

March 2025

## Educare Spring Festival

By: Mia Lopez and Jeimy Carmona

To welcome MIT students back from ESY, Educare partnered up with La Michoacana to bring the students delicious paletas and mangonadas! Educare, an afterschool program hosted in our school, brings engaging activities for kids to sign up for. Not only were there snacks but also entertaining things to do, such as painting, dodgeball, an inflatable basketball game, tic tac toe, baseball, football, and a video game room.

We interviewed two 7th grade students, Xochilt Paredes and Yareli Pacheco, about their experience at the festival. We asked Xochilt what she enjoyed most about the event and she said, "I liked the free food." When we questioned Yareli about what she disliked about the spring festival, she said she didn't like "the long lines."

We also asked both the girls what they would like to see in future events. Xochilt said, "I would like to see more activities or things to do other than just the inflatables." Yareli said, "There should be more food variety." We asked the girls if they thought it was fair that everyone was able to go, red stamps or not, and Xochilt said, "Yes, it is fair, because everyone deserves to have fun." Yareli said, "Yes, because I was able to go and I have red stamps." This is a nice way for all students to start the semester in a positive way. Overall it was a fun experience and we are sure many students on campus appreciate Educare's welcome back event. Hopefully in the future all MIT students and staff will be able to enjoy another event like this.

*8th graders Denise Q, Jacob C, Valeria C, Hailey C, and Yaretzi J enjoy ice cream at the spring semester kickoff festival.*



## Kindness Week and School Dance

By: Karen Armenta and Camila De Los Santos

Just a few weeks ago, MIT celebrated Kindness Week! We interviewed some 7th grade students from Leadership about why they thought Kindness Week was important.

Evelyn Romero said, "I think Kindness Week is important because it shows everyone kindness is great." Lylah White said, "I think Kindness Week is important because you never know what people are going through, so show kindness."

We also asked some students what they thought about the Kindness Week dress up days. Angela Guerra said, "I thought that the spirit week dress ups were really fun. I liked how we had a twin day and got to match with friends. Twin day to me was my favorite. I hope we get more spirit weeks because I don't like wearing a uniform."

MIT also hosted the first dance of the year in February, with the Valentine's Dance. We asked the 6th grade Leadership teachers how they came up with the theme for the dance. Ms. Chavez and Ms. Rodriguez said, "Valentine's Day was coming, and we wanted to plan something exciting and cutesy for the kids."

"Overall, I liked the dance. It was fun, and my friends made it even more fun. It was not expensive, and I thought it was a good experience if you want to live middle school to its fullest," said Bella Spindler, 7th grade, when asked about the Valentine's Dance. When asked what she thinks would improve the next dance, Deonna Pollard, 7th grade, said, "Maybe play better songs like The Smiths and have more activities." Sophia Hernandez said that she would like to see a Christmas dance next year, because she thinks that would be more fun.



*Boys enjoy pizza at the Valentine's Dance. From left: Angelo P, Deondre B, Joseph P, Robert C, and Aaron R*



13550 VAUGHAN ST.  
SAN FERNANDO, CA  
91340  
818-896-7461  
FAX: (818) 896-0351

## The MIT Press Journalists

Karen Armenta Mora  
Deonna Bautista Pollard  
Deondre Bautista Pollard  
Jeimy Carmona Portilla  
Jaslyn Castellanos  
Roselyn Cruz  
Camila De Los Santos  
William Diaz  
Angela Guerra  
Kayla Guevarra  
Emily Hernandez  
Sophia Hernandez  
Samantha Jauregui  
Mia Lopez  
Leilani Lopez-Alvarez  
Andre Martinez  
Alejandro Navarro  
Miguel Padilla Sandoval  
Andrea Plascencia  
David Rivera  
Valentina Serrano  
Dalton Smith  
Jazmane Solis  
Bella Spindler  
Emily Vieyra

### Advisor

Ms. Marroquin  
Room 66



# Opinion: Pros and Cons of the TikTok Ban

## PRO

### Reasons Why TikTok Should Be Banned

By: Jaslyn Castellanos and Jazmane Solis

TikTok is a social media app that was released in 2016 that allows users to watch, create, and share short videos on mobile devices. TikTok was temporarily banned in the United States on January 19, 2025, and it could possibly be banned again depending on what the government decides.

We believe TikTok should be banned because people will most likely be more active and get more things done. Another reason is people might decrease their screen time and they will be able to finish their homework, hang out with friends more, and be able to learn or do new things.

Social media affects teenagers' minds and influences them since they spend all day on their phone. A lot of the trends on TikTok lead to people getting hurt. This app also encourages rumors, misinformation, and sometimes even theft or other dangerous trends.

In addition, TikTok is a national security threat. The Chinese company that owns TikTok has access to sensitive data that the company collects from its American users.

In conclusion, TikTok is a potential threat to users and bad for our mental health, so we should support a TikTok ban.

Photo Credit: reuters.com



## CON

### Reasons Why TikTok Shouldn't Be Banned

By: Deonna Bautista Pollard and Roselyn Cruz

TikTok is a social media platform and a music app that came out during the year 2016. Many people use this platform to edit, watch, and post videos. The US government plans on banning TikTok due to the Chinese government stealing people's data and personal information, as well as other security concerns connected to ByteDance, the company that owns TikTok.

We believe that TikTok should NOT be banned from the US. First of all, this app can be very useful to people in all sorts of ways. For example, many businesses rely on this app to promote their business or a new product. So if TikTok gets banned then these businesses will be decimated. TikTok influencers also sell products on this app and try to gain followers/ views as a way to get paid. Banning TikTok would take away their income.

Second of all, TikTok is used positively by many people. For example, people might use this app to learn about news or listen to one's opinion on something happening around the world. People also use this app for education. They can learn plenty of new things off of this app that they might have never even known or heard of.

Last but not least, many people use this app for their mental health in all different sorts of ways. Most teenagers use this app to communicate or express themselves or their thoughts online when they don't have anybody to express themselves to. Considering those reasons, we both believe that this app should not be banned from the US.

## Local and National News

### Biggest California Wildfires in History

By: David Rivera

On January 7, 2025 in the Pacific Palisades, strong winds and dry conditions fueled a large wildfire to erupt. According to NBC News, the wildfire took out about 23,448 acres of land.



Photo Credit: usatoday.com

Another large fire that occurred in LA was the Eaton Fire. This fire destroyed 14,021 acres, and damaged or destroyed 10,491 structures. The Eaton Fire and the Palisades fire killed at least 29 people, making these fires some of the most dangerous in California history.

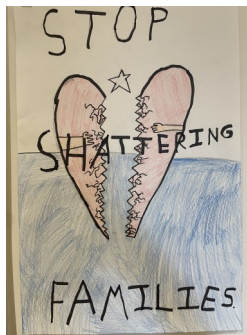
According to ca.gov, the governor issued an executive order to help rebuild homes and businesses that were lost in the fires. The governor's website said that this executive order will make it easier to rebuild after damages caused by the fires, provide more trailers for people who lost their homes, and stop fees for mobile home parks.

Some ways we can help is by donating time or money to trustworthy organizations. Project Angel Food and Our Big Kitchen LA provide meals for people affected by the fire, and you can volunteer to help with cooking or delivery. Contact volunteers@angelfood.org or info@obkla.org to volunteer. Some other trustworthy organizations that we can donate to are the American Red Cross and the LA Fire Department Foundation.

### Immigration Protests

By: Samantha Jauregui and Angela Guerra

At his inauguration speech on January 20th, President Trump said, "We will begin the process of returning millions and millions of criminal aliens back to the places in which they came." The president has said he wants stricter borders and cutbacks on immigration to the United States, and he is preparing to use the Department of Homeland Security to enforce this.



Artwork by 6th grader  
Jaime Corona Rivera

This news has scared a lot of people, and some are protesting. On Friday, February 7, many Vaughn students walked all the way to Paxton Park in a walkout protest. 7th grader A.A. said, "One of the reasons I went to protest was because I wanted to support my mom and the rest of the Mexican community." 7th grader M.V. said, "I went to the walk out to support my grandparents, because they are scared." She made a sign that said, "My parents fought for my future, now I will fight for theirs."

Everyone should know their rights. No one has the right to enter your home or search your belongings without a warrant, because of the 4th Amendment. You also have the right to remain silent and not answer any questions, because of the 5th Amendment.

Vaughn has provided this link to make sure all families are informed of their rights: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/10MmnIHtIQiN2I4xOsMQ63OL5IST1\\_Zfl/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10MmnIHtIQiN2I4xOsMQ63OL5IST1_Zfl/edit)

### Honoring Black Historical Figures

By: Alejandro Navarro

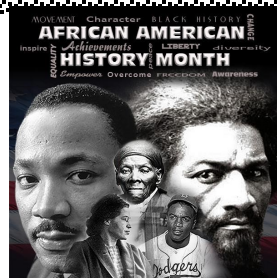


Photo Credit: jbsa.mil

We just finished February, in which we honor Black History Month and celebrate the most brave black people in the world. I'm going to be covering some influential black people from history: Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr, and Jackie Robinson.

Harriet Tubman was famous for helping people escape from slavery through the underground railroad, a secret route that led to freedom in the North. Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in 1822, and for most of her life she suffered from epilepsy and seizures. But this did not stop her from escaping slavery and then going back 19 times to get slaves out to freedom.

One of the most well known American speakers is Martin Luther King Jr. He was famous for his actions in the civil rights movement. One of his most famous speeches was the "I have a dream" speech, where he says, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." He was tragically assassinated in 1968, but people remember him for his commitment to equality and non-violence.

Finally, famous baseball player Jackie Robinson joined the Dodgers in 1947, and was MVP in 1949. He was the first African American in the baseball Hall of Fame.

We remember the stories of these brave people who had to go against racist comments and slurs, but even after all that they still pushed through to send messages of hope to people across the world.

# The Jaguar Journal—March 2025

## Vaughn Profiles

### Interviewing Eric Galvan

By: Andre Martinez

“I came to this school because I heard that this school gives a good education, and takes good responsibility for their students.” That’s what Eric Galvan said when I asked him why he came to this school. I also asked him if he wanted to go to this school and he stated “Yes, because my cousins went to this school.”

I asked him what has surprised him this year and he said, “How my grades got better, my attention in class, the classes got bigger, and my girlfriend.” Then I asked him what his favorite teachers are and he said “My favorite teachers are Ms. Marroquin because she’s nice and funny and Ms. Danayan because she’s also funny.” His advice for how to succeed at MIT is, “focus and try.”

Some people face racism so I asked him if he has ever experienced racism. He stated, “I feel like racism is an inappropriate behavior because it’s not fair to treat people different because of the color of their skin.”

“Eric is really funny and really nice,” says William Diaz.

“He’s very loyal,” says Kayla Guevarra.

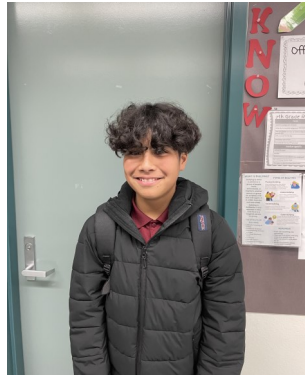
I chose to interview Eric because he’s in my PE class, and he’s a good friend who is very kind.

### Surveys and Polls: Favorite Music Genre

By: Leilani Lopez, Valentina Serrano, Aarilyn Cortez, and Caleb McCoy

We surveyed 85 students and 6 teachers to learn about their favorite music genres.

Rap was more popular than KPop, Rock, or Country, but most students chose “Other” and filled in answers like “Spanish,” “Pop,” “Emo,” “Metal,” “Punk,” “Oldies,” and even “Polka”! This showed us that students at MIT enjoy a variety of different types of music...except for Country, which had zero votes!



Eric Galvan knows how to succeed at MIT.

Photo Credit: Ms. Marroquin

### Ms. T: Funny, Kind, Compassionate

By: Andrea Plascencia

“I like Vaughn, it’s different from the other schools I went to. It’s a different challenge every day,” says Ms. T.

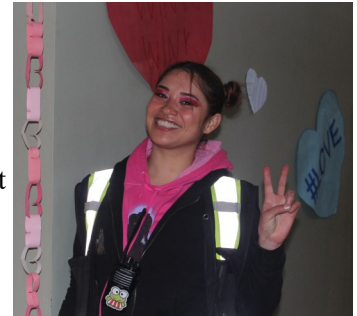
Ms. Tirado (or Ms. T) is a new M.I.T security guard at Vaughn and I asked her a couple of questions of how she feels about Vaughn. Ms. T says that she enjoys her job. “I enjoy the impact I make on you guys,” she says.

Ms. T says that she became a security guard because she likes to work with kids and heals her inner child. She started at Vaughn about three months ago. Ms. T says that she decided to work here at Vaughn because she used to live in this area.

One fact about Ms. T is that she went to a military school. It was one of the best experiences she ever had, and it taught her to be a better person.

I asked Ms.T what she thinks about the cell phone policy at MIT, and she said, “I think you guys are too young to get phones. You should get phones at age 15.”

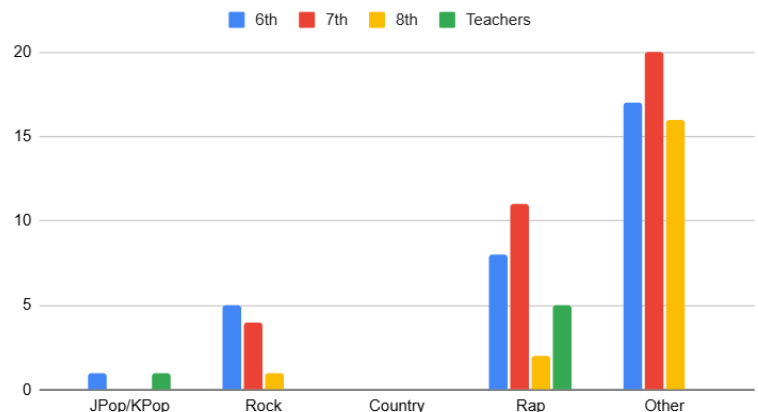
Ms. T is a very devoted security guard. She is willing to put herself in situations where she might be hurt in order to protect students, but we hope she can stay safe and we value her.



Ms. T, working as security at the Valentine’s Dance.

Photo shared by Ms. Villanueva.

6th, 7th, 8th and Teachers



# The Jaguar Journal—March 2025



## Jaguar Athletics and Sports News



### Super Bowl 2025

By: Deondre Bautista Pollard

The Chief vs Eagles game was a surprise to many Super Bowl viewers. The Eagles were very forceful on defense and offense, dominating the first three quarters of the game. In the first quarter the Eagles scored seven points and the Chiefs scored zero. Then in the second quarter the Eagles scored seventeen points and the Chiefs were still at zero because they just couldn't stop the dominance of the Eagles. In the final quarter the Chiefs were finally able to score, but they still ended with a loss and a final score of 44-22, with Eagles claiming the victory. The Eagles MVP was quarterback Jalen Hurts, who had a total of 221 passing yards, 72 rushing yards, and 2 touchdowns. The Eagles have been good all season, with 18 wins and 3 losses.

### Super Bowl Halftime Show!

By: Miguel Padilla

The Super Bowl halftime show is the biggest game in America and on February 9, Kendrick Lamar broke the record for the most viewed halftime show, taking this record from Michael Jackson. Some fans did not like the performance because it was about politics, while other people thought that it was an important message. The song I think was the best was probably “Not Like Us,” especially the way Kendrick Lamar looked in the camera and smirked, and the way everybody sang along. There were mixed feelings when SZA joined in the performance, while others said she ruined it. Personally, I thought she was just fine. I liked the dancers and the nice lights. The songs and the dancers were good, and so was Uncle Sam (Samuel L. Jackson), but I would have preferred more color besides red,



Kendrick Lamar performs at the Super Bowl.

Photo Credit: tovima.com

white, and blue.

### NBA Trade Shocks the Sports World

By: William Diaz

The most shocking blockbuster trade just happened in the NBA! Luka Doncic was traded from the Dallas Mavericks, a team he's been on for 8 years, to the Los Angeles Lakers. The Mavs got Anthony Davis in return, which in my opinion was good because the Mavs were lacking on defense and Anthony Davis is very defensive-sided. In my opinion this trade is heavily in the Lakers favor because the Lakers needed another amazing scorer to be a duo with LeBron. The only thing bad about this trade is that the Lakers really need another amazing center like Anthony Davis.



Luka Doncic and LeBron James

Photo Credit: wsj.com

This trade was also very controversial. Dallas Mavericks legend Dirk Nowitzki actually sided with Luka and went to Luka's Laker debut. The next time the Mavs played without Luka, fans held up signs disrespecting the Mavs' GM (general manager). The fans who held up the signs got kicked out of the stadium completely. In Luka's Laker debut he got 14 points, 5 rebounds, and 4 assists. In Anthony Davis' Mavs debut he put up 24 points, 13 rebounds, and 5 assists.

### MIT Boys Basketball

By: Dalton Smith and Deondre Bautista Pollard

MIT's Boys Basketball team, the Vaughn/EduCare Jaguars, have won 3 out of 3 games at the time that this article was written.

“We definitely improved since we first started,” said Christopher Moreno, 7th grade. He said his inspirations are “my tio and my family.” His inspirations to join basketball were “friends and NBA players like LeBron.”

Some of the things the Jaguars do at practice is run drills and practice plays.

“I like being able to go on field trips every week to play basketball,” says William Diaz, 7th grade. “I've gotten to know kids in other grades that I didn't know before.”



# Arts & Entertainment



Photo Credit: KNAC.com

## When We Were Young Festival and Its Mind-Blowing Line-Up

By: Kayla Guevarra

Many people are surprised with the shocking line-up for the When We Were Young festival. Last year's When We Were Young festival was very successful, with popular bands such as Pierce the Veil, My Chemical Romance, Fall

Out Boy, Simple Plan and Jimmy Eat World, just to name a few. But this year, lots of older emos have consider the line up to be even better.

The biggest bands that are attending this year's festival are Blink-182, Weezer, The Offspring, Avril Lavigne, and All Time Low—but most importantly, Panic! at the Disco and Never Shout Never. These two bands are the most shocking to fans because these bands are currently disbanded. Emo band Panic! at the Disco has been inactive since October 29, 2023, and Never Shout Never has been disbanded since March 8, 2022. These bands will be reuniting starting October 18, 2025 for the first When We Were Young festival date taking place in Las Vegas Festival Grounds.

### Who is Ivan Cornejo?

By: Emily Vieyra and Emily Hernandez

Ivan Cornejo is a Mexican artist. He started singing with his cousin on TikTok, and from there he went viral and decided to make his own songs.

One of Ivan Cornejo's latest albums is *Mirada*, released in July 2024. He got inspired by Johnny Cash and Billie Eilish. Some of the songs that were released from *Mirada* were "Atencion," "Herida Abierta," "Sale Para Ser Feliz," and more.

Ivan Cornejo makes sad songs inspired by his own experiences and the emotions he's felt. He wants his fans to feel a sense of belonging through his music, so he writes about emotions that everyone experiences, including heartbreak. According to *Rolling Stone*, he named his album *Mirada* because "I feel like a gaze, a stare is a lot deeper than it seems. I feel like you can write a whole fantasy with just looking at someone and them staring back at you... there's so much deepness when you look into someone's eyes."

## Kendrick Chosen Over Lil Wayne

By: Deondre Bautista Pollard

After it was announced that Kendrick Lamar would be the halftime performer at the 2025 New Orleans Super Bowl, some people went online to express their opinion that Lil Wayne, who was born and raised in New Orleans, should have been the NFL's choice instead.



Photo Credit: today.com

Wayne shared his thoughts on the NFL choosing Kendrick, saying in an emotional Instagram Live from September that "it hurt a lot" to not be chosen to perform during the big game in his hometown. The rapper criticized his own sadness about the NFL's decision, and said he blamed himself for not being prepared to be disappointed. He also thanked fans for their support and said he thought there was nothing better than being a performer.

### Did Beyonce Really Deserve Album of the Year?

By: Sophia Hernandez

The Grammy's is an award ceremony that is presented by the Recording Academy of the United States, and one of the greatest awards is Album of the Year. This year Album of the Year was given to Beyonce for *Cowboy Carter*.

Personally, I think Billie Eilish deserved this Grammy. Billie Eilish is the type of artist that soothes me, and her songs give me the chills in a good way. Her newest album that came out in 2024, *Hit Me Hard and Soft*, is very unique. It's calming, dark, maybe even messy, and it's still great!

I haven't listened to Beyonce's album but there are other people who enjoy it. The Guardian's review of *Cowboy Carter* said, "It feels like a feast at a time when pop is offering up scraps." They talked about how black people have been kept out of country music in the past, so Beyonce is making a statement with *Cowboy Carter*.

I do have to say, Beyonce has some pretty good songs, but this isn't the type of album I'd listen to. Only 177.063 million people streamed this album, compared to the 193.93 million people who streamed *Hit Me Hard and Soft*. But maybe this Grammy was given to Beyonce for all of the work that Beyonce has done through her career, so I don't hate nor love her.

**Have suggestions for our next issue?**  
Email Ms. Marroquin at [bmarroquin@myvaughncharter.com](mailto:bmarroquin@myvaughncharter.com),  
or fill out the [Journalism Suggestion Form](https://forms.gle/H9HM2dhJVacgiWr1A) online:  
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