Jan.7 Eaton Fire

Marshall Fundamental Secondary School

Eagle Eye

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School Resumes After Eaton Fire

Devastating fire ravages Altadena/Pasadena in most destructive wildfire in Southern California history, more than 9,000 structures destroyed, over two thirds of PUSD families evacuated, campus undamaged



Top Left: An inferno engulfs a home near the Altadena Sheriff's Station (Photo by: Andrew Dam)

Bottom Left: A doorway is all that remains from a home below the Altadena Crest Trail (Photo by: Andrew Dam)

Right: A lone school bus is left charred by the conflagration (Photo by: Cloud Morgan Clark)





By: Noah Castillo
& David Chavarria

It started on January 7, 2025, at 6:18 pm, and ended on January 31, 2025, with 24 days of burning and over 14,000 acres burned across Altadena, Pasadena, Sierra Madre, and La Cañada Flintridge.

There were 17 deaths, including a 67-year-old amputee who used a wheelchair and his adult son, who had cerebral palsy.

Over 100,000 people evacuated, and approximately 9,500 structures burned, about 60 percent of them residential.

Families fled, businesses burned, and entire neighborhoods vanished. The numbers don't do justice to the countless goodbyes given to homes and family members, and the last-minute decisions that residents made packing their entire lives into a few suitcases, if any at all.

Although the Eaton Fire brought pain and grief, the residents it impacted brought love and compassion. Ninety minutes after the immediate evacuation orders for all Pasadena residents and some Altadena residents in high-risk zones, the doors of the Pasadena Convention Center opened, providing a haven from ash, debris, and destructive winds to a maximum of 1,140 people for a total of 37 days.

As the days passed, relief efforts were launched by the California state government, the county of Los Angeles, the city of Pasadena, local businesses, religious organizations, and even students from the affected areas.

Marshall Fundamental junior Jackson Brooks, along with his brother Niko Brooks who graduated from MFSS in 2023 and currently attends UC Berkeley, founded the Eaton Fire Relief 2025 community organization.

The brothers united Altadena and Pasadena youth with the mission to serve their communities by delivering bottled water, clearing debris, helping fix damages caused by the winds, and engaging in community-driven efforts.

"These are our people. This is our city. We want to give love and support to the community that has shaped us," Jackson Brooks said.

Although the fire didn't reach the Marshall campus, the winds damaged trees and non-vital school structures.

Principal Lori Touloumian and her staff actively prepared to welcome students back onto campus in a safe and organized manner.

"We did have two large downed trees in our front lawn. Tables in the north quad were tossed around. The canopy in the north quad was damaged and will be removed soon, and the backstop on the baseball field was slightly damaged," Touloumian said.

Marshall Fundamental's strength isn't in its hallways or classrooms, but in the students and faculty who fill them. Even if the building sustained little to no damage, its people did.

"The building itself didn't sustain any damage. We had to deal with the ash and the wind. As far as the staff, numerous members lost their homes. We had English teachers, art teachers, and custodians who lost their homes. Three custodians lost everything during the fire. [The fire] is traumatizing people and putting them on edge," assistant principal Audrey Green said.

Among the 151 Marshall Fundamental families affected, 97 students, about 5 percent of Marshall's student body, lost their homes, along with nine faculty members, including teachers and custodians, and the other 45 having endured damage to their homes because of the smoke and winds. The loss of homes, security, and normalcy have left wounds that would take far longer to heal than the reconstruction of homes in the affected areas. Beyond the statistics are the stories of those who lost everything.

Marshall Fundamental English and ACI teacher Jessica Bilandzija lost her home of nearly 20 years in Altadena. Like many Altadena residents who evacuated before warnings were issued, Bilandzija believed her home would be standing the next day.

"At 10:30 am on the 8th of January, we arrived to a pile of ash that was once our home, our neighborhood, and our community. As I got out of the car and walked down our street to take a closer look, I couldn't feel my legs or the ground beneath me. I felt like I was floating and melting all at once.

"I couldn't process what I was seeing—every neighbor's home was gone. Everything I had known for the last 20 years was gone. All of the beauty, the joy, the comfort, the history. I wept for all of us in that moment. It was too much, and it wasn't over. So much more was burning, and by the end of it, I really felt like our sweet little town had been wiped off the face of the earth," Bilandzija said.

After natural disasters, families and students are not only subject to financial struggles but also declines in mental health. To prevent further stress, school and district administrators decided to push students back into the classrooms as soon as the school was safe to be in.

"As a whole, the district wanted to ensure we didn't repeat what happened in Paradise and Ventura with the Camp Fire. What we learned from those fires was that the longer students were out of school, the more their mental health suffered. So, we had to decide how soon to get them back in school and how quickly to restore their socialization. The pandemic, with COVID-19, had a significant effect on our students' social skills, and we wanted to make sure that didn't happen again.

"We understand that students desired to return to some sense of normalcy and routine to take their minds off things, which is why we also made sure to provide more mental health services for our students with the LA County Department of Mental Health and district social workers present," Green said.

The reopening of all PUSD schools was no small feat. The two-week-long process was implemented in

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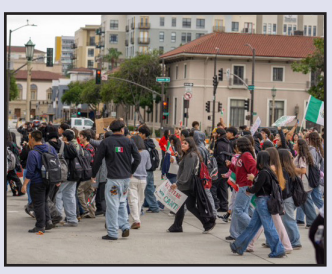
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Collectible Girls Tennis CIF-SS D-5 Championship Poster

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Students Walk Out to Demonstrate Against Immigration Policy

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Altadena Will Never Be the Same

With more than 150 years of history and originally intended to cultivate grapes and wellness, Altadena was severely affected by the Eaton Fire, with almost half of all homes and businesses destroyed and a rich African American and diverse community devastated, the town aims to rebuild

By: Bryan Noyola

Altadena's American roots date back to 1873 when a group of pioneers and highland farmers from the Midwest, led by agriculturalist Benjamin Eaton, purchased 2,400 acres of land in order to grow wine grapes and help an early community of Civil War settlers recover from tuberculosis and other illnesses.

Despite the efforts made by nearby Pasadena to expand northward, residents from Altadena resisted annexation due to its business dealings with Los Angeles —at the time, the largest wine producer in California. "Pasadena," an Ojibwa word meaning "crown of the valley," was a prohibition city, which was at odds with the early Altadenans who consistently upheld their preference for a looser political structure avoiding incorporation.

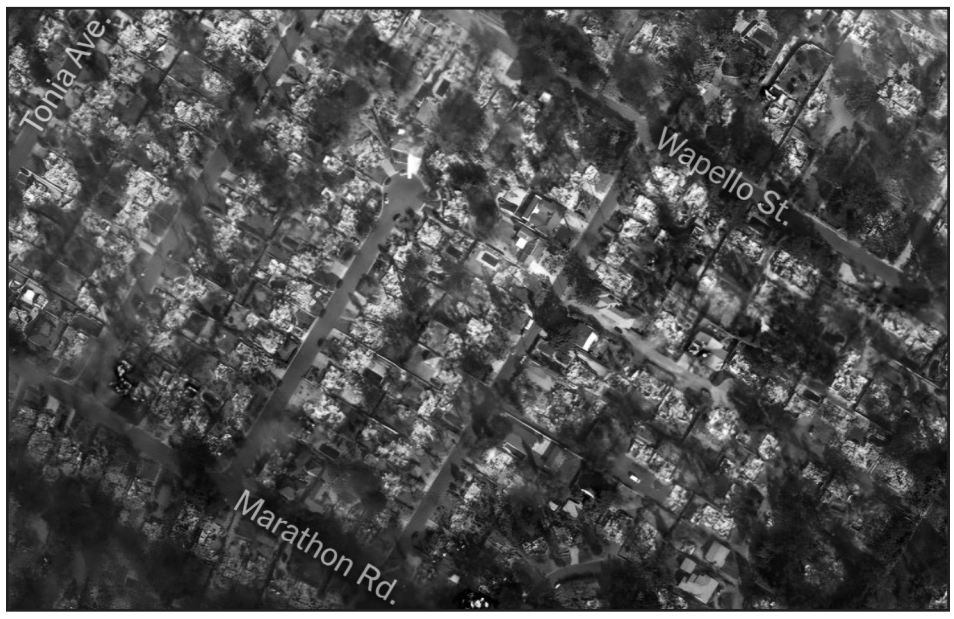
Altadena was originally envisioned to become a luxurious rural suburb for the upper class north of Pasadena. Wealthy settlers arrived, but the real estate crash of the late 1800s, followed by an economic depression lasting into 1890, derailed those plans.

After World War II, another wave of residents settled in Altadena, benefiting from the GI Bill. However, a "white flight" soon followed, with many of the original Civil-War-era settlers and WWII veterans—who made up 96% of Altadena's population—departed to other communities.

Discriminatory practices like redlining and the denial of financial support from banks prevented African Americans and other minorities from accessing these homes until the 1960s and 1970s.

The passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and shifting social dynamics—the Vietnam War protests, youth culture, and the Civil Rights movement—brought a significant demographic shift to Altadena. As neighborhood schools desegregated, African Americans, in particular, saw an opportunity for homeownership, increasing from under 4 percent of the population in 1960 to 27 percent a decade later.

For many African American families, Altadena represented a rare opportunity to achieve the American dream—homeownership in a desirable location with unique architectural structures built over the last 45 years creating a diverse streetscape.



Top: A satellite map reveals the devastation of the Eaton Fire for the Altadena community

Altadena has been home to numerous hikers, musicians, and artists, including the likes of Ossie Davis, the acclaimed writer and director, and Octavia Butler, the legendary science fiction author, just to name a few. The rich, cultural fabric of Altadena has made it an extraordinary place to live.

However, recent devastation has threatened that unique identity. The Eaton Fire has destroyed over 14,000 acres, leaving neighborhoods in ruins and displacing families. The scars of the fire run deep, and as contractors aggressively pursue burned properties, signs reading, "Altadena Is Not For Sale," have appeared throughout the unburned areas in protests against gentrification.

Despite the losses, the community remains steadfast. Residents, regardless of background or financial situation, have demonstrated resilience in the face of tragedy. Though their homes are gone, the spirit of Altadena endures. They will rebuild—not just structures, but the identity, the people, and the legacy that makes Altadena unique.

Beyond homes, the fire has also devastated the town's small businesses. In Altadena, many residents live and work within the community, a rarity compared to neighboring towns where long commutes are the norm. According to LA Supervisor Kathryn Barger, as of 2023, about 10,500 Altadena residents both lived and worked in the town.

Among the cherished businesses lost was Altadena Hardware, a fixture in the community for 80 years. The Altadena Hardware store was a reliable source of tools and supplies at reasonable prices—the rock of the community, but burned the night of the fires. While the owner's home was spared, their employees now find themselves without jobs, uncertain of when the store will be rebuilt.

Other casualties include the Bunny Museum on Altadena Drive, a Guinness World Record-holding collection dedicated to rabbits, which housed over 40,550 rabbit-related items across 16 galleries. Fox's Restaurant, a beloved diner that served the community for 69 years, has closed permanently, unable to afford the costs of rebuilding. The Altadena Golf Course, Little Red Hen Coffee Shop, and Theosophical Books and Library are among the many other businesses lost—the list goes on.

One of the most beloved restaurants lost in the fire, a personal favorite, and one where I worked at is Side Pie. The restaurant was a dedication to the community and a staple. It captured the essence of small business, and its upbringing is even sweeter. Its story, a testament to small business success—originally run from the owner's backyard, serving pizzas to neighbors before expanding into a dedicated space. The owner's home was also lost in the fire.

Yet, in a heartwarming display of solidarity, the community and others rallied to support him. Within two days of launching a GoFundMe campaign, he reached his $100,000 goal, with donations continuing to pour in.

Despite this generosity, many employees remain anxious about the future and about when they'll be able to go back to work. Benjamin Muro, a senior at Marshall Fundamental also worked at Side Pie.

"It [stinks] really, losing a place that you loved working at—coming in was fun. I got paid to have fun," Muro said.

"But, Side Pie will come back soon, probably not soon enough, but eventually, in a year or two," Muro said.

That sentiment captures something deeply human: the idea that places are more than just physical spaces—they are shaped by the people, experiences, and emotions tied to them. Even when a place is gone or changed, its impact lingers in memory, and the spirit of it can live on through the people who experienced it together.



Altadena Hardware was a fixture for over 80 years



Fox's Restaurant served patrons for nearly 70 years



Side Pie hopes to rebuild with donations pouring in

Edison Possibly at Fault for Fire

By: Paolo Calchi Novati

As people attempt to recover from the Eaton Fire, the search for explanations has led to none other than Southern California's biggest provider of electricity, Southern California Edison (SCE).

The private company has been the target of dozens of lawsuits blaming it for the Eaton Fire, which destroyed more than 9,000 buildings in and around Altadena.

These allegations originate from multiple videos that show a fire starting right underneath an Edison electrical tower in the hills near Altadena. The videos show that from 6:10 pm to 6:11 pm on January 7, there were two flashes at a SCE tower seconds before the fire started.

These flashes occurred at the same time as two electrical faults that registered near Altadena that day on the power grid. Electrical faults occur when a current flows in an abnormal way, and are capable of causing fires or explosions.

Edison also found evidence of arcing (when electricity jumps around and can cause flashes of electricity like those seen in the videos) on some of its inactive electrical equipment. However, Edison does not know whether the arcing was a cause or a result of the fire.

The Edison tower in the videos, called M16T1, is a decommissioned low-voltage tower, meaning it no longer carries electricity. It is at the end of a decommissioned transmission line called the Mesa-Sylmar transmission line. That means it has a grounding wire in the ground, which is used to safely release extra energy into the earth.

In an interview with NBC4 LA, electrical engineer Ken Buske proposed a theory for how this decommissioned tower could have started the Eaton Fire.

There are two active high-voltage transmission towers right next to M16T1, and according to Buskee, it is possible that the sparks that M16T1 (theoretically) got from the other transmission lines could have come into contact with M16T1's grounding wire. If this wire was improperly grounded, it would not have been able to release the electricity into the ground and instead could have caused arcing and flames.

Even though winds on January 7 reached 100 miles per hour, SCE did not de-energize its transmission lines in Eaton Canyon.

Edison stock is down, and the company could face billions of dollars in reparation fees if it is found liable for the fire.

Marshall Responds to Help Victims

By: Erik Arustamyan, Saray Bolanos, John Keshishyan & Vic Tunyan

Due to the Eaton Fires that occurred many families, especially students that are part of our Marshall Fundamental community lost some of their belongings or even their homes. Marshall Fundamental held many different kinds of donations and meet ups to be able to help out those who we in need during difficult times like these.

The Marshall Dance Team came together to support families by hosting a donation drive on Jan. 16 at La Pintoresca Park, offering items such as feminine hygiene products, school supplies, toiletries and beauty products.

The Dena Relief Drive held two donation centers where Marshall Fundamental students volunteered to provide water, food, clothing, toiletries, pillows, blankets, diapers, etc. to those affected.

Marshall Fundamental hosted a donation drive on Feb 1 in the North Parking Lot where school supplies, clothing, and different kinds of essentials were provided to families. School districts from other cities as far away as Carlsbad helped to donate essentials.

Dick's Sporting Goods supported student athletes who lost their homes by donating equipment and gift cards as organized by the Athletic Boosters Club.

Many celebrities and donors such as Taylor Swift and Steve Ballmer provided money to the Pasadena Education Foundation and other charities that support those affected by the Eaton Fire.

School events and sports were largely postponed but not canceled. School reopened after 16 days of closure.

Sports games were either canceled, postponed, or venues were changed due to the debris and air quality issues. Athletes were unable to practice.

"After reaching out to students to find out who had lost their belongings such as jerseys, I went to buy the Jerseys out of my pocket, but luckily the guy who was selling the jerseys to me had donated more than half of the money which shows that our community has a great love and care for each other," boys soccer coach Erick Rodriguez said.

Marshall concerts for choir and orchestra lost rehearsal time, cut down performance song lists, and performances, including the PUSD All-Star Musical, "Hades Town," was postponed.

Upon returning to campus, art teachers noticed that soot from the smoke had ruined art supplies in the classroom. Deliveries for new supplies such as paints, clay, and canvasses were delayed due to the fires.

Price Gouging Impacts Displaced Families

By: Chris Patino

One of the most immoral things someone can do in a tragedy is to attempt to profit from it.

Since the recent Eaton & Palisades Fires, many residents have been displaced and need temporary housing. People are looking for hotels, Airbnbs, and other housing they can afford for the time being.

And almost immediately reports of price gouging are being made. Price gouging is when companies or individuals unreasonably raise their prices to take advantage of consumers during or after a crisis.

With the legal limitations in place, landlords are unable to raise rent higher than 10% total in 12 months. Some of the reports being received after the fires go up to as high as a 50% increase in rent.

One Altadena family reported the Airbnb that was being rented out as their temporary home went up in price by 43.2% from the following week according to ABC 7.

Affluent residents are noticing effects as well. Netflix star and real estate agent Jason Oppenheim explained to BBC a situation for a property that had previously been charging $13,000 in rent and the client offered $20,000 a month instead & six months of rent upfront, yet the landlord wanted to take advantage and asked for $23,000 in rent instead ($10,000 more than the original price).

Previously when the L.A. County Consumer and Business Affairs office would find those violating these laws, they would face up to a year in jail and $10,000 in fines.

In response to recent cases of price gouging, The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to increase the fines up to $50,000 on Feb. 11.

"They want to deter bad actors who are taking advantage of the crisis." according to Lindsey Horvath on the Board.

The county's Consumer and Business Affairs CEO drafted a letter requesting that sites such as Redfin, Zillow, Apartments.com, AirBnB, and VRBO, post information about the ongoing state of emergency, price-gouging laws, and preserve rental price history before and after the flames.

Also in response to reports, the L.A. Tenants Union has partnered with the Pasadena Tenants Union to release safety information and insurance tips for affected residents to help keep them well informed. The organization also demands to freeze eviction courts and sheriff lockouts, implement rent freezes, and utilize vacant units, AirBnBs, and hotels for displaced residents.

Residents can report suspected price gouging to L.A. County Consumer and Business Affairs online, by phone at 800-593-8222, or via email at info@dcba.lacounty.gov

Animal Shelter Overflows After Fire

By: Samia Rojas

Due to the traumatizing events of the Eaton Fire lots of animals were taken to the Pasadena Humane Society, including pets, livestock, exotics and wildlife, and over 1,000 animals. If animals were left behind in an evacuated home or property they were brought to the Pasadena Humane Society.

Pasadena Humane Society has a designated evacuation center for small animals. For large animals they were sent to the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. The Humane Society is offering free pet food and supply pick up to affected animals and pet owners in the community daily from 10 am to 5 pm.

The Humane Society's team is setting up feeding stations for community cats in the Altadena and Pasadena fire zone areas. Some of the animals are suffering from smoke inhalation, singed paws, burns, dehydration, and more.

They have been treating each animal based on their condition like giving them fluids, oxygen, pain medication, and wound care as best as they can. The San Diego Humane Society on Fridays has welcomed additional dogs to their Oceanside campus stated by Fox 5 San Diego. Both adult dogs and puppies are being transferred so that they can help Los Angeles-area shelters with overflowing animals.

Pasadena Humane Society puppies have already been available for adoption. Each dog will intake exams and evaluations before being made available for adoption. According to ABC 7 nearly 60 cats and dogs up for adoption at Pasadena Humane. The Pasadena Humane Society shut down after the fire broke out but the staff was still caring for the animals, working double time.

The best way to help the humane society is to donate. This is to help cover critical expenses like medical care, emergency resources, and support for lifesaving programs for each animal to get a happy ending.

If you or anyone you know had an animal that was affected by the fires, Pasadena Humane Society has a really good support system willing to help any animal that was affected in any way possible.

https://give.pasadenahumane.org

FIRE

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phases, with Marshall Fundamental reopening on January 30 in the third and final phase given its location and distance from the Eaton Fire.

"I am incredibly proud of the resiliency our students and staff have shown, and how we maintained our strong community amid tragedy and loss. Our students joined fire relief efforts that were hosted by our district and the City of Pasadena," Touloumian said.

"We organized a 'Marshall Meet Up' at PazNaz Church, where we passed out donations and had food, music, and a chance to be together for emotional support. Dr. [Mary] Stevens coordinated a donation drive in collaboration with Sage Creek High School in Carlsbad, and we were able to get brand-new clothes, shoes, school supplies, and gift cards to our families in need. Our Girls Build LA Club also gathered donations that were passed out to students. Our Athletic Boosters helped our student athletes with Dick's Sporting Goods gift cards to purchase new athletic gear. Our parent volunteers and our community assistant, Ms. Gloria Castillo, have been working tirelessly to organize donations and be the conduit for our families receiving the help they need," she added.

Giving students a sense of normalcy wasn't only about going back to learning, but also about giving student athletes a chance to continue participating in their sport before the end of their season.

"The fire disrupted our sports schedule. We were in the middle of winter sports competitions, including boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' soccer, and wrestling. The competitions scheduled for that time were either made up, which required us to push them and have games back-to-back, which was not ideal for our athletes. For example, the girls' basketball team had to play three days in a row to make up for the unattended games. We had to ensure we maintained a good standing in the league and made up those games. The wrestling team, on the other hand, decided not to reschedule their matches and called them 'no contests' so it wouldn't affect their standing going into CIF.

"We also missed Spirit Week, the Winter Pep Rally, the kickoff for World's Finest Chocolate, and the Evening of Excellence, which have been moved to the last two weeks of February," Green said.

Touloumian added, "Fortunately, we did not have to cancel any school events. We just had to postpone/reschedule them. This included sporting events, the Evening of Excellence, the Centennial Celebration, and our Winter Formal had to be moved - it is now a Spring Fling."

As for relief funding, California Governor Gavin Newsom has directed $2.5 billion in funds to cities that sustained damage from the Eaton and Palisades fires. The Pasadena Educational Foundation has raised hundreds of thousands in donations to assist Pasadena/Altadena families, along with donations from Amazon to Distribute School Supplies and a $150,000 Grant.

Support poured in from celebrities and public figures who used their platforms to rally behind those affected. Taylor Swift donated an undisclosed amount to the Pasadena Education Foundation, Paris Hilton volunteered at the Pasadena Humane Society and raised more than $500,000, and Leonardo Di Caprio pledged to donate $1 million dollars to relief efforts, with one of them being the Pasadena Humane Society.

Additionally, FireAid L.A. organized two benefit concerts, raising nearly $100 million for wildfire victims, and the Pasadena Community Foundation continued to play a crucial role, securing $15 million in funding for non-profits and relief organizations assisting those affected.

But, despite the monetary aid infused to fire relief, no amount can measure the emotional loss caused by the Eaton Fire.

"My home was a family member. She welcomed anyone and changed with the seasons. She was like a child who grew up over the years. When we first got her, she was new and not that cute—kind of like a new wrinkly baby. As we grew, she grew. She got more beautiful with age, and she welcomed anyone who walked through her door," Bilandzija said.

What We Took From the Fire

Compiled By Brenna Henley



Medal of Honor

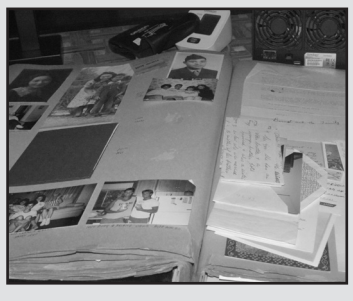
"The most important thing that I was able to save from my house before the fire was my grandpa's medals from when he served in Vietnam. My grandpa had passed away two years ago and was very close to my father, being a key role model to him. These medals showed the kind of person who my grandpa was."

- c/o 2025 senior

Photo Album

"I grabbed a family photo book that has many letters and photos dating back to the early 1900s. It was an important piece of family history to preserve."

- Marshall Fundamental staff member





Prayer Shawl

"As the fires forced me to evacuate, I found myself scrambling to grab enough stuff to fill my clothes hamper. And by coincidence, my tallit (prayer shawl) was sitting right on top of my dresser. What a stroke of luck! My mom made that tallit by hand, tye-dying the colors and hand-tying every knot in the tzitzit according to the Rabbi's guidance. And she made it for me in the months leading up to my bar mitzvah. It was probably one of the few things that really was irreplaceable."

- Marshall Fundamental staff member



Teddy Bear

"I took things I thought I would use and keep me entertained while I was gone. I thought I would just be gone for a couple days and would need things to do to pass the time. I took the book I was reading at the time, which is now the only surviving member of my extensive book collection, my new computer and what was in my bags that I took between my parents' houses already as well as my teddy bear that I've had since I was two. I didn't bother to take any of my other sentimental items since I didn't think my house was going to burn down."

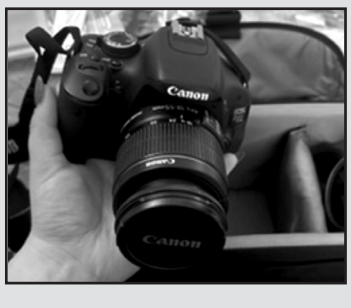
-c/o 2025 senior

Coffee Mug

"The mug was given to my mom by one of her friends a long time ago, maybe when I was about 5. We kept it in our home, till now. When we went back to our home, we looked through our things, searching for any kind of item, searching for closure. As I looked and searched through all the debris, I found this mug. Finding this mug, and seeing that it survived, the mug that said "enjoy every moment" just felt like such a coincidence. It almost felt like I was being told that now that I've completely lost everything, to still enjoy every single moment and take nothing for granted."

-c/o 2025 senior





Camera

"I grabbed all of my sentimental items and things important to me like gifts and cards from my closest friends as well as my camera. I love photography and I'm so glad that I have my camera. The items that I grabbed such as my camera are each a little part of me and represent what's really important in my life."

-c/o 2026 junior

The Green House on Palm

Jazlyn Hernandez is a current senior in the class of 2025. She comes from a Marshall Fundamental legacy family. Three of her sisters – Ruby, Juliet, and Natalie are MFSS alumnae.



Jazlyn Hernandez

What started with just winds, broken trees and branches falling, quickly turned into at least 15,467 or more homes destroyed/damaged, 17 lives lost and many lives deeply affected, my family and I being one of them.

Not only were our most precious items and everything we've ever owned lost, but the hard work my parents and Nana endured to make our home, a home, was also lost.

My Nana (grandmother) left behind three small girls (my mother and aunts) when she migrated here from El Salvador. Like most immigrant families, she came here in hopes of being able to work towards providing her daughters with a better life. She moved to Los Angeles and worked cleaning houses and selling fruit until she gathered enough money to buy a house in Altadena.

Our home was the heart of our family and a symbol of our journey, perseverance, resilience and hard work. Our home was not only a two family household, but over the years was also a home to our cousins, aunts, uncles, friends and anyone who needed a place to stay.

My whole life the only place I had ever known like the back of my hand was Altadena. My handprints and footsteps have been all over Altadena, the Farnsworth and Loma Alta Park that had held so many of our birthday parties, the Eaton Canyon that my Nana had taken me to every day after school throughout my childhood, the Rite Aid my sisters and I would walk to with our friends and family, and of course, the beautiful neighborhoods my family and I would talk and walk through during the sunset. I now realize, I took my home and neighborhood for granted. My home sheltered me in the worst and best times of my life, held many of my birthdays, gave me the best view of sunsets on the roof. It was always filled with the warmth of the sun that would shine through our living room window. We were so fortunate to be gifted the most sweetest fruits from our trees and the vegetables that grew from our soil.

My beautiful neighborhood watched me learn to ride a bike, watched my cousins and I collect rolly pollys and play hide and seek around my neighbor's house when we were younger, watched us walk to our neighbor's house to go swimming on a hot summer day, and watched my cousins play basketball outside our front yard.

Altadena was the most special place, a place that you could only really fathom how beautiful it was if you went and really took it in for all that it was. The trees that the sun would shine through, the sound of the birds on an early Sunday morning, the stars and sunsets, the way it looked after a rainy day, the palm trees on Palm Street, and how it felt like you were the only person alive if you went outside in the middle of the night because it was so quiet.

With Altadena gone now, it feels like my entire childhood was completely wiped away, leaving only the memories. The families in Altadena, including my own, were robbed of so many things, the future Christmases and Thanksgivings we would have continued to host, our future birthdays that we would have held in our backyard/frontyard, the plants my mom and Nana would have continued to grow all around our home, our future generations that were also supposed to grow up there. Now all that is left are the steps to our front door.

Since the fire, I've gone back to Altadena to see my house more than once. At first all I felt was grief. It was a constant reminder that everything my family had worked for was gone, seeing the look of defeat on my Nana's and my parents' face made it even worse. But now, we go to see it to seek familiarity and seek the warmth it once brought us.

Though I'm not physically living there anymore, a part of me is still there and living. My heart still aches to be there, to be in the presence of where my little green house once stood.

Please consider helping the Hernandez family rebuild after the Eaton Fire. Go Fund Me QR code provided below.



Hernandez family: Juliet (c/o '20), Karina, Jazlyn (c/o '25), Julio, Mayra, Natalie (c/o '14), Ruby (c/o '22)

'ONLY TIME WILL TELL'

Interview by: David Chavarria

Ethan Allen is a Marshall Fundamental almunus from the class of 2024. His family home in North Altadena that he shared with his parents, sister, and dog since 2006 was lost in the fire. He is currently a student at UC Berkeley.

Q: What did your home mean to you and your family?

A: "One of the biggest things that hit me was remembering how much it meant to my parents. My mom worked from home for quite a long time and it was her main space. She loved to cook, decorate her house, and work on her garden. She also always hosted Thanksgiving and Christmas parties because this was when all of our family and friends reunited. It was like a family space, so losing it was not only big for us but also big for a lot of people because that's where they held memories, too.



Ethan Allen

Q: Do you regret not taking a special/sentimental item?

A: "To be honest, every day, I remember things I just didn't take that I used to have, but one thing that sticks out is, that my mom was making this memory box, so it had past class projects, little art projects, notes that my sister and I have given her, and I was just sad to see those go. Also, I've been keeping birthday cards because my friends and I like to give very heartfelt notes on our birthdays, and I've been saving them up for the past couple of years, and I cherish those messages but I lost those. So I guess like sentimental items like that."

Q: How do you remember the last moments in your home before evacuating?

A: "I was pretty skeptical. I couldn't take it seriously because you don't expect anything to happen. My father wanted to stay and protect the house, but my mother was very scared and wanted to leave, I was pretty conflicted because I didn't think the fire would come down and my father was dead set on staying so I wanted to stay with him. I couldn't grasp the situation. I packed a go bag, I packed some clothes, but there were a lot of other items I didn't take. My mother and father didn't take as much as I did. My mom just took her purse and my dad left with the clothes on his back, his keys, and his wallet. We brought our important documents, but we didn't take a suitcase, and although we had ample time, we couldn't fathom how bad it was going to be."

Q: How has your thought process and recovery been?

A: "We moved to my grandmother's house in Carson and every day while at my grandmother's house, a lot of people were coming over to give us gifts. We were thankful for them, but it was definitely a difficult period being in a house that's not yours. I was very far away from Pasadena so I felt disconnected and I didn't know was going on. I didn't have anything to do because all my hobbies were burned, so I spent most of my time on my phone trying to get clothes and toiletries. It was just a lot of waiting. I felt lost."

Q: How do you think Altadena and Eaton Canyon should be restored?

A: "I definitley think the residents who plan on rebuilding should receive financial support. They need to rebuild and move back in so that the area won't be gentrified. In the future, I think that Eaton Canyon, in general, needs more fire control. We haven't had rain in a few months and there was no controlled burning to prevent fires. Knowing that we were nearing the season of the Santa Ana winds, it just needs better management in general."

Q: Has your inner circle been heavily impacted?

A: "I have some close friends who also lost their homes. All of my friends in the area had to evacuate, and some went weeks without power after returning. During that time, we tried to reconnect as much as possible and it really helped out seeing my people. I came to the realization that I didn't lose everything. The connections I had, stand strong or even stronger than before, and that's what I value most now because they stayed with me through all this."

Q: Does your family plan on selling or staying?

A: "My parents have considered selling. We definitely plan on rebuilding the whole property. I'm not sure if they plan on living there after rebuilding. I guess only time will tell."

Pasadena Jewish Community Perseveres Despite Loss of Temple



Kate Karish

Kate Karish is a current senior in the class of 2025. She is the president of the Marshall Jewish Club.

During the chaos of the Eaton Fire, the first building I learned had been lost was my synagogue, the Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center (PJTC). My friends from PJTC were texting in our group chat as we heard about it, and we were shocked by the abrupt loss.

We were relieved to learn that before the fire reached PJTC, clergy members had saved the Torahs, which were the most important items there.

My parents have been part of the PJTC community since moving to Pasadena, where they raised my older brothers and me. PJTC is a central hub for Jewish life in the area, serving as both a synagogue and a Hebrew school.

My brothers and I went through the Hebrew school, learning Jewish traditions, holidays, and basic Hebrew from kindergarten through seventh grade. We also attended B'nai Simcha Preschool, which, when we were enrolled, was located in Arcadia but later rented space at PJTC for many years.

When I was thirteen, I participated in the Jewish custom of becoming a bat mitzvah. Like my brothers before me, my extended family flew in from out of town to celebrate the milestone with me at PJTC.

In the months leading up to my bat mitzvah, I visited PJTC as often as five out of seven days a week. I studied Torah passages, Jewish history, and philosophy, which deepened my understanding of my culture. Before my ceremony, I attended weekend services in the small, century-old Knell Chapel, and through my long hours at the temple, I developed a profound sense of community.

"...it is important to remember that our community is still here, even if our building is not."

One of my favorite Jewish holidays is Purim, a celebration of life and Jewish survival. Every year, PJTC hosts a big celebration featuring the reading of the Purim story, carnival games, and plenty of Purim cookies, called hamantaschen.

As a young child, I enjoyed the cakewalk and plastic bowling. Later, as a teacher's assistant at the Hebrew school, I led tie-dye art projects and made cotton candy. For many years, I helped my mother distribute gifts to the congregation on behalf of the Sisterhood, connecting with old friends and welcoming new members of the temple.

Last year, the Marshall Jewish Club was invited to participate in the cultural fair, which required us to showcase food from our culture. This felt overwhelming for our fledgling club, but fortunately, PJTC opened its kosher kitchen for us to bake hundreds of rugelach. The club enjoyed making the cookies and later handing them out at the fair.

Most synagogues have a lamp, candle, or light that is never turned off, called the ner tamid, or eternal light. While the light holds deep religious symbolism, it also serves as a beacon of hope for the Jewish people—signifying that our light will never be extinguished.

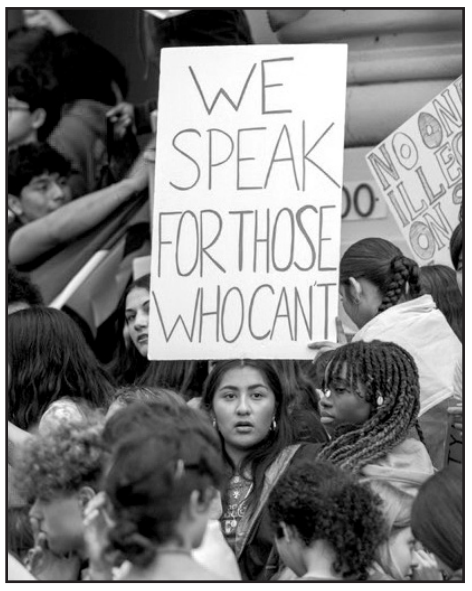
Upon hearing the news about the temple, one of the first things my brother said was, "The ner tamid finally went out."

That is true, but if the Jewish community is known for anything, it is resilience.

After all, we do know how to build a second temple. PJTC burned down on Tuesday, January 7th, yet continued to hold religious services the following weekend, and relocated to the Mayfield Senior School.

Since then, the First United Methodist Church has generously opened its space for PJTC to hold services, and Hebrew school classes are now conducted at Mayfield. Not having the safe space of PJTC during this rise in antisemitism is difficult, but it is important to remember that our community is still here, even if our building is not.





Left*:* PUSD students protest at Pasadena City Hall
Top:Senior Fernanda Morales holds up a sign during the march
Bottom*:* Students march through Colorado Blvd

Student Walkout Protests Immigration Raids

Story by Bryan Noyola Photos by Ailani Cota & Jacob Naranjo

Across the United States, high school students voiced their opposition and concerns to the recent federal immigration policies and actions.

These demonstrations were particularly prominent in California, where students from various high schools organized walkouts to stand in solidarity with immigrant communities and express their dissent against aggressive immigration enforcement. Some walkouts were organized between schools, where student representatives contacted other students in the school district to come together as a joint student body.

On Feb. 7, hundreds of students from multiple high schools in Pasadena staged a walkout similar to what was seen in Los Angeles County three days beforehand, protesting the Trump Administration's immigration policies.

Pasadena High School would walk out first, about an hour before Marshall Fundamental walked out at 12:50 pm at lunchtime. After the 4th period dismissal, many students went to the front of school and waited for everyone to gather up, before walking out in masses. Muir and Blair would walk out at the same time.

All students were instructed in the student-led protest to rally at Pasadena City Hall where, later at 5 pm, there would be a march from City Hall to Pasadena Community College.

But for about three hours at city hall, students screamed out their concerns and waved the flags of their origins. Students held signs that expressed their message. One sign read, "Tenemos que gritar lo que tus padres y los mios callan por miedo," which translates to, *We have to scream what your parents and what my parents stay quiet for, out of fear*, in Spanish. A sign in English read, *When Injustice Becomes Law, Resistance Becomes Duty*.

The energy from the walkout was relentless, a constant sense of community and fighting for a cause that affects everyone, but these students dared to exercise their rights, despite the backlash from parents, students, people online, etc.

An estimated 300 students from Marshall Fundamental walked out, with more students arriving later that evening at City Hall.

Senior Itzel Osorio Silva supported the cause and student demonstration by walking out of school.

"I think it's a great thing, as it's not only shedding light on the impact immigration is having on kids across the state, but it almost allows kids to express their concerns in a very large scale. This allows our voices to be heard and spark conversations with many people to spread what we are advocating for," she said.

The student march over to City Hall was met without violence or incident. The Pasadena Police allowed students to march and protest while keeping a watchful eye on bystanders on sidewalks and at city hall.

The sights and sounds of the walkout included a unison of student voices, honking and shouts of support from the incoming cars and local residents, and a diverse group of student faces chanting for a collective belief.

But, this protest wasn't just about the policies of immigration. It was also about the dismantlement of the United States Department of Education. Donald Trump's plan is to slowly destabilize the department, with a series of executive orders that would eliminate programs such as Pell grants, federal student loans, disability programs, elementary and secondary programs, and civil right enforcement. It would essentially gut the system, despite the doors still being open—temporarily for now. These program cuts will affect the students at Marshall Fundamental, who benefit heavily from them.

Low-income students who come from a background of undocumented family members will now have to fear if they'll ever go to college because it's too expensive. Vulnerable and underserved students and families will fear the cutting of funds that provide services intended to provide an equitable education on top of the many anxious families who fear deportation.



Lady Eagles Tennis Wins First-Ever CIF Championship Taking Down Flintridge

By: Noah Castillo & Paolo Calchi Novati

In a miraculous and historic playoff competition, the Marshall Fundamental Lady Eagles tennis team earned its first-ever CIF championship on Nov.16 at the Marshall Fundamental Sports Complex.

Marshall played at home due to a cancellation the day prior due to rain. The team played Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy ending the game in a tie, 9-9. However, after all 18 matches were completed, the Eagles managed to pull off the win based on the games won, with a score of 65-63 to capture the CIF Division 5 crown.

The rainout at the Claremont Tennis Club on Nov.15 resulted in the match being moved to Marshall Fundamental.

The tennis courts and gymnasium at the Marshall Fundamental Sports Complex were completed in 2016 for $11.5 million thanks to a $350 million Measure TT bond that was approved by voters for PUSD in 2008.

It took eight years to build the tennis courts and another eight years to build the squad that would lead the school to its first CIF title in school history.

The champions began the season with 17 girls, which normally the team only consists of 12 players, so they had a larger varsity team. They started off perfect in the Mission Valley League, going undefeated, 10-0.

With the first place spot secured, the girls were guaranteed CIF competition as a team, and on top of that, the teams three singles players Junior Hannah Hagiwara, Sophomore Diana Kasabian and Junior Elena Edmonds, ranked top four in league singles.

As for the team competing, CIF proved to be a challenge but nothing the team couldn't handle. The last two rounds were tense, but thanks to the help of doubles one, Sierra Bethelmy and Keri Santiago, securing deciding matches, the girls safely gained the upper hand.

This was also an amazing year for the up and coming freshman, who not only got to be a part of the winning season, but also had some play time in the finals, which

See Tennis Page 14



Photo by: Ailani Cota

Softball players celebrated their first home game on their renovated field on Feb. 25

Softball Cuts Ribbon to Celebrate Renovations

By: Valeria Rivas

Softball team members and other team sports have demonstrated resilience throughout the years as they would practice on fields that were falling apart. Year after year, numerous athletes were injured by patches of uneven fields.

All of this was brought to the administrative team's attention, and action was taken so that softball players could have a safe place to play.

With the help of Measure O bond funds, the softball team kicked off their home opener against PHS on Feb. 25 with a new dugout, bleachers, and other facilities upgrades.

Superintendent Elizabeth Blanco was on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Measure O was a voter-approved, $516 million, long-term bond measure in 2020 that would provide modernization to PUSD schools, mainly for STEAM and technology, but also for facilities.

As most of the projects have improved neighboring high schools, Marshall Fundamental continues to seek a new track and field as CIF playoff games are still played at other campuses due to safety and fan accommodations concerns.

ASB Takes Homecoming Dance to the 'Garden'

By: Vic Tunyan

This year's homecoming theme at Marshall Fundamental was "A Garden Soiree," and the event took place at Almansor Court, located at 700 South Almansor Street, on Friday, October 18. The regular ticket price for students was $75, with the same price for attendees outside of Marshall. However, students with an ASB card received a $10 discount on their tickets.

The theme, "A Garden Soiree," was reflected in the attire of the students and staff, all of whom dressed to impress. The room itself was decorated with lights and small touches that echoed the garden theme. Photographers were also present to capture the special moments shared among friends.

Marshall had security stationed outside the entrance, as well as staff members to ensure smooth entry for all guests.

Freshman Charlize Cuellar, an ASB member who has been with the organization since middle school, shared her experience.

"When you walked up to the entrance for the homecoming dance, you were welcomed by Marshall staff outside of the main door, greeting guests and providing safety.

"There were also other Marshall staff who were checking tickets, and overall, it was really simple," Cuellar said.

For some students, it was their first homecoming, and expectations varied. Some were excited just to enjoy the night with friends and dance, while others had different hopes for the event.

Cuellar reflected on her own expectations.

"What I expected from the homecoming event was to get to spend my night in a fun and energetic way with my friends, and it was exactly what I expected during the time I had spent there," she said.

The event received mixed feedback from students. While many had an excellent time with friends and created lasting memories, some found it frustrating that the venue felt overcrowded given the number of attendees as the demand for the event was higher than expected.





Top: Students raise the roof in Alhambra

Left: Seniors Peach Marino, Dahlia Christensen (alumna), Chloe Williams and Maya De Cunto enjoy the soiree.

Photos by: Ailani Cota

Latino Club, ELAC, Puente Partake in Parade

By:Valeria Rivas

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month the Pasadena community comes together every year and celebrates in a parade. This parade has created a supportive community that has shared cultural values that inspire young ones to continue the tradition.

This was the 26th anniversary of the Latino Heritage Parade that took place on October 5. It took place at Los Robles Avenue and Buckeye Street Intersection from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event brings the community together to celebrate with enthusiasm, energy, and cultural diversity.

A talented and passionate Marshall Fundamental student who is in the Aztec group dancer of Pasadena, performed at the Latino Heritage parade.

"This group has brought out the best in me, improving my creativity, cultural expression, and overall confidence. This means a lot to me and my family," senior Cynthia Rocha said.

Marshall Fundamental's Latino Club and Puente came out to participate in this celebration and represent the cultural roots and proud young generations of Latinos. People of all ethnicities came together to celebrate Hispanic cultural pride.

"People showed so much passion and pride in their culture. Even though my exact ethnicity may not fit the definition I felt very welcomed," senior Lola Gomez said.

These Marshall clubs; Puente, Latino club, and ELAC worked very diligently on their posters to participate in this parade alongside other Pasadena schools. Principal Lori Touloumian and staff Mary Stevens also assisted in this parade to support Eagle students.

This parade was overflowing with colors in the flags and traditional clothing from different Hispanic cultures. Music was everywhere, including mariachi groups and other musical groups like the Vilma Diaz y La Sonora.

The Grand Marshal was astronaut José M. Hernández whose message was to never give up on one's dreams.



Photo by Daisy Rodriguez

Marshall Fundamental's MDT perform on the parade route.



Photo by Caroline Villagran

8th grader Angel Divine Tchigui cuts the ribbon alongside superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Blanco.

Donors Give Library Facelift

By: David Chavarria

It was an unexpected collaboration of sport and literature as Marshall's library was graced with new tables, chairs, personal cubbies, and modular furniture, leaving a lasting effect on current and future students, as well as the future of this school.

On Nov. 19, Marshall Fundamental's Jazz Band performed "Drummer Boy" during the unveiling of the library's modernized lounge and study area. The event included participation from Marshall's dance, drumline, and cheer team, along with speeches from middle school ASB, librarian Sara Scribner, principal Lori Touloumian, and Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Blanco.

Representatives from the Pasadena Education Foundation, the Tournament of Roses Foundation, School Specialty, and the College Football Playoff Foundation were present as they funded the renovations that is sure to make an impact on the future of Marshall Fundamental.

The project, conceived in August of this year, was planned in coordination with Scribner and School Specialty to discuss the color scheme of the chairs, tables, comfortable seating, and the new addition of personal desks.

Executive Vice President of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, Mark Leavens, was excited to help the school.

"We are proud to partner with the College Football Playoff Foundation to do this Library makeover for Marshall and extend the opportunities for learning for students here in Pasadena Unified School District," furthermore adding, "The Tournament of Roses Association and the College Football Playoff Foundation have partnered to select schools within PUSD to receive funding for special projects, and the library makeover today is one of those projects," he said.

Over the nine years of collaboration, School Specialty, and College Football Playoff Foundation have worked in 14 states, and 39 school districts, and have done 66 makeovers now including Marshall.

The lead of the sales team in Los Angeles for School Specialty, Victor Gonzalez stated, "These days are the best part of the job when we get to see the impact that it has. Sometimes we spend a lot of time working on projects and never get to see how students actually get to use them. Being able to see them and feel the joy and the fact that it is making a difference is the best part of the job"

National leader for School Specialty in partnering with College Football, Mack Crumlin, expressed, "We hope it's just a room that encourages exploration, inspiration, and social connection between students so that's really why we do this and why we design the room the way it is."

Mock Trial Achieves School Record

By Brenna Henley &
Paolo Calchi Novati



Photo courtesy of Mock Trial

Students from MFSS' Mock Trial team competed at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse.

The Marshall Fundamental Mock Trial Team advanced past the primary rounds for the first time in team history in the Teach Democracy Mock Trial Program advancing to the playoffs.

On November 13, the Marshall Fundamental Mock Trial team received historical news. They had performed well enough to advance to the playoff round of the competition, an achievement that had not been made prior.

Mock Trial is a club with the main goal of introducing participating students to the world of law and criminal court. Participants prepare for months to compete in a competition where they play roles of either attorneys, witnesses, bailiffs, or clerks. At the beginning of the season the Teach Democracy program releases a "case packet" that details the case and trial that the students will be preparing to take to court.

The 2024 competition took place over the span of two weeks at the Stanley-Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles. The initial competition rounds included the team's prosecution, competing on November 4th, and the team's defense competing the following week on the 12th. Both sides won their competitions and scores were high enough for the team to advance to the playoff round where the prosecution competed on November 15th.

Unfortunately, the team's season came to an end that evening. Despite the loss, the 2024 Mock Trial team made an achievement no one saw coming and paved a new path for the future of the club.

"Mock trial is definitely improving my confidence in arguments and conversation," said junior Cloud Morgan-Clark, a lawyer in the current mock trial season.

This year's team included only two seniors, Itzel Osorio and Elliot Fargnoli. The rest of the club plans on returning for the 2025 competition.

A different person was awarded MVP in each of Marshall's three competitions. Federico Calchi Novati won MVP of the team for his role as an attorney in the prosecution's initial competition and Jack Stwert-Oaten won MVP for his role as an attorney in the defense competition.

Finally, Avy Kaushik won MVP for the role as the pretrial attorney in the prosecution's playoff competition.

Multicultural Fair Embraces Diversity

By: David Chavarria

On Nov 14, 2024, Marshall Fundamental Culture Clubs held their Fall Multicultural fair with the theme "100 Years of Culture" not only referring to the cultures these clubs represent but also the culture of Marshall itself, with this being our centennial anniversary.

There were seven clubs represented at the event, Latino Club, Jewish Club, Filipino Club, Asian Club, Italian Club, the Black Student Union, and Armenian Club. Students of all grades participated in activities such as games, trivia, learning about food, clothes, language, history, and listening to different cultural rhythms and songs.

Latino Club member and Senior Bryan Noyola stated, "I had fun learning about different cultures. The stands were very inviting and Italian club had this board game that I really liked."

Asian Club member and Junior Helena Hu was in charge of the Taiwan booth, noted, "My experience during the Cultural fair was pleasant as I got to learn from different cultures. I enjoy seeing how diverse Marshall is!"

Latino Club member and Junior David Amador, who was helping Latino Club said, "It's been fun out here. You know I had to dress for the part, I got my boots on, my nice shirt, representing my culture."

With an ever-growing diverse population, Marshall fosters a community of acceptance and welcome to all cultures visible through student and staff-led efforts such as Cultural clubs and fairs.

Overall, the cultural fair reminded students that an open mind is an educated mind, reinforcing our first, and one of our most important eagle values, Embracing Diversity.







Top: Freshman Charlize Cuellar is dressed in a traditional Korean dress. Far left: Senior Pedro Marchessini holds up a photo frame for Latino Club. Near left: Senior Jaenna Sambilay informs students about the various islands of the Philippines.

Photos by:
Allyson Niebla &
Taleesa Ofumbi

Benefactors Club Encourages Thrift Swapping

By: Bryan Noyola

A fresh and new idea has hit the streets at Marshall — a Thrift Swap. In this swap, people throw their used clothes into a pile and can take whatever they want, almost like a makeshift thrift store. Being a new club at Marshall, Benefactor has taken the essence of this idea and spun it around as a charity event for care packages to the homeless.

Benjamin Muro, a senior at Marshall, founded the club with the yearning to do something for his community as a whole.

"I started Benefactor club as a way to allow for the community to come together in a way to create some sort of community service opportunities, and it was honestly just a way to display the kindness I produce every single day," Muro said.

Muro is working to be an Architect major, a passion of his that he works on when he isn't planning or thinking about what to do with Benefactor Club. He formed his passion from his family, and other architects in the business, but you can also credit his community for forming him to be the person he is today.

He doesn't see himself as the most noteworthy person, but he is a senior willing to do projects to build on the places that molded him into who he is, Pasadena and the L.A. areas.

Benefactors' community aims also include park clean-ups, biking around impoverished areas to educate members about the community, volunteering at the humane society, fundraising for community projects, and more.

The task will be hard but Benefactor Club is trying to complete these goals by the end of their senior year.

"Some of the goals by the end of my senior year is to have a few successful thrift-swaps and a few successful events, to do something that goes beyond just something to put on college applications," Muro stated.

That drive to aid his community is what founded the start of this club, to help. Even the name of the club is a testament to what they are doing: benefactor - someone or something that provides help or an advantage, one that confers a benefit, a benefactor of humankind, especially a person who makes a gift or bequest.

Benefactor Club is looking to make the Thrift Swap a bigger idea at this school to raise money for their cause. They tested out the idea within their club, with a members-only event and it was successful enough for them to consider a school-wide event.

Powde

C/o 2026 Junio

Article by:E

Photos by:



On October 17, 2024, The class of 2026 Juniors took on t
game took place at the Pasadena High School football field. Desp
with a scor
The week leadup to the Thursday Powderpuff football gam
and junior, Marshall Becker hosted a media day for both teams o
pep rally took place later on in the week on Wednesday where th
tines for both middle an
On game day, the junior team, led by quarterbacks, Lauren
Monteleone, Marshall Becker, Diego McDonald and Dylan Obs
gam
"We're proud. The team was able to learn in only a couple
team. "Learning football is hard, and learning that in only a few w
coach, "Our clas
The same bonding w
"Although we faced a tough loss and felt heavy amounts of
we experienced as a class, made us closer," said senior Powderpu
tough loss or hard, unexpected experience, if we stick to
Win or lose, Powderpuff continues to
The halftime performances included acts by The Marshall C
orguard, and a faceoff between the junior and senior boys powde
Homecoming Court and crowning of the Homecoming Queen. G
missioners, Gus Bran
The senior team, coached by George Jennings, Kenneth Ga
game, tying the score any time the juniors pushed ahead, and for
the juniors was the go-ahead touchdown scored by I
"I was nervous in the moments leading up to it but, after p
my team" I
Powderpuff continues to be a fun, yearly, bonding experienc
but also helps to cre
"My favorite part of Powderpuff was the bonding between
gether," Gus Brandow, the junior boys Powderpuff cheer captain
important and the fact that it's this yearly thing for the upperclass
friendships and this is just an aw



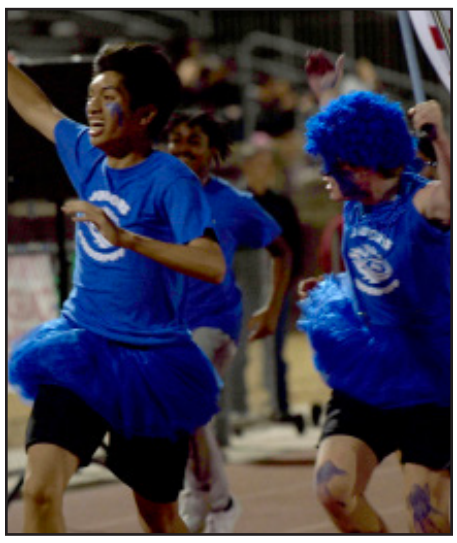




ERPUFF

ors Win Rivalry

Brenna Henley
Olivia Moran







he class of 2025 Seniors in the yearly Powderpuff matchup. The
bite the prior reign of senior wins, the juniors emerged victorious
e of 27-21.
me held much excitement for both teams. Senior, James Shopbell,
n Monday, beginning the game week with hype. The Powderpuff
e boys Powderpuff cheerleaders both performed their dance rou-
nd high school students.
Garnett and Lexie Palacios, and coached by Nate Nicoletti, Sean
senares, took the lead in the second half, ultimately winning the
me.
weeks," junior coach Sean Monteleone said when asked about the
weeks, it's pretty impressive," said Marshall Becker, another junior
s really bonded."
as true for the senior class.
anger, stress, and frustration, in a way, this vulnerable state that
uff cheerleader Liam Davis. "It made us realize that even after a
gether, then we will always become stronger as a team."
be a bonding moment for all upperclassmen.
Cheer Team, The Marshall Dance Team, Marching Band and Col-
rpuff cheerleaders. There was also an announcement of the 2024
ame commentary was provided by the junior and senior pep com-
dow and Siwon Shin.
rnett, Ben Muro, and Steven Ablahad, fought hard throughout the
rcing a tied score at halftime. The final blow to win the game for
Naomi Balian in the last minutes of the second half.
laying the whole game I was happy that I scored a touchdown for
Balian said.
ce for the juniors and seniors that not only brings out school spirit
ate new friendships.
n the guys in the dance. It was really fun to try and learn this to-
and junior pep commissioner said. "I think Powderpuff is super
men is really great because as we're all aging, we're seeking closer
esome way to bring us together."

New Leadership Takes Shape in Band & Choir

By: Errol Dassie

The 2024-2025 school year has resulted in a wave of new teachers, mostly for the Marshall Arts Department. The band and choir have welcomed James Pappalardo and Michelle Espinosa, respectively. Both teach high school and middle school classes.



Michelle Espinosa

Pappalardo who teaches Band got into music in fourth grade.

"Music was always my favorite class of the day," he said.

Pappalardo started with a strng instrument in fifth grade, got the option to play a brass instrument, and chose the baritone, which launched his passion for band.

"My senior year of high school the band director would rotate and let seniors run marching band rehearsal for a day, and when it was my turn I did it and I was like 'Man, if I could do this for the rest of my life I would be happy,' and here I am," said Pappalardo.



James Pappalardo

Pappalardo got his bachelor's degree in music at San Francisco State University and his teaching credentials through Cal Poly.

At Marshall, Pappalardo emphasizes the marching and jazz bands, saying, "I love Marching Band more than anything. My day doesn't feel complete unless I finish out with Marching Band."

"I love Jazz Band just because they're such incredible musicians and already have such a depth of knowledge," said Pappalardo.

The arts department welcomes Pappalardo to the Marshall family.

Also making a debut at Marshall is choir teacher Melissa Espinosa.

"I've been doing choir and singing and the arts for as long as I can remember," Espinosa said.

"Anywhere that I was, I was always a part of the arts."

Espinosa started playing piano in kindergarten and moved on to her after-school music program.

"We put on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and I was Veruca Salt," Espinosa said.

Espinosa has spread her love for the arts everywhere, starting in LA, where she taught math and choir. "Math and music are two sides of the same coin," Espinosa says about her experience teaching math.

"Teaching at Marshall has been great," Espinosa said.

"Teaching middle school is a new thing for me, but they are all really fun," she said.

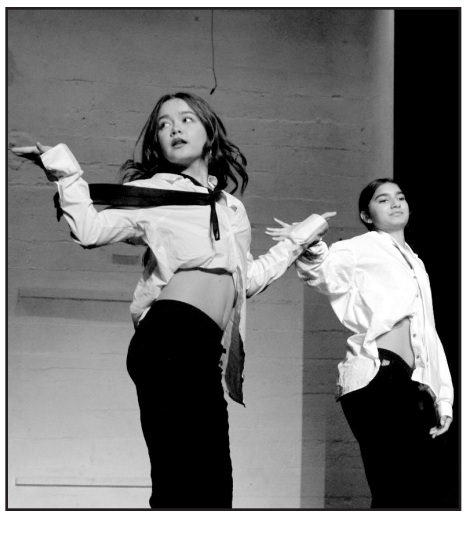
Espinosa will be in charge of all future choir projects, but most importantly the Winter Festival.

Arts Performs in Winter Showcases

The Marshall Arts Departments held their winter concerts in the Marshall Fundamental Auditorium from December 4-12. The Band Concert was on Dec.4, Orchestra Dec.6, Choir Dec.9 and Dance Dec.12.



Top: The band's wind ensemble performs at the Winter Concert.



Right: Isabelle Martinez dances to "Suit and Tie" by Justin Timberlake.

Photos by: Ailani Cota & Livsey Teems



Photos by: Melissa Cuellar & Ava Kushner

Orchestra teacher Heather King proudly presents the Marshall Orchestra.

Festive Fall Vibes

Story by Elizabeth Merriam & Paolo Calchi Novati

On Tuesday, October 8, the Fall Festival brought Marshall's north quad, auditorium, and foyer to life.

Marshall recently staged its yearly autumn concert, the Fall Festival. This concert is unique for featuring almost all of Marshall's arts programs: it includes visual arts, band, dance, orchestra and choir.

"It's so rare that all of the visual and performing arts get together to put on an event for the school. We're usually so separated and being able to showcase everything in one place, especially in October, so soon into the year, is really amazing," band director James Pappalardo said.

This year's Fall Festival was also the first concert at Marshall for him and for choir director Melissa Espinosa; they are both new teachers at Marshall.

With the welcoming of these new instructors came a change in the traditional formula of the concert, most notably for choir. For the first time, the program notes (the explanations of each piece being performed) which have traditionally been done by the choir director, were read by choir students. Some orchestra students also introduced the different groups that performed.

The night was started off in the north quad by Jazz Band and Dance, and then moved indoors for Choir, followed by Orchestra. The last performance of the night was outside: Marching Band and Colorguard performed their show, "Heads or Tails", together.

Plus, paintings and other artwork done by Marshall students were showcased in the foyer.

The Jazz Band performed "Fly me to the Moon" with principal Lori Touloumian on vocals, and Chamber Orchestra played Guns N' Roses' "Sweet Child O' Mine", with senior Julian Guerrero playing electric guitar.

Dance showcased multiple large productions along with a few small group performances.

"To me, performing at the Fall Festival was important because this is my first time performing for the MDT [Marshall Dance Team]. Everyone is watching you, catching your mistakes but also being in two pieces, to me is representing the school, which adds a lot of pressure," 11th grader Cynthia Reyes said about her performance.

"Being able to see all the hours they've been putting into the dance program was really rewarding. I love seeing all their smiles and just being part of the community and audience made this experience very memorable," parent Vanessa Rapucchi said.

When asked about his thoughts on the new choir director, ninth-grader Joshua Boer of Chamber Choir said that she makes class very exciting and works well with her students.

"[Espinosa] goes through it so well that we actually got it [our songs] done a couple of weeks before the concert," he said.

Sophia Torices, a sophomore who has been playing the cello at Marshall since sixth grade, also had positive thoughts about Marshall's arts programs.

"Marshall is a very accepting environment for people who want to get into an art that they aren't familiar with," Torices said.





Left: Principal Lori Touloumian performs "Umbrella" with the dance academy
Above: Freshman Ruby Vallejo introduces music for choir

Boys Return for Lip Sync

By: Brenna Henley

The 2024 Lip Sync battle that took place on September 13 included many talented acts from performers from all high school grade levels.

The "boy band" group who performed "Bye Bye Bye" by NSYNC emerged victorious over all other contenders. The group was made up of seniors, James Shopbell, Liam Davis, Daniel Shopbell, Ryley Aquino, Alessandro DiClaudio, Brandon Yan, and Evan Alameddine.

"To be honest, the mastermind behind the performance was [Shopbell]. As soon as the rest of us walked through the door on the first day of rehearsal, he knew basically what we were going to do," Liam Davis, a key performer in the act said.

The senior boybands matchup was the Drama Council's performance of "Single Ladies" by Beyonce which included Emma Brown, Jupiter Diaz, Audrey Bradley-MicKinnon, and Vatche Harboyan. Gus Brandow performed as Beyonce.

This is the third year the senior boys have taken home the lip sync battle trophy, but to them, the competition is more fun than just winning.

"To be around this group of guys was amazing. With James's leadership and guidance, Ryley's energy and dance moves, Daniel's laugh, Evan's Jokes, Brandon's urge to film a TikTok trend, and Sandro's ability to be so serious but yet so unserious at the same time, we made a pretty good group," Davis, one of the participants, said.



Photos by: James Shopbell

The boy band group of Brandon Yan, James Shopbell, Liam Davis, Ryley Aquino, Alessandro DiClaudio, Daniel Shopbell, and Evan Alameddine has won the lip sync trophy for three consecutive years.

Haunt Goes Back in Time

By: Errol Dassie

For two evenings in October, students in the dramatic arts department successfully presented a student-run, haunted house for children and community members to enjoy.

"The theme for this Haunt is completely different," said Alison Garfinkel, the Drama Club advisor. "This year the theme goes back in time for a more classic old-timey haunted house."

Many students had double the work load.

"The Haunt is always a lot of work, but this time we want to go all out, with the fall play around the corner, the pressure is on for us to have everything done," said Audrey Bradley McKinnon, the Co-President of the Drama Council.

"Though we have a lot to do I have full confidence in our tech and actors," said McKinnon, "with less focus on tech, all eyes fall on the actors to bring the Haunt together."

"I worked with most of the actors from the Haunt last year and I am happy to work with them again, The process of working with actors for the Haunt is so much fun because you get to see how different actors interpret different characters," said Emma Brown, treasurer of the Drama Council. Through the hardships and long nights of the Haunt, it is well-received by its most loyal of attendees. "It's always fun to go with my friends and just enjoy the night," says Logan Kelly who has gone to the Haunt for three years.



Photo by Daisy Rodriguez

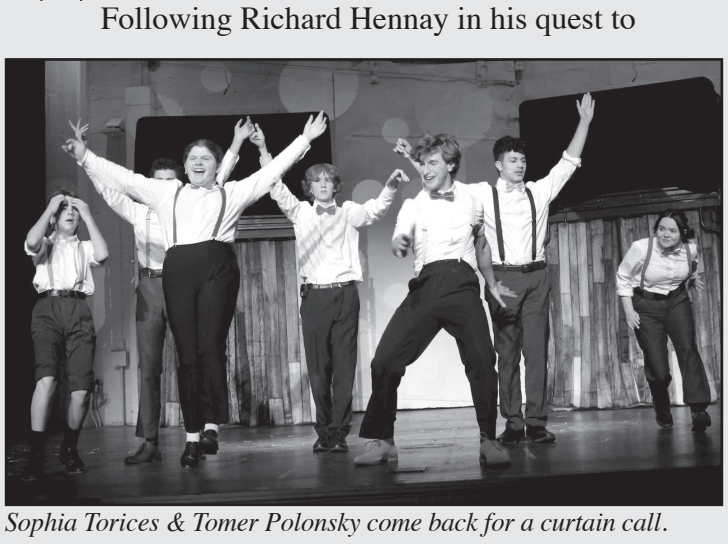
The Haunt went back in time on Oct.29-30

39 Steps Takes Bold Dramatic Leap

By: Andrew Sweet

When The 39 Steps opened its doors from Nov 14-16, the audience couldn't help but lose their breath.

Following Richard Hennay in his quest to expose the spy ring of "The 39 Steps," the production juggled creative set pieces, three romantic interests, and seven lovable clowns.



Sophia Torices & Tomer Polonsky come back for a curtain call.



James Shopbell leads the investigation.

After last year's play *She Kills Monsters* and musical *The Prom*, Patrick Barlow's espionage story delivered a refreshing and bold approach to the Marshall drama program.

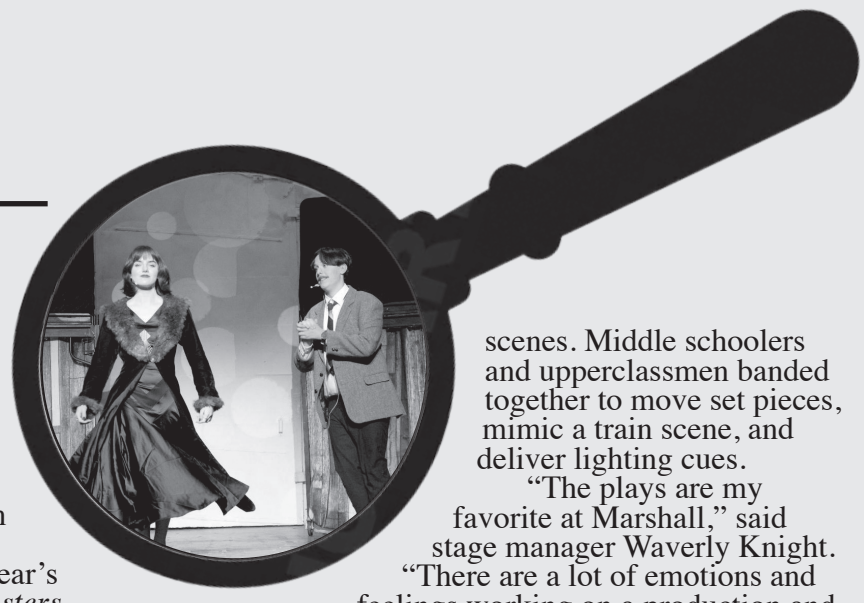
"I have wanted to do The 39 Steps for years," remarked director Alison Garfinkel. "I also love the mix of broad comedy and suspense. It's the first play I've done that incorporated clowning in it, which was a fun thing to explore."

With the production lasting over two months before show nights, the rehearsal process was full of laughs and creative liberty.

"This show was very loud and large," assistant director and actress Emma Brown quoted. "Nothing we did could be small."

Memorable scenes included Annabella Schmidt's dramatic death scene, the Old Woman's floppy wig, and Mr. Memory's confusing farewell to the audience. The set's simplicity - comprised of scaffolding, old-fashioned suitcases, kazoos and a set amount of props - was applauded.

This year, technicians amounted to a team of sixty - a record behind the scenes. Middle schoolers and upperclassmen banded together to move set pieces, mimic a train scene, and deliver lighting cues.



"The plays are my favorite at Marshall," said stage manager Waverly Knight. "There are a lot of emotions and feelings working on a production and it's such a bonding experience for the crew."

When asking for responses from audience goers, parents and students alike found the play "quirky" and "ambitious."

"I liked the physical comedy and how the way the ensemble characters were deployed. Sometimes in a high school it's hard to figure out how to get everyone a little moment in the spotlight, and I liked that there were moments of glory for everyone," audience member Arwen Johnson commented.

Straight after striking The 39 Steps, various cast and crew jumped right into the next show - this year's All-Star Musical. A second-time collaboration with the Pasadena Playhouse, *Hadestown* will premiere in late January to early February. Marshall Fundamental's *Spongebob the Musical* will follow after, based on the popular TV series.

"We never stop working!" exclaimed Brown, ecstatic for the next production.

Editorial

2024 Presidential Election: Will America Be Great, Again?



Errol Dassie

The election is over. The American people have made their choice. They chose the 78-year-old felon who was convicted of 34 counts related to fraud, sexual assault, and hush money—the president who was laughed at at a U.N hearing — the president whose economic plan was condemned by many award-winning economists. Trump has beaten out Kamala Harris. The American people chose who they wanted in the most powerful seat in America and they chose Trump. Kamala Harris the former prosecutor, district attorney, senator, and now former Vice President was beaten out by a criminal.

Harris would have provided tax cuts to the lower tax bracket and fought for a stop to price gouging and the rise of cost for essentials. Her new policies would have encouraged the middle class and small businesses by conducting a federal plan to fund small businesses; in turn, creating new jobs. Along with this, she put her support in Roe v Wade which protects the right of abortion for women.

Under Harris, you would have seen increased taxes for the rich and more support for the middle class, along with the open backing for minorities and marginalized communities such as women and racial groups.

Now that Trump is our president there is a threat to the right to an abortion for women. Though the American people have made their choice, so now they will have to keep it. The future of this country is hard to make out because of President Trump's vague policies. He claims he wants to save the border though he doesn't give any policies to help the border. He is a strong angry speaker but his speeches give no direction except to vote for Trump and he'll fix everything. However, we can look at his past term.

President-elect Donald J. Trump had the least attended inaugural ceremony in history.

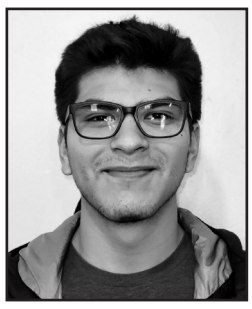
The future president added about $2 trillion to the national debt. Economists say his new plan will add about $7 trillion to the national debt.

He was sued by multiple cities for shifty campaigning (NBC News). He tried to build and make Mexico pay for it, but when it started being built the only people paying for it was the American people (TIME).

He appointed three Supreme Court justices to overturn Roe v. Wade and takes full credit for doing so (NBC).

He refused to admit he miscalculated the trajectory of Hurricane Dorian and drew on the official map to make it look like he was right (CNN). In the one and only debate with Harris, he claimed that Harris was giving transgender operations to illegal aliens. At the end of his first term as president, he conducted an insurrection in the capital.

Now, this man will be our president again.



David Chavarria

On Thursday, November 6, 2024, Donald J. Trump was elected as the 47th President of the United States of America. Most Americans feel their voices have been heard, while others feel misrepresented. Although I am not of age to vote, as someone who identifies with the Republican Party, I take immense pride in knowing that America will be great again.

It has been three years since Joe Biden was elected President and Kamala Harris as Vice President. In those three years, two wars have started, consumer prices for Americans have risen by 21.4%, and according to Lucy Gilder from the BBC, "Since January 2021, when Joe Biden came to office, there have been more than 10 million encounters with illegal immigrants - about 8 million came over the southwest land border with Mexico."

As a young Hispanic male living in California and attending Marshall, many of my peers and teachers did not expect my support for President Trump. On election day I was called "a traitor of my race," and was told that "I was supporting my enemy." Although my conservative views on politics are shared by few at Marshall, across the country, many Hispanic males have them, too. As Jason Lange, Bo Erickson, and Brad Heath from Reuters wrote, "This time, Trump won 55% of Hispanic men, 19 points more than the 36% share he won four years earlier, while he garnered support from 38% of Hispanic women, up 8 points from 2020."

I reflect the 55% of male trump supporters, mainly because of my family values. Many Hispanic households across the United States hold conservative and strong pro-family values whether it's because of their religion or their respect for tradition. Additionally, Trump's tax cuts, such as the no tax on tips and the no tax on overtime would be a significant wage boost to union workers and those in the service industry, many of whom are Hispanic/Latino.

Many of President Trump's policies focus on issues Americans feel every day, from increasing the production of crude oil and lessening the burden of gas prices to protecting student-athletes from increased possibility of injury by only allowing players of the same biological sex to compete.

He is a vocal supporter of state rights and believes that issues like abortion should be up to the people living in the state and not the federal government. Furthermore, in an interview with NBC, Trump mentioned that under his administration, IVF (in-vitro fertilization) would be protected by the federal government and that the government or insurance companies would cover the cost, "We are going to be, under the Trump administration, we are going to be paying for that treatment," Trump said.

Trump's main priority is the American people. He will prioritize American citizens over those of other countries, bring manufacturing back to the US, incentivize business ownership, and make America great again.

Dodgers World Series Title Secures Hollywood Ending



Bryan Noyola

After years of disappointment, injuries, criticism, and anguish, the Dodgers stepped up to the plate and won the World Series. This championship solidified their dynasty and etched their name in glory. With this win, they have their eighth trophy and are now tied with the San Francisco Giants for fourth in all-time wins.

The Dodgers were down 5-0 in the 5th inning against Gerrit Cole, who before this threw 10 scoreless innings against the Dodgers with 5 hits, 2 walks, and 1 earned run. Even so, Gerrit Cole would go on to have a complete meltdown that would be considered the starting point of the Dodgers' comeback.

Gerrit Cole would give up only 3 hits in the 5th inning, but the Yankees would match with 3 errors. A dropped ball by Aaron Judge, a missed throw by Anthony Volpe, and miscommunication on a ground ball to first by Gerrit Cole and Anthony Rizzo. Those misplays halted a 3rd out to finish the inning—the Dodgers had their eyes set on a trophy that night.

Kiké started off 5th the inning by hitting a high and away fastball into right field, this would go on to start the uneasy times for the Yankees.

Edman would then poke a ball into center field, which looked like the first out of the inning, but Aaron Judge would mistakenly take his eyes off the fly ball and commit the worst error this inning; the shortstop, Anthony Volpe, would commit another error afterward, in which he threw a bad ball to Jazz Chisholm on a play to 3rd when Will Smith grounded out and the inning resumed with still no outs. All seemed good when Cole would strike out Lux and Othani back-to-back, but Mookie would then come up to the plate and knock a ground ball to Rizzo which seemed like the 3rd out, regrettably, miscommunication between Rizzo and Cole, where neither covered the bag, a run would score and the inning would continue.

With the bases filled, Freddie Freeman would dump a two-out single into right field to make the score 5-3. Teoscar would follow up with a double over Aaron Judge's head to tie the game, and Freddie would score from first on this play with his bad ankle, making the score 6-5 in favor of the Dodgers.

The Dodgers would soon lose the lead to a Giancarlos Stanton sac fly, but they would respond immediately with two sac flies themselves. Lux scored for the tie and Mookie for the win, a 7-6 ball game into the 9th.

To combat the bottom of the Yankees' lineup; Volpe, Wells, and Verdugo, Dodgers manager, Dave Roberts, would send his game 3 starter, Walker Buehler, with 2 days rest to face them.

Walker Buehler took the challenge and would perform to his degree, getting a 1,2,3 inning. Grounds out Volpe to 3rd, and strikes out Wells and Verdugo. World Champions.

But before this World Series, the Dodgers went into this very confidently after a debriefing from the front office in the scouting meetings. Joel Sherman told the New York Post, "What the Dodgers told their players in scouting meetings was the Yankees were talent over fundamentals. That if you run the bases with purpose and aggression, the Yankees will self-inflict harm"

This analysis proved to be correct, Kiké's aggressive base running in game five cost a run for the Yankees and forced them to commit an error. The Yankees' under-use of analytics made them suffer against the Dodgers, who play modern baseball, sometimes getting criticized for using too much analytics. Dave Roberts was terrified to go back to LA if they did lose this game, stating "When you're down 3–0, you're at the point where you have nothing to lose now... When you're down 3–0 everyone is expecting you to lose anyway. So now, that, for me, is freeing. And they played free, won Game 4." But Dave would be glad to have such a team to not go down 3-2.

A stellar performance from Freddie Freeman won him his first World Series MVP and a second World Series, batting an impressive .300 with 4 homers, a record-tying 12 RBIs, and a historic walk-off grand slam in the World Series. Freddie Freeman broke another record with 6 straight home runs in the World Series surpassing George Springer.

Other impressive stats include Mookie Betts with 4 RBIs batting .278 and Tommy Edman, the previous MVP in the NLCS, batting .294 and slugging .588.

Going into next season, the Dodgers are still favorites, with a +300, and are over the Yankees, +800, according to ESPN. They have a strong case for the championship, especially after the signings, of Rōki Sasaki, Blake Snell, Micheal Conforto, Hyeseong Kim, Tanner Scott, Kirby Yates, Blake Treinen, Tommy Edman, Teoscar Hernàndez, Kiké Hernàndez, and Clayton Kershaw. There was a clear uproar from all MLB fans, other than Dodger fans, about spending money on players. But, despite the controversy, this should be how front offices should operate, if they want to win now, make how you spend in the off-season show how much you want to. The players who did sign with the Dodgers, are in a win-now situation, they see the environment, the farm, the staff, they see a team where they know they have the ability to win. That's why we have the success, the glory—the team to win it all. And with Shoehi on the bump this season after recovering from Tommy John, we're just adding to the list, of how we're gonna win.

Tyler, The Creator Continues to Reinvent in *Chromakopia*

If you haven't heard of Tyler, The Creator by now, you're either a teacher or you don't have internet access.

Tyler Okonma, known by his stage name Tyler, The Creator, became a cultural icon with the release of the incredibly popular album, Flower Boy (2017) and Igor (2019), which solidified his status as a master producer and storyteller. His next album in 2021, Call Me If You Get Lost (CMIYGL), was Tyler's victory lap around the rap industry, and with the success of his luxury brand, Golf Le Fleur, all of Gen Z chased the newly-created Tyler, The Creator "aesthetic."

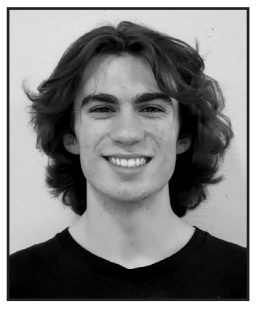
After such success, fans were ready for The Creator's next era. But after the release of only a deluxe version of CMIYGL in 2023, fans were disappointed with the lack of substantial new content.

Suddenly, just a year later, Tyler released a series of black-and-white music videos on Instagram, hyping up his new album, *Chromakopia*, which released on October 28th, 2024, shocking the Internet by breaking Tyler's two-year release pattern. *Chromakopia* is a distinct change from the money-focused bars of his last album, focusing on deeper stories and introspection on things like Tyler's age, false identities, and paranoia, in "Tomorrow," "Take Your Mask Off," and "Noid" respectively.

Many fans were surprised with the album's off-kilter sounds and heavy-hitting beats, including 11th-grade Marshall student Diego Varela. "Tyler went too experimental with this one," Varela said disappointedly on the morning of the album's release. "I feel like [Chromakopia] is just parodying Igor, you know?"

Personally, I think *Chromakopia's* unique instrumentals and Tyler's vulnerability and honesty, like on "Like Him," makes for a great addition to his catalogue of albums. *Chromakopia's* reflectiveness even reminds me of Kendrick Lamar's "Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers," which shares a similar deconstruction of the artist.

No matter your first impressions, the future of *Chromakopia's* impact is up to time - and only The Creator knows.



Gus Brandow

WHERE WERE OUR LEADERS WHEN WE NEEDED THEM?

By the time you're reading this, it's been over a month since the Eaton Fire changed our lives. The Environmental Protection Agency inspectors have still not cleared all the hazardous materials from the lost homes, students and faculty across the city are still searching for stable housing, and many are mourning their losses.

This staff editorial is not meant to promote political opinions or spread division but rather to objectively question the leadership of the cities of Pasadena and Altadena during this tragedy. In doing so, we hope to show the flaws in the evacuation notices for the residents of Altadena and the lack of urgency shown by neighboring emergency service departments.

In an interview with the L.A. Times, Thomas Cova, a professor of geography at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, who specializes in emergency alerts during wildfires stated, "There should have been all sorts of red lights on the dashboard for west Altadena, based on what was happening on the ground and the timeline of reports about fire in the neighborhood." "Why were the boots on the ground warning people before the people in the office, whose job it is to warn them? That's upside down." Referring to the alerts sent to east Altadena and not the western side.

The Mayor of Pasadena, Victor Gordo was responsible for authorizing evacuation orders for the City of Pasadena, and he did. But what about Altadena, the neighboring town to the north, closest in proximity to Eaton Canyon, without a Mayor, and under L.A. County jurisdiction? In interviews with Altadena residents, we kept getting the same response, "No one warned us." The L.A. County Fire Department, which is responsible for Altadena, was fighting the flames in the Pacific Palisades, while the Eaton Fire kept growing, eventually entering Altadena. It wasn't that the county didn't care to offer resources, it was that they just couldn't do it.

As stated above, Gordo is only responsible for the well-being of the residents of Pasadena. This statement is true, but it does an injustice to the residents of the two cities because as many know, it's not Pasadena "or" Altadena, but Pasadena "and" Altadena. The two towns might not share city resources, but what they do share, are people. The solidarity that the residents of these towns have, is as close as can be, without making them one.

Marshall junior, Dayton Johanssen, who lived in Altadena was one of the many residents who received no warning of the imminent danger the fires posed to their home until they had to self-evacuate. Johanssen stated, "There were no warnings besides wind warnings. I cannot attest to later than about nine or 10 at night because that is when my family decided to pack our things and for me to drive my siblings to our grandmother's house to be safe. But, according to my mom and stepdad, they received an amber alert to evacuate at around three in the morning, and by that time, the smoke was very bad. The firefighters were spread thin, but their bravery and hard work were greatly appreciated. Most of the damage could have been avoided if it wasn't for the city's poor performance and poor decisions."

This is why the residents of Altadena felt betrayed. Not only did they not receive an evacuation order when the fire was at a life-threatening distance, but they also didn't receive immediate aid from Pasadena first responders, leading residents to believe they were ignored. Gordo kept to his city but offered no critical aid to the neighboring town, which needed it the most.

Should We Adopt Block Scheduling? *Well, Yes and No*



Paolo Calchi Novati

The primary difference between Blair and Marshall is not that Blair has a pool and Marshall doesn't. It lies in something far more mundane: the schedule.

Blair uses block schedule, which is a type of schedule in which students take eight classes but only have 4 periods per day, and each one lasts approximately one-and-a-half to two hours.

In a A/B block schedule, students take four of their classes one day, and take the other four the next day. In a 4/4 block schedule, students take the same four classes every day of the first semester, and take their other four classes during the second semester.

These are the pros and cons of block schedule.

Firstly, according to data from the School Superintendents' Association, the 4/4 schedule has shown decreased rates of failure in schools. However, students on a 4/4 schedule may have to take their AP test a semester after finishing that class, leading them to forget information.

Nevertheless, block schedules make individual classes last longer, meaning that teachers have more time to teach complex topics and don't have to split lessons into two periods.

"It's helped me learn more because you can do more in-depth activities like projects or labs when you have more time," said Emma Focardi, a 10th grader at La Canada High School, which has a block schedule only on some days of the week.

On the other hand, block schedules usually result in less total instructional time per class, forcing teachers to speed up the pace of their lessons. The reason for this is that block schedules allow students to take more classes per year (typically eight), because it reduces the total amount of time per class. On another note, it also increases the amount of credits students earn in high school and reduces the need to take summer courses to fulfill those credits.

Based on this data, it is too close to say definitively if Marshall should have an A/B block schedule or not, but Marshall should absolutely not have a 4/4 block schedule, because that would hurt the many Marshall students that take AP courses.

Join Us!

The Eagle Eye staff is looking for content creators, influencers, photographers, videographers, artists, writers, web designers, editors, and more.

No prior experience is necessary. Sign up for "Journalism" on your elective sheet for the '25-'26 school year. Must be a high school student with a good attitude and a desire to learn about journalism and expand the Eagle Eye's productions. This looks great on college applications! We hope you will join us!

If you have any story ideas or would like to contribute this year, please contact Mr. Lee in room M272 or email him at lee.sang@pusd.us

Follow us on Instagram! Here is the QR code.

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EATON FIRE SPECIAL EDITION

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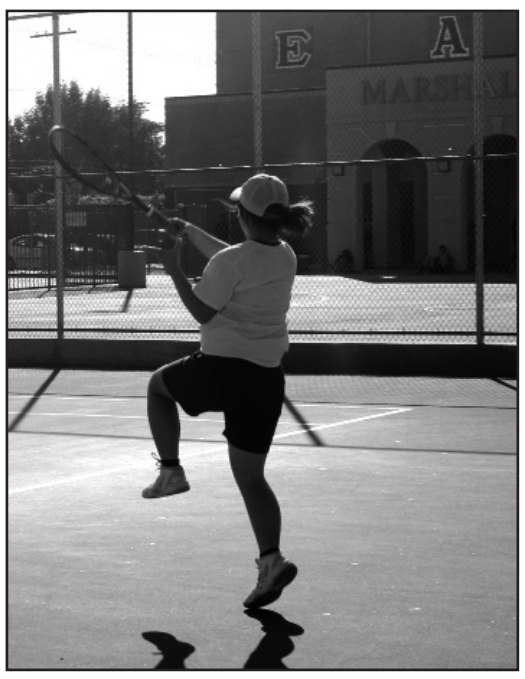
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Girls Tennis Captures Historic CIF Championship







Photos by:
Taleesa Ofumbi

Far left: The team proudly holds up their CIF patches and shirts

Above: Sophomore Diana Kasabian was essential in singles play

Near left: Junior Hannah Hagiwara was dominant as no.1 singles player

Tennis

continued from Page 5

doubles three, Claire Thomas and Madison Castro helped rack up some match points.

"We got a great, awesome group of freshmen, there are five of them and they really added a lot to this team, in terms of commitment, while they continued to keep their grade point averages up, off the charts, along with their commitment to tennis," head coach Eddie Williams said.

Doubles two, juniors, Sophia Alpuche and Lexie Palacios, obtained timely points in order to secure Marshall's place as CIF Division 5 Champions.

Hagiwara and Kasabian headed to CIF individuals on Nov.25. Unfortunately, the girls got knocked out in the second round on the first day.

Williams attributed their success to practice, particularly in the summer.

"This season was completely full of ups and downs, from close calls, all the way to smooth sails during league. The team this year definitely had their fair share of work put in," Palacios said.

Girls Golf Adjusts to Hacienda League

By: Noah Castillo

The Marshall Girls Varsity Golf Team started their league matches in September. They played five games and won two of them, but they were competitive every match.

This was the first season they actually played in a league. The league they played in was the Hacienda League. Marshall's usual league, the Mission Valley League, does not field enough teams in girls golf to have competition.

¨I thought the performance this year was great. We had some awesome leadership from some of the seniors. The freshmen golfers had growth in their skill level and had some bright moments in league play,¨ said Coach Ivan Harris.

Multiple players on the team got their all-time PRs. The freshmen who played golf for the first time this season-all PRed and most improved their scores every match.

Lilly Guyer took off 15 strokes off her PR this season, which is an amazing improvement across a season. Keilah Yu, Guyer, and Kate Karish all qualified for the League Finals and ended up earning second team (Keilah Yu) and first team (Lilly Guyer and Kate Karish) recognition.

¨I'm really proud of this team. Helena Hu stepped up and was great at planning fundraisers and events. Lilly Guyer got a birdie for the first time against Los Altos, and all of the freshmen who learned how to play this season and improved exponentially all deserve an honorable mention,¨ said Karish, captain of the girls varsity team.

The Girls team had a new coach this year, Ivan Harris, which is his first year coaching golf, however he has almost 30 years of experience on his belt. His knowledge and IQ for the game is high.

"I hope next season will be even better than this year. While the team will be losing a lot of seniors, they have a strong captain for next year, Helena Hu, and the freshmen who learned this year will be more experienced and better next year. I am excited to see how the team does," said Karish.

Harris agrees with this assessment.

"The future plans of the golf program is to build it up. Practice, compete, and win," Harris said.





Top: JV Football continues its growth and rebirth as the team finish its second season back

Left: Senior Miguel Cervantes scrambles away from a defender as he looks to pass the ball.

Photos by:
Allyson Niebla

JV Football Topples Arcadia

Marshall's JV football team had a rocky season with six games totaling two wins and four losses. The team cut their losses by deciding to end the season early so that they could end their year with the good memories they had together. The most recent game was against Arcadia High School with an impressive 32-0 win for our Eagles. They also defeated Mount View 33-0, but they played well and had the guts to keep going.

Awards were presented to Elijah Bradley who is both a running back and defensive back, Calvin Blea who is a linebacker, Christopher Romero who is a wide receiver and safety, Mathew Palacios who is a wide receiver and cornerback, and Miguel Cervantes who is a quarterback.

Volleyball Young & Impressive

By: Brenna Henley

Despite having a solid overall year, the girls volleyball team were upset in the first round of the CIF playoffs.

For the past three consecutive years, the Marshall girls Volleyball team has advanced to the CIF playoffs with the help of many key players. The Lady Eagles give it their all anytime they step onto the court, whether it be in practice or in game.

Two key returners for the success of the 2024 season are junior, Naomi Taylor and senior, Jaenna Sambilay.

"The feeling of everything coming together as we play is unreal, and working together makes playing so worth it." Sambilay said about the 2024 season, "making it to CIF is just a testament to our hard work."

While this is Sambilay's last year, Naomi Taylor will continue to be a key player for the team in next year's season.

"I am so incredibly proud of my team and all the hard work we put into volleyball in order to earn a spot in CIF," she said.

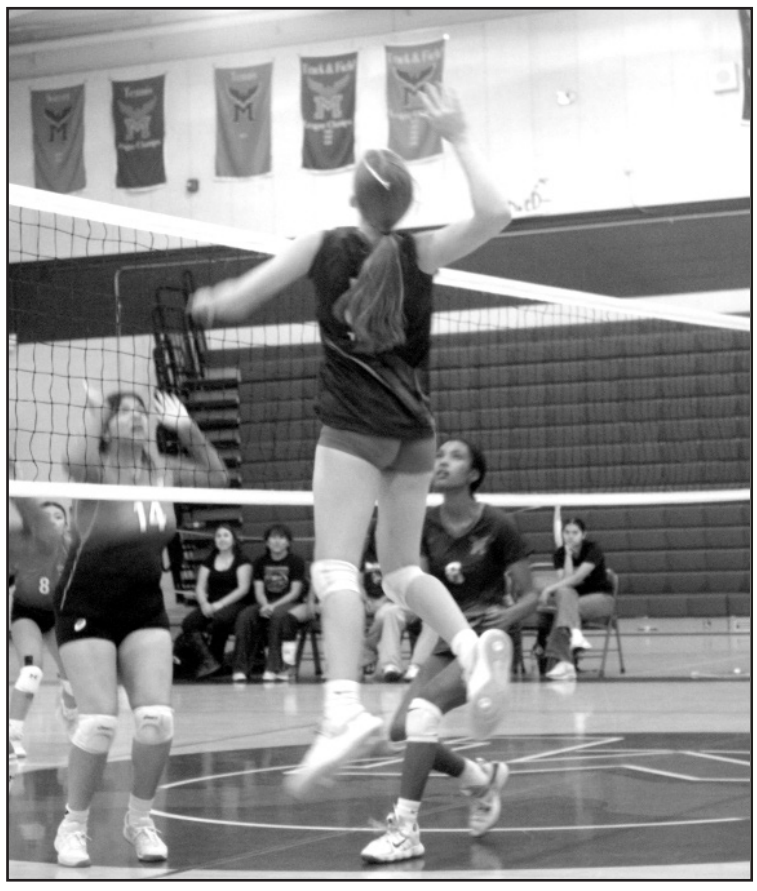


Photo by: Ailani Cota

Sophomore Livsey Teems goes up for the massive spike.

The girls Volleyball team is a very close knit group of girls who foster a supportive, loving environment for each other making the sport even more fun for everyone. Taylor and Sambilay both stated that they kept returning to this volleyball team because the environment is so supportive and the girls are fun to be around.

Although the team lost in round one of the CIF playoffs, they had an amazing season with a league record of 9-3, and

Inaugural Boys Water Polo Team Making Waves

By: David Chavarria

Marshall Fundamental has gained a new sport this year, adding a second water sport for students to join. Led by swim coach Andrea Van Rosmalen, the water polo team has shown a promising start.

"I had coached most of these boys last year for swimming. It was really these boys that drove the desire and need to put together a team. This will be my third year coaching water polo, and my second time that I built a team from the ground up," Rosmalen said.

With just enough players on the team, that being seven, and an experienced coach, Marshall's water polo team made a name for themselves after a 2-2 final record.

Although not participating in a league for the 2024 season, the Eagles played Arcadia (21-11 L), Cabrillo (9-3 L), Del Sol (20-3 W), and Bell Gardens (8-4 W).

Many schools, in and outside of the Pasadena district rejected Marshall's Water Polo team for scrimmaging, except the four that the Eagles faced, as Rosemalen expressed, " I had to email all the schools I could using the CIF website. The four teams that replied yes were more than eager to help out a new team. Some of them were new teams themselves."

Team captain and MVP Jack Slattery said, "I had a great time playing on the new team since we all had good chemistry, and even though practices were super early, the dedication everyone showed was awesome. Also, for next year, everyone is welcome to join as we would like to have a bigger team."

The Water Polo team practiced early at the Boys and Girls Club Facility where last year, the swim team had set a rental agreement.

"We finished off a great season, even becoming ranked according to CIF. In the CIF-SS we are ranked #205, just 4 spots below PHS, and two spots above Blair. I am looking forward to next year. Hopefully, we can be part of a league when all seven players return," Rosmalen said.

Marching Band & Color Guard See Growth in Competition Circuit

By:Paolo Calchi Novati

The 2024 season of Marshall Marching Band and Colorguard was marked by a slow but steady crescendo in performance.

James Pappalardo is the new band director at Marshall, and thus he also took over Marching Band and Colorguard, which compete in the fall.

This season was marked by dramatic improvement as Marching Band's last score was greater than its first by almost 30 points.

The band's piece this year was called 'Heads or Tails.'The story follows a boy who gets a magic coin and uses it to make decisions in his life. It's all about taking chances and trying new things," said Daniel Shopbell, the drum major of the Marching Band.

Marching Band participated in five competitions this year: Downey, Baldwin Park, Hart Rampage, Sierra Vista, and Duarte.

The band is scored in three separate categories: band (all the different parts of the band combined), auxiliary (color guard), and percussion.

The first time Marching Band performed their show, at Downey Park, they received 37.8 points for band, placing third. They slowly increased their scores throughout the season, getting 50.1, 54.15, and 61.9 points at their next three competitions, respectively.

Finally, in their last competition at Duarte, they earned 66.6 points, an increase of 28.80 points. Percussion also saw an increase in scores. They earned 44 points at Downey Park, 50 at Baldwin Park, 51 at Hart Rampage, 65 at Sierra Vista, and 63 at Duarte.

Some highlights from auxiliary's season include reaching first place in their division and third overall at Baldwin Park with 62 points, and a second place finish at Hart Rampage with 54.50 points. They also got 56.50 points at Sierra Vista and obtained third place, and another third place at Duarte with 64.50 points.

Despite the slow start, thoughts about the season seemed fairly optimistic.

"The band did great this year! We increased our score by almost 30 points between our first and last competitions, and we won a trophy at every single one of our competitions. This is our highest-scoring year ever since the pandemic and I'm very proud of all of the band members," said senior Daniel Shopbell.

Perhaps this successful season was due to the constant experimentation and persistence of Pappalardo.

"I'm a competitive person, when I push a marching band, I push them to win, but you know, in the end if they can just do a show that they're proud of, that's the only thing that really matters," he said.

This is not to mention, of course, the hard work of the students.

"We performed like this because of our practice and the time we put into it. I think most people in the band had a desire to get better, which was helpful," said Ishbel Tyler, a clarinetist in the Marshall Marching Band.



Photo by: Allyson Niebla

Under the leadership of James Pappalardo, the teams improved its scores in competitions.



Photo by: Ellie Kishimoto

Above: Junior Myles Lewis, sophomore Adam Schneider, sophomore Garrett Sparks and freshman Colin Detwiler race in Griffith Park.

X-Country Qualifies for Prelims

By: Noah Castillo

From fresh new legs and experienced ones, the Marshall Fundamental Cross Country varsity teams have had a successful season.

¨The team has a fun, uplifting environment. Nearly everyone has seen a lot of improvement this season,¨ senior Oliver Cowing said.

CIF Prelims were at Mt. Sac at 8:45 am. The Boys Varsity Team went to CIF Prelims and placed 14th overall in the meet. This is the first time since 2019 that Marshall has had a whole team qualify for CIF Prelims.

"In CIF, however, I felt I had a very good race but I fell just short of individually qualifying for finals because of how hard it is to do that in XC with how many runners there are," said junior Nate Nicoletti said after the meet.

In league finals, the boys varsity placed 2nd as a team over all. However, in the league final meet, the Eagles had a record breaking time for Marshall Fundamental, broken by Nate Nicoletti. He broke the school record of 16:14, and set his own record of 16:09.

¨I personally think I did very well this season as I accomplished our school record earlier than I thought I would be able to,¨ said Nicoletti

The Girls Varsity team has lots of potential for the future, having a role model like Sophomore Maria McDonald, setting a time of 23:48, which hasn't been seen by our girls team in many years. This year the girls had an older team, consisting of lots of seniors, so everyone left it all out on the course each race, putting their best foot forward quite literally.

¨The cross country team is very positive, uplifting and accepting. It is such a great community to be a part of and a great environment to run in.¨

Having two new coaches Jessica Bilandzija, Eric Hiltquist, and one returning assistant coach, Karen Moran. Coach Hiltquist joined the Cross Country team half way through the season and has impacted the team heavily.

¨Coach Eric is such a great addition to the team. He has helped us so much, especially whenever we´re experiencing pain. He was able to accurately cater to us and help us," said McDonald.

Starting practices in the summer had a big impact on the team, creating a successful start to the season.

¨Overall the season has been a success. We aren't going to run our best race every meet, but everyone has been consistent. I think growth takes more than one season with a new coaching team for it to really be visible and palpable,¨ said Bilandzija.

CIF

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CHAMPIONS



Photos by Taleesa Ofumbi Design by Elizabeth Merriam