



# False info prompts secure school, then restorative healing circles

Allegations of gun on campus put school on high alert; many students, staff bothered by lack of communication

**By Ivoneth Garcia & Elena Wenzler**  
STAFF WRITERS

More than 20 police cars arrived at Skyline on Friday, Sept. 26, responding to an 8 a.m. call to authorities that a firearm had been seen on campus. That call had sent the school into a “secure school” status, leaving staff and students confused.

Although police found no weapon on campus after an extensive search, the incident led to teachers and students calling for better communication when an emergency or perceived emergency is occurring.

During the “secure school” protocol, teachers were instructed to keep students inside classrooms while officers investigated the incident. Students and parents who arrived during the “secure school” protocol were unable to enter campus.

Updates were limited, and much of the information came from unofficial sources, social media and rumors.

Students were kept in their first period classes until the end of second period, with no updates over the PA system except for being told to continue to observe the secure school rules.

“A lot of what we knew came from students using the Citizens app or hearing from parents,” said Green Energy Pathway En-

glish teacher David Lopez.

“When we get it from sources that aren’t the school, there’s more distrust and uncertainty,” he added. “That lets people’s minds wander and think of the worst scenarios.”

Principal Rebecca Huang confirmed that the police found no active threat and the campus was cleared. However, she acknowledged that the event was “stressful” and said counselors offered check-ins afterwards.

“We can always improve how we communicate,” Huang said. “Finding accurate information quickly, and avoiding rumors, is key.”

The following week, the Restorative Justice team held a healing circle in the library for

students and staff who wanted support and a space to reflect on what had happened on Sept. 26.

Those who attended shared that the lack of communication during the incident made them feel uncertain and anxious. Other teachers also held smaller circles in their classrooms to help students process what happened to regain a sense of safety.

Sofia Sampino, a Community Health & Education Pathway sophomore, explained that she would like clearer communication between staff and teachers if this type of incident happens again. She said if that happened, then teachers could give updates to students and families. “It would help everyone feel safer and more reassured,” she said.

## Post-Kirk poll shows teen angst

# 70

Percent of Skyline students worried or very worried about political violence

# 46

Percent of students who think political violence will increase after Charlie Kirk’s assassination

# 40

Percent of students who feel unsafe or very unsafe due to gun violence in their daily life

Statistics from poll conducted by Staff Writer Nathan Fuentes (78 Skyline students responded)

# Student reactivates fan page with popular Coach D videos

**By Oliver Forrest**  
STAFF WRITER

Coach D’s Instagram fan page is bigger than ever, despite an attempt to take it down.

Thirkell Debellotte, also known as Coach D, is a P.E teacher at Skyline. His fan page started off when one of his students, Olivia Diaz, couldn’t take his PE class in her sophomore year because it was full.

“It wasn’t really planned out that much; it just popped up in my head,” said Diaz.

With the help of Coach D, Diaz started the fan page at the start of the 2023-24 school year.

A fan page is an online page that can be used by fans to support a person, group, or team. The Coach D fan page is used to “help him feel happy and supported by students at Skyline,” said Diaz.

When asked about his main goal for the fan page, Coach D said he wanted to spread a message of “health and safety across campus.”

Over the 2024-25 school year, the fan page grew to about 850 followers and was well-known across the school. Videos from

the account routinely opened with Debellotte saying “Good morning, Skyline community”, going on to provide motivational messages like “Follow your teacher’s instructions, stay in class, and you’ll be safe.”

However, the page was banned by Instagram over the summer due to people making “unpleasant comments” about the videos posted on the page. This ban caused the account to be deleted permanently. Coach D found out about the ban while he was teaching summer school.

As the fan page’s creator, Diaz discovered the ban when she was logged out of the account. A new account was formed by Diaz and Coach Debellotte, and they started posting videos at the start of the school year.

As of Oct. 12, the recreated fan page had 278 followers and 13 video posts. Diaz said she plans to post a new video once a week to @coach.dfanpage.

In one of the videos, Coach D can be seen welcoming the Skyline community, then challenging viewers to do the “boots on the ground” dance, which he was teaching to his P.E classes.



Photo by Jonathan Lopez Barahona

**LATINO PRIDE** Juniors Max Carrillo Gomez and Belsy Mazariegos participate in a torch ceremony during the Youth Together Newcomer Program celebration of Latin America Independence on Sept. 15. Parents served baleadas, tamales and more afterwards.

# Latin America Independence spotlighted; 50s hallway, senior lawn turn center stage

Youth Together celebration features flags, food, music; new focus on education for all

**By Lindsay Ramon Contreras**  
STAFF WRITER

Students in the Newcomer Program celebrated the independence of six countries during a ceremony on Sept. 15.

The activities included the running of the torch, a tradition in Guatemala that symbolizes freedom, unity and knowledge. Students also presented the flags along with a symbolic song of Latin America.

The celebration was organized by the Youth Together and the Newcomers Program and directed by Guadalupe Gomez of the Youth Center.

Newcomers are students who

have been in U.S. schools for less than four years. There are 48 newcomers at Skyline this year.

“It was very exciting because it was something new and the cultures in our countries were also being made known. And it was a nice experience for those who were participating,” Belsy Mazariegos, a junior from Guatemala, said in Spanish.

The event was held on this date because many Central American countries, including Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, obtained their independence from Spain on Sept. 15, 1821. Although Mexico became independent on Sept. 16, many Mexicans still celebrate the day before with the other Latin American countries.

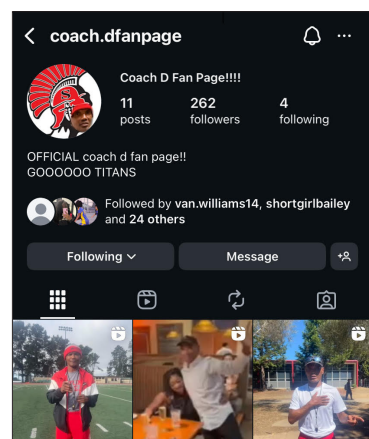
Newcomers and Youth Together-

er also decorated the 50s building with Latin American flags and historical information. The 50s building is home to several newcomer classrooms.

After the ceremony, parents of several students served traditional dishes they had prepared including baleadas, tamales, sandwiches and horchata.

This year the focus of the celebration included more education for students outside the Newcomer Program.

“It is important to continue with our cultures and teach the rest of the student body our traditions and raise our flag very high,” said Newcomer Assistant Juanie Rangel, who announced several of the activities and carried the Mexican flag during the festivities.



Photos by Oliver Forrest

**CONTENT CREATIVITY** At left, Coach D and senior Olivia Diaz team up to produce coach.dfanpage on Instagram.

## Angel Island focus of book; author speaks on parallels

Writer says we have returned to another dark period when immigrants are demonized

**By Nathan Fuentes**  
STAFF WRITER

During a time when discrimination against immigrants seems all too familiar to most, author Freeman Ng explained to Skyline students how he believes his story about Angel Island and 20th century Chinese Exclusion Act will remind everyone that we are a nation of immigrants.

Mr. Ng wrote that story in the novel “Bridge Across the Sky.”

In a 75-minute talk in the library on Sept. 25, Mr. Ng presented photographs displaying the harsh conditions and cruelty faced by the Chinese immigrants on the island and the poems they carved into the walls of their cells.

Mitch Xia, a history teacher who took their students to the library to hear Mr. Ng, said they appreciated the primary sources used by Mr. Ng. In addition, they said, “something that really shined through was how much like modern day teenagers the teens at Angel Island were. This kind of opportunity — to not only talk to a published author but also to connect to a part of history that featured young people of the same age as the students — is very special.”

The Oracle interviewed Mr. Ng right after his presentation.

### What inspired you to write your book?

Well, I was born and raised in the Bay Area and lived most of my life here, so by the time I was an adult I kind of knew the story of Angel Island. But I still wasn't interested in writing about it, even though my father actually entered the country through a process similar to the Angel Island process, though he entered through Seattle.

What made me decide to write the novel was when I heard about the poems that the detain-

ees carved into the walls of their barracks. When I heard about the poems, then I knew I had to write the story; and that I had to do it in verse as a way to honor those poets in the barracks that posted their poems.

### What kind of message are you hoping to send with your novel?

I just want to make more people aware of the story of Angel Island and make more people aware of this immigration story. In the times that we live in, it's really important to tell the immigration stories and remind people that we're a nation of immigrants.

Beyond that, for people who actually read the book, I'm hoping that they'll pick up on the message of the need for solidarity; not just to be just fighting

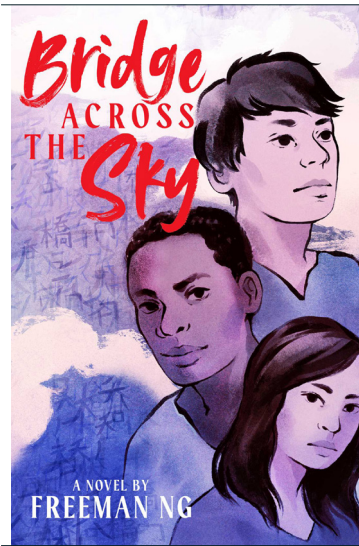
for your own group, but that all groups that are under attack, all groups that have common causes, need to unite in solidarity and fight together.

### What do you think of America's current stance on immigration?

It's very evocative of America's stance back in the day of the novel. America goes back and forth between periods where it's very welcoming of immigrants and periods where it's demonizing them and criminalizing them. I think we're definitely in one of those dark phases and that makes it all the more important to tell stories like this.

### Is there anything else you would like to add?

For those who love poetry, the book is written in verse and it contains a lot of actual quotes from the poems written on the walls. My protagonist writes poems of his own and two other of my characters in my novel also write poems of their own. So there's tons of poetry in the book in all these different kinds of styles. So it's kind of an homage to the power of poetry to express people's lives. And if you're not into poetry, well the nice thing about our novel in verse is that it's short, fewer words per page, so it's a quicker read. Mostly I think of myself as a poet, and that's part of my mission as well I think, to get more people into reading and writing poetry.



## As ICE grows more assertive OUSD trains staff on protocols

Skyline employees receive mandatory response training; “Know Your Rights” sessions given to families, students

**By Jonas Jones & Jesse Rocha-Valadez**  
STAFF WRITERS

In a climate of heightened immigration enforcement, fear and uncertainty have become a daily reality for many families across the country and in our community at Skyline High School.

However, staff and students have been preparing for the possibility of ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) coming to campus. ICE has been showing up around the country to arrest those suspected of being in the United States without legal documents. Some have been detained and then deported.

In mandatory training, district officials briefed staff on Oakland Unified School District protocols in what they said was the unlikely event of ICE coming to Skyline or another school.

The school board recently mandated yearly training on ICE protocols for all staff, according to newcomer teacher and teachers union representative Jimmy Barbuto.

The training covered the basics of OUSD's responsibility as a sanctuary district towards those who might be targeted by ICE. OUSD states on its website that “students will not be discriminated against because of their actual or perceived immigrant status.” It states OUSD “will not seek information about immigration status, and will take steps to protect personally identifiable information for being used for immigration enforcement to the extent possible.”

When discussing the training, Mr. Barbuto stressed that “students have a right in the United States to an education, regard-



Photo by Huy Kiana Nguyen

### SANCTUARY SUPPORT Social worker Tatum Ochoa O'Sullivan often helps students with immigration concerns.

less of immigration status.”

Those rights and others have been explained during “Know Your Rights” workshops, which have been held for families and classrooms since Donald Trump took office on Jan. 20 and promised to deport millions of undocumented immigrants. More are scheduled.

Meanwhile, red cards with advice on what to say and do if approached by ICE have also been distributed to students by some teachers and youth organizations on campus. The cards have English on one side and a second language on the back.

Principal Rebecca Huang said one of the most important things the school community is doing is holding family workshops in several languages.

Ms. Huang also said that while there has been no ICE activity at Skyline to date, key staff — including front gate personnel, culture keepers, administrators and case managers — have been properly trained on what to do should that situation occur.

In addition, Ms. Huang specified that if ICE agents were to come to the gates, they would need a signed warrant to enter. Staff would “direct them to the legal department in our central office ... but if they run through and jam on right by you, then

immediately, we call our central department and let them know.”

Tatum Ochoa O'Sullivan, a social worker who works closely with Skyline newcomers, said she has noticed an increased sense of fear among students regarding immigration issues.

“It seems like these laws and these immigration tactics are targeting and criminalizing groups of an already marginalized population,” she said.

Skyline English teacher Casey Dolan has similar concerns.

“The ICE presence, not just this year, but in previous years, causes a lot of anxiety, even if students aren't openly talking about it,” she said.

ASB President Inara Shafiq wants students to feel safe.

“I'd like the community to understand how dangerous this time can be for not just undocumented people, but anyone that 'looks like they don't belong here,’” she said, using air quotes. “Every single student and person that's here deserves to be here and has a tremendous amount of value here. And we want to make sure that you're safe.”

*For help with immigration: OUSD Immigrant Youth Specialist (510-957-8210); OUSD Legal Department (510-922-0061); and Centro Legal (510-437-1554).*

## Flag football crushes two foes: 46-0, 47-0

**By Joseph Cannon-Wright & Tiffany Cheung**  
STAFF WRITERS

In less than one month of games the flag football team has had two major blowouts — a 46-0 win against Oakland Unity and a 47-0 win against Richmond College Prep.

Gia Watts, Jane Alexander, Ahni'Yah Monk and Corryn Bailey each scored touchdowns in the Sept. 17 win over Unity. Marie Niang and Audrey Hoffman each scored multiple touchdowns in the Oct. 6 game against Richmond College Prep, improving the team's overall record to 3-2.

Melissa Hardy, a junior center, said she was glad that the team started the season off strong.

“Our first game brought a little bit of confidence into the game, especially because most of the people never played before on the team,” she said.

The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) sanctioned flag football in fall of 2023. Many schools in California then added



Photo by Lisa Leal

### GIRL POWER Quarterback Jane Alexander (right) throws to a receiver as Audrey Hoffman tries to block a Unity High player.

it as a girls sport because of Title IX, a federal law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in any educational program, including sports and requires equal funding and equal numbers of sports for both sexes. Flag football follows many of the same rules as football. However, instead of tackling, flag football players pull off flags for defense.

Marie Niang has played all three years of Skyline's flag football team. She said that while the first win this year was refreshing, she was not surprised by the score because Skyline had played Unity the day before.

“It was more of a scrimmage,” she said. “It was very obvious that we would do well in the game the next day.”

## The Oracle

The Oracle is a vehicle of student freedom of expression and a public forum for the Skyline High School community. It is produced during the academic year by the journalism class and advised by Lisa Shafer

We welcome feedback about our content and would also like to hear ideas for future coverage. Signed letters on topics of concern to our community are welcomed.

Staff reserve the right to edit for language and space. Letters or guest opinion columns may be dropped off to room 52 or sent to [lisa.shafer@ousd.org](mailto:lisa.shafer@ousd.org). Signed articles or opinion pieces reflect the viewpoints of the author only. Unsigned editorials represent the consensus opinion of the newspaper staff. Thank you for your support.

**EDITORS IN CHIEF**  
Ivoneth Garcia, Leah Schatz, Viviane Toure

**STAFF WRITERS**  
Joseph Cannon-Wright, Tiffany Cheung, Oliver Forrest, Nathan Fuentes, Esey Gebregiorgis, Liam Geissler, Jonas Jones, Vance Kirby, Fanny Lucas-Orellana, Jackson Masuret, Zemani Moore, Huy Kiana Nguyen, Emily Olbekson, Lindsay Ramos Contreras, Jesse Rocha-Valadez, Clarissa Villacarte, Elena Wenzler

IG: @skyline\_oracle