

Meet the Admin Team

Ms. Lyon



How long have you been at Olympic?

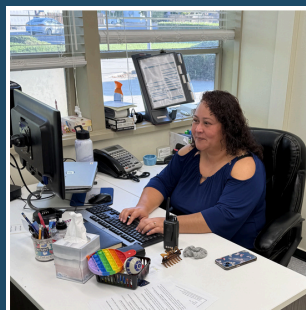
This is my fourth year at Olympic.

What do you like the most about it?

The students, are funny and can be entertaining. Also the great support from all staff on campus.

What are you looking forward to most this school year? *I am looking forward to seeing more graduates than we've had before, and more activities in the Wellness Center.*

Ms. Rodriguez



How long have you been at Olympic?

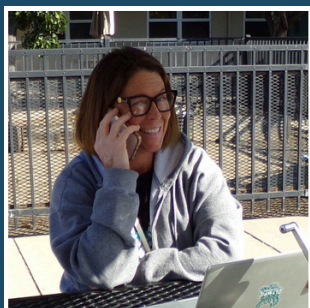
This is my tenth year at Olympic.

What do you like the most about it?

The students; they are resilient and have gone through battles to get here, yet they still come with a smile.

What are you looking forward to most this school year? *I am looking forward forward to seeing a higher graduation and I want students to see all their options after high school.*

Ms. Martin



How long have you been at Olympic?

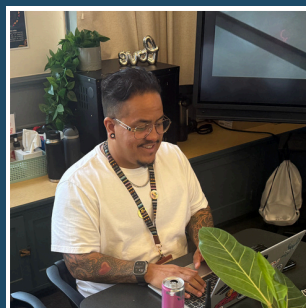
This is my fourth year at Olympic.

What do you like the most about it?

The school is a welcoming community for everybody.

What are you looking forward to most this school year? *I am looking forward forward to seeing a increase in graduates and I want to see an increase in attendance.*

Mr. Pedromo



How long have you been at Olympic?

This is my third year at Olympic.

What do you like the most about it?

Getting to know the students, and also seeing the students thrive.

What are you looking forward to most this school year? *I am looking forward to seeing new workshops where students can learn about how to manage their feelings or mental struggles.*

Inside this issue:

OHS Staff Pages 1-2

Cultural Celebrations Pages 3-4

Student Features & Voice Pages 5-7

In the News Pages 8-10

Campus Celebrations Page 11

Calendar Page 12

JOURNALISM STUDENT REPORTERS:

Jayden Flores
Jesus Orozco
Alan Maciel
Jose Tolento
Charles Wyman

By Jayden Flores &
Jesus Orozco

Meet the Counseling Team

Mr. Alvarez



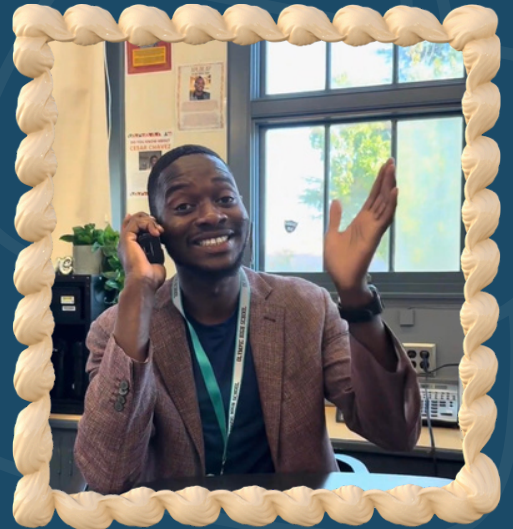
College and Career Advisor

See Mr. Alvarez for help with anything and everything regarding work during high school and life after high school

Academic Counselor Last Names (A-L)

Meet with Mr. Mansaray for academic planning, graduation plans, anxiety management or short-term counseling.

Mr. Mansaray



Ms. Isa



Academic Counselor Last Names (M-Z)

Meet with Ms. Isa for academic planning, graduation plans, anxiety management or short-term counseling.

Mexican Independence Day

By Jesus Orozco

If you enjoy music, parades, festivals, dancing in the streets, and Mexican food, then Mexican Independence Day is your day! Not only is this the day that marks when Father Miguel Hidalgo gave the famous "Grito de Dolores," it also shows how Mexicans fought for their independence against Spanish rule.

Each year, on **September 16th**, Mexico celebrates Independence Day. Mexican Independence Day marks the day in 1810 when Father Miguel Hidalgo gave the famous "Grito de Dolores," calling Mexicans to rise up against Spanish rule. This marked the beginning of the Mexican War of Independence, which lasted until 1821, when Mexico finally gained its independence.

In Mexico, the day is celebrated in many different ways. The most popular events include parades, parties, music in the streets, and the President reenacting el "Grito de Dolores".

In America, the day is celebrated by Mexican American communities, where it is increasingly recognized and honored with cultural pride

San Francisco Bay Area: San Francisco, San José, and Redwood City host lively events, featuring music, food, dance, and the ceremonial reenactment of the Grito.

**¡VIVA
MÉXICO!**

CLICK ANY IMAGE TO
LEARN MORE

Mexican Independence Day

CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE BAY

BY JESUS OROZCO



San José

When: September 15, 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM (El Grito around 7:30 PM)

Where: San Jose City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara St., San José

Free Activities: Cultural performances, food vendors, crafts, live music, dancing and the *El Grito* ceremony in the evening

Fiestas Patrias – Redwood City

When: September 15, 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Where: Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City

Free Activities: Live music, authentic Mexican food, art & crafts, and a formal flag ceremony conducted by the Mexican Consulate or Consul General



El Grito de Independencia – San Francisco

When: September 15, around 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Where: Civic Center Plaza, 335 McAllister St., San Francisco

Free Activities: Mariachi bands, ballet folklórico, lucha libre, night markets, food stalls, and the live reenactment of *El Grito*



IGNITING SPARKS AT THE FOUNDRY

By Jesus Orozco

There's a new way to earn credits, acquire job skills, and participate in mentorships at Olympic High School through a new CTE/BPL program, The Foundry. **The Foundry** is more than a program, though—it's where students are shaped, strengthened, and inspired. Like a traditional foundry forging raw materials into something strong, the Olympic Foundry builds students through the values of **Community** by connecting students with peers, mentors and professionals, **Curiosity**, by fueling exploration and meaningful projects, and **Confidence**, by allowing students to take risks, solve problems, and bring ideas to life, curiosity, and confidence.

In an interview with The Foundry's program director, Ms. Townsend, she answered some questions about the program:

What inspired the name? The name was inspired by the idea that all students who join the Foundry already have a spark and the Foundry's mission is to ignite that spark into a fire.

Who can join: Junior and Senior students (seniors are prioritized) who need additional support in exploring careers after high school through mentorship and internships. Specifically, those students who need support in "igniting their spark."

What is the schedule like? The group of students is the same group of students every day. 1st period, students are enrolled in a core class, 2nd period is the CTE class, and 3, 4, and 5th period classes students are working on projects they develop and apply core education to each project.

How do students earn credits?: Credits are earned through projects that students choose to explore and apply skills to.

What is Leave to Learn? Leave to Learn is a key part of The Foundry's program, giving students opportunities to learn outside the classroom. They explore community resources, meet professionals, and discover possible career paths through real-world experiences. Some places students have gone to since the school year started are: Concord Bike Kitchen, Concord Library, Creative Concord Mural Walk, Career and Resource Fair, Concord Farmer's Market, Baldwin Park, and Todos Santos Plaza.

Is there anything else you would like to share about the program? Yes, we are actively seeking business partners to be mentors, host mentorships/internships, be guest speakers, or participate in informative sessions with groups of students. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact me at thefoundryatohs@gmail.com.

Your Voice, Your Vote

By Alan Maciel

Voting is a Basic Right

In many countries, voting is a right given to citizens once they reach a certain age, usually 18. It's how people have a say in choosing leaders, passing laws, and making big decisions that affect society. If you don't vote, you're basically letting other people make choices for you.



Voting Has a Huge Impact

Even though it might feel like one vote doesn't matter, in reality, elections can come down to just a handful of votes. Every election, from local to national, has the power to change how a country runs. For example, presidential elections or voting on issues like climate change, taxes, or education funding can impact everyone's future.



Voting Helps Hold Leaders Accountable

Voting is one of the most direct ways people can hold their elected officials accountable. If a politician is not doing a good job, citizens can vote them out in the next election. It's how democracy works: leaders have to keep their promises to stay in power. If you don't vote, you miss the chance to shape the future and keep politicians in check.



Election Facts

There are three election types, direct elections where people vote directly for candidates, indirect elections where people vote for electors who then choose candidates, and proportional representation where it is based on the percentage of votes each party gets. Elections happen at different times depending on the level of government, local elections usually happen every few years, while presidential elections in places like the U.S. happen every four years.

4

Who can vote and when is the next election?

To vote in the U.S., you need to be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of the state you're voting in. You also can't be a convicted felon in some states, and you need to be registered before the election. Elections take place every year. Our next election is November 4 2025 for local elections, and there may be a statewide special election as well. In 2026 there will be a Primary election on June 2 that will include Congressional elections, Statewide, and local elections. The General Election for those candidates will be on November 3, 2026. The next Presidential elections take place in 2028.

Voting Can Be a Way to Fight for Your Rights

A lot of movements in history have used voting as a way to demand change. For example, the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. fought for voting rights for African Americans, and women's suffrage was a huge fight for women to have a voice in politics. Voting is not just about elections, it's about making sure everyone has equal access to participate.



How To Register

To register to vote, you usually need to be at least 18 years old by Election Day and a U.S. citizen. You can register online, in person, or by mail depending on your state. Most states let you register online through their election website, or you can visit places like the DMV or local government offices to sign up. Some states also have same-day registration, which means you can sign up right when you vote.

This student-created page is a Fast Track assignment for a class outside of Journalism. Ask your teacher if they offer Fast Track assignments that you can submit for the next edition of *The Torch*!



Phoenix Seniors Share Their Plans

BY JAYDEN FLORES

After I graduate, I want to get into a plumbing apprenticeship and go to school for a couple of years.

-Jayden Flores, Grade 12

After I graduate, I want to go to Thailand to train in Muay Thai. When I come back, I want to fight in the UFC and be a Muay Thai version of Khabib Nurmagomedov.

-Cash Smith, Grade 12

After I graduate, I plan to go work with my sister at a private school working with special needs children.

-Jesus Orozco, Grade 12

After I graduate, I want to go to trade school to study to become a car mechanic, after getting my education go to work.

-Brian Ascencio, Grade 12

After I graduate, I want to go to trade school for 2-3 years and study to become an electrician.

-Emilio Ayala, Grade 12

After I graduate, I want to own a business. I want to open up a dispensary and make a fortune off of it.

-Ronnie Crawford, Grade 12

After I graduate, I want to go into training to join the Marines. I want to be on the front lines.

-Jose Balanzar, Grade 12

After I graduate, I want to work and study towards becoming a contractor, once I'm a contractor I plan on selling jobs to make a profit.

-Jason Avila, Grade 12

THE SURPRISING DANGERS OF CHATGPT

Charles Wyman

ChatGPT is an advanced language model developed by OpenAI. It's based on a type of machine learning architecture called a Transformer, specifically from a series known as GPT (Generative, Pretrained, Transformer). It is trained by collecting information from books, websites, and other publicly available sources online. ChatGPT isn't perfect, it is common for it to make many mistakes for different reasons. The training isn't perfect, with limitations in math, and many answers may be outdated or incorrect due to the cutoff date. After a certain cutoff date, the information given may be wrong because the AI is only trained on information up to this date.

There have been multiple cases in which vulnerable people have gone into "ChatGPT Mania". ChatGPT has been proven to ignore signs of delusion and mental health issues. According to the Wall Street Journal, one user 30-year-old Irwin, experienced this, "When Irwin questioned the chatbot's validation of his ideas, the bot encouraged him, telling him his theory was sound. And when Irwin showed signs of psychological distress, ChatGPT assured him he was fine." Even after showing many signs of distress, ChatGPT fed into his delusions and even encouraged him.

Furthermore, there have been more cases where people have fallen in love with AI chatbots. In at least one of these cases, it led to a real death, when a man was shot by police after charging at them with a knife. According to The New York Times, "It seems he believed that OpenAI, the creators of ChatGPT, had killed the woman he was in love with. That woman was apparently an AI entity with whom he communicated via Chat GPT."

Chatgpt can be used in many helpful ways if you use it correctly. It should be used as a tool, not an oracle. It can be a healthy tool for learning, organizing, brainstorming, and even for creative or personal goal support. It is important to understand that Chatgpt is not always correct and the user fact check multiple sources before using the information provided.

NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE NEWS: TSUNAMIS

By Jose Tolento

Greek historian Thucydides is credited with being the first to propose a connection between earthquakes and the subsequent ocean waves, around 426 BC. However, according to NPR, the first English use of the word was recorded more than 100 years ago when an earthquake struck off the east coast of Japan and National Geographic reported that said, "On the evening of June 15, 1896, the northeast coast of Hondo, the main island of Japan, was struck by a great earthquake wave," and then it explained that the Japanese term for this was 'tsunami.' "

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Tsunamis can be generated in all of the world's oceans, inland seas, and any large body of water. They have caused damage and deaths in coastal areas all around the world and can strike any coast; with 78% of them occurring in the Pacific Ocean around the geologically active "Ring of Fire," a string of underwater volcanoes and earthquake sites around the edges of the Pacific Ocean.

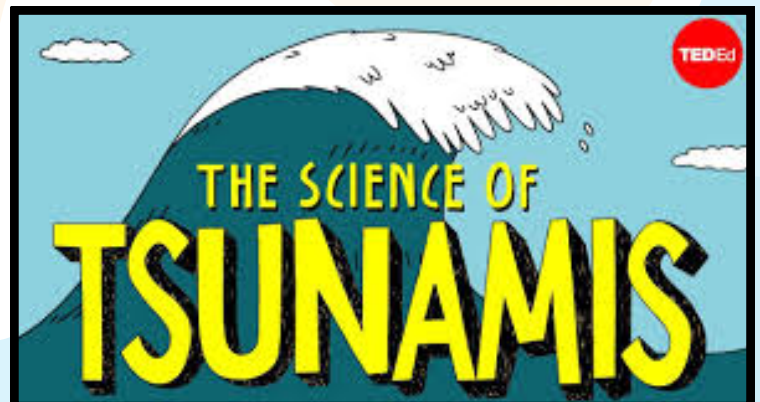
Large tsunamis are significant threats to human health, property, infrastructure, resources, and economies. Effects can be long and feel far beyond the coastline.

Tsunamis typically cause the most severe damage and casualties near their source, where there is little time for warning. But large tsunamis can also reach distant shorelines, causing widespread damage.

The largest tsunami ever recorded in the Bay Area occurred as a result of the 1964 Alaska earthquake, which was a magnitude 9.2 megathrust event—the second-largest earthquake ever recorded worldwide.

While a devastating tsunami like those in Hollywood films are unlikely to flood the entire Bay Area, it's important to understand that a significant tsunami could cause damage and pose a threat to coastal communities.

Click the image to learn more



U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT LAUNCHES INCENTIVE PROGRAM

By Jayden Flores

You may have heard the term ICE in the news, but what exactly is it? ICE stands for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a federal law enforcement agency created in 2003 as part of the Department of Homeland Security. Its main job is to enforce immigration and customs laws inside the United States.

ICE is funded by Congress through the Department of Homeland Security's budget. Over the years, its funding has grown dramatically. Today, ICE's budget is about \$28.7 billion, making it the highest-funded law enforcement agency in the country—larger than even the FBI or DEA. During the Trump administration, the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" dedicated almost \$170 billion to immigration enforcement, with \$75 billion going directly to ICE.

With more money and power, ICE has also faced more criticism. Human rights groups and government reports have raised concerns about inhumane conditions in detention centers, questionable enforcement practices, and a lack of oversight within the system.

Recently, the Trump administration has pushed to hire more agents, and on August 9th, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced ICE will no longer have an age limit for new applicants. The change is intended to expand the pool of candidates eligible to apply for ICE law enforcement positions. All new recruits must still complete the standard requirements, including a medical screening, drug test, and physical fitness assessment. "Qualified candidates can now apply with no age limit," said Secretary Kristi Noem.

With new funding from the recently passed One Big Beautiful Bill, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is expanding benefits for new hires. The incentives include:

- Signing bonuses of up to \$50,000
- Options for student loan repayment or forgiveness
- 25% extra pay (Law Enforcement Availability Pay) for HSI Special Agents
- Overtime pay (Administratively Uncontrollable Overtime) for ERO Deportation Officers
- Enhanced retirement benefits for eligible employees

Some concerns critics have with job requirements include poor candidate experience and lack of transparency.

Whether you agree with ICE's role or not, it has become one of the most powerful federal agencies in the U.S. Its work and controversies affect national debates on immigration, security, and human rights—issues that will continue to shape the future.

Happy BIRTHDAY

By Jayden Flores

Jose Tapia Becerra 09/01

KeSean Williams 09/01

Mariah Holmes 09/02

Sergio Cano Lopez 09/02

Leonardo Garcia 09/06

David Segundo Campos 09/06

Gonzalo Villasenor Gudino 09/07

Ms. Simone 09/08

Alexis Valadez 09/08

Ms. Samantha 09/13

Gabriel Santellan 09/17

Emely Sepulveda Munoz 09/17

Sarahi Rivas 09/18

Yuliana Herrera Herrera 09/20

Ms. Ana 09/22

Analeigh Zendejas 09/24

Emilio Ayala 09/27

Ms. Moura 09/28

Jaylene Anzo 09/29

A Daily Dose of Observances

September is filled with national and global observances, with each day dedicated to celebrating someone or something special! From recognizing everyday objects to appreciating life's little joys, these observances offer the perfect excuse to smile, step away from routine, and enjoy some fun activities. Whether you want to add a touch of humor to your day or learn about meaningful celebrations happening across the country, this calendar will bring you a daily dose of amusement and joy throughout the month!

By Jayden Flores

