home the win, with a score of 1-0. Coach Robert Sanchez says that the loss was simply bad luck.

The first technical game the team played was against Poly Pasadena High School. This game was played on December 3rd, on Memorial Field. Sadly, Poly Pasadena won, with a score of 5-0.

Coach Robert says that the game started off slow, with low effort and teamwork. By the second half of the game, the team played much better.

During the first half of the game, the team's defense was not organized, which meant that Poly Pasadena was able to play through and around them. This caused the opponent to get the advantage in the game.

Contrary to the first half, the second half was much more or-



PHOTOGRAPHER: SPENCER STILGENBAUER

BOYS SOCCER

BY KIANA HILDEBRANDT
CUB REPORTER

This year's Boys Varsity Soccer team is now beginning their season. This year the team will be led by Coach Makan Afzali and Captains Alexander Loera and Jackson Palmer.

The first game to kickstart the season was versus West Ranch High School on December 3, 2024. Unfortunately, the Bears took a loss with a score of 0-3. Although it was a tough loss the team has more in store for the season.

Alexander Loera, a Senior, is a four-year returner this season, with experience of twelve years on the soccer field. He is currently playing midfielder and left wing. His skill doesn't come easy, as he became so good by constantly practicing and always working on himself and his technique on the field. However, it wasn't just his skill that got him the role of Team Captain. Loera pushes himself to be the



PHOTOGRAPHER: SPENCER STILGENBAUER

best he can be by being positive not only on the field but off the field as well. He leads with his experience and positive attitude and hopes that the team reaches the goal of making playoffs.

Jackson Palmer is currently a Junior and a three-year returner with experience going back to when he was two years old. Not

only is his skill up to par for the role of Captain but he dedicates himself to the sport that he thrives in and was recognized by his team. Palmer has this to say about the upcoming season, "The team is looking pretty good and is looking better than last year".

Both Captains had a lot to say about this upcoming season and

ganized. The lineup was changed, which proved to be stronger and worked better, but by that time it was too late to make a comeback.

One notable player during the game was Isabel Bateras. She played midfield very well, and disrupted the ball quite a few times. Another key in the game was Captain Ella Sage, who was "a key in defense," as Coach Robert says. She was switched to center back during the second half. She helped reduce the number of scores against the JBHS team.

A third player who deserved recognition was Freshman Syana Ford, who debuted her talent for the first time at this game. Vivian Wright, also a Captain for the team, helped the team get under control during the game.

Coach Robert states that the main differences between the two games they have played was that they were much more competitive and active during the game with Marlborough.

Most scheduled games for January were canceled or postponed due to the fires. Read about updates in the February issue of *The Paw Print*.

the goals that we can expect from the team. According to the two, this game was just the beginning of what they have in store for the season. Loera stated, "There was lots of good passing and good opportunities but we couldn't pull through." Although this was unfortunate the team is still working hard every day through constantly training and building chemistry with each other. With that being said a vital part of what will help them reach their goals this year is with Coach Makan. Coach Makan is a new addition to the team and helps the team with strength and conditioning.

This year the team has added Coach Makan to help them reach their goals with strength and conditioning.

Most scheduled games for January were canceled or postponed due to the fires. Read about updates in the February issue of *The Paw Print*.

BY SAM LISI
CUB REPORTER

Cheer is starting their season on the right foot. Their first competition was on Saturday, November 23rd at the Anaheim Convention Center. In this competition, they went up against five other teams in their division and took home 2nd place! The four captains provided insight into the season and how it's going.

Nolan Shimek thought that the team did well in their first competition, especially because the team had to make a lot of changes the week before the competition. He believes the season will go well because the team has a stronger mentality.

Lala Nestor also thought that the first competition went well, she thinks that the team is off to a good start and that the team is full of po-



tential. Her goal for the team for this season is to win CIF.

Bella Ruvalcaba thinks that the season is going better than what was expected; she also states that it can only go up from where it's at. Her goal for the season is to

win CIF. Last year the cheer team won 2nd Place in CIF and were the "Runner Up's" so there is a lot of determination this year to try and take the 1st place win in CIF. Bella also thinks that the team has improved a lot in a short amount of

time.

The team is continuing to work on improving and perfecting their routine so they can hopefully take home the 1st place wins.

As Senior Neveah Fox states, "I'm really looking forward to bonding with my team, especially on the bus when we all listen to music together it's a good vibe, and it really sets the tone for how the competition will go."

As senior Giada Villafuerte states, "Something that sticks with me when I think of competing is that I think about the fact that pain is temporary and pride is forever, and I make sure to keep that quote with me during practices leading up to competition and the day of competition." Good luck to the cheer team luck as they head into their next competition.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

BY DAVID ROMERO
AND APRIL PICKERING
CUB REPORTERS

The Burroughs High School Girls Basketball team has begun their season with a mix of dominant victories and hard-fought battles, showcasing their potential as a formidable team in League. With a record of 5-2, the Bears are proving they are a team to watch this season.

The Girls Basketball team recently returned from an unforgettable trip to Hawaii, where they showcased their skills and deter-

mination by winning all three of their CIF games. This impressive feat has brought immense pride to our school and community. Mariam Fahs and Ella Anderson, two standout players, expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to participate in this unique experience. "It was really fun, especially the surfing lessons," said Mariam. Both girls joined the team after graduating from middle school, inspired by their coach, who they consider their role model.

Despite their busy schedules, Mariam manages to excel in her favorite classes, AP government and economics with her favorite teachers, Ms. Hacker and Ms. Permenter. With little to no free time, both girls prioritize getting as much sleep as possible to stay energized and focused for their games.

Looking ahead, Mariam envisions a future filled with traveling, a passion she hopes to pursue alongside her basketball career. This trip to Hawaii has not only strengthened the team's bond but also provided lasting memories and valuable life lessons for these young athletes.

The season started on a high note in Maui at the Thanksgiving

Tournament. On November 21, Burroughs edged out a close 46-42 victory over Kamehameha, Maui. The momentum carried over to November 22, when the Bears defeated King Kekaulike 39-22. The Maui tournament concluded with a commanding 50-18 win against Baldwin on November 23.

Burroughs faced tougher competition in the CIF pre-season circuit. On November 30, the Bears narrowly fell to Orange Lutheran in a nail-biter, 65-61.

The team bounced back on December 3 with a decisive 67-53 victory over Bishop Alemany. However,

Burroughs faced another setback on December 5, losing 65-44 to St. Monica. Senior Ella Anderson noted, "It was a tough game, but we're using it as motivation to improve. We know what we're capable of."

The Bears wrapped up the week on December 7 with a resounding 57-31 win over Culver City. The team's defense shone as they held their opponent to just 12 points in the second half.

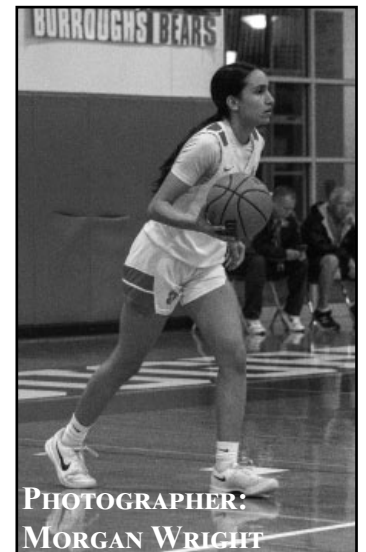
After starting the second semester, Girls Basketball has been on a League winning streak, beat-

ing Hoover 55-13, on January 17th, and Crescenta Valley 55-50, on January 21st.

Looking ahead with a mix of promising talent and veteran leadership, the Burroughs Girls Basketball team is proving they have the skill and determination to compete with the best. As the season progresses, the Bears aim to build on their strong start and make their mark in the playoffs. Fans are encouraged to come out and support the team as they continue their journey.



PHOTOGRAPHER:
MORGAN WRIGHT



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MORGAN WRIGHT

GIRLS WATER POLO

By JOHN ANDEREGG
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Girls Water Polo faced off against South Pasadena on November 21st, losing the match 10-9.

The team played in a tournament on December 6th and 7th. On the 6th they played against Dana Hills, losing 17-8. In their first game on the 7th, they played against West Covina, losing 9-8. In their final match of the tournament,

they played against St. Lucy's, losing 15-4.

On December 12th they played their first League game against Arcadia, losing the game 16-10.

They played a match against Westridge on December 13th, losing 14-11.

Water Polo won their second League game against Hoover, beating them 14-4.

They played Glendale on Janu-

ary 7th losing 13 to 16.

The games scheduled for the second and third weeks of January were canceled or postponed due to the fires. Make sure to check the February *Paw Print* for updates!

Their most recent match against crosstown rival Burbank High resulted in a huge victory for the girls, 12-4, on Saturday, January 18th!

Concerning the big win, Cap-

tain Ava Tomlinson stated, "It was exciting. It's always a fun game. It was exciting to get a win for everyone there."

Captain Lauren Chapirro stated, "It was really exciting. We were hoping to even get to play for Senior Night because all the fires had canceled the other games."

Luckily the game wasn't canceled, because it was a huge, much needed win for the team. Go Bears!

BOYS BASKETBALL

By SPENCER STILGENBAUER
PHOTOGRAPHER

The highly anticipated return to the court has occurred. Our Bears started the season facing off against the Northridge Academy Pumas. Sophomore Owen Everhart and Junior Evan Lanier would both have 29 minutes played with Owen shooting 6 for 8 in three point attempts and Evan having 16 points. With these two strong performances, our Bears would take the first game of the season with a final score of 55-39. When asked about the game Evan stated "We played well. It was the first game of the season but we came together and had a great win. Everyone played together as a team and we found a good baseline for our season." With this win the Bears start off strong moving their record to 1-0.

Following the win against Northridge Academy our Bears would play the Canoga Park Hunters. Looking to move to 2-0, Sophomore Owen Everhart would have 27 points and 10 rebounds. Juniors Evan Lanier and Elliot Lawrence would have electric defensive games with Evan having 7 steals and Elliot with 3 blocks. When asked about how the team played, Owen Everhart said "We played really good team defense and we were able to move the ball around really well. Teagan Nathan and Cedric Valdez came off the bench with a high energy, really helping us win that game." The Bears would win this game 58-40 improving their record to 2-0.

Coming off two straight wins, our Bears would take on the Sherman Oaks CES Knights. Junior Evan Baker would come out shoot-

ing 13 points. Unfortunately this would not be enough as our Bears would lose their first game of the season with a final score of 73-56. This moves the record to 2-1 on the season.

Coming off the first loss of the season, the Bears look to bounce back against the West Ranch Wildcats. The Wildcats would jump out to an early lead, finishing the first quarter 23-9. They wouldn't let off the gas beating our Bears 88-37, pushing their record to 2-2 on the season.

After back to back losses, The Bears looked to find a win against the Buena Bulldogs. Junior Evan Baker would have himself a day. He had 20 points and 8 rebounds. Unfortunately this wouldn't be enough as the Bears lost a close one with the final score being 49-35. The Bears fall to 2-3 on the season.

After a tough loss, our Bears would play the Lakeview Charter Lions. The boys came out red hot in this one with three players having more than 15 points. Junior Cedric Valdez would have his best game of the season, with 24 points, 9 three-pointers and 8 rebounds. Junior Elliot Lawrence would also have his best game with 20 points and 10 rebounds. This would be more than enough to beat the Lions with a final score of 99-20. After the game, Cedric said "Offensively we worked really well as a team and the energy was there all game." With this win, our Bears improved to 3-3 on the season.

After a statement win over Lakeview Charter, the Bears would play the Faith Baptist Contenders. Junior Cedric Valdez would continue his hotstreak with 15 points

and 8 rebounds. Junior Nico Meza would also have a strong shooting game with 15 points of his own. This would allow the Bears past the Contenders with a final score of 54-45. The Bears improved their record to 4-3 on the season.

Coming off two straight wins the Bears would play the Milken Wildcats. Strong defense performances by Juniors Evan Baker and Evan Lanier wouldn't be enough as the Bears would lose 45-37. This loss moved their record to 4-4 on the season.

After a tough loss, the Bears would play the Holy Martyrs Armenian Armenians. Sophomore Owen Everhart would have 9 points in the 59-31 loss moving the Bears record to 4-5 on the season.

After two straight losses the Bears search for a win against the North Hollywood Huskies. Going into halftime the Bears would have a 37-26 lead at half. Unfortunately this would hold as the Huskies would come back and win this one with a final score of 64-52. The record moves to 4-6 on the season.

After a close game against the Huskies, the Bears would go up against the El Camino Real Royals. Sophomore Owen Everhart would have 16 points but it wasn't enough. El Camino Real would win this game with a final score of 67-33. This moves the Bears record to 4-7 on the season.

Good luck ending the season, Go Bears!



PHOTOGRAPHER: SPENCER STILGENBAUER

UPCOMING DATES

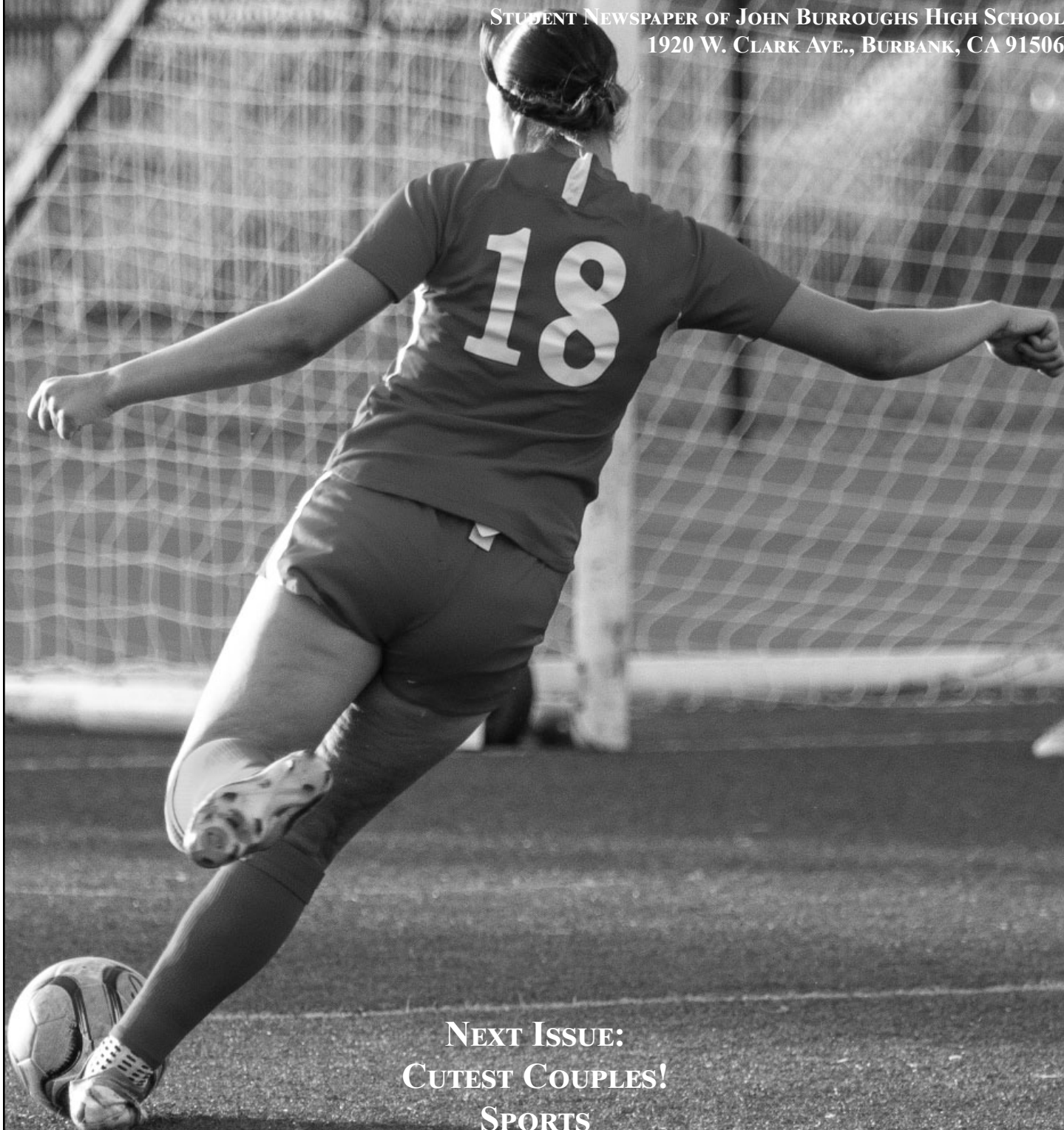
FEBRUARY 3RD-7TH
FEBRUARY 5TH
FEBRUARY 7TH
FEBRUARY 10TH
FEBRUARY 14TH
FEBRUARY 14TH
FEBRUARY 17TH

SPIRIT WEEK
PEP RALLY
5 WEEK GRADES
LINCOLN HOLIDAY (NO SCHOOL)
VALENTINE'S DAY
LAST DAY TO BUY GRAD NITE TICKET
PRESIDENT'S DAY (NO SCHOOL)

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