The Paw Print

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Photographer:Raquel Smith

Inside:
Cutest Couples
Winter Sports
And More!

Pop Show Unplugged

By Alana Gay
Opinion Editor

On January 17th, John Burroughs' Vocal Music Association hosted its annual Pop Show Unplugged, with performances at 5:00 and 7:30PM. This year's show took place at the Garry Marshall Theatre, creating an intimate and sacred setting that set it apart from the traditional Pop Show held in the John Burroughs Auditorium.

Each year, Pop Show Unplugged features a select group of Choir students who are invited to share their talents in a more intimate setting. The smaller venue creates a unique connection between performers and audience members, fostering a sense of vulnerability, trust, and appreciation.

Pop Show Unplugged showcases a wide range of performances, from solo acts to small group numbers, all connected by a shared sense of love for music and storytelling. Unlike larger productions, this show allows students to fully express themselves, not only through their song choices but also through their costumes, makeup, and the personal meaning behind each performance.

One of the most special elements of Pop Show Unplugged is that performers are given the chance to explain why they chose their songs and the message they hope to leave with the audience. This allows the audience to engage with the music on a deeper level, understanding the emotions and experiences that inspired each performance.

The show also opens space for students to share talents that may not always be highlighted in other performances throughout the year, such as playing instruments or experimenting with different musical styles.

Senior Evan Baker, a Choir member of Powerhouse and Men@ Work, shared his experience performing at the show. Baker performed and sang "Love Like This" by Ben Rector, a song he chose for its meaningful message. "The reason I chose the song is that the song is about how certain love and certain experiences in your life can change the way you look at things and change the way you decide to live and your attitude in general," he explained.



Photographer: Abigail Grossnickle

Senior Maddalena Grossnickle, a Choir member of Powerhouse, also reflected on the night's impact. Grossnickle noted how inspiring it was to see classmates step into new creative spaces. "There were a lot of people I had not heard or seen play an instrument that got to do that for the show, and it is very inspiring," she said. She also emphasized the joy of performing for a live audience, regardless of the show format.

"Whether it is Pop Show or Pop Show Unplugged, I think just being on stage and giving to people who want to come see you is such a nice experience. It is such a great feeling to be onstage and have that audience-performer interaction, then getting to do something you love to do for an audience that is excited to see it."

Pop Show Unplugged proved to be a meaningful experience not only for audiences but also for students. By allowing performers to express themselves fully and authentically, the show celebrated individuality, creativity, and the powerful bond between music and emotion.

Academic Decathlon Competition

By Arianna Ingram
Cub Reporter

As Academic Decathlon makes its return after a decade hiatus, the prestigious competition is back, and students are thrilled to once again showcase their knowledge and skills on a national level!

Academic Decathlon is, at its simplest, and academic challenge of tests, writing, speeches and interviews. Consisting across ten different subjects such as Math, Science, Art, Language, Music, Literature, Interview, Speech, Essay, and Social Science, the team prepares to gear up for upcoming challenges. It offers a special opportunity for students to develop their skills in a wide range of subjects, while also fostering teamwork, leadership, and time management at the same time. The overall goal is to promote and reward academic excellence, whilst generally providing a forum for high school students to present their intelligence and talents alongside their peers.

Organized by the Captains Tess Doty and Caroline Canny over the summer into a new club, all participants are determined to make Academic Decathlon bigger and better than ever before. They are also provided with the unwavering support from Mr. FitzGerald, with him emphasizing how it's "A lot of fun, a lot of challenges, and I'm proud of my athletes." With his and the students' advocation alike combined, they'll be able to tackle each challenge with strong perseverance and dedication, and set forth a new beginning for the future of Academic Decathlon at John Burroughs.

Tess and Caroline created (restarted, technically) the club because a friend at another school recommended it, and the both of them were passionate about starting a profound Academic Decathlon team, thus leading to them figuring out how to put it together over the summer. Although the process was difficult, having to talk to the State Director and work with



Principal Knoop, it ended up as a big success in the end.

The dates for their official competitions are were January 24th, 28th, and the 31st at San Gabriel High school. Tess, one of the Captains, stated "I'm nervous about competition since some schools have a class period while ours is just a club, but I'm overall really excited!" Despite this minor concern, she's very hopeful about the club's future, and the room for improvement they can make as they power through the new year with high spirits.

Their current team is composed of a few Juniors, a couple Sophomores, and some eager Freshmen, but they're looking forward to expanding it to two teams instead of just one next year, bring the team up to maybe twenty students. So if any of this sounds interesting to you, stop by during one of their Monday meetings and you can try out for next years team and competition!

JBHS Student DEI Team

By Ella Herran
Cub Reporter

The "JBHS Student DEI Team" are ready for a new semester, ideas pending, brains thinking and pens and paper out and ready to go. When the majority was asked the question of "why did you want to join this group," no student really hesitated with answers for they were all really the same, "I just want to help improve our school, make sure everyone's happy and do my part to the best of my ability."

The first meeting happened on Thursday, January 22nd during lunch, in room 1208, where the team spent their first meeting just getting to know one another and to understand why everyone was so interested in being on the team. Everyone seemed to have had a great time and by the looks of it, some students seemed to have already known each other.

Their next meeting will take place next month on a certain Thursday where more ideas will be discussed and eventually when ready, will be taken to the board of education where they will decide if the idea is worthy of being implemented for the school.

The new DEI team is mixed around between staff and students. The staff member are our assistant principal Ms. Cuseo, Drama teacher Ms. Meberg, Film/TV production teacher Mrs. Meschkat, Art teacher Mrs. Nakashima and para-educator Ms. Mariah. The students are Juniors Emmanuelle Laurente, Mitsuki Grijalva, Giselle Cashion, and Ella Herran, and Sophomores Riley Brinton and Christopher Rivera. The students who are the key part to the student DEI team, bring a rare sense of leadership but also equity to the table for they experience a lot of things in multiple different classrooms that can be brought to the Board of Education and help make or break our school to be the best it can possibly be. When students were thinking of ideas for the first meeting, a lot of ideas seemed to clash which proved one point, a lot of our JBHS students want a lot of the things fixed. The JBHS DEI student team is eager to be up and running and bring about new ideas to help improve the school.

A Capella Competition

By Zoe Belknap
Feature Editor

On Friday, January 23rd, John Burroughs High School Vocal Music Association's two A Capella groups hosted Varsity Vocals' 2026 ICHSA West Quarterfinal, featuring competing high school groups from across the Southwest and a special exhibition performance from USC's Reverse Osmosis.

NeoChromatics, JBHS' co-ed group featuring singers from Powerhouse, was the only one of our groups to compete on the 23rd. Still, Muses, Sound Sensations' A Capella group, put on an excellent performance of SZA's "Saturn," to open the show and worked vital roles backstage running the competition.

For the competition itself, seven groups faced off against each other for three coveted spots in the ICHSA West Semifinal in San Francisco. These groups were Downbeat from the Harker School in San Jose, California; Dynamics from Bishop Amat Memorial High School in La Puente, California; Encore from American Leadership Academy in Spanish Fork, Utah; In Tone Nation from Gila Ridge High School in Yuma, Arizona; OC Voices from Oaks Christian School in Westlake Village, California; Titanium from Tesoro High School in Las Flores, California; and, of course, NeoChromatics from Burbank, California.

Of these groups, NeoChromatics won third place, garnering 360 points, with a murder mystery themed set. Titanium, who won first place in quarterfinals for the past two years, earned second place with 375 points, while OC Voices swept in for first place with 435 points.

For the special awards, OC Voices also received lots of recognition, with Dominic Weston winning outstanding vocal percussion and Kiera Buhr winning outstanding soloist. Titanium, whose set revolved around social media and technology, won outstanding choreography.

These awards were chosen by five adjudicators: Aaron Bayne, Kate Crellin, Trist Curless, LC Powell, and Selame Scarlett. With impressive resumes from Pitch Perfect to Pentatonix, JBHS was honored to welcome these musicians and teachers to our school.

Congratulations to NeoChromatics for making it to Semifinals, *The Paw Print* wishes you good luck in San Francisco!

Drama Competition At CETA Wins Big!

By John Anderegg
Editor-In-Chief

Every year, the California Education Theatre Association, or CETA, hosts their High School Theatre Festival, a weekend full of performances and workshops for students to enjoy. This year, the cast and crew of Drama's Fall Play *Everybody* had the honor of attending and performing at this event for the first time ever.

Back in November, the cast and crew of *Everybody* received perfect 4's in all categories from the CETA adjudicators and became the Los Angeles Regional Champions, securing their invite to perform again on Fullerton Union High School's MainStage against three other schools.

Students arrived in Fullerton either the evening of January 16th or the morning of January 17th. Load-in started at 6AM, and the crew had only four hours to load-in the entire set, a process which usually takes a full weekend. Aided by Fullerton Union's Tech Crew, Stagecraft finished loading in early, and the cast was able to rehearse before performing for the festival attendees.

For their amazing effort and efficiency, JBHS Stagecraft was awarded the "Best Tech Crew at CETA Weekend" award.

"After the amount of hours me and the rest of the crew on *Everybody* put into making and performing this production, the fact that our efforts were great enough not only to get us to CETA, but to win Best Tech was a truly incredible feeling," JBHS Sophomore and SR Deck Manager Mason Howell commented, highlighting just how important this award was to him and many other members of Stagecraft who attended.

Alongside Stagecraft's award, two JBHS Seniors received individual awards for their work on the show. Maddalena Grossnickle was recognized for her effort in designing the cast's costumes, hair, and makeup, and H O'Briant won her second consecutive award at CETA for her lighting design.

"It definitely is rewarding because it makes all my effort seem worth it," H commented. "I spent hundreds of hours designing and doing the electrical for the show and I am very proud of the result." Her award winning work can be found on her Instagram @hannah.hope.obriant or on her website hannahhopeobriant.com.

Competition wasn't the only thing CETA offered its attendees. Aside from the MainStage productions, there were many workshops available for students to connect with and learn from industry professionals, such as "Storytelling for the Stage," "Introduction to Lighting Design," and "Releasing Rib Tension." While educational, the workshops also provided Everybody's cast and crew with a much needed break, giving them time to relax after a long morning of performance.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of Drama's Everybody and make sure to come support their next show *All Shook Up*, happening February 6th, 7th, and 8th, and their TBA Spring Play

Why 2016 Is Making A Stylish Comeback

By Hailie Alvarez
Creative Director

If you thought 2016 was just another year of Snapchat filters, viral dance challenges, and throwback memes, think again—its fashion is officially back. From oversized jackets to tiny sunglasses, street style and social media are bringing some of the coolest trends from five years ago straight into 2026 wardrobes. What was once considered "so 2016" is suddenly everywhere—from TikTok reels to Instagram feeds—and the trend isn't just for nostalgia lovers. It's fun, bold, and surprisingly easy to make your own.

Denim-on-denim, jokingly called the "Canadian tuxedo," is making a major return. In 2016, people paired jean jackets with jeans in matching washes, often adding a pop of color underneath. Now, the look is updated with faded or distressed denim, oversized jackets, and looser fits that feel casual yet intentional. Pair a classic denim jacket with straight-leg jeans and a simple white tee, and suddenly you're channeling that effortless street style vibe. Even high school students are embracing it, often dressing up the look with sneakers or boots instead of sandals, making it practical for everyday wear.

Athleisure, the fashion trend that made joggers, hoodies, and sneakers acceptable outside of gym class, is also back—but with a 2026 upgrade. In 2016, this style was all about comfort, sometimes bordering on sloppy. Now, joggers are tailored, hoodies are luxe, and sneakers are statement-making. Layer a neutral hoodie under a long trench coat or pair sleek joggers with a crop top and chunky sneakers, and you've got a look that balances style and comfort perfectly. Athleisure is especially popular on social media, where influencers and teens alike show how to dress casually without looking lazy.

Tiny, angular sunglasses, a favorite among celebrities in 2016, have resurfaced in both street style and fashion editorials. These retro shades make even the simplest outfits feel more fashionable, and they're surprisingly versatile. Pair them with oversized hoodies, denim jackets, or even school uniforms for an instant upgrade. Similarly, bold logos, metallic finishes, and holographic accessories are making a comeback. From monogram bags to shimmering belts, these statement pieces let wearers channel the confidence of 2016 while keeping the overall look modern and stylish. The trick is to choose one or two standout items at a time and pair them with simple basics, so the outfit feels intentional rather than costume-like.

Social media plays a huge role in bringing 2016 back. TikTok trends often reference the era, from viral outfit recreations to throwback aesthetics like neon scrunchies, chunky sneakers, and holographic backpacks. Instagram Reels and Pinterest boards are full of style inspiration, showing that these trends aren't just recycled—they're being reimagined for a new generation. Even high school hallways are becoming mini runways, with students experimenting with denim co-ords, logo tees, and metallic accessories. The appeal is partly nostalgia and partly the thrill of mixing bold, expressive pieces into everyday wear.



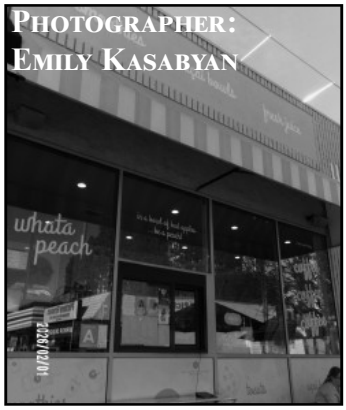
So why is 2016 making a comeback? Fashion moves in cycles, and every decade eventually gets revisited. Nostalgia plays a huge role—people love revisiting what they grew up with—but it's also about experimentation. By blending old-school trends with contemporary basics, fashion becomes both expressive and approachable. It allows anyone, from teens to adults, to play with style, take risks, and stand out without feeling out of place.

Here are three easy ways to rock 2016 trends today: mix retro pieces with modern staples, like tiny sunglasses with a neutral hoodie or blazer, let your shoes make a statement with chunky sneakers or metallic boots, and accessorize boldly with one standout item, such as a logo tee, holographic bag, or metallic belt. Don't just copy the look—make it yours. Thoughtful combinations of past and present are the best way to wear nostalgia while staying totally 2026-cool.

Ultimately, the 2016 comeback isn't just a fad—it's a reminder that fashion is cyclical, playful, and personal. Whether you're rocking oversized denim, tailored joggers, or holographic accessories, the key is confidence. The trends of ten years ago are fun, bold, and easy to adapt, proving that with a little creativity, the past can feel brand new. So next time you open your closet, don't be afraid to dig out that old denim jacket or those statement sneakers. 2016 is back, and it's ready to make its mark on 2026 style—one confident outfit at a time.

Whata Peach

By Tatev Ayvazyan
Cub Reporter



Photographer: Emily Kasabyan

Located in Studio City, CA, at 11055 Ventura Blvd, Studio City, CA 91604, a smoothie shop named Whata Peach, recently opened in early 2024, is collaborating with the activewear brand KARA by Karina to make a new smoothie exclusive to February only!

Karina Piliguian, the founder and owner of the activewear brand KARA, is a professional dancer and dance instructor at Dynamic Duo Dance Studio in Glendale, CA, as well as an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist. She joined hands with Whata Peach to make a new smoothie that will give people the cold refreshing feeling they need to go on with their day.

This smoothie is called the Pink Cloud Lemonade. It features the flavors of strawberry, vanilla, and, as the name suggests, pink lemonade. It includes Sea Moss Superfood Gel, as well as raspberries, strawberries, lemon, sweet fluff, and the consumer's choice of milk. The Pink Cloud Lemonade is priced at $13.50.

The Pink Cloud Lemonade smoothie is nicely balanced with tanginess from the lemon and sweetness from the berries and the sweet fluff, which does contain dairy.

Whata Peach is open everyday from 8AM-6PM. This location has outdoor seating with around 5 tables with umbrellas, and orders are taken at a window.

Other than smoothies, Whata Peach also has different types of toasts, açaí bowls, and coffees/matchas. The prices range from $4.50-$13.50, with the lower priced items being some of the basic coffees, and the higher priced items being the smoothies and açaí bowls.

All the drinks look amazing and aesthetically pleasing with their different colors that are obtained naturally by using different types of spirulina and fruit.

There are many choices to choose from, and even if you are vegan or vegetarian, you will be able to enjoy many drinks, as not all contain dairy, and you are able to choose the milk you would like in your drinks.

So, for the month of February only, try out the refreshing Pink Cloud Lemonade smoothie, made by Whata Peach and KARA by Karina!

How To Ask Out That Special Someone

By Emma Friedman
Cub Reporter

Having trouble coming up with ways to ask that special someone to be your Valentine this upcoming February 14th? Whether you're dating or crushing on them, both are challenging obstacles. Luckily, you've come to the right page and now have access to six ways to ask that person to be your Valentine.

#1. Ask them with candy. You can never go wrong with candy. Though make sure if they have allergies, don't give them candy containing whatever they're allergic to. According to Freshman Adelyn Culp, "Candy is classic and mostly never fails." Candy is a big symbol of Valentine's Day and it's what a lot of people do each year. If they're more of a savory kind of person, then get them some tasty chips. The point is, food is the way to a person's heart and into becoming your Valentine.

#2. Ask straightforwardly with no idea what you're doing but the one in your mind. It works best for asking someone you're more close with or have been dating for a while. Take Freshman Marie Freeman for example. She says, "I don't really have a plan. I'm just gonna freewing it and ask her." Also, a lot of people don't care about big events but do care about their special someone. Just asking them in a simple way is sometimes the way to go.

#3. Ask them with an adorable letter. No matter the gender of this person, everyone loves a letter. People have been doing this technique as early as in the 15th century. Sophomore Stacy Gramjao feels like, "You got to put a lot of effort and detail in it though. You gotta make it sentimental too." It shows you care about this person and clearly shows it to them as well.

#4. Go up to them with flowers and say please until they say yes. This one is more of a silly way to ask them. It works best if you've known them for a while and know it'll make them laugh. If you're not sure they'll like it, do not do it. It's a hit and miss with most people and you want them to say yes to you. Not take the flowers and hit you with them. But Freshman Iv Smith makes the import point, "Make sure you actually know the person to some degree."

#5. Ask them with a mysterious note. Now unlike #3 with the letter, a note is shorter and more to the point. This idea is better if you know the person will be less likely to keep something you made for them or if you have postponed asking that someone out and now only has a few hours left to ask them because they were too scared to ask them sooner. Freshman Grace Palmer also adds that, "Candy or flowers are a sweet way to ask someone but a note is more to the point." You can also doodle hearts or put stickers on the note if you think it's too plain and needs a little extra something to make it perfect for them.

#6. Make them something. If you're a crafter, this is your moment. If you're not a crafter, it's still your moment! This way takes time or if you're really good at making something last minute then it's also a good way to ask them. Teacher Ms. Ella Rappaport feels like a good way to achieve success with this idea is that, "You should first find out what their interests are and then ask them out in a way that connects to that interest and is meaningful," making an excellent point of including their interests into the mix. It'll help show them you pay attention to them, even in the ways they didn't think you noticed. Honestly, there's not much that can go wrong.

Also, please note that you can mix and match these ideas. Like making them a note and giving them candy. Or taking the flowers idea form #5 but getting rid of the pleading part and replacing it with making them something special. The possibilities are endless! Make sure you keep this mind as you decide how to ask them out. Hopefully now with these six ideas, asking them out won't be as hard. Most importantly of all you should know that whatever you do, you got this.

Valentine's Dates

By Koda Dominguez
Cub Reporter

In and around Burbank, Valentine's Day is the perfect time to find simple and fun date ideas that make spending time together feel special. Burbank and the surrounding areas have plenty of great spots that are perfect for Valentine's Day dates. From cozy restaurants to scenic places to walk and relax. Whether you want something romantic, fun, or lowkey, there are many nearby options that make spending time together special.

The Griffith Observatory is a cost friendly and romantic place to spend Valentine's Day, making it perfect for couples who want a fun date without spending a lot of money.

It's a great spot for a picnic, with an open space and beautiful views of Los Angeles. After eating together, couples can walk around, watch the sunset, and enjoy the sky as it turns dark and fills with stars. Inside, the space exhibits and telescopes add something fun and interesting to explore.

Another amazing place to stop by is The Great Grill in Downtown Burbank. The Great Grill is a cozy, 1950s style diner known for its filling breakfast plates and classic burgers. Its casual vibe and affordable prices make it a great stop for a Valentine's Day meal without the pressure of a fancy restaurant. It's a reliable and easy option for couples. Grabbing a meal here adds a relaxed and nostalgic touch to the date.

For couples looking to celebrate Valentine's Day with more excitement, Sherman Oaks Castle Park is the perfect choice. With mini golf, batting cages, and an arcade, there are lots of ways to play and enjoy the day together. Whether having friendly games or enjoying the weather, visitors leave with happy memories of a special Valentine's day.

In addition, for a fancier night, couples can visit Castaway in Burbank, a popular restaurant with beautiful views. While it is a little pricey, people say it offers delicious steaks, seafood, and more. The sunsets and the gorgeous view make the experience even more romantic, and the cozy atmosphere adds to the special feeling. Guests also enjoy the attentive and friendly service, making it a perfect experience for a special day.

Valentine Thoughts

By Kamryn Miller
Cub Reporter

Hey Bears! Are you excited for this year's Valentines Day? Or… excited to get it over with?

Valentine's Day can be such a fun time for everyone. It's a great way to make memories with your loved ones. It is such a special day for many who participate in the festivities. Valentine's Day gives people a reason to be kind and show love to everyone in their community. It can even improve relationships by making the close bond even stronger by reflecting on all of their moments together. Even if you aren't in a relationship, Valentine's day can promote self care by reminding us of how important it is to love yourself on top of loving others. Many people make other celebrations out of the holiday, activities like "Galentines" offer an opportunity to get close to your friends and take the time to appreciate them and express your love. It is also such an exciting holiday due to the theming of it. Many participants indulge in chocolates and sweets that make the day so much more enjoyable.

And yet, February 14th proves not to be the most enjoyable day for everyone. The amount of money spent on candy, gifts, and flowers is absurd. On average people spend around $161.96, which for so many people is simply unaffordable. Partners tend to expect so much from each other on Valentines Day which can often be very damaging to some relationships, the breakup rate is higher on and after Valentines Day. Even though the idea of self love is promoted through the holiday, it just isn't enough for so many people who feel left out for not having a significant other. On social media, the holiday is massively hyped up, which can raise unrealistic expectations and misconceptions of how to celebrate. This can leave people feeling like they aren't doing enough and turn the whole day into a competition with the rest of society.

Junior Kiana Reader says that she loves Valentine's day because you can show love for everyone. "You don't need to have a significant other to celebrate, you can show love to your friends and family."

Have a sweet day Bears!

Giovanna Martinez & Dominic Caraceno

By Jocelyn Jimenez
Cub Reporter

Giovanna Martinez and Dominic Caraceno's relationship is built on friendship, shared interests, and time spent enjoying each other's company. They both are seventeen years old and actively involved in sports, which plays a big role in their lives. Dominic plays football and plans to pursue a future career in nursing, while Giovanna plays water polo and was previously in flag football. She is also interested in finance and focuses on planning for her future. Their shared discipline from sports and similar mindsets helped form a strong foundation for their relationship.

Giovanna and Dominic first met at Dolores Huerta Middle School. At the beginning, their connection was purely friendship. Dominic thought Giovanna was chill and cool, someone easy to talk to and be around. Giovanna's first impression of Dominic was that he was nice, and she also noticed that he was tall. Neither of them rushed into anything, which allowed their bond to develop naturally over time.

Dominic was the one who asked Giovanna out. On the day it happened, Giovanna brought Dominic Starbucks during his football practice because they had a flag football parent meeting that day. At that moment, Dominic asked her out, turning what started as a normal day into something meaningful for both of them. Their relationship officially began on July 8, 2025, and they have now been together for seven months.

Their first date took place at Yogurtland. Giovanni was very happy to see Dominic because she hadn't seen him in a while, which made the moment even more exciting for her. As for Dominic, he had just finished football practice and was also as happy as Giovanna to see her. The date was simple, but they had fun, talked, and enjoyed spending time together without any pressure, making it a great start to their relationship.

Dominic realized he liked Giovanna after he went over to her house to hang out. Spending that time together helped his feelings grow into something more than friendship. Giovanna started liking Dominic earlier in May, when they went out together to get Korean BBQ. That experience stood out to her and marked the moment when her feelings for him became clear.

As a couple, Giovanna and Dominic enjoy spending time together in relaxed and meaningful ways. They like hanging out at Dominic's house, going out to eat, chatting, and simply enjoying each other's company. Whether they are out getting food or just spending quiet time together, they value being present with one another.

Dominic's favorite thing about Giovanna is her personality. Giovanna's favorite things about Dominic are that he isn't shy, has a strong personality, and isn't embarrassed to show that he's in a relationship. They also have several things in common, including playing sports and sharing interests like Hello Kitty and going to BCD Tofu House. These shared likes make their time together even more enjoyable and help strengthen their connection.

Music plays a meaningful role in their relationship as well. Giovanna considers "Young and Beautiful" by Lana Del Rey and "Heaven" by Clairo to be their songs. Dominic connects their relationship to "Lady (Hear Me Tonight)" by Modjo, which reflects his own feelings and memories tied to their time together.

Meeting each other's families was an important step in their relationship. Dominic met Giovanna's mom before they started dating and felt welcomed right away. Once they began dating, her mom continued to be loving and supportive. Giovanna was nervous to meet Dominic's mom at first because she seemed very stoic. However, once she got to know her better she realized how sweet she truly was. Giovanna and Dominic's mom began to bond, especially when Giovanna started attending his football games.



Ursa Major Valentine'scopes

Aries (Mar.21- Apr.19): Pay attention to the details, Aries. A small, thoughtful act can make a big impact. Focus on creating a personalized and meaningful experience for your loved one.

Taurus (Apr.20- May 20)**:** February is a great time to hang out with your friends, do your favorite things, and just enjoy being you. Treat yourself to some candy or watch a funny movie. Who knows, maybe you'll meet someone new.

Gemini (May 21- Jun.20)**:** Watch out, Geminis, you've got a secret admirer approaching you this Valentine's Day. Get to know them!

Cancer (Jun.21- Jul.22)**:** Your romantic life reaches new depths of understanding and wisdom. Accept warmth and gentleness from your partner.

Leo (Jul.23-Aug.22): Leos, on this Valentine's Day, embrace your fiery and passionate spirit, your charisma and magnetism are bound to attract admirers your way. Cherish your loved ones and let your heart shine brightly.

Virgo (Aug.23- Sept.22)**:** You're already a loving and compassionate person, good things will come your way for spreading it to others.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct.22)**:** Don't feel lonely in this time of love! Although you won't find your true significant other right away because careful and analytic nature, when you do find them, they'll be the perfect one for you, staying by your side until the end.

Scorpio (Oct.23- Nov.21): Expect to have something very impactful coming to your life, this may be for the best or for the worst. Your love life will change.

Sagittarius (Nov.22- Dec.21)**:** Valentine's Day is a good time for you as it is unpredictable but full of the best surprises and it's the time to treat yourself.

Capricorn (Dec.22- Jan. 19): Expect emotional depth, fun times with friends, sweet treats served your way and day of fun and surprises.

Aquarius (Jan.20- Feb.18)**:** Love is in the air and you're about to be hit with cupid's arrow!

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Your Valentine this year could be extra sweet. Take care of your candy heart.

- Ursa Major Psychics

Hannah Carpenter & Elizabeth Amoroso

By Lilian Peña
Cub Reporter

Valentine's Day is a celebration of love in all forms. Grand gestures, quiet moments, meaningful connections, and shared laughter are what define the holiday. For Hannah Carpenter and Elizabeth Amoroso, their relationship is built on exactly those things.

Hannah and Elizabeth first met through mutual friends and Instagram. What started as a simple interaction through social media and shared social circles eventually blossomed into a relationship that became important to both of them. Their story reflects how connections today can form naturally through both online and offline. While the way people meet may change, the fact that meaningful relationships take time to grow never change.

When asked to describe Elizabeth, Hannah used three words: funny, considerate, and hardworking. These qualities stand out to Hannah and shape the way she views Elizabeth. Each of these traits play a role in their relationship and contribute to the bond they share.

One specific memory that stands out to Hannah is when Elizabeth asked her to Homecoming. It was a moment that required planning, effort, and the help of Hannah`s sister.

"A memory that comes to mind is when she asked me to Hoco. My sister helped her clean my room and surprised me when I got home from practice by making it all cute," Hannah said. "My sister was hiding in a pile of laundry in the corner filming, but she didn't even get a clear video."



Although the video did not turn out as planned, the memory itself remains meaningful. The thought, effort, and surprise behind this proposal is what makes it special, and truly highlights the traits Hannah pointed out.

As Valentine's Day approaches, Hannah and Elizabeth plan to spend the holiday together, although they're not sure how. While their plans are undecided, what matters most is that they'll be spending the day with one another.

Valentine's Day isn't only about gifts, elaborate plans, or perfectly organized moments. It's about appreciation, connection, and recognizing the people who matter in our lives. "Whether celebrated in big or small ways, the holiday serves as a reminder to value our relationships and memories we make together."

This Valentine's Day, Hannah Carpenter and Elizabeth Amoroso celebrate their relationship and moments they have shared so far. Even without knowing exactly how they'll spend the day, their appreciation for one another makes the holiday meaningful.

Emily Leong & Jeremy Leibow

By Hailie Alvarez
Creative Director

Some relationships are built in a moment, while others are shaped slowly over time. For patience, and a connection that developed naturally over the years. What began as a distant acquaintance in elementary school eventually became a meaningful relationship rooted in friendship, trust, and shared experiences.

Emily and Jeremy first met in fifth grade, shortly after Jeremy moved from New York City to Burbank. At the time, they were not particularly close, and their interactions were minimal. As they moved into middle school, however, their dynamic began to change. Through shared classes, mutual friends, and growing maturity, they gradually became close friends. Emily recalls that while she didn't initially feel drawn to Jeremy, she began to notice how kind, thoughtful, and mature he was compared to others around them.

By the time they reached high school, their friendship had become a constant in both of their lives. During ninth grade, Jeremy realized that his feelings for Emily had grown into something more. Rather than rushing anything, he let the relationship progress naturally. Over the summer, he made



an effort to spend more one on one time with her getting acai together, talking for hours, and helping her with summer school assignments. Those small moments helped lay the foundation for what would soon become a deeper relationship.

Their relationship officially began on April 13, 2024 during a day that reflected many of the values they share. The two volunteered together at an animal ranch and shelter, helped care for animals and spent time in the surrounding nature. Afterward, while walking along a nearby trail, Jeremy gave Emily a necklace and asked her to be his girlfriend. The moment was simple, thoughtful, and meaningful one that perfectly captured the authenticity of their connection. As Valentine's Day approaches, they will be nearing two years together.

One of their first memorable outings as a couple was a trip to IKEA, where they spent hours walking through the store, laughing and pretending to be a married couple designing their future home. The experience highlighted how easily they connected and how comfortable they were with each other. Their first official dinner date followed at The Grove, enjoying each other's company and the excitement of being together.

During the early stages of their relationship, Emily and Jeremy chose to keep things very private. Only a few close friends knew they were talking, and much of their time together was spent at home rather than in public. Despite this, they made the most of every moment, finding creative ways to spend time together and build their bond. As they grew more comfortable, they gradually became more public, discovering that whether they were out exploring or simply spending time at home, what mattered most was being together.

The couple shares many interests, including similar music tastes, a love for animals, hiking, and spending time in nature. Jeremy jokes that Emily often steals his jackets, noting that while they have similar style preferences, hers is undeniably better. They also share the same friend group, which has helped their relationship feel seamlessly integrated into their daily lives. Meeting each other's families felt natural as well, especially since Jeremy already knew Emily's parents from past group gatherings.

When asked what they appreciate most about each other, their answers reflect the depth of their connection. Jeremy admires Emily's kindness, sense of humor, confidence, and the positive energy she brings into any room. Emily values Jeremy's patience, emotional intelligence, and ability to communicate openly and thoughtfully. She describes him as compassionate and steady, someone who makes her feel supported and understood.

At its core, Emily and Jeremy's relationship is built on friendship and mutual respect. Their journey from elementary school classmates to close friends and eventually partners serves as a reminder that meaningful relationships often take time to develop. In a world that often emphasizes instant connections, their story stands as an example of how genuine bonds are formed through consistency, understanding, and shared growth.

Sasha Plockier & Jaden Chapman

By Melanie Cartagena
Cub Reporter

On December 4th I got the opportunity to sit down with one of John Burroughs High School Senior Couples, Jaden Chapman and Sasha Plockier. From the very start of the interview they made me feel so comfortable around them, which many couples lack because most ignore the people around them, but Jaden and Sasha made the entire time feel like a genuine conversation.

Jaden and Sasha started talking in May of last year and were official by July 14th. They're both very interesting and social people to be around and since they both have that social characteristic, they both compliment each other very well. For instance Jaden is on the JBHS Tennis team and Sasha was a part of our school Dance team last year.

Jaden and Sasha met for the first time in our quad and when asked about their first impressions of each other, Sasha shared that, "I thought he was really cute but I wanted to change his style." Jaden added with, "I also thought she was really cute and had really good style." This comment was really sweet because both of them thought well of each other at first glance and also pictured improvement even in things such as style which is really awesome.

Jaden and Sasha go way back before they started dating, they tried being in a relationship before but it didn't work out because they were just really good friends but still found a way back to each other in a time where they were both more prepared to be a partner to one another.

In addition, when they started to hang around with one another again, Sasha made the first move and reached out first suggesting to hang out at the movies. That said, their first date was actually after school where they went to the thrift store nearby then after spending some time there not being able to find anything good, they walked to Porto's, then Target and finished their night at George Izay (Olive) Park and they sat by the baseball bleachers for a couple hours listening to music before it started raining and spent around six or seven hours together after school that day for their first date.

Furthermore, Jaden and Sasha also shared some of their sweet thoughts towards one another and what made them really know that they liked each other. For example, Jaden shared that he realized he was never sad around her and that was something he didn't take for granted when being around her at first and now. Sasha also shared, "he was sweet and all, and the first time it didn't work out because Jaden was more of a friend than a boyfriend, the second time Jaden had changed so he met Sasha's expectations.

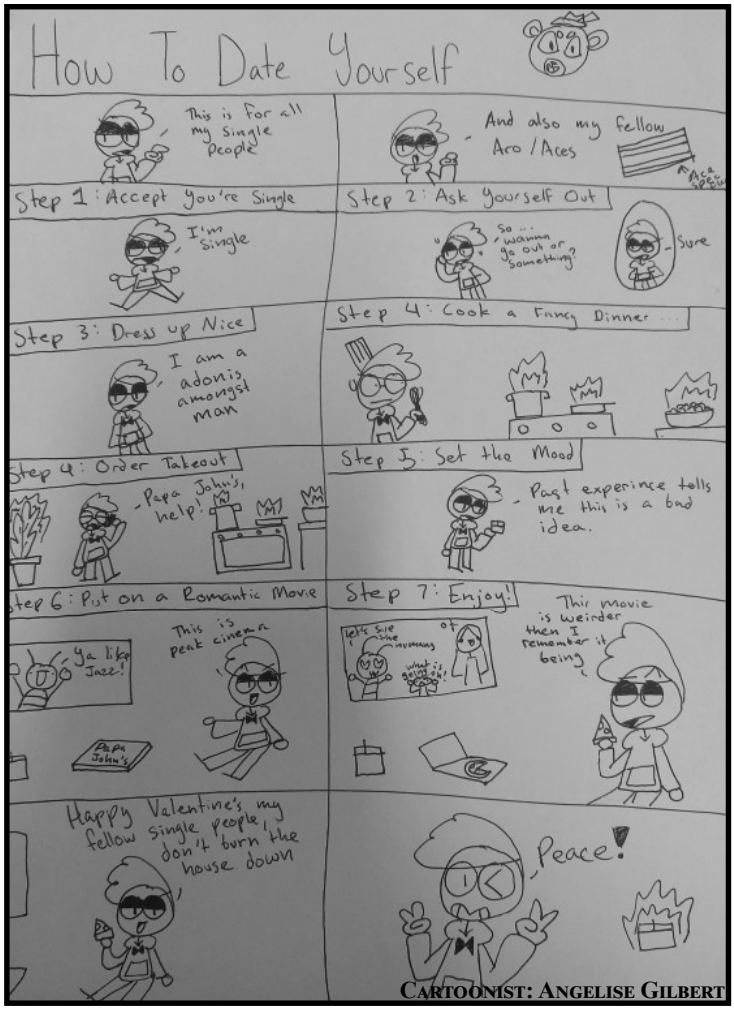
Jaden and Sasha are probably one of our school's known Senior couples and they both have many things in common as they mentioned they like that they both have curly hair, same music taste, and sense of humor. They also shared during the interview that they have a song for one another called, "Slow Down," by Lucki and they also brought up how they like the fact that they also like each other's friends because of their music taste so that's a really big thing in their relationship as well, music.

During the interview, Jaden and Sasha also shared their experiences with meeting each other's families and Jaden shared that he was really nervous but he is becoming more comfortable around Sasha's family and it's becoming very noticeable which they both laughed at. While Sasha shared that, "I was really nervous to meet his sister specifically because I thought she didn't like me but now we're like best friends."

Jaden and Sasha are with no doubt some of our schools cutest couples and they enjoy spending time with one another even through things most might find boring, they enjoy those moments because they are with one another and when Sasha couldn't listen, Jaden shared that his favorite thing about Sasha was that, "I really like that she makes me feel special." Sasha also shared that her favorite thing about



Jaden was as said, "no matter what, he kinda always understands even if it doesn't make sense even if he doesn't understand he'll put in the effort to try to understand." This was really sweet to listen because it is clear that they are good at communicating and a lot of couples struggle with that or in any relationship in general, so them feeling this way about one another and also showing in through their actions shows that big amount of effort they are putting into their relationship and how much they really care about one another.



Cartoonist: Angelise Gilbert

Kimberly Holland & Luciano Penailillo

By Stella Frost Dose
Cub Reporter

For my interview, I spoke with a couple named Luciano Penailillo and Kimberly Holland, who have been together for two years. Their relationship began in a natural and relatable way, rooted in school, friendship, and shared experiences. Throughout the interview, both Luciano and Kimberly came across as comfortable with each other, humorous, and clearly connected, which made their relationship dynamic easy to observe.

Luciano and Kimberly first met at school in their AP European History class. At the time, neither of them expected that this class would lead to a long-term relationship. Kimberly was also involved in Choir, which gave them additional opportunities to see one another and interact outside of class. Luciano's first impression of Kimberly was that she was kind, fun to talk to, and hilarious. From the beginning, there was an easy sense of comfort between them, which allowed their friendship to develop naturally.

When asked about how Luciano asked Kimberly out, both of them smiled as they recalled the moment. Luciano explained that there was some back-and-forth communication involving friends before he eventually took the initiative himself. He asked Kimberly out in the hallway near the Choir room and invited her to go to a football game with him that week. Their first official date was a Cowboys football game, which marked the start of their relationship. Rather than being overly dramatic, this moment reflected how their relationship grew through shared experiences and spending time together.

Luciano and Kimberly enjoy a variety of activities together, many of which are simple but meaningful. They both mentioned playing



video games, talking, and going out together. Shopping is another activity they enjoy as a couple. These shared interests highlight how they value quality time and communication, which are important components of a healthy and lasting relationship. Kimberly especially emphasized how much she enjoys talking, suggesting that open communication plays a central role in their bond.

When asked about favorite qualities, Luciano spoke fondly about Kimberly's beautiful eyes and described her personality as perfect. His response reflected admiration and appreciation for both who she is and how she makes him feel. The couple also discussed a song that they associate with their relationship. They mentioned a Mitski song as an unofficial choice, as well as "See You Again" by Tyler, the Creator. This song held particular significance for them because it was connected to an important early moment in their relationship, making music a meaningful symbol of their shared experiences.

Meeting each other's families was another important milestone for the couple. Kimberly described meeting Luciano's family as one of the most nerve-wracking days of her life, explaining how intimidating the experience felt for her. Luciano, on the other hand, felt more confident and comfortable during this process. He explained that Kimberly had already spoken positively about him to her parents, which helped ease the situation. This difference highlighted how each partner approaches new and emotional situations in their own way while still supporting one another.

The couple also discussed their friendships and how those relationships have blended over time. Kimberly shared that Luciano's friends have become her friends as well, emphasizing the sense of unity in their relationship. Luciano noted that many of Kimberly's friends are kind and welcoming, even if he is not as close with them as he is with his own friends. This reflects a realistic aspect of relationships, where social circles overlap while still maintaining individual identities.

Overall, Luciano and Kimberly's relationship appears to be built on friendship, communication, and shared experiences. Their story demonstrates how meaningful relationships can develop naturally through everyday interactions. Over the course of two years, they have created a strong connection grounded in mutual respect, affection, and support. Their comfort with one another and shared values suggest a relationship that is both stable and emotionally fulfilling.

Liczy Mercado & Tyler Lorenc

By Arianna Ingram
Cub Reporter

As the winter season comes to a close and the new year begins, another familiar sense of anticipation, particularly for couples, begins to stir in the air as Valentine's Day makes its arrival. With palpable hearts and spirits high, people everywhere prepare to celebrate for the most romantic day of the year.

A recent pair, Tyler Lorenc and Liczy Mercado, are hopeful to continue spending time together as their bond blossoms and prevails. Tyler is currently involved in Football and openly volunteers for sports, whereas Liczy does Cross Country and Varsity Flag Football. The two met during school, their first impressions of each other being alike. As they began to get closer, Tyler called her one day, offering for them to go out and play minigolf, along with getting ice cream together, effectively earning Liczy's heart in the end.

They both knew they were attracted to each other since they were always there for one another, even before dating. Tyler and Liczy generally hang out when there's an open opportunity, a specialty of theirs being eating food together, more notably at In-N-Out Burger. Their favorite thing about each other is how they have sports in common, and are also family oriented. The song that resonates the most with the pair is "Be That Easy" by Sade.

When meeting each other's families, they were both equally as nervous for the outcome. Despite their uneasiness, both sides were more than welcoming, treating each other like one of their own, with Tyler adding that "her home is my home." Friendwise, they're more than kind and supportive of the two's new relationship, and give good advice vice versa. This only served as fuel to close the distance between Tyler and Liczy even further, with their bond only continuing to grow every day.



Alyah De La Torre Flores & Angel De Real

By Sophia Menjivar
Cub Reporter

One of the cutest couples of the Senior class is Angel De Real and Alyah De La Torre Flores. They have been together for a little more than three years. They were a part of the same Link Crew group, so that´s how they met.

Angel is seventeen years old and is a part of the Varsity Football team, he participates in clubs such as Aiding the Elderly, and Outdoors Club. Angel plans on attending a four year college after high school.

Angel´s first impression of Alyah was that she laughed a lot with one of her friends during Link Crew and he enjoyed her joyous presence, and that led him to want to get to know her more.

Alyah is eighteen years old and is on the John Burroughs Dance Team. She is also in the Outdoor Club as well as Lend-A-Paw Club, she has a passion for cooking and baking so she´s taking the Advanced Culinary class.

Angel asked Alyah to be his girlfriend at their first Homecoming game together, they had spent the day talking and enjoying each other's presence when Angel sprang the question and Alyah said yes.

Alyah´s first impression was that he was a shy boy that didn´t speak much. She says he was and still is very soft spoken and polite, just by looking at him you could tell how sweet and kindhearted he is. This energy is what attracted Alyah to him.

They had their first official date at Six Flag´s Magic Mountain in early November of that year.

Alyah remembers the holiday lights, cold air, and the warm feeling of holding his hand. It was Angel´s first time making and eating s´mores, his first bite was a mess. This memory is very precious to Alyah.

Angel recalls this being the first time where they really got to spend time together. He clearly remembers the Christmas lights and the s´mores they had while they were there.



Alyah knew she really liked him when she caught herself feeling shy about talking to him, because she is not shy herself. She really liked that he was so kind and full of good intentions. He made her feel completely seen as who she was even though it may have not been very clear at the time. He always brings out the best verison of herself.

Alyah remembers her best friend and her jokingly trying to set him up with someone else and a few moments later she whispered to her best friend that Angel was really cute and she wanted him to herself.

On the other hand Angel knew he really liked her when she hugged him for the first time, they were only friends at the time so he felt a deep connection through that. He knew he liked the person she was.

They like spending time doing anything and being anywhere. They have breakfast together, study together, hike, or watch movies together. They turn any activity they can do together into a date, like doing laundry, making food, and running regular errands.

Over time, since they were growing up with each other, Angel and Alyah have grown very similar to each other. They share the same humor, same opinions on certain things, and similar views on important factors of life.

Angel´s song for Alyah is "Fight the Feeling" by Mac Miller. It really takes him back to a feeling of nostalgia when they first met. The song really reminds him of her and he knows she likes this song. He says this is her song.

Alyah´s song for Angel is "Still Beating," by Mac DeMarco. She says it's hard to explain, but the song gives her the same emotional feelings as his love.

Their feelings about meeting each other's families are very similar, to say the least. They were both very nervous. Angel was nervous because he was a bit younger than her, he had been the first boy to be introduced to her family, and he felt as if they would not like him with her. But he was wrong. Now he says they are like family to him and have built very strong connections with all of them. Alyah's reasons are similar but a bit different. She was also the first girl to be introduced to his family, she says his mom seamed very excited to meet her and she was also very welcoming and made her feel very loved, the rest of the family took a bit of time for her to get comfortable with but are much closer now. The bonds she has with his brothers are very special to her. And to Alyah, Angel´s family feels like a second home.

Alyah really likes Angel´s childhood friends. She says they are honestly hilarious people. She can tell why Angel enjoys their company. She thinks Angel´s friends from school seem to bring him up and get him in a good mood.

Angel thinks Alyah really surrounds herself with very positive and healthy individuals. He knows they are all very good people and he is friends with many of her friends. Angel knows all her friends are kind-hearted people and he thinks that is very good for Alyah.

Alyah's favorite thing about Angel is his emotional maturity. She says as someone who feels deeply, it's beautiful to have someone who understands it. She loves how he humbly carries himself and how he pushes her to be better for herself. She loves how he jokes around with her and how he sometimes knows her better than herself.

Angel's favorite thing about Alyah is the person she has become throughout our time together. He feels like they grew together in some form, making them share certain personality traits. He loves the way he can be himself around her.

Overall, Alyah and Angel are just one of the many cute Senior couples here at Burroughs. And we can´t wait to see what the future holds for them!

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Briza Gonzalez & Kyle Kozin

By Koda Dominguez
Cub Reporter

At John Burroughs High School, couples are a normal part of everyday student life. From walking to class together to hanging out after school. Even when both people don't go to the same school, relationships still grow through communication, trust, and time together. Briza Gonzalez, a Burroughs student, and Kyle Kozin, who attends a different school, are one example of how high school relationships can work even across campuses.

Briza Gonzalez and Kyle Kozin are both seventeen years old and stay busy with school and activities. Briza is a part of Link Crew at Burroughs, where she helps incoming students feel welcome and supported. She's interested in going into marketing at CSUN and hopes to become a marketing manager in the future. Kyle, who attends online school, plays soccer and is very passionate about the sport. He hopes to either continue playing soccer in the future or work a career as an architect or an electrician.

Briza and Kyle first met back in kindergarten around 2013-2014 in Mr. Bishop's class at Bret Harte Elementary. Even though they were really young, they both remember their first impressions of each other. Briza noticed Kyle right away because of his blue eyes and blonde hair, even before they got to know each other. Kyle, on the other hand, was a little intimidated by Briza at first and thought she was "kind of scary." Later on, he ran into her at Hobby Lobby, where she gave him



a piece of candy, and that moment changed everything, he started to like her. Now, he thinks she's really cute and pretty.

Briza was the one who first reached out to Kyle by texting him and sending him a funny Instagram video, which ended up bringing them closer and helped them bond. That simple moment turned into regular conversations and eventually something more. Their first date was at the Burbank Mall, which Briza also helped plan. They started out at Round 1, where Briza played a claw machine game and won Kyle a Snoopy plushie, which made the day really special and funny. After that, they ate at Kopan Ramen and walked around Spirit Halloween, just hanging out, talking, and having fun. It was a simple but memorable first date that helped them feel even closer. Their anniversary is on December 13th, and they've been together for about one year now.

When it comes to what first drew them to each other, Briza knew she liked Kyle because he challenged her in a good way as well as she admired his loyalty, gentleness, and effort to connect with her family even while there is a language barrier. Kyle was drawn to Briza's beauty, how he was able to feel comfortable around her, her ability to cook, and get things done.

As a couple, Briza and Kyle love spending time together in simple, fun ways. They enjoy getting coffee, visiting Disneyland or the Americana, going out to eat, and cooking dinner together at home. Their shared interests include cooking, matcha, and being homebodies. Kyle admires Briza for standing up for herself and being faithful, especially how "she knows where she stands," while Briza loves Kyle's passion and determination for the things he loves. Their song, "No One Noticed" by The Marías, became special when Briza would sing it to Kyle while he was in England for soccer, helping him fall asleep.

Meeting each other's families brought up some nerves, but it turned out well.

Briza loves Kyle's sweet mom and was relieved that his parents were welcoming. Kyle felt nervous meeting Briza's parents because of the language barrier but now finds it relaxed and comfortable.

They also enjoy each other's friends. Briza finds Kyle's friends chill and nice, while Kyle has known Briza's friends from middle school and finds them to be funny and easygoing.

Briza and Kyle's story is a mix of shared interest, mutual admiration, and lots of fun memories. The kind of high school romance that feels both sweet and lasting.

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Morgan Wright & Hal Callaway

By Tavia Viramontes
Cub Reporter

Hal Callaway and Morgan Wright are another one of the many senior couples. Both eighteen-year-olds are alike in many ways, including style, personality, hobbies, and lifestyles. These similarities jump-started Morgan and Hal's relationship, including the involvement of their innovative and creative personalities and ideas. This shows that the two are not only boyfriend and girlfriend, but that they are also best friends who can trust and relate to each other.

In terms of their background, the two Seniors met in their Junior year of High School and they clicked almost instantly over their shared interests. Hal states, "my first impressions of her were that I thought it was super cool how we had such similar interests in music and hobbies… I was surprised how similar we were." Some of those similarities in their personalities and hobbies include surfing, skating, concert going, thrifting, and photography. In addition, Hal says that they share the same love for "music, fashion, and same creative interests in photography."

Hal and Morgan are a very creative couple that takes full advantage of their talents by creating things that most Seniors don't create. Hal states, "we are currently working on our magazine called Semester." This magazine focuses on fashion and photography, giving a peek inside their style, personality, and take on the world. With their magazine, they have an Instagram page, @semester_magazinee. On this account, you can find behind



the scenes photos, photography, and order forms for their magazine.

Morgan Wright and Hal Callaway work together in ways that make them more compatible and inseparable. Not only does their creative work make them more compatible and inseparable, their friendship and personality makes them more connected to each other. They understand each other through their friendship and focus on their friendship, the most important factor in a relationship.

Samantha Sizemore & Teagen Bradford

By Jocelyn Jimenez
Cub Reporter

Samantha Sizemore and Teagen Bradford's relationship grew from shared time, simple beginnings, and genuine connection. Samantha is seventeen years old and spends a huge amount of time on the soccer field, playing for John Burroughs and as well as a club team. Soccer has shaped her into someone competitive, hard working, and driven. After graduating, she plans to attend College of the Canyons to continue working toward her future. Teagen is eighteen years old and is on the school's Basketball team. He also has plans to become a veterinarian, which shows how caring and dedicated he is, and his love for animals. Even with busy schedules and different goals, they both make their relationship a top priority.

They would see each other around school, but the first time they met was at the movies. At the time, neither of them knew how important that first hangout would be. Samantha's first impression of Teagen was thinking he was cute, especially noticing his eye lashes right away. As for Teagen, he was really nervous. He thought she was really pretty and noticed how nice she looked.

Teagen was the one who asked Samantha out. During the summer of 2024, he texted her, asking to hang out. It wasn't anything crazy, just a casual message that led to them spending time together and realizing how easy it felt to be around one another. Their relationship officially began on June 16th, 2024, and they have now been together for a year and six months.

Their first date was at AMC 16, when they first met up they hugged, then bought their tickets together. Silly enough, Samantha wanted to lean into Teagen but he pulled away, her not knowing he was really nervous. Afterward, they went to IKEA and spent about an hour walking around, talking, and laughing. That unexpected trip turned out to be one of the most memorable parts of the night and made their first date special without trying too hard.

Samantha realized she liked Teagen because of how respectful and gentle he was. The way he treated her made her feel comfortable and cared for. Teagen can't point to one exact moment when he realized he liked her, his feelings just grew over time as they kept hanging out and getting closer. When they're together, Samantha and Teagen enjoy doing simple things. They love taking naps, eating together, going to Smash Station in Burbank, swimming, and watching lots of movies and shows. Spending time with Samantha's family is also something they enjoy. They have a lot in common, including their love for sports, competitive personalities, video games like fortnite, and similar taste in movies, and makes being together feel easy and fun.

Samantha's favorite things about Teagen include his eyelashes, hair, mustache, and goatee, but what matters most to her is how he shows his love. She appreciates how consistent he is and how he always makes her feel included. Teagen's favorite thing about Samantha is how caring and attached she is, which makes him feel supported and appreciated. As for music, they both have very different music tastes. Samantha said "selfish" by PnB Rock would be their song, while Teagen connects their relationship to music from around 2016, even if there isn't one specific song that stands out to him.

Meeting each other's families was nerve-racking for both of them. Samantha was mostly scared to meet his mom at first, but over time she became more comfortable, now feeling at home at his house. She was less nervous about meeting his dad since Teagen said his dad is outgoing and kind, and she quickly got along with his sister. Teagen was very nervous meeting Samantha's family because it was a different environment, and he was most nervous about meeting her dad.

Overall, Samantha and Teagen's relationship is built on trust, comfort, and genuine care. What started as a simple hangout turned into something real, proving that relationships grow naturally, one moment at a time.



Maddie Grossnickle & Jack Guest

By Kamryn Miller
Cub Reporter

From meeting for the first time in 8th grade to getting closer in Choir to dating, Maddalena Grossnickle and Jack Guest have been one of JBHS's cutest couples ever since.



Jack and Maddie started becoming friends when they both got into Sound Waves. Initially, Maddie thought he was very outgoing, and Jack thought that she was bossy but cute! "It wasn't until I really got to know her, that I fell in love with her," Jack said.

They ended up going to Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios, and from there they started FaceTiming and developing an even stronger bond.

One day after school, right after Maddie's birthday, they went on a walk after school where Jack asked her to be his girlfriend. Their anniversary is November 10th, and they have been together for three years.

Their first official date was at Universal Studios. Jack had the pleasure of giving Maddie one of his sweaters, even though he wound up freezing on the Jurassic Park ride.

Maddie knew she first liked Jack because of how funny he is. "He would make me laugh a lot… he just said stupid things to get my attention, he sat behind me in class and he would just always do something silly… and he had a nice smile," she said.

Jack can't even pick just one thing he loves about Maddie, but ultimately her personality really stands out to him, because she's become one of his best friends and he considers her one of the best people he's ever met.

They love to watch movies together, every time Maddie goes to his house, she brings him and his sister Crumbl Cookie and they all sit down and watch a movie together.

Their love for movies isn't the only thing they have in common, both of them are in Powerhouse here at Burroughs and they share the love for singing and acting.

Additionally, they both like baseball, Jack likes to say that he was the one that got Maddie into baseball, but Maddie actually played baseball when she was little. Jack plays baseball here at Burroughs. Maddie always watches Dodger games with his family every Christmas.

They have a winter holiday night where she bakes cookies, does crafts, and watches movies all with his family.

Maddie was really nervous to meet his parents at first, but she says that his dad is really funny and his mom is so sweet and welcoming. They got used to each other, going to his baseball games, and driving home.

Jack reports that it was scary meeting her dad, but soon realized that both of her parents were very nice people.

Jack and Maddie mostly hang out with the same people, whom they love and Maddie likes Jack's baseball friends too.

Stay tuned to get to know more adorable couples like Jack and Maddie. Happy Valentine's Day Bears!

Nia Askerneese & Raymond Gonzalez

By Ella Herran
Cub Reporter

Spring is on the horizon, winter is flowing away and love and couples are on the way. One couple are Seniors Raymond Gonzalez and Nia Askerneese who even though only dating for a few months now, enjoy the aspect of dating and having a new relationship. The couple say they've known each other for a while now but really got to know each other the best while in Mrs Permenter's AP Lit class when they sat at the same table together. Both of them are in some sports and clubs. Raymond is in Springboard Diving and Nia is in Cheer, Choir and she participates in the Indoor Gardening Club. They both participate together in JSA.

Raymond states that his first impression of Nia was "That she was really smart, took all her work seriously, and that she was kind and nice."

Nia's first impression of Raymond was, "That he's funny, very good at English, and also sweet and caring." Both couples state that their first date was at In-N-Out, where Raymond had asked Nia out and then drove her back to school for Burroughs on Broadway.

The couple have been together now for one month. Raymond states that their first official date was at the Glendale Galleria where they walked around, did some window shopping and talked for a while. Both Raymond and Nia agree that they both started liking each other at Raymond's birthday party. Nia came very late, the party being over by then, Raymond walked her to her car and both stated they talked for what felt like hours.

When asking the couple what they like to do together, Raymond stated "I just like talking with her, just hanging out and having a good time," while Nia stated, "I just like walking around, just getting to talk with him makes it a good time." Nia says that her favorite part about Raymond is "how caring he is and uplifting" while Raymond says his favorite part about Nia is "how dedicated she is, and how once she sets her sights on something, she will practice till it's perfected." Raymond states that something that he has in common with Nia is the fact that "we both take advanced courses, extracurricular activities and have similar friends". Nia on the other hand states that something she has in common with Raymond is that "we had a time last year where we were both on crutches at the same time and also we're Seniors and both funny people." Both sides of the relationship enjoy each other's friend groups, Nia stating "I'm definitely friends with Ray's friends, they're really nice and cool." Raymond stated "her friends are nice and definitely push her in a good direction."



Georgia Dadekain & Jasper Jemison

By Sophia Menjivar
Cub Reporter

Here at John Burroughs High School there are many couples, but one of the cutest is Jasper Jemison and Georgia Dadekain. They have been together for ten months and are a year apart.

They met during Georgia´s Sophomore year and Jasper´s Freshman year while working the musical production *Shrek* here at Burroughs.

Jasper is Sixteen years old and a Junior here at John Burroughs High School. He is in Powerhouse and Play Production. He is in many of the plays here at Burroughs, and in multiple clubs. He's loved performing since a very young age, having been in his first show at the age of seven.

His first impression of Georgia was that she was a really funny upperclassman who he really wanted to be friends with. Since he was one of the only Freshmen Ms. Meberg let into that year's musical, he didnt really have a lot of friends there.

Georgia is seventeen years old and a Senior here at John Burroughs High School. Georgia is also in Powerhouse as well as Play Production with Jasper.

Jasper had soon found out that Georgia had liked him since his Freshman year when she was a Sophomore. They had tried it out for a little bit but it didnt work out. After that they were at a Christmas party together and went outside to walk and spent hours talking. Jasper asked Georgia out the next day.

Georgia remembers being super nervous because it was right after the California fires, but she said it was really nice and she knew she liked him from then on.

Her first impression of when she saw Jasper was that he was very cute and had a good sense of humor.

Georgia had liked him since her Sophomore year, when they did the musical together. Since they had many common interests including talking about Saturday Night Live, these things always drew Georgia closer to Jasper.

But they had soon drifted apart since Georgia was a Sophomore and Jasper was a Freshman. However the next year they became close again because they were now in the same Choir.

Their first date together was in Georgia's garage, right after the California fires last year. Jasper remembers being very nervous before because they were really great friends and he didn´t know



how to talk to Georgia in a romantic way. However Jasper says there was never an awkward moment and they clicked immediately. He says it was just natural and that it just felt right. After that they spent hours just talking, laying on the garage floor.

Jasper brings Georgia on double dates, and even triple dates all the time. But he says they hang out at her house most of the time. They like to watch movies together and go on walks. Georgia loves to cook so she has taught Jasper how to cook more.

Georgia says they really have the same friend group and they like to spend time with each other's friends, but they can also spend time with their own.

Jasper's favorite thing about Georgia is that she always sees the best in people even when they don't deserve it. He says she has the purest heart and brings such positivity to everyone she loves.

Their song would be "Stand By me," by Ben E. Cole because it was the first song they listened to on the bus ride back from their first Choir competition after being together.

Georgia says she loves Jasper's humor, she feels like Jasper really gets her and knows how to make her laugh at the best of times.

Jasper says he had already known her parents from the choir chaperoning. Her dad had been his cabin Choir chaperon at Camp Pali, so he had already grown close to him. Jasper says her mom is the sweetest person and he loves having dinner with them whenever he goes to her house. When Georgia first met Jasper's parents she says they never made it feel awkward and they made her feel right at home.

Overall Georgia and Jasper are one of the cute couples here at John Burroughs High School. And they have a very exciting future ahead of them!

Audrey Serrano & Bobby Burcham

By Finch Monroe
Cub Reporter

Bobby Burcham, a seventeen year old musician and Audrey Serrano, an eighteen year old patch maker, met at school in January 2025 and had been best friends since they had met. The two of them eventually got together on May 28th, 2025, their Junior year. Bobby's first impression of Audrey was that she was "really outgoing, really pretty and kind."

Audrey's first impressions of Bobby were that he was really funny, as well as "cute that he was good with the guitar."

Their first date was a simple one, a simple mall trip to get some ice cream and just hang out.

But how did the two come to be in their time as close friends with one another? Bobby says that, "I first started to like Audrey because she always matched my energy and made me laugh all the time. She also has amazing taste that I respect a lot."

With Audrey having similar reasons as to why she fell in love, saying that she thought he was very respectful, adorable, and very cool. Activities the two like to share together are simply listening to music together, going out to shows like the one they fell in love at, watching movies together as well as playing Roblox with one another. They also love eating together.

Bobby's favorite thing about Audrey is how she is always really kind to people, as she's always there for her friends as well as him, no matter what. "I really love that about her," he says, as well as saying she's what he thinks of when he



thinks of a truly good friend.

Audrey's favorite thing about Bobby? His laugh, she said if she heard his laugh in a group of a thousand people, she would know it was him.

Simple things the two have in common are music taste, humor, political beliefs, as well as morals. A song the two associate with each other is "no way…" by February because they saw them live together, and it's their favorite memory with one another.

The two of them have many mutual friends, leading to easy hangouts among groups.

The two of them have absolute undivided love for one another, with so much in common, there's no doubt they'll find more to love together.

Rock on you two!

Sophia Wagner & Steph Morning

By Elizabeth Browngardt
Sports Editor

Steph Morning and Sophia Wagner are one of John Burroughs High School's most genuine Senior couples. The two first met in 8th grade when both were chosen for the "Most Fashionable" superlative. They already knew each other through mutual friends, but that moment helped spark a connection that continued into high school.

Steph is a senior who is dual-enrolled in ILA. Her free time is often spent writing, bike riding, and staying active outdoors. Steph is also an Eagle Scout and participates in volunteer work throughout the community. After graduation, Steph plans to attend Santa Monica College and later transfer to a UC to pursue pre-law.

Sophia is one of the directors for Dance Production. Dance has been a major part of Sophia's life since childhood, and Dance Production has been home for the past three years. Future plans include attending SDSU and eventually transferring to USC to study physical therapy. When not at school, Sophia spends time dancing at a studio and assisting younger dancers.

The first impressions between the two were memorable. Steph described Sophia as bright, talented, and authentically herself, explaining that Sophia's personality shines through in every setting. Sophia shared that Steph was always full of energy in the best way, bringing positivity into any room and making others smile effortlessly.

Steph was the one to ask Sophia out, starting their relationship on June 3rd, 2022. The couple has now been together for three and a half years. Their first date included attending a UMe movie night with friends, followed by spending time together watching movies early in the relationship.

Both have expressed how the relationship became meaningful over time. Steph realized the connection was special because the best parts of life started to include Sophia, and every important moment felt incomplete without sharing it. Sophia grew more certain as the relationship continued, eventually reaching a point where imagining life without Steph no longer felt possible.



The couple enjoys simple activities together, especially long walks, getting coffee, and talking for hours. Friends often mention spotting the two walking around Magnolia. Although they do not share many identical interests, both enjoy fashion and have similar views on many topics. Steph appreciates the differences, explaining that having separate interests allows both individuals to grow independently while still supporting one another.

Family interactions have also been positive. Steph enjoys spending time with Sophia's parents and especially appreciates Sophia's stylish and kind aunt. Sophia felt immediately welcomed when meeting Steph's parents and siblings, despite being an only child and experiencing a larger family dynamic for the first time. Friend groups blend easily as well, since both share the same social circle at school. Steph enjoys meeting Sophia's Dance Production friends and admires the talent within the group, while Sophia has known Steph's friends for years and considers them part of the same community.

What began as a middle school connection has grown into a meaningful and lasting relationship. Steph and Sophia support each other's goals, celebrate each other's strengths, and continue to share a connection that many at JBHS admire.

Lily Butler & Nick Nasev

By Ryleigh Chisholm
Cub Photographer

Lily Butler and Nick Nasev are one of the Senior couples at John Burroughs. Lily is the Captain of Girls Varsity Tennis team and the GMJB social media show producer, after high school she plans to major in Sustainable Design/ Architecture. Nick is a Captain of Boys Water Polo and after high school he plans to be an environmental engineer.

Lily and Nick officially met in high school, but according to Lily "I remember meeting him when we were four because we went to the same preschool. I had a crush on him in preschool but he doesn't remember." Lily's first impression of meeting Nick in high school was that, "he was very tall, intimidating and intelligent."

Nick's first impression of Lily, he said "I had always thought Lily was very smart and super kind."

On January 17th 2024, Nick asked Lily out after B.O.B their Sophomore year. Nick exclaimed that when he left her house he said he needed to see her again and that's when he asked her on a date. Their first date was very nerve-racking for both of them. They walked around Magnolia, Nick walked to her house sitting on a curb waiting while Lily was subtly reassuring herself to not be nervous. They took a stroll around Burbank making their way to Edison Elementary School and they played basketball, after he walked her home and hugged her goodbye.

Lily exclaimed that she was very nervous because she never had a boyfriend before but Nick was a very patient and kind person, "His patience, kindness and directness were definitely the main reasons I knew I liked him." Nick knew he liked her after their conversations on their first date, he exclaims that "I knew I liked her because of how easygoing she is."

Lily's favorite thing about Nick is how determined he is. "He is amazing at Water Polo and puts so much effort into his sport and it truly pays off." She also says that she loves how incredibly patient and kind he is and how they match each other's humor so well. Some of Nick's favorite things about Lily are "I love how hardworking she is, she never gives up and tries her best in everything." They often spend a lot of time together. They love to bake together and make pizzas or cookies. They do enjoy each other's friends, Nick says that they have conjoined friend groups in a way but overall he thinks they are all cool and unique.

Lily had already known Nick's twin brother Alex but she said that meeting the rest of his family was intimidating, however she explains that "his family is so warm and welcoming, after that period of awkwardness I began to feel comfortable." Their family and friends have a good bond and enjoy gathering for dinners all together.

A fun fact about them is that they were both born on November 2nd, 2007. They both have eleven year old Labrador retrievers. They both love dogs and they both are very athletic people and take AP classes. "Ivy," by Frank Ocean is their agreed upon song for their relationship, Lily's song for him though is "Everything Has Changed," by Taylor Swift.



Hannah Bennett & Nick Devile

By Jaime Ramirez Baten
Cub Reporter

It's finally the month of love and JBHS has brought the cutest couples of this year! It's time to meet Senior Nick Devile from Burroughs High School and Junior Hannah Bennett from Burbank High School.

Nick is on the Boys Tennis team and his goals when he graduates is to a college and study economics.

This story started in a simple Instagram post, Nick saw the post and said "This girl is really gorgeous. I need to talk to her." And so, they started to DM each other. His first impression was that she was really pretty and sweet and once he met her, she was also very kind. Hannah's first impression of him was that he was a very smart guy.

Their first date occurred when Nick invited her to watch him perform in a Choir show and Hannah came to a Pop Show last year, later they went out to eat afterwards.

Nick knew he was attracted to her just from one Instagram post, he knew she was very beautiful. Meanwhile Hannah, she started to realize she caught feelings for him once she constantly started to check her phone during school to see if Nick had texted her.

Some things that both of them enjoy doing together are just watching movies, visiting new places and baking together.

Nick's favorite things about her are that she's very sweet, she's really fun to talk to and she's really nice. Hannah gives her reasons by saying "My favorite thing about Nick is his ambition and drive."



Together they enjoy each other's company due to them sharing the same type of humor, same music tastes and movies. Hannah adds "A song that reminds me of Nick is 'Lets Stay Together' by Al Green."

When meeting each other's parents, it was a piece of cake for Nick as they were really nice and he eventually got along with them, but for Hannah, she was a little bit nervous just because she heard his parents were a little bit scary and she wanted to make a good impression, but she got through it.

As they learned more about each other, they later got to know each other's friends. Nick's experience towards them was that they were really nice since they were very inclusive and never ignored him. For Hannah, she found out that his friends were really funny to her.

It's almost going to be their one year anniversary for them as they started dating on April 13th of last year. We wish the best for the love birds to flourish into a deeper relationship between them.

Kairi Ramirez & Jack McGinty

By Stella Frost Dose
Cub Reporter

I spoke with Kairi Ramirez about her relationship with Jack McGinty. The couple has been together for about three months. Despite the relatively short length of their relationship, Kairi spoke with clarity and confidence about their connection, highlighting strong emotional understanding, shared interests, and a sense of comfort that has developed quickly between them.

Kairi and Jack met at school through mutual friends, specifically through shared connections in Choir. Their introduction was casual and social, which allowed them to become comfortable with each other before beginning a romantic relationship. When asked about her first impressions of Jack, Kairi described him as awkward but very sweet. These initial qualities stood out to her and laid the foundation for their growing connection.

Jack was the one who asked Kairi out. Before officially becoming a couple, they spent time talking and getting to know one another, and Kairi noted that his interest in her was clear early on. Their relationship officially began on the 18th, which Kairi identified as their anniversary. Rather than having a single, clearly defined first date, their relationship developed naturally through spending time together, including hanging out at the mall. This relaxed beginning reflects how their bond grew through everyday experiences rather than formal planning.

When discussing what they like to do together, Kairi explained that they often spend time watching television shows, specifically mentioning *Breaking Bad.* This shared activity highlights how they enjoy simply being together and engaging in common interests. Their time together appears to be centered on comfort, conversation, and mutual enjoyment rather than constant activity.

When asked about her favorite thing about him, she emphasized his emotional maturity. Kairi explained that Jack understands people well and approaches situations with a level of awareness and empathy that stands out to her. This quality has played a significant role in strengthening their relationship, especially early on, as emotional understanding helps create trust and stability.

Kairi also identified several things that she and Jack have in common. They share similar tastes in television shows, have comparable styles in clothing, and align academically. These similarities allow them to connect on multiple levels, reinforcing their compatibility and making it easier for them to relate to one another in daily life.



Meeting each other's families is often an important step in a relationship, and Kairi shared that she has met Jack's parents. She described his mother and father as very nice and expressed that she feels they like her. This positive experience contributed to her overall sense of comfort within the relationship and reflects a welcoming family environment.

In terms of friendships, Kairi spoke positively about Jack's friends. She described them as cool and jokingly noted that she feels as though she has been "adopted by the band kids." This comment reflects her ease in integrating into Jack's social circle and suggests that their relationship has been socially supportive as well as emotionally positive.

Overall, Kairi and Jack's relationship appears to be grounded in emotional maturity, shared interests, and mutual understanding. Even though they have only been together for a short time, their connection shows signs of stability and compatibility. Through natural interactions, open communication, and supportive social environments, Kairi and Jack have begun building a relationship that feels comfortable, balanced, and meaningful.

Lauren Chaparro & James Lorigo

By Haven Dunn
Cub Reporter

Valentine's Day is now upon us and all around campus couples are celebrating! In this issue we want to highlight the cutest couples celebrating Valentine's Day together! One couple we'd love to highlight are Seniors James Lorigo and Lauren Chaparro who have been together for two years now!

Both Lauren and James have an impressive list of extracurriculars. Lauren is on Varsity Water Polo and Varsity Swim here at John Burroughs High School. She's also a member of Powerhouse. James plays multiple instruments like the drums, guitar and piano.

The two of them met in Algebra class where James sat in front of Lauren. The two of them would often talk and joke together during the class. James thought that Lauren was incredibly smart, funny and cute. Meanwhile Lauren was thinking practically the same thing. She believed he was a really chill, hilarious and cute guy.

James knew he liked her after he realized she would entertain his weirdness. He said that she matched his energy like no other person could. Lauren realized she liked James when he sent her a video of him playing "Like the movies" by Laufey on piano. This small gesture truly cemented Lauren's feelings for James.

After a few weeks of getting to know each other James asked Lauren if she wanted to go on an "official date." Prior to this they had hung out together at Barnes and Noble but to them that wasn't an official date. So when James asked to go on an official date with her she was ecstatic.

On their first date the two of them walked around Magnolia Blvd, where they went thrifting before stopping at Pinocchio's to get Italian food. On their first date they also built Legos together.

The two of them just celebrated two years together with their anniversary being January 20th.

Both of them enjoy baking and cooking together. They also enjoy going out to museums or amusement parks but truly they love listening to music, relaxing and talking together. As well they share similar music taste and humor which is what makes their conversations so special.

James loves Lauren's intelligence. Lauren loves his kind heart. But both of them said that their favorite thing was each other's smile.

They said that their songs are probably "Give You The World," by Steve Lacy and "Nice Dream," by Radiohead.

Meeting Lauren's parents was nerve-racking at first but James soon learned that they were super cool and sweet, so his fears were very short lived. Lauren said that meeting James's parents was also scary but similarly they were super kind and supportive of the two of them together.

James thinks that Lauren's friends are awesome and really funny. Lauren feels that James's friends are very funny and chill people.

James and Lauren are so thankful that they found each other and are very excited to spend another Valentine's Day together.



H O'Briant & Soren Khitikian

By John Anderegg
Editor In Chief

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, *The Paw Print* is taking the time to highlight some of the cutest couples on campus! Among them are Burroughs Seniors H O'Briant and Soren Khitikian.

While H and Soren technically knew each other in middle school, they didn't speak until their Sophomore year, when they were working on *Shrek* together. H recalls that "we just talked the whole time. It felt like I knew him my whole life."

H quickly developed a crush on Soren, and "tried to drop like one million hints for maybe two months" that she was interested in him, but Soren said "I never really noticed her until she asked me out," and "I kinda thought she was out of my league."

They officially started dating on February 29th, 2024, making their anniversary fall on leap day. They were co-lighting designers for that years spring play, and they had decided to meet up at the Starbucks on Olive to discuss a lighting plot, but "we didn't end up focusing on much," according to Soren.

H and Soren share many of the same hobbies and love hanging out together while participating in them. They're both involved in Tech Crew and are frequently working on lighting for our Choir and Drama shows and they're both part of the Carpentry class where they can build together.

One of their favorite things to do together is to eat together. H's brother is a chef, and they both enjoy his cooking. They also enjoy going to Disneyland together, watching movies, and listening to music.

H's favorite thing about Soren physically is his eyes. "He has really big, brown eyes that stick out. They're kinda like bug eyes but they're really cute," she says. But personality-wise, H loves how caring and thoughtful he can be. She recalls when she was getting ready for a Sabrina Carpenter concert, and she came back to discover that "He brought me my favorite energy drinks, my favorite soda, my favorite chips, my favorite candy..."



Soren's favorite thing about H is how creative she can be. "Anytime she creates a piece of art, whether it's film or lighting, it always blows me away and tops her previous work. I love that anytime I'm stuck creatively, she is always able to come up with an elegant solution to help keep me going. I truy never want her to lose the creativity she has because it will truly make her go far in life."

They consider their song to be "Spice Up Your Life" by the Spice Girls because in their Sophomore year, they co-designed the lighting for Decibelles' Spice Girls-themed competition set. "It's not a very traditional or "love you" song, but he and I can recite that word for word," H explained.

Luckily for H, Soren's family has been involved in Tech Crew for years, so she didn't have to go through any awkward introductions. Soren had an easy time meeting H's immediate family, noting that they had a close connection from early on. Recently, he got the chance to meet her extended family, which he found "definitely daunting but I ended up warming up to them very easily."

The Paw Print staff wishes H and Soren a wonderful Valentine's Day, and hopes they enjoy their upcoming three-year anniversary!

June Baelly & Joey Santagata

By Alana Gay
Opinion Editor



Valentine's Day stories don't always start with a shared class period or a DM. Sometimes, they begin on a stage, under bright lights, with a voice that stops you mid-thought. For June Baelly and Joey Santagata, it all started in Choir competitions.

When they first met, both singers were part of their show choir school programs, June in Powerhouse and Joey in Los Alamito's SoundFX. Although they had technically crossed paths before, Joey didn't know who June was at first. It wasn't until June saw SoundFX perform again at a competition in Oceanside that something clicked. Sitting next to a friend, he noticed how striking Joey's solo sounded.

After following Joey on Instagram and striking up a conversation over shared interests like art and music, June decided to take a creative leap. At a Choir showcase where June was hosting, he made Joey a small origami flower clipped with a hand-drawn portrait with his phone number attached. When he finally gave it to him after the show, he ran away immediately, convinced he'd never hear back. A few days later, he did.

Joey explained that he hadn't even seen the drawing at first because it was stuck in his costume bag but when he finally did, he was impressed. What followed was a steady stream of texts, jokes, and mutual realization that they had a lot in common: art, animals, music, and most importantly an appreciation for creativity.

Their first date was a night to remember. They went to dinner at Din Tai Fung, ice cream at the Americana, and a late-night visit to the Griffith Observatory. June wrote Joey a letter, and Joey gave June a Pokémon Appling Card, known in the Pokémon universe as a symbol of love. It was thoughtful, personal, and very them.

After dating consistently for a couple of months, they officially became a couple on June 4th, just before June left for a month-long Europe trip. To make it special, June planned another dinner at Din Tai Fung and gave Joey a box filled with letters. The last one asked the question that mattered most and Joey said yes.

Their song became "Cherry Wine," by Grant Perez, an artist they bonded over and still listen to together. But more than music or big gestures, what stands out most to June is Joey's understanding of nature, his patience, kindness, and emotional awareness.

In a world where Valentine's Day often focuses on grand romance, June and Joey's story is a reminder that love can start with a shared passion, a creative risk, and the courage to put yourself out there. This is a reminder to be open to all possibilities surrounding genuine connection and love.

Eliza Goulet & Ryder Bowne

By Zoey Pickens
Cub Reporter

Love is, and has always been, in the air at JBHS. Thus, there are plenty of stunning couples roaming about the campus, but Eliza Goulet and Ryder Bowne take the cake. One a Senior and the other a Junior, the two have known each other since Bowne's Freshman year, when he joined Choir. They've been together since May 18th, 2025.

The two had a history prior to dating, yet they found a spark in one another at a friend's birthday party during the previous April. Once the festivities had ended, Bowne had taken the initiative to reach out and ask if Goulet was alright, since she'd appeared to be upset. "He texted me, he noticed I'd looked a little down or off. I was like, yeah, I'm good. But that initial showing of care meant a lot to me. That was the first time I realized I could like him again."

Bowne, similarly, realized that he liked her on his birthday. "There was this one time, on April 22nd. She made a TikTok with me and her friends. I thought it was super funny and super sweet of her to think of me. She also sent me a really sweet message for my birthday."

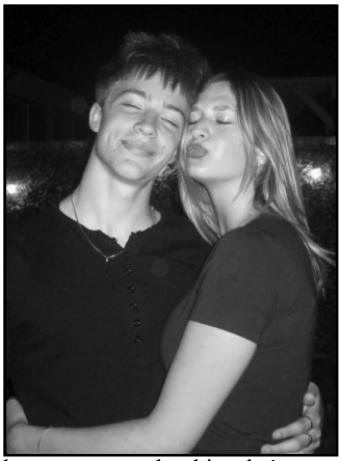
Ever since, they'd grown closer over FaceTime—plus, the two share mutual friends through their activities, so spending time together became inevitable. Outside of their love lives, Goulet mans the Cancer Relief Club, participates in Link Crew and CSF, and makes an incredible addition to Choir. So does Bowne, yet he's also a part of Varsity Football, Link Crew, and is a member of his beloved's Cancer Relief Club.

As for their first date, the two can't agree on where or when it was. However, their feelings for one another are undeniable. Bowne had gotten on FaceTime, prior to their dating, to give her a thrift haul, which progressed into a four-hour conversation. They hung out afterward at Goulet's house, beginning the relationship that they cherish today.

"I thought he was very nice, and I thought that he was cute, obviously. I thought he had a good vibe, and that's what I'm drawn to, a lot of the time: their personality or the aura they bring to an environment. And I thought that our vibes matched, and I really appreciated that," Goulet beamed.

The two take pride in their cooking. They frequent Trader Joes together, searching for snacks and the perfect products to whip up whatever new recipes they've discovered. Watching TV is also a shared hobby between them both; Bowne and Goulet recently finished the *Maze Runner* franchise! They adore the cinema, going whenever they can to watch the latest blockbuster. Goulet's father is also a film fan, so Bowne bonded with him easily. Likewise, the couple share a dedicated song, "Dress," by Taylor Swift. "That's our song," Bowne admitted.

Furthermore, if there's one thing to be said about the pair, it's that they admire each other. Bowne praised his girlfriend, noting that "She's really kind. She's always really helpful towards everybody and is a big part of Choir. And she has a great work ethic, she's a really good student, and that rubs off on me." And boy, does he love her laugh. "It's infectious," he said.



Goulet loves his smile and the adoration he shows her.

They're both sensitive, good-natured people. Their shared passions, notably dance and choir, played a major role in connecting the two.

Hence, happy Valentine's Day to Ryder and Eliza! Being surrounded by people you love, and those who love you, is arguably the best way to spend the spring.

Grace Barton & Elliot Lawrence

By Noah Poyner
Cub Reporter



What started as a middle school friendship has turned into a deep and meaningful relationship for Elliot Lawrence and Grace Barton. These two lovebirds, who have been best friends since the 6th grade, have known each other for years before formally dating six months ago. With their history, it was set that they would find their way to each other.

Elliot remembers his first initial impression of Grace being funny and attractive, and he even admits when he first laid eyes on her he automatically caught feelings. As time passed, their friendship soon evolved, finding that they had many things in common. Both Elliot and Grace are phenomenal basketball players, a sport they still enjoy together, along with other hobbies such as hiking and cooking. They also share a good sense of humor together, which tightens their relationship even more.

Not only that, but music also holds a special place in their relationship. Their song "All Your'n" by Tyler Childers, is specifically meaningful to them, and matches their relationship in the way they grew their bond over time together. Another key moment in their connection was meeting each other's families, which Elliot described as a fun and memorable experience.

Beyond spending time with each other, Elliot and Grace have shared social connections. They get along well with each other's friends and frequently hang out as a group, which has made their relationship even stronger.

With a relationship built on friendship and mutual respect, they are ready to have a happy long lasting relationship while balancing school, sports, and social life.

Julieta Caloca Escalante & Jackson Palmer

By Emma Friedman
Cub Reporter

As we head further into this school year, feelings of love are more likely to be found in the air. This is the case with Jackson Palmer and Julieta Caloca Escalante, both Seniors who were friends before they both ended up dating each other.

Jackson is eighteen and is on the Soccer team at JBHS. Currently, his goal after high school is to go to college and major in Civil Engineering, specifically Structural Engineering. He isn't officially in any clubs but he's gone to a variety of meetings.

Julieta is seventeen going on eighteen and likes to paint when she's not busy. She's in the Outdoor Adventure Club and Indoor Gardening Club. She doesn't play any sports currently but she used to play Volleyball. Her goal after high school is to go to a college in Rhode Island, but if she doesn't go there she wants to go somewhere local to continue her education.

Jackson and Julieta met during their Freshman English class and Jackson was love-struck the first time he saw her. But they didn't start talking until Julieta came to one of his Soccer games during their Sophomore year, where then she asked to exchange phone numbers. Then later that school year on January 15th, Jackson asked Julieta to be his girlfriend while at mini golf.

Jackson's first impression of Julieta was that she seemed like a nice and fun person. He also really liked her voice. He would see her running on the track when she was in Volleyball doing workouts when he would be on the soccer field for practice. He never really talked to her but he felt like he already knew her in a sense. Julieta's first impression of Jackson was that he seemed cute and sweet.

Outside of school, Julieta and Jackson like to hang out every chance they get. So when Julieta wants to go shopping, Jackson likes to come along. They also go on movie dates where Julieta shows Jackson the *Harry Potter* movies since he hadn't watched them before Julieta came along. Then they always have lunch together at least once a week but they try for twice a week if they aren't busy, usually going to Chick-Fil-A since that's Julieta's favorite.

When they both met each other's family, they both were nervous about what the other's family would think of them. But it turned out that each family was even more caring and kind to them then they could've hoped. Jackson thinks Julieta's parents are the best and her Grandma is very sweet, always making food for the both of them. Julieta thinks Jackson's parents are very sweet as well as being nice to her whenever she sees them.

They both like the music artist Conan Gray. According to Jackson he feels like, "We don't really have the same music taste but she likes



Conan Gray, and I like him too." Safe to say that Julieta turned Jackson into a Conan Gray fan. Despite their love for Conan Gray's music, they feel like the song, "Iris," by The Goo Goo Dolls is their song because it describes them the best.

Jackson's favorite thing about Julieta is her personality. He likes how sweet and funny she is. According to Julieta, her favorite thing about Jackson is how, "He's always so positive, he's never in a bad mood. He'll always think of the more optimistic side of things."

Julieta and Jackson are a great match for each other. They match each other's vibes and they bring the best out of each other. Whatever they're going to face as their high school years come to an end, they'll face it together hand in hand.

Daniella Long & James Rivas

By Alan Rodriguez
Cub Reporter



James Rivas and Daniella Long are a very significant couple. Their relationship began in middle school, and has grown steadily over the years and is now at a four year milestone.

James and Daniella first met in 8th grade their first impressions of each other were simple but meaningful. James remembers Daniella as cute and charging, while Daniella saw James as quiet, shy, and cute. Those early impressions would later become the traits they appreciate most about each other. They officially began dating on October 1st, 2021 after James asked Daniella out at the end of lunch in 8th grade, marking the start of a relationship that has lasted through multiple years. Their first date took place just a couple of weeks later, on October 16th, 2021, when they went to see *Ghostbusters* at AMC before getting ice cream at Cold Stone.

James and Daniella enjoy spending time together doing activities that allow them to relax. Some of their favorite things to do together include watching movies, visiting places like the Americana, the Glendale Galleria, and swimming at each other's houses. The two also have several things in common that help strengthen their bond, they both enjoy movies, games like Fortnite, and share a similar sense of humor. The song for their relationship is, "Heaven Can Wait," by Michael Jackson which most likely reflects their bond. When asked what they like most about each other, James says his favorite things about Daniella are that she is kind and loving, and that she remembers important details, showing how much she cares. Daniella appreciates that James is a good listener, and someone she feels comfortable talking to since she expressed liking to talk a lot to him. She values that he listens, even when she has a lot to say, which makes her feel supported and understood.

Meeting each other's families is an important step in their relationship but may be the scariest one. Daniella described meeting James' family as her shaking and scared, while James described meeting Daniella's family as a quiet experience where he was welcomed and Daniella says that her family loves him. As they look to the future, both James and Daniella have plans to go to the same UC.

James Rivas and Daniella Long's relationship proves that even in a school environment where relationships often change quickly, their steady love stands out as something truly special.

Valerie Linda & Alex Nasev

By Ethan Salcedo
Cub Photographer

Some relationships begin with grand gestures or long conversations, but for Valerie Linda and Alex Nasev, it started in a way neither of them could have predicted, at a party.

Valerie, seventeen, is involved in Girl Scouts and known for her curiosity and intention in everything she does.

Alex, eighteen, balances Baseball with a strong sense of observation and empathy.

While their worlds seemed different at first glance, they quickly discovered that they shared more than they expected. When asked about their first impressions of each other, both remember noticing personality before anything else.

Alex recalls thinking Valerie was "cool, clever, and had a really good fashion sense," while Valerie remembers Alex as "silly," with great outfits and an unforgettable smile.

Neither knew at the time that those small observations would turn into something more meaningful.

Their story officially took a turn during Spring Break last year, when Alex texted Valerie asking if she wanted to hang out and go to a café that Sunday. While Alex had a clear idea of what he was hoping for, Valerie went into the day thinking it was just a casual hangout, a difference in expectations that would later become one of their favorite memories.

Their first date took place at Est. Today Café on Melrose, a space Alex describes as aesthetic but slightly awkward at first. "We didn't really talk much in the beginning," he admits. "But about halfway through, we started talking more, we reached a flow state."

Valerie remembers the moment differently, mostly because she didn't realize it was a date at all. Still, both agree that something shifted during that conversation, even if they didn't fully recognize it yet. That realization came soon after.

Alex remembers getting nervous at the end of English class when students were allowed to check their phones. "I didn't know what to say," he says, realizing his feelings were stronger than he expected.

For Valerie, it was subtler. She noticed she started caring about what Alex was doing throughout the day and found that talking to him came easily, something she didn't feel with just anyone.

The two made it official on May 24th, and they've now been together for almost nine months. Over that time, they've learned what makes their relationship work: intention, balance, and shared independence. They're involved in ASB, are often jokingly referred to as the "funniest couple," and make a point to prioritize their lives outside of each other, something they both see as essential.

When asked what they enjoy doing together, their answer is simple: cooking. It's an activity that reflects their dynamic, collaborative, relaxed, and rooted in presence rather than pressure.

That same energy shows up in what they admire most about each other.

Valerie appreciates that Alex does things with purpose and is deeply curious, while Alex values Valerie's laugh, awareness, and empathy.

Like any relationship, theirs hasn't been without awkward or challenging moments. Meeting each other's families stood out as one of them. Alex remembers noticing that Valerie's mom looks almost exactly like her, while Valerie admits she was nervous that Alex's family wouldn't like her. Those moments, though uncomfortable,



became important milestones, signs that the relationship was becoming more real.

Their song, "If I Ain't Got You" by Alicia Keys, ties everything together. It represents the emotional core of their relationship: appreciation over excess, connection over appearance.

What makes Valerie and Alex stand out isn't a dramatic origin story or constant perfection, but the way their relationship developed naturally, from an unexpected meeting, to a Spring Break text, to a conversation that quietly changed everything.

In a school environment where relationships often feel rushed or performative, theirs is built on awareness, humor, and intention, and that's what makes it worth telling.

Boys Basketball

By Noah Poyner
Cub Reporter

The Bears Varsity Boys Basketball team has come up against a challenging lineup of Pacific League games in the past few weeks, as they went against some of the best competition. Even though the scores leaned towards our opponents, each game offered a great opportunity to learn from its experience.

The Bears' most recent game was against the Pasadena Bulldogs, and came along with Burroughs coming up short. In this game, Pasadena's offense was its key to winning, with efficient ball movement and quick scoring which led to an early lead by halftime. With that, Burroughs had a hard time trying to keep up with Pasadena's pace.



Photographer: Ethan Salcedo

Burroughs could not capitalize on a strong momentum with turnovers and contested shots, and Pasadena took advantage of this, keeping their momentum going throughout the second half, and ending the game with a result of 89-44.

Before this game, The Bears had played against the rival Bulldogs and took a loss of 69-50. The intensity of the crowd brought high energy in the gym, but even with that being said, Burbank's early scoring and impactful gameplay took a toll on Burroughs and made it harder and harder for them to be able to close the gap in points.

But during the third quarter, Burroughs showed moments of capitalization, and their pressure on defense had led them to better scoring possibilities. But unfortunately, with the amount of missed opportunities, the Bears still couldn't prevail past this one.

And finally, in a matchup against Crescenta Valley High School, Burroughs fell in a loss 69-45 as the Falcons made sure they stayed disciplined throughout the whole game. Burroughs was playing fairly disciplined too, but with the pace that CV was scoring at, they couldn't match their pace.

With three impactful games being played, Burroughs faced many teams with talented rosters and consistent pressure both on offense and defense, and now, the Bears will keep playing on, knowing what they need to improve and still staying determined at the same time. As the season continues, Burroughs will continue to improve as well.

Girls Water Polo

By Haven Dunn
Cub Reporter

While many relaxed over winter vacation, the John Burroughs Girls Water Polo team did anything but that as their season was just getting started. Over the break the team trained hard to maintain their status in League. Now the Varsity team, coached by Martin Ortega-Jennison, is wrapping up their season going 6-1 in League and 12-8 overall.

The Bears started off their season strong with their first League game taking place December 16th. They faced off against Pasadena beating them 14-5.

On December 18th the team played a difficult game against Arcadia heading into overtime with the Bears coming out on top, winning 10-9.

On December 19th-20th the girls played in a tournament losing to Marina 13-7 and Woodbridge 13-12 the first day. The following day the Bears bounced back with a 14-13 win against Schurr and sadly a 13-2 loss against Canyon.

Following Winter Break, on January 8th the Bears secured a win against the Hoover Tornados with a score of 14-5.

The following day on January 9th the Bears played against Glendale High School winning once again with a score of 20-4.


Photographer: Raquel Smith

January 13th the team won again beating Crescenta Valley with a score of 16-14.

On January 15th the Bears faced off against their rivals; Burbank High. After a rocky start the team blew those Bulldogs out of the water winning with a score of 20-12, with Senior Derika Berenguer standing out by scoring seven of twenty goals during the game,. followed by Captain Lauren Chaparro scoring an additional three goals.

Going undefeated, the team headed into League prelims facing off against Hoover on the 22nd. The girls managed to secure a victory, winning 13-5 and pushing them one step closer to the League title.

January 27th the Bears faced off in their final League game against Arcadia. Sadly after a 17 minute delay due to technical difficulties and a good fight they lost 10-7.

Despite their loss, due to their immaculate record throughout the rest of the season, John Burroughs and Arcadia shared first place title in League.

Being League champs was unexpected for everyone on the team. Senior goalkeeper Molly Gilmore stated "It feels like all the hard work over the past four years has finally paid off. Every victory was earned and well deserved. I'm so proud of us." This sentiment was shared all across the team. Even though many were sad they didn't end on a win there was still much joy to be found in the shared title.

Now the team heads off to the CIF playoffs. Their first round took place Thursday, February 5th, at JBHS against Paloma Valley. Scores were not known at the time of publication.

When catching up with Captains Lauren Chaparro and Bonnie Kretzmann on this momentous occasion they both had a lot to say.

When asked how they were preparing for the game Captain Lauren Chaparro said "We're practicing everyday as usual, and just making sure to really stay focused and present while in the pool."

Kretzmann agreed with this sentiment adding "We're trying to fine tune our skills but also connect as a team." Both Captains agreed that the team had really bonded this season with Kretzmann stating "This season has been very unexpected but we pushed past each obstacle and really enjoyed our time as a team."

Congrats on an astounding season girls! Good luck at CIF Bears!

Cheer

By Tavia Viramontes
Cub Reporter

JBHS Cheer has been competing all year.

From waking up early and practicing, to running onto the cheer mat in front of one hundred and more people, these teams share a special bond between each other and get to learn more about each other through competing. Many of the girls on this team can say that they have made many special friendships through Cheer and the experiences they've had.

Through every Cheer team, their competitions hold a strict schedule. Wake up at 6AM, get ready, leave the house, drive an hour, sign in, practice with the team, practice with the team on the big mats, walk to the competition mats, cheer, dance, cheer, and walk away. These schedules are what the two teams follow.

The Varsity team is a mix of different grades, ranging from Freshmen to Seniors.

The team currently competes in the Coed Intermediate Division.

Jamar Saint Fleur, a Junior, just joined the team this year. He says, "I am happy to be a part of the competitive cheer team, as it is my first year. I'm still getting adjusted to things although I hope we finish our season strong as we haven't placed lower than 3rd in any competitions this season."

Their first competition of the school year was the JAMZ Bid Challenge, on Saturday, November 22, 2025 at the Anaheim Convention Center, in Anaheim where they placed 2nd against Mission Hills High School and Chino Hills High School.

Their second competition was the World Class Cheerleading Cali Crown, on Saturday, December 6, 2025 at the Fairplex Administration Offices in Pomona, where they placed 1st.

Their third competition was the JAMZ Friday Night Lights Holiday Showcase, on Friday December 12, 2025 at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, where they placed 1st.

This month, Varsity and JV Competition Cheer Teams have had three competitions in total.



The first of those was the Varsity Cheer competition, the JAMZ State Championship on January 17th, 2026. The event was hosted in Bakersfield at the Dignity Health Arena Theater and Convention Center. Freshman on the team Molly Brown says, "I had a really good time personally. During the awards, people brought dads from the audience to do the Big Guy TikTok and then they had the cheerleaders do it." At this competition, Varsity won third place.

Hannah Kim, also on the Varsity team, talks about her experience competing stating, "competition season has been a total blast with some huge wins, but it's definitely been a bumpy ride… We are working super hard towards the season!"

Like the Varsity team, the JV team has also competed in Bakersfield at the JAMZ State Championship. The team received 3rd place. Freshman on the team, Shivani Rana, states, "...my experience at the last competition was so good and even though it was farther, I actually loved it since I really felt like I created a better bond with the team… We still all worked really hard and all the girls were so amazing and hard working."

The next competition for the teams was on Saturday, January 24th, for the CIF-SS Championships at the Azusa Pacific University Felix Event Center, in Azusa, where the Varsity team placed 3rd. They went against Summit High School, Providence High School, and Centennial High School.

According to Leah Nguyen, Junior, "This season has gone quite well. I am so proud of our team for working hard all season despite injuries and difficulties Being able to compete on the mat with some of my best friends is such a privilege. Working all through this season and 'leaving it on the mat' is something that I will always cherish. We have worked so hard for Nationals and I cannot wait to see what happens from here. Thank you to our coaches for always being there for us, and making us better day by day."

Another Junior on the team, Llucelie Muñoz, stated, "I love that I get to be part of such an amazing team. Win or not, we all work so hard together to make the best outcome of our season. The feeling of coming off the mat after hitting all your stunts and giving it your all is so rewarding. Cheering competitively is something I love to do and the best part is doing it alongside your teammates with the support of coaches."

Looking into the future, Varsity Cheer will be going to JAMZ Nationals in Las Vegas February 19th-21st.

The JBHS Paw Print wishes them luck on the Championships, a big milestone for all of the girls competing. Go Bears!

Boys Soccer

By Elizabeth Browngardt
Sports Editor

The Boys Varsity Soccer team began Pacific League play under new head coach Mark Martinez, facing strong competition throughout the season. Several players have stepped up during League matches, including Seniors Seven Elkin and Jordan Seas, along with Sophomore Justin Trigo, who have played key roles for the Bears.

League play opened with an away match against Taft on December 27th, ending in a 1–1 tie. Just two days later, the Bears earned a close 2–1 victory over Canoga Park. The team carried that momentum into January with a shutout win against North Hollywood High School on January 5th, winning 2–0, followed by another narrow 2–1 victory against Arcadia on January 7th.

On January 9th, the Bears battled Glendale to a 2–2 tie in a competitive matchup. The following weeks proved challenging, as the team suffered losses against Muir (2–1) on January 13th, Burbank (3–2) on January 15th, Pasadena (1–0) on January 17th, and CVHS (5–0) on January 20th.

When asked how the season has gone so far, Senior Jordan Seas said, "Not exactly the way we wanted. We have plenty of injuries, but we all came together as a team, won a couple of games, and have done pretty good."

Despite the ups and downs of League play, the Bears remain focused on their goals. Seas added that the team hopes to make the playoffs, win CIF as a team, and defeat Burbank High School as the season continues.

Upcoming Dates

February 13th	Lincoln Holiday (No School)
February 14th	Valentine's Day
February 16th	Presidents Day (No School)
February 27th-29th	Pop Show
March 11th	Open House
March 16th-20th	SPRING BREAK!

Girls Soccer

By Melanie Cartagena-Mixco
Cub Reporter

The very talented John Burroughs High School Girls Soccer team has had a great season this year by winning multiple games, representing our school, and even making it to playoffs (after John Muir High School decided to forfeit their playoffs position, leaving the spot open to our Girls Soccer team).

One of the best players and one of the Captains, Junior Geneva Keifer, shared how even through their not-so-high moments this season, she really enjoyed the year and also had a great time practicing and playing with every girl on the team.

They successfully beat our rival school this week in an away match with a score of 5-0.



Photographer: Ethan Salcedo

Burroughs Coach Robert Sanchez, when asked about the start of their most recent game, shared how, "It was a little slow start but I asked them to settle down a bit and they started controlling the ball a little better."

Senior Nevaeh Diaz, who plays center-back position on the team, also mentioned how this was definitely one of her favorite games this season, because it was played against our rival school, Burbank which made it more meaningful and special for the team.

In addition, knowing this was the final year for the Seniors on the Girls Soccer team, a couple of those Seniors were asked about their experience and how they're feeling about this being their last year on the team.

One of the players, Cat Sandoval, who also plays center-back and midfielder, shared how the difference with this year and the last three previous years being on the team was, "This one felt a little less real because it was my last year and I won't come back." Cat Sandoval also shared how she had a very fun experience with this year's Soccer season and all the girls on the team, including herself, were able to have a fun time even at practices and therefore ended this year with a great finish.

Nevaeh Diaz also shared how, "This year was different because I got to experience the fun with having a team and especially with Freshmen and getting to have more friends, and it was overall a very nice experience."

The girls on the Girls Soccer team this year were able to all have fun and do pretty well for our school this year and are looking forward to playoffs.

With their hard work paying off they will hopefully do great in their playoff games going forward and continuing being a successful Girls Soccer team.

Girls Basketball

By Ethan Salcedo
Cub Photographer

The Girls Basketball team closed out its regular season in memorable fashion, earning a decisive win in what was potentially the final game on their home court.

The victory not only capped off a season defined by rapid growth and resilience, but also set the tone as the team prepares to enter CIF Playoffs with confidence and momentum.

For the Captains, the season has been one of development, both on and off the court. Despite challenges and high expectations, the group found its identity through hard work, energy, and unity. "This season turned out great," Captain Elizabeth Amoroso said. "We grew so much in such a short amount of time due to our hard work and dedication, and I'm excited to see how far we go in playoffs."

The team's improvement was evident as the season progressed, with players stepping into larger roles and learning how to compete under pressure. According to Amoroso, the growth wasn't accidental, it was earned through consistent effort and commitment.

While the win itself was important, the meaning behind it carried even more weight. For many players, especially Seniors, the game represented a possible farewell to their home court. "Tonight's win meant a lot to us because it was a lot of our potentially last game on that court," Amoroso said. "We are happy that we ended with the victory. I hope that we can carry this momentum with us into playoffs."

Captain Grace Barton echoed those sentiments, emphasizing the emotional significance of the night. "Tonight's win was very meaningful for a lot of us with a lot of Seniors being on the team and it being our last league game," Barton said.

Throughout the season, leadership played a key role in keeping the team focused during difficult moments. Amoroso explained that her role as Captain extended beyond statistics and strategy. "As a Captain, my main focus is our energy and dedication," Amoroso said. "I always try to make sure everyone keeps their head up no matter the hardships we face on the court." That mindset, she added, is what has brought the team to this point. "All of us have worked incredibly hard to be where we are right now, and our energy and dedication is what's going to keep pushing us further into the playoffs," she said.

Barton highlighted another crucial factor behind the team's success: chemistry. "My biggest focus was becoming close off the court and translating that team chemistry to our game," Barton said. "We're all great friends and that helps us a lot." That connection has allowed the team to trust one another in high-pressure situations and play with confidence, especially late in games.

Even after finishing second in League standings, Barton believes the team is entering playoffs stronger than ever. "Overall the season was great," she said. "Even though we came in second, I think we improved so much throughout the season and we're excited to take that into playoffs."

As the team prepares for postseason competition, execution and focus will be critical. Amoroso emphasized that while energy sets the foundation, attention to detail will ultimately determine playoff success. "Our energy and dedication is a huge key that's going to push us further into playoffs," she said. "Another important factor is our execution. We need to be able to execute our coach's future game plans, otherwise it will be more difficult to do well in playoffs, but I believe we will do just great."

Barton agreed, stressing the importance of staying locked in. "I think we need to stay focused in our games in playoffs," she said. "We've been playing really well, so if we stay locked in on what we do best then we'll be good."

With CIF playoffs approaching, the Captains also shared their appreciation for the support system behind the team. Barton expressed gratitude to those who have helped make the season special. "I want to thank all of the coaches, friends, family, and teammates for making this last League season so memorable," Barton said. "I'm excited to make it last as long as possible in CIF."

Amoroso encouraged the school community to continue showing up. "I hope to see more people come support us if we have any playoff home games," she said. "We appreciate everyone who does."

As the girls basketball team heads into the postseason, they carry not only the momentum of a strong finish, but also the belief that their growth, chemistry, and leadership can take them even further. With energy high and goals set, the team is ready to see just how far this season can go.

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Next Issue:
Winter Sports
Spring Sports Preview
And More!

Photographer: Abigail Grossnickle