MUSTANG MONTHLY

March 2, 2026 Volume 1 Issue #1

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the Mustang Monthly. You know the students who don't always know what's going on? Well, that's just the purpose of this newspaper. It includes things such as happenings around campus, features on staff, and even our own students! Since it's for and even about kids, isn't it logical that every article and subject is created and written by students at Julien? When scholars get to join the club, they use their own time to write articles on topics they choose! In fact, the Mustang Monthly has always been for and about kids, even at its start. However, there are still some topics that let the staff here shine. These can include things like interviews from students, Teacher Features, information about PTA, and club highlights. If you would like to join the Mustang Monthly team next year when spots are available to 4th through 6th graders, feel free to ask your teacher about it! Additionally, if you have any questions or something exciting to share or write about, reach out to Ms. Reed or Ms. Moore at **areed@turlock.k12.ca.us**, or **mamoore@turlock.k12.ca.us**. This is because your ideas could inspire an article, or because we occasionally let a guest writer contribute to the Mustang Monthly. You can find the Mustang Monthly on the school website at the beginning of every month, where every student has an opportunity to see it.

As you can see, we have a pretty great newspaper, and it's available to all. Get ready to experience Julien's very first edition of the Mustang Monthly!

Staff writers include:

4th Grade: Rohry MacLaren and Jasmine Perez

5th Grade: Lucy Dent and Eliza Wiley

6th Grade: Armando Barraza, Penelope Neal, Cole Hedden, Paola Jimenez, Prim Kongsmai, Kyla James, Khushi Singh, Aurora Hooks, Jeanine Khey Gonzales, Erin Sumter

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Math Blast

Hey! You there, have you heard of a thing called Math Blast? You might have heard it said by a teacher, a friend or maybe by someone in the halls even, but still don't know what it actually means. That's exactly why I'm here to show you everything from what it is in the simplest form to the tiny details of it.

What is Math Blast?

Math Blast is an extracurricular activity (club) where a group of kids go to to work on math problems with their peers. The competition is at the end of the school year against 6th grade teams from other schools.

When is Math Blast?

The math blast team meets every Tuesday and Thursday in Mrs. Williamson's room. It starts at 7:30 am and ends at 8:00 am. The end of year competition is an all day event on a Saturday at the end of April.

What do they do?

In math blast Mrs. Williamson gives everyone a 100 problem packet and puts an answer key on the far desk to the left. Students can go at their own pace to complete their problems and check their work. The problems range in difficulty from kinder to high school, although anything 4th grade and below is very VERY rare.

-Written by Aurora Hooks, 6th Grade

Amazing Musicians!

Hello Mustangs! For my article, you're going to be reading about some fun instruments and great players!

First we start with Kaylee Perez, a 10th grader who plays both guitarron and cello. A guitarron is a traditional Latin instrument, and the cello is from Italy. It comes from a part of the violin family. Kaylee has been playing the cello for about six years, and she said the hardest song she has done on cello is "Phantom Tangos" by Brian Balmages, while the easiest song was "Fiddles On Fire" by Mark Williams. She has been playing the guitarron for about 2 years, and the hardest song was "Marchas Zacatecas" by Genaro Cordina, and her easiest song was "De Colores" by Jacob Nitsitich and Francisco Paez. Lastly I spoke with Lizbeth Perez. She has been playing violin for 10 years! Violins come from Italy. The hardest song she has done is "Four Season" By Vivaldi and the easiest song was "All I Want For Christmas Is You" By Mariah Carey. Lizbeth also played piano for 6 years. The easiest song for her on piano was "What Was I Made For" by Billie Eilish, and the hardest song was You Say By Lauren Daigle. The teacher that taught them was Joe Tover.

-Written by Jasmine Perez, 4th Grade

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The Pod

Everyone has met the other kids in their grade. Mr. Copple, Ms. Nascimento, Ms. Trantham, and Mr. Tovar are all household names. However, if you are in kindergarten to third grade, there is a whole CLASS of kids in your grade you have never gotten to know! Picture this. Four connected classrooms. An ever-flowing stream of kids. The hustle and bustle of kids and teachers working and enjoying time together. Could such a place be real? Of course! Maybe you've never seen it, but this is called the Pod.

In the Pod, things are very different from your average classroom. For starters, there are way less walls! The Pod is made up of 4 conjoined classrooms, but there is nothing but bookshelves separating the classes. If you'd like to visit the Pod, its room numbers are E21, E22, E23, E30, and E31. It consists of Mindi's Kindergarten classroom, Sierra's 1st graders, Kim's 2nd grade room, and Christina's 3rd grade kids. In the center of the building there is a middle room, where they have all sorts of activities. For example, on Friday afternoons the 1-3 grade classrooms have Pod centers. According to Oliver, one of Kim's 2nd grade students, "[At Pod Centers kids are] running around and playing." During this time, kids can move around to all the classrooms, each with their own activity. In the words of Oliver, "Kim does posters; Christina doesn't really do anything, Sierra does like, Brain Breaks and roller coaster videos, [and Mindi] has all the little fun toys to play with."

Of course, there are many other unique things about the Pod program. For example, there are a lot of ways that Pod kids in different grades get to interact with each other, like in homegroups. This is essentially like a homeroom for middle or high school. Homegroups take place in the morning, when every student in all the classes goes to an assigned room for morning activities. When a student enters their first Pod year, they are assigned to a homeroom in the Pod, which for the rest of their time in the Pod they will attend during the early morning time. For instance, in my Pod experience, I was assigned to the first grade classroom for homegroups (taught by Dave at the time) and while I continued to move through the grades up to 3rd, I always went to that class for morning activities, like listening to a story or character education. There are many other cool things about the Pod, too.

As you can see, life is very different in the Pod. They have cool classrooms and unique traditions. While we all have different experiences, the Pod is one of the most interconnected places of all. If you see any of the Pod kids, be sure to say hi!

-Written by Lucy Dent, 5th Grade

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Mustangs on the Go: An article about Kauai

Going to Hawaii in February is a fun adventure. Here's my experience, starting with a six hour plane ride to a tropical, mountainous island called Kauai. This is a place that has a huge population of cute, little chickens. I arrived at a resort where the rooms are so large and luxurious, you could live there. There were fabulous water sources, such as pools, hot tubs, and the ocean right on the edge of the property. The final event of day one was when I made a traditional Hawaiian lei out of tea leaves.

Wednesday, February Eleventh: First, for breakfast, we ate fruit bowls called acai bowls, which are really yummy. Most of the day was pretty basic, but then we went to a luau. It had traditional foods, like poi and purple potatoes. Then, during the second part, the hostess described how Hawaii was founded. There was hula dancing, and fire dancing, which was my favorite. Fire dancing takes years of training. The dancers put the fire in their mouth, and then balanced it on their feet!

Thursday, February Twelfth: On this day, my family went tubing in a fun river with a lot of rapids. We went through five different caves, which had the color of gold at the top of each of them. There was a rapid so big, it was like a three-foot water slide. Then, to end the day, we got some delicious shaved ice.

Friday, February Thirteenth: On this morning we went to the beach. Then, we went souvenir shopping. At the end, we found a dinner place by the beach, so we watched the sunset on the beach as my family and I ate hot dogs.

Saturday, February Fourteenth: Valentine's Day! My siblings and I started off with some muffins and gifts from our parents. Then we left for Waimea Canyon which was about forty-five minutes away from our resort. The tour had a coffee manufacturing shop that makes the most coffee in the USA. There were some food stops along the way. Then once we got there, there were some picture stops by the cliffs. My favorite part was the Red Dust Waterfall. There were hills and hills made of red dust that turned my shoes orange. Right in the middle, there was a small, pretty waterfall.

Sunday, February Fifteenth: On this day, we traveled from the town of Poipu to Princeville. On the way, we took a little tour of Wailua town. There was some fascinating history of Kauai. For example, there was a story about the demigod, Maui (yes, the one from Moana). It was about his attempt to pull the Hawaiian Islands together into one. At one stop, my mom cracked open a coconut with her bare hands! We also went to an area right by a lighthouse. We spent the rest of the day settling into our resort in Princeville, which was bigger and better than the last one!.

Monday, February Sixteenth: First, we went to the tropical and luxurious pools and hot tubs. Then we went to the beach to snorkel. We saw a turtle eating coral while fish ate algae off its back! At the very end, I even saw an eel. I noticed there was a fish that followed me the whole time. I named him Bobby. Then we went to dinner at a place called Kalypso.

I hope you have enjoyed a peek into my trip to Kauai.

-Written by Rohry Maclaren, 4th Grade

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Stable Stories

Ever need a book to read, but can't find one? Well you're in luck, bookworms, as I have some amazing stories for you based on your grade.

Kindergarten:
-The Pigeon series by Mo Willems
-Pete the Cat series by James and Kimberly Dean

First Grade:
-If You Give A Mouse A Cookie by Laura Numeroff
-The Elephant and Piggie series by Mo Willems

Second Grade:
-The Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne
-The Dog Man series by Dav Pilkey

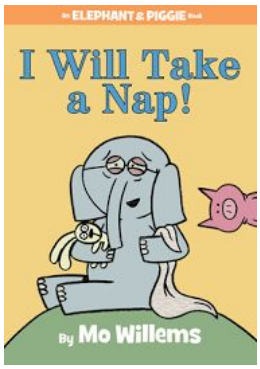
Third Grade:
-Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
-The I Survived series by Lauren Tarshis

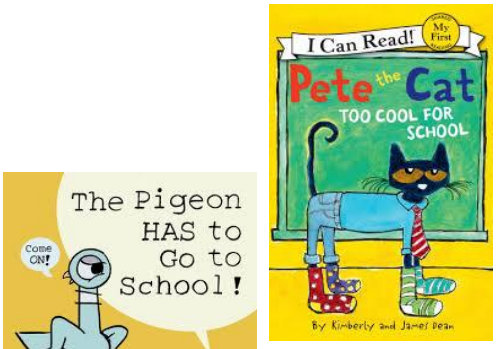
Fourth Grade:
-The Diary of a Wimpy Kid series by Jeff Kinney
-The Moon Base Alpha series by Stuart Gibbs

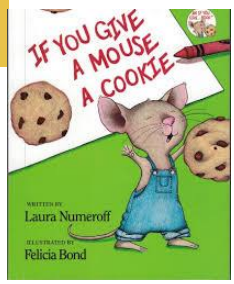
Fifth Grade:
-Linked by Gordon Korman
-The Chronicles of Narnia series by C.S. Lewis

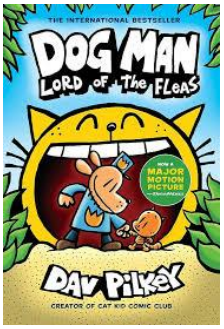
Sixth Grade:
-The Distance Between Me and the Cherry Tree by Paola Peretti
-I Know Your Secret by Daphne Benedis-Grab

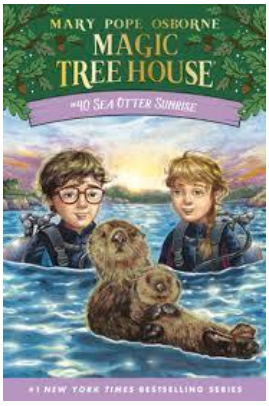
-Written by Kyla James, 6th Grade

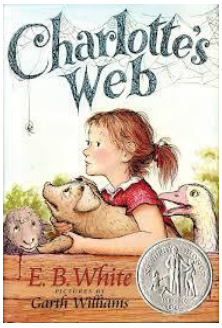


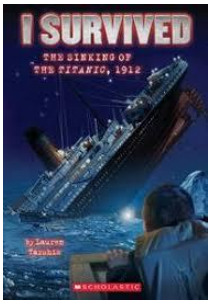




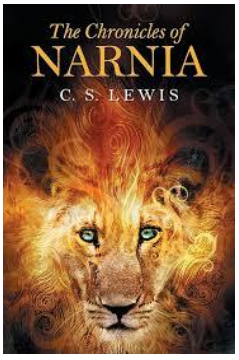


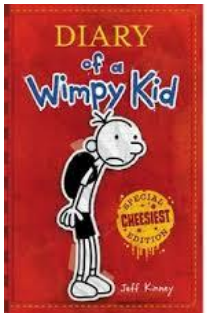


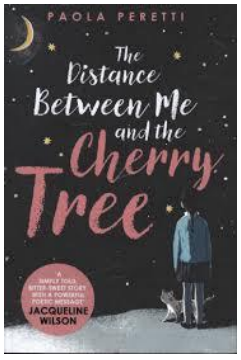


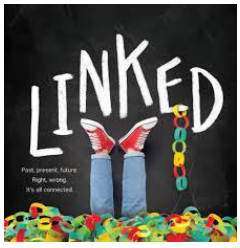














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Life in the Philippines.

The Philippines is a unique country. It has many cool facts about it and also many differences. The Philippines has a very warm and humid climate; it's often 75-90 degrees year round. In the Philippines they have many cool dances they do in their culture like bamboo dance, the fan-based *Cariñosa*, the coconut shell-tapping *Maglalatik*, and the royal *Singkil*. Now let's hear about the Philippines from someone who lives there, my friend Rosette. "The Philippines offers a low cost of living, tropical weather, and a warm English-speaking culture, making it a nice place for the beach and going on hikes. In the Philippines it's easy to make many friends and buy trinkets. The Philippines is a super great place for a nice short trip or even a long one. Most people from the Philippines are super kind and loving. They all adore children and love the outdoors." Now that my friend Rosette and I have shared, let's get into all the differences between the Philippines and California. In the Philippines it is a hot and tropical climate everyday while here in California it changes depending on the season. Did you know that even though The Philippines is a whole country while California is just a state, California is actually bigger? The Philippines offers a 75% lower cost of living, a tropical climate and a deeply communal Spanish-influenced culture.

-Written by Penelope Neal, 6th Grade

Athletic Tournaments

We all know how popular the soccer and basketball tournaments are among students across the upper grades. Many of them are currently wondering when they will start up again. We interviewed Mrs. Melrose and have some exciting information that we would like to share in this article! Many do not know why she was motivated to start tournaments. Mrs. Melrose says "Everything starts with an idea right? In my last school they asked me to come up with something that the kids could do, so I came up with soccer and basketball tournaments. I thought that would be fun for the kids." Although Mrs. Melrose is busy, she still has a bunch of ideas and she would love to include things other than sports for the tournaments, like an art competition for the younger grades and kids who love drawing and creative things like that. She also plans to add subs in sports like soccer and basketball, effectively improving future games. She also hopes to add new athletic sports like volleyball, and flag football, which would likely be very popular in every age group.

-Written by Armando Barraza, Cole Hedden, and Paola Jimenez, 6th Grade

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Our Mustang Representatives

Have you ever thought about becoming a representative for our school? Or wondered what it would be like to take part in student council? At Julien, student council is lead by the advisor, Mr. Tovar. Students may choose to go through a process starting in 5th grade to become a representative of our school. Representatives help with activities like fundraisers, dress up weeks, and most importantly, being good examples for both the students in our school and the community outside of it.



-Written by Jeanine Khey Gonzales, 6th Grade

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Which Is Better: Skiing or Snowboarding?

You may have never heard of these sports before but they were some of the most popular sports in the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics. We are fortunate to have some people in this school who participate in these sports so you can decide which onet YOU think is better.

SKIING

Skiing is a good choice for a first timer because it is well known for beginners to be able to navigate the easier slopes within the first few days. I interviewed an experienced Level 9 skier named Kyla James who has skied for 8 years, who is able to go on almost any run possible.
This is what she said, "Skiing is better than snowboarding, because it is easier to learn, and is a fun sport. Skiers can really be of all levels, and it's just a lot easier to figure out how to turn or go down a run. Injuries are more common to the legs, unlike snowboarding, where the injuries spread all over the body. One instance of this is when my coach was snowboarding after practice, he caught a heel-side edge, and cracked his helmet (he could have gotten a concussion). This is why I think skiing is better than snowboarding." Iff we are talking about the park, it is easier for skiers to do backflips and frontflips. Powder skiing is also an exhilarating experience, but the disadvantage to that is the fact that you have to lean back on your skis instead of leaning forward like normal.

SNOWBOARDING

Snowboarding is pretty hard if you are a beginner but once you step out of that zone, the experience is amazing. It is worth it to take a few beginner days so you can have more fun.
I myself have been snowboarding for 7 years, and am a Level 6 snowboarder, capable of going on advanced runs. To support my case, I think if you want to go to the Olympics or go into the park, snowboarding is much easier. Let me tell you why. When you snowboard, you are either goofy or regular. Goofy means you are comfortable with your right foot forward and regular is having your left foot forward. When you do jumps, you have to land on the same foot if you are doing a 360 but, if you are doing a 180, then you just land on the opposite foot. When you go to the park when you are skiing, if you do 180, you have to land backwards and that is really hard. I also think that just snowboarding in generally is much better since it feels like surfing on snow. This is why I think that snowboarding is better than skiing.



Vote by going to:
https://forms.gle/TPo8wyXu65siz6tY6
or by scanning this QR code:



-Written by Prim Kongsmai, 6th Grade

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The Wellness Club

What's the wellness club? It's a beloved club at Julien Elementary School that helps the school be a better place. To help you understand what this club is, I have interviewed club members.

The first person we will be talking about will be Mrs. Johnson herself. For context, Mrs. Johnson is the school counselor, and she is also the advisor of the club.

I asked Mrs Johnson What events are coming up She said, "Say Something Week, which will be March 23-27, and on all Fridays, we have special activities during lunch recess. Also, the wellness club makes kindness posters." Then I asked what the purpose of Wellness Club is. She said, "It's the club supporting the spread of kindness, and working to create a positive school culture."

I also interviewed Japleen, who is the president of the wellness club. When I asked her how it is being president, Japleen said, "It feels amazing in wellness club, and I want to stay president of the wellness club. I feel honored and I feel like I am a really good person for the wellness club whether I was or wasn't president."

YOU can ask to join the wellness club too! Requirements are: you must be a 5th or 6th grade student, be nominated by a classmate or teacher, and you must have leadership skills.

-Written by Eliza Wiley, 5th Grade

Our Wonderful Garden

Our garden is a very beautiful place and we should always take care of it. We should be very happy to have a garden to look after. Most importantly we should take care of our garden and not hurt it. Some ways we can help our garden include:

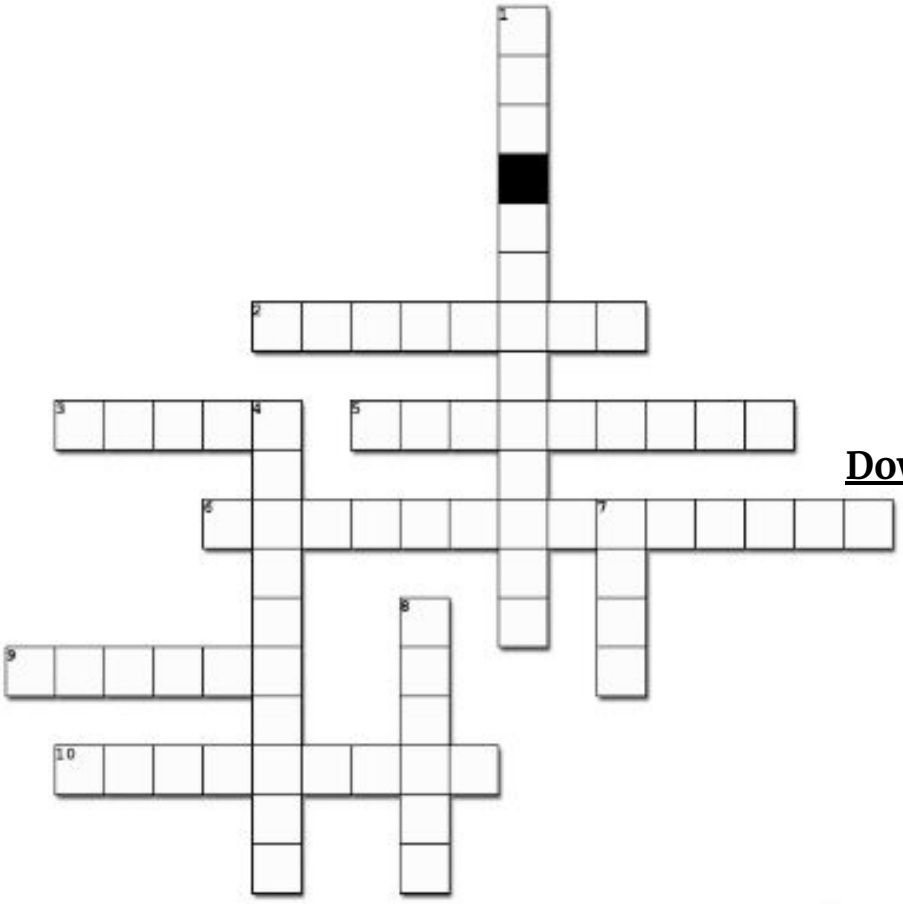
1. Show pride: Take care of your plants and class plots the best that you can.
2. Show responsibility: Don't pick anything without your teacher's permission.
3. Show character: Always leave the garden better than you found it.
4. Practice safety: No running.

We should also leave any bugs that we see in the garden alone. When visiting the garden please also be mindful that there are third grade classes in the same hallway. They are learning when you visit the garden so please don't scream or yell. Those are just a few things we can do to keep our garden safe and beautiful.

-Written by Khushi Singh, 6th Grade

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School Pride Crossword



Across

2. Our school mascot
3. Being proud of our school
5. Doing what is right even when no one is watching
6. Being accountable for your choices
9. The name of our school
10. Good personality traits (ex: kindness, empathy, resilience

Down

1. The name of our principal
4. Between middle and high school
7. One of our school colors
8. Keeping each other out of danger

-Created by Lucy Dent, 5th Grade

Sudoku

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

Fill the grid so that each row, column, and box contains the digits 1-9 without repeating.

-Created by Rohry Maclaren, 4th Grade

Turn in this page with *at least one completed puzzle* to be entered into a school wide raffle!
(teachers can place in Ms. Moore's or Mrs. Reed's box, or students can submit to I42 during lunch)

Name: _____
Grade: _____
Teacher's Name: _____