Olympic High School

THE TORCH

Student-Led Digital Newspaper: Where Tomorrow's Leaders Speak Today

JUNE 1, 2026
VOLUME 08 ISSUE 07

End-of-the-Year Info

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 2 Last Day of School (minimum day)
June 8 First Day of Summer School
June 19 Juneteenth *No Summer School*
July 2 Last Day of Summer School
August 6 First Day of School 2026-2027

planet fitness

FREE HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER PASS™

School's out. Now it's time to focus on your fitness. Whatever you're into, whether it's a hobby, a passion, or a new pursuit, we're handing you the keys to sprint full tilt at it with a FREE membership to Planet Fitness from June 1 to August 31.

Use your days of freedom to their full potential. No excuses. No holding back. No cost. Teens ages 14-19 can pre-register for High School Summer Pass™ today!



Inside this issue:

Class of 2026	2-8
Observances	9-10
Sports	11-14
Features	15-21
Campus Celebrations	22-26

STUDENT JOURNALISTS

August Abbott
Owen Klabunde
Alexis Sacks
Ziyeer Lamar
Estefania Vallejo
Adrian Quijano-Brito
Kary Herrera
Jayden Miller
Ke'Sean Williams

SOURCES

Congratulations

Class of 2026

By

ADRIAN DAVIS
ADRIAN PECKHAM
ADRIEN TAYLOR
ALDRICH JOHN CANDASA
ALEXIS VALADEZ
ALYSSA WALKER-MOORE
ANALEIGH ZENDEJAS
ANDREA LOPEZ LOPEZ
ANDRESNUNEZ
MELENDREZ
ANIAH EDWARDS
ANTHONY COLLINS
ARELI LEON ROMERO
ARMANDO FEBO JR
ARTURO SANDOVAL
ASHLEY ISLAS RODILLES
ASHLEY MASSA
ATHAN RODRIGUEZ
AUGUST ABBOTT
AZUSENA BERMUDEZ
BRADLEY TORRES
BRIAN CARRILLO ASCENCIO
CARLOS RODRIGUEZ
CASH SMITH
CAYDEN KLUTE
CHRISTOPHER CHAVEZ PARDO
CINTHYA HERNANDEZ
DAISY MEDINA
DAMIEN GARCIA GUZMAN
DIANA RODRIGUEZ
DIEGO LEON
DORA FERNANDEZ
EDWIN PAZ MEJIA
EMELY MUNOZ SEPULVEDA
EMILIO AYALA
ESCAMILLA GUARDADO
ESTEBAN CABRERA
EVAN GIBNEY
FERNANDEZ HERNANDEZ
FRANKLI ICAL MUZ
GABRIEL SANTELLAN
GARRON CAMERON

Congratulations

Class of 2026

GONZALO GUDINO VILLASENOR
IGNACIO MONTALVO LUNA,
ILEANNA TUAVAO
ISAAC GARZA ESCOBAR
ISAIAH GRACE
IYANNA ALFORD
JACOB HERRERA DE ROSAS
JASMINE CASTRO GUTIERREZ
JASON AVILA LOPEZ
JAYDEN FLORES
JAYDEN-SCOTT SLAUGHTER
JAYLENE ANZO
JAZMYNE ARDEBILI
JERONIMO CHOC
JESSE NAVARRO NAVARRO
JESUS TORRES OROZCO
JOAQUIN OCEGUERA IBARRA
JOCELYNN MEZA SALAS
JOHN HOLDREN
JORGE ZARATE IBARRA
JOSE MEZA TOLENTO
JOSE OJEDA BALANZAR
JUAN LEONIDAS HARO
JULIAN DE JESUS CERON ESPEJO
JULIAN SHAW
JULIEN LOPEZ
KAIDEN NIKBAKHSH-TALI
KARINA HRISTOVA
KELLY MILES
KELLY RUELAS-ESPEJEL
KEVIN MARTINEZ
LAMIYA HARRIS
LAYLA CHAVEZ
LEONARDO GARCIA
LEYLA GUTIERREZ
LILLIAN ALLEN AUERBACH
LINDA OCHOA
LITIA TUFUNGA
MAE ERICA STEPHANIE PITA
MARCO OLIVAS IBARRA
MARCO TORRES
MARIAH HOLMES,
MARIANA JACOBO GORGONIO

Congratulations

Class of 2026

MARYJANE SANGUINETTI
MEHRAN SHERZAI
MIRIAM VAZQUEZ
NAYRA SHAH
OSCAR GALLEGOS
RAPHAEL PELAYO
RONNIE CRAWFORD
RUTH RODRIGUEZ MARTINEZ
SAVANNAH KNOWLES
SERGIO LOPEZ CANO
TANIA ZARAGOZA AYALA
TIA PERSAUD
TIFFANY GUEVARA
TOSHIO ROGERS
VALERIA AVILA CEJA
VIKTOR SWEET
YARETZI JIMENEZ CRUZ
YARIXY GUENDULAY RAMIREZ
YARIZET TORRES CANO
ZADA LINVILLE
ZAYURI VARGAS LICONA
ZELVIN QUINTANILLA HERNANDEZ
ZENAYDA DE LEON PIRIR



Dear Grad... Your Fan Club Has Some Things to Say!

TO: Jayden Scott-Slaughter
FR: Erica Robertson

MESSAGE: Jayden! We are so proud of all your accomplishments! Congrats grad!! We love you

TO: Kelvin Murica Ramirez
FR: Sara Ramirez

MESSAGE: Hijo mío a pesar de mi esfuerzo y el tuyo de aver emigrado a este país cuando tan solo tenías 9 años para darte un mejor futuro ahora me ciento orgullosa de aver estado a tu lado solo como mamá soltera y verte lograr este logro significa mucho para mí es una emoción tan inmensa que ciente mi corazón aver echo este camino que fue difícil pero acá estoy orgullosa de ty te amoo mucho

TO: Omar Damian-Lares

FR: Maria Chaves

MESSAGE: Son, life is a journey with challenges and opportunities. When you face difficulties remember they're stepping stones to success. Believe in yourself, keep chasing your dreams and never stop moving forward. Above all know that my love for you is unwavering, and I'm always here to support you. You make me proud.

TO: Ziyeer
FR: Marco

MESSAGE: I rock with you heavy you have a good life and be safe.

TO: Maddox Wong

FR: Yuchi, Jordan, Winter and Josie

MESSAGE: Maddox!!! Congratulations!! We are so proud of you!!!! Love: Yuchi, Jordan, Winter and Josie!!

Dear Grad... Your Fan Club Has Some Things to Say!

TO: **Anthony Orlando Collins**

FR: Mom

MESSAGE: Anthony, we are so proud of you and all you have overcome. High school has had its ups and downs, but you stayed the course and kept pushing forward. As the saying goes, “Tough times don’t last, but tough people do,” and you have proven just how strong and resilient you are. With God guiding you, and with me, Roney, Noni, and Angelo by your side supporting you every step of the way, you made it to this milestone. This is only the beginning. “Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” Congratulations, Anthony — keep believing in yourself and chasing your dreams. We love you and are so proud of the young man you’ve become.

TO: **Jayden Scott-Slaughter**

FR: Ysleny Reyes

MESSAGE: I am so proud of you. Not just because you’re graduating but because of everything it took for you to get here. This year wasn’t easy for you,But you kept going. Even when it was hard. Even when it felt like too much. You didn’t quit and that says more about your strength than any diploma ever could. Graduating isn’t just an achievement for you it’s proof that you can push through the hardest days and still come out on the other side. That kind of resilience, That’s powerful. That’s something no one can take from you. I want you to remember this: you don’t have to have everything figured out right now. Life isn’t a race it’s something you build, step by step, in your own way. And you already have what it takes to build something meaningful, because you’ve proven you can keep going when it counts. I believe in you. Fully. Always. This is just the beginning of your story and I’m so grateful I get to watch you grow into the person you’re becoming. I love you more than you know.

TO: **Maddox Wong**

FR: Natasha Hart

MESSAGE: Maddox, I could not be any more proud of you! You have worked so hard and overcome so much! The future holds so many amazing things for you and I can’t wait to see what you achieve next! Love, Mommy

Dear Grad... Your Fan Club Has Some Things to Say!

TO: **Layla Chavez**

FR: Mom

MESSAGE: My Dearest Layla, As you graduate, I want you to know how incredibly proud I am of you — not just because you earned a diploma, but because of everything it took for you to get here. School was never easy for you. While others may have only seen the struggles, I saw the strength behind every hard day, every setback, every tear, and every moment you wanted to give up but kept going anyway. You faced obstacles that would have broken many people, yet somehow you continued to rise, one step at a time. What makes this moment so beautiful is not perfection — it's perseverance. You fought for this accomplishment with courage, determination, and heart. You proved that success is not about how quickly someone reaches the finish line, but about refusing to quit when the road gets hard. I hope you see yourself the way I see you: resilient, brave, capable, and extraordinary. Your journey has already shown you that you can survive difficult seasons and still come out stronger. That strength will carry you far beyond this graduation day. No matter where life takes you next, never forget how much you have already overcome. This diploma represents more than schoolwork — it represents your spirit, your growth, and the countless battles you won quietly along the way. I could not be prouder to call you my daughter. Watching you overcome so much has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Congratulations, graduate. You earned every single bit of this moment. I love you always. Love, Mom

TO: **Julia Cardenas**
FR: Cathy Berumen

MESSAGE: Congratulations You did it! We are beyond proud of your accomplishment! Puro pa delante Guera! Si se pudo!

TO: **Jazmyne Ardebili**
FR: Kristina Ardebili

MESSAGE: I couldn't be more proud of you. You had a plan, and you worked hard to achieve it—no matter the obstacles in your way. Today, you're beginning a new path filled with opportunity, growth, and endless possibilities. There will be challenges along the way, but I know your strength, determination, and heart will carry you through. Keep your eyes on the prize and never stop believing in yourself. Happy Graduation, baby girl. Mama loves you so much. ❤️

We are so proud!!









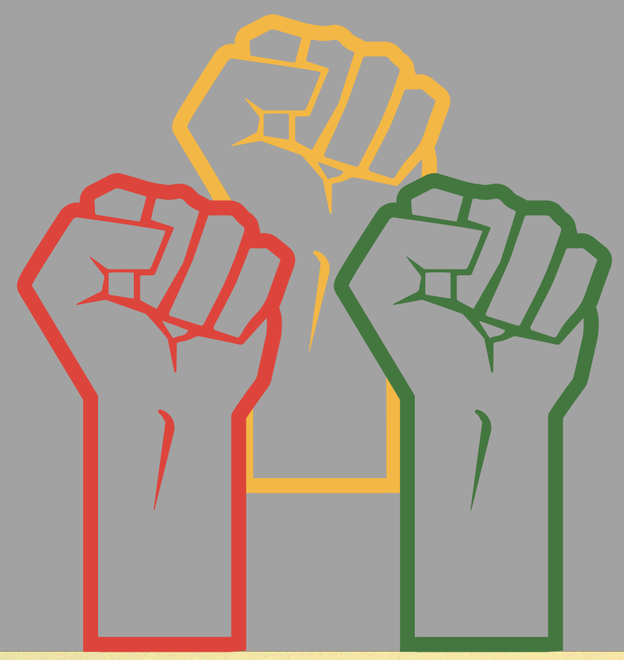








Celebrate Juneteenth



Ziyeer Lamar

Juneteenth (June 19) is a federal holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.

On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Texas and issued General Order No. 3, declaring that all enslaved people were free.

Many people consider Juneteenth to be a true "Freedom Day," especially in contrast to the Fourth of July, which historically marked independence for some, but not for all.



People celebrate the holiday much like the Fourth of July.

Some communities host events like parades, festivals, family gatherings and street parties.

Check out one of the major celebrations in the East Bay:

- Berkeley Juneteenth Festival (June 21, 2026): Held from 11 AM to 7 PM at Alcatraz & Adeline, featuring community, music, and culture.

- Richmond Juneteenth Parade & Festival (June 20, 2026): A large celebration at Nicholl Park from 10 AM to 6 PM, featuring a parade, live music, vendors, and food.

- Concord Juneteenth - Oakland (June 27, 2026): A celebration at Todos Santos Plaza from 11:30 AM to 5:30 PM with vendors, music, and community activities.

IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES

Father's Day

Ziyeer Lamar

The founder of Father's Day is Sonora Smart Dodd who wanted to honor her single father, a civil war vet who raised six kids alone. The first state wide celebration took place on June 19th 1910 in Washington State. Richard Nixon singed the day into law in 1972 and is held the thrid Sunday of June.

Celebrate your dad with one of these treats:

Fire Up the Grill: Celebrate Father's Day with a backyard BBQ! Gather family and friends, grill Dad's favorite foods, and enjoy good food, laughter, and time together outdoors.

Movie Marathon: Spend Father's Day relaxing together with Dad's favorite movies, snacks, and cozy blankets. It's a simple way to enjoy quality time and make lasting memories as a family.

Get Outside – Celebrate Father's Day with some fresh air and adventure! Go for a hike, play a game at the park, take a walk, or simply enjoy time together outdoors making memories as a family.

By Adrian Quijano-Brito

UEFA Champions League

The UEFA Champions League, commonly known as the Champions League, is an annual club association football competition. It is organized by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) and consists mostly of top-division European Clubs. It also includes clubs from smaller European countries that earn a spot through qualification matches.

Introduced in 1955 as the European Champion Club's Cup, and commonly known as the European Cup, it was created as people wanted to find out which club in Europe was truly the best. Before the tournament was officially created, clubs mainly competed only within their own countries, so fans and journalists debated which national champions were strongest without an actual competition to settle it. It was originally a straight knockout tournament open only to the champions of Europe's domestic leagues, with its winner named the European club champion. The competition took on its current name in 1992.

The competition begins with a league phase where teams play eight matches against different opponents and earn points based on their results. The best-performing teams advance to the knockout stage, where clubs compete in elimination rounds and the loser leaves the tournament. These knockout rounds continue through the Round of 16, quarterfinals, and semifinals until two teams are left. The tournament ends with a single final match at a neutral stadium where the winner is crowned the champioin of Europe.

Teams qualify to enter the UEFA Champions League based on how well they perform in their domestic leagues during the previous season . The strongest leagues in Europe, such as those in England, Spain, Germany , and Italy, receive more qualification spots because of their high ranking. Lower ranked leagues get fewer spots, and usually have to go through qualifying rounds. Clubs can also qualify by winning the Champions League or Lower class tournament of the Europa League, since those winners automatically earn a place in the next season's tournament.

The most successful teams in the UEFA Champions League's history, are unarguably Real Madrid, AC Milan, Liverpool F.C., and FC Bayern Munich because of the number of trophies they have won.

The UEFA Champions League is one of the most important tournaments in football because it brings together the best clubs in Europe to compete at the highest level. Winning the tournament gives clubs worldwide recognition, prize money, and a place in football history. It also helps teams attract top players and grow their reputation around the world. Because of its high level of competition and global attention, the Champions League is considered the most prestigious club competition in football.

By Adrian Quijano-Brito

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

TOP 4 TEAMS

ARSENAL



Considered top contenders for the UEFA Champions League because they've built one of the most balanced squads in Europe. With increasing Champions League experience and depth across the squad, they now look capable of competing with any club in Europe.

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN



Serious contenders due to their world-class talent, improved team chemistry, and growing tactical maturity. With more European experience and a stronger overall structure, PSG look more equipped than ever to challenge for the trophy.

BAYERN MUNICH



Favorites because of their winning culture, elite squad depth, and experience in high-pressure knockout matches. Their winning history in the competition also gives them a psychological edge that few clubs can compete with.

ATLÉTICO DE MADRID



This team thrives in knockout football. Their experience in deep Champions League runs makes them one of the toughest opponents in the competition.

IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES

By Adrian Quijano-Brito

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

TOP 4 PLAYERS

KYLIAN MBAPPÉ



One of the most dominant players in the Champions League this season because of his incredible goal-scoring consistency and explosive attacking ability. He finished as the competition's top scorer with 15 goals for Real Madrid.

KHVICHA KVARASKTHELIA



One of the standout players in the Champions League because of his unpredictable dribbling and creativity. On team Paris Saint-Germain he combined goals and assists, constantly caused problems for defenders.

HARRY KANE



An elite in the Champions League because of his complete forward play and scoring form for Bayern Munich. He scored 14 Champions League goals this season! Europe's strongest defenses with both finishing and playmaking. Kane's leadership, positioning, and consistency in big matches make him one of the tournament's top performers.

LAMINE YAMAL



Lamine Yamal has established himself as one of the best young players in world football thanks to his creativity, dribbling, and maturity in huge Champions League matches. The FC Barcelona winger consistently creates chances, scores important goals, and plays with confidence far beyond his age. His technical brilliance and ability to change games in one moment make him one of the competition's most exciting stars.

IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES

MAX PREPS NorCal

TOP HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAMS

Ziyeer Lamar

1 De La Salle

Located in Concord, Ca. they finished 12-1 last season and won the state championship. They have remaindedNo. 1 mainly in football due to their decades of strong athletic history in sports, and elite coaching. In 2009 they ended a historic 151 game winning streak lasting 12 seasons. Some famous players to come out of De La Salle include DJ Williams, LB for Denver Broncos; and Austin Hopper, TE for New England Patriots.



2 Pittsburg High School

Ranked No.2 primarily because they are the reigning North coast section (NCS) Dvision 1 champions and they are always competing with regions top teams, like De La Salle.; losing to them in the Division Championship last year



3 Folsom High School

Top 3 because of there elite quarterback consistently driving high scoring games, competing with a lot of heavily funded schools despite being a public school. They also have a lot of D1 prospects. Their youth system development it consistently reloads dominant offensive and defensive lines year after year.



IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES

SUMMER FAIR MAGIC

By Kary Herrera

State fairs started a long time ago as places where people gathered to trade, celebrate, and spend time together. The first official U.S. state fair was held in Syracuse in 1841. Early fairs mostly focused on farming, where people showed livestock, farming skills, crafts, and new products. Fairs first began because holy days, from the Latin word feria, brought large crowds together at sacred places in New York. As time went on, fairs spread around the world and changed from mostly farming events into fun attractions with rides, games, food, and entertainment. Even though modern fairs are more focused on fun today, they still keep traditions alive with livestock competitions, homemade food contests, craft exhibits, parades, and farming programs like 4-H and National FFA Organization. Fairs are still important because they help local businesses, teach people about agriculture, and bring communities together.

Fair foods and rides are a huge part of why people love fairs. Rides are exciting and give people thrills, while fair foods are treats families look forward to every year. One of the most popular rides is the Ferris wheel, which started in 1893. People loved it because it could be seen from far away and gave riders amazing views of the fairgrounds and the city around them. Another popular ride is the Drop Tower Giant Swing, also called Vertigo, which became popular around 2010. This ride is made for thrill seekers because it has fast drops, spinning, and moments that make riders feel weightless. Even though some people think fair rides are dangerous, serious accidents are actually rare. Millions of people ride them every year, and fairs usually require inspections and safety checks before rides can open. Most accidents happen because of mechanical problems or when riders ignore safety rules, but overall fair rides are considered safe for families and thrill seekers.

People keep going to state fairs every year because they enjoy the traditions, fun activities, and spending time with family and friends. The rides, games, and food make fairs exciting and memorable for people of all ages. Some of the best fairs in Northern California and the Bay Area are the Alameda County Fair and the San Mateo County Fair. The Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton is large and has classic fair attractions like carnival rides, concerts, fireworks, pig races, horse racing, and lots of fair food. The San Mateo County Fair in San Mateo is smaller and more family-friendly, but it still has rides, games, concerts, food, and animal exhibits. It also includes technology and STEM activities that make it unique for the Bay Area. Both fairs are popular summer events and fun places for families and friends to spend time together.

HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

By Jayden Miller

Hot August Nights is recognized as the largest and most nostalgic car shows in the U.S. because it attracts thousands of tourists to Reno. Starting in July 31st – August 9th. The event is centered around classic cars and old-school Rock 'n' Roll music, and the culture of the 1950s-1970s. What started as a small event turned into something bigger, which became a part of Reno's identity and economy.

Hot August Nights first started in 1986 and was a way to bring in more tourists in Reno during the slower time of the year. At the beginning, it was just a small gathering but later became a major event that celebrated vintage cars, classic music, and the culture of the 1950s – 1970s. The event mainly focuses on cars that were made before the 70s because it represents the "golden age" of American car culture which focuses on the peak era of the American automotive design, culture, and Rock 'n' Roll. They're known for there unique designs and strong chemistry to pop culture which is what helps maintain the events nostalgia place. Nostalgia is a big reason why Hot August Nights is so popular because it allows some of the older generation to relive the experience of the past through the music, fashion, and the classic cars.

Hot August Nights also has a major economic impact, which brings thousands of visitors to Reno while also being able to generate revenue for things like hotels, restaurants, and even local businesses. Although the event has faced some activities people can participate in such as economic changes and shifts in tourism, it's been able to adapt by expanding the activities and, improve promotion. The long term success of Hot August Nights comes from being able to keep a balance of the tradition while having to make changes, which makes it a celebration of both classic cars and an important part of Reno's figure.

CORRIDOS TUMBADOS

By Kary Herrera

Have you ever wondered how traditional Mexican corridos turned into a global music trend that is now listened to by all age groups? Natanael Cano and other young artists changed traditional corridos by creating corridos tumbados, a style that mixes the storytelling of regional Mexican music with influences from hip-hop, trap, and rap. Unlike traditional corridos, which usually focus on historical events, heroes, or stories about communities, corridos tumbados are more about personal experiences, modern youth culture, identity, and everyday life. The lyrics reflect the experiences and attitudes of a new generation that has grown up with digital media and social media.

The genre became really popular when Natanael Cano released songs like Soy El Diablo in 2019, which combined trap music with traditional corridos and helped bring the genre into the mainstream. Social media platforms like YouTube, TikTok, and Spotify also played a huge role in helping corridos tumbados grow because songs could quickly go viral through videos, trends, and playlists.



At the same time, corridos tumbados have caused controversy because many songs mention or glorify cartel figures and organized crime. Critics believe some lyrics and music videos can make criminal lifestyles seem appealing or acceptable, and this has even reportedly caused visa denials and travel restrictions for some Mexican artists. Along with Natanael Cano, artists like Junior H, Fuerza Regida, Peso Pluma, and Ovi also helped pioneer and popularize the genre by continuing to blend traditional corridos with trap and hip-hop influences.

IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES



Skating in the Reckage

By August Abbott

The bombings in Gaza have left tens of thousands dead and their families distraught, but one man still has hope. Hamza Daher, (hamza._.gaza_skater), has found skating in the rubble of what was once his home city. You can find him posting himself doing tricks on his Instagram.

His goal is to keep hopes high for those around him and show that skateboarding prevails even in the face of certain doom. He skateboards to keep himself up, stating in his bio, "I skate to survive." This topic has become more popular recently when people saw that while skating in one video his board broke. Many people in the comments were asking if they could send him a board, but much to his dismay he had to decline all offers because Israel doesn't let any shipments reach Gaza meaning there's no way to get him a board to keep skating. However, recently he was seen with a newer board. We don't know where he got it but it seems to be making people hopeful again.

Hamza Daher is not the only skater in Gaza. Gaza Skate Team (@gaza_skate_team) can also be found on Instagram posting videos of themselves skating and teaching younger kids how to skate. This team's goal is to keep skating alive in Gaza, making their own skateparks and giving out lessons to people. They spend all their time teaching kids and adults how to skate to try to bring a sense of community to all the people left in Gaza. What they want to do through this content is supporting the youth around them in following something they're passionate about. We all have something to learn from these brave souls who after losing so much push forward with what they love.



IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES



Earth Needs YOUR Help!! The Imporance of Planetary Boundaries

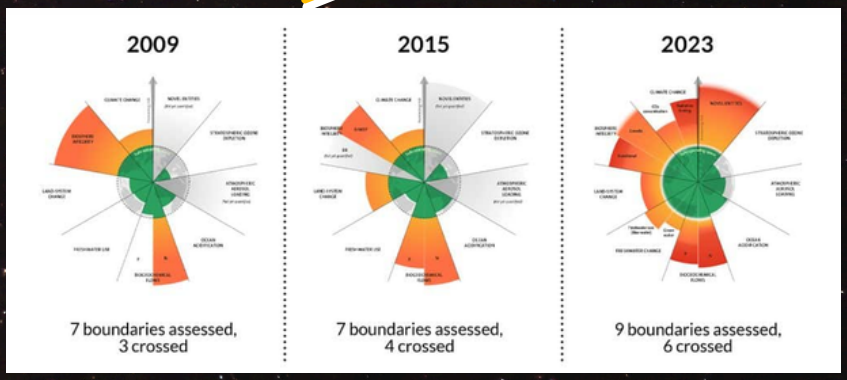
By August Abbott

Earth is in CRITICAL CONDITION! The Planetary Boundaries are different characteristics of our planet kept track of as 9 different global processes regulating the stability of the Earth. Planetary Boundaries was introduced in 2009 by a team of scientists led by Johan Rocastrom. To show the stability of environmental systems that keep the planet livable for humans. Scientists created the idea to show that if we push these systems too far, we risk causing serious and possibly irreversible damage to the Earth.

Humans have pushed the earth well beyond its Safe Operating Space, meaning the earth's health and resilience is deteriorating. We have now jumped head first into the 'Anthropocene,' an era where human activity has the most impact on the earth than it has ever had, as shown in the charts below.

To help the earth's stability we have to bring it back into its planetary boundaries. These boundaries measure the effect human pressure has on the earth and how much is too much. They're limits to make sure the earth is healthy, which is why you should be worried. We have gone beyond 7 of the 9 boundaries as of today meaning the earth is the most vulnerable it has ever been. These boundaries being surpassed increases the risk of large scale abrupt, or irreversible environmental changes. Though the changes won't necessarily be immediate, the boundaries being surpassed as they are now puts our future at risk.

CLICK HERE!



You may be wondering what you could do to help, the answers are easier to implement than you would think. Just small things like making sure you unplug appliances when you leave your house, using public transit, and adopting the reduce reuse repair recycle mindset making sure you aren't creating waste. Just these few steps can help save our planet.

For more information visit 'Planetary Boundaries' published by the Stockholm Resilience Centre and 'Actions for a Healthy Planet' published by the United Nations. Image shows the 2025 update to the Planetary boundaries from the Stockholm Resilience Centre.

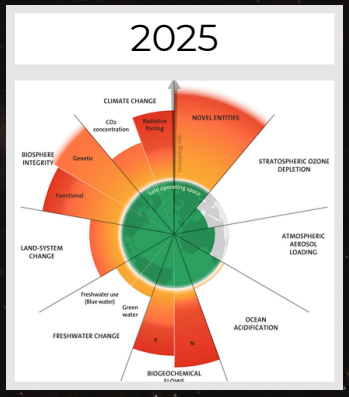


IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGES

By Ke'Sean Williams

THE RISE & RUIN OF D4VID



Ever heard the phrase, "Never meet your heroes"? Recent allegations involving a popular music artist have led many fans to question the public images celebrities present.

David Anthony Burke, known professionally as D4vd, is a music artist from Houston, Texas, best known for songs such as "Romantic Homicide" and "Here With Me." Before launching his music career, he built an online following through Fortnite content. However, D4vd has recently made headlines for reasons unrelated to music. He has been charged in connection with the death of 14-year-old Celeste Rivas Hernandez, a Lake Elsinore teen who was reported missing twice in 2024 before later being found deceased. Prosecutors allege that Burke was involved in her death, while his attorneys maintain his innocence. D4vd has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

According to prosecutors, Hernandez and Burke had been in contact before her death. Court documents state that in April 2025, Hernandez threatened to expose information about their relationship after an argument, which prosecutors allege provided a motive for the crime. Prosecutors further allege that Burke invited Hernandez to his Hollywood Hills home and killed her shortly after she arrived. Burke's defense team disputes these allegations.

As of May 2026, the case is ongoing. A hearing originally scheduled for May 26 was postponed until June 29 after Los Angeles County prosecutors asked for additional time to review what they described as a mountain of evidence. While the legal process continues, Hernandez's family and supporters continue to seek answers and justice for the young teen.

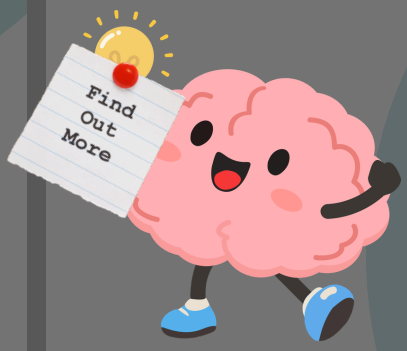
The Death of Boredom

By Owen Klabunde

Boredom used to be a normal part of everyday life. People would sit quietly on bus rides, stare out of windows, or wait in line with nothing to do. Today, those moments are rarely filled with silence, Instead they are filled with phones, social media, music, or videos. Apps like TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and Netflix provide endless entertainment, making it hard for people to sit in silence or be alone with their thoughts. As technology becomes more advanced, boredom is slowly disappearing from daily life.

Experts say the constant stimulation might be changing the way people think. According to research from the National Institutes of Health, smartphone and social media use can activate dopamine pathways in the brain, encouraging people to constantly seek entertainment and instant gratification. Many social media platforms are designed to keep users engaged through autoplay videos, notifications, and endless scrolling because companies profit from attention and screen time. Researchers also warn that nonstop stimulation can reduce attention spans and increase anxiety and stress.

While boredom is sometimes thought of as something negative, some psychologists say it is actually really important. Studies have shown that boredom can improve creativity, imagination, and self-reflection because it gives the brain time to think freely. Without quiet moments, people may lose opportunities for deeper thinking and creativity. As society becomes increasingly connected to technology, many experts are beginning to ask whether humans have truly solved boredom, or simply replaced it with constant distraction.



Credit Crushers

Term 7

Aakarsh K.
Adrian Q.B.
Alexis S.
Andres N.M.
Angel G.M.
Artem P.
Ash W.
Athan R.
Brooklynn E.
Bryce D.
Cash S.
Eleazar F. H.
Estefania V. M.
Francisco C. V.
Gabriel S.
Gerardo O.M.
Ignacio M.L.
Isaac G.E.
Isaiah G.
Jason A.L.
Jayden-Scott S.
Jaylene A.
Jazmyne A.
Johana A.T.
Julia C.
Julius S.
Kary H.
Kayla V.
Kelin Q.H.
Levi D.
Linda O.
Makhi D.
Marco I.O.
Mareli S.S.
Mariana J.G.
Pedro F.M.
Saniya L.B.
Sergio C.L.
Tia P.
Victor A.
X'ayvier A.
Zak G.
Zelvin Q.H.
Ziyeer L.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Malachai	06/01
Meafue M.	06/01
Jacky R.	06/05
X'ayvier A.	06/06
Charles K.	06/06
Kelin Q .	06/08
Layla C.	06/09
Daisy M.	06/10
Angel H.	06/11
Jacob Z.	06/11
Leilani R.M.	06/12
Carlos R.	06/14
Bryce D.	06/25
Kimberly G.	06/16
Isaiah G.	06/18
Maddox W.	06/18
Fabiana M.	06/20
Jennifer H.	06/23
Ms. Rodriguez	06/24
Jeancarlos R.	06/24
Jeremiah T.	06/24
Mareli S.	06/25
Ms. Isa	06/27
A.J. C.	06/29
Zelvin Q,	06/29
Gael G.	06/30

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Joel R.	07/01
Belen L.	07/04
Ms. Maria	07/05
Isaac V.	07/05
Ms. Chang	07/07
James J.	07/08
Erick M.	07/08
Isabella S.	07/10
Pedro F.	07/13
Jayden S.	07/13
Na'zyia J.	07/14
Aniyah O.	07/15
Eleazer F.	07/16
Julie C.	07/17
Christopher L.	07/17
Eduardo R.	07/18
Julian S.	07/19
Julius S.	07/19
Jaleesa P.	07/19
America O.	07/21
Ms. Lyon	07/22
Coral P.	07/23
Caleb P.	07/23
Nayra S.	07/24
Juan T.	07/25
Joab F.	07/26
Teresita R.	07/26
Ryder S.	07/29
Cory	07/29
Brian M.	07/30
Cristian S.	07/30
Julia C.	07/31

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Cynthia Q.	08/02
Angel G.M.	08/03
Christopher C.P	08/04
James M.	08/06
Aaron T.	08/06
Litia T.	08/07
Tiffany G.	08/08
Ziyeer L.	08/08
Brooklynn E.	08/11
IsabellaH.	08/12
Ileana T.	08/17
Red Jay R.	08/17
D'Marion S.	08/17
Saniya L.B.	08/18
Eric S.	08/21
Davion C.	08/21
Natalie D.G.	08/21
Allison C. B.	08/23
Jayden M.	08/24
Aiden A.	08/26
Felipe C.A.	08/29

Happy Retirement
MS. DAVIS



Congratulations to Ms. Davis on an incredible 16 years at Olympic! As a dedicated Resource Teacher, Ms. Davis has supported countless students on their journey toward graduation with patience, compassion, and unwavering encouragement. She always takes the extra time to make sure students truly understand, meeting them where they are and helping them believe in themselves along the way. Her admirable commitment to student success has made a lasting impact on our school community. Olympic is better because of Ms. Davis! We wish her a retirement filled with joy, relaxation, and all the happiness she deserves

THANK YOU



FROM THE 2025-2026
THE TORCH
JOURNALISM STAFF

Adrian Quijano-Brito
Adrian Davis
AJ Candasa
Alan Maciel
Alexis Sacks
Ashley Massa
August Abbott
Bella Hernandez
Brooklynn Eagles
Cayden Klute
Charles Wyman
Chris Chavez
Drew Goutley
Emiliy Ramirez
Erica Pita
Estefania Vallejo

James Mauritho
Jayden Flores
Jesus Orozco
John Holdren
Jose Tolento
Julie Cabrera
Ke'Sean WIlliams
Kiki Webb
Kayla Verduzco
Maddox Wong
Saniya Logan
Va'Laijah Harris
William Knight
Ziyeer Lamar